

As we adjust to changing times



Ruth Tofle

Dear MURA members,

Footsteps forward! While being challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are adapting as individuals and as an organization.

We are changing the way we connect with one another and progressing with new technologies to fulfill MURA's purpose "to represent, promote and protect the interests of the retirees and to promote the welfare of the University of Missouri."

During these unprecedented times, we are aggressively addressing our objectives: communicating, advocating, educating /socializing and contributing to our MU family.

We initiated the UM System webinar for retirees with UM administration, partnered with Osher Lifelong Learning, pivoted to online programming, reached non-Internet users with "Friendly Voices" (See Page 12), and drafted bylaw revisions to accommodate electronic balloting (See Page 3). We also increased our newsletter to four editions this year.

We stand on the shoulders of Mizzou retirees who had the wisdom and foresight to create our organization and guide the way into the future. You may choose to review

the overview of MURA's complete history as presented at our February meeting on our website (<http://mura-missouri.com/event/mura-breakfast-meeting-celebrate-past-2020-02-04/>).

Our May newsletter highlighted events from the 1950s to the establishment of MURA in 1990 and stories in the first decade to 1999. Our 30-year anniversary celebration continues this calendar year, and this edition highlights the decade of 2000-10 (See Pages 6, 7 and 8). Stay tuned for the November edition for more about our historic journey.

We are scheduling online educational programs, and you will be hearing about further opportunities through our emails. Because of the success of the May webinar with UM System administration, our Fall Information meeting will also be a UM Systemwide webinar. It will be October 2nd with the topic of "Retiree Healthcare."

With MURA's foundational strength, we look at the year ahead as an opportunity. Thank you to Betsy Garrett for her outstanding work as president this past year. And, thanks go to our wonderful volunteers agreeing to lead and serve our organization this coming year. (See leadership roster and committee members on Pages 2 and 3.)

On a personal level, I'm enthusiastic and honored to serve as your 2020-21 MURA President. Thank you.

— Ruth Tofle, MURA President

Keep strolling down memory lane

Reflections on 30 years of MURA service to MU retirees — inside, with a focus on 2000-10!



SEPT. 18

Virtual MURA Fall Social: "Our Material Culture" with the State Historical Society. Details inside.



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MURA OBJECTIVES

- Communicate
- Advocate
- Educate / Socialize
- Contribute to University family



MURA Leadership Directory 2020-21

Elected Leadership Members		
President	Tofle, Ruth	TofleR@missouri.edu
Past President	Garrett, Betsy	garrette@health.missouri.edu
Pres. Elect/Prog. Chair	Cook, Linda	CookL@missouri.edu
Secretary	Lickliders, Mary	LicklidersM@missouri.edu
Treasurer	Johanning, Donna	JohanningD@umsystem.edu
Member-at-large-Staff	Herde, Mary Jo	HerdeM@missouri.edu
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Member-at-large-Staff	Johnson, Nancy	JohnsonN@missouri.edu
Member-at-large-Faculty	Fisch, Bill	fischw@missouri.edu
Member-at-large-Faculty	Jago, Art	jagoa@missouri.edu
Member-at-large-Faculty	Frank Schmidt	SchmidtF@missouri.edu

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Awards	Herde, Mary Jo	HerdeM@missouri.edu
Communications	Harris, Barbara	harrisb@missouri.edu
Education / Breakfasts Co-Chair	Bentley, Clyde (co-chair)	BentleyCL@missouri.edu
Education / Breakfasts Co-Chair	Bentley, Cecile (co-chair)	Cecile.Bentley@gmail.com
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Membership Co-Chair	Turner, Jo	turnerlj@missouri.edu
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Ombudsman	Townsend, Marty	TownsendM@missouri.edu
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University Liaison-Admin	Moore, Cecil	MooreC@missouri.edu

Ex-Officio Members		
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MURA News is published by the MU Retirees Association. Maggie Walter, managing editor • Ginny Booker, designer

MURA Committee Members 2020-21

COMMUNICATIONS

NAME	OFFICE
Harris, Barbara	Chair
Walter, Maggie	Newsletter managing editor
Maseles, Judy	Website support
Johnson, Nancy	Facebook
Booker, Ginny	Newsletter designer

FINANCE

NAME	OFFICE
Johanning, Donna	Treasurer and chair
Sanders, Brian	Member
Hutchinson, Ken	Member
Groshong, Kee	Member

AUDIT

NAME	OFFICE
Miederhoff, Libby	Chair
Lay, Jim	Member

PAST PRESIDENTS

NAME	OFFICE
Henderson, Tom	Chair
Garrett, Betsy	Past president
Behymer, Jo	Past president
Erickson, Nan	Past president
Porter, Rose	Past president
Miles, Jack	Past president
Thompson, Granville	Past president
Groshong, Kee	Past president
Hutchinson, Ken	Past president
Smith, Gary	Past president
Townsend, Marty	Past president
Sable, Margie	Past president
Turner, Jo	Past president
Tofle, Ruth	Ex-officio
Cook, Linda	Ex-officio

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

NAME	OFFICE
McCullum, Mary Anne	Chair
Groshong, Kee	Member
Leuthold, David	Member
Schultz, Tom	Member
Smith, Gary	Member
Henderson, Tom	Member
Stegall, Sandy	Member
Barbee, Kay	Member

MEMBERSHIP

NAME	OFFICE
Otto, Dick	Co-chair
Turner, Jo	Co-chair
Anderson, Rich	Member
Groshong, Kee	Member
Harris, Barb	Member
Smith, Gary	Member
Shocklee, Phil	Member

Phone Calling Subcommittee

Linville, Ina	Member
Deaton, Anne and Brady	Member
Art Jago, Art	Member
Bailey, Bob	Member
Elliott, Judy	Member
Metzgar, Karma	Member
Kalaitzandonakes, Julie	Member
Smith, Gary	Member
Windmoeller, Kathy	Member
Littrell, Doris	Member
Garrett, Betsy	Member
Sable, Margie	Member

PROGRAM

NAME	OFFICE
Cook, Linda	Chair
Groshong, Kee	Member
Johnson, Nancy	Member
Jago, Art	Member
Sable, Margie	Member
Miles, Jack	Member
Bentley, Clyde	Member
& Education Committee	co-chair
Bentley, Cecile	Member
& Education Committee	co-chair
Schneider, Barbara	Member
Garrett, Betsy	Member
Tofle, Ruth	Ex-Officio

SCHOLARSHIP

NAME	OFFICE
Parshall, Tim	Chair
Hutchinson, Ken	Member
Henderson, Tom	Member
Windmoeller, Larry	Member
Foster, Brian	Member
Orton, Dianne	Member
Schultz, Nancy	Member
Townsend, Marty	Member

MURA Board proposes bylaw updates



Art Jago

By ART JAGO,
Member-at-large
faculty

READERS MAY RECALL that the board conducted the Spring 2020 officer elections by electronic ballot after the membership's annual meeting was canceled due to COVID-19. This was conducted under provisions in the MURA Bylaws that permit the board of directors to direct the activities of the organization between meetings of the membership, especially in extraordinary circumstances.

Interestingly, it is probably safe to say that more members participated in that email election – a total of 225 ballots – than in most in-person elections held at a regular meeting.

To make any future electronic balloting less of an exceptional event, the board has approved a bylaw change that will codify a procedure for the future possible electronic election of officers and for voting on any other ballot measures.

In reviewing the bylaws, the board also approved a change to permit the existence of co-chairs for standing committees. Currently the bylaws require a sole chair appointed for each committee. This change will permit more flexibility in providing leadership for a committee that, for one reason or another, might have a difficult workload.

Bylaw changes must be approved by a vote of the entire membership. This will be considered at the next in-person meeting when such a vote can be taken. Of course, the precise wording of the proposed additions will be distributed before such a meeting. Interested members can find the constitution and bylaws at <http://mura-missouri.com/about/constitution/>.

Any of your officers will be happy to discuss the purposes of these changes with you.

The board also decided to prepare a “Policies and Procedures Manual” containing MURA’s “standard operating procedures” and policies established by the board and the membership that do not fall into the broad categories of bylaws or constitutional issues.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Sept. 8	Virtual Breakfast – 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”	8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/96023082648?pwd=U21SckRQenU3NUVKa29nVGxleG1Zz09 By phone: 312 626 6799 ID: 960 2308 2648
Sept. 18	Virtual Fall Social – Joan Stack, State Historical Society curator, and Nicole Johnston, Missouri Historic Costume and Textile Collection; breakout sessions for sharing items and discussion; “Our Material Culture”	1:30 to 3 p.m.	Zoom webinar with Osher. Link will be sent in MURA email.
Oct. 2	UM Town Hall about “Retiree Health Care” – Webinar to four-campus retirees and MURA Fall Information Meeting; Marshall Stewart, moderator, with UM panel.	2 to 3 p.m.	UM webinar. Link will be sent in MURA email.
Oct. 6	Virtual Breakfast – Panel of Boone County state legislative candidates; Mary Anne McCollum and Tom Henderson, moderators; “Election 2020 Forum”	8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Zoom webinar with Osher. Link will be sent in MURA email.
Nov. 3	Virtual Breakfast – Bryan Garton, CAFNR senior associate dean and director of Special Programs; “Celebrating 150 Years of CAFNR Innovation”	8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Link will be sent in MURA email.
Dec. 1	Virtual Breakfast – MU Libraries Special Collections staff; “From Clay Tablets to Tiny Books: Treasures of the MU Libraries Special Collections and Rare Books”	8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Link will be sent in MURA email.

Zoom links will also be posted in Upcoming Events on the MURA website.

If you do not have internet, use your telephone to listen to the speaker.

MURA’s partnership with Osher flourishes at MU

By BARBARA SCHNEIDER, Osher liaison



Barbara Schneider

Osher’s goal is lifelong learning. It is one of MURA’s priorities, too. The first venture in MURA’s partnership with Osher in July was an outstanding presentation by Dr. Andrew Clarke of CAFNR. More than 60 people attended the Zoom gathering.

Osher members have been invited to join our virtual September Breakfast Meeting with David Sapp. MURA also will partner with Osher for September’s Fall Social and October’s Legislative Forum.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at MU transitioned to online right away. It finished the Spring Semester and continued through the summer session on Zoom. Starting on Sept. 21, the 2020 Fall Semester will

offer more than 20 classes on Zoom. Members of the Osher staff have become “Zoom experts” and are happy to help you personally so that you are comfortable participating.

Topics for Fall include: The Art of Memoir Writing; Politicians and Policies in 2020; Two Centuries of American Painting; MU Arts & Science – 8 Outstanding Profs; Managing Your Digital Photographs; The American Presidents; The Life and Music of Mozart; A Healthy Financial Retirement; Lessons in U.S. History; Geography of the Internet; Sci-Fi for a Pandem-icky Era; America After WWII; Ted Talks; Democracy Lab; Survey of Economics; A Nation Divided: How Federal Policies Promoted Segregation and Perpetuate Housing Discrimination; The New Testament Gospel as Narrative Art; Why We Wear Clothes; The Birth of the Death of God: Nietzsche and Dostoyevsky; and Writing for Fun and Maybe a Few Extra Bucks.

Check out the Osher website at osher.missouri.edu for the fall schedule, membership and registration details. Also keep your eye on MURA emails and website for other university- and state-related online programs recommended in “Barbara’s Picks” to stimulate your mind and help keep you smiling and content this fall.

Scientists face challenges in food production

DR. ANDREW CLARKE, associate professor of Food Science and UM Presidential Fellow, addressed “How Food Scientists are Changing the Way We Feed the World” at the July 14 online MURA meeting.

Clarke identified achievements in food science and technology as well as the challenges ahead. As Clarke explained, food is complicated — as are consumers, agriculture and regulations.

Missourians can help meet the challenges by using value-added agriculture experience and investing in the Missouri Food, Beverage and Forest Products Initiative, he said.

Sixty-four viewers tuned in for this “breakfast presentation” by Zoom conferencing that allowed questions and answers. The meeting was joined by viewers from across the state of Missouri and other states, as well.

This was the first cooperative program between MURA and Osher Lifelong Learning. You can see the full recording of the program at https://umsystem.zoom.us/rec/share/1-53IujZ5kRIUJHi-IDef5Ee-G5_7aaa80SQY-6IKzx04SOYgyGdLQGM-mW_e1ZU3X



A screen shot of the participants at the online Zoom meeting in July shows the first screen of folks following the presentation. Sixty-four viewers tuned in.

“Our Material Culture”

Join the Virtual Fall Social Friday, Sept. 18, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

JOIN MURA, OSHER AND THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI for a virtual Fall Social and learn how some of your possessions could contribute to the museum’s collections of material culture for exhibitions. The SHSMO seeks to generate interest in and appreciation of the cultural heritage of the state and its people.

AGENDA:

- Welcome and greetings as we see one another in a Zoom meeting (10 min.)
- Joan Stack, SHSMO Curator and Nicole Johnston, MU Missouri Historic Costume & Textile Collection
- Overview of collections and contextualizing material culture for exhibitions. (20 min.)

BREAKOUT GROUPS (15 MIN.)

- Share a family photograph, object or historic artwork that might contribute to a museum’s collection and exhibition.
- What kind of historical exhibition or display might your object fit?
- How would you contextualize your item?
- What other items might be placed near your item to help tell its story?”
- Reporting back to entire group (30 min.)
- Wrap-up with Joan Stack and Nicole Johnston (15 min.)

GETTING READY:

- Do you have a family photo, object or historic art to show during the breakout session? Is there a family member whose interesting oral history story should be captured?
- Dress up! You are encouraged to wear vintage hat, tie, jewelry and/or clothing. (We will see you in this Zoom session if you have a camera on your computer.)
- Zoom link will be sent to you in advance in an email. Free and no need to register.



Clarence Stumpe donated these items from his U.S. Army service from 1942 to 1945 to the State Historical Society of Missouri and Washington Historical Society of Washington, Mo. The items include a duffel bag, dog tag, sugar ration notice with stamps, photo of him located front and center holding the flag at Camp Crowder at a retreat formation and a booklet about Camp Crowder. Stumpe is the father of Ruth Tofle, MURA president.



Items belonging to Myrtle (Wagner) Horstick, which were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri, include a 1909 Knob Noster High School diploma, a Bachelor of Pedagogy diploma in 1910 from State Normal School in Warrensburg, Mo., a graduate photo and student class photo where she taught at Knob Noster. Myrtle (Wagner) Horstick was the grandmother of Ruth Tofle, MURA president.

Celebrating 30 years!



A meeting of the MURA Past-President's Club in 2005 includes an all-star cast, clockwise from center, Tom Freeman, John Bauman, G.B. Thompson, Larry Morehouse, Diane Brukart, Rod Gelatt, Charles Cramer and Gary Smith. The club is now a MURA standing committee with Tom Henderson as its chair.

Retiree milestones from 2000 - 2010

2000-01: John Bauman is MURA president. John kept a diary every day for 70 years.

2000: Ann Gowans writes a column for the MURA Newsletter called "The Aging Front." Gowans continued her column until 2015.

2000: Rod Gelatt leads trivia quiz at holiday luncheons. Gelatt led the quiz until 2014.

2001: John Parker begins Lifespan Learning Program.

2002: MURA President G.B. Thompson, "Santa's Chief Elf," begins tradition of membership involvement in Santa's gift giving at the annual Holiday Luncheon.

2002: Tom Brown receives Faculty Retiree of the Year. Brown chaired the Committee for the Chancellor's recognition of retirees for many years.

2004: Charles Cramer serves as MURA president.

2004: Tim Rooney is MURA Seniors Golf Champion in "arguably the most popular local tournament over the past 30 years."

2005: John Rhein is acknowledged for providing leadership in the production and distribution of the MURA Newsletter and directories for 15 years.

2005: MURA Past-Presidents Club was initiated by Charles Cramer, MURA president in 2004. (Today, it is a MURA standing committee, led by Tom Henderson.)

2005: Jo Behymer is Faculty Retiree of the Year for service to university, other educational institutions and to religious and civic organizations.

2005: Darlene Miles is Staff Retiree of the Year for service to Missouri State Senior Games, Philanthropic Educational Organization and to her church.

2005: Lucille Salerno begins service as director of Lifespan Learning Program with a \$100,000 Osher grant. (It is later renamed the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at MU.)

2006: Rod Gelatt is MURA president.

2006: Darlene Schroeder is Staff Retiree of the Year. Darlene worked for President Elmer Ellis, and since retirement helped recruit, train and assign volunteers for MU's track and field programs.

2006: Verna Rhodes is Faculty Retiree of the Year. She worked with "A Call to Service" and developed relationships between the MU School of Nursing and the School of Nursing in Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia.

2007: Jo Behymer serves as MURA president.

2007: Proclamation renames MURA annual picnic as Ray Schroeder Picnic.

2007: Max Miller is Faculty Retiree of the Year because of his work with Habitat for Humanity, Optimists, Rainbow House, Show-Me State Games and 4-H among others.

2007: Gary Smith is Staff Retiree of the Year. He served as 2003 MURA president and on numerous boards including the Alzheimer's Association, Boone County Cancer Society, Boone County Historical Society, Boy Scouts, United Way, Kiwanis, Jefferson Club and University Club.

2007: John Parker begins MURA's breakfast series with Bob Priddy, news director of Missouri as the first speaker. His presentation was "A Mosaic of Missouri History." (Parker continued in this role until 2017.)

2007: MURA Board of Directors approve a resolution supporting Chancellor Brady Deaton's proposal to rename the Missouri's flagship university as the University of Missouri (eliminating University of Missouri-Columbia as the name). Curators approve the name change on Nov. 29, 2007.

2007: Since 2000, retirees provided \$25.3 million of the \$34.5 million contributed by faculty, staff and retirees in the For All We Call Mizzou Campaign.

2007: The MURA Investment Club, founded in May 1997, dissolves on Sept. 25. Robert Breitenbach was the first president, and Amy Preckshot was the first treasurer. The MURA Personal Finance Group was the impetus for the creation of the Investment Club.

2008: Rod Gelatt is Faculty Retiree of the Year. Gelatt was a pioneer of Public Television and KOMU, known for his wit and melodious voice on "Views of the News."

2009: Ernest Hildebrand is Staff Retiree of the Year for work on the MURA database, Kiwanis, Habitat for Humanity, Cleanup Columbia and crafting toys for Ronald McDonald House.

2009: James Creed is Faculty Retiree of the Year for work in veterinary medicine, Optimist Club, Mormon Church and Boy Scouts.

2010: With Earl Wilson's leadership as MURA treasurer, the IRS approves MURA as 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization.

2010: Robert Marshall is Faculty Retiree of the Year. He is known as the father of Mizzou's signature Tiger Stripe ice cream flavor. He serves at university, community, state and national levels.

2010: Joyce Lake is Staff Retiree of the Year. She is the first charitable gift annuity donor to the university. She volunteers at university and community levels.

Communication: A core objective for MURA

By RUTH TOFLE, MURA President

More than 250 retirees crowded the Animal Sciences Auditorium at 2 p.m. on March 30, 1990, for the UMC Retirees Association Founders' Day.

Dr. Robert Daniel spoke of the need for an organization to represent retirees, and Clarence Verl "C.V." Ross called for a motion to organize such a group. He then introduced a proposed constitution and bylaws to establish what we know today as MURA. Ross was elected as the first president of the UMC Retirees Association.

Whether gathering retirees in an auditorium or contacting them through an array of paper and electronic media, communication has always been a central constitutional objective for MURA: *"To serve as a channel of communication between retirees and the University and with other appropriate groups and individuals"* (Article IV – Objectives, Sect. 3).

The organization's name was changed to MU Retirees Association or MURA in 1992.

Communication Vehicles

Mailed newsletters dating back to 1990 archive MURA's history. John Rhein provided the leadership in the production and distribution of MURA newsletters and directories for 15 years, from 1990 to 2005. Black and white photos and then color photos emerged in newsletters as the masthead changed over the years to capture activities and the business of the organization.

The types of communication also changed over the years as electronic media became more accessible. To reach members in the most efficient manner, today, we have expanded methods to reach members, including:

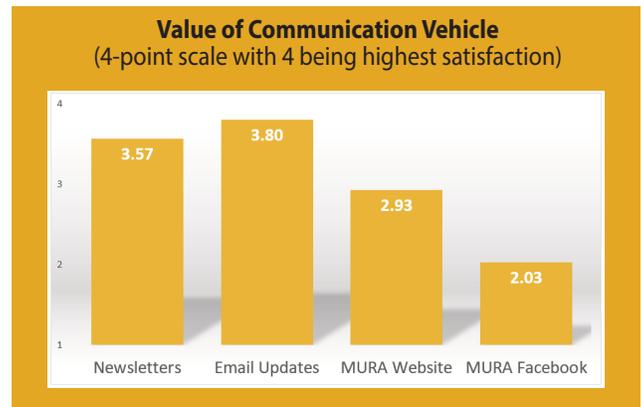
- Newsletters – mailed and emailed
- Facebook posts with photos
- E-mail blasts every two weeks
- A website with links for further information
- Video recordings of annual Information Meeting
- Promotional fliers for recruiting members
- UM Connection email for the four-campus' retiree associations
- Webinars and Zoom conferencing and programs

Two-way communication

MURA emphasizes two-way communication for shared governance. Many people are actively involved in the MURA Board and committees, monthly breakfast series, MURA Past-President meetings, four-campus retirees associations' meetings and meetings with MU and UM administration. We have both faculty and staff ombudpersons and opportunities to hear from members at the Spring Annual Business Meeting and Fall Information Meeting.

In 2018, a statistical survey, led by Art Jago, was launched to receive member feedback on MURA's performance in meeting its objectives. The survey gave MURA members the opportunity to anonymously provide their views about the programs and activities that MURA offers and how well we are representing their interests within the larger MU community.

Equally important, the survey provided members with an opportunity to suggest future programming and how MURA might better meet members' needs. A complete report of the results can be found in the "News and Updates" section of the MURA website at <http://mura-missouri.com/update/mura-survey-report-statistical-abstract/>



This chart displays MURA members' views on the value of its four communication methods.

Communication during the 2020 pandemic

Due to the COVID-19 precautions, MURA has adjusted its communication methods in 2020. The Membership Committee initiated the "Friendly Voices" program using the reliable telephone to reach members without Internet access. Thirteen MURA volunteers attempted 147 phone calls, reaching approximately 100 MURA members or family members. Members who received calls were positive, appreciative and glad to hear from MURA.

The Internet has been heavily used during this Covid-19 time period as we are sheltering at home. The election of officers was conducted through an online Survey Monkey ballot in April. Then in May of this year, MURA initiated a four-campus webinar among UM retirees with tremendous participation.

Members are now enjoying scheduled MURA programs in the comfort of their own homes. The face-to-face scheduled breakfast presentations for April, May and June were rescheduled using Zoom to allow video and audio conferencing.

In addition, "Barbara Schneider's Picks" identifies free-of-charge online programs of interest to the community.

Communication forward

What does MURA's future look like in terms of communication? Barb Harris, Communication Standing Committee Chair, reports that in the seven years she's served in this position, it is easy to say things have drastically changed and going forward will be no different.

"While Covid-19 has forced the cancellation of many in-person events, it has brought about the opportunity and need to move toward more electronic communication, including Zoom video presentations and making recordings of meetings accessible after the fact," Harris said.

"Seven years ago we wouldn't have even thought of conducting business electronically, but that is certainly becoming the norm. By using today's technology we are able to quickly get more timely information out to our retirees instead of having to rely solely on 'printed and mailed' newsletters three or four times a year," Harris said.

MURA is committed to providing you with timely information and updates. Please be sure your email information is up to date in myHR at umsystem.edu. Also, please contact Barb Harris at harrisb@umsystem.edu with any changes.

Connecting with you is a priority!



MEET JO BEHYMER:

The woman who gets things done — with goodness and efficiency

By RUTH TOFLE, MURA President

The adage “When you want something done, ask a busy person” exemplifies Jo Behymer. We feature Jo Behymer in this newsletter to honor her and to reflect on the second decade of MURA.



Jo Behymer

In 2007 Jo Behymer became the second woman to serve as a MURA president. Diane Brukaradt was the first woman MURA president in 1999.

Who is Jo Behymer?

Jo Behymer’s academic career demonstrates how she was continuously singled out to lead. She began teaching business education in the College of Education in 1962 and served in various positions in the College of Education concluding in 1990 as associate dean of research and graduate studies under Gerald Brouder. She retired from the Provost Office in 2000 under Brady Deaton.

During that time, she had numerous responsibilities with the Honors College, Writing Program, International Center, Academic Support Center, Service Learning, Student Conduct, Faculty Grievances, Sexual Harassment and represented the Chancellor’s Office and Provost Office in lawsuits.

Few may know that Jo Behymer was the academic adviser to Nan Erickson – MURA’s next woman president in 2011. Nan says Jo “radiates

goodness. To many, she is a loving friend, a confidante, a tough cookie when she needs to be and is a ‘finisher’ as she completes any task given.”

An example, Nan says, occurred on the day of Nan’s Ph.D. hooding ceremony. That morning Nan’s husband, a College of Education Department chair, said he wanted to “help” in the hooding.

As Nan explains, “I reminded him that the ceremony was due to happen in just a few hours; it was too late to change any plans. However, he insisted, so finally I called Jo and told her his wish. She said that she would take care of the request and take care of it she did.”

Nan says Jo “made it happen” for many students, staff and faculty during her tenure at MU. “Her goodness is naturally a part of her, and I am honored to be a recipient of that goodness!”

Jo Behymer’s capabilities and charisma extend beyond the ivory tower. The number of community organizations benefiting from her leadership is mesmerizing. The list includes the Central Missouri Food Bank, Columbia-Boonslick Kiwanis, Columbia Public School, SuccessLink, Elder Care and more. It’s easy to wonder: How does she do it?

Rose Porter, the fourth woman MURA president serving in 2012, adds a story about Jo that reveals the answer.

“Jo was always the model of efficiency,” Rose says. “She knew how to get people on board and get the train moving in the right direction. She was a master conductor who worked so well with her colleagues, staff, students, administrators.

“She retained this efficiency even after she retired. She was a key figure in the Olivet Church’s annual fundraiser BBQ. It was a big undertaking, and every member of that church contributed their time and energy and resources to make sure it was a success.

“Jo’s job was to sell as many tickets as possible. When asked, we always purchased two tickets and always enjoyed the delicious food. But upon her retirement, she wasn’t around to physically corner us to purchase the tickets. Still determined to sell us tickets, she simply mailed us two tickets with a return envelope to mail back our check.”

Reflections

MURA was well served to have Jo as president in 2007. She reflects on that experience: “When I was asked to be one of the early MURA female presidents, I knew the group I was joining was mostly men, many from CAFNR. This did not concern me because of my previous experiences, but I did have several surprises. I was familiar with the committee structure, but I did not realize until I asked the chairs for a list of members that the chair WAS THE COMMITTEE with only one exception.

“As a firm believer that involving members in any group is key to retaining members, I began asking faculty and staff members with diverse backgrounds to serve on committees. Almost everyone agreed to serve, but Wayne didn’t eat very well that month.

“One of the goals was to increase membership, so I sought a chair who knew many people, was outgoing, organized and willing to work. Roger Mitchell accepted the position and exceeded even my expectations. Membership that year grew by leaps and bounds in large part because of Roger’s leadership and the effort of the Membership Committee working together.

“Fellowship is an important part of MURA. Many of the friends I made the year that I was the MURA president have remained friends, and I treasure them and that time in my life.” ■



PHOTO BY JAMES MCCARTNEY

THE MURA INVESTMENT GROUP met for ten years (1997-2007) with Robert Breitenbach as the first president and Amy Preckshot as the first treasurer. Ruth Miluski tells us, “I have fond memories of this group who served as teachers as well as students traveling through the world of investments. And maybe even more important, we were friends.”

The MURA Personal Finance Group was the impetus for the Investment Group.

Gathered for its final meeting on Sept. 25, 2007 are: **Front row from left:** Asit Basu, Carl Sneed, Hazel Breitenbach, Amy Preckshot, Carla Anderson and Pat Hildebrand. **Back row from left:** Alvin Lackey, Franklin Brown, Karen Kalepenger, Sue Troutner, Ruth Miluski, Ernest Hildebrand, Allan Purdy, Nancy David, Arthur Rikli and Herbert Brown.

\$30-for-30 campaign continues to expand the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship

By **TIM PARSHALL**, Scholarship Committee Chair



Tim Parshall

DURING THE YEARLONG CELEBRATION of MURA's 30th anniversary, we have already added substantially to the endowment account for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship that supports dependents of MU and UM staff members in honor of the vital role that they play on our campus.

In the spring, the MURA Board matched the first \$4,000 donated to the scholarship endowment fund during the \$30-for-30 Campaign. Distributions from that account this year will help three students – two at \$1,000 each for the academic year and one at \$500 for a third student's final semester at MU.

I'm impressed with the work done by my predecessors, Gary Smith and Kee Groshong, and I want to build the fund to permit us to distribute even more in scholarships in coming years. I'm also looking forward to continue working with the other members of the Scholarship Committee.

Even if you have supported this cause in the past, we hope you'll consider donating \$30 (or more!) to help the dependents of our own friends and colleagues across campus. As Gary Smith said last winter, "If you'd like to add a 0 to your \$30 and make it \$300, that'd be great!"

Every gift will enhance MURA's 30th anniversary celebration and allow us to award more and larger scholarships to MU students.

Please make checks payable to the University of Missouri, with "Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund" on the memo line, and mail to MU Office of Advancement, Gift Processing, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211.

Parshall retired as the director of the Fellowships Office at MU in August 2019.

Dear MURA members,

I hope this email finds you all well. I am honored to be able to say that part of my undergraduate education was funded by the generous MU Retirees through the Kitty Dickerson Memorial Scholarship for not one, but two years.

Being a recipient afforded me much more than simply the scholarship itself, as I am sure you all know. I was able to connect with retirees, members, Chancellor Cartwright, President Mun Choi, among many others through the luncheons, and that experience has been invaluable to me.

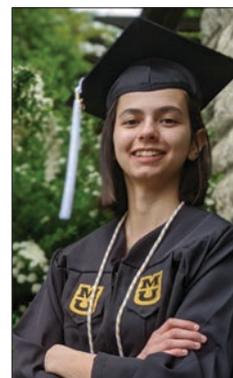
Not only that, I was also able to see Kitty's son, Deke Dickerson, last September when he and his band visited Rose Music Hall. Hearing about the wonderful woman Kitty Dickerson was, and the legacy she started, from many of the retiree members as well as her son, was heartwarming, and it really allowed me to connect with those who were generous enough to contribute to the fund.

This past weekend (May 16), I graduated from Mizzou with a Bachelor of Science in Statistics and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology – something that was made possible by the scholarship. I also received Latin honors of Summa Cum Laude and an Honors Diploma.

While, like many of my graduating peers, I did not get the senior experience and graduation I had so hoped for, I am excited for what opportunities lie ahead of me in the future. I am happy to announce that I will be returning to Mizzou next fall to begin working toward a master's degree in statistics.

Again, thank you all for your support and organization.

Emily Scully, University of Missouri, 2020
College of Arts & Sciences – statistics, psychology



Emily Scully, a winner of one of the three MURA Kitty Dickerson Scholarships awarded this year, poses in her MU graduation cap and gown. The photo was taken in May in her hometown of Jefferson City on the day she was supposed to graduate from MU.

MURA budget holds steady

By **DONNA JOHANNING**, MURA Treasurer



Donna Johanning

THE MU RETIREE ASSOCIATION has ended the fiscal year 2020 with a cash balance on hand of \$6,274.19 and investments with Vanguard in the amount of \$91,303.40. Revenues during this past year were 97.9% of budget while expenses were 116.7% of the anticipated budget.

Lifetime dues paid by our members and additional funds set aside by MURA during prior years comprise the investments with Vanguard. The income from the Vanguard account is used to fund MURA activities during the year. The interest we anticipate receiving this year represents 44% of the operating receipts budget. See Financial Report on Page 10.

The amount held as principal at Vanguard may also be used for special initiatives or objectives as determined by the MURA Board. During 2020, \$4,000 was used as a matching fund incentive during the MURA \$30/30 fundraising campaign for the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship at the university. In June, \$2,800 (the amount collected this year as lifetime dues) was reinvested in the Vanguard account.

The past year was filled with numerous social gatherings, concert fundraisers and celebrations, which kept me busy as the treasurer. Fiscal year 2021 will be off to a slower start regarding the financial activities of the organization, but once we are confident to gather again, MURA will be planning many in-person social and informational events to make up for lost time.

MU RETIREES ASSOCIATION — Statement of Cash Flows

	Actual Fiscal Year to Date as of June 30, 2020	Actual Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019	% of Prior FY
Operating Activities Supported by Member Dues and Investment Income:			
Receipts			
Dues-annual	\$ 825.00	\$ 730.00	113.01%
Dues-lifetime	2,800.00	5,850.00	47.86%
Payment from bookstore for volunteer hours	0.00	1,848.60	0.00%
Investment income - Vanguard	2,738.76	2,759.94	99.23%
Total Operating Receipts	\$ 6,363.76	\$ 11,188.54	56.88%
Disbursements			
Business meeting	0.00	1,265.62	0.00%
Fall Information meeting	1,637.00	1,380.80	118.55%
AROHE Conference	0.00	1,116.66	0.00%
AROHE Dues	120.00	120.00	100.00%
Flagship Council	250.00	250.00	100.00%
Copies, printing services	481.27	138.17	348.32%
Osher workshop and research fair	25.00	0.00	
Plaques & Banners	0.00	16.00	0.00%
Post Office Box rent and postage	80.00	121.19	66.01%
State of Missouri - Secretary of State filing fee	10.00	0.00	
Payment to University for Kitty Dickerson Scholarship	4,000.00	16,833.60	23.76%
Miscellaneous	118.80	89.85	132.22%
Total Operating Disbursements	6,722.07	21,331.89	
Excess of Operating Receipts over Disbursements	(358.31)	(10,143.35)	3.53%
Self-Supporting Social Activities:			
Holiday Luncheon			
Receipts	3,300.00	3,390.00	
Disbursements - PayPal	53.88	0.00	
Disbursements - CCMO	3,652.48	4,138.22	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	(406.36)	(748.22)	54.31%
Spring Event			
Receipts	0.00	518.00	
Disbursements - PayPal	5.40		
Disbursements	252.50	782.10	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	(257.90)	(264.10)	97.65%
Fall Social			
Receipts	860.00	1,199.50	
Disbursements - PayPal	24.46	43.00	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	835.54	1,156.50	72.25%
Breakfasts			
Receipts	9,570.00	12,241.00	
Disbursements - PayPal	289.28	458.47	
Disbursements - CCMO	8,305.82	11,154.69	
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	974.90	627.84	155.28%
Fund Raiser for Kitty Dickerson Scholarship			
Receipts - Donations and Ticket Sales	9,025.00		
Disbursements - Related Expenses	884.00		
Disbursements - University of Missouri	8,141.00		
Net Receipts (Disbursements)	0.00		
Other Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfer to Investment Account	(2,800.00)		
Transfer from Investment Account	4,000.00	0.00	
	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash During Period	1,987.87	(9,371.33)	
Cash Balance, Beginning of Period	4,286.32	13,657.65	
Cash Balance, End of Period	\$ 6,274.19	\$ 4,286.32	
Investment Assets (See note 1)			
Lifetime Members Reserve Investment Account	<u>\$ 91,303.40</u>	<u>\$ 90,744.54</u>	

Notes:

- (1) This asset pool was established from lifetime membership dues. The income from these investments provides continuing services for lifetime members as they no longer pay membership dues. Currently, these assets are invested in the Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund.

Start thinking about colleagues to recognize with Chancellor's Award in 2021

By MARY JO HERDE, Awards Committee Chair



Mary Jo Herde

MURA recognizes the contributions of our friends and former co-workers through the annual presentation of the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards.

These two awards, one given to a retired staff member and the other to a retired faculty member, include a \$1,000 check, recognition at the Chancellor's Luncheon in May and the recipients' names recorded on a plaque in Jesse Hall.

To be eligible for the 2021 award retirees must have made "extraordinary achievements" through community or professional voluntary service since their retirement (prior to Jan. 1, 2016).

The nomination materials consisting of an application form and three letters of support must be submitted by March 1, 2021. The form can be found at the MURA website: MURA-missouri.com. Click on the "about" tab and scroll to find the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Award.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Mary Jo Herde at Herdem@missouri.edu or 573-446-5525.

Send all materials to Mary Jo Herde, 3402 Snow Leopard, Columbia, MO 65202 or via email.

Nominees will remain eligible for three years following the original nomination.

For 2020, the Staff Retiree of the Year is Ron Green, a 2000 staff retiree from the MU Health Care's plant engineering department. The Faculty Retiree of the Year for 2020 is Brian Brooks from the Missouri School of Journalism. He retired in 2012.

If you would be willing to serve on the selection committee, which meets in March, please contact Herde at the above address.



2021 Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards

Awards will be presented at the May 2021 Chancellor's Luncheon to one retired faculty member and one retired staff member.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION:

- Nominees must have retired from the University of Missouri before Jan. 1, 2016.
- Individuals nominated must have contributed volunteer service to their communities, university or professional and civic organizations following their retirement.
- All required nomination materials must be submitted by March 1, 2021, to:

University of Missouri
Mary Maxwell – Retiree Awards
305 Jesse Hall, Columbia, MO 65211
Email: MaxwellM@missouri.edu

OR

Mary Jo Herde-Awards Committee
3402 Snow Leopard Drive
Columbia, MO 65202
Email: Herdem@missouri.edu
Questions? Call 573-446-5525

REQUIRED MATERIAL FOR NOMINATION:

1. The nomination form below
2. A nomination letter that includes the accomplishments of the individual, appropriate personal and background information about the nominee and a summary describing the most important reasons why the person deserves this award.
3. Three letters of support for nominee from individuals who know the nominee.

NOMINATION FORM

Candidate's name: _____

Faculty Staff Year of retirement: _____

MU department and position at time of retirement: _____

Mailing address: _____

Cellphone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator's name: _____ Cellphone: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email: _____ Nominator's signature: _____



MU Retirees Association

University of Missouri
P.O. Box 1831
Columbia, MO 65205-1831

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

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

During pandemic, MURA reaches out with “Friendly Voices”

By JO TURNER and DICK OTTO

FOR SOME RETIREES, the pandemic and shutdown of programs has resulted in feelings of loneliness and isolation. This has been particularly true for persons who are homebound or who lack internet access.

In June, MURA’s Membership committee launched “Friendly Voices,” an effort to make telephone contact with the roughly 150 MURA members who did not have an email address on file. Thirteen MURA members volunteered to help.

After orientation via Zoom, volunteers completed nearly 100 calls to MURA members. Those contacted were positive and appreciative and said they were glad to hear from MURA, with comments such as “I love the newsletter” and “very informative and objective.”

Volunteers who made the calls said they also enjoyed the conversations. To quote Doris Littrell: “It was fun!”

MURA volunteers were: Bob Bailey, Anne and Brady Deaton, Judy Elliott, Betsy Garrett, Art Jago, Julie Kalaitzandonakes, Ina Linville, Doris Littrell, Karma Metzgar, Dick Otto, Margie Sable, Gary Smith, Jo Turner and Kathy Windmoeller.

The “Friendly Voices” project netted 17 new emails, four address changes and eight notices for deceased members.

Current membership in MURA totals 961. There are 58 members who last paid annual dues for 2019 that are receiving “friendly reminders” that they need to renew their membership. There are 52 members who hold annual memberships for 2020 and beyond. If someone sends in payment for an annual membership and they are current in their dues, we simply extend their membership beyond the current year.

As has been the case for many years, the vast majority – 851 – of our members are “life” members.

Thanks to Gary Smith for recruiting our newest life member who is joining as a pre-retiree. Anyone age 55 or older and fully vested in the University Retirement Plan is eligible to join MURA.

At this time when folks are retiring without the benefit of a retirement reception, I would suggest that you consider giving them an annual membership in MURA as a retirement gift! Just think, a retirement gift that does not need to be dusted!

The MURA membership form may be found at
mura-missouri.com.

MURA members donate \$82,000 to United Way in 2019

By LINDA LORENZ, United Way Campaign Rep

WE ARE THE UNIVERSITY FOR MISSOURI. When our community needs help, we respond. MURA retirees generously donated more than \$82,000 toward the 2019 campaign. The community really appreciates your support!

Heart of Missouri United Way fights for everyone in our community by focusing on four key targets – lack of access to education, health care, financial stability and basic needs.

MU faculty, staff and retirees have a long history of significant contributions to this life-changing work. The goal of this partnership is to build bridges between the university and mid-Missouri.

In 2019, more than 50,000 mid-Missourians received services because of gifts made to the Heart of Missouri United Way. Further communication regarding opportunities to participate will be released this fall.

Read more about the United Way’s work in the community at www.uwheartmo.org/investing-impact.

