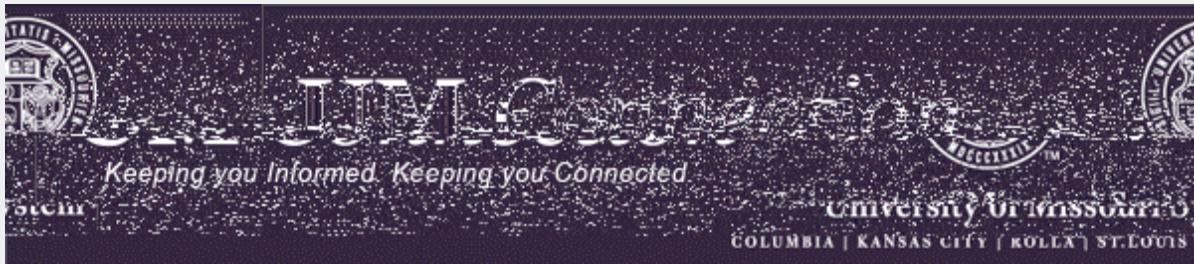


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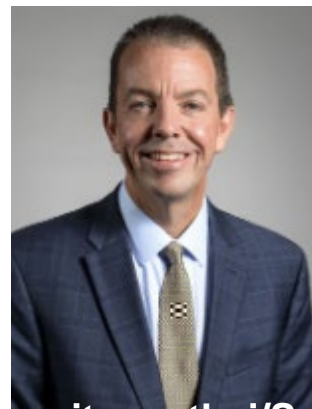
**Winter 2022**

Volume 9, Issue 1



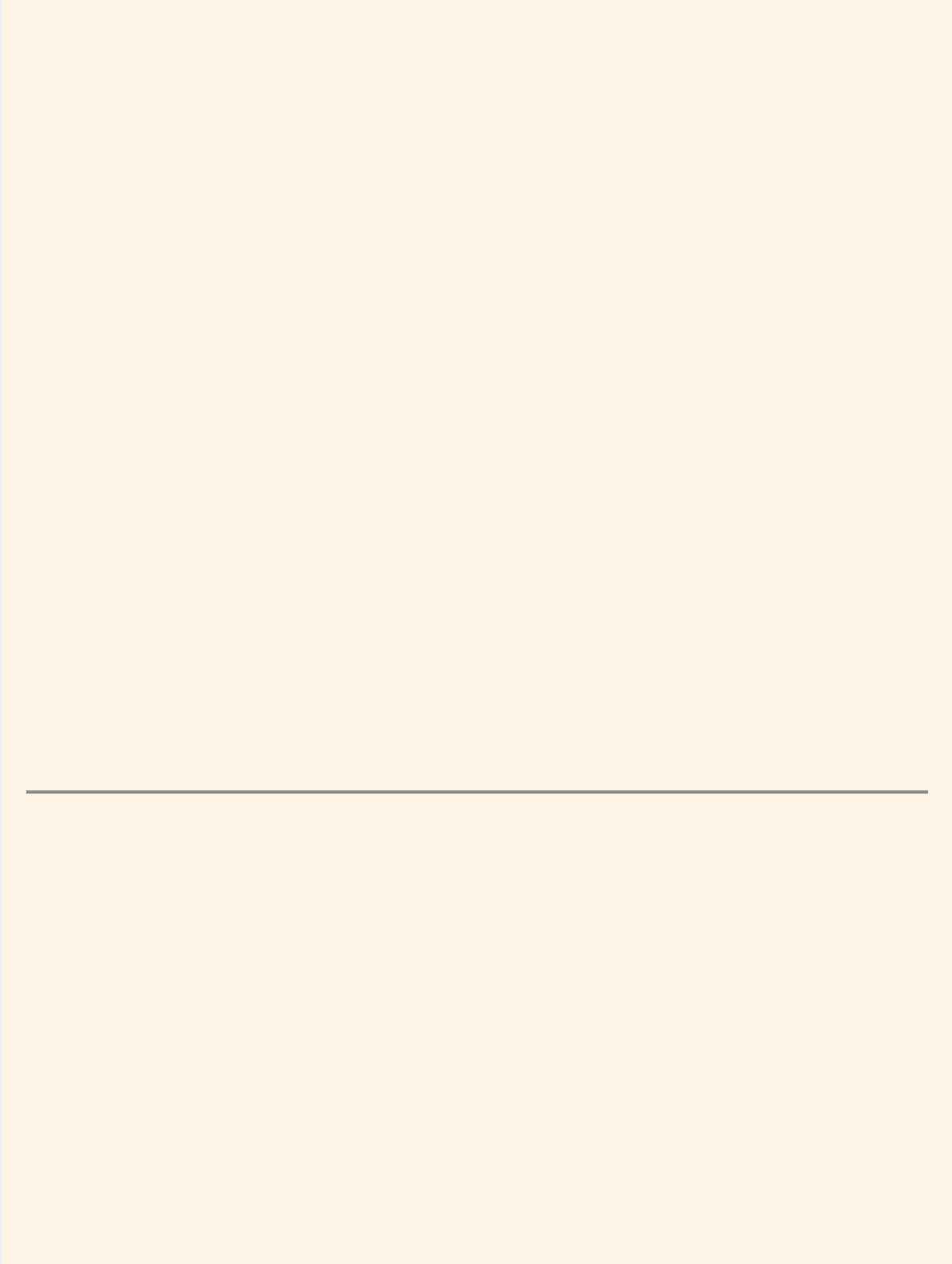
I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. We hope you are staying healthy in the new year as so many are dealing with the uptick of COVID-19 case numbers.

The UM System is working on a new Economic Impact Report that will be released at the February Board of Curators meeting. The report shows the impact that the University of Missouri System has on the state of Missouri. There will also be reports from each university on their local regional impact coming out this spring.



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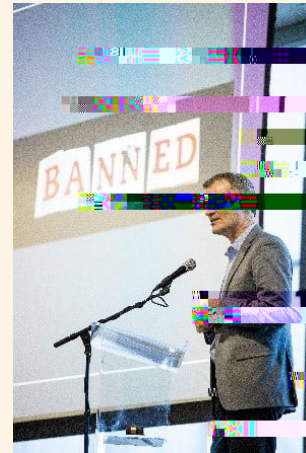
They were our colleagues, our friends, and part of our UM family. Together, we remember those who shared their lives with us. Please keep their families in your thoughts. [View current list...](#)



- New board member Bob Yang

The featured presenter for the luncheon was Dr. John Herron, who spoke on “Libraries in Democracies: Information in a Contested Age.” Dr. Herron speaks from authority as the Kansas City Public Library Director, which has undergone many changes as it attempts to meet the needs of its urban patrons. He noted that libraries are facing book banning challenges as questions arise about which books are “appropriate” to read. He also pointed out that libraries are increasingly becoming centers for providing social work, and during the pandemic they have also been the suppliers of computers to students who have had to do their schoolwork virtually.

Prior to undertaking his role as Library Director, Dr. Herron had a 17-year tenure at UMKC which culminated in him serving as the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He also chaired the university’s Academic Innovation Council, established to inspire and support new educational programs within the university.



*Dr. John Herron, Kansas City Public Library Director, speaking to UMKCRA Holiday Luncheon attendees.*

### **Upcoming Programs**

Programming for the upcoming year is getting underway under Program Committee Chair John Ditto. We are excited to offer a breakfast series presentation on February 8 led by three of last year’s Scholarship in Aging awardees. The scholarship was established by UMKCRA to assist deserving undergraduate and graduate students who are doing research relevant to aging or gerontology at UMKC. They may be from any school or college within UMKC. The presentation on February 8 offers the opportunity for UMKCRA members to get a closer look at the research we are funding.

Besides bi-monthly special programs like the breakfast series, UMKCRA hosts three social events over the year: an April luncheon, which features a speaker and an awards ceremony; a September reception for new retirees; and a December holiday luncheon, which includes a business meeting and ends with a speaker or other presentation.

### **Scholarships and Recognitions**

In addition to the Scholarship in Aging mentioned above, UMKCRA also offers a Going for Excellence Scholarship to female undergraduate junior or senior students. Recipients must have had at least three semesters of college, the previous semester at UMKC, and at least one semester to complete at the time of the award, as well as a 3.5 GPA. In 2021 four

students were awarded Going for Excellence Scholarships.

In addition to awarding scholarships, UMKCRA also recognizes the achievements of UMKC retirees (both faculty and staff) for their outstanding contributions and achievements to the university, UMKCRA, and to their profession and/or community during their retirement period. Nominations for those awards are being submitted during January, and the recognition will take place during the April luncheon.

### **UMKC Participation in Community Connect**

Of interest to both retirees and the Greater Kansas City community (and beyond) are a range of programs and activities brought together through UM's Community Connect initiative. Here are just a few in which UMKC is involved:

- Our Healthy KC Eastside (OHKCE) is a large-scale, community-based partnership addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and health inequities in vulnerable portions of Jackson County, MO. The UMKC School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, School of Nursing and Health Studies, and School of Pharmacy are all involved.
- The UMKC Office of Basic Needs is a response to 2019 survey data at UMKC indicating that 32% of undergraduates and 19% of graduate students experienced food insecurity, a common finding at colleges and universities in the United States. After further study and the work of a task force, the university created the Office of Basic Needs, housed within the Office of Student Involvement to provide resources related to food, housing, and finances.
- UMKC researchers in the School of Nursing and Health Studies have developed guidelines for levels of physical activity needed by school children. Researchers Joseph Lightner and Amanda Grimes have authored recommended changes to physical education requirements nationally. The new guidelines recommend kids get at least 60 minutes of physical activity each school day.
- On February 15 (6:30 pm) the UMKC Division of Diversity and Inclusion is sponsoring an online presentation/discussion by Yamiche Alcindor, White House correspondent for PBS NewsHour, moderator of Washington Week, and an NBC and MSNBC political contributor. The daughter of Haitian immigrants who met while attending Boston College, Alcindor has written extensively on the intersection of race and politics. She is often viewed at presidential news conferences asking penetrating questions of the current White House occupant. The virtual presentation with Ms. Alcindor is free, but registration is required. [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)



### **Updates:**

The [MU Retirees Association](#) (MURA) serves MU and UM system retirees as well as faculty and staff who are nearing retirement. We welcome retirees from all universities to join as associate or non-voting members.

### **FOUR WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH MURA**

## 1. Quarterly Newsletter (published September, December, March and June)

The [December issue of MURA News](#) highlights social and educational efforts in the year-long theme of working together and partnering. Articles include:

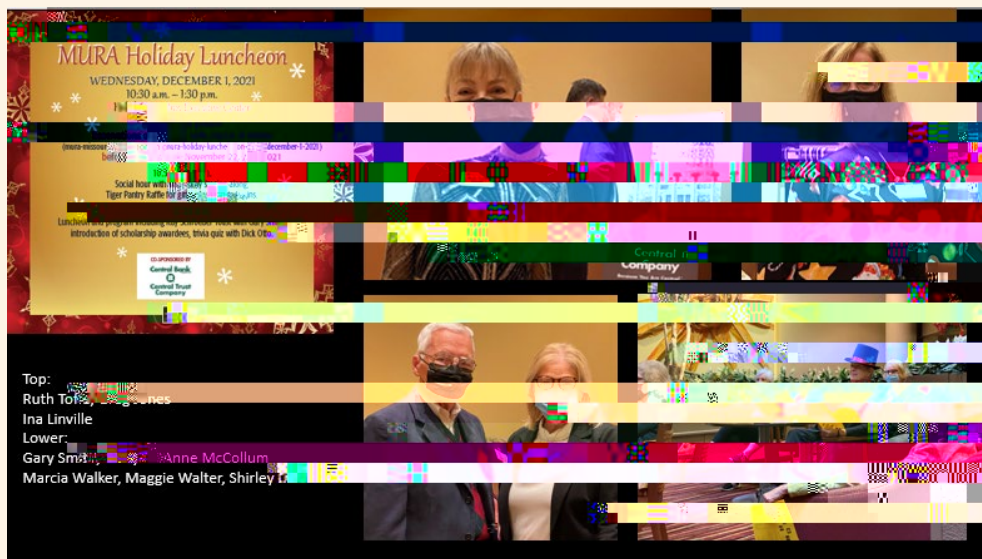
- Partnering with University Libraries
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute history
- Member Spotlight on Mary Anne McCollum—2021 Geyer Award Recipient
- Past MURA recipients of the Geyer Award
- Clyde and Cecile Bentley organizing speaker series
- Retirees supporting United Way
- UM Retirees Associations' Town Hall focused on health benefits

Member survey draws in 266 responses

## 2. Monthly Breakfast Series and Holiday Luncheon

MURA events practice health safety precautions of mask-wearing and social distancing for in-person events.

December 1: **Holiday Luncheon** with a toast to Ray Schroeder, introduction of scholarship awardees, trivia, and a gift basket raffle benefiting MU Tiger Pantry. This was an in-person event with 76 attendees.



The hybrid breakfast presentation offered in December was at the Columbia Country Club of Missouri.

- December 7: Nina Mukerjee Furstenau on ***History on the Plate: Fulbright Research in West Bengal***. Furstenau is an author, journalist, and editor of FoodStory book series.





Upcoming programs are listed below. MURA Bi-weekly Update emails and the MURA website give further details.

- **February 1: Breakfast** - David Mitchel - Co-Director of the Michael A. Middleton Center for Race, Citizenship and Justice; Conversations at the Crossroads: Scholarly Discussions of Race, Citizenship, and Justice
- **March 17: Annual Business Meeting** with election of officers, Survey Report by Art Jago, Research Update Program by TigerPlace. Sponsored by TigerPlace.
- **March 1: Breakfast** - Samantha Moog, MA, LCSW, Director of Refugee Services at Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri; Recent Evacuee and Refugee Resettlement in Mid-Missouri

### 3. Biweekly MURA Update emails

To stay current with MU news, MURA events, and pique your interest in learning more, these



## | Miner's Retiree Association

### Updates:

The members of the Miner Retirees Board have been trying to determine whether or not we can begin our retiree lunch meetings. Throughout the pandemic we have been dormant eagerly awaiting an opportunity to resume in person activities.

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### Get Involved!

For more information about your campus retirees association and upcoming events, please contact the following representatives:

#### **MU Retirees Association**

Ruth Tofle, President

[tofler@missouri.edu](mailto:tofler@missouri.edu)

Or visit the [MURA website](#)

#### **UMKC Retirees Association**

Virginia Miller, President

[virginiamillerkc72@gmail.com](mailto:virginiamillerkc72@gmail.com)

Or visit the [UMKCRA website](#)

#### **Miner Retirees Association**

Richard Miller, President

[oakox1@gmail.com](mailto:oakox1@gmail.com)

#### **UMSL Retirees Association**

Kathleen Haywood, President

[kathleen\\_haywood@umsl.edu](mailto:kathleen_haywood@umsl.edu)

Or visit the [UMSL RA website](#)

UM Connection is produced quarterly for the retirees of the four-campus University of Missouri System. This publication is a partnership between the Office of Engagement, the Office of Human Resources and the UM Retirees Association Leaders.

Questions or feedback? Email [webmaster@umsystem.edu](mailto:webmaster@umsystem.edu) | [Unsubscribe](#)

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