

Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon in June on Campus

The **Spring Luncheon** and **Annual Meeting of the Association** normally takes place in the first week of June in the Summit Lounge. Due to the pandemic, nothing is certain now so we will likely go to press before we know. Once we do know something, a mailing will go out and an announcement will appear on the web page. Please be patient and be safe.

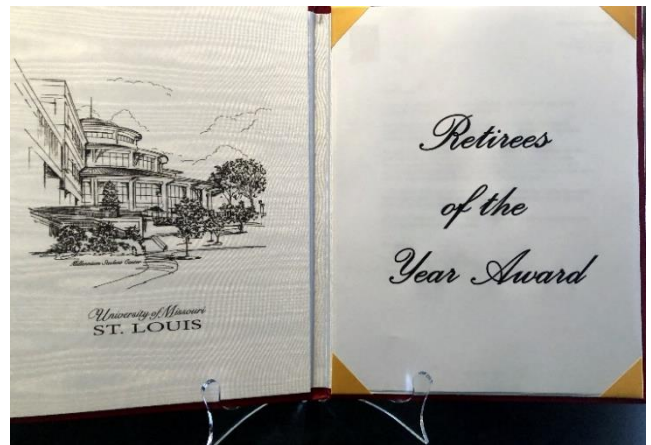
RA Volunteers to help during the Covoid-19 Crisis

We have been in touch with Interim Chancellor Sobolik about an initiative in which retirees could assist the campus during this extraordinary COVID-19 emergency. The RA is culling together a list of retired faculty and staff who are willing to be contacted should a critical need arise in either an instruction capacity or critical campus service. The chances that the campus would need to contact a retiree to fill in for an ill faculty member or critical-need staff functions are slim, but the Chancellor enthusiastically embraced the idea as having another resource in her toolbox.

The deadline for the **RETIREE OF THE YEAR AWARD** is rapidly approaching. Two awards are given per year, one each to a retired faculty member and a staff member. Each Award comes with a plaque and a \$1,000 honorarium. This Award is consistent with other recognitions for research, teaching and service, the campus awards for exemplary performance.

The criteria for the awards are that nominees must have been fully retired from the University for at least five years (meaning no later than January 1, 2015 for this year's nominees) and must have made significant contributions to either the campus and/or community since retiring (contributions before retirement do not count). Examples of significant contributions could include volunteering to benefit the campus, mentoring, fundraising, community-activism, or other contributions for the benefit of the larger community.

Nominations are being accepted this spring and the deadline for receipt of nominations is June 30, 2020. The [nomination form](#) is available here, along with further details of the award.



Holiday Luncheon December 4 at Glen Echo Country Club

The Retirees Association Holiday Luncheon A General Membership Meeting was held at the organization's Holiday Luncheon, Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at Glen Echo Country Club. Over 70 retirees and guests attended. Members reviewed previous General Meeting Minutes and the RA Treasurer's Report and a Luncheon goal was targeted in highlighting and encouraging Committees. Committee Chairs gave brief reports on their work. Chairs and co-chairs briefly described their activities for the 2019-2020 academic year. **Dave Ganz, Dave**



Garin, and **Helene Sherman** reported on respective RA Committee activity. **Tom Schnell** highlighted tentative plans for the upcoming visit to the Gateway Arch Museum on March 31, 2020, and RA Treasurer **Steve Spaner** provided a written report of Association finances along with membership highlights.

After the luncheon, UMSL Provost and Interim Chancellor **Kristin Sobolik** described current University achievements and challenges.

RA President **Mike Murray** thanked all the current Board Members for their service, including immediate Past President **Debbie Kettler**, for organizing the Holiday Luncheon and **Brenda Shannon-Simms** for assisting our administrative assistant, **Ericka Webb**, in registering and assisting the luncheon attendees. President Murray also thanked Human Resources Executive Director, **Jim Hertel**, for the continued support of his department. President-Elect, **Clark Hickman**, described the Retirement Association's staff / faculty awards program, suggesting members nominate retirees for this honor. He also noted the organization's *Facebook* page managed by **Clark Hickman** and the Website managed by **Lol Barton** and the importance of consulting them for information about RA activities. He also acknowledged the Communications Committee (**Dave Garin**, **Melissa Hattman** and **Lol Barton**) for producing the Fall 2019 RA Newsletter. General Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved. Financial Reports for 2019 were accepted.

EVENTS

On Thursday, November 7 2019, at 12:00 noon in 103 Anheuser Busch Hall on the UMSL North Campus, **Dr. Charles Schmitz**, retired Dean of the College of Education presented a photo-enriched talk about his recent trip to [Antarctica with National Geographic](#). Schmitz, and his wife Liz, spent over two weeks traveling by ship to the Antarctic continent while documenting the trip with photographs and interviews. Twelve members of the Association enjoyed an excellent presentation. Here is a photo of [Charlie](#) during the talk and here is a [picture](#) of the whole group. The RA Activities Committee had also planned for Tuesday, March 31, 2020 a Spring Gateway Arch \National Park Museum Tour but it was subsequently postponed.

In Memoriam:

We include herein information we discovered since we published the last newsletter.

Roland Armand Champagne, a retired professor emeritus of French at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, passed away March 8 in San Antonio, Texas. He was 73. Champagne joined the UMSL faculty in 1975 as a member of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literature, where he remained until his retirement in 2002. He received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research and Creativity in 1996. He received his PhD from The Ohio State University and was a specialist in French structuralism and literary theory. He was a prolific writer, having authored eleven books and dozens of articles and reviews. At UMSL, he served as chair of the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures – now Language and Cultural Studies – and as associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences under Dean Robert Bader. He is survived by his wife, Professor Nina Eckstein of Trinity University in San Antonio, as well as his son, Noah Champagne, and daughter-in-law, Sarah.



Jennifer MacKenzie, Teaching Professor Emerita in the Department of English at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, died Oct. 1 at her home in Kirkwood, Missouri. She was 71. The daughter and granddaughter of English teachers, MacKenzie earned a BA in English and religion/philosophy from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois, and an MA in English Literature from Purdue University. She joined the UMSL English department as a lecturer in 1988 after eight years in the same role at St. Louis Community College–Meramec. She retired a full Teaching Professor in 2015. MacKenzie was a versatile teacher who took on a diverse portfolio of courses: American Literature; Practical Criticism; ancient, modern and contemporary World Literature; Traditional Grammar; Classical Myth; First-Year Writing and Advanced Expository Writing; and Poetry Writing at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. She was also prize-winning and well-published poet who spent several summers at the University of Iowa’s Summer Writer’s Conference. She is remembered by generations of students as a knowledgeable, passionate, dedicated and rigorous instructor, and by her co-workers as a poised, diplomatic and hard-working colleague. She was constantly tinkering with and innovating in



her many courses and endlessly curious and enthusiastic about matters of literature and language and their significance in our lives. Her stance can be summed up in the seven words she once used to describe her teaching philosophy: “All this is crucial; pass it on.” MacKenzie is survived by Bruce MacKenzie, her husband of 49 years, as well as her son Joshua MacKenzie of Calgary, Canada; daughter Clare MacKenzie of Collingswood, New Jersey; grandchildren Nathan Murray MacKenzie and James Benton MacKenzie; and sister Ann Fisher-Wirth of Oxford, Mississippi.

Former Computer Center Director **William Heinbecker** passed away on



Aug. 21. He was 79. Heinbecker’s tenure at UMSL began on Sept. 1, 1968, and he remained at the university until retiring in May 1995. He went on to provide IT support for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, earning a Volunteer Service Award in 2015. Away from work, Heinbecker was a noted tennis player who was an All-American and played on a national championship team at the University of Notre Dame. He went on to be a leading amateur in St. Louis.

Herbert D. Werner, an associate professor emeritus in the Department of Economics at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, passed away on Feb. 22, 2020. He was 87. Werner received his undergraduate degree from



Northwestern University in 1953 and his PhD in Economics from the University of California–Berkeley in 1964. In the middle of his PhD studies, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for two years with most of his time spent at Fort Eustis in Virginia. He then returned to Berkeley and completed his dissertation under the supervision of Walter Galenson, a noted labor economist and economic historian. At Berkeley, Werner also worked in the Institute for Industrial Relations. He was one of the first members of the Department of Economics at UMSL when he joined in 1967 after holding a faculty position at Lewis and Clark College for five years. His areas of interest included labor economics, particularly industrial and labor relations, and macroeconomics. He also had strong interests in urban economics and was a fellow of the Center for Metropolitan Studies, a research unit that eventually became the Public Policy Research Center. As a fellow, he wrote several research papers and reports for local municipal governments. Werner’s published research includes “The Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1978 and Their

Effect on Collective Bargaining,” published in *Labor Law Journal* in 1979, and “The Housing Market in Integrating Areas,” with UMSL colleague Joseph P. McKenna and published in *Annals of Regional Science* in 1970. After a long and successful teaching career at UMSL, Werner took early retirement starting in 1993, though he continued teaching throughout the 1990s. Thereafter, he remained actively engaged in the Department of Economics, stopping by to have lunch with colleagues and attending the annual alumni parties and picnics, as recently as September 2019.

John A. Works Jr., a longtime faculty member in the Department of History at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, died Jan. 9 at his home in St. Louis. He was 76. Works, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota, graduated cum laude from Yale University in 1966 and went on to earn a master's and a doctorate in African History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. As a graduate student, Works received a Fulbright fellowship that allowed him to conduct research in Paris and The Republic of Chad. He later spent time in Nigeria and also traveled to Cameroon, Congo, Senegal and Morocco. During his time in Africa, he completed a book "Pilgrims in a Strange Land," published by Columbia University Press in 1976. A year later, he became a founding faculty member of the University of Maiduguri, one of Nigeria's premier universities. Works brought all the expertise he acquired during his time in Africa back with him to the United States when he joined the faculty at UMSL. He spent roughly two decades as a tenured associate professor, retiring in 1997. "He served his department with outstanding distinction," former colleague Peter Wolfe, a Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of English said of Works. "During his years as an African historian, he not only taught superbly, he also taught his students African languages and invited them to his home for African-styled dinners."



UMSL Retirees Association Special Events and Activities

Check the UMSL Retirees Association homepage for more information about both events or contact Ericka Webb ewebb@umsl.edu and in the "Events Archive" on the web page. Due to the Coronavirus, events will probably be postponed until later in the fall.

Travel Vicariously with Your Fellow Retirees.

Health guidelines have suspended travel for all but necessary reasons. But most of us have travelled since we retired. I encourage you to reminisce about your most interesting trip since retirement and to do that in 200 words or less (quite a challenge). Then send the brief essay to David Garin at garin@umsl.edu. We will share some of the responses in the next RA newsletter.

However, if you wish to be entertained immediately by some of the best travel videos I have ever seen, go to www.simplethingsmatter.com and click on "Travelling the World". You will then have a choice of dozens of videos produced by Drs. Elizabeth and Charles Schmitz (UMSL Dean Emeritus) with music composed by UMSL Professor Barbara Harbach.

UMSL Trivia Quiz

1. The full-size statue on the North campus is in the likeness of a. Governor Warren Hearnes. b. U.S. Congressman Lacey Clay. c. State Senator Wayne Goode. d. Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett
2. The first building constructed at UMSL was: a. Woods Hall. b. Clark Hall c. J.C. Penney building. d. Benton Hall
3. The first graduating class at UMSL was 196X . What is X?
4. Female chancellors have presided over UMSL for how many years?
a. more than 15 b. 13 c. 12 d. 10
5. Who was the UM President when the retirees last received an increase in their pension? Manuel Pacheco, Elson Floyd, Gary Forsee, or Timothy Wolfe
6. Who was the UMSL Chancellor (not Acting or Interim) who served the shortest period? James Bugg, Glenn Driscoll, Emory Turner, Joseph Hartley

The answers are given later on in the Newsletter

President's Report – Mike Murray

Dear RA colleagues, welcome to the *RA Newsletter*. Thanks to Dave Garin, Melissa Hattman and, of course, Lol Barton, for their work in getting this edition out -- under the most unusual of conditions.

As this is being written, classes continue on-line but University work has been altered, as with most major institutions, due to concerns over the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As most of you know, the Retirees' Association would ordinarily be touting Spring activities at this time. But we postponed a Tour of Gateway Arch and put an RA Board meeting on the backburner.

Despite many challenges, we still have some planning and events to consider now. For example, please think about nominating someone for our *2nd Annual Retiree Award*. There are many deserving UMSL retirees -- or you might even consider nominating yourself?

As this *RA Newsletter* is being prepared to be published, the 4-campus RA system is planning a remote tele-meeting for May, and we're on-hold for our annual Spring meeting, usually held in June. Confirmation and dates for meetings will be forthcoming. We will also have some important decisions to make - the Election of Officers and Board Members. If you have suggestions regarding Board Member or Officer nominations please send them to Debbie Kettler, chair of the nominating committee. Clark Hickman will take-over as president and I'll assume the position of the past-president. You will get additional information about these important events and initiatives in May.

In sum, it's been a pleasure to serve as president. When I accepted the job, a respected colleague (Lol) suggested I go back and read available *RA Newsletters* and *Meeting Minutes* for ideas on what might make sense for us. If some future RA president reads this report along with headlines from the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch," they would see: "Missouri to Speed Benefits as Cases Explode," "Outbreaks Share Little More than Pandemic Label," "Tourism Office Furloughs Half Its Staff," and "Some Restaurants Opt to End Delivery Services."

The reader may conclude: "That was a scary time!" But less scary with friends and cohorts.

Michael D. Murray, Ph.D., President

Committees Welcome Your Participation in the Retirees Association—Volunteer Today!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ CELL NO _____ E-Mail _____

VOLUNTEER FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (List 1st __ 2nd __, and 3rd __ choices)

PLANNING & EVENTS _____ MEMBERSHIP _____ COMMUNICATIONS _____

(Return to Michael Murray or Clark Hickman whose addresses are given below. Or bring to the luncheon in June if we have one Please provide us with an e-mail address)

MEMORANDUM to Retirees

from the

UMSL Retirees Association Membership Committee

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June 1, 2020 begins the 2020-21 UMSL RA Annual Membership Year.

Annual UMSL RA members and retirees who have retired since June 1, 2019

We invite you to renew membership / apply to join the UMSL RA.

If you retired after June 1, 2019 the first year of membership is free.

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To renew or join the UMSL RA, please go to the UMSL RA web page application:

<http://www.umsi.edu/retirees/jointoday.html>

Print off and fill out the application and follow the mail-in instructions.

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If you need the application mailed to you, call or write the UMSL RA treasurer:

Steven Spaner, UMSL RA treasurer, 636-433-2511

17170 Deer Mountain Road

Marthasville, MO 63357-2092

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We look forward to seeing all of you either at the June luncheon or more likely the December Holiday Luncheon

Answers to the UMSL trivia quiz:

1. c. UMSL is in the district Wayne Goode served, first as State Rep then as Senator. He was instrumental in the development of the campus.
2. d. Benton Hall was the first new building (1965) and housed many of the departments and laboratories as well as the Chancellor's office.
3. X is 7; over 200 students received degrees.
4. a. More than 15 which doesn't include the current interim Chancellor. Barnett for 4 years, Touhill for 12 years.
5. President Elson Floyd in 2007
6. Hartley was Chancellor for less than one year beginning in 1973.

UMSL Retirees Association Board of Directors, (2019-20) (remaining terms noted in parentheses)

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Keep Up with Retirees Association Business, Future Events, and Contact Information at our Web Site: <http://www.umsl.edu/retirees/>