

From the President's Desk

Jim Koller, Ph.D.



As the calendar marches on, we are deep in the middle of the summer of 2014 - at least with the typical Missouri heat and humidity. Regardless, I hope this letter finds you well. By now you are aware of the new leadership at MURA, which begins July 1, 2014 and will be in effect through June 30, 2015.

As the new MURA President, it is a distinct honor to serve as your 2014-15 MURA President. This follows the extraordinary leadership of our 2013-2014 President, Ken Hutchinson. Under Ken's leadership, a number of significant events occurred. These include the establishment of a new website MURA-Missouri.com, the donation of a major university gift to the United Way, and the continued effective communication with University and State of Missouri leaders, which underscored his stable leadership. Also under Ken's tenure, the appointment of R. Bowen Loftin, Chancellor, was announced replacing our long time MU supporter, Dr. Brady Deaton.

Thus far, the MURA administration has had a number of preliminary conversations with Chancellor Loftin as well as MU President, Tim Wolfe. These meetings were scheduled by the MURA leadership, consisting of a variety of members including Dr. Nan Erickson, University Liaison, Dean Rose Porter, Nominating Chair, President Ken Hutchinson, Dr. Earl Wilson, Treasurer, Dr. Gary Smith, Past President and myself. I mention this early in my letter, as these meetings have been productive and supportive of MURA. I'm confident that this positive relationship will continue and we will make every effort to strengthen this working relationship on behalf of our retirees.

However, as our astute MURA membership is clearly aware, the fiscal status of the University remains problematic given the Governor's prediction of a significant fiscal short fall for this tax year. If this issue is not reconciled equitably, MURA, as the formal retirement arm of the University will most likely suffer as well. In addition, President Hutchinson mentioned in his last year's initial address, the University has been evaluating current employee and retiree health care benefits. This issue remains a significant concern for all employees, current and past. While this evaluative process by the University is positive, it's still reflective of a much larger national concern - both federal and state.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

BREAKFAST MEETING

Tuesday, September 2
 The New World Disorder
 Featuring Professors Paul Wallace & Robin Remington
 8:00 am -10:00 am
 Columbia Country Club
Future breakfast meeting dates are: October 7, November 4, and December 2

FALL MURA SOCIAL

Friday, October 17
 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
 Reynolds Alumni Center

FALL INFORMATION MEETING

Saturday, November 15
 9:30 am - Noon
 Reynolds Alumni Center

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 20
 10:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Reynolds Alumni Center

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MURA NEWS

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Nonetheless, despite ongoing concerns including these and others, I'm confident we have a strong organization, competent professionals who wholeheartedly support Mizzou, and interested individuals committed to the promotion of MURA and our long-standing objectives. This past year the overall attendance at MURA functions has increased considerably. One such example is the excellent work of the MURA Education Chair, Dr. John Parker. John continues to organize a variety of interesting presentations. Guest speakers this past year included a presentation of an FBI agent on the pilfering of credit card security and Judge Frank Connelly,

who spoke on the worst criminals he had ever faced. I strongly encourage you to attend as many of the MURA functions as possible.

As a partner in these efforts for next year, know that I'm very pleased that Dr. Tom Henderson has agreed to be MURA Vice President and Program Committee Chair. Tom is well known in University circles and will be a significant asset as we move forward to work collaboratively with the university administration for the benefit of all employees but especially our MURA colleagues. Personally, by nature, I tend to look on the positive, more proactive side of things and am committed to collegial partnering to confront and solve problems. This will continue.

We continue, at this date, to assemble individuals willing to assist MURA on issues confronting MURA. We welcome names and suggestions both pro and con which can help us all move forward. If you have names and/or suggestions, please contact me at kollerj@missouri.edu, 573-999-4899 and/or Tom Henderson at hendersont@missouri.edu or 573-999-5500.

With your continued support, we look forward to a productive year. My best to you all.

Sincerely,

Jim Koller, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
MURA President

MURA EVENTS CALENDAR 2014 - 2015

For those that like to plan ahead, mark your calendars for the following MURA Events for the next year. As the time gets closer, details will be posted on the MURA website at mura-missouri.com and an email will also be sent to those members who have given us a valid email address. To add your email address to our records or to submit a change to an existing address, just send an email to Barb Harris, MURA Communications Chairperson (harrisb@umsystem.edu) with your information.

Tues, Sept 2, 2014 - 8:00-10:00 am
Breakfast Meeting at Columbia CC

Wed. Sept. 24, 2014 - 2:00-4:00 pm
MURA Board Meeting
Reynolds Alumni Center - 307B

Tues, October 7, 2014 - 8:00-10:00 am
Breakfast Meeting at Columbia CC

Fri., Oct. 17, 2014 - 4:00-6:00 pm
Fall Social at Reynolds Alumni Ctr.

Tues, November 4, 2014 - 8-10 am
Breakfast Meeting at Columbia CC

Sat., Nov. 15, 2014 - 9:30 am-Noon
Fall Information Meeting
Reynolds Alumni Center

Tues, December 2, 2014 - 8-10 am
Breakfast Meeting at Columbia CC

Sat., Dec. 20, 2014 - 10:30 -1:30 pm
Holiday Luncheon - Alumni Center

Wed. Jan. 14, 2015 - 2:00-4:00 pm
MURA Board Meeting
Reynolds Alumni Center - 307B

Fri., Feb. 6, 2015 - 4:00-6:00 pm
Winter Social - Alumni Center

Sat., March 7, 2015 - 9:30 am-Noon
Annual Business Meeting:
Reynolds Alumni Center

Wed. Apr. 22, 2015 - 2:00-4:00 pm
MURA Board Meeting
Reynolds Alumni Center - 307B

Wed., May 13 2015
Ray Schroeder Spring Picnic
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Twin Lakes Recreation Shelter

Fri., May 22, 2015
Chancellor's Retirees Luncheon
Reynolds Alumni Center

Golden Tigers Support Mizzou Volleyball

Later this month Mizzou Volleyball will begin the defense of their SEC Championship title. Join the Golden Tigers Spirit Group and support the team! The program features:

- FREE membership for those 50 or older!
- Vouchers to ALL Home Volleyball Games!
- FREE Golden Tigers t-shirt!
- Reserved up-front seating!
- Opportunities to meet the team! Social events during the season!

If you would like to join the Golden Tigers Spirit Group, please email Jillian at jllpn6@mail.missouri.edu or call the University of Missouri Volleyball Office at (573) 882-6789.



MURA Members Go Bird Watching By Bill Clark

One of the joys of birding is having the opportunity to introduce others to this intriguing pastime. It was my privilege to lead a small group of MURA members on their first trip ever to look at bird life at Reform Conservation Area, which includes the nuclear reactor 11 miles east of Fulton in Callaway County. Though we encountered fog early in the morning, a bright sun took over the day, and we logged 28 species in the 2 1/2 hours we were in the field, coming close to the nuclear power plant's looming cooling tower. As far as we know, no one glowed in the dark later.

The day ended at Marlene's Restaurant in Williamsburg - one of the great lunch counters in the state, according to a birder who has been to nearly 300 such places in the state's 114 counties. (My only disappointment came when no one tried Marlene's special "Rachel" sandwich.)

It was a fun day for all concerned - learning about the birds, a few wildflowers, and the great food in little-known places.

2014 MURA AWARDS



Staff Retiree Award Honoree – Phyllis Miller

Phyllis Miller retired from the College of Education in 1995. Phyllis is described by a colleague as one of the most productive retirees whom she has ever met. She has spent countless hours providing needed resources and joy to all ages from the very young to the elderly. At the Mary Johnston Community Learning Center she has volunteered in the classroom during times when additional adult support was needed. She has served as a board member and on various committees, and provides her labor during work days as a painter or carpenter. Her fund-raising efforts have helped to provide new classroom equipment and a renovated playground. At the University Adult Day-care Connection she has led singing and story time once each month for thirteen years. As an active Kiwanis member, Phyllis has held most of the offices and takes part in all club activities, including fund raising events. She is a more than active church member, promoting the loan of hospital equipment and supplies. She is a long time supporter and worker at the Community Wardrobe Clothing Store. Phyllis has continued her interest in curriculum design as a consultant for McGraw Hill, an exhibitor at educational meetings around the U.S. and a National Develop A Curriculum Facilitator. Because of all she does to help others, MURA is proud to honor Phyllis Miller.



Faculty Retiree Award Honoree – Don Day

Don Day retired from the University Extension Division in 2008. Don's record of service in his retirement is so full that to think of summing it up is overwhelming. When discussions began at the Broadway Christian Church about developing a community garden, Don was the one who stepped up to head the project. Described as the "village priest of the community garden," he gives the refugee gardeners encouragement and resources needed to succeed and also creates trust that they will not fail. One of his supporters says, "his passion and love of others is truly inspirational." Don shows this through his actions and his stories, and he does love to tell stories! Another major activity for Don is his participation in three mission trips to El Salvador. The purpose of these trips has been to provide knowledge and on-the-site construction assistance to citizens of that country. Don volunteers for other programs in his community as well. He assists with Columbia's Room at the Inn, Habitat for Humanity and programs to encourage energy saving in homes and businesses. One of his supporters says Don is the model of "tireless servant leader." His service can be seen throughout the community, county and the state and MURA is proud to recognize him.

Total Rewards Update

Task Force Recommendations

At the recent June Board of Curator's meeting, Vice President Betsy Rodriguez provided an update on three of the recommendations from the Total Reward's Task Force. You may remember that MURA member Rose Porter represented retirees as a member of the Task Force. While there were a total of eight recommendations, the one that I am hearing the most discussion about from retirees is the recommendation that the university leverage marketplace opportunities for retiree medical benefits. You can read more about their findings and recommendations, including the full report at www.umsystem.edu/reimagining.



*Kelley Stuck
Associate
Vice President
Total Rewards
UM System*

I wish I had more to share on this topic but the work to evaluate and further define this recommendation will not begin until 2015. No decisions have been made at this point and a significant amount of information must be gathered, which will take time.

Here is what we do know:

- There will be no benefit changes to the myRetiree medical plan for 2015. The 2015 premiums are still in development and will vary based on whether the current premiums are covering the claims costs in the plan.
- There will be no benefit changes for the myOptions Health Plan.
- Any changes to the myChoice Health Plan will mirror the changes

that are made to this plan for active employees.

- Once work begins to evaluate our retiree medical plan compared to other available options, we will be meeting with retiree groups, consultants and the appropriate committees to review potentially viable options. Our commitment is to continue to ensure that retirees have access to affordable medical coverage. Stay tuned in to your MURA website, meetings and your home mail for opportunities to participate in the process.

Because we heard from retirees that they would like to learn more about what is available to post-65 retirees, we invited the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging to present a FREE workshop for University of Missouri retirees. The workshop is grant funded and has been in existence for several years. The more knowledge you have, the better you will be able to participate in upcoming decisions. All retirees should have received an invitation in early July. The workshop covered:

- Medicare Parts A, B and D
- Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage)
- Medigap choices (Medicare Supplements)
- Other Medicare Benefits and Related Issues
- Protecting Your Medicare

The workshop provided information about what the programs are, how they work, and those in attendance received tools to help you evaluate what options, if any, may have the greatest advantage for you.

The Columbia session was held on July 29 and the presenter was MU retiree, Kay Barbee. I hope many of you were able to take advantage of

this opportunity. Due to the popularity of the session, three more two-hour sessions have been scheduled for August 14 at the Daniel Boone Regional Library Friends Room. Go to http://www.umsystem.edu/totalrewards/retirement/medicare_workshops to register for the next available session.

To ensure that you receive communications from us, be sure that your retiree information is up to date. You can easily review and update your information by visiting myHR, the University's self-service application for employee and retiree personal information. This will ensure that you receive updates and notifications from the University in a timely manner. To get started, visit www.myhr.umsystem.edu and follow these steps after logging in:

- Scroll down to the bottom of the message and click on Self Service;
- Select Personal Information; then
- Select Personal Information Summary to view and edit your information.

If you relocate seasonally or are planning a move, you can provide your new address and effective date(s) prior to the change. If you need assistance, a myHR tutorial is available at <http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/hr/myhr>. You may also contact the helpdesk at (573) 882-5000.



The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Missouri (Osher@Mizzou) is for individuals over 50 who are looking for an opportunity to expand their horizons, learn in an engaging environment, and meet new friends. Osher@Mizzou offers noncredit education that is stimulating, friendly, and informal—there are no tests and no grades! You will be part of a learning community that is full of diversity, insight, wisdom, intellectual and cultural stimulation, and friendship.

Courses run from four weeks to eight weeks, depending upon the semester and topic, including single-session offerings on a wide variety of topics. Premium Membership is available for \$240 per year, which offers unlimited course enrollment throughout the year, with a \$10 per semester “re-up”. Individual courses on a per-semester basis are available for \$60. Either plan includes unlimited attendance at the Friday Film Festivals and Special Events such as the Brown Bag Seminar Series.

Join us at Osher@Mizzou. Stimulating, enriching, and satisfying! To learn more, you can see some of the recent and immediate-past offerings by going to: <http://extension.missouri.edu/osher> . Email us at rosenbergert@missouri.edu to be added to our weekly email distribution list, for weekly updates and announcement of semester offerings and events.



Want to receive your MURA Newsletter early? Opt-out of receiving the mailed version and get yours electronically. Just send an email to Barb Harris, MURA Communications Chairperson at harrisb@missouri.edu and indicate your intent to Go Green.



Almost everything we do these days has an electronic alternative whether it's receiving your bank statement or monthly bills or sometimes even a birthday card! Well that same opportunity to reduce mail and paper clutter exists with your MURA newsletter. Besides being posted to the MURA website (mura-missouri.com), if you choose to accept this alternative, you will receive a printable PDF version 7-10 days sooner than the mailed version. Besides the benefit of getting the information early, this will also reduce MURA's expenses. While I know receiving a printable PDF version of the newsletter is not an option for some retirees and others don't have internet access, this method is becoming much more popular. With that in mind, if you want to opt-in to receiving your MURA newsletter electronically, just send an email to Barb Harris, MURA Communications Chairperson (harrisb@missouri.edu) indicating your wish to 'Go Green'. If you decide later that this option is not for you, you can always switch back to the mailed copy. MURA does distribute information besides the newsletter electronically throughout the year. To make sure that you receive these timely updates, please send any additions or corrections to your email address to Barb.

MURA Treasurer's Report presented by Earl Wilson, MURA Treasurer

As shown on the Statement of Cash Flows provided elsewhere in this newsletter, MURA's cash balance increased by \$1,580 during the fiscal year just ended, June 30, 2014. The primary reason for the increase was the significant increase in investment earnings, from \$1,983.72 for the prior year to \$4,395.66 for the current year. The high investment earnings for the current year resulted in part from non-recurring capital gains of about \$2,000, which cannot be expected to occur each year. As Note 3 at the bottom of the statement explains, MURA has invested a portion of life-time member dues over the years so that earnings from those investments provide services for many long-term life-time members who no longer pay dues. The current value of the investment account is \$76,515.75. In summary, MURA's current financial condition is sound and adequate reserves exist to provide continuing services for all life-time members.

MU Retirees Association Statement of Cash Flows

	<u>Year Ended June 30, 2014</u>	<u>Year Ended June 30, 2013</u>
Activities Supported by Member Dues and Investment Income:		
Receipts		
Dues-annual	\$ 1,262.50	\$ 1,185.00
Dues-lifetime	1,200.00	825.00
Investment income	<u>4,395.66</u>	<u>1,983.72</u>
Total Operating Receipts	\$ 6,858.16	\$ 3,993.72
Disbursements		
Newsletter-publishing/printing	1,299.46	625.30
Newsletter-postage/delivery	748.58	431.31
Business meeting	583.32	570.36
Fall information meeting	728.13	705.36
MURA Internet Office	-	99.50
AROHE dues	120.00	200.00
Flagship Council	100.00	100.00
Filing fee State of Missouri	-	30.00
IRS application fee	-	100.00
Membership materials	150.00	255.12
Post office box rent and postage	60.40	86.55
Miscellaneous (Note 1)	<u>251.39</u>	<u>215.00</u>
Total Operating Disbursements	<u>4,041.28</u>	<u>3,418.50</u>
Excess of Operating Receipts over (under) Disbursements	2,816.88	575.22
Self-Supporting Activities:		
Holiday Luncheon		
Receipts (See note 2)	1,472.25	1,995.00
Disbursements	<u>2,521.24</u>	<u>1,904.68</u>
Net Receipts	(1,048.99)	90.32
Spring Picnic		
Receipts	780.00	856.00
Disbursements	<u>967.49</u>	<u>897.00</u>
Net Receipts	(187.49)	(41.00)
Net Increase in Cash During Year	1,580.40	624.54
Cash Balance, Beginning of Year	8,165.19	7,540.65
Cash Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 9,745.59</u>	<u>\$ 8,165.19</u>
Investment Assets (See note 3)	<u>Jun. 30, 2014</u>	<u>Jun. 30, 2013</u>
Lifetime Members Reserve Investment Account	<u>\$ 76,515.75</u>	<u>\$ 72,541.86</u>

Notes, year ended June 30, 2014:

- (1) Chancellor and Anne Deaton retirement gift, \$213.79; check reorder charge, \$22.60; Chancellor's Luncheon resource table, \$15.
- (2) Holiday Luncheon reservation checks of \$1,624.75 less dessert reimbursements of \$152.50.
- (3) 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.



Retirees Association

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
University of Missouri



MURA Membership Year is Jan. 1 - Dec. 31

Retirement year _____

LAST Name _____ FIRST Name _____ MIDDLE Initial _____

SPOUSE LAST [if also joining] _____ FIRST Name _____ MIDDLE Initial _____

MAILING Address _____

Street & number or P.O. Box City State Zip+4

My E-mail _____ Spouse E-Mail _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Check all that apply for membership(s).

- Staff
- Faculty
- Extension Personnel
- Spouse
- Other _____

Total enclosed = \$ _____
for _____ membership[s].

Make your check payable to **MURA**, and send it, with this form, to:

MU Retirees Association
P.O. Box 1831
Columbia, MO 65205-1831



- NEW Retiree in 2014 FREE w/2015 year . . . \$7.50
- Annual Renewal. \$7.50
- Life membership. \$75.00