

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Retirees Association Newsletter

Volume 25 Spring 2011

Greetings from the President...

Dear Fellow Retirees,

This has been a difficult winter for many of us. Public employees and retirees have come under criticism for being overly compensated and Social Security is treated with more rhetoric than reason. Add to that a few natural disasters and you have a recipe for endless headaches.

But spring is a harbinger of new growth and renewed spirit, so I hope you have reason for optimism. While the University of Missouri is exploring new proposals for its retirement and benefits policies, administration pronouncements predict no reduction in benefits for existing retirees. UM retiree liabilities remain well funded, especially compared to public universities in other states. Still, there is reason for concern, so the university's activities are being monitored by retirees, as well as current faculty and staff. In addition, we are hampered by a change in university leadership during a period of decisive debates. President Gary D. Forsee had developed good relationships with members of the state legislature and the Board of Curators. It is difficult for an interim president to fill that position but interim we will have for at least this academic year.

Representatives from the four UM retirees associations met with UM Interim President Steven J. Owens on April 20 in Columbia. That meeting provided us with a better estimate of the current situation with Missouri higher education and anticipated levels of state support. In meeting with Owens, I found him forthright, knowledgeable and approachable. For more information about that meeting, see the article below.

Our holiday luncheon in December was at the Glen Echo Country Club, and the more than 50 participants clearly enjoyed the setting as well as the menu.

At our forthcoming spring luncheon and business meeting on June 9, there will be five board positions to fill. In addition to a slate prepared by the nominating committee, nominations will be solicited from those present.

Following the tradition of the other three UM retirees associations, future newsletters will be mailed only to retirees who are members. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so. If you have joined and wish to have future newsletters sent to you via email, please send me an email with the word "newsletter". The news will reach you faster and save us the printing and mailing costs.

Best wishes for a delightful spring,

David L. Garin,
President of the Board
UMSL Retirees Association
garin@umsl.edu

2010-2011 Officers

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College of Business Administration
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Steven Spaner, secretary
College of Education
(636) 433-2511
Rick Blanton, treasurer
Office of Student Affairs
(314) 383-3936
Shirley A. Martin, past president
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(314) 878-6697

2010-2011 Members of the Board

Gary Burger, Department of Psychology
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(636) 696-4449

UMSL Retirees Association website:
www.umsl.edu/retirees

Meeting with UM Interim President Steve Owens

By David L. Garin and Fred Wilke

On April 20, the representatives from the four UM retirees associations met in Columbia. Bob Stewart (UMC) and Fred Wilke (UMSL), members of the U-Wide Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee, reported that potential changes under discussion should not affect current retirees nor current employees. We prepared and presented a list of retiree contributions to the university containing more than 20 significant activities, including average annual financial contributions of more than \$2 million. When we were joined by UM Interim President Steve Owens, and Vice President for Human Resources Betsy Rodriguez, Owens stated that he appreciated what retirees have done for the university and will "preserve and protect existing benefits of current retirees and existing employees"... "changes will be for new employees." In answer to a question, Rodriguez said that the retirement pool of funds had improved to approx \$2.6B, which was more than 90% funded, actuarially. Although the program is sound, the fact that 25percent of existing faculties are eligible for retirement means that significant liabilities can be added to the retirement pool.

Two years of hiring freezes resulted in several hundred positions remaining unfilled, so maintaining the quality of UM will be challenging. Owens stated that deferred maintenance and repair was approaching \$1 billion.

Owens discussed the latest news regarding the search for his replacement and budget news from the legislature. UM is receiving state appropriations that are the same as in 2001 (even less when adjusted for inflation) while total enrollment has increased by 17,000 students. This year, the university requested and received approval to raise tuition 5.5 percent but the shortfall will still be \$44-53 million. UM is now receiving more funds from student tuition than from state support.

It is now 25 years since we began our relationship with the University of Western Cape in South Africa and that event will be celebrated later this year.

We raised the need for retirement counseling in mid-career, which several universities have begun. Rodriguez will work on that as well as assisting us in maintaining our list of retirees and communicating with them. Our next meeting will be scheduled in October, if possible, and may include the president of the Board of Curators.

Final Farewell

The UMSL community lost two members since January; Frank Moss, curators' professor emeritus of physics and astronomy, died on Jan. 4 and Norman Jacob, Institutional Safety-Police, died Feb. 6.

University News

By Cindy Vantine, director

University Events

Marketing and Communications

New Curator--Our newly confirmed UM System curator, representing the St. Louis area, is David L. Steward, president and chief executive officer of World Wide Technology. WWT is a leading systems integrator that provides powerful, yet cost-effective technology and supply chain solutions to the commercial, government and telecom sectors. They specialize in delivering and supporting advanced technology solutions to customers around the world. Steward founded WWT in July of 1990. With over 20 years experience in the technology industry, he spends the majority of his time developing strategic supplier, customer and employee relationships. He plays a key role in WWT's pursuit of large contract bids within its industry-specific operating companies. Prior to starting WWT, Steward held various senior-level management positions with Wagner Electric, Missouri Pacific Railroad and Federal Express Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Central Missouri State University. Steward replaces David Wasinger on the board.

New Dean—Starting Aug. 1, our new dean of the College of Education will be Dr. Carole Basile. Basile comes to UMSL from the University of Colorado-Denver, where she is professor of education and chair of the UC-Denver Advanced Urban Education program. She is also co-director of the Mountain Middle School Math and Science Partnership. She has been associate dean of teacher education and professional learning at UC-Denver and director of their Center of Applied Math and Science for Innovation and Competitiveness. Before moving to Denver, she held a faculty position at the University of Houston. Basile has published many articles, monographs, and book chapters in the areas of math and science teaching, professional development of teachers, and elementary education, among other topics, and has received a number of grants for her research. Basile has a PhD from the University of Houston in curriculum and instruction, a MEd in counselor education and a bachelor's degree in individual and family studies from Pennsylvania State University.

New Building—UMSL at Grand Center--between storms on Friday, April 15, the University of Missouri-St. Louis broke ground for a new \$12 million building project that will feature the studios and offices of St. Louis Public Radio 90.7 KWMU and classrooms for the rapidly expanding field of new media.

"This facility will allow us to enhance St. Louis Public Radio's delivery of quality programming, and expand into completely new fields in media studies," UMSL Chancellor Tom George said. "By utilizing the

professional and technological resources of a newly equipped St. Louis Public Radio, along with such partners as Nine Network of Public Media and the St. Louis Beacon, we will offer classes in the latest media and communication technology."

George said the building, located at 3651 Olive Street, "establishes a UMSL presence" in the St. Louis' arts and entertainment district. The project also will include offices for UMSL's arts internships, student teaching and charter school programs already established in Grand Center. Completion is scheduled for spring 2010.

Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE) Legislative News and Legislative Update *(April 22, 2011 Legislative News)*

With a vote of 32-2, the Missouri Senate recently adopted a Senate version of House Bill 3, which appropriates funding for the expenses and operations of the Department of Higher Education. The Senate passed a Senate Committee Substitute of the House version, therefore any differences between the two versions will have to be reconciled via conference committee before being sent to Gov. Jay Nixon.

Current legislative documents, as well as an archive of past issues, can be viewed on the MDHE website at <http://dhe.mo.gov/about/legislative/>. For real-time legislative updates and other information, follow MDHE on Twitter @ "mdhe_tweet".

Time to Join or Renew Your Membership

By David R. Ganz, vice president

I recently had a very pleasant experience: at the last minute, I decided to attend a performance at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Missouri-Saint Louis. When purchasing my ticket, I volunteered that I was an UMSL employee (I still work quarter time). I was told that I was entitled to a 10 percent discount. I then offered my UMSL Retirees Association Membership Card as my ID, mentioning that I was also a retiree and expected to learn that the same 10 percent discount was applicable. But the salesperson said, "by all means, you want the retiree discount, that's 25 percent." It was a great evening of entertainment at a very affordable price. (This pricing structure is not applicable to all performances at the PAC.)

I thought to myself, I wonder how many retirees know of this significant discount, and for that matter of the other great benefits of membership in the UMSL Retirees Association:

- Free admission to the facilities in the Mark Twin Complex (weight room, swimming pool, sauna, etc.);

- Free admission to all regularly scheduled intercollegiate athletic events;
- Free enrollment in Continuing Education short courses on a space available basis (course materials and/or supplies are charged to the retiree);
- Admission to the Department of Recreational Sports classes at the faculty/staff rate;
- Campus parking permit (available at the Transportation and Parking Office);
- 10 percent discount at the University Bookstore;
- Discount to UMSL Retiree Association sponsored events;
- Discounts of up to 25 percent at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center;
- Receipt of the semi-annual Retirees Association Newsletter;
- Receipt of the Directory of UMSL Retirees.

And, of course, there are the twice-a-year opportunities to see and visit with friends and colleagues from years' past at our annual holiday luncheon and our spring luncheon meeting (the latter hosted by the chancellor). There are also occasional day excursions that include a local attraction and lunch at a nearby restaurant; and there are the twice-a-year Retirees Association Newsletters intended to keep you up-to-date. Until now the newsletter has been mailed to all retirees, but this is the last such distribution. In the future it will be mailed only to members of the UMSL Retirees Association, which has among its objectives to represent retirees on matters of interest to appropriate campus and system administrators.

So many reasons to join! A membership card is required for most of the above-listed benefits. Annual dues (June 1-May 31) are \$15; lifetime membership is just \$125. Please send your check and application (enclosed) to our Treasurer: Rick Blanton; 7348 Country Club Drive; Pasadena Hills MO 63121

We hope to see you at a forthcoming gathering. And be sure to visit our web site: www.ums.edu/retirees.

Campus Volunteer Opportunities

By Cindy Vantine, director

University Events

Marketing and Communication

Touhill Performing Arts Center--be part of this exciting venue and experience a variety of wonderful

performances. Email touhill.org then click on "about Touhill" and "volunteer" – or call (314) 516-4100.

UMSL Volunteer Services—offers community members the opportunity to become a valuable part of the campus through volunteering. Phone: (314) 516-4106 or e-mail: volunteer@umsl.edu

Nominating Committee

By Shirley Martin, Chairperson

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Don Phares, Don Greer, Connie Lackner, and Shirley Martin. Elections will be held during the annual meeting on June 9. The slates of candidates are listed below and nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Secretary	Steven Spaner
Treasurer	Rick Blanton
Board Members (vote for three)	Sharon L. Davis Harry Gaffney Chris Graham Mary Pogue Fred Wilke

UMSL Retirees Association Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars! June 9 11:30 a.m.
Hosted by Chancellor Tom George and
Dr. Barbara Harbach
J.C. Penney Conference Center Lobby
Invitations will be mailed in May.

The very first "senior moment"



...and that's what happened to the dinosaurs!

(The Very First, n.d.)

UMSL RETIREES ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

- If husband and wife are both retirees of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, please complete a separate form for each.
- If a surviving spouse of a retiree, please indicate name of retiree on name line and the surviving spouse name on the spouse line and put an (X) by surviving spouse.

Please print all information

Name of Retiree _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Telephone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Spouse's name _____ (____) Surviving spouse of retiree

(____) Retired Faculty (____) Retired Staff

Department at time of retirement _____

Title/Position at time of retirement _____

Note: If, for any reason, you do not wish to have your personal information published in the UMSL Retirees Association Directory, complete the form and print across the top of the form "NOT FOR DIRECTORY PUBLICATION." Your information will not be published; the contact information will only be used to send association information (Newsletter, Program invitations, etc.) to you.

(____) Regular or Associate Annual Member June 1-May 31 \$ 15.00

(____) Regular Life Member \$ 125.00

(Think positively and buy a life membership – then you don't have to think about it again!)

Mail completed form and membership fee to:

Rick Blanton, Treasurer
UMSL Retirees Association
7348 Country Club Drive
Pasadena Hills MO 63121