

2020 Retirees of the Year Award University of Missouri-St. Louis

Faculty Award L. Sandy MacLean

In his 20 years since retirement, Dr. MacLean has been the epitome of an actively engaged retiree. He served as an Officer and Board Member of the UMSL Retirees Association from 2003-2008 and a President from 2014-2016. He was also directly involved in raising funds for scholarships for the campus.



Apart from campus, Sandy became involved with Rotary International. As a member of Rotary, Sandy has contributed as a Paul Harris Fellow to funding a host of public service projects, e.g., study abroad and polio immunizations, and actively participated in political efforts to improve Clayton. In 2012 he chaired the Clayton Committee to Pass the Bond Issue for Purchase of the New Police Station; taxpayers approved the proposal with 67% of the vote. In 2019 he chaired the Clayton Committee to Pass Proposition P, a measure that sought to increase the sales tax for the purpose of raising the salaries and benefits of St. Louis County Police. This proposition also passed easily.

Sandy has served as an example of maintaining physically fit in retirement. In 2016, he won the Missouri Games 5K meter race in his age group (80-84). In 2017, he won the race again in his age group (85-89). In each event, he won “All American Honors.”

In 2018, he was president of the Pachyderm Foundation, an organization that offers financial assistance for needy students to attend their state’s Boys Club or Girls Club conventions.

Whether through promoting scholarships on campus, mentoring new faculty and staff, advocating for student-interests, or community engagement like Rotary, senior athletics, or raising funds for worthwhile community causes, L. Sandy MacLean is, as one endorser labeled him, “Ambassador of the Institution.”

Staff Award Deborah Kettler

After retiring in 2005, Debbie Kettler enrolled in the St. Louis Master Gardner program at the Missouri Botanical Garden. She continued on as a volunteer at the Garden’s Kemper Center for Home Gardening, which she has been spending every Friday for the last 15 years working in all areas of the Center.



Debbie continued and intensified her 30+ years volunteer work with Community Living Adult Recreation Services in St. Charles. This is an organization that serves adults with developmental disabilities. Adult Rec Services provides social opportunities for these people. As a volunteer, Debbie helps supervise a small group as chaperone when out for events and tours.

Finally, Debbie joined the UMSL Retirees Association in 2006 and was quickly involved in RA activities, including assisting the Treasurer and preparing the membership directory in 2007. After serving the Association in various committee and administrative roles, Debbie was elected president in 2018.

Since her retirement in 2005, Debbie has consistently served the campus and the community in leadership positions, through the Botanical Garden, the Community Living Adult Recreation Services, and the UMSL Retirees Association.