

## MURA continues at fast pace with members' generous spirits



Ina Linville

Dear MURA members,

MURA members have been active this fall, and we don't plan to slow down this winter!

In this edition of MURA News, you'll find updates about MURA programs as well as information about upcoming events.

You can read about the MURA breakfast series speakers recruited by Clyde and Cecile Bentley. And just in case you missed the in-person or the Zoom meeting, you can click on the video link, included on p. 5 with the program recaps.

In October, MURA welcomed the Boone County Chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association as our Governmental Affairs Committee, led by Mary Anne McCollum and Tom Henderson, produced an informative candidate forum.

Candidates for Boone County presiding commissioner and for the 44<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Missouri House districts participated. Members thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to hear can-

didates' thoughts on spending federal dollars and their education priorities.

The Scholarship Committee has been busy adding to the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund and working with the MU Financial Aid office to select recipients. Activities included working with the Mizzou Store to help its staff at the beginning of each semester's rush; a Shakespeare's Pizza fundraiser; and the Holiday Social raffle in November.

Watch for the MURA bi-weekly email update for opportunities to volunteer to support these causes.

We are all looking forward to our annual Holiday Social on Nov. 30 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. It is an event sure to create holiday spirit, laughter and joy!

The generosity of our members never ceases to amaze me from their giving to United Way (which you can still do until the end of the year) to spending enormous amount of time and energy improving the lives of others in their communities. Read highlights of volunteerism by a few of our remarkable

MURA members in this issue's special section.

Warm regards,  
Ina Linville, MURA president



## MURA financial update

**THE MU RETIREE ASSOCIATION** ended the month of September with a cash balance on hand of \$10,269.62 and the market value of investments with Vanguard in the amount of \$96,099.61.

The sponsorship from Central Bank for fiscal year 2023 was received in June and has been moved from the beginning cash balance and allocated between the Holiday Luncheon and Monthly Breakfasts in the current year.

As with most investments in the market today, our funds with Vanguard are showing a loss in market value and have now dropped below our cost value of \$100,453.16.

MURA has invested these funds for the long term, and this income fund is still showing a positive return when viewing in a 3, 5 and 10 year market.

The Finance committee will be monitoring the account throughout the year to ensure MURA funds remain safe and producing income to support the activities of our organization.

— Donna Johanning, MURA treasurer

### SPECIAL SECTION

**COMMUNITY:** MURA members offer strong support to community organizations through volunteer efforts.

p. 6-11



### Chancellor Retiree Awards!

It's time to offer your nominations for faculty and staff retirees who have contributed to the community.

p. 2, 4

Bacon, eggs, fruit and a full serving of useful information are all part of MURA's monthly breakfast meetings. It's never too late to catch up through recaps of the presentations and online links.

p. 5



### Inside

- 2** Seeking board candidates
- 2** Nov. 30 MURA Holiday Event reminder
- 2** Retiree/UM connections
- 2** Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards nominations
- 3** MU Engagement Council
- 4** Awards nomination form
- 5** Breakfast program recaps
- 6** SPECIAL SECTION MURA volunteers in the community
- 12** Upcoming events
- 12** MURA membership recruitment

## MURA Holiday Social Reminder

### Don't let the annual Holiday Social slip by!

Registration closed earlier in November, but the party is on for **WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30.**

**It opens at 10:30 a.m. and continues until 1:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center, 2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW, Columbia.**

**There will be a social hour filled with caroling, and guests can bid on items to support the Kitty Dickerson Scholarship Fund. Following the meal, there will be a toast to Ray Schroeder and trivia fun. And, as always at MURA events, there will lots of camaraderie!**

**Online bids for baskets filled with goodies have been ongoing, but raffle tickets will still be available at the door on Nov. 30.**

**Drawing for the baskets will be held at the end of the Holiday Social.**

## Committee seeks candidates for MURA board positions for 2023-24

**WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED** with MURA? The nominating committee is seeking candidates for the position of president-elect, secretary, staff member-at-large and faculty member-at-large.

Please feel free to self-nominate or to nominate someone you know. Nominations should be sent to Ruth Tofle, chair of the nominating committee, at [TofleR@missouri.edu](mailto:TofleR@missouri.edu).

MURA officers and Board members carry out these functions:

- The president-elect serves as chair of the Program Committee for one year and moves into the position of president the following year.
- The secretary keeps official minutes for MURA and prepares materials for Board meetings and serves for two years.
- The at-large board members represent the faculty and staff at the quarterly board meetings and support MURA's work through committees and other assignments. These positions serve for three years.

Voting for these positions will be at MURA's annual meeting in March. New officers begin their terms on July 1, 2023.

MURA relies on the energy, skills and dedication of volunteers like you to keep our organization active and vital. Please have nominations to us by Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

– Ruth Tofle, MURA past president

## Give credit where credit's due – nominate retirees for award

**ANNUALLY, THE MURA AWARDS COMMITTEE** assists the MU chancellor in identifying retirees deserving of recognition for their accomplishments post-retirement.

Since 1990, the Chancellor has recognized annually both a retired faculty and a staff member for their volunteer efforts with the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Award.

To be eligible, a retiree must have retired from the university before Jan. 1, 2018, not previously received the award, nor is a member of the Retiree Advisory Board.

MURA membership is NOT a requirement to be a recipient. The application can be found on p. 4, or go to [mura-missouri.com/chancellors-retiree-of-the-year-awards](http://mura-missouri.com/chancellors-retiree-of-the-year-awards).

The awards are typically presented at an event hosted by the chancellor during spring semester of the following year. Awardees are expected to attend this event. Recipients receive a certificate from the chancellor and a \$1,000 check. Their names are inscribed on the plaque of all awardees, which is on permanent display in the lobby of Jesse Auditorium.

Nominations are due March 1. Nominations may be submitted by past and present students, faculty, staff and other community entities.

Talk it up with your family and friends, and let's see if we can get recognition for campus/hospital/Extension retirees deserving of these awards.

If you have a question regarding an individual's eligibility for this award, send me an e-mail at [OttoR@missouri.edu](mailto:OttoR@missouri.edu) with Retiree-Award in the subject line. We will check it out for you!

– Dick Otto, MURA Awards Committee

## Fall activities keep membership connected to UM leadership

**THREE INTERACTIVE FALL ACTIVITIES** engaged retirees with the MU administration.

For starters, there was the Town Hall on health care insurance benefits held on Oct. 18. More than 500 individuals (or households) tuned in.

It provided an opportunity for UM System benefits experts and representatives from university insurance vendors to address medical insurance options for both Medicare-eligible and non-Medicare-eligible members as well as ancillary insurance plans for vision and dental coverage.

Recording of the Town Hall including Q&A is posted at [umsystem.edu/ums/engagement-outreach/um-system-retirees-associations](http://umsystem.edu/ums/engagement-outreach/um-system-retirees-associations).

The second event was the four-campus retirees associations leaders' meeting on Nov. 4. It included campus updates, a follow-up about the recent Town Hall, continuing discussions regarding retiree email contacts and a TRAC update.

The closing event is a MURA leaders meeting with President/Chancellor Mun Choi, which is scheduled for Nov. 28. The agenda is organized around MURA's engagement goals of advocacy, communication, education and contributions to the university family.

We extend a thank you to Ashley Rhode, UM Engagement Office, for scheduling and facilitating each of these meetings.

– Cecil Moore, UM administrative liaison

# MU Engagement Council History

By Karma Metzgar

MU Engagement Council Representative



Karma Metzgar

## Council works to bring more education to more Missourians

**THE MU ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL** was started in 2018 to bring greater focus and strategy to the university's current and emerging off-campus engagement initiatives. Ina Linville was MURA's first appointment to the council.

As the council has developed, the focus has become more defined, according to Sarah Traub, MU Extension director of education and impact. These points are:

1. Amplify the engagement work (current and potential) of all colleges, schools and units at MU.
2. Align efforts for more statewide engagement around big university ideas (ie. rural health, NextGen, etc.).
3. Share best practices with faculty for engaged scholarship.
4. Leverage and provide access to MU Extension for the entire MU campus.
5. Create a positive narrative for MU through community engagement.

The council generally meets twice a semester over Zoom to learn about engagement initiatives.

According to Traub, anyone can request to be added to the invitation list for the meetings by contacting Sara Vassmer at [VassmerS@missouri.edu](mailto:VassmerS@missouri.edu).

As the MURA representative, I find the meetings informative and am excited to see the engagement throughout the state.

MURA members are encouraged to request to be on the invitation list as it is always best to learn of a program first-hand.

## PROGRAMS

### New non-credit certificate programs available through MU Career Accelerator

The MU Engagement Council focused on challenges and engagement opportunities for businesses at its Nov. 16 meeting. With businesses and workers needing to pivot in the changing business environment, the MU Career Accelerator - Programs | MU Extension ([missouri.edu](https://missouri.edu)) is responding with new non-credit certificates, customized training and continuing education.

The certificate program may be accessed by individuals in two different platforms: as a for-credit, stand-alone graduate certificate through the offering college or department or as a non-credit certificate program through MU Extension. The content of the certificate program is the same in both platforms, no matter how individuals access the certificate.

The first three non-credit certificate programs piloted were construction management, supply chain management and clinical engineering.

Go to MU Career Accelerator - Programs | MU Extension ([missouri.edu](https://missouri.edu)) to learn about additional career skills and re-tooling programs such as the bootcamp model for a digital transformation certificate, as well as, long-time successful continuing education programs through Health Professions, Law Enforcement Training Institute, Missouri Training Institute, MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute, Veterinary Extension and Continuing Education.

Other speakers on the November program were: Robert Russell, senior program director for Business and Community and James Noble, professor and chair of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering.

Russell shared the following challenges facing Missouri businesses and communities:

- Missouri is lagging behind the U.S. in job growth and population.
- As birth rate declines, smaller number enter college in 18 years and result in fewer workers.
- Missouri is losing workers to other states.
- 77 of Missouri entrepreneurs survived one year in business compared to 82 for U.S. average.
- Lack of broadband access and affordability.
- Not enough affordable housing.
- Lack of childcare for shift workers or mildly sick children (all shifts).

Noble highlighted engagement efforts in the Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering - Mizzou Engineering // Mizzou Engineering ([missouri.edu](https://missouri.edu)). They have advisory boards, capstone design projects for students with local businesses and participate with a consortium of universities as a result of a National Science Foundation Grant.

### MU Engagement Council hears from NASA communicators and MU alumni

Ever wonder who is behind the YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and podcast posts about the James Webb Space Telescope at the Goddard Space Flight Center?

At the Sept. 21 MU Engagement Council Meeting, MU alumni spoke about their role as science communicators with NASA. Katy Mersmann and Miceala Sosby shared their experiences and their recent campaigns promoting the James Webb Space Telescope. Their takeaway message was "know your audience." They tell the story of the scientist in the language of the listener or reader. They said they are translators for the audience. To learn more, check out the webpage or social media pages at: [Webb Space Telescope GSFC/NASA](https://www.nasa.gov), [News Webb/NASA](https://www.nasa.gov).



# 2023 Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards

Awards will be presented by Dr. Mun Choi at a MURA event.

**BEGUN IN 1990**, the Chancellor's Retiree of the Year Awards focus on the accomplishments of former employees after their retirement. These accomplishments may involve volunteer service to the University, civic and welfare services, career and professional activities or other noteworthy achievements. Accomplishments prior to retirement are not considered in the selection process. Two awards will be given: one to a faculty member and one to a staff member. Each award includes a plaque and a \$1,000 check. Previous nominees not selected are kept in the pool for two more years.

## CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION:

- Nominees must have retired from the University of Missouri before Jan. 1, 2018.
- Nominees must have contributed volunteer service to their communities, university or professional and civic organizations following their retirement.
- Retiree Advisory Committee members are not eligible

## NOMINATION PROCESS:

1. Complete the nomination form below.
2. Prepare a letter with the following information:
  - a. Nominee's extraordinary accomplishments since retiring.
  - b. Personal and background information about the nominee.
  - c. Summary – most important reason(s) why you believe the candidate should receive one of these awards.
3. Attach three letters of support from others who know the nominee.

## NOMINATION FORM

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Faculty ☐ Staff Year of retirement: \_\_\_\_\_ MU department/ position at time of retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Faculty ☐ Staff ☐ Student ☐ Alum ☐ Retiree ☐ Community

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUESTIONS? Call 573-446-5525 • PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION MATERIALS BY MARCH 1, 2023, TO:

University of Missouri - Ashley Rhode, 210 Whitten Hall, Columbia, MO 65211, RhodeA@umsystem.edu

For questions about an individual's eligibility for this award, email Dick Otto at OttoR@missouri.edu with *Retiree-Award* in the subject line.



## Previous Recipients

YEAR	FACULTY	STAFF	YEAR	FACULTY	STAFF
1990	Ernest Funk	Albert Flischel	2007	Max Miller	Gary Smith
1991	Veralee Hardin	Jerome & Marie Mason	2008	Rod Gelatt	Georgia Morehouse
1992	Robert Daniel	George Brooks	2009	James Creed	Ernest Hilderbrand
1993	Charles Gerke	Allen Purdy	2010	Robert Marshall	Joyce Lake
1994	Adolph Schroeder	Anthony Lampe	2011	John Parker	Judith Cunningham
1995	C. Melvin Bradley	Russell Dale Cook	2012	Robert Blake Jr.	Judy Olson
1996	Dale Sechler	Paul Rexroad	2013	Bob Stewart	Jack Miles
1997	Betty Crim	W. E. (Bill) Moyes	2014	Don Day	Phyllis Miller
1998	Robert Breitenbach	Betty Cook Rottmann	2015	George Kennedy	Susan Turner
1999	Nelson Trickey	Martha Sue Dailey	2016	Nan Erickson	Kee Groshong
2000	Walter Wilkening	Ray McClure	2017	Richard Hessler	Marie Sloan
2001	Ross Swofford	Ola Mae Taggart	2018	Robert Churchill	Richard Otto
2002	Thomas Brown	Elizabeth Bailey	2019	Jill Raitt	Sandra Taylor
2003	Emma J. McKinin	Sue Tucker Troutner	2020	Brian Brooks	Ron Geren
2004	John Mowrer	Nina Hiler	2021	Jeff Chinn	Jacqueline Kelly
2005	Jo Behymer	Darlene Miles	2022	Susan Flader	Karl Skala
2006	Verna Rhodes	Darlene Schroeder			



# Breakfast program recaps

## County history museum director lavishly praises volunteers



Chris Campbell

**CHRIS CAMPBELL**, executive director of the Boone County History and Cultural Center, proved the topic of his presentation at MURA's breakfast meeting on Sept. 13.

"Volunteers are our greatest treasure," the title of his presentation, was verified repeatedly as he ran through the list of events and activities at the center that are possible thanks to volunteers.

Campbell is a Columbia native who had a career in video and stage productions before returning to his home state in 2014 to take on the museum's directorship.

"It's not an exaggeration" to call volunteers our treasure, he said, as more than 5,000 hours annually are filled by about 120 people. He praised MURA members who volunteer at the center as being "good friends."

As there is only a small staff of paid employees and 33,000 square feet of space to manage, "it means a lot to me," he said in citing the volunteers' wisdom in serving as a listening post and providing feedback.

Examples of projects relying on volunteers are numerous:

- Hank Waters III Digital Imaging Lab with 515,000 photos.
- Adventures of the Traveling Trunk for third- and fourth-graders.
- Family events on the second Saturday of the month.
- Monthly Meet the Author events.
- The museum shop is staffed by volunteers 95 percent of the time.
- The Heritage Festival in September.
- The annual Gala featuring the induction of three people into the Center's Hall of Fame.

And, of course, there's an array of art exhibits and receptions and the five buildings to tour, including a log cabin, country store and a historic home.

Campbell repeatedly emphasized the relative ease of serving as a volunteer. If interested in checking out opportunities, go to [BooneHistory.org/volunteer](http://BooneHistory.org/volunteer).

– MURA News staff

September and November program videos are available at [mura-missouri.com/events](http://mura-missouri.com/events).

## MURA Candidate Forum on Oct. 4 featured county and state candidates

**FIFTY-EIGHT MEMBERS** of both MURA and the Boone County Alumni Association attended the candidate forum on October 4.

MURA's Governmental Affairs Committee organized the event. Participating were candidates for presiding commissioner and the following House districts – 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th and 50th. The committee posed questions for the candidates to answer. Questions included asking candidates their priorities for the American Rescue Plan Act and education (including MU). At the conclusion, Brianna Lennon, Boone County Clerk, summarized changes in election procedures for future elections.



Top: Mary Anne McCullum, chair of MURA's Governmental Affairs Committee; Bottom: Candidates at left with David Baker, Boone County Alumni Chapter president-elect, at podium to welcome attendees; and Ina Linville, MURA president.

## Oh my aching joints explained by MU disease researcher



Kylee Rucinski

### ATTENDEES AT MURA'S NOVEMBER BREAKFAST

were all ears as Kylee Rucinski dished out dire statistics about osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, two common musculoskeletal diseases. Rucinski is the outcome coordinator of the Mizzou BioJoint Health program, director of MU Joint Health Program and a Ph.D. candidate in research.

About 14 million Americans have osteoporosis, including 19.6 percent of women over the age of 50, which leads to an increased risk of broken bones. The disease is often called "the silent killer," she said.

Rucinski compared osteoarthritis to potholes after a spring thaw. One in four adults (over age 18) have some form of osteoarthritis, she said. As we age our joints weaken which leads to wearing down all the components – fluid, ligaments, membrane, bones. Pain ensues, then less exercise, then weight gain, then more stress on joint, joint inflammation, pain and the cycle continues.

It is extremely rare to have both diseases, she warned, but it is very likely that as we age, we will be affected by one of them.

"How can I keep my bones and joints healthy in retirement?" MU Health Care offers an integrated care team that "stacks the odds in your favor," she said, as does checking in with your doctor sooner rather than later.

"Live a good life," she cites as a prime suggestion – eat a better diet, exercise more, don't smoke, sit less, get sunlight for its Vitamin D, limit coffee and alcohol and do weight bearing exercise. She also recommended checking out the Stay Strong Stay Healthy program offered by the BioJoint Health program.

– MURA News staff

# MURA members extend their giving spirits to the community as well as MU



Ina Linville

**By Ina Linville**  
**MURA president**

**FOR THE LAST YEAR**, MURA News has highlighted the volunteer contributions of our members. We did our best to frame the work around themes.

Last winter, the newsletter featured work in environmental quality and sustainability.

In the spring, it featured our members' work in health and well-being.

This September, MURA News highlighted members who focused on education and enrichment. Read on in this edition's special section about MURA members' contributions to their community.

I wish we could feature everyone. I know that MURA members are generous with their time and talents.

Our communities across the state (and nation) can't help but be better places to live and thrive.

## Chris Bouchard still follows early engagement to help others thrive



Chris Bouchard

**FINDING WAYS TO HELP OTHERS** one-on-one is Chris Bouchard's life mantra. While in college, he was a Big Brother.

Switch to current day, and Chris helps others by participating in the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. VITA works come naturally for Chris who retired from directing the Small Business Development Center, UM Extension and Engagement.

My reason for catching up with Chris this fall was to learn more

about his role as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Chris has been a CASA advocate for Elijah Clark since Clark was 7 years old. Clark is now 24 and works as a barista at Love Coffee.

CASA volunteers have two primary goals. They are:

- To ensure that a child's needs are being met while in foster care (under the court's jurisdiction);
- To advocate for permanency on behalf of a child. CASA volunteers visit their children at least once a month and attend Family Support Team meetings as well as visit with people who know the child. Volunteers share information they learn to the presiding judge on the child's case to help inform the court about the child's wishes and well-being.

CASA volunteers receive training to become effective advocates for children and youth. After training, volunteers are sworn in as an officer of the court and are assigned a child by the court. Volunteers work with one child or siblings and can help case workers, guardians ad litem and juvenile officers understand the unique situation and needs of the child among the children and families they work with.

Chris entered Elijah's life as a CASA volunteer and continued until Elijah aged out of the foster system. Elijah now lives in an assisted care facility, and Chris continues to be part of his life.

The Family Support Team, of which Chris was a member, helped Elijah identify and amplify his strengths. He has a gift for building and has mechanical skills. It started with LEGOs and assembling complex LEGO models. This summer, Chris introduced him to Mobility Worldwide where Elijah helps assemble carts that are shipped worldwide to help people become more mobile.

Elijah likes hanging out with the Bouchards, and it is evident they have a special bond. They go to movies and as an extended family had just attended the 44<sup>th</sup> annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show at the Boone County History & Cultural Center.

Chris would be the first to admit he and his family's life has been enriched by Elijah and by working one-on-one with this remarkable young man.

– Ina Linville, MURA president



Elijah Clark met Chris Bouchard when Clark was only 7 years old. Now, at age 24, he works at Worldwide Mobility and sometimes takes a break to ride the pedal carts.



# MURA members team up with Upscale Resale



**HOW MANY VOLUNTEERS** does it take to run a highly successful thrift shop, support 11 philanthropic programs and deliver 40,000 cookies in a year?

For the Assistance League of Mid-Missouri, the answer is more than 300 volunteers, and many of those volunteers are MU retirees.

Several MURA members are active in the organization that is best known for its Upscale Resale shop at 1729 W. Broadway in Columbia. These MURA members have found a niche for meaningful volunteer work that matches their personal interests and skills.

Mariann Holstein has been volunteering with ALMM since 2004. Currently, she leads a team of volunteers in the “back room” of Upscale Resale in the books area – receiving donations, sorting books, pricing books, getting books ready for display on the sales floor. She’s also worked on the Upscale/Resale sales floor, scooped cookie dough, helped with Operation School Bell as well as packed bundles for babies.

Mariann’s advice to fellow retirees? “I think it’s important, when retiring, to take a deep breath and check out different volunteer possibilities. When you find the right ‘fit,’ you will be rewarded in many ways, including a feeling of worth for your volunteer work and an opportunity to meet new people. I have some great friendships as a part of my volunteer experience.”

MURA member Garnet Payne is ALMM’s expert on children’s coats, as one of the leaders of Operation School Bell. This philanthropic program is ALMM’s largest, annually providing new school clothes to more than 1,500 children. Each child receives a winter coat, fleece jacket, gloves, three tops, two pair of pants, socks, underwear and a hygiene kit.

Children are identified by their school as in need of support. Garnet and other ALMM volunteers then select and package the items, customized for the child’s age, size and color preferences. Finding the perfect coat for each child is Garnet’s superpower. She has been an ALMM volunteer for more than 10 years.

Renetta Gallup joined ALMM in 2018 and Joy Millard in 2020. They have jumped into volunteering with ALMM with both feet.

Renetta, as ALMM’s vice president for strategic planning, works with the board of directors and the membership to set priorities and monitor progress in meeting the organization’s goals. She can also be found volunteering to sort and price clothing for Upscale Resale to distribute to partner organizations. One of her favorite volunteer roles is working with the OSB program. During Covid, Renetta and other ALMM volunteers made and distributed cloth facemasks for community groups including Meals on Wheels, Woodhaven and The Food Bank.

Joy currently co-chairs the team that supports online software for volunteer management. She especially enjoys interacting with donors who drop off items to resell in the store. She also serves on a variety of committees, including the ALMM Cookie Connection, Membership, Operation Share and Strategic Planning.

Asked about the benefits of volunteering during retirement, Joy summed it up this way: “I think as past employees of MU, we see the value in making a difference and especially to help others.

“Although retired, we still have much to give and can continue learning new skills. An added bonus is meeting new people, being part of a greater good and having fun! It’s exciting to be a part of a volunteer organization that supports bettering their community with select programs.”

Assistance League of Mid-Missouri is a part of the National Assistance League, an organization with chapters across the U.S. ALMM member/volunteers work to meet unmet needs in the community, through philanthropic programs that serve children, women in transition, senior adults, veterans and many others. To learn more about ALMM’s eleven philanthropic programs or to become a member/volunteer, go to: [almm.org](http://almm.org).

– Jo Turner, MURA past president



Mariann Holstein inspects books at Upscale Resale.



Renetta Gallup organizes donated clothing on the sales floor.



Joy Millard works on the sales floor as well in other capacities at the shop.



Garnet Payne excels at matching coats to fit school children in need.

# Rotary's commitment to alleviating suffering spurs decades of service



Melvin Platt

**FOR MELVIN PLATT**, community betterment is tackled both locally and globally where no challenge is too big.

Melvin chose Rotary for volunteer work because of its strong commitment to alleviate suffering. He is "excited and deeply touched by the truly remarkable work that Rotarians around the world are doing for people who find themselves in places where poverty and disease abound, where clean water is not available, where food is scarce, and infant mortality is high."

He also expressed admiration for the high ethical standards that are regularly espoused and practiced by Rotary.

Larry Clark, his former dean at the College of Arts and Science, invited Melvin to join the Rotary Club of Columbia in 1992. As a Rotarian, his service began by being a Salvation Army bell-ringer, packaging food at The Food Bank, fundraising for local non-profits and later with helping with his club's Thanksgiving Turkey Fry and other projects. Local service in the community and in his club led to his election as club president in 2012-13.

Soon after joining his Rotary club, he was appointed to the Rotary District Scholarship Committee and was its chair for 10 years. The committee currently awards one \$40,000 scholarship annually to a gifted student for a year of graduate study abroad.

Melvin retired in 2015 as director of the MU School of Music after 23 years of service at MU. Two years later, he served as the District Governor for Rotary clubs in central and southern Missouri traveling and speaking to all 50 clubs about the importance of engaging in service in the local community as well as contributing to the Rotary Foundation to fund international humanitarian grants.

During his term as Governor, his Rotary district raised the second highest amount of funds for Rotary's PolioPlus campaign in his 12-district zone. All but two countries are now polio-free, and those two are making commendable progress.

As a Past District Governor, he speaks of his advocacy for providing medicine, food and potable water to displaced people in Ukraine. His current position as International Service Chair also presents an opportunity in his district to support funding for mental health counselors in Ukraine.

What is Melvin's message to other retirees interested in volunteering? "Find like-minded people with mutual goals. "It is amazing what can be accomplished when people work together toward a compelling goal."

– Ruth Tofle, MURA past president



## Children in need of support greatly benefit from trained CASA volunteers

**GENEROUS SUPPORT** from MU employees, staff and retirees continues to allow the Heart of Missouri United Way to respond promptly to changing community needs. This year's official campaign ended Nov. 19.

Thank you to those of you who have pledged this year, your generosity is appreciated! You can still donate until the end of the year, either online or send a check by mail to 105 E. Ash St. #300, Columbia, MO 65203.

Since 1946, our local United Way has fought for mid-Missourians, investing more than \$95 million to improve lives in our community. Ninety-nine cents of every dollar donated stays in mid-Missouri.

Heart of Missouri United Way funds 31 nonprofits in mid-Missouri in the areas of education, health and financial stability. One of the organizations they fund is Heart of Missouri CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates).

CASA believes every child who has been abused or neglected deserves to have a dedicated advocate speaking up for their best interest in court, at school and in our community. To accomplish this, CASA educates and empowers community volunteers who ensure each child's needs remain a priority in an overburdened child welfare system. When the state steps in to protect a child's safety because the people responsible for protecting them have not, a judge appoints a trained volunteer advocate to make independent and informed recommendations and help the judge decide what is best for the child.

For volunteers, CASA is a life-changing experience that makes our community a better place. Volunteer advocates come from every walk of life, yet share a commitment to improving children's lives, a willingness to learn, and an open mind towards life experiences that are different from their own.

Volunteers complete an interview, a background check and a 30-hour intensive training program including courtroom observation. Following their training, they are then sworn into their roles by a judge.

CASA volunteers are appointed to a child or family of children and spend an average of eight to 12 hours per month advocating for these children throughout their case. They get to know the child while also gathering information from the child's family, teachers, doctors, therapists, caregivers and anyone else involved in the child's life.

Created in 2005, Heart of Missouri CASA now supports more than 180 volunteers who advocate for nearly 400 children a year.

The next training to become a volunteer will kick-off Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, and continue weekly on Thursdays through Feb. 23. The classes will be 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

To learn more about Heart of Missouri CASA go to [www.homcasa.org](http://www.homcasa.org) or call 573.442.4670.

– Linda Lorenz, MURA United Way liaison

“It is amazing what can be accomplished when people work together toward a compelling goal.”







Tom and Nancy Schultz spend lots of time and energy as volunteers for MU, but they still have time to take a break with Truman the Tiger.



It's not unusual to see Dick and Donna Otto attired in MU logo clothing. They are both long-standing employees and now volunteers for MU efforts.

## Tom, Nancy, Dick and Donna continue serving MU as volunteers . . . . .



**DICK AND DONNA OTTO ALONG WITH TOM AND NANCY SCHULTZ** are power couples. Their successful professional careers and leadership experiences at MU translated to being essential volunteers in their retirement for organizations that rely on fundraising.

All four are MU alumni, and all are easily likeable with business acumen and broad networks to make connections and advocate for their causes.

Both couples' primary and long-standing focus in volunteering is to benefit the University of Missouri. The Otto and Schultz teams enjoy working together and have been friends over the years. We want to tell this story because of that synergy to make a difference.

Dick and Donna Otto both retired from MU after 40 years of service – Dick in 2011 and Donna in 2012. Their marks on MU extends throughout the campus from the bricks in front of the Alumni Center, the display of the original cornerstone of Academic Hall in the lobby of Jesse Hall (thanks to Tom Schultz asking for their donation), to the Otto House in Galena Hall (home of the Freshman Interest Group in Nursing).

They readily admit that they are a team and among this couple's honors from the university are the Chancellor's Excellence Award – Administrative Professional Staff, Barbara S. Uehling Award for Administrative Excellence, Honor Tap – Mystical Seven, Major Mick Deaver Memorial Award, Faculty/Alumni Award, Distinguished Friend of the School of Nursing and Chancellor's Retiree of the Year.

Tom Schultz's commitment to MU began 70 years earlier in 1952 when he first enrolled at MU. He served as both president and executive director of the Mizzou Alumni Association. This year Tom was recognized as the Mizzou Alumni Legacy Award honoree for lifetime service to the MAA. In addition, Tom has been honored with a Faculty Alumni Award and inducted into Honor Tap – QEBH.

He and his wife Nancy are assuming the major responsibility of chairing the MU Gift Planning Advisory Council. They also partner in supporting the efforts of the MU Retirement Association, the Mizzou Botanical Garden and the Museum Associates.

Both couples believe in supporting the university that has given so much to them.

When asked what is their advice to other couples to get involved in volunteering, the Schultzs and the Ottos say to find a cause you both believe in and try to make a difference. They work for community betterment outside the university when the cause is near-and-dear, and they feel they can make a difference.

Nancy is active with the Boone County Historical Society, Kings' Daughters and its board on dental aid, which provides dental aid to children in the Columbia Public School System, and LOVE Columbia.

When you are as committed to the demands of volunteer work as these couples, it is normal for life to get hectic – even in retirement.

With a smile, Nancy is quick to say how she calls on her supportive husband to help out at special events, and at home, when she is in a leadership role.

Both Donna and Dick were regulars at serving food to the University Hospital staff during Staff Recognition Week and Nurses Week for many years. Since Donna's move to the School of Nursing, they have volunteered for many nursing student events, and Dick has attended the National Student Nurses' Association annual and mid-year conferences quite often.

After a two-year COVID inspired hiatus, they are both looking forward to serving pancakes to the students at the next Student Nurse Week.

Dick, Donna, Tom and Nancy are Life Members of both MURA and MAA.

Dick surprised Donna, when she was age 55 and someone asked if she was getting ready to retire. Dick, who ardently supports Life Membership, signed up Donna without telling her for a MURA Life Membership as a pre-retiree.

– Ruth Tofle, MURA past president

# MURA members: Making a difference across Missouri . . . . .



**HERE AT UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION**, we have been getting the message out that we are here to “Serve Missouri. Deliver Mizzou.” That’s at the heart of our university’s land-grant mission.

As MURA members, you live by this motto, too. Missourians continue to benefit from your talents and efforts daily in recognition of this issue that celebrates MU retirees making a difference in their communities, I want to share three examples of MURA members’ impact rooted in MU Extension work.

Joan Hickman’s MU Extension involvement goes back to childhood as a member of Buchanan County 4-H. During her career, she served as a 4-H project and club leader and 4-H youth development specialist in northwest Missouri. In retirement, she has been a trustee since 2014 and now serves as secretary of the Missouri 4-H Foundation Board. (<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-4-h-foundation>). The foundation helps empower our state’s young people to learn by doing as they grow into tomorrow’s strong leaders.

Joan also serves on the MU Extension and Engagement Cabinet on Philanthropy (<https://extension.missouri.edu/cabinet-on-philanthropy>) and has held leadership and service positions in community organizations including Rotary Club, a church administrative council and the board of the St. Joseph Museums.

After retiring from MU Extension just one month shy of 38 years, Karma Metzgar was drafted by her northwest region colleagues into volunteering with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that provides free help to people in need. (<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/motax-missouri-taxpayer-education>

tion-initiative). She has helped a grandmother get much needed stimulus money she was eligible for as her grandchild’s guardian and assisted dozens of others receive refunds they did not know they qualified for.

The best part, she says, is empowering people along the way to become more knowledgeable consumers; she sees them “graduate” over the years from bringing shoeboxes of jumbled receipts to well-organized tax preparation files. Karma also serves as MURA’s representative to the MU Engagement Council, sharing information about the work of the engaged university across the state.

Ruth Pirch served MU Extension for a total of 37 years. Since 2019, she has served as a Missouri 4-H Foundation trustee, and she is even more hands-on as a volunteer 4-H Best of Show judge at the Missouri State Fair. She’s also served in leadership roles with the United Women of Faith and a local church. In June, she was honored as a 2022 Senior Service Award Recipient for her extensive volunteer work with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. In presenting the award, Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe described Ruth as “a pillar of her community and an inspiration to many.”

These are just three MURA members with deep community connections. As Karma says, “When you give, that’s the gift. You get way more back in return. It’s good for your health, your well-being, and for making new friends.”

– Marshall Stewart, EdD, Chief Engagement Officer,  
University of Missouri System Vice Chancellor,  
University of Missouri-Columbia, Extension & Engagement



Ruth Pirch worked with MU Extension for 37 years. She now volunteers with 4-H activities. In June, she was awarded the 2022 Senior Service Award for her volunteer work with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.



Joan Hickman joined 4-H in her childhood and still remains involved with the youth development program.



Karma Metzgar retired from MU Extension after almost 38 years and now volunteers with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.



# National Fire Heritage Center honors two MURA members with writing award



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We are pleased to share that two of our MURA members were recognized for their significant contributions to their field by the National Fire Heritage Center. Congratulations to David Hedrick and Kevin Zumwalt. The following is the news release from the National Fire Heritage Center. It has been lightly edited.

Two past Directors of the University of Missouri Extension's Fire and Rescue Training Institute (MU FRTI) have been awarded the National Fire Heritage Center's 2022 Benjamin Franklin Writer's Silver Award for outstanding contribution to preserving the written history of America's Fire Service. Past MU FRTI Directors David E. Hedrick and Kevin D. Zumwalt teamed with Ken Willette, executive director of the North American Fire Training Directors, to research and write the NAFTD 2021 Administrative Survey Report on United States and Canadian Fire Training Systems.

Zumwalt says the survey collected data on almost 50 topics related to emergency services training. The report is used by NAFTD members for comparison and benchmarking. "It also serves the organization and the fire service in general as a tool for a view of fire and emergency services training in the United States and Canada," he says.

"As Dr. Carl Sagan, a noted astrophysicist and author, said: 'You have to know the past to understand the present.'" Hedrick says, "I am a great believer in using past data to project future trends. Using historical information and data from two previous surveys, we were able to determine past trends, quantify current operations, and set future directions for the fire service training agencies in the United States and Canada."

Hedrick served as MU FRTI's Director from 2007 until his retirement in 2017. He has been involved in fire and emergency services for more than 40 years, beginning his career as a Firefighter/EMT. He is the former director of Fire Service Training with the Tennessee Fire & Codes Academy and a former assistant director at the LSU Fireman Training Program. He was elected vice president of the NAFTD and served two terms from 2009 to 2013. Hedrick was inducted into the National Fire Heritage Center Hall of Legends, Legacies and Leaders in 2018.

Zumwalt began his fire service career as a volunteer with the St. Clair (Missouri) Fire Protection District in 1975 and later served with the Mehlville Fire Protection District in St. Louis County. He began working with MU FRTI in 1984 as a part-time instructor and then coordinator for the Winter and Summer Fire Schools. He became a full-time Specialist in 1994 with MU Extension. He was promoted to MU FRTI associate director in 2013 and then to director in 2018, serving until his retirement in 2020.

Zumwalt also served at the national level as the state co-chair of the National Fire Academy Training Resource and Data Exchange during his tenure.

MU FRTI, a premier unit of MU Extension, has an 89-year history of serving the training and educational needs of Missouri's firefighters and emergency service first responders, along with students from across the United States. Annually, the Institute delivers more than 250,000 instructional hours to 15,000 students. Every hour of instruction translates directly into safer firefighters and safer communities.

One of The National Fire Heritage Center's purposes is to help preserve the history of America's time-honored fire service. Currently the archive library has more than 15,000 cataloged documents which serve as major historical value.

Benjamin Franklin, the father of America's Fire Service, left a vast legacy of literary works. He encouraged writers to "go on record" as to their beliefs, observations and support of public and private initiatives.

Through the Benjamin Franklin Fire Writer's Award, the National Fire Heritage Center encourages today's fire service writers to continue the tradition.

Regarding receiving the award, Hedrick and Zumwalt both related that they were honored to be recognized by the National Fire Heritage Center for their work in preserving the history and traditions of the fire service and contributing to the legacy that shapes its future.

— Ina Linville, MURA president



Kevin Zumwalt, left, and David Hedrick flank an image of the National Fire Heritage Center's seal.





## MU Retirees Association

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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](mailto:harrisb@umsystem.edu).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

2022-2023	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
*Wednesday, Nov. 30	Ray Schroeder Holiday Event - Social hour, caroling, lunch, toast to Ray Schroeder, trivia, Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Gift Basket Raffle. Sponsorship by Central Bank and Trust	10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Holiday Inn Executive Center
*Tuesday, Dec. 6	Breakfast - Betsy Garrett, past president of MURA and an avid bird watcher, "What's that bird? Become a birder and see (and hear) your world!" Sponsorship by Central Bank and Trust	**8:00/8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
*Tuesday, Feb. 7	Breakfast - John Kelley, American Negro Baseball League; Sponsorship by Central Bank and Trust	**8:00/8:30 to 9:30 a.m.	Country Club of Missouri and Zoom
* Requires pre-registration; details at <a href="http://mura-missouri.com">mura-missouri.com</a> ** Food service begins at 8 a.m. and program at 8:30 for in-person Breakfast Series; Zoom meeting starts at 8:30 a.m.			

## MURA Membership — we bet you didn't know this!

**ALL MURA MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED** to recruit new members. But, we'll bet you did not know that membership in MURA is open to current and former University of Missouri staff and faculty from any of the campuses who are 55 years old or older.

In addition to retirees, we welcome pre-retirees as well as spouses/partners.

Membership also is open to persons holding a variety of UM appointments including, but not limited to, adjunct faculty, Extension, MU Health Care, UM System and USDA personnel. Associate, non-voting membership is available to persons who have retired from another college or university.

If you know an individual who would enjoy being a MURA member, invite them to check us out. Details on membership benefits and an application form can be found online at: [mura-missouri.com/membership](http://mura-missouri.com/membership).

Of course, a MURA membership also makes a great gift for a family member, friend or colleague.

Currently, MURA has 885 members in good standing. These membership numbers help us have a strong and effective voice in representing the needs and interests of University of Missouri retirees and their dependents. You can help keep MURA strong by recruiting new members for our organization!

— Linda Jo Turner, MURA Membership Committee

## Need help with MU-related issues?

### IF YOU HAVE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS

about MU-related issues, MURA has two ombudspeople who may be able to help you find answers.

On behalf of MURA members, faculty representative **Mark Stewart** or staff representative **Carrie Lanham** can help investigate hard-to-navigate information.

Contact them at  
[StewartM@missouri.edu](mailto:StewartM@missouri.edu)  
or [LanhamC@missouri.edu](mailto:LanhamC@missouri.edu).

### MURA News is published by the MU Retirees Association.

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