

**Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon To Feature
Health Care Update, Recreation Center Tour**

Betsy Rodriguez, UM System Vice-President for Human Resources, will give an update on Health Insurance Options for Retirees at the annual meeting and luncheon of the UMSL Retirees Association on Thursday, June 4, 2015. We will meet in the J.C. Penney Lobby on campus at 11:30 a.m. for a reception, with lunch following at noon, courtesy of Chancellor Thomas F. George and Dr. Barbara Harbach.

Business will include election of officers (see article on the slate and call for additional nominations in this newsletter). An optional tour for those interested in seeing the inside of the new Recreation/Wellness Center that is scheduled to open in August will start at 1:45 p.m. Parking will be available in the West Drive garage. You may have already received your invitation in the mail. Please RSVP for the luncheon by calling 314-516-5789.

President's Report

On April 29, 2015, Steve Spaner, David Garin, Fred Wilke and I attended the semi-annual meetings with the UM retirees associations' leadership and UM System President Wolfe.

The first meeting was devoted to the activities of each campus' UM retirees association. I reported on the progress we are making implementing the revisions of our constitution, the survey of our membership's interests in future programs and activities, and the first scheduled speaker of a new series. Betty Van Uum will update us on the progress being made to significantly improve and upgrade Natural Bridge Road.

The second meeting was with President Wolfe. He summarized the national and state higher education issues regarding funding of higher education. Nationally, the funding of state colleges and universities is being cut to provide other state wide priorities. Some states like Wisconsin and Kansas are facing drastic reductions in financial support of higher education.

Kelley Stuck, Associate Vice President, Human Resources, reported on the progress of the ongoing study on staff medical benefits. I am forgoing any comments on her presentation because Betsy Rodriguez, Vice President, Human Resources, will be speaking on this study at our Annual Meeting on June 4, 2015.

For me, the highlight of the meeting was the proposed program of President Wolfe called Missouri Promise. This is a scholarship program for Missouri high school graduates, funded by a significant increase in the state's cigarette tax. It will provide partial tuition scholarships for all high school graduates who achieve a 3.00 g.p.a. or higher. Students whose grade point average is 3.75 or higher will receive a full tuition scholarship. As long as these students maintain these grade point averages, they will retain their tuition scholarships. The purpose of this scholarship program is to retain, within the state of Missouri, our "best and brightest students." Missouri Promise will be patterned after a similar program in Georgia titled The Hope Scholarships. In order to raise the cigarette tax, a state-wide constitutional amendment vote is required. The past state-wide vote on raising the cigarette tax only failed by 1 or 2 %. This proposal is the type of issue that I look forward to supporting and I hope other UMSL retirees will also.

Sandy MacLean, President
UMSL Retirees Association

Report of the Nominating Committee by David Garin

Dear UMSL Retirees Association members:

Our UMSL Retiree Association Elections are just around the corner. Several officers and Board members will be elected at our Retiree Association meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 4, at UMSL. You will receive a mailed invitation to this event. Detailed information regarding these Board positions can be found in our Constitution and Bylaws as amended on June 6, 2014. An abbreviated version follows.

Offices & Board Members to be Elected on June 4 include:

President-Elect

The President-Elect assumes the duties of President when the President is not available, is responsible for membership services, and is an ex-officio member of each member services committee (one-year term followed by one year as President)

Treasurer

The treasurer is responsible for maintaining the financial records, preparing an annual financial report, and other financial reports as directed by the Board of Directors (2-year term)

Secretary

The secretary is responsible for Association records and maintains records of all meetings (2-year term).

3 Board Members for 2015-2017 (2-year term). Board members serve on at least one membership services committee.

All Board members are asked to attend 2-3 Board meetings and 2 general meetings each year.

As required in our By-laws, the Nominating Committee recently met and developed a slate of candidates for the June election. If you are interested in serving as an officer or regular Board member or know someone who might make a good officer or Board member, please email me as soon as possible. Include in your email the following: the office or Board position, the candidate's name, contact phone number, and email address.

The Nominating Committee has produced the following slate of candidates for the June election.
President-Elect: Lol Barton; Treasurer: Steve Spaner; Secretary: Maureen Zegel; Board members:
Linda Royal. Dave Ganz.

The third Board member slot has been left vacant in order to encourage other members to participate by nominating someone willing to run or themselves. Please contact me via email if you wish to nominate someone. Serving on the Board or as an Officer is a wonderful way to stay connected to colleagues. Likewise, it is a terrific way to stay involved with the university, through work and volunteer opportunities, university-wide events, and much more.

Looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the June 4th Retirees Association meeting.

Sincerely,

David Garin
Chair, Nominating Committee
UMSL Retirees Association
garin@umsl.edu

In Memoriam

Since our last newsletter, we received notice of the death of **Glen David (Dave) Curry**, who died April 27, 2015 in Mobile, AL. He was professor emeritus in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

UMSL-RA Dues Update

For members who pay dues annually, **the 2015-2016 dues year begins June 1.**

Please renew now. Annual dues are \$15; lifetime dues are \$125.

There are many benefits for members. Membership benefits includes the following:

- 10 % discount at the University Bookstore,
- Up to 25% discount on tickets to performances at the Touhill Performing Arts Center,
- Faculty/staff rates on admission to the Department of Recreational Sports classes,
- Free admission to regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletic events,
- Free enrollment in short courses on a space available basis
(Course materials and supplies are extra),
- Free campus parking permit.

In addition to those benefits listed above, our association president, Sandy MacLean, serves on the Retiree Medical Plan Study Guiding Coalition. The UM administration is reviewing retiree medical benefits and has set up this group to help coordinate issues and concerns of retirees. Sandy, along with other RA representatives, meet with the Total Rewards Advisory Committee quarterly.

Three to four UMSL-RA Board members meet with UM retiree reps to discuss issues of importance to all University retirees. They also meet with the University President, Tim Wolfe, to provide input and discussion on such items as future benefits and budgets as these affect retirees.

So please renew or join your Retirees Association at one of the two levels:

Annual dues are \$15; lifetime dues are \$125. Make your check payable to UMSL Retirees Association and mail your check to ...

Steven Spaner, UMSL-RA Treasurer,
17170 Deer Mountain Rd., Marthasville, MO 63357-2092

E-Mailing the Newsletter

We emailed this newsletter to all association members of record for whom we have an email address, regardless of dues paid status. E-mail saves your Association the expense of printing and postage, and the newsletter is in a generic portable document format (PDF) file which you may open on any computer in Adobe Reader (free copy can be downloaded at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>) or in Preview on Apple computers. If you cannot open the PDF file and wish to receive a printed copy by mail, please send a request to Judi Linville at judi_linville@yahoo.com with your name and postal address before July 1, 2015.

Natural Bridge "Great Streets" Topic of Fall Gathering

The Activities Committee announces a special event for Fall 2015: A luncheon and talk about the origin and plan for the Natural Bridge Great Streets project that has been under construction during 2014-15. The tentative date is Friday, September 18, with time and place to be announced. Our guest speaker will be Betty Van Uum, Assistant to the Provost for Public Affairs and Economic Development.

Stay Current with UMSL Retirees Information at www.umsi.edu/retirees

Summary of Retiree Medical Plan Study Guiding Coalition Activity

By David Ganz

There was a one-hour conference call of the Retiree Medical Coalition on March 24. Participants received a summary of the 11 meetings scheduled around the State of Missouri intended to inform and gain feedback from attendees:

Attendance was less than anticipated, but overall, presenters felt the gatherings were valuable—would do it again even though some disappointment with attendance.

Scheduling of additional meetings can occur if warranted—one UMC academic department requested a presentation for the whole department (but they could have attended one of the Columbia meetings).

Recurring themes:

There are currently two post-retirement programs in existence—one for pre 1990 retirees; and the current program for retirees after 1990. Pre 1990 retirees number about 1,000. That plan will probably be “grandfathered.”

Provider network plans would probably be expanded from which retirees would choose, but the network would be restricted rather than just throwing everyone into the open market.

There appears to be general satisfaction with the existing UM plan.

There appears to be sentiment in favor of having retirees’ share of premiums continue to be deducted from one’s pension payments.

Generally persons would rather cope with increased premiums rather than to see benefits markedly curtailed.

Most individuals would appreciate seeing the UM share of health benefit premiums remain consistent with that presently experienced.

Results of an email survey of approximately 2,500 currently employed individuals at least 60 years of age and with 10 years of UM service received about a 28% response rate (considered normal for email surveys with no incentives). Responses were generally consistent with those of current retirees.

Interesting facts presented:

Of some 19,000 current UM employees (faculty and staff), about 4,000 are presently retirement eligible;

Retirement trends in terms of number of persons taking retirement: in 2005, 170; in 2014, 500; in 2019 (projected), 900.

Retiree population demographics: in 48 of 50 states in the US and in 11 countries outside the US.

Next steps:

Survey results to be shared with consultants;

Focus groups will discuss—end of April and early May;

Consultants to formulate various solutions for various groups;

Recommended solutions to be solidified and then presented to the Board of Curators.

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____ CELL NO _____ndrd_____ VOLUNTEER

FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES (List 1st, 2 _____, & 3 choices)

PLANNING & EVENTS _____ MEMBERSHIP _____ COMMUNICATIONS _____

(Return to David Ganz, ganz@umsl.edu or mail to him at 7229 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130)

Building Projects Move Forward; Rec Center Publishes Membership Information

Work will start this fall on a new building to house the College of Business Administration. To be named Anheuser-Busch Hall, the 50,000-square-foot structure will be located north of Express Scripts Hall. On May 6, Gov. Jay Nixon visited campus to announce the release of \$10 million in state matching funds for the construction. Private donations from multiple sources comprise the matching \$10 million.

Ground was broken and work started earlier this year on the \$17 million new Patient Care Center for the colleges of Optometry and Nursing. The two-story Center will provide space for clinical education and research as well as comprehensive eye and vision care. About 13,000 square feet of space is being programmed for partnership opportunities such as a walk-in clinic and dental-care services. It will replace the existing University Eye Center located since 1980 at Marillac Hall. Located on South Campus facing Natural Bridge Road, it is scheduled to open in 2016.

Work continues on the \$32 million Science Learning building adjacent to Benton Hall and the Research Building on North Campus. Completion is expected in 2016.

The new Recreation and Wellness Center is scheduled to open this fall. A brochure is now available listing amenities and payment plans for memberships. Retirees pay the same as active employees. Rates are \$37 monthly, \$56 for two and \$67 per family. For information email campusrec@umsl.edu or call 314-516-2348.

University of Missouri-St. Louis Retirees Association 2014-2015

Website: www.umsl.edu/retirees

(note: all 631 zip codes are St. Louis, MO addresses)

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(636) 433-2511; sspaner@umsl.edu

David L. Garin, past president
(314) 725-5653; garin@umsl.edu

Ex-officio Board Member

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