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President's Message

Welcome to the UMSL Retirees Association 2023 spring newsletter. Your RA chapter has been productive and active over the last few months. We are very pleased to announce that we have formerly applied to the UMSL Alumni Board status to be accepted as a full "affinity" group. An affinity group is one that supports and is supported by the campus Alumni Association in the form of cooperation on activities and communication. Phil Donato, Alumni Association Director, addressed the membership at the holiday luncheon, explaining the organization's role. It is interested in supporting our chapter and working with us to support the Alumni group's events. We should be notified of our standing in July and look forward to becoming accepted into the group. Our office in Woods Hall will make the reciprocal connections even more convenient and effective.

Our chapter worked with the UM system this winter to develop and send post cards to new faculty and staff retirees from all four University of Missouri campuses. Those interested in the UMSL Retirees Association will be able to use the URL printed on the card to find information about our chapter and can also use the site to opt into becoming a RA member. We are looking forward to hearing from many new and interested members in the next few weeks.

Our members stay connected through outings and events every year. This spring, members toured a St. Louis landmark, the Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion in Benton Park. The home was constructed, starting in 1848, for the pioneer Henry Chatillon, and then enlarged to its present form by prominent St. Louis businessman Nicolas DeMenil from 1855 to 1863. Its nomination to the National Register of Historic Places described the DeMenil house as the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in the Midwest. The tour was followed by a lunch at the Lemp Mansion. Additional outings are in the works.

Keep an eye on your email for your invitation to the June 9 Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon. We will be voting on our slate of officers at the meeting as well as hearing more about our Retiree of the Year (ROTY) nominations. Please join us at the Glen Echo Country Club on June 9 at 11:30. We'll email the details soon.

It has been a great honor and privilege to have met and communicated with so many of you this past year. We are always interested in hearing from you about topics to address, questions to answer and suggestions for programming. Please email us and stay in touch. Thank you for your participation in touring St. Louis and St. Louis County institutions with your fellow retirees, attending our luncheons and meetings as well as attending past on-line events. Stay safe and well; we look forward to being with you again. Thank you and see you in June!

Helene J. Sherman, President

Shermanhe@umsl.edu



Helene Sherman
President

Membership

Members of the UMSL Retirement Association (UMSL-RA) are staying connected with former co-workers and the campus. We welcome all retirees who wish to join us!



I hope you survived the frigid temperatures before the holidays and also the late cold spells we have been experiencing. Here's to a Spring that we are used to.

All of you should have received a postcard that was sent by the University of Missouri System Human Resources. This postcard had some important links to help update your personal details. Also, within the HR site, you can choose to share your information with the Retirees Association (RA). Your opting in allows us to be sure we have the most up-to-date information to keep you "in the know" about events and other membership news. Please select the opt-in.

It is that time again. Soon you will be getting an announcement about the annual membership renewal dates. The membership year runs from 6/1 until 5/31 of the following year. As with the holiday party, there may be the choice to use a credit card to pay for membership dues. Keep an eye out for the reminder as well as the new options for payment.

If you are interested in taking part in the RA more than just attending events, consider serving on a committee. If you have questions about this, send me an e-mail (duncan@umsl.edu) and I will get the information to you. Being on a committee is a great way to both re-connect and make new connections.



**Mimi Duncan,
Membership
Committee Chair**

Finally, the next event on the calendar for us is the annual business luncheon in June. For the first time, this event will be completely funded by the RA. This get together includes a great lunch at Glen Echo Country Club along with a business meeting. Along with lunch and the business meeting, there will be a speaker, so look for the invitation and more exciting details. Plan on attending on June 9, 2023, for fun, food and friends. Please look for me at the luncheon if you have questions. I did miss the December event, so I am really looking forward to seeing you in June. Let me know if you have any questions. My e-mail address is duncan@umsl.edu. See you in June!

Events and Planning

The UMSL RA will sponsor our **Annual Spring Luncheon & Business Meeting on Friday June 9th** at Glen Echo Country Club. Here's your chance to catch up with former colleagues!

Dr. Chris Spilling will update us on the future plans for the campus, and at the business meeting you will elect your new officers. Dr. Spilling has been with UMSL for many years as a faculty member, a department chair, part of administration, holding positions such as interim vice provost, interim provost and, most recently, as vice provost for graduate studies and research. We look forward to hearing about the exciting new plans that are in the works for the campus.



Dr. Chris Spilling
Featured
speaker

Watch for your email invitation in May!

RSVP is required.

In May, we plan a day outing to a local winery. Enjoy a spring day with friends, enjoy a leisurely lunch & a drive in the country!

Our trip to Demenil Mansion in March was lovely. Lucky to have a beautiful St. Louis spring day, the group enjoyed learning about a famous historic home and one of our city's most prominent citizens of the 19th Century. Here are some photos of the outing.



Save the Date for Spring Meeting & Luncheon

Join us for the UMSL RA Spring Meeting and Luncheon!

Friday, June 9, 2023
Glen Echo Country Club

11:30 reception with cash bar

Noon served luncheon

12:45 program

Your invitation will come to you as an email.

The UMSL RA will sponsor the costs for the luncheon. Hope you will be able to join us!



Retiree Accomplishments & Publications

Dr. Helene Sherman was inducted into the University City High School Hall of Fame last October. She joined an impressive list of past inductees which include a great American playwright, business leaders, lawyers, Pulitzer Prize winners and more.



Awardee Helene Sherman (pictured front row, 3rd from rt) with family and friends at U City HS Hall of Fame Award Ceremony

Dr. Sherman has dedicated her adult lifetime to teaching both students and other teachers a love and proficiency of mathematics. After teaching elementary, middle and college level mathematics, Sherman joined the faculty of the University of Missouri - St. Louis where she taught mathematics, mathematics education and STEM courses in the College of Education for more than 40 years. She is now a professor emeritus.

During her career, she authored and co-authored dozens of books and scholarly articles, including nine commercially published textbooks, one of which was translated into Korean and into Arabic, and also the landmark online learning programs Digits, a middle school mathematics curriculum, and Metrics and More, a hands-on measurement activities program for students in Kindergarten through grade 12 students.

She has received the Missouri Governor's Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Emerson Electric Outstanding Teaching Award, the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics Outstanding Teaching Award, the Mathematics Educator of Greater St. Louis Higher Education Outstanding Teaching Award, the University of Missouri-St. Louis Distinguished Alumni Award, and the College of Education.



Retiree of the Year Award—Staff

Connie Jeffries retired as Program Manager in the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, College of Arts and Sciences in 2011.

Since retiring, Connie volunteered at the Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois from 2012-2019, with whom she completed 40 hours of hotline training. Using her programming manager skills, Connie spent several weeks assisting with cleaning up data that had been incorrectly entered into the VPPC software, thus ensuring a smooth-running operation. As a member of the VPC Development Committee, Connie's attention to detail significantly enhanced the planning and implementation of essential fundraising activities.



**Connie Jeffries
2022 Staff
Retiree of the Year**

The loss of Connie's husband and the death of her father one year later, Connie faced a new reality of how to pursue her passions in protecting vulnerable women, outdoor activities, and a love for all things nature. She realized that the pandemic caused significant mental and emotional issues for many, especially among seniors and the newly retired. Connie set off to challenge herself and encourage others, many of them women, to embrace their curiosity for the gifts of nature. Connie has driven tens of thousands of miles on road trips, crisscrossing the US and Europe, including the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, sections of the Appalachian Trail, and the 523-mile Camino del Norte. Through her travels, which she freely shares on social media to encourage other women to become and stay active, Connie says she has "wittingly and unwittingly encouraged both young women and older single women to explore our amazing country, as to not be afraid to set out on a solo journey."

Finally, on her 70th birthday, Connie celebrated her day by running 7-miles through Belleville, Illinois.

Because of her civic engagement, her dedication and loyalty to UM-St. Louis, and her zeal for an active life, all of which she encourages others to join in, Connie Jeffries is 2022 Retiree of the Year for Staff.



Retiree of the Year Award—Faculty



Zuleyma Tang-Martinez
2022 Faculty
Retiree of the Year

Zuleyma Tang-Martinez retired as a Professor of Biology in 2014. Since retirement she has remained active with the UMSL Biology Department, frequently attending Biology faculty meetings, participating in almost all department seminars, and serving on all faculty searches. She continues to be an active participant in the weekly Animal Behavior Discussion Group (ABDG), which she started in 1976, and which is now attended by faculty and students from several local institutions.

Additionally, Zuleyma also serves as one of UMSL's two delegates to the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), based in the USA and Costa Rica. The OTS is an international consortium of universities with programs in tropical biology.

Zuleyma has continued to publish since she retired. In 2014, Zuleyma and Dr. Ken Yasukawa (of Beloit College) published a co-edited book, *Animal Behavior: How and Why Animals do the Things they Do – Vol. 1* (published by Prager). Between 2014 and 2020, she also published seven peer-reviewed papers pertaining to various aspects of animal behavior. One of these papers, published in the *Journal of Sex Research* was an invited annual review and resulted in Zuleyma being featured in a BBC article on sex roles.

In addition to her publications, Zuleyma has been active in the Animal Behavior Society (ABS), holding various offices since retirement. During 2020-2021, Zuleyma has been especially active in organizing and implementing a new ABS mentoring program for students and animal behavior and their advisors at Latin America institutions.

Zuleyma's professional and scholarly service affects science more broadly, and not only the discipline of animal behavior. In 2018, she served as a panelist for the National Science Foundation to evaluate NSF programs and advise regarding improvements to NSF performance. She also has been an NSF panelist for grant proposal reviews, and additionally, continues to review 2 to 3 papers a year for national or international scientific journals. She has presented invited seminars on minorities in science, diversity and the complexity of human sexual development, and the importance of mentoring.

Civically, Zuleyma has also made significant contributions. She has served on the Older Adult Commission of St. Louis County since 2016. Until the pandemic, she was an active volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association of St. Louis, and also serves on the research ethics committee of the Washington University Medical School's Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.



In Memoriam



Charles Armbruster, Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, May 17, 2022

Shirley Barrett, Bookstore, Summer 2022*, Photo unavailable

Donald Boehnker, Telephone Services/ITS, October 28, 2022

Johnny Boyd, Custodial Services, Summer 2022, Photo unavailable

Vicki Brooks, Winter 2023, Photo unavailable

Yvonne Burl, Career Services, March 8, 2023



Doris Caldwell, Fall, 2022, Photo unavailable

George Cooper, Winter, 2023, Photo unavailable



Nancy Diley, Biology, College of Arts and Sciences, July 14, 2022

Betty Eshbaugh, Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, September 18, 2022



Charles Fazzaro, Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, College of Education, July 3, 2022

Peggy Filer, Fall 2022, Photo unavailable

William (Bill) Franzen, College of Education, April 2, 2023



In Memoriam

Judith Gant, Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
September 23, 2022, Photo unavailable



Nancy Gleason, Honors College, April 3, 2023

Judy Gurley, English, College of Arts and Sciences, December 9, 2022



Mattie Hagens, Winter, 2023, Photo unavailable



Karen Hagrup, College of Education, June 22 2022

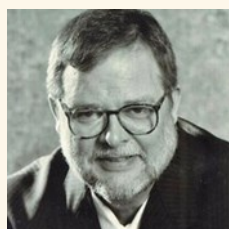
Mary Hines, International Studies, Fall 2022, Photo unavailable

Niceta Labrador, Math/Comp Science, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2022, Photo unavailable

Edward Mangner, Custodial Services, Fall 2022, Photo unavailable

Mary McKenzie, Math/Computer Science, College of Arts and Sciences, Winter 2023, Photo unavailable

Richard "Dick" Navarro, College of Business Administration, May 13, 2022



Mark Pope, Counseling and Family Therapy, College of Education, January 29, 2023

Roger Pyle, MIMH, Fall 2022, Photo unavailable

Dennis Saunders, Admissions, July 5, 2022, Photo unavailable

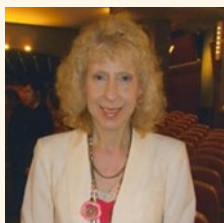
In Memoriam

Mary Ramey, Purchasing, Fall, 2022. No photo available.



Nancy Shields, Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, November 8, 2022

Murry Velasco, Marketing and Communications, February 10, 2023



Diane Touliatos, Music, August 13, 2022

Patricia Vierck, November 26, 2022, Photo unavailable

*Note: Individuals whose date of death could not be verified are listed with the date of the UM Connection newsletter in which they appeared.

They were our colleagues, our friends, and part of our UMSL family. Together we remember those who shared their lives with us.



Staying Connected: HR Updates

Shannon Leigers is your contact for questions about your health coverage and retiree benefits. She is the current HR Generalist serving UMSL.

Office of Human Resources,
University of Missouri
1105 Carrie Francke Dr., Ste. 108
Columbia, MO 65211
Office: 573-882-6514 | FAX: 573-882-9603
Email: leigerss@umsystem.edu



Shannon Leigers
HR Generalist

Update Your Contact Information

UM HR has been working on a way for retirees to update their email addresses to receive official communications from the university. We encourage all retirees to log in to myHR to make sure your contact information is correct. Access myHR (myhr.umsystem.edu) and log in with your ID and password

If you need assistance logging into myHR, contact the helpdesk (314) 516-6034 Web Site: <https://help.umsi.edu>

Annual Enrollment for your health benefits occurs every fall. Retirees will receive detailed information regarding Annual Enrollment in the mail at their home address the beginning of October. Please review and update your contact information as needed in MyHR.

If you have trouble updating your information, please contact System Benefits at 573-882-2146

Leaving a Legacy



Greetings from the Office of Planned Giving at UMSL.

Charitable Bequests are a great way to leave a legacy. If you've spent your entire life trying to make an impact on the world, leaving money to charity is yet another way to continue to give, even after you pass away. Establishing UMSL as a Beneficiary ensures your impact will continue.

In some cases, there might be more beneficial ways than bequests to support charitable organizations. Planned-giving professionals are extremely knowledgeable in ways to maximize your impact, both during your lifetime and after death. They can be fantastic resources that might allow you to do more than you'd have been able to with a simple Charitable Bequest.

If you are considering a charitable bequest to UMSL, please give Elizabeth Niven, Senior Director of Planned Giving, a call or email. eniven@UMSL.edu phone: 314-516-6788



UMSL Retirees' Association

UMSL RA leaders meet regularly with UM system and UMSL administration regarding retirees' interests, needs and concerns. UMSL RA also works with other UM campus retiree associations to collaborate and support all retirees' concerns.

Membership is open to UMSL retirees and their spouses/partners or surviving spouses/partners. Retirees from other universities or colleges and/or spouses/partners may join as non-voting associate members with board approval.

Join Us!

For more information on retirement, UMSL RA benefits and enrollment form [visit us online](#)

For general information about retirement, see the following

[umsystem.edu/totalrewards/retirement](https://www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/retirement)

<https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/hr/hrservicecenter>

UMSL Retirees Association Officers and Board of Directors 2022-2023

President: Dr. Helene J. Sherman

President-elect: Ms. Melissa Hattman

Past-President: Dr. Kathleen M. Haywood

Secretary: Dr. Thomas Eyssell

Treasurer: Dr. Steven Spaner

Board Members:

Ms. Candace Agnew

Ms. Sue Baber

Ms. Mimi Duncan

Mr. David Ganz

Ms. Debbie Kettler

Ms. Cindy Vantine

Dr. Lol Barton, *ex-officio*

Dr. David Garin, *ex-officio*



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