

MONTHS AGO when we planned a fourth MURA newsletter for the year, it was to be full of reports of all the late winter-spring MURA events – the MURA breakfasts, the annual business meeting, the spring social celebrating our 30th birthday and much more. Most of those events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this newsletter couldn't be fuller in recapping MURA activities.

As it turns out, MURA is much more than scheduled events on a calendar. MURA is an organization alive with generous volunteers who work hard throughout the year. My heart is full of gratitude for all those who have supported MURA this past year.

Communication has been particularly important: Barb Harris sent out timely emails and worked to overcome barriers that sometimes arose; **Maggie Walter**, **Pat Smith** and **Shelda Eggers** have done great work on newsletters; **Judy Maseles** for the webpage and working with PayPal and **Nancy Johnson** for our Facebook page – they all deserve our thanks, as do the volunteers who called the 150+ MURA members without email alerting them to the last-minute cancellation of the annual business meeting. And thanks to **Art Jago** for managing the first ever electronic voting for MURA officers.

I am grateful for those who have served and will now be handing over their duties to others — **Susan Hazelwood** and **Brian Foster**, who have completed their member-at-large terms; **Dick and Anne Hessler** for their years coordinating the MURA Breakfasts; **Gary Smith** and **Kee Groshong** for chairing the MURA Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Fund, which has grown through their leadership and your generosity, enabling scholarships to be awarded at \$1,000 each, up from \$500; **Don Sievert**, liaison to the Faculty Council; **Ken Hutchison**, chair of the Past Presidents Committee; and **Rose Porter**, one of two retiree members of the Total Rewards Advisory Committee (TRAC) for the System. Plus **Jo Turner**, past president, has been an incredible source of information, advice and wisdom for me.

MURA's work on your behalf has continued throughout these challenging times. We held a productive Board of Directors meeting over Zoom and were delighted that 225 members voted for 2020-21 officers via online ballot.

The Program and Education committees are planning for next fall and exploring creative ways to deliver programs – be on the lookout for more information through emails.

Mary Anne McCollum and her Governmental Affairs Committee are keeping track of all that is happening in Jefferson City as it relates to the University of Missouri.

MURA helped arrange the first ever systemwide Virtual Town Hall meeting for retirees held May 6 with more than 900 people tuning in for the livestream and more than 120 questions submitted. **President Mun**

Choi and his leadership team were so responsive to the request for this meeting and appreciated the positive feedback from you. You can find the video recording at **Retiree Town Hall webpage**. Information on where to access the answers to questions will be sent out by email when available. Your MURA leadership continues to meet with the leaders of the other three campus retirees' associations and our local campus leaders.

Other accomplishments this year: Terrific speakers for our well-attended breakfast series; providing a recording of the fall information meeting on our website; the first-ever benefit concert for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund; reaching the \$100,000 mark for the scholarship fund; and developing a process for seeking sponsorships for MURA events.

It has been a privilege to be your president during this past year with its challenges none of us could have imagined. My sincere thanks to all the members of the Board of Directors, committee chairs and volunteers for seeing the opportunities and creative possibilities amidst all the turmoil. I am proud to be a part of this organization and have the utmost confidence in **Ruth Tofle**, who will become president on July 1 and bring her endless energy to the role.

— Betsy Garrett

“MURA is an organization alive with generous volunteers who work hard throughout the year.”

BETSY GARRETT
MURA President



Take a stroll down memory lane

Reflections on 30 years of
MURA service to MU retirees
— inside!



SEPT. 23

MURA Fall Social at the
Missouri State Historical
Society. More details in the
August newsletter.



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Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund tops \$100,000 with successful \$30-for-30 campaign

The **Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund** topped \$100,000 with the success of the \$30-for-30 fundraising campaign as part of MURA's yearlong celebration of its 30th anniversary.

At the beginning of January the fund had \$91,951. By the end of February, the \$30-for-30 campaign raised \$4,055. With the \$4,000 matching funds from MURA, the goal of having a \$100,000 in the scholarship fund was achieved.

Once the goal was achieved, MURA leadership also approved increasing the scholarship amount to \$1,000 per year.

These scholarships support dependents of MU and UM staff members in honor of the vital role staff play in the successful operation of the MU campus. This year, MURA will award two \$1,000 scholarships and one half-year scholarship of \$500.

The winners for the 2020-21 academic year are Inhan Kim, \$500, as a recipient for his final semester as he will graduate in December; Brianna Wittenborn, \$1,000, as a second-year recipient; and Darius Lee, a new awardee, will also receive \$1,000.

"In the future, we hope to have more than just three recipients and offer even bigger scholarships. MURA will keep working to enhance our fund beyond the \$100,000 corpus that we have achieved," wrote Marty Townsend, a Scholarship Committee member. "Professor Dickerson, long-time chair of Textile and Apparel Management, would be so proud of these students' achievements."

Gary Smith and Kee Groshong, co-chairs of the committee, and Ken Hutchison, another committee member, along with Townsend, headed up the MURA committee to raise the additional funds.

Donations to the scholarship fund are always welcome. Please make checks payable to the University of Missouri, with "Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. Mail to: MU Office of Advancement, Gift Processing, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211.



Darius Lee



InHan Kim



Brianna Wittenborn

Three MU students win MURA scholarships for 2020

THE THREE STUDENTS selected by the MU Student Financial Aid Office on behalf of MURA to receive the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship scholarships are: **Darius Lee**, **InHan Kim** and **Brianna Wittenborn**.

Lee, who was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, wrote: "Thank you for selecting me for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship. My first year at Mizzou has gone very well. I am majoring in business administration with an emphasis in finance and banking. My mother, Myra Kelly, is currently employed with the Division of Information Technology as a business support specialist."

Kim was selected for a \$500 award as he will complete his degree in December. He says he is looking to work at a company in either the energy or aerospace industry. He wrote: "Thank you! I am incredibly thankful to receive the MURA scholarship one last time."

"I am a senior studying mechanical engineering with a minor in mathematics. My dad, JaeWoo Kim, is an assistant research professor working in the Animal Sciences Department."

"The past year at Mizzou has been my best year yet as I have been able to take my last few engineering classes, get more involved within the College of Engineering and really experience all the great things that Mizzou has to offer."

Wittenborn was selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship for another year. She wrote: "Thank you so much for this opportunity. My year has gone great at Mizzou, and I feel that my skills have improved even more. I am currently studying graphic design and digital storytelling at Mizzou." Her mother works in MU Health Care as manager of revenue cycle training.

Congratulations to our newly elected 2020-21 officers and board members

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, the slate of MURA officers and board members were approved by electronic voting.

The 2020-21 officers are **Linda Cook**, president-elect; **Donna Johanning**, treasurer; **Mark Banks**, staff member-at-large; and **Frank Schmidt**, faculty member-at-large. **Ruth Tofle**, currently serving as president-elect, will step up to the office of president on July 1.

Art Jago handled the online voting process through Survey Monkey with 225 members voting. **Jo Turner**, former president, was chair of the Nominating Committee.

Chancellor's 2020 Retiree of the Year Awards



BRIAN BROOKS Faculty Retiree of the Year 2020

The University of Missouri has been a huge part of my life. As a student, full-time faculty member and retiree, I have now spent 52 years here.

I enjoy staying connected with the Missouri School of Journalism and MU by recruiting students, particularly high-ability students and minority students. I regularly give briefings about the school for prospective students and parents,

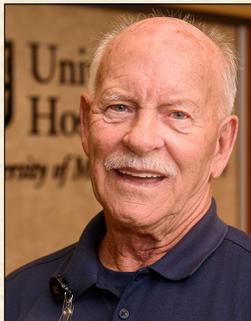
and I enjoy interacting with bright, eager young students and their parents.

I also still manage the undergraduate scholarship pool for the Journalism School. Every once in a while, I have the pleasure of helping a financially struggling student stay in school and finish. Doing so is always a wonderfully satisfying experience.

Promoting the School of Journalism is really easy for me because I know what it did to launch my career, and I really believe we do it better than any other journalism program on the face of the earth.

I plan to keep helping the school until I am no longer able or until the dean no longer wants me. Go, Tigers!

— Brian S. Brooks



RON GEREN Staff Retiree of the Year 2020

Have you ever told someone, go home and don't come back? Surprisingly, patients love to hear that!

This award is a great recognition, but I don't volunteer for awards, luncheons etc. All my awards come from the smiles I put on people's faces.

Once I delivered flowers to a patient, and I said "Beautiful flowers for a beautiful lady." She

smiled from ear to ear. Another time I saw a couple walking through the lobby holding hands with a solemn look on their faces. I approached them and said: "Do you folks know each other?" The gentleman says "no, we just met." They both smiled.

I saw a gentleman pushing an elderly lady in a wheelchair. I approached and said: "Ma'am did you know there is a cowboy behind you pushing your chair?" She smiles and says, "Yes, isn't he a cutie? I think I'll keep him."

This award shows that I am appreciated for all I do, and I will continue to volunteer for as long as the Good Lord allows me. I highly recommend being a volunteer.

— Ron Geren

Faculty Council honors MURA with Shared Governance Award

THANKS TO THE EFFORTS of a small group of MURA members led by President-elect Ruth Tofle, MURA was nominated for this year's MU Faculty Council's Group Shared Governance Award. We were delighted to learn in late April that we had won.

This is a wonderful acknowledgement to occur during our 30th anniversary year. The nomination included highlights of MURA's leadership role in shared governance over the years in advocacy, communication, education/social and contributions to the university family.

Excerpts quoted in the congratulatory letter from Clark Peters, chair of the MU Faculty Council on University Policy, included: "Shared governance began when retirees realized the need for a retiree association for necessary representation and leadership. The Columbia campus took the lead among other UM campuses."

Comments from the nomination letter were: "MURA input was important in determining new health insurance for retirees."; "MURA also works with MU and UM leaders to advocate for the needs of future retirees."; and "Throughout the year, MURA's Board members actively liaison with the Staff Advisory Council, Faculty Council and MU Engagement Council to ensure that current and future retirees are informed and engaged."

Plans are for MURA to be honored during the Fall General Faculty Meeting.

Congratulations to all the MURA members and leaders over the year who did the work recognized in this award.

— Betsy Garrett, MURA president

The **CHANCELLOR'S RETIREE OF THE YEAR AWARD** was created to honor and reward the achievements of MU retirees. One retired Faculty and one retired Staff member are recognized for their service each year. **For information on submitting nominations, visit the MURA website at mura-missouri.com.**

Celebrating 30 years!



Ken Hutchinson, UM Vice President Emeritus and the 2013 MURA president, shared the following report about early MURA history at the 2020 February Breakfast presentation, "Photos and Footsteps: Celebrating MURA's Past."

With regard to the beginnings of MURA, I need to confess up front that my only direct role in 1989-90 was perhaps partly causing its development! In 1989, I served on President Peter Magrath's cabinet. After analyzing benchmarks in what we called our comparator university group, meaning the Big Ten universities and a few others, we knew that our retirement program was not competitive.

After spending time with Peter and Jim McGill, the vice president of finance, we decided to constitute a committee to review the retirement program's competitiveness and, in fact, the entire benefit offerings of the university. So that's what occurred, with Peter Magrath appointing a four-campus ad hoc group to study the retirement program and make recommendations to Peter and the cabinet and ultimately the general officers of the university, comprised of the president, chancellors, vice presidents and general counsel.

Appointing this committee was not without controversy. We already had a Board of Cura-

tors Committee called the Retirement Disability and Death Benefits Committee, which had legal responsibility for the retirement program. This committee and its successor, The Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee, until 2008 had responsibility for all amendments to the retirement program and adjudicated all questions pertaining to the retirement program.

In 1990, the Retirement Disability and Death Benefits Committee was ably chaired by Don Holms, professor of finance and treasurer of the University of Missouri. I chaired the latter committee from 1991 until January 2008. Associate Vice President Mike Paden served as committee secretary, and Cindy Cover, secretary to the vice president, served as staff to the committee.

Don wasn't so sure about this ad hoc committee and its responsibility. I assured him that whatever the ad hoc committee came up with, we would discuss with his retirement committee. I knew this board committee had to support and sign off on whatever recommendations emanated from our ad hoc committee.

So, the committee completed its study, and the changes were well received by all, including the general officers and Board of Curators. The centerpiece of changes was the retirement plan.

Here are a few retirement program changes:

- We increased the income replacement for 30 years, age 65 to 64 percent from 45 percent, which made us fully competitive with our comparator institutions. That was a little over a 42% increase in our retirement program income replacement. A major change.

- Another major change was removing the 35-year service cap. At the time, only creditable service up to 35 years could be counted. One of the most disgruntled was a vice chancellor who had 41 years of service and retired two years before the change effective date Sept. 1, 1990.
- Another change was increasing the cash-out option from \$3,500 to \$20,000.

These changes were both needed and uniformly accepted by faculty and staff groups all across the university's four campuses and the hospital and clinics.

But, there was one group that was in shock! The wonderful retirees of the University of Missouri. We couldn't make these changes retroactive, both for financial reasons and legal reasons. In Missouri, you can't add to a contract already performed.

To make a rather long story short, the retirees of the university were both in shock and understandably disappointed that they didn't get to participate and benefit from these major enhancements in the retirement program. My recollection is that the retiree leaders of the day wrote President Magrath expressing their disappointment. The president assigned me to meet with these understandably disappointed retiree leaders, which of course I did. Most of these were longstanding friends of mine.

That's the "Cliff Note" story of MURA's earliest beginnings. ■



The first MURA officers and board members, who served from 1990 to 1992, are shown in the photograph. **Front row from left:** Marc De Chazal, Constitution & By-Laws Committee chair; Hudson Little, board member; George Preckshot, vice president; C.V. Ross, president; W.H. Pfander, retiree benefits chair; Ernest Morgan, communications chair; and A.E. Rikli, secretary.

Back row from left: Anthony Lampe, board member; Margaret Mangel, board member; Marjorie Roberts, board member; William Fratcher, Constitution & By-Laws Committee vice chair; Paul Rexroad, membership chair; George Brooks, board member; Allan Purdy, University Relations Committee chair; Edmund Ford, historian; William Dalzel, Finance Committee vice chair; A.G. Unklesbay, Retirees Benefits Committee vice chair; Robert Daniel, Ombudsman and Consultant chair; and Norman Rabjohn, board member. Not present: Rex Dillow, treasurer.

Photos and Footsteps: Celebrating MURA's Past

by Ruth Tofle, Gary Smith and Ken Hutchinson
Breakfast Presentation to MURA February 4, 2020

30-year analysis: 1990 - 2020



Ken Hutchinson, Ruth Tofle and Gary Smith take a bow after presenting the opening celebration in honor of 30 years of MURA history, "Photos and Footsteps," at the February breakfast meeting.

Retiree milestones from 1954 - 2000

1954: The University of Missouri is the only major educational institution in the country without some type of retirement program for employees.

1954: Elmer Ellis, serving as acting MU president, says a retirement plan is critical for the university to recruit good faculty. He gives instructions to the Committee on University Policy to establish a Staff Benefits Program, which would include retirement benefits and medical insurance. (Ellis was MU president from 1954-1963 and the first president of the UM System from 1963-1966.)

1954: Raymond Schroeder is chair of a subcommittee of the Committee on University Policy focusing on retirement, which first presents a retirement plan proposal on Nov. 15, 1954.

1955: The Missouri Legislature and Gov. Phil Donnelly approve legislation permitting the university to set up a retirement and benefit program.

1956-1957: An interim plan is approved. "The University Committee spent many frustrating hours fighting the stonewalling of Mr. (Powell) McHaney, a member of the Board of Curators and president of General American

Life Insurance Co., and his actuaries who were determined that any plan must be managed by "professionals," not university faculty."

1958: The Board of Curators adopts University of Missouri Retirement Trust Fund established by a percentage of the university budget from investments of salary and wages.

1959: Raymond Schroeder is singled out by Raymond Peck from the 11 committee members for his invaluable assistance as "chief architect of the basic provisions of the retirement plan."

1959-1971: This is a 12-year period without any organized university retiree involvement.

1971: Annual Chancellor's Luncheon is established – the only university retiree activity.

1971-1990: Again, no organized university retiree involvement on any campus.

1990: Changes in medical benefits and pension plan for personnel retiring in 1990 are viewed with concern by retirees. Pension payments were increased 42 percent, much to the dismay of some recent retirees. (See Ken Hutchinson's reflections about the early years of MURA for a fuller explanation.)

1990: The UMC Retirees Association Founders' Day is celebrated on March 20, 1990, at 2 p.m. About 250 retirees assemble at the Animal Sciences Auditorium. Clarence Verl "C.V." Ross is the inaugural president of UM-CRA (University of Missouri-Columbia Retirees Association).

1990: George Presckshot presents a gavel and sounding block from apricot wood harvested at his homesite Aug. 28, 1990, to founding President C.V. Ross.

1990: Officers of the four university retiree associations meet July 11, 1990, as an ad hoc committee to present concerns of retirees to the university administration.

1990: Annual membership dues are \$3.

1990: Ross wants greater membership numbers as he writes in the first newsletter "to have credibility when we discuss our problems with University administrators. Individual strands of fiber in a rope may be weak but collectively they can become an unbreakable cable."

1990: William Fratcher gives a presentation about Wills and Trusts. Fratcher had served as a prosecutor in the Nuremberg trials at the end of World War II.

1990-2000: Armon Yanders leads a trivia quiz at the holiday luncheons with his "wry wit." One year he probed little-remembered facts about the entertainment and commercial worlds of mid-20th Century America.

1991: Marie and Jerome Mason, Staff Retirees of the Year, win the award for raising 19 foster children and a niece and a nephew. They adopted five of their foster children.

1992: Dues are raised to \$5.

1992: A brass and wood plaque in Jesse Hall honors Chancellor's Awards winners for accomplishments since retirement.

1992: George Brooks is named as Staff Retiree of the Year. He was the director of financial aid from 1972-88 and the first senior black MU administrator. He was also influential in the local community.

1992: MURA is approved as the acronym for the MU Retiree Association.

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1992: After a business meeting, Margaret Flynn gives a presentation, "Are You What You Eat?"

1993: Allen Purdy is honored as Staff Retiree of the Year. He is considered the "national father of financial aid" for establishing work-study legislation.

1993: Charles Gehrke is honored as Faculty Retiree of the Year. He examined the Apollo lunar rock at Propulsion Lab, Pasadena, Calif., in the late 1960s.

1994: Rex Dillow organizes the annual MURA Seniors Columbia Championship. The golf tournament, which ran from 1994 to 2009, included 36 holes played on two successive days.

1996-2004: Dabney Doty leads the biweekly MURA Personal Finance Group covering investments, wills, trusts and financial planning. Dabney died March 22, 2020, at the age of 101.

1996-97: MURA President Bob Breitenbach was a charter board member of the Campus Writing Program.

1997: Breitenbach writes a newsletter article "Why I Favor Some Form of Universal Health Care."

1998: William "Bill" Pfander, MURA president from 1994-95, writes an article for the newsletter about the history of the retirement, disability and death benefit program. Bill provides editorial comment: "We would not have had a retirement plan without the leadership of President Ellis and the work of the University Committee on Policy" with Ray Schroeder as "chief architect."

1998: The MU Board of Curators approves the Tiger Place Project, an approach for long-term care for older adults, combining 24-hour a day nursing care and other health services. It also includes multidisciplinary educational research and ambulatory services.

1999: Diane Brukart is the first woman to serve as MURA President. She was the former director of Student Health and an alumna of Hickman High School and Harvard Medical School.

1999: Nelson Trickey is Faculty Retiree of the Year. Nelson is in the National 4-H Hall of Fame having secured over \$1 million for 4-H. He would say, "When it is raining soup, you better get out your bowl!"

What do you remember?

TELL US YOUR STORIES about MURA and our past leaders in 25 words or less. Submit to Ruth Tofle at TofleR@missouri.edu and Gary Smith at SmithG@missouri.edu. A MURA committee will review submissions, edit for MURA newsletters and submit to University Archives.

MURA Trailblazer



GEORGE C. BROOKS

In 1992, George Brooks received the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year-Staff Award. Photo courtesy of University Archives.

When the 19 founding members of the MU Retiree Association were photographed, two women were on the far left of the crowd, and the tallest person standing in the center is George Charles Brooks. (Please see photograph on page 4 of the first year's officers.)

Brooks stands tall, not only in his commanding stature, but because of his significance. His name is repeated in University of Missouri and Columbia community history.

He is deserving of MURA members' attention because he bravely articulated in the August 1994 MURA newsletter: "Our association was not formed to simply negotiate increased benefits for retirees, rather to be a cooperative and vibrant part of the university wherever possible. In this regard, a proposal has been made for the establishment of a \$1,000 scholarship by MURA."

From those inspiring words, the scholarship, now known as the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund, will be awarding three annual awards of \$1,000 each.

It took 26 years to reach an endowment of \$100,000, which was reached in February with a \$30-for-30 fundraising campaign in honor of MURA's 30th anniversary.

George Charles Brooks was born in Mexico, Missouri, in 1922. He attended Douglass High School and earned an undergraduate education at Lincoln University with the help of the G.I. Bill. He later coached football and basketball at Douglass, where he also was a teacher. He also taught at Jefferson Junior High School before moving to the financial aid office at the University of Missouri, according to his obituary in the Columbia Tribune on Oct. 5, 2003.

Brooks was a civil rights activist. According to a 2015 Maneater article about Brooks, <https://www.themaneater.com/special-sections/res-hall-guide>, he "pushed racial boundaries by arranging 'football games between white and black high schools.'" He also advocated for the integration of umpires, led the effort to desegregate Columbia restaurants and fought for a city ordinance ending discrimination in housing.

Brooks grew up in Columbia where, Mizzou News reported, <https://news.missouri.edu/2017/brooks-scholarship-turns-30/>, he said he "stayed clear of campus after dark for fear of being harassed."

While those memories are said to have given him pause, he received his

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GEORGE C. BROOKS

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Master of Education degree in 1958, joined the MU staff and served as MU director of Financial Aid for 17 years. He was the first African-American senior administrator at MU. He helped recruit Arvarh Strickland, the first black MU faculty member.

A Maneater news article about Brooks notes: "He soon earned a reputation for encouraging students individually as they sorted their way through financial difficulties."

Leslie Palmer, MURA Board Secretary (2015-2019) remembers periodic meetings with Brooks when she was a student from fall 1971 through summer 1975. She met with Brooks in his role as Director of Financial Aid as life-changing decisions were made. Palmer remembers how Brooks recognized that every person's situation is different and "these sessions were always positive, ... and I feel a deep debt of gratitude."

A year before Brooks retired in 1987, the university named the George C. Brooks Scholarship in his honor to improve recruitment and retention of students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups.

After retirement, Brooks remained a trailblazer and was in the small group on Jan. 16, 1990, to explore the need for an organization to represent retirees that was to become MU Retirees Association. Also present were Herbert Brown, Robert Daniel, Gordon Kimber, George Preckshot, Paul Rexroad, C.V. Ross, R.A. Schroeder and A.G. Unklesbay.

Brooks remained active after retirement as a Mason and as lieutenant governor of Division 5 of the Kiwanis Club's Missouri-Arkansas District, and he worked to re-establish the daycare center on Park Avenue serving children from public housing projects.

He was recognized with the 1992 Chancellor's Retiree of the Year-Staff Award. The Brooks Residence Hall, named in his honor, was opened in 2016 to students in business learning communities. MURA continues to honor the legacy of George Charles Brooks (1922-2003) for his lasting contributions.

Related references:

<https://www.themaneater.com/special-sections/res-hall-guide>

<https://www.themaneater.com/stories/news/curators-vote-name-new-residence-hall>

<https://www.themaneater.com/stories/news/mu-dedicates-buildings-to-three-african-american-pioneers-of-acceptance-on-campus->

MURA budget holds steady as fiscal year ends

By DONNA JOHANNING, MURA Treasurer

WITH MURA ACTIVITIES POSTPONED or canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions, the financial activity for the organization is almost complete for fiscal year 2020. Receipts are 83 percent of budget, and disbursements are at 52 percent.

The lower disbursement percentage is due to the cancellation of the business meeting in March and other activities not being held. This will result in an increase of our cash balance reserves for this year, with an anticipated ending balance at June 30 of just over \$6,000.

Refunds were successfully made through PayPal to members who had paid in advance for the Spring Social and April breakfast meeting. Those who paid by check were contacted by the event coordinators about the return of their checks.

The MURA Board voted at the January meeting to match up to \$4,000 in gifts to the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund raised during the \$30-for-30 Campaign, which began in February. The goal was met in March. Matching funds were requested from the Vanguard investment account and were transmitted to the university in April.

In June, a transfer equal to the amount of lifetime dues collected this fiscal year will be sent to the Vanguard investment account. The income from this account is used to fund MURA activities during the year and represents more than 40 percent of the operating receipts budget. As of early May, this transfer will be \$2,500.

The Finance Committee submitted a budget proposal for fiscal year 2021, which was approved at the April board meeting. This budget and the final financial statement for the current year will appear in the next newsletter.



Update from the Flagship

Chancellor Alexander Cartwright talks to MURA members about the goals for the university. Cartwright has since left MU to take a position as president of the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla.

MU CHANCELLOR ALEXANDER CARTWRIGHT presented "Update from the Flagship" at the March 3 breakfast meeting with 91 MURA members in attendance.

Chancellor Cartwright emphasized the value of an inclusive culture and building on excellence with innovation through collaboration, excellence from differences and confidence to change.

He also posed three questions to the audience:

1. How do we build more interdisciplinary collaboration?
2. How do we empower our students, faculty and staff?
3. How do we ensure our core values guide our progress?

A lively question and answer session followed Chancellor Cartwright's presentation.

— Betsy Garrett



MU Retirees Association

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DON'T MISS the informative bi-weekly MURA emails!

Please provide any email address updates to Barb Harris, MURA Communications chair, at: harrisb@umsystem.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT | TIME | LOCATION |
|-----------|--|-------------------|--|
| Summer | See MURA emails for most current information | | |
| *Sept. 8 | David Sapp, author and past president of Boone County Historical Society and the Boone's Lick Road Association; retired 3M engineer/executive; "Along the Boone's Lick Road, Key Link to the West" | 8 to 9:30 a.m. | Country Club of Missouri, 1300 Woodrail Ave. |
| *Sept. 23 | Fall Social at the State Historical Society. Reception and sessions in Art Gallery and Library | 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. | State Historical Society, 605 Elm St. |
| *Oct. 6 | Mary Anne McCollum, "Election 2020 Forum" | 8 to 9:30 a.m. | Country Club of Missouri, 1300 Woodrail Ave. |

* Requires pre-registration; details at mura-missouri.com.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, the MURA leadership team is exploring alternative electronic programming. Up-to-date information will be communicated by emails. In addition, we will communicate by Facebook and webpage postings at mura-missouri.com. Registrations for fall activities will be available in the August MURA newsletter and webpage. We are currently planning to resume inperson events in the fall but will be working on other options as needed.

Need help with problems?

If you have unresolved questions about MU-related issues, MURA has two ombudspople who may be able to help you find answers.

On behalf of MURA members, faculty representative **Marty Townsend** or staff representative **Nancy Schultz** can help investigate hard-to-navigate information.

Contact them at TownsendM@missouri.edu or SchultzN@missouri.edu.

MURA News is published by the MU Retirees Association.

Maggie Walter, managing editor
Ginny Booker, designer

mura-missouri.com