

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's message
- Membership Information
- Events and Planning
- Save the Date: Holiday Luncheon
- Retiree Accomplishments
- Retirees of the Year 2023
- State of the University
- In Memoriam
- Leaving a Legacy
- Staying Connected-HR Updates
- About Us
- Board Member Roster

President's Message

Happy Fall! As the seasons change, I invite you to grab a cozy blanket and cup of hot chocolate and accept my welcome to the UMSL Retirees Association Fall 2023 newsletter!

It has been an active and exciting year so far for the RA Chapter. On August 25, our 2023 Retiree of the Year awardees were presented to the campus community at the Chancellors State of the University Address at the Touhill. This year's awardees are Beverly Sporleder (faculty) and Yolanda Weathersby Marshall (staff).

We kicked off the school year with UMSL's 60th Birthday activities with Red and Gold Day on September 15.

We are pleased to announce that as of July 1, the RA received its official status as an affinity group from the Alumni Association. With this designation comes support resources, both financial and human, to aid us in our efforts to continue to provide you with great programming and volunteer opportunities. Thanks to the Alumni Association we will also have an office in the future Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center opening in 2025.

To better understand our expectations as an affinity group, Mary Bosnick, our liaison and RA chapter support from the AA, addressed the board with a presentation at our August board meeting. Our first volunteer opportunity to help the Association was with their annual October 5k run/walk event.

The UM System Town Hall meeting was held virtually on October 5. The conversation and exchange of information dealt primarily with the changes to the medical insurance changes effective January 1, 2024.

On October 17th, RA members enjoyed a fall outing to the Defiance Ridge Winery. Always a favorite to enjoy each others company while taking in a stunning view and sipping on a beverage of choice.

In the coming months, your RA chapter looks forward to sharing additional activities with the Alumni Association, supporting our membership with interesting and meaningful events and providing updates to retirement information. Please join our RA Facebook group page for the most up-to-date announcements and invitations to join in the fun during this UMSL 60th birthday year.

Please stay in touch, let us know what you would like from your RA chapter, and encourage your retired non-member friends to join the UMSL Retirees Association. It benefits us all.

Watch your email and RA Facebook page for your invitation to the holiday luncheon on Friday December 15 at Glen Echo Country Club. We appreciate your membership and involvement with UMSLRA and look forward to seeing you soon.

Now, sit back and enjoy this fall newsletter.

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!



Well, we made it through some record-setting temperatures this summer, and the chill of fall has finally arrived.

As I have written before, there is a new process that allows retirees, either when they retire or when they update personal information, to opt-in to share that information with the relevant Retirees Association. This process allows us to contact individuals who are not currently members by looking at monthly reports and contacting potential members. I have reached out and am pleased to announce that we have new members because of the data. Since updates come monthly, I will continue to monitor and respond as potential members appear.

I have asked that you consider serving on one of the RA committees. I am making this request again and hope you will consider that, of course, especially on the membership committee (lol).

The RA Fall Event was exceptional. As reported by the event coordinator: It was a glorious day, sunny and warm. There were three attendees in addition to three Board Members. Those non-board members who attended commented on the beautiful setting and were pleased to be introduced to Defiance Ridge Winery. All extended their thanks to us for having the event. I am sure no one was "winey" on the trip home.

The annual Holiday Party will take place on December 15, 2023. The venue will be Glen Echo Country Club. This luncheon will be a celebrated event as it has been in the past. Be sure to "save

the date" on your calendars. We will have great fun, great food, and great renewal of friendships. The invitation will come to your e-mail but will also be available on our web site. Credit cards will be accepted, just like last year. Hope to see you there, in your best holiday finery. I am sure some of you gentlemen will have either candy cane ties or ties with ornaments that flash on and off.



**Mimi Duncan,
Membership
Committee Chair**

Contact me if you have any questions: duncan@umsl.edu . Our website with lots of information is: [UMSL Retirees Association | UMSL](#) . See you in December.

Events and Planning

Alumni Association Annual 5K Run

Several UMSL retirees jumped in to help the Alumni Association stuff the 2023 5k Run event packets, hand out t-shirts and the all important registration numbers.



The annual Alumni Association run was another success with over 400 runners and a whopping \$25,000 in donations benefitting the Association. Thank you Beverly Sporleder, Susan Baber, Dave Ganz,

Candi Agnew and Melissa Hattman for helping the runners get off on the right foot!

Fall Outing to Defiance Ridge Vineyards

This fall's outing to Defiance Ridge Vineyards turned out to be a lovely autumn outing for a small group of satisfied retirees. It was an ideal day, and most attendees commented on what a beautiful setting it was.



We're going to ask you!

Keep an eye on your email for our survey asking you what social event ideas for our RA members are most attractive to you. The board has come up with a list of interesting and fun places for all of our members to enjoy and stay connected. We'll be asking you to vote on your favorite.

Save the Date for the Holiday Luncheon

Join us for the UMSLRA Festive Holiday Luncheon!

Friday, December 15

Glen Echo Country Club

11:30 reception with cash bar

Noon served luncheon

Your invitation will come to you as an email.

RSVP by December 11th. You will have the ability to pay & reserve your spot on line. Cost of event is \$35.

We will collect for the UMSL Triton Pantry—

*Granola bars *Instant rice/pasta packets *Household cleaning items

Also, don't forget the book exchange! Bring one, take one - or just take one!



Retiree Accomplishments & Publications

Tom Eyssell was elected Delegation Chair for the Silver-Haired Legislature chapter serving St. Charles, St. Louis, Franklin, and Jefferson Counties. The Silver-Haired Legislature is a national volunteer senior advocacy organization created by The Older Americans Act of 1973.

The Silver Haired Legislature is a formally elected body of citizens 60 years of age and older that promotes conscientious legislative advocacy for Missouri's older adults. All members are volunteers who serve without pay. Elections are held annually during the month of May at local area agencies on aging nutrition or senior centers. Senior citizens elect three senators and twelve representatives from each of the ten area agencies on aging for a total of 30 senators and 120



Tom Eyssell

representatives. Following elections, the legislators meet to elect officers and begin to ascertain the needs of seniors in their districts. Bills and resolutions are then drawn up and prepared for presentation at the statewide conference in the fall.

The SHL meets for two days in the fall to conduct a model legislative session. At that time, members present, debate and vote on a pre-prepared docket of bills and resolutions that concern legislation, which affects the lives of not only the elderly but all Missouri citizens. From the docket, five bills having the highest priority are selected as the group's main focus for the upcoming year.

SHL Delegates convene at the Capitol in Jefferson City each spring for a regular meeting of the Board of Directors as well as a chance to meet with legislators and discuss SHL's past achievements and current priorities.

The Missouri Silver Haired Legislature has the distinction of being the very first organization of its kind in the United States. Throughout the past 50 years, the SHL has served as a legitimate voice for older adults, to support legislation to improve the lives of all senior Missourians.

The SHL provides an opportunity for seniors to become involved in the legislative process and support issues on behalf of Missouri's elderly. For more information or questions, contact: SHL@health.mo.gov.

Public Advocacy

You can take part in the SHL mission by subscribing to their legislative and advocacy email program. If you choose to become a subscriber, you will receive time sensitive alerts and updates on the status of proposed legislation that might directly affect you and your loved ones. Visit <https://www.agingahead.org/missouri-shl/> for more information.



Retirees of the Year Awards 2023



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

The 2023 Retiree of the Year (ROTY) awardees were honored at the Chancellor's Awards ceremony on August 25, 2023 during the celebration in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Our UMSL Retirees Association was proudly

represented by our two honorees who have contributed to the St. Louis community and citizens in a variety of programs and volunteering activities.

The selection committee worked diligently and with dedication for many weeks to review the nomination documents and program criteria for both the faculty and staff UMSL employee awards. The committee included two former UMSL awardees and two volunteers. As a result of their excellent work, the committee recommended Yolanda Weathersby for the staff award and Beverly Sporleder, chosen for the faculty award.

Samples of the awardees' accomplishments, since retiring from UMSL are as follows:

Staff Retiree of the Year—2023

"Our staff representative honoree, Yolanda Weathersby, has contributed to the greater St. Louis community in a wide variety of activities. One of her projects is that she volunteers as a teacher assistant with a diverse student population, including those with special needs, as a teacher assistant for Parkway Early Childhood Center."



**Yolanda Weathersby
2023 Staff
Retiree of the Year**

"In addition to professional activities, Yolanda is dedicated to the civic welfare of her community. She and her husband, Glen Marshall, have most recently established a nonprofit educational program for K-12 youth, providing mentorship to youth by combining education and sports to promote a better community. Additionally, she continues to remain connected to higher education as she directs her time and energy to mentor college students as they pursue doctoral degrees."

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Faculty Retiree of the Year 2023

Our faculty honoree, Beverly Sporleder, has volunteered for youth programs in a wide variety of settings:

"No words can really describe Ms. Sporleder. She's a well-rounded woman with a heart of gold. She goes beyond the call of duty to help people, especially youth with untapped potential. She has faithfully served on the Board of Directors for Real Talk, Inc., Youth Empowerment Program for approximately 10 years. Her wisdom, resources, and leadership made a huge impact in the lives of thousands of young people in the City of St. Louis, in particular, the University City School District. In summary, she is a pillar of the community.



**Beverly Sporleder
2023 Faculty
Retiree of the Year**

"She gives her all to others. When you consider the numbers of children Bev has cared for, the people she has inspired, the communities she has influenced, I believe her legacy deserves every honor out there!"

The UMSL Retirees chapter is proud of our ROTY honorees. They have contributed their expertise, hours of intense and expert volunteering to exemplify the many paths to making a difference for others. Congratulations to our winners; our chapter and all retirees wish them all the best in continuing their donation of time, care and strength. Thanks to the hard-working ROTY committee which made the nominations and selection process a great success. ~Helene Sherman, committee chair.

We Need Your Help With Nominations

Calling all members! Do you know an UMSL retiree who is making exceptional accomplishments since retiring? Please take a look at the criteria for these awards and consider nominating someone, or yourself! The nomination form for our chapter has been updated and clarified. Please find it on our website and Facebook page. The posted form will be used for the 2024 nominations and those in years following.



2023 State of the University Address

Chancellor Kristin Sobolik used her annual State of the University Address to preview some of the many ways the University of Missouri–St. Louis community will be celebrating its 60th anniversary during the new academic year.



“Since our university’s founding 60 years ago, our mission has been to serve the St. Louis region, the state of Missouri and beyond by increasing educational access and opportunity while

engaging in innovative research, driving economic growth and enhancing community development,” Sobolik said from the stage in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. “UMSL’s mission is the same now as it was 60 years ago as we continue to align with the needs of the region and state to transform lives through higher education.”

Because those needs evolve, it’s critical for the university to adapt. Sobolik highlighted some of the changes underway as part of the \$100 million [Transform UMSL](#) initiative that is positioning the university to serve the St. Louis region and state in the years ahead.

The university is taking steps to centralize its academic core and since last spring has kicked off renovations of the Thomas Jefferson and St. Louis Mercantile Libraries, broken ground on the new Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center and opened the newly renovated second floor of the Patient Care Center, complete with cutting-edge teaching labs, study nooks and lounge spaces for students in the College of Optometry.

This semester, the university will open a Geospatial Advanced Technology Lab and a Virtual Reality Lab – made possible with more than \$1 million in funding from the state’s MoExcels Workforce Initiative with matching funding from the university. These labs will help the university support and grow the geospatial workforce in the St. Louis region.

UMSL has also begun the demolition of several buildings on the South Campus, as it begins to clear space for development of the proposed North St. Louis County Business and Workforce District.

Learn more details about the chancellors State of the University address here <https://blogs.umsf.edu/news/2023/08/25/state-of-the-university-address-2023/>



University of
Missouri–St. Louis



In Memoriam



Joan Arban, Chancellor's Office, 6/23/23

**Marvin Beckerman, Citizenship Education
Clearing House (College of Education),
12/26/22**



Henry Belton, Facilities Services, 3/20/23

William Connett, Mathematics, 2/24/23



**Helen Davis, Facilities Services, Spring, 2023* (Photo
unavailable)**



**Bernice Gamble, Facilities Management,
5/24/23**

**Sally Jackoway, English Department,
2/4/23**



**Charles (Chuck) Kuehl, College of Business
Administration, 10/3/23**

**Phyllis Lee, Student Health Services,
11/25/22**



In Memoriam



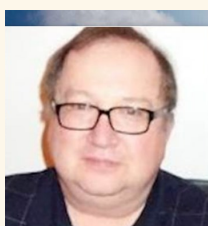
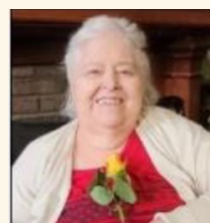
Shirley Martin, dean emeritus of the College of Nursing, 7/2/23

Fern Mreen, College of Arts & Sciences, 6/9/23



Robert Ray, Jr., Music, December 15, 2022

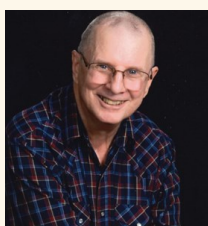
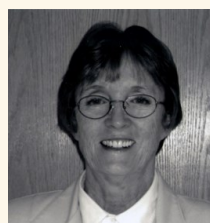
Patricia Slowiak, Student Retention Services, 12/24/22



Dennis Smeltzer, College of Education, December 26, 2022

James Thompson, Campus Police, Summer 2023* (Photo unavailable)

Carol Weber, College of Education, Spring, 2023*



Laurence (Larry) Welsh, Facilities Services, 3/22/23

*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.



Helpful Links

Link to UM system retiree associations <https://www.umsystem.edu/ums/enagement-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 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.

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



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



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



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