

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Retirees Association Newsletter

Volume 29 Spring 2013

Greetings from the President

Dear Fellow Retirees,

A small tree in my backyard blossomed for the first time this week. Appropriate for Earth Day and perhaps a reminder that even if our weather is bizarre, plants will persevere and amaze us. How can I relate that to the fact that UMSL students in the Class of 2019 will take their laboratory courses in 21st century classrooms? After more than a decade of promises and planning, a new science laboratory building will finally emerge on our campus.

Midst the Jubilee celebrations, the ones I enjoy most are those that bring former students back to campus. They clearly appreciate the education they received and the dedication of faculty, staff and administrators that helped them to blossom. At the kickoff Jubilee event in February, our Vice President Dave Ganz was honored for his role on the Jubilee Committee.

I hope you plan to return to campus on June 4th when we will have our business lunch and election of board members (secretary, treasurer, and three additional board seats). The luncheon is once again being hosted by Chancellor Tom George and his wife, Professor Barbara Harbach.

In May, the UM System's Retiree Association representatives will meet with UM System President Tim Wolfe and much of the discussion will probably cover the activity of the Missouri legislature. The President's office provides frequent legislative updates; you can keep up with events by going to www.umsystem.edu/newscentral/legislative-update. In addition, at the left margin of that webpage is direct web access to many other organizations including UMSL. Go to the section marked "Campus News" and click on UMSL Daily to find the latest information about UMSL. Chancellor Tom George will provide an UMSL update at our luncheon but you can get a preview if you attend the Chancellor's Report to the Community on May 10th.

Our Treasurer, Rick Blanton informs me that we have several new members. I hope they will consider becoming active in our organization as current board members step down. Once again, this Newsletter is being organized by longtime board member Sharon L. Davis, who has been extremely active and generous. Thank you Sharon.

Best wishes to all of you,

David Garin, President of the Board

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Report from the UMSL Retirees Association Holiday Lunch

By David Garin

The holiday lunch was held at the Glen Echo Country Club on December 4th, 2012.

David Garin, President of the Board commented on the forthcoming Jubilee year celebration of the campus. He mentioned that the retirees had helped to create the traditions and contributed to the history of the campus. UM President Wolfe and his wife were invited to the luncheon. Garin read a gracious letter he received from President Wolfe who was unable to attend. Garin mentioned Wolfe's efforts to reach out to constituents and the fact that Wolfe scheduled three meetings with UM retiree association representatives during the year.

UMSL Chancellor Tom George gave an update on campus activities. He first mentioned the passing of former Chancellor Arnold Grobman. The academic departments and programs at UMSL are doing well. International business is in the top 20 (US News & World Report) and Criminal Justice is ranked 4th. Other programs are in the top 30 nationwide. There are now 84,000 alums and 62,000 of them reside in the St. Louis area. We had the largest incoming class this year. Enrollment remains the same because of retention issues. The average ACT score this year was 24, an UMSL record. The renovation of Benton/Stadler and a new building will require \$60M from UMSL. It will be paid at \$2M/year for 30 years. There is also a Great Streets initiative which will cost \$14M. We have completed the capital campaign at \$154M. Research funds this year were \$41M. There is a new presence with UMSL at Grand Center. Students voted for a new recreation center (\$36M). The Marguerite Ross Barnett Plaza is now complete. Athletics is doing super. We won more games than lost while in a top division 2 (GLVC). UMSL is in the middle of a strategic plan. The chancellor read a suggested strategy statement. The draft mentioned that by 2018 UMSL will have 18,000 enrollment, 13,000 of which will be degree seeking (currently there are 4,000 high school students taking advance placement courses). Another goal is to have the 6-year graduation rate reach 70%.

Fred Wilke, representative to the U-wide Retirement, Salary and Benefits Committee, gave an update. Fred also attended the 4-campus retiree

associations meeting in Columbia in November. Fred said the UM President talked about the strategic plan. Melanie Berger has been given the task of Manager of Constituency Communications. She will start a new website and reach out to retirees for information.

UM finance guru Nikki Krawitz stated that COLAs will not occur in the near future. She also stated the retirement fund is fully funded.

Tom Richards, associate vice president for Finance, said that the UM System is taking a new look at investing for the university.

There should be a letter sent to retirees asking why they are opting out of the post-employment UM health care plan (only 58% of eligible retirees are in the plan). If one has 30 years of service, the plan is subsidized at 73% with lesser years still subsidized to some extent. Wilke asked for a show of hands as to how many people in the audience were in the plan and how many had 20 years or service and 30 years of service. Wilke said that he expected the university's contribution to retirement funds to increase.

Garin asked for comments and corrections to the draft minutes from the June 5, 2012 meeting. There were none.

Garin asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee, which is chaired by Shirley Martin. Garin mentioned the book exchange and thanked Cindy Vantine for doing such a wonderful job in arranging the luncheon event. Garin announced the Dec 12 Chancellor's Holiday reception and the Staff Association Bazaar.

Kent Krober made some remarks regarding the lifetime gift annuity program.

Garin wished all 65 attendees a wonderful holiday and a safe trip home.

The event concluded at 1:45 pm.

A Resource Guide for Older Adults

Schnucks Pharmacy has free copies of Older Adults...the Resource Guide. This publication lists outreach programs, consumer help, health services, support services, and housing options...and the booklet is FREE.

Memoriam

Since our last Newsletter, we have lost some members of the UMSL community:

Former UMSL Chancellor, **Arnold Grobman, Cornell Eftimiu, Leitha Haffer, Deloris Licklider, Fred Sweet, Stuart Weidman, Fred Willman, and Elizabeth Kizer.**

Report from the Nominating Committee

By Shirley Martin

At the June lunch and business meeting, elections will be held for secretary, treasurer, and three (3) board seats. At the present time, names on the ballot are:

Secretary	Dennis Saunders
Treasurer	Steve Spaner
Board members	Nancy Forbes
	Harry Gaffney

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*We need a nomination for one (1) additional board member; nominations from the floor will also be accepted prior to voting.

Upcoming Events

May 10 11:15am-1:30pm
Chancellor's Report to the Community
America's Center Ballroom
To RSVP, contact: Cindy Vantine
(314) 516-5442.

June 4 11:30am-1:30pm
Retirees Association Lunch and business meeting
JC Penney Conference Center, UMSL
Invitations will be mailed to all UMSL retirees

UMSL Jubilee

For a complete listing of Jubilee programs and events, go to: www.umsl.edu/jubilee/.

UMSL School of Professional and Continuing Studies Lifelong Learning Program

On April 5, 2013 The UMSL School of Professional and Continuing Studies launched the new Lifelong Learning Program. This program seeks to serve members ages 50 and older; a rapidly growing demographic with changing needs and demands. Program Director Malaika Horne quotes Winston Churchill: "I have a great desire to learn but an aversion to being taught" as a guiding approach to this program. She encourages older adults with a thirst for knowledge but who enjoy having fun to investigate this new Lifelong Learning Program. For more information, contact Malaika Horne at (314) 516-4749.

Sending the Newsletter via email:

We emailed this newsletter to all association members for whom we have an email address as a cost-cutting measure. In the past, we only emailed it to those who requested to receive the newsletter electronically. However, if you wish to receive a hard copy, please email Sharon Davis (sldavis63379@charter.net) who will mail one to you; please include your name and mailing address in the request and make your request no later than June 10, 2013.

Energy Tip

By Sharon L. Davis

If you have ceiling fans, don't forget to check the blade rotation now that we are moving from the heating season to the cooling season. For the summer, the blades should rotate counterclockwise.

Annual Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are due June 1, 2013 for 2013-2014 (Annual \$15.00 – Lifetime \$125.00). Send to current Treasurer Rick Blanton, 7348 Country Club Dr., St. Louis, MO 63121.

The Debate about Gun Company Stocks

By Steve Spaner and David Garin

At the last UMSL Retirees Association Board Meeting on March 15, 2013, RA Secretary Steve Spaner brought a motion to the floor that called upon the UMSL-RA to follow the lead of teacher associations and public service employee associations in California, New York City, Chicago, and Philadelphia to instruct the University of Missouri Board of Curators to divest the retirement funds invested in companies that manufacture and distribute military style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines for public sale and ownership. The Board discussion ranged from the need to enlist broader support, as in approaching the University Assembly, to a need to more precisely identify what constitutes "military style assault weapons" and "high-capacity magazines," to echoing the NRA position. No consensus was reached at the meeting.

In the interest of furthering the discussion in the larger RA community, Steve has suggested links to articles that examine aspects of this controversial issue.

On gun company stocks:

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/are-gun-company-stocks-your-fund-portfolio>

On divestiture:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/10/business/california-teachers-fund-to-divest-of-gun-stock.html?_r=0

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/25/business/city-officials-push-pension-funds-to-divest-from-gun-makers.html>

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/politics/50133-city-pension-fund-closer-to-pulling-gun-company-investments>

On gun control advocacy groups:

<http://americansforresponsiblesolutions.org/gabrielegiffords/>

The one thing that is not controversial about this issue is that informed voters are needed to contribute to the resolution.

Another Perspective on Gun Debate

By Sharon L. Davis

I am a member of the NRA (National Rifle Association) and firmly believe in the right to bear arms; I also do not favor gun control and/or gun registration. Read history and become informed.

www.nra.org