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## President's Message

This Fall 2020 Newsletter is written in extraordinary times, but contains information for our UMSL retirees that I hope is useful and timely. More often than not, when I wake up in the morning I think of Jean-Luc Picard's famous "Star Trek" line, "Damage Report!" as I turn on the news. I often hear a phrase I've come to dislike—"the new normal." While our situation is relatively "new," I refuse to accept it as normal. Rather, like you, I look forward to the day when we are able to get back to what is really normal, with the ability to freely go about our obligations and daily routines.

Despite the disruptions this pandemic has caused, your Association Board has been meeting regularly and planning informational events that are important to you. Those events, including webinars and virtual meetings, are listed in the newsletter. I encourage you to participate. I am also providing a campus update to keep you informed on how the campus is operating in this climate. Your Board is also engaged with the officers of the four UM campus retirees association to keep abreast of System-level developments, particularly as they may affect retirees. As always, we will keep you informed of any significant development as it happens.

I'm particularly sad to share with you that we have postponed the annual Holiday Luncheon that was scheduled at Glen Echo on December 11. Instead, we are going to plan for a St. Patrick's Day-themed luncheon on Friday, March 19, 2021 at Glen Echo (pandemic permitting). This event will have the same festive luncheon and social gathering, with an emphasis on green rather than red. Stay tuned for more details as the situation clarifies.



*Clark J. Hickman  
President*

This newsletter also contains some information on a few pandemic-inspired activities in which Board members engaged over the summer; an article of our Retirees of the Year Award; new recruitment strategies by the Board; how to make sure you stay connected with the University; a list of Board members; and, lastly, a tribute to those who have passed on.

The officers and board members of the UMSL Retirees Association continue to work hard on your behalf, even when it is not possible to meet in person. I invite your comments, suggestions, and questions. Please write me at Hickman@umsl.edu if I can be of service to you.

Stay well and be safe!

**Clark J. Hickman, President**

## Staying Connected

As members of the Retirees Association, you have taken an important step to stay connected. There are two additional ways to make sure you receive important information from the University pertaining to issues relevant to retirees.

Please make sure your contact information is correct at UM System, including your preferred email address, especially if it is not an umsl.edu email. Checking and bringing your contact information up to date is easy to do:

- Go to <https://myhr.umsystem.edu>
- Click on "Personal Details"
- Click on "Contact Details"

This screen allows you to update your email and/or telephone information.

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

If you are on Facebook, please search for "UMSL Retirees Association" and "Like" us. We post information about upcoming programs, and other news important to retirees.

If you have questions about any facet of your retirement benefits, please note that the contact person has changed, and all retirement issues have been centralized in Columbia. Our pension and benefits contact is Anthony (Tony) W. Redlinger, at 573-884-1477 and [redlingera@umsystem.edu](mailto:redlingera@umsystem.edu).

## Activities and Events

The Retirees Association board has been busy all summer outlining activities and events that serve the interests of our members. Despite not being able to conduct "business as usual," we are nevertheless committed to sponsoring programs and events, albeit it in a different format.

Our fall virtual town hall will focus on university health insurance benefits for retirees during the 2021 calendar year. UM System content experts will be joined by representatives from UnitedHealthCare and other benefit administrators to answer questions about Medicare-eligible and non-Medicare eligible insurance; dental, vision and hearing benefits; wellness resources; and more.

### UM System Retiree Health Benefits Virtual Town Hall

**Friday, October 2, 2020 from 2 - 3 p.m.**

A link to the Retiree Health Benefits Virtual Town Hall and an agenda will be provided as we get closer to the event. Please watch your email for additional information. After the program is concluded, a link will be provided on our Facebook page to re-watch the Town Hall if you choose.

### Financial Planning in Uncertain Times

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020 From 1 – 2 p.m.**

Our second program will be a webinar on Financial Planning in Uncertain Times, put on by the Institute for Financial Planning of St. Louis. This is a free program that will address issues of interest to retirees. To register go to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4059071884153293582>

# Financial Planning in Uncertain Times

## WEBINAR



Presented by  
**The Institute for  
Financial Education**

Wednesday, November 18  
1:00 PM CDT

To Register, please visit link below:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4059071884153293582>

### WEBINAR TOPICS:

- **Tax Planning**
  - How to save and avoid taxes
  - Tax Free Savings
  - How to plan and deal with death and estate taxes
- **Budgeting for change**
- **Buying advice on the Internet**
- **Consolidating Assets**



Deiforge 2020, Piacquadio 2020, Street 2020

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON POSTPONED—

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Rescheduled Event!

Based on advice from the medical community, as well as continuing guidelines from St. Louis County, we are postponing the traditional Holiday Luncheon that was scheduled for December 11. Instead, we are rescheduling it for **Friday, March 19, 2021** with a St. Patrick's Day theme!

We will post further notices on this event as we get closer to it. Keep your fingers crossed that we're allowed to gather in person by then!

### NEW RECRUITMENT BROCHURE

The RA Board has released a new recruitment brochure for newly-retired employees that emphasizes the benefits of membership in the UMSL Retirees Association. A PDF of this brochure accompanies this Newsletter as a separate attachment.

Special thanks to Melissa Hattman, Debbie Kettler, and Susan Baber who worked hard to finalize the product. The Board is also working closely with Human Resources to develop streamlined ways to reach new and pending retirees to recruit them into the Association.

## Campus Updates

Following the 2020 Spring Break, UMSL moved all of its instruction online to complete the spring semester and continued exclusive online offerings through the summer semester. Beginning July 1, the campus began a 3-phase re-opening schedule, gradually bringing staff, faculty, and students back to campus.

While the campus is not closed to outsiders, including retirees, the general public is not encouraged to come to campus unless for official business that cannot be conducted via technology.

Those on campus are asked to monitor their health, including daily temperature screenings, and are required to wear masks in all University buildings, and anywhere on University property where social distancing cannot be guaranteed.

Public/community events, including performances at the Touhill Performing Arts Center are canceled through the rest of 2020.



*Chancellor Sobolik delivered a virtual State of the University Address on September 10, 2020.*

Chancellor Kirstin Sobolik gave the annual State of the University Address on September 10.

Classes began on August 24, with 60% being offered online. All courses with an enrollment greater than 30 are required to be

online. Less than 40% of courses are being offered in a “blended” format, in which students meet roughly 50% of the time in person, and 50% online. This has greatly reduced the number of students and faculty on campus at any given time. As an example, in the Fall 2019 semester, there were about 2,500 students on campus on Monday mornings. This Fall 2020 semester, there are about 400 students on campus on Monday mornings, with peak student attendance of 660-975 on Monday afternoons.

Enrollments continue to be a concern. While enrollments were up nearly 6% in the summer semester, UMSL experienced a 2.5% drop in enrollments during the fall semester. The campus has engaged a professional recruitment and enrollment management consulting firm to lend direction on stabilizing enrollments.

Due to a \$7.5 million state reallocation late in the last fiscal year, UMSL has instituted a payroll reduction plan for employees. Those making less than \$50,000 year see no reduction in salary; those making \$50,000 to \$74,999 see a 2.5% reduction; those making \$75,000 to \$99,999 see a 5% reduction; those making \$100,000 to \$124,999 are seeing a 7.5% reduction; those making over \$125,000 are seeing a 10% reduction of salary. This plan is being reviewed quarterly but has been extended at least through the second quarter ending December 31.

A You Tube capture of the entire State of the University Address can be found at [www.umsl.edu/sotu](http://www.umsl.edu/sotu).



## 2020 Retirees of the Year Award

This year, we celebrated the second annual awarding of the Retirees of the Year Award. This Award is presented to one faculty and one staff member who makes significant contributions to the University and/or community in retirement, and serves as a model on living life in retirement to the fullest.

Nominations can come from the university community, the community at large, former colleagues, and friends. Self nominations are also accepted. To nominate a deserving retiree for this Award, please go to [www.umsi.edu/retires](http://www.umsi.edu/retires) and click on the Retirees of the Year Award link. The criteria for nomination and a nomination form are contained in that link. The deadline for the 2021 Awards will be June 30, 2021.

### Faculty Award



*L. Sandy MacLean*

#### **L. Sandy MacLean**

In his 20 years since retirement, Dr. MacLean has been the epitome of an actively engaged retiree. He served as an Officer and Board Member of the UMSL Retirees Association from 2003-2008 and a President from 2014-2016. He was also directly involved in raising funds for scholarships for the campus.

Apart from campus, Sandy became involved with Rotary International. As a member of Rotary, Sandy has contributed as a Paul Harris Fellow

to funding a host of public service projects, e.g., study abroad and polio immunizations, and actively participated in political efforts to improve Clayton. In 2012 he chaired the Clayton Committee to Pass the Bond Issue for Purchase of the New Police Station; taxpayers approved the proposal with 67% of the vote. In 2019 he chaired the Clayton Committee to Pass Proposition P, a measure that sought to increase the sales tax for the purpose of raising the salaries and benefits of St. Louis County Police. This proposition also passed easily.

Sandy has served as an example of maintaining physically fit in retirement. In 2016, he won the Missouri Games 5K meter race in his age group (80-84). In 2017, he won the race again in his age group (85-89). In each event, he won "All American Honors."

In 2018, he was president of the Pachyderm Foundation, an organization that offers financial assistance for needy students to attend their state's Boys Club or Girls Club conventions.

Whether through promoting scholarships on campus, mentoring new faculty and staff, advocating for student-interests, or community engagement like Rotary, senior athletics, or raising funds for worthwhile community causes, L. Sandy MacLean is, as one endorser labeled him, "Ambassador of the Institution."

## 2020 Retirees of the Year Award

### Staff Award

#### **Deborah Kettler**

After retiring in 2005, Debbie Kettler enrolled in the St. Louis Master Gardner program at the Missouri Botanical Garden. She continued on as a volunteer at the Garden's Kemper Center for Home Gardening, where she has been spending every Friday for the last 15 years working in all areas of the Center.



*Debbie Kettler*

Debbie continued and intensified her 30+ years volunteer work with Community Living Adult Recreation Services in St. Charles. This is an organization that serves adults with developmental disabilities. Adult Rec Services provides social opportunities for these people. As a volunteer, Debbie helps supervise a small group as chaperone when out for events and tours.

Finally, Debbie joined the UMSL Retirees Association in 2006 and was quickly involved in RA activities, including assisting the Treasurer and preparing the membership directory in 2007. After serving the Association in various committee and administrative roles, Debbie was elected president in 2018.

Since her retirement in 2005, Debbie has consistently served the campus and the community in leadership positions, through the Botanical Garden, the Community Living Adult Recreation Services, and the UMSL Retirees Association.

## From Socializing to Protesting

### **Retirees Use Cars to Get Out and Be Seen and Heard**

The 2020 pandemic has momentarily redefined how we visit loved ones, celebrate milestones, and even protest causes. Many are using cars, parades, and caravans to accomplish these ends.

On May 8, 2020, RA President Clark Hickman and former board member Wendell Smith participated in a parade that included many classic cars for the Laclede Groves Retirement Community in Webster Groves. The purpose of the parade was to provide a diversion to the boredom many of those who are living in retirement communities are facing because the communities are locked down to families and visitors.



*The Laclede Groves Resident Parade, May, 2020. Left: Wendell Smith's 1925 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, one of 75 made and the only one known to still exist. Right: Wendell Smith, James Conley with his 1949 Bentley, and Clark Hickman with his 1996 Rolls Royce Silver Spur.*

## From Socializing to Protesting (Cont.)

Organizers expected about 50 cars, but over 75 showed up for a parade that lasted nearly an hour through the Laclede Groves campus. Staff masked-up and assisted residents to the curb and stayed with them to ensure social distancing and safety. Wendell Smith drove his 1925 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, one of 75 such cars made, and the only one known to still exist. Clark Hickman drove his restored 1996 Rolls Royce Silver Spur.

### We Can't March But We Can Drive

Retiree Association Board member, Zuleyma Tang-Martinez (Professor Emerita of Biology), was interviewed on St Louis Today (July 7, KWMU) on protesting during the coronavirus pandemic, when marching is not a safe option.



Zuleyma helped organize a "Car Caravan for Racial Justice", sponsored by MOmentum: Missouri Moving Forward, a social justice group formed in December 2016. Zuleyma said that the impetus for the car caravan was that many people were unable to participate in the ongoing marches for racial justice and Black Lives Matter because of being at higher risk for Covid due to age and/or pre-existing medical conditions.

The caravan offered these individuals an opportunity to express their solidarity and support for the movement – with the mottoes: "We Can't March, But We Can Drive!" and "Drive Out Racism – Drive In Justice".

Zuleyma said that originally only 30 to 50 cars were expected to participate, but 200 showed up for the start of the caravan! The cars, honking and displaying creative slogans and signs, made their way through a pre-determined route within University City.



The University City Symphony Orchestra serenaded the participants with string quartets as the cars gathered at the University City Centennial Commons fitness center prior to departure.

The interview also included Zuleyma discussing aspects of her history of activism for peace and social justice while she was a graduate student at the University of California - Berkeley during the 1960s and 1970s – and how those experiences have shaped and informed her current views on the 2020 movement. <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/protesting-when-marching-isnt-safe-option#stream/0>

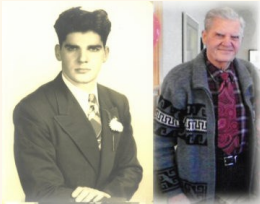


## In Memoriam



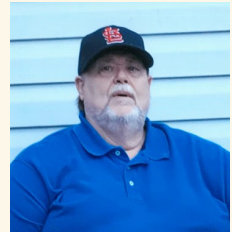
**Glenn Allen**, former Registrar, on February 2, 2020

**Colleen Bruns**, former Senior Secretary, Continuing Education and College of Education on March 16, 2020



**Arvel Dewing**, former Detective, UMSL Police Department, on April 2, 2020

**Robert Easton**, former Mechanical Trades Specialist on February 6, 2020

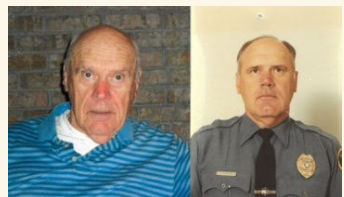


**Joan Gilley**, former Lecturer, College of Education, unknown date (photo not available)



**Mary Hackmeister**, former clerk, UMSL Libraries, on January 13, 2020

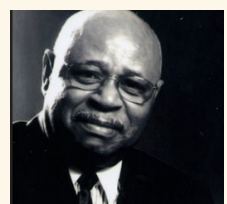
**Kenneth Wayne Hubbard**, former officer, UMSL Police, on April 5, 2020 and husband of Mary Hubbard



**Mary Hubbard**, Printing Services, on August 8, 2020, widow of Kenneth Wayne Hubbard

**Booker Hyde**, Custodial Services, on February 13, 2020 [no known photograph]

**John Ingram**, Associate Teaching Professor, College of Education, on February 4, 2020





## In Memoriam (Cont.)



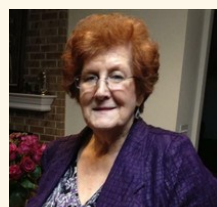
**Zenobia Lanos**, Custodial Services, on April 13, 2020

**Thomas Royster**, former Construction Manager, Facilities Planning, on January 2, 2020



**Gloria Schultz**, former Manager, UMSL Bookstore, on August 26, 2020

**Shirley Smith**, Admissions, on January 13, 2020



**John Works, Jr.**, Associate Professor, History, on January 9, 2020

### UMSL Retirees Association

#### Officers and Board

**2020-2021**

**Clark J. Hickman – President**

**Kathleen M. Haywood – President-elect**

**Michael Murray – Immediate Past President**

**Steven Spaner – Treasurer**

**Helene J. Sherman – Secretary**

#### **Board Members:**

**David Ganz**

**Melissa Hattman**

**Deborah Kettler**

**Brenda Shannon-Simms**

**Zuleyma Tang-Martinez**

**Susan Baber**

**David Garin, *ex-officio***

**Lol Barton, *ex-officio***