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President's Message

My "presidential term" began with the Spring Banquet. What a wonderful time, seeing so many of you in person and so many of the Past Presidents honored at the banquet (see the photos!). One would have thought we were off and running for a "normal" year. Instead, the delta variant circulated and we were off on the COVID-19 roller coaster.

Playing the hand we were dealt, instead of planning in person events for the fall we held a Zoom event with Professor Patty Parker of the Biology Department. Her presentation on the Galapagos Island and her research on disease ecology and population genetics on the islands was entertaining and informative.

Now we are planning for the Holiday Luncheon on December 10th, once again thankful that we'll be able to gather in person. We are looking forward to a great meal, as always provided by Glen Echo Country Club, remarks from the Chancellor, and time to visit. We also look forward to the spring when we can hopefully get back to more in person retiree activities.

An item the officers will bring to the business meeting has to do with accessing reliable, accurate, and current lists of retirees so that we can reach everyone with invitations to our activities and membership applications. Of course, our team has developed some great materials to distribute to employees as they enter the retirement process. Yet, as retirees move, change e-mail addresses, etc., there is an ongoing need to update information.

In the most recent meeting of the leadership teams from all 4 campus retiree associations and central administration, it was noted that when employees with defined contribution retirement benefits begin to retire, the University will longer be able to keep addresses up to date through the pension system simply because there will be no "pension stub" and related tax forms to send. From this discussion came a suggestion that information might be better tracked through the employee ID. This is a number given to every employee that is carried forward to retirement. You can find it on your pension payment stub! We plan to ask retirees if they would like to voluntarily provide this number. UM administration has told us that they would provide their latest contact information to us if we provided a list of "employee" ID numbers to them. Look for a request from us to provide that number. Of course, this is voluntary and you are not obligated to provide the number.



*Kathleen M. Haywood
President*

I hope to see you at the Holiday Luncheon, but whether you are able to attend or not, I'm wishing all of you a happy, healthful, peaceful holiday season.

Kathie Haywood
President, 2021-2022

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!



Throughout the year, we continue reaching out to our lapsed members hoping they will stay connected to their colleagues and UMSL retiree community -- especially now in this isolation created as the pandemic continues.

As mentioned in the president's message, we will be asking for retirees to voluntarily provide their Employee ID# so we can better stay in contact with you. Our membership application now has a blank for retirees' Employee ID#. Steve Spaner has sent this revised application to the Lifetime members to validate the contact information the UMSL RA has on record. In the new year, the Membership Committee will reach out to retirees with lapsed UMSL RA memberships seeking completion of the updated Membership Application.

Along with membership renewals, new member recruitment remains our other priority. This summer we were able to connect with the interim UMSL Human Resources Director Jill Wood to discuss the role Human Resources plays with the Association activities throughout the year. Retirement seminars and access to prospective retirees was the main topic of discussion. Due to the pandemic, the preretirement seminars are now all presented systemwide online through UM system twice a year - Fall and Spring. Working with UM System, we were able to get information about our association included in the presentation with a direct link to our website. If COVID allows, we hope to invite all UMSL prospective retirees who attended the Fall and Spring seminars to a face-to-face lunch and learn meeting.



**Melissa Hattman,
Membership
Committee
Chair**

The contents of the Welcome Folder housed in Human Resources Office and online will be updated with a new application and welcome letter.

The membership committee needs one more member to join Steve Spaner, David Ganz and Melissa Hattman. This member will be primarily responsible for the Newsletter article submission twice a year and attending our committee meetings two or three times a year. If you are interested in joining us on the committee and if you know of any retired — or soon to be retired — UMSL employee who might be interested in joining the association, please refer them to our Web Site, or feel free to email Melissa Hattman at mhattman@att.net

For the latest news, events, information about joining, and benefits of being a UMSL-RA member, please check out our [website](#)

2021 Webinar on Galapagos Islands

We had a nice turnout for the Fall RA Association Event, *The Wonder and Science of the Galapagos Islands*, presented by Dr. Patricia Parker. Dr. Parker serves as the E. Desmond Lee Professor of Zoological Studies; Director of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center; Department of Biology, UMSL; Senior Scientist, Saint Louis Zoo.



Attendees learned about the geological history, the islands' remarkable fauna and flora, and the role that the Galapagos played in Charles Darwin's formulation of his theory of natural selection. She discussed some of her own work, and that of her students, focusing on the processes by which new diseases arrive to the islands, are transmitted, and may threaten the native wildlife not previously exposed to such pathogens. Final topics included enhancing human capabilities on the islands (and elsewhere) to carry on this work and adapt to our changing world.

Retiree Holiday Lunch December 10, 2021

Please join us for the

UMSL Retirees Association Festive Holiday Luncheon

Friday, December 10, 2021

11:30 a.m. ~ Reception with cash bar

Noon ~ Served luncheon

12:45 ~ Program

Glen Echo Country Club

3401 Lucas and Hunt

(Just south of Natural Bridge Road on the west side of the street)

****Masks are required***

Questions? Call 314-591-7470

~PROGRAM~

Campus Presentation

Kristin Sobolik, Chancellor

Retirees Association Business

Kathleen Haywood, President of the Board

Paid RA member and guest, \$25 each

Retiree non-member and guest, \$30 each

Please make checks payable to: UMSL Retirees Association

Mail by Friday, December 3rd to

Steve Spaner

UMSL-RA Treasurer

310 Olive St.

Washington, MO 63090-2214

Please include your contact information (address, phone, email) and name(s) of your guest(s)

Association Honors Past Presidents

At our spring banquet on June 17, 2021 the Retirees' Association honored all the living past presidents of the Association. Since its inception in 1977, 19 retirees have served as president of the Association beginning with Margaret Fagin-Hartung (1977-1979).

Currently, there are 11 former presidents living, including the incumbent president, Dr. Kathleen Haywood. Seven former presidents were able to attend the luncheon, the lone exceptions being John Perry (1992-1994) who turned 101 last month and currently lives out of town, and Debbie Kettler who was ill.

Chancellor Kristin Sobolik joined Association President Clark Hickman in presenting a Certification of Appreciation to each president, along with a few words about each and their most significant achievements.



Lawrence "Lol" Barton (2016-2017)
Professor, Chemistry
College of Arts and Sciences



David Garin (2005-2014)
Professor, Chemistry
College of Arts & Sciences



Mike Murray (2019-2020)
Professor, Communications & Media
College of Arts & Sciences



Sandy MacLean (2014-2016)
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs



Shirley Martin (2002-2005)
Dean, College of Nursing



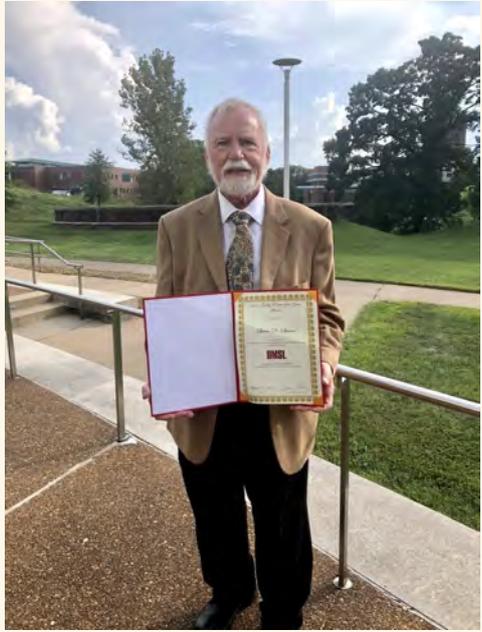
Chuck Knorr (2017-2018)
Professor, History
College of Arts & Sciences



Fred Wilke (1994-2002)
Professor, Mathematics & Computer Science
College of Arts & Sciences

Retiree of the Year for 2021

Steven D. Spaner, Ph.D., retired professor of the College of Education has been chosen as the 2021 Retiree of the Year. Since retiring in 2002, Dr. Spaner has had a sustained engagement with the Retirees Association, including three terms as Secretary and over a decade as Treasurer. During his tenure with the Association, he has promoted retiree benefits at the local and System level, and has worked with campus and Association leaders to evolve the Retirees Association into an Association that is attractive to all retirees.



**UMSL Retiree of the Year 2021
Steven Spaner, Ph.D., retired, College
of Education**

In addition to his work with the Retirees Association, Dr. Spaner volunteered his time since retirement in mentoring several doctoral students through their dissertation process, including chairing dissertation committees. Through his specializing in quantitative research methods, his unique expertise was sought after by many doctoral students after his retirement from the faculty. He successfully brought these students, some of whom were not even University of Missouri-St. Louis students, through to successfully completing their doctoral degrees.

Lastly, Dr. Spaner has been instrumental in promoting and growing the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP). When he became aware of a need for SNAP activities and services in Australia, he personally went there at his own expense to train and organize a cadre of volunteers to service sexual abuse victims on that continent. He also sponsored other survivors to journey to Rome to seek justice from the Vatican itself. In the words of one his endorsements, "I feel confident in saying that Steve's years of volunteering has saved lives...that he is a true ambassador for not only your university, but for the goodness that is present within the heart of humanity."

It is for these reasons—continual and significant service to retirees, extraordinary service to doctoral students post-retirement, and profound service to survivors of sexual abuse—that Dr. Steven D. Spaner is awarded the 2021 Retiree of the Year Award.

Congratulations!



St. Louis Zoo Recognizes UMSL Retiree

Typical UMSL retirees remain active after their retirement and continue to contribute to their communities in many ways. The world-renowned St. Louis Zoo recently recognized one of them, David R. Ganz, Ph.D., as a Lifelong Legacy Builder.

Dave's 54 years at UMSL included serving as dean of student affairs, and department chair, associate dean and director of undergraduate studies in the College of Business Administration. He continues to enrich the University as a donor and volunteer on the UMSL RA board.

As noted in the Zoo's recognition: "Dave has made St. Louis a better place by supporting civic, social, arts and cultural organizations as a patron, donor and volunteer on boards and committees. Theater, opera, dance, history and science have benefited from Dave's support, along with his church, schools and the Saint Louis Zoo."

Congratulations, Dave!



In Memoriam



Mary Adams, Touhill Performing Arts Center, January 18, 2021

Ellen Clippard, College of Education, March 1, 2021



Margaret Coulter, February 22, 2021

Diana Davis (No photo available)

Lawrence Davis, Department of Philosophy, College of Arts & Sciences, February 10, 2021



Curtis DeBoe, Police Department, January 5, 2021 (No photo available)



Norman Flax, School of Social Work, February 21, 2021

Donald Grogan, Department of Biology, College of Arts & Sciences, February 5, 2021



Winston Hsieh, Department of History, College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2021

Karen Keller, School of Professional & Continuing Studies, College of Education, January 20, 2021



John Pummill, Records, February 2, 2021

In Memoriam (continued)



Estella Rash, University Child Development Center, August 2, 2021

Anna Rocco, Custodial Services, January 9, 2021



Mayovah Seng, Department of Physics, College of Arts & Sciences, March 13, 2021

Dorothy Tinnon, July 7, 2021



Bobby Underwood, College of Education, January 20, 2021

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



Staying Connected

As a member 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.umssystem.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.

UM Retiree Contact

A reminder that the UM System contact for UMSL Retirees regarding pension, insurance and other retiree matters is Mr. Tony W. Redlinger. His email address is redlingera@umssystem.edu and his phone number is 573-884-1477. Tony welcomes your calls or emails regarding any question or issue you have!



Tony Redlinger

UMSL Retirees Association Officers and Board 2021-2022

President: Dr. Kathleen M. Haywood

President-elect: Dr. Helene J. Sherman

Past-President: Dr. Clark Hickman

Secretary: Dr. Thomas Eysell

Treasurer: Dr. Steven Spaner

Board Members:

Ms. Debbie Kettler

Ms. Cindy Vantine

Dr. Zuleyma Tang-Martinez

Mr. David Ganz

Ms. Sue Baber

Ms. Melissa Hattman

Dr. Lol Barton, *ex-officio*

Dr. David Garin, *ex-officio*

**Dr. Jill Wood, Interim Exec. Dir., *ex-officio*
Office of Human Resources**

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 application 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>

