

MURA has much to be proud of in year of adjustments



Ruth Tofle

Dear MURA members,

As the season changed to warmer months, your MURA organization also changed. For the first time ever, the Annual Meeting was held virtually and smoothly facilitated bylaw revisions and the election of officers.

We are grateful for MURA leaders who have served and will be handing over their duties to others. We thank **Bill Fisch** and **Nancy Johnson**, who completed their member-at-large terms. Nancy Johnson also completes her service as liaison to the Staff Council and Facebook administrator.

Further thanks to leaders completing their service are **Tim Parshall**, chair of the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund; **Barbara Schneider**, chair of the

Program Committee; and **Ina Linville**, representative to the MU Engagement Council.

In this issue, **Mary Jo Herde**, chair of the Awards Committee, reports about the awardees of the Chancellor's Retirees of the Year. **Tom Henderson**, Scholarship Committee chair, reports about student scholarships, and **Donna Johanning**, chair of the Finance Committee, gives a summary of MURA's financial health.

Accomplishments this MURA year include: outstanding speakers for the 13 virtual breakfast presentations and socials reaching between 40

and 91 households each; recordings of breakfast presentations available for later viewing online; well-attended fall and spring UM Town Halls addressing health care benefits and pensions; a growing scholarship fund enabling an increase in the number of and the dollar value of scholarships; generous retiree contributions to the university and United Way; and biweekly MURA Update emails providing current information about university happenings with a curated list of free online opportunities called "Barbara's Picks."

This newsletter continues the theme of "partnering." This issue highlights "advocacy." Best practices in advocacy require a cohesive, collective and consistent approach.

Presented here is a package of five articles showcasing MURA's work in advocacy. My article, "... Essential, Empowering, Enduring," illustrates an overall picture of why and how MURA advocates.

In additional articles, former deans and MURA

members, **Rose Porter** and **Tom Payne**, share their advocacy experiences, and **Linda Lorenz** reports about the community advocacy work with United Way. UM President **Mun Choi** responds to the question: "How can MURA help advocate for our university?"

In this last newsletter of the MURA year, it is a pleasure to report that MURA is a healthy and vibrant organization. Our founders would be proud. Thank you for the privilege to serve you.

Ruth Tofle, MURA President

MURA OBJECTIVES

Contribute to University Family

Communicate

Advocate

Educate & Socialize

Membership survey coming your way

BE ON THE LOOKOUT for a notice from the MURA Program Committee asking what you want from MURA in the upcoming year. We will be surveying members in mid- to late summer, which will give you the opportunity to express your thoughts on scheduling in-person events and other issues. **Art Jago**, chair of this ad hoc committee, will lead the effort.

The last member survey was conducted in Fall 2018 and has been helpful in planning. Traditionally, MURA does not schedule events in July and August. Activities resume in September, and all programs will be announced in advance in bi-weekly MURA Update emails.

Ruth Tofle, MURA President

Advocating for growth, welfare of the university

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Three students receive \$1,500 Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarships!

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June 1st Virtual Breakfast

"COVID-19 and Post-Vaccination Questions on Your Mind"



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Three MU students win \$1,500 MURA scholarships



Darius Lee



Brianna Wittenborn



Daniela Calle

DARIUS LEE, BRIANNA WITTENBORN and **DANIELA CALLE** are the three winners of Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship for the 2021-22 school year.

The students were selected by the MU Student Financial Aid Office on behalf of MURA. Each will receive a scholarship of \$1,500.

"Thank you for supporting Mizzou students with the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship. It is the best part of my job to notify students they have been awarded scholarships," Susan Hartnagel, senior assistant director, scholarships at MU Student Financial Aid, wrote. "The three recipients of this year's awards are excelling in the classroom and are wonderful representatives of the Mizzou community. Your support of these students means so much to them and their families."

Lee, who was awarded a scholarship for an earlier year, wrote: "Thank you for renewing my Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship. My second year at Mizzou has gone very well. I am majoring in business administration with an emphasis in finance and banking.

"My mother, Myra Kelly, is currently employed with the Division of Information Technology as a business support specialist."

Wittenborn was also selected to receive a scholarship for another year. She wrote: "I really appreciate this award from the MU Retirees Association. The semester has gone by pretty fast, as I didn't have very many in-person classes, but I've still learned a lot of new skills that will help me in the future. I'm studying digital storytelling and graphic design.

"My mother, Nancy Wittenborn, is the MU revenue cycle training manager. Thank you again."

Calle said this year is going well. "I'm majoring in biochemistry, which has been a big change in workload from high school, but I'm starting to get the handle of it and managing my time better. As of right now, I am enjoying my major and the challenges it is offering me. It has been good to push myself out of my comfort zone academically.

"Socializing has been hard, but I'm hopeful that in the future, I'll be able to get more involved! I know for sure that Mizzou is the right college for me, and I'm excited to continue to deepen my education here.

"My mother, Sandra Zapata, works for the University of Missouri – Extension as a nutrition program associate. She essentially goes to a variety of elementary schools and teaches students about all things food related!"

Chancellor's 2021 Retiree of the Year Awards

How the chancellor's awards are selected



Mary Jo Herde

THE 2021 Chancellor's Retiree of the Year recipients' contributions to the community are impressive.

Jeff Chinn was selected as the faculty retiree, and Jacqueline (Jackie)

Kelly was selected as

the staff retiree. Each will receive \$1,000 and a one-year membership in MURA if they are not already a member.

The awardees were selected in March by the MURA Awards Committee. A Zoom meeting was utilized in making the selections.

The committee consists of **Art Jago, George Kennedy, Georgia Morehouse, Marie Sloan, Susan Hazelwood** and **Mary Jo Herde**, chair.

The names of the awardees for 2020 and 2021 are being added to the awards plaque in Jesse Hall.

It's not too early to submit a nominee's information for the 2022 awards. To be eligible, nominees must have retired in 2017 or earlier.

Existing nominees for staff members will roll over into next year's nominees, and additional nominations also will be accepted.

There is a need for faculty nominees.

The nomination form can be found on the MURA website, mura-missouri.com. For additional information, call Mary Jo Herde at 573-446-5525 or send her an email at herdem@missouri.edu.

Send completed nominations to Herde at 3402 Snow Leopard, Columbia, MO 65202 or via email.



JACKIE KELLY
Staff Retiree
of the Year 2021

Travel, cultural experiences propel Jackie Kelly's volunteer efforts

Jacqueline Hall Kelly retired from her UM position as director for Minority Business Development and remains active in volunteer work to benefit the university and community.

In addition to serving on the ExecMBA Program board at the MU College of Business, she also mentors international students in the Crosby MBA Program.

As she explains, "It is gratifying to engage in volunteer activities in the Columbia community, particularly at the university with first year international students in the Crosby MBA Program. "For these students, Columbia is their introduction to the USA. This new experience can be intimidating. I can relate to many of their experiences in a foreign land."

Kelly has a passionate interest in other cultures and has traveled the world extensively. Kelly explains how her own experiences of feeling intimidated in other countries "inspired me to mentor international students. When students learn that I have traveled extensively internationally, also earned an MBA, we quickly establish a rapport."

Her nominator explains, "Dr. Kelly hosts international MBA students for Thanksgiving and uses it as an opportunity to teach the students about the culture and traditions in the United States. On one occasion, she combined her volunteer service for the 'Everybody Eats' program with her mentoring and invited the first year international MBA students to join her in volunteering prior to bringing them to her house for a formal Thanksgiving dinner.

"In this way, she was trying to instill in the students the importance of gratitude and community service as well as giving them exposure to the greater community."

Another nominator recalls a situation and says, "Jacqueline is a connector. It was obvious from our first meeting that she had her finger on the local community, especially, the minority community, and the groups and individuals who serve them."

Yet, another nominator mentioned that Kelly helped coordinate and nurture a local Social Justice Arts Group that evolved from a small informal discussion about the movie "Fences" into a monthly interracial discussion group with an email list of more than 50 people.

Kelly serves on both the City of Columbia Personnel Advisory Board and the Daniel Boone Regional Library Foundation Board. In addition, she volunteers during the Heritage Festival for the Boone County Historical Society.

She also has provided leadership on a committee to plan a program that commemorates the 100th anniversary of the founding of Negro Leagues baseball. She plans to donate this MU award to bringing the president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum to Columbia in September so school children and the public can appreciate this history more fully.



JEFF CHINN
Faculty Retiree
of the Year 2021

Jeff Chinn's broad range of outreach nets chancellor's faculty honors

After being on the MU political science faculty and serving as vice provost for instruction, **Jeff Chinn** continued his leadership at international, national and local levels.

Being a Red Cross Volunteer meant providing disaster relief nationally and internationally after hurricanes, tornadoes and a tsunami.

He was one of the first people to arrive in Washington, D.C., immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Deployed to the Pentagon, he organized and procured meals and equipment for first responders as they searched for survivors.

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Chinn managed a kitchen in Louisiana where he ordered food and oversaw preparation and distribution of about 10,000 meals a day for hurricane victims.

In total, he has assisted in more than 20 disaster response events with the Red Cross.

He monitored elections around the world as a U.S. representative with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He made dozens of trips with this organization to many countries including Tatarstan in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Republic of Georgia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Chinn's work at the local level is also impressive.

"In spite of living in a relatively well-educated, affluent community, low income and food insecurity make life a struggle for many of our neighbors. I have devoted my efforts to two local projects that address these inequities," he says.

He explains how the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) targets food insecurity. It donates more than 30,000 pounds of food to the Food Pantry annually, has developed Columbia's Agriculture Park and provides educational activities for local children.

Chinn says, "I am pleased to serve on the Board of CCUA and develop funding for this important community organization."

He is donating the funds from this MU award to the CCUA.

Chinn also enjoys providing tax preparation services for AARP and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance service at the Daniel Boone Regional Library, which helps more than 2,000 local residents file federal and state taxes annually. Volunteers save the cost of tax preparation and help clients claim the benefits for which they qualify.

Because of his extensive international experience, he is comfortable helping individuals with English as a second language and prepares 250 to 300 tax returns a year.

A nominator wrote: "Jeff has been a role model and an inspiration to many. He continues to devote his free time selflessly to serve others, in particular others in need

"His generosity has no boundaries! . . . Our town, our community, our people are very fortunate to have such a generous and compassionate individual amongst us."



Advocating for growth, welfare of university

MURA ADVOCACY: Essential, Empowering, Enduring



Ruth Tofle

By RUTH TOFLE

WHEN MEMBERS of an organization have advocacy as an objective, they have oxygen. Members have a voice to make a difference and they are able to thrive in fair weather and also endure the storms. The words “essential, empowering, enduring” describe why advocacy is a MURA objective, how our organizational structure enables advocacy and provides examples of advocacy.

Essential

MURA was established as an essential response to dramatic changes in university retirement and benefit plans. Historical records explain:

“Dramatic changes in the University’s retirement and benefits plans, proposed to begin on September 1, 1990, created concerns in pre-1990 retirees about whether their interests and concerns were being effectively communicated to the administration. These concerns led to the organization of MURA.” <http://mura-missouri.com/about/history/>

The MURA constitution promotes advocacy in its ambitious purpose “to represent, promote and protect the interests of the retirees and to promote the welfare of the University of Missouri.” Listed first, among four objectives, is a description of its function “to promote and protect the legitimate welfare, rights and entitlements of retirees, including, but not limited to, retirement and health benefits.”

Purpose (Article II)

“The purpose of the Association is to represent, promote and protect the interests of the retirees and to promote the welfare of the University of Missouri.”

Objectives (Article IV, Sect. 1)

“To promote and protect the legitimate welfare, rights and entitlements of retirees, including, but not limited to, retirement and health benefits.”

Our members rated advocacy as the most important of the four objectives in our 2018 Member Survey. In addition to advocacy work on retirement and health benefits, MURA partners with, and advocates for, the university family in a variety of areas as described in the March 2021 MURA Newsletter and discussed by Dr. Mun Choi in this newsletter p. 7.

Empowering

Our wise founders structured MURA to have deep roots and broad limbs to be successful in advocacy. Thus, empowered voices are heard from staff and faculty retirees at multiple levels. In this shared governance model, members of the MURA Board participate in deliberation and MURA Board action.

Advocating at the campus level, three retired staff members and three retired faculty members are elected from the MURA membership to serve on its Board of Directors. In addition, a retired staff member serves on the Staff Council and a staff retiree serves as an ombudsperson. In parallel, a retired faculty member serves on the Faculty Council and a faculty retiree serves as an ombudsman.

MURA also has representation on the MU Engagement Council.

Advocating with leaders at the campus and UM System level, the MURA Executive Committee of president, past president, president-elect, secretary and treasurer along with the university liaison to administration meet with the chancellor/president each semester. The Executive Committee meets with the leaders of the other three UM retirees’ associations once a semester. A MURA representative also currently serves on the Total Rewards Advisory Committee.

At the community level, MURA has a United Way representative advocating for local needs.

In 1998, the MURA Board established a standing Legislative Committee. The purpose was to provide oversight of the methods used by MURA to “impact the making of University and Governmental rules, regulations and laws affecting its members.” Mary Anne McCollum currently chairs this committee and is the liaison with the Flagship Council.

The Flagship Council is a private organization working to protect our historic flagship university. The MURA Board receives Flagship communications. MURA members McCollum, Tom Payne, Gary Smith and Tom Henderson, for example, have been dynamic leaders of the Council. McCollum and Henderson lead the legislative forums with candidates for elected offices in Boone County in election years.

At the national level, MURA is a member of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). When the pandemic led to the lock-down last year, AROHE was a resource as MURA pivoted to online programs.

The chart on the next page lists MURA Board positions, the persons who will serve in the 2021-22 term and their roles in advocacy.

Enduring

When the Board takes an advocacy position, it is long-lasting to benefit retirees and/or the university. This enduring quality is recognized in MURA newsletters since our organization was established in 1990. In addition to advocating for retiree benefits and support of the United Way for community betterment, the following articles demonstrate MURA’s positions on such issues as Missouri education, taxing Social Security benefits and the MU name change.

MURA Advocacy: An Empowering Structure



MURA Board Position	2021-2022 Persons	Purpose
Members at large - Elected Staff Retirees	Mark Banks, Mary Jo Herde, Judy Nolke	Advocating at MU campus level
Members at large - Elected Faculty Retirees	Art Jago, Frank Schmidt, Donna Otto	
University Staff Council Representative	Judy Nolke	
University Faculty Council Representative	Art Jago	
Ombudsperson - Staff Retiree Representative	Carrie Lanham	
Ombudsperson - Faculty Retiree Representative	Marty Townsend	
MU Engagement Council Representative	Karma Metzgar	
Executive Committee: president, past president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer	Ruth Tofle, Betsy Garrett, Ina Linville, Mary Licklider, Donna Johanning	Advocating with leadership at MU campus and UM System levels
Executive Committee Representation to UM Four-Campus Retirees' Associations	Ruth Tofle, Betsy Garrett, Ina Linville, Mary Licklider, Donna Johanning	
University Liaison-Administration	Cecil Moore	
Total Rewards Advisory Committee Representative	Betsy Garrett	
United Way Representative	Linda Lorenz	Community advocating
Governmental Affairs Committee Chair/ Flagship Council Representative	Mary Anne McCollum	Advocating at government levels
Executive Committee: MURA membership in Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE)	Executive Committee and former presidents	Advocating at national level

They include:

- **Fall 1991:** “Proposition B Endorsed” supporting a state educational aid package.
- **November 2000:** “In Support of Silver Haired Legislature Bill #18 ... as it pertains to Taxing Social Security Benefits.”
- **November 2007:** “Resolution Supporting Name Change to University of Missouri Proposed by Chancellor Brady Deaton Approved by MURA Board of Directors, Aug. 20, 2007.” (The change is from the regional designation of University of Missouri-Columbia to the flagship status.)

MURA does limit the reach of its advocacy. The MURA constitution specifies that MURA’s work focuses on non-partisan, research-based education and information concerning issues of interest to our members.

Generally speaking, MURA does not advocate for matters or candidates coming before a public vote. However, as a 501 (c) 4 organization, the MURA Board may choose to address specific issues, bills, legislation, referenda or other matters if they impact the University of Missouri and/or the collective welfare of MU/UM retirees.

In the best of times and also during the worst of times, MURA continues to stay true to its purpose: “to represent, promote and protect the interests of the retirees and to promote the welfare of the University of Missouri.” This past year when we navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns were high, MURA helped initiate two UM Retiree Town Halls focused on retirement and health care benefits with Q-and-A reaching more than 1,600 households. In addition, we have proactive and ongoing representation on the Total Rewards Advisory Committee. MURA has been well-served by Rose Porter and now Betsy Garrett serving in this role.

A current example of MURA advocacy work-in-progress for retirees and pre-retirees is improving communication on a UM System-wide basis. Our four-campus retiree’s associations are working on this initiative with UM administrative staff regarding retiree email addresses, websites, recruitment flyers, system communications to retirees and Town Hall webinars.

Ruth Tofle is the president of MURA and a professor emerita Department of Architectural Studies in the College of Human Environmental Sciences.



Flagship Council helps spread the word about MU strengths, needs



Tom Payne

By TOM PAYNE

IF EACH AND EVERY PERSON in Missouri knew how much the University of Missouri benefited them each and every day, our university wouldn't have funding challenges. Sadly, most folks don't know all the great things Mizzou does each and every day from educating students, its research and outreach programs to its overarching benefit to our state's economy.

So, we must advocate.

We must spread the word of what we know about MU and the benefits it brings. Advocacy is most powerful through word-of-mouth delivery of personal experiences. Our alumni and friends, and all of you, help greatly in doing this, as do our organized groups such as MUAA, MURA and beyond. Added to those is the University of Missouri Flagship Council.

The Flagship Council is a private organization of alumni and friends working together to build and protect our historic flagship university. It's an organization that targets legislators to influence funding in support of the University of Missouri's priorities and welcomes membership by those wishing to help our university.

Flagship Council goals are to promote – to advocate – the benefits of the University of Missouri to the public, elected officials and other state and national leaders, to effectively influence legislative and regulatory issues in support of the university and to lend advice and counsel to the university administration on public policy issues.

The Flagship Council was formed in 2005 to advocate for our historic flagship university in order to help support, build and strengthen it and maintain and enhance its traditional role as Missouri's premier public teaching and research university. Recently, I had the honor of serving as co-chair for two years, along with alumna Jackie Clark. We were fortunate to follow great MURA members Gary Smith, who was executive director for a number of years, and Tom Henderson, who was chair for a couple of years, and being wonderfully supported by Mary Anne McCollum, our current executive director.

Our university is one of just 34 members of the elite Association of American Universities. It's increasingly come under question for not

having the level of research activity expected of an AAU member, which is directly related to resources and the level of funding. The NextGen Precision Health facility is important to our research efforts. State funding is critical. With scarce state resources, it's even more important that the university has a strong presence in our State Capitol, a presence of advocates! We can no longer depend on others.

The university's friends and alumni around the world – all of us, the people 100 percent behind our flagship university – are working together to get out the word about what a remarkable resource Missouri has in MU and why our flagship university is deserving of increased state support.

The Flagship Council is the primary vehicle helping provide that needed advocacy.



We must spread the word of what we know about MU and the benefits it brings.”

Tom Payne

From the time the General Assembly convenes in early January until the session officially ends in mid-May, the Flagship Council is represented by our lobbyist, Tom Rackers, who works with legislators on a daily basis, testifies in front of committees and communicates about the work of our flagship university. During the legislative session, members of the Flagship Council are invited to attend legislative breakfasts, as well as other events, where they advocate on behalf of the university to their hometown representatives and senators. In addition, the University of Missouri Flagship Council Political Action Committee (PAC) makes donations, primarily during election years, to members of the General Assembly and candidates selected by the PAC Board of Directors.

The Flagship Council is governed by a board of directors who meet four times a year as well as hold special meetings as needed. The board is responsible for setting the legislative agenda as well as approving the budget. The executive director runs the day-to-day operations. Currently former curator and great alumnus, Ed Turner, is chair.

The success of the Flagship Council in its efforts to support our university is dependent on individuals like you who care about Mizzou. We need your participation and support. If you're not already a member, we need you! Join our advocacy efforts! Check out the website to join: flagshipcouncil.com.

Tom Payne is former co-chair of the University of Missouri Flagship Council, MU vice chancellor and dean emeritus of the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

Communications, mentors, technology updates are crucial in reaching goals



Rose Porter

By ROSE PORTER

ADVOCACY IS ANY ACTION THAT SPEAKS in favor of a cause. As a former dean of Nursing and interim dean of the College of Education, I learned quickly the importance of being an advocate for your school. But I also quickly learned that this job of advocacy was more than one person could do alone. I needed help and made sure to always send positive messages when talking about the goals and accomplishments of the faculty. After I retired from the Nursing School and was recruited to serve as

interim dean for the College of Education in 2008, I realized the rest of the campus knew very little about the great research and service programs being conducted by the faculty. I began a Friday's Update email that went out to all faculty, adjunct faculty and staff each week. While I was only in that interim position in Education for two years, I believe I helped to bring the college forward and let the rest of the campus know the good works being done, and I also helped to bring the college together collegially.

After I retired, again, I was asked to assume the position of MURA'S president-elect working under the presidency of Dean Armon Yanders. Unfortunately, Dean Yanders didn't make it through the year. Upon his death, and before I really even got my feet wet as president-elect, I took over as president of MURA.

Fortunately, I had fine mentors, such as Nan Erickson, who was past-president, and I worked closely with Ken Hutchinson, who served as my president-elect.

I had much to learn, but I realized immediately the value of this organization to advocate for the needs and concerns of the retired faculty and staff. It was an important group, for sure, and I was happy to do what I could to keep the program running smoothly.

There were really two major changes that I supported, and they both had to do with infrastructure and technology. At the time I took over, we were sending out email messages in batches, instead of one message to all. I contacted Beth Chancellor, director of IT for the Columbia campus, asking her to figure out a more efficient method for sending electronic messages to our members. Today, even thinking of how antiquated our early system was, I remain amazed how we got things done as well as we did.

The other change we made was to have the Alumni Association assume leadership in designing and keeping our website up to date. We really did not have the personnel available to handle this important task.

After serving as MURA president, I was asked to represent the organization as a member of the System-Wide Total Rewards Advisory Committee (TRAC). At the time major changes were considered for the health insurance for retirees. Our advocacy mantra was "equal to or better than" the insurance that we currently had. I need to acknowledge that it was the staff from the Human Resources program who were outstanding. They worked very diligently to meet our demands, and with a lot of effort on their part, they were able to find coverage for us that met our goals of being better than or equal to what we had. We should be very grateful for the professional staff working in HR for the system. Way to go!

Rose Porter is dean emerita of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing.

Advocacy opportunities as varied as advocates themselves



Mun Choi

By MUN CHOI

MEMBERS OF MURA have a passion for higher education and the University of Missouri that runs deep. While membership in MURA alone is an act that improves our university community, I know many retirees are interested in additional advocacy that can benefit Mizzou and the students we serve.

Opportunities for advocacy are as varied as the advocates themselves, and you can find one or many ways to use your talents and connections to champion our university. All MURA members can engage in outreach by sharing the great work of our university with their social and professional networks.

Financial support is another way retirees can endorse Mizzou's good work, as well as our university's priorities. MURA donations, for example, made up 32 percent (more than \$100,000) of the money raised for MU's 2020 United Way Campaign. Since our people are our foundation, efforts such as the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship — which awards funds to students whose parents are staff employees — are an investment in our students and university advocacy, too.

Retirees are also university advocates when they choose mentorship, either formally or informally, at the university or in the community. Programs like 4-H, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist require participants to devote countless hours and an incredible amount of care and effort to grow the skills of fellow Missourians and improve their communities. These relationships help forge valuable bonds between our university and every corner of the state. Often, these efforts even connect local youth with opportunities at Mizzou and grow our university community even further.

Finally, and as always, we invite our MURA colleagues to communicate with leadership as a form of advocacy for our university. As a Mizzou retiree, your talent, historical knowledge and the rich experience you cultivated as a faculty or staff member are absolutely integral to our university's critical decisions and our efforts as a community. I encourage you to reach out with questions, concerns, recommendations and more through your MURA representatives or email me directly at president@mizzouri.edu.

I am so thankful for the continued engagement and support of our retirees. Often, MURA members are the first ambassadors for our university, and that's why your advocacy is so critical. Moving Mizzou forward isn't a single, monumental endeavor. Instead, it takes all of our many, consistent efforts to tell the story of how Mizzou benefits Missourians. It's an exciting prospect, and I look forward to doing that work with you.

Mun Y. Choi, Ph.D., is president of the University of Missouri System and chancellor of the University of Missouri.

MURA BUSINESS

Annual meeting's votes elect officers, revise bylaws

By **RUTH TOFLE**
MURA president

Due to the ongoing pandemic, MURA held its first annual meeting in a virtual format with the election of 2021-22 officers and the revision of two items in the bylaws.

With 58 logins representing 63 members on shared computers attending in real time, the 50-member quorum was met to allow online voting.

Nominating Committee Chair Betsy Garrett presented candidates, and members approved the 2021-22 slate of officers. They are: Ruth Tofle, president; Ina Linville, president-elect/program chair; Mary Lickliger, secretary; Donna Otto, member-at-large faculty; and Judy Nolke, member-at-large staff.

Art Jago, chair of the ad hoc committee for bylaws revisions, presented two revisions to the MURA bylaws for consideration by the membership.

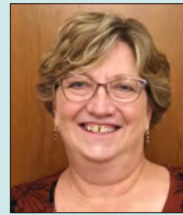
Members approved Section 11 and Section 8 as follows:

Sect. 11. Alternative Balloting: Where this Constitution and Bylaws of the Association calls for a time and place of an in-person election or vote of the membership, the Board, at its sole discretion, may choose to use technologies and methods other than or in conjunction with in-person meetings to conduct business or hold elections, including but not limited to synchronous and asynchronous communications by electronic means and mail-in ballots. When using a mechanism other than fully in-person meetings, the number of ballots received will determine if the requirement of a quorum, as prescribed by the Constitution and/or Bylaws, has been met.

Sect. 8. Standing Committees: The standing committees shall be Finance; Membership; Program; Communications; Ombudsman; Retirement, Health, and Other Benefits; University Liaison; Awards; Governmental Affairs; Nominating; Education; Past Presidents; and MURA Scholarship. At the discretion of the President and approval of the Board, a standing committee may have co-chairs rather than a chair. In such an event, each standing committee shall have one vote in matters coming before the Board of Directors. In this event, it will be the responsibility of the committee to determine how that vote is cast. The chair or co-chairs of each committee shall report regularly to the President and annually, in writing to the Board, prior to the annual meeting.

Opening the annual meeting was a "Bonus Breakfast" presentation by Jim Sterk, MU director of athletics. See related article on p. 10.

Extra savings lead to MURA Finance Committee recommendations



Donna Johanning

By **DONNA JOHANNING**
MURA Treasurer

As fiscal year 2021 draws to a close, the financial activity for the MURA organization is almost complete. Since there have been no in-person social gatherings or business meetings this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been an opportunity to accumulate some cash savings and make plans for next year.

The MURA Finance Committee met in March to review the current year activity and to plan the budget for fiscal year 2022.

Recommendations made by the committee and accepted by the MURA Board are:

- The \$1,000 stipend received by MURA as the recipient of the 2019-20 MU Faculty Council Shared Governance Award will be donated to the university to be added to the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund.
- As a member of the University of Missouri Flagship Council, all dues paid will be stipulated to support the operations of the council and not used by the political action committee to support individual candidates. This will prevent any appearance that MURA is endorsing political candidates during elections.
- The additional cash balance at the end of the fiscal year will be rolled over to next year. There may be unknown costs associated with the pandemic and increased costs for venues that cannot be anticipated at this time. Once contracts are negotiated for meeting locations and in-person events are set, this topic will be revisited and a recommendation for any unused funds will be made.
- The committee supports the effort of the Program and Sponsorship committees to engage supporters and establish partnerships with the university and businesses in Columbia. Any funds or in-kind gifts that result from these arrangements will benefit our members by reducing the costs for events and providing expertise and knowledge to further our mission of representing retirees.

The Finance Committee has submitted a budget proposal for fiscal year 2021 that was approved at the April Board meeting. The 2022 budget and the final financial statement for the current year will appear in the next newsletter.

The generosity of University of Missouri retirees!

Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarships Increase to \$1,500 per year

THE KITTY DICKERSON MURA SCHOLARSHIPS increased to \$1,500 from \$1,000 for three recipients beginning this year. Read about the current recipients on p. 2.

The MURA Board increased the value of our three scholarships based on a modest increase in fundraising that was limited by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and strong growth in investment income/market gains.

The fund balances as of March include \$110,353.54 and \$5,277.51 in the endowment and distribution accounts respectively.

As the corpus of the scholarship funds continues to grow, MURA continues to be committed to strengthening these scholarships to benefit dependents of MU and UM staff members in honor of the vital role staff play in the success of our university.

At its April 21 meeting, the MURA Board of Directors determined that the \$1,000 cash from the 2020 MU Faculty Council Shared Governance Award would be invested in the Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund.

Donations to the scholarship fund are always welcome. Members having investments that mandate an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) will hopefully consider the scholarship fund as a recipient in their gift planning. You may also make a gift by check payable to the University of Missouri with "Kitty Dickerson MURA Scholarship Fund" on the memo line. Mail to: MU Office of Advancement, Gift Processing, 407 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, MO 65211.

Tom Henderson, Scholarship Committee chair

Retirees exemplify the gift of generosity

MU retirees are generous when it comes to giving back. They contribute to nearly every single area of campus through cash donations, wills and trusts, retirement accounts and more.

In fiscal year 2020, 16.5 percent of retirees made at least one philanthropic gift to Mizzou. Totalling nearly \$10.5 million last year alone, your remarkable support plays a key role in sustaining the excellence of MU for generations to come.

Considering your next gift? There is a way you can give back, while ensuring yourself a stable income from MU. A charitable gift annuity involves a simple contract between the donor and Mizzou; in return for your donation, Mizzou agrees to pay you, or an additional beneficiary, a fixed amount each year for life. A portion of these payments are tax-free, and, if you itemize your taxes, the initial charitable donation can be deducted from your federal income tax. It's a win-win for both you and the university.

Theresa Lichty, staff writer at Office of Advancement

Retirees lead the way in giving

MU Retirees pledged \$147,889 to United Way in 2020, which is 32 percent of the total raised in the tri-county area.

During a difficult year, retirees put their community first by pledging an unbelievable 80 percent increase in giving over the 2019 campaign!

Retirees' generous support of the Heart of Missouri United Way allows the organization to respond promptly to changing community needs by forging strategic partnerships with local nonprofits while advocating for effective solutions to tackle local issues.

Our United Way invests in programs at nonprofit organizations in the impact areas of health and basic needs, education and financial stability. The investments reach individuals and families in Boone, Cooper and Howard counties.

2021 is the 75th anniversary of the Heart of Missouri United Way. Since 1946, it has fought for mid-Missourians, investing more than \$91 million to improve lives in our community. With your contributions, we remove barriers and advance equity.

Linda Lorenz, MURA representative to United Way

Give a Gift That Keeps on Giving – A MURA Membership!

Need a retirement gift for a colleague and friend? How about a MURA membership? With MURA's application and online payment option, it's easy for you to give someone the gift of a MURA membership.

Annual (one year) memberships are \$12.50 per year and must be renewed each January. The best deal is, of course, lifetime membership for \$100.

Using our pay online option, you can sign your friend up with a name, email and online payment of their dues.

After dues are received, we will follow up by asking for a completed membership application.

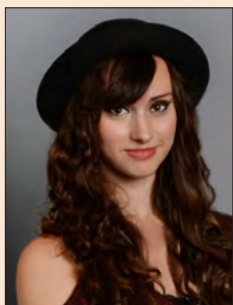
For steps on how to give the gift of MURA membership, go to the MURA website: <http://mura-missouri.com/membership/join-mura>, or contact MURA Membership co-chairs Dick Otto or Jo Turner for more information.

A MURA membership is a gift that keeps on giving!

Jo Turner, Membership Committee co-chair

RECAP: MURA Virtual Breakfast Programs – *pandemic-style!*

Co-author celebrates Budd's 200 Years of Music in Missouri



Elisabeth Roberts

MURA's March 2 Virtual MURA Breakfast program was "200 Years of Music in Missouri" with Elisabeth Roberts of the MU Budds Center for American Music Studies.

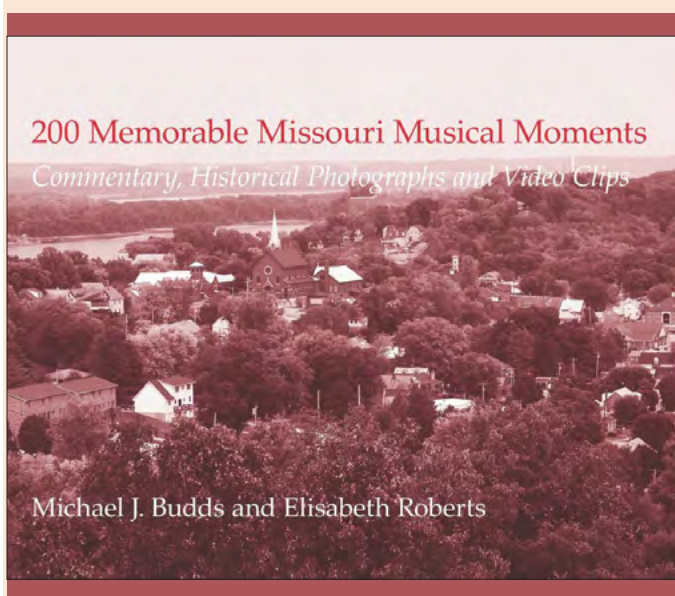
In commemoration of the bicentennial of the statehood of Missouri, Michael Budds, longtime musicology professor, conceived of a project to highlight 200

musically significant people, places and events native to the Show-Me state.

Roberts' presentation included a sampling of the entries such as Korla Pandit, the Schwarzer Zither Factory in Washington, the French La Guignolee tradition in St. Genevieve and the Ozark Jubilee in Branson.

There are 196 more stories we can look forward to learning about and listening to from "200 Memorable Missouri Musical Moments: Commentary, Historical Photographs & Video Clips," which Roberts co-authored with the late Professor Budds.

Barbara Schneider, MURA program chair



Update on Mizzou Athletics



Jim Sterk

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MURA held its annual meeting for the first time in a virtual format along a "Bonus Breakfast" presentation by Jim Sterk, MU director of athletics.

The March 16 virtual event began with Sterk reporting on athletics currently in progress and use of athletic facilities during the pandemic for testing and vaccinations.

He covered a wide range of topics from the core values for MU athletics, goals for 2021, areas of investment and the COVID-19 shutdown and its effects on scheduling and budgets.

He also discussed current issues facing college athletics, athletic facilities, recruitment of 4- and 5-star athletes and the economic impact of MU on the state of Missouri.

To read about the annual meeting, please see p. 8.

Ruth Tofle, MURA president



See details for upcoming June 1st virtual breakfast on p. 12.

Pandemic opens opportunities for research about aging



Joan McDowd

Joan McDowd, professor and chair of psychology at UMKC and a UM Presidential Engagement Fellow, spoke about “Aging Post-Pandemic” at the April 6 MURA Virtual Breakfast.

McDowd, a cognitive psychologist, first assessed the perceptions evidenced by the pandemic – discriminatory messaging about age and a tendency toward paternalistic protection and isolation. Some lessons we have learned are that ageism is present in cultural beliefs and prejudices, and that isolation and loneliness can have impacts on psychological, physical and mental health.

She shared studies that show positive messaging having real impacts on attitudes and longevity, and that social relationships have importance in healing loneliness.

It is evident that the COVID-19 pandemic will produce new areas of research as we work on strategies to bolster, modify and reinvent our behavior post-pandemic, she said.

Barbara Schneider, MURA program chair

Aging Post-Pandemic

Lessons and Strategies

Joan M. McDowd, PhD
Professor, Department of Psychology
University of Missouri – Kansas City



Photo credit: Tea Jagodic (2012)

A timely MURA program: 40 Years of MU Master Planning



Gary Ward

MURA’s May 4 program featured Vice Chancellor Gary Ward and the Master Plan Advisor Linda Eastley of Eastley + Partners. They offered an important opportunity for MU retirees to learn first-hand about the facility maintenance issues on campus and the current space-reduction efforts.

The campus has two types of buildings and this presentation focused on the education and general buildings or the “E & G Campus.” These are buildings for teaching, research and administration funded by state appropriation and student tuition dollars.

The second type of buildings are auxiliary (i.e., athletics, hospital, dining, residential life, parking, union buildings) with funding from selling a product or service. No funds from state or tuition go to auxiliary buildings as their funding is at market rates.

Largely as a result of decreased state funding and the cap on tuition, the budget amount dedicated to campus maintenance for E & G buildings has substantially decreased in recent years, Ward said.

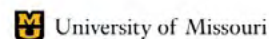
Gary and Linda shared the detailed process the university has followed over time to analyze the needs, costs of repairs and uses of buildings leading to the decision to eliminate some costly-to-maintain buildings.

Ward encouraged further examination of the space planning inventory at the MU Space Planning and Management website: <https://operations.missouri.edu/facilities/space-planning-management>.

Barbara Schneider, MURA program chair

40 Years of Master Planning

Mizzou’s comprehensive master planning process supports the university’s mission and its legacy of stewardship. The university’s careful, planned approach to campus development and commitment to practical renovation strategies reinforce the institution’s values and incorporate a practice of fiscal responsibility.





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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.

UPCOMING EVENT

June 1st Virtual Breakfast

COVID-19 and Post- Vaccination Questions on Your Mind

MURA's June 1 virtual breakfast meeting will give members a chance to hear the latest updates on COVID-19 within the Boone County community.

The topic for **Dr. Margaret Ann Day**, MU Health Care, Family and Community Medicine, will be **"COVID-19 and Post- Vaccination Questions on Your Mind."**

The event begins at 8:30 a.m. The link for the Zoom webinar will be sent via the bi-weekly MURA Update email.



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 **Marty Townsend** or staff representative **Carrie Lanham** can help investigate hard-to-navigate information.

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

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Maggie Walter, managing editor
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mura-missouri.com