

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Retirees Association Newsletter

Volume 27 Spring 2012

Dear Fellow Retirees,

Change is in the air. I have just returned from a four-campus retirees association meeting in Columbia. An article based upon my notes appears in this newsletter. Once again, we have met with a new UM President, our third in four years. I also alert you to changes in how pharmacy prescriptions are handled and long-term care changes, details of which will come later. You may already have experienced the change in our retiree health care program with the need to determine if your service providers are network or non-network.

Some things have not changed. Once again the University budget is being cut by the state legislature. There are challenges to face and the assistance of retirees is needed. When you write to your state legislator, emphasize the importance of the University to the state's economy and its citizens. Please review the tobacco tax initiative with the need for more state funding in mind.

Our spring business meeting/lunch will be held on June 5th, once again kindly hosted by Chancellor Tom George and his wife, Professor Barbara Harbach. The election of five members of the board will occur (see article regarding the Nominating Committee). You will receive a separate invitation with details. I hope you plan to attend. Your board voted to have this newsletter sent to all retirees. Once again, the production and mailing is being organized by Sharon L. Davis saving us considerable funds.

Best wishes for a delightful spring,

David L. Garin
President of the Board
UMSL Retirees Association

2011-2012 Officers

David Garin, president
(314) 725-5653 garin@umsl.edu
David Ganz, vice-president
(314) 863-3799 ganz@umsl.edu
Steven D. Spaner, secretary
(636) 433-2511 sspaner@umsl.edu
Rick Blanton, treasurer
(314) 383-3936 rblanton@swbell.net
Shirley A. Martin, past president
(314) 878-6697 martinsh@sbcglobal.net

Fred Wilke, U-wide representative to
Retirement, Salary and Benefits Committee
(636) 698-4449 fwilke@mail.win.org

Website: www.umsl.edu/retirees

Members of the Board

Gary Burger
(314) 664-3709 gburgerj@sbcglobal.net
Lawrence Friedman
(314) 725-8850 janldf@earthlink.net
Sharon L. Davis
(636) 240-8946 sldavis63379@charter.net
Don Phares
(314) 427-8651 don_phares@umsl.edu
Harry Gaffney
(636) 391-0066 mydiehard8@at.net
Mary Pogue Banis
(314) 469-0936 maryfrances2320@sbcglobal.net

Unofficial Member(s)

John Perry
(314) 434-4039
Cindy Vantine
University Advancement
60 J.C. Penney Building/Conference Center
cindy_vantine@umsl.edu

University of Missouri System
Four Campus Retiree Association Meeting in Columbia
By David Garin

The four campus retirees associations (RA) met in Columbia on April 4th. Discussion included that Columbia's RA will apply for tax-exempt status. The Kansas City RA has already received tax-exempt status. St. Louis and Rolla RAs do not have tax-exempt status.

The tobacco tax initiative organized by the American Cancer Society has enough signatures to be put on the ballot for November. If it passes, as much as \$280M will be raised and 30% of those funds will go for higher education. To restrict a bait and switch where the legislature then reduces the amount of state funding equal to that raised by this tax, 25% of the higher education funds are earmarked for special situations not normally covered by state funding.

The new UM President Tim Wolfe joined us. He told us about his experience and connection to the UM System. His background is mainly corporate but he is relishing his new position. He thinks we can deal with the current fiscal crisis. Wolfe enjoys spending time with faculty and has visited each campus. Wolfe outlined the budget challenges. UM is currently looking at a 7.8% cut in state funding. It had been 12.5% but \$40M became available from the foreclosure settlement funds. The remaining \$30M deficit will probably mean a reduction in staff. We still need two more curators to be appointed. Legislative priorities for UM are 1. Budget; 2. Brand issue (what is the UM System, how important is it to taxpayers; etc). Legislators are not hearing from constituents about the importance of UM. President Wolfe asked for guidance from the retirees groups. There are now 7,000 retirees with 400-500 new retirees expected every year. Dave Ganz mentioned that in university discussions, retirees are never mentioned as being part of the "family." Wolfe seemed to absorb that. Wolfe sees the UM System as four unique brands but recognizes the need to advocate the system as well. Suggestions, comments, and questions can be sent to him at wolfe@umsystem.edu.

VP for Human Resources Betsy Rodriguez and Kelly Stuck from Faculty and Staff Benefits were present for President Wolfe's discussion. When President Wolfe left, they made their presentation. David Garin brought up the changes in the retiree health plan, pointing out that we now had different deductible and out-of-pocket limits for network and non-network service and that both are being applied. He described possible difficult situations where the insured had no control over whether a network or non-network person would provide service. He also mentioned cases where a patient started with a chosen physician in 2011 under the previous rules and the need to continue with that physician who might be non-network. Rodriguez and Stuck (R & S) said that if there is no control over choice, or if one is in an emergency situation, the plan would pay as if the service were in network. Garin asked if a return to the program used in 2011 could be available for a higher premium. R & S said that 95% of care is by network providers thereby leading to 40-60% discounts. The 2011 program would be too expensive or would require a subsidy by those using the network system. Garin asked if a simpler explanation of benefits (EOB) sheet could be used by Coventry. Others present also mentioned their difficulty in evaluating the EOB forms, including VP Rodriguez. Stuck said the form used by Coventry was used nationally by them so a

change was not possible. She did agree to review EOB forms for the next bidding cycle.

There will be some changes in pharmacy benefits, especially since Medco and Express Scripts have merged. The emphasis will be on using home delivery (mail order) for maintenance drugs. This will be explained via letters sent to insured members. Long-term care was discussed. Rates will increase dramatically; the market is consolidating. UM expects to have information regarding long-term care programs and enrollment by January 2013, with an effective coverage date of May 1, 2013. Coventry was asked to reprocess some of the 2011 Medicare primary claims, where UM/Coventry paid less than Medicare. Approximately 6% of claims were reprocessed and letters were sent to affected individuals.

Each year, UM contributes money to the retirement fund to keep it fully funded. A chart showing UM current and projected retirement fund contributions was displayed. Assuming a return on invested retirement funds of 8%, the projected contribution (employer and employee) to maintain full funding of liabilities is 10-13% of payroll/year. Each percent is almost \$10M. Earlier fluctuations in UM contributions were mainly based on investment returns and averaged 7% of payroll.

R & S stated that current retirees need not worry about the health of the UM Fund.

Nominating Committee

By Shirley A. Martin

At the spring luncheon candidates for the offices of President, Vice-president, and three (3) Board members will be elected by the membership of the Retirees Association. The ballot will be as follows:

president	Dave Garin
vice president	Dave Ganz
board members (vote for three)	Don Phares Lawrence Barton Gary Burger

Nominations for additional candidates will be requested from the floor at the luncheon.

Memoriam

We lost two members of the UMSL community: Dick Schwartz – July 28, 2011 and Robert W. Murray – March 13, 2012.

Remembering Robert ("Bob") W. Murray

By Lol Barton

Robert W. Murray, Curators' Professor of Chemistry, died March 13 at age 83. He joined the faculty in 1968 after a very successful ten-year career at Bell Laboratories. At UMSL, Dr. Murray was very active in campus and University of Missouri System affairs in those early years of the institution. He was chair of the chemistry department from 1975 to 1980 and in 1981 he was the second to be appointed Curators' Professor at UMSL. He received numerous awards including the American Chemical Society (ACS) St. Louis Award in 1974, the ACS Midwest Award in 1989, the UM Presidential Award for Research and Creativity in 1990, the I.H. Weldon Medal of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association in 1994 and the St. Louis

Academy of Sciences Peter H. Raven Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001. He was well known for his research in organic oxidation chemistry and his many contributions have helped demonstrate the relevance of oxidation chemistry to environmental and health issues. A chemical compound he developed, dimethyldioxirane, referred to in the literature as "Murray's Reagent," has found substantial applications by others around the world.

A John Perry Update

By Dave Ganz

John and his spouse, Verna, have relocated to Urbana-Champaign to live with their son, Marty, who is on the faculty at the University of Illinois. Another son, David, is also relocating from St. Louis to Urbana-Champaign. John and Verna, each 91 years of age, have been married 68 years. John said it was time for them to give up their home in St. Louis. Contact information should you wish: phone: (217) 356-3142; address: 1712 Bentbrook Drive, Champaign, IL 61822. According to John, "We are making big changes, but doing fine."

UMSL's 50th Anniversary—a Cause to Celebrate

By Dave Ganz

The University of Missouri – Saint Louis was established in the fall of 1963. The site was that of the Normandy Residence Center, which commenced operations in 1960. The residents of Normandy approved a bond issue to acquire the old Bellerive Country Club (which was relocating to West County) expressly to establish the Normandy Residence Center. The acquisition brought public higher education to St. Louis which until then was virtually nonexistent.

The University of Missouri essentially reorganized in 1963 from a single campus in Columbia to a four campus system acquiring the private University of Kansas City in KC; the School of Mines and Metallurgy in Rolla; and the Normandy Residence Center in Saint Louis. UMSL's first graduation class was in 1967 at what is now the Peabody Opera House (then the Kiel Auditorium Opera House). In the fall of 2013 it will be 50 years since UMSL's inception.

Plans are underway to celebrate this milestone occasion during the entire year of 2013, commencing with a gala kickoff celebration planned for February 1—mark your calendars now. What better group to be part of the year-long celebration than those who were here to build this outstanding institution. All scheduled events in 2013 will be themed so as to promote the anniversary of UMSL's founding. Efforts will be made to engage faculty, staff, students, administration, retirees and alumni. In anticipation of the anniversary year, an eleven minute video has been prepared by University Archives. The video, "From Golf Balls to Hallowed Halls," can be viewed at www.umsl.edu/services/library/archives/ (once there, go to Campus History and then select the streaming video).

The formal calendar of jubilee events will be released later this year. Plan to be part of what is hoped to be a very exciting year to celebrate UMSL's 50th birthday.

Have questions?

Have stories to share or photos to share?

Contact Dave Ganz (314) 863-3799 ganz@umsl.edu

UMSL Memories

By David Garin

He was wearing a work shirt and a light jacket to ward off the evening chill. Carrying a thermos under his arm, he was the quintessential night watchman ready to start his late evening shift. It was 1966 and I had just come to St. Louis to join the Chemistry Department. The first class I was to teach at UMSL was to 420 students in the large lecture room in Benton Hall. I considered it prudent to visit the room on Sunday night to determine its layout, size of blackboard, and acoustics so that students in the back row could hear me on Monday morning. I had a key to Benton Hall, so I was surprised and annoyed to find the lecture room was locked. I turned to the night watchman watching me in the hallway and asked if he could open the room. "Yes" he said, "but who are you and why do you want to enter?" I told him that I was a new professor and introduced myself. He then said, "I'm Jim Bugg". It was my first meeting with the Chancellor whose office in those early days was on the second floor of Benton Hall.

A Fun Activity

By Harry Gaffney

The St. Louis County Library offers a variety of services besides providing books. Utilizing its web site, slcl.org, I enjoy the Special Collections section. By clicking on Research, one will find subject guides covering multiple topics, including, seniors, history and genealogy, geography and travel. As an example, one can find information about Islamic history and issues and records of various cemeteries. The number of databases appears endless. It's an addictive experience and can be accessed from your computer. No computer? The libraries have them available for public use. For additional information, call (314) 994-3300 ext 2070 or visit the headquarters at 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

UMSL Retirees Association Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for June 5th! Our spring luncheon/meeting will be hosted by Chancellor Tom George and Dr. Barbara Harbach and held in the J. C. Penney Conference Center Lobby. Invitations will be mailed to all retirees in May.

Association Membership Dues for 2012-2013

Annual dues (June 1-May 31) are \$15.00; Lifetime membership is \$125.00. Please send your check, payable to the UMSL Retirees Association, to Rick Blanton 7348 Country Club Drive; Pasadena Hills MO 63121.

If you are not a member yet, please consider joining this worthwhile organization.

LIFE is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside totally worn out and proclaiming "WOW...what a Ride!"

Hunter S. Thompson
1937-2005

University of Missouri-St. Louis
Retirees Association
60 University Center
One University Blvd
St. Louis MO 63121

Retirees Association
Spring General Meeting and Luncheon
June 5, 2012
J.C. Penney Conference Center Lobby