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## President's Message

Happy Spring Everyone!

As I look out my window at Forest Park with all the trees and flowers coming to bloom, I realize that our first full year as a formal affinity group of the Alumni Association is coming to an end. With their support and the hard work of the RA board members, your RA chapter has been productive and active over the last few months.

At our holiday luncheon, despite a once in a lifetime electrical snafu, we had a festive time visiting with each other over salads and dessert. Chancellor Sobolik dropped by with seasons greetings and we were introduced to Ryan McDannold, UMSL's new Associate Vice Chancellor of Development.

Your board has been working very hard this Spring to keep your RA well represented, vibrant and fun. Membership has been reaching out to campus organizations introducing them to the RA and the benefits of joining us. An ad hoc committee tasked with reviewing and updating our governing documents has completed their work.

The planning and events committee keeps our members connected through social outings and events every year. Among those offered in early Spring were opportunities to take the bus to Jefferson City for UMSL Day at the Capitol and attend a zoom conversation on AI sponsored by Circle of Educators and the College of Education.

At our big Spring event, a campus tour on Tuesday April 30, retirees had a chance to visit the campus via shuttle buses to see the changing face of UMSL. Dave Ganz was our narrator and guide. Lunch followed at the Ferguson Brewing Company.

And wait, there are more events coming your way! Our annual membership campaign is in full swing. Watch your mail, email and Facebook for information on how to renew your membership, become a lifetime member or become a brand new member of the Retiree Association. Enrollment period is April 15-May 31.

Keep an eye out for your invitation to the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on June 14. We will be voting on our slate of officers as well as the revised RA governing documents. Please join us at Glen Echo Country Club at 11:30

It has been an 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 future programming. Please watch for a one question survey asking for your feedback on future events that you would like to see us offer.

Thank you for your participation in the RA events with your fellow retirees, attending luncheons and meetings as well as attending online events. Stay safe and be well. Thank you and see you in June!

All my best,

Melissa Hattman, UMSL M.Ed, President



**Melissa Hattman**  
*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!**

Spring greetings to all! It was chilly early on, but temperatures have warmed considerably.

All annual members should have received a postcard announcing the beginning of the 2024-2025 Membership Renewal Campaign. Many of you will have received an e-mail with the renewal information while others have received letters with the instructions and the renewal form. If you have not received any of these communications, please reach out to me.

To mention again, with the retirement process now all online, you have an opportunity to inform the UMSL RA that you have retired and can share your interest in touching base with us. This link to opt-in is part of the UM System HR site.

I was pleased to present the benefits of membership in the UMSL RA to UMSL's Spring Faculty meeting (pictured on right). We welcome all retirees — both faculty and staff — to join the Retirees' Association!



The next big event is the Spring Luncheon and Annual General Meeting on June 14, 2024, at Glen Echo Country Club. Details will soon be available, so keep an eye out for them. It is a wonderful time to reconnect with friends and colleagues. Please be sure to look for me so we can chit chat. Also, if you have any questions about membership during the event, we can clear them up.



**Mimi Duncan,  
Membership  
Committee Chair**

Any time you have any questions, please contact me. My e-mail address is [duncan@umsl.edu](mailto:duncan@umsl.edu). I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon in June.

## Events and Planning

### Spring 2024 Event

Lots and lots of exciting new changes on the UMSL campus! This past April, about 20 UMSL RA members were treated to a campus tour. We were wowed with the new buildings, renovations and improvements on the campus! After our tour, we gathered at Ferguson Brewing Company for a delicious lunch and good conversation.



### Save the Date for the Spring Luncheon

*Happy Spring!!*

The RA annual spring luncheon & business meeting will happen on Friday June 14th at Glen Echo country club. Reception starts at 11:30.

Mark your calendar! Watch your mailbox for your invitation!

This luncheon is sponsored by your UMSL Retirees association, so your RSVP is required.

This is a wonderful way to catch up with friends & colleagues. Our short business meeting will include your opportunity to vote for new board members!

*See you there!*



## Retirees of the Year 2024

The UMSL Retirees Association selects a retired faculty member and a staff employee each year to be among those who receive the annual Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Award (ROTY). The selected RA individuals are honored for their volunteer activities that support communities, civic, welfare, career and professional services, activities that benefit our university and as well, achieve other noteworthy accomplishments.

The RA award nominee form was sent to all RA members last January, asking them to suggest notable candidates. Letters of support were required along with the form to be submitted to the selection committee. The committee chair also contacted the Faculty Senate and Staff Association, the latter in person, to encourage nominations.

The selection committee has received multiple nomination packets this year and are appreciative of the interest in this project. Two individuals, one faculty and one staff, will be selected for this honor, and will be recognized at the annual campus wide Chancellors Award ceremony, held in the Fall semester. The faculty and staff representatives will be announced to the Retirees Association Board in August, 2024 and to the campus at the Chancellor's event.

Thank you everyone who has participated in the nomination process. Pictured below are last year's awardees.



***UMSL RA board members with Retirees of the Year at 2023 Chancellor's Awards Ceremony. Pictured L to R: Helene Sherman, committee chair, Beverly Sporleder, Yolanda Weathersby, Melissa Hattman, board president***



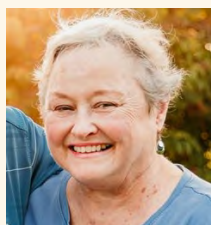
## In Memoriam



**Agnes Allen, Registration, 1/13/24**

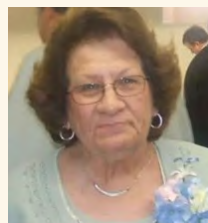
**Stephen Barris, Facilities Services, Winter 2024\* (photo unavailable)**

**Fred E. Bradley, Education, 12/18/23**



**Kathleen Brown, College of Education, 6/3/23**

**Judith Buss, Optometry, 12/4/23**



**Patrick Conway, Police Department, 8/23/23**

**David Johnson, Facilities Services, Winter, 2024\* (photo unavailable)**

**Karen Kirkwood, Instructional Technology, 10/21/23**



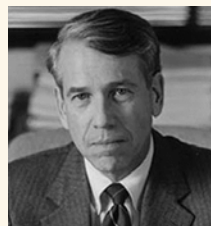
**Frank Kochin, Facilities Services, 1/2/24**

**Tom Lange, Mail Services, 1/11/24**



## In Memoriam

**Arthur MacKinney, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Interim Chancellor, Winter, 2024\***



**Terence Martin, English Department, Fall, 2023\***

**Frank May, Chemistry, 12/25/23**



**Robert Nash, Jr. Continuing Education, 9/27/23**

**David Opher, Facilities Services, 12/20/23**



**Lois Pierce, Social Work, 2/4/24**

**Sandra Robnett, University Libraries, 11/3/23**



**Richard Rosenfeld, Criminology/Criminal Justice, 1/8/24**

**James Sturgis, Facilities Services, 1/20/24 (photo unavailable)**

## In Memoriam



**Donald Sweeney, Transportation Studies,  
11/18/23**

**Gloria Taylor, Chancellor's Office, 11/18/23**



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



## Helpful Links

Link to UM system retiree associations <https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/engagement-outreach/um-system-retirees-associations>

Pension fund performance page <https://www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/pension-funding-performance>

## Leaving a Legacy



Charitable Bequests are a great way to leave a legacy. 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](mailto:eniven@UMSL.edu) phone: 314-516-6788

## 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.



**Shannon Leigers**  
HR Generalist

Office of Human Resources,  
University of Missouri  
1105 Carrie Francke Dr., Ste. 108  
Columbia, MO 65211

## 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](http://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.umsl.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





# 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 2023-2024

**President: Melissa Hattman**

**President-elect: Thomas Eyssell**

**Past-President: Helene J. Sherman**

**Secretary: Candace Agnew**

**Treasurer: Steven Spaner**

**Board Members:**

**Sue Baber**

**Mimi Duncan**

**David Ganz**

**Debbie Kettler**

**Cindy Vantine**

**Grace Kennedy**

**Lol Barton, *ex-office***

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

**Mary Bosnick, UMSL Liaison**



**Join us on Facebook!** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/260854917778855>

