Invitation to Action
By Nancy Mills, UMKCRA President

Two of the goals of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Retirees Association (UMKCRA) this year are to add new members and to increase involvement of current members in the association’s activities. If you are not a member, you might wonder why you should become involved with UMKCRA. I suggest that if any of the following are concerns of yours maybe you should consider active membership:

1. Are you concerned about maintaining the purchasing power of your pension benefit?
2. Are you interested in improving the health care benefits offered to UM retirees?
3. Do you enjoy lifelong learning and intellectual stimulus?
4. Are you interested in volunteer opportunities and supporting the goals of the University?

If you are already a member and you have these same concerns, then maybe you should consider getting more active in UMKCRA.

Through your involvement with the UMKCRA Board and/or its committees, you can join forces with us to address these and other important issues. Your expertise is still valued and needed at UMKC!

UMKC Retirees Tour of the Miller Nichols Library
By Edie Hunter, Chair of UMKCRA Program Committee

On November 17, 2009, the Library will be celebrating its 40th anniversary and many changes are occurring in anticipation of its celebration. Those who walk or drive past the front (south) entrance of the Miller Nichols Library will see a major expansion project taking place. The addition of the book robot (an Automated Storage and Retrieval System) makes UMKC’s one of approximately only 20 other libraries of its kind in the northern hemisphere. The three robotic arms will operate on tracks similar to a railroad track and will have the capacity to retrieve information from bins that will allow a critical capacity of a 20-year growth rate of information. And because the Robot Library bids came in low, this allowed for a green roof to be constructed, growing plants 9 out of 12 months of the year. There also will be a gigantic decorative screen on the outside of the library. It will offer a dramatic new

2009 Calendar UMKCRA

October
10th - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Program at Diastole with UMKC Women’s Club: presenter Ron Wright, DDS, “Treating Troops in Iraq”

November
3rd - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. NEW DATE Board meeting: Hyde Park Room AC (To allow RA leaders to meet with UM President Foresee on the 4th)
4th - UMKCRA leaders to Columbia to meet with other UM RA leaders and UM officials
5th - 10 a.m. (tentative) Special Meeting with UM Associate VP for Benefits VP Paden in Pierson Hall
15th - Newsletter with election slate

December
5th - 11a.m. to 1 p.m. Holiday reception, luncheon and election in Pierson Auditorium
front door for the UMKC campus, a physical design that will express a dynamic nature.

Hosted by Dean Sharon Bostick, on July 8, 2009, we briefly toured the Kenneth J. LaBudde Special Library located on the Fourth Floor of the Library and were shown special collections donated by William Volker, L. P. Cookingham, Bolling (local politician), as well as music and performing arts collections. We viewed and felt a “Medieval Chant” handwritten on vellum (animal skin) during the 17th Century. Due to the delicacy of the materials in this area the room temperature and humidity is kept constant at all times. We also learned that the Western Historical Manuscripts will be housed within the library once the expansion is complete.

Located on the First Floor is the Information Commons and Reference Area. New construction and renovation will free up a tremendous amount of study space for students. For example, instead of 3 small group study rooms there will be 40 group study rooms. Also included in the Information Commons are Braille and handicap machines. A Café is also located on the First Floor offering a variety of foods, including sushi. It should be noted that the students are allowed to eat and drink in all study areas of the library.

The Ground Floor of the Library houses the Marr Sound Archives, approximately 300,000 sound recordings (mostly gifts). Chuck Haddix, Sound Recording Specialist and host of KCUR’s “Fish Fry” radio program, informed the group that the music housed here is mostly American focused with an emphasis in Kansas City Jazz, but also includes Bluegrass, Rock and Roll, Popular, Broadway, and Show Tunes. It was announced that a one-half million dollar grant from the Mellon Foundation had been received for cataloging a large collection of historical radio programs.

The tour lasted approximately 2 hours and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Many questions were asked and no one seemed to be in any hurry to leave. It was well worth the time and definitely would be worth doing if you have not had the opportunity.

Nominations and Recognition Committees Seek Input

Nominations Committee seeks individuals who would be interested in serving on the UMKCRA board as an officer or board member. Due to several recent resignations and the normal cycle of seats up for election, we have need for more than the normal number of nominees as we head toward the election on December 5—the new elections date under the constitutional revisions adopted last April.

The Board has four regularly scheduled meetings each year on the first Wednesday of February, May, August and November. Special meetings may be called if needed. The meetings typically run from 9 to 11a.m., are held on campus (usually at the Administrative Center on Oak Street) where parking
is convenient and free with your retiree parking hang tag. The terms of Board members are three years.

The Committee must have its slate of nominees to present to the Board at its November 4, 2009, meeting. Please recommend someone to us or volunteer yourself. We want to broaden the base of leadership in UMKCRA and we need your input to help us do that.

Recognition Committee seeks to recognize UMKC retirees for their outstanding contributions to UMKCRA or to the welfare of all retirees in the UM system or to the UMKC-Kansas City community. The nominee selected by the Board will be honored with a certificate of recognition to be delivered at the April luncheon meeting. The honoree's name will also be placed on the Wall of Recognition in the UMKC Administrative Center.

Please submit your nominee to any committee member and kindly provide information about the contributions the individual has made in retirement. The award is open to all retirees, not just members of UMKCRA. Since the process requires a period of review as well as Board action at its February 3rd meeting, nominations should be received by the committee no later than January 6, 2010.

The Recognitions and the Nominations Committee members are Dick Hetherington, Chair, Phil Feil, Reaner Shannon and Dale Neuman. They may be reached by phone or email at: Hetherington 913-383-1953 (hetheringtonr@umkc.edu); Feil 913-375-9021 (feilp@umkc.edu) Shannon 816-358-8984 (H8shannon@att.net) Neuman 816-942-9091 (Neumand@umkc.edu).

**Communications Committee Report**

By Dick Hetherington

Marilyn Burlingame, the UMKCRA Historian, met with the committee to help us understand the archiving process at UMKC and to determine how to best set up the on-line UMKCRA archives. Assignments were given to various committee members to start the process of identifying the missing data in the current version of our on-line archives.

The committee discussed at length the obstacles presented by the University’s position regarding support for software that would allow UMKCRA to manage it web site. A decision was reached to explore the option of hosting the UMKCRA website off campus as was recommended by Andy Goodenow. Details of this possibility are being gathered and a committee recommendation to the Board will be forthcoming.

Members with website updating duties also met for a training session in July 2009. It will take some time to implement the several updates planned to keep the various categories on the website current.
At the Board Meeting on August 5, 2009, it was agreed that we would move forward on as many of the following goals as possible and that, where possible, we would enlist the help of all UMKC retirees in the process.

1. Support the University goal to increase state support of health sciences education
   - Legislative Day

2. Promote retiree support of UMKC Goals (eg. student success)
   - Home for the Holidays
   - Move in day—Convocation
   - Life Coaching
   - Others as opportunities arise

3. Promote pension increase for UM Retirees when feasible.
   - Goal: To the extent financially feasible maintain retiree's purchasing power.
   - Develop impact document to show value added by retirees.

4. Increase membership in the UMKCRA.
   - Increase number of pre-retirees members.
   - Follow up with Mike Paden to access retiree contact information.
   - Participate in pre-retirement programs at UMKC.
   - Promote diversity of membership.
   - Offer programs and events of interest to retirees.

5. Provide Retirees access to University and Association information
   - Website
   - Newsletters
   - Benefits Meetings
   - Opportunities to volunteer at UMKC
   - E-mail access

6. Increase the number of UMKCRA volunteer hours provided to UMKC and UM.

7. Secure a UMKC retiree position on the UM System Staff Benefits Committee.

8. Collaborate with UMKC constituent groups as appropriate.
UMKCRA Financial Report

As of August 5, 2009, here are the finances of UMKCRA.

ASSETS: Checking Account, Capitol Federal $3,286.70
        C.D. Capitol Federal* $7,239.13
        (Matures 8-15-09; pays 2.9%) UMKC MO-Code Account $(503.41)

TOTAL: $10,022.42

LIABILITIES: Refreshments for Library Tour 7-08-09** $(191.25)

NET ASSETS: $9,831.17

NOTES: * Interest earned on CD in 2009 was $104.04.
** Charges have been paid but transaction has not yet been posted to UMKC MO-Code account. (This account is used for expenses that UMKC has agreed to cover for UMKCRA.)

Memorial Funds held in honor of George Young (from Paul and Karen Haigh); John R. Hodges, Joe. E. Brown and Gerald Olson (all anonymous)

Report on the meeting with Student Affairs
by Dick Hetherington

On June 30, 2009, President Mills and past Presidents Hetherington and Neuman met with Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Cindy Pemberton and Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Enrollment Management Jennifer DeHaemers to discuss UMKCRA’s participation in helping UMKC achieve its goals for student retention.

Under the broad topic “Linkages of Engagement,” we talked about the need for establishing relationships with individual students in a variety of ways including:

- Service learning
- Life Coaching
- Tutoring services
- Summer Bridge programs
- Campus/Community experience

Some other UMKCRA opportunities include the Study Abroad programs, Welcome Weekend (with special convocation), UMKCRA as a resource in local schools, and a new pilot program called “Early Alert” to be launched this Fall. There will probably be other opportunities as well.

Those we met with were enthusiastic about working with UMKCRA to achieve the campus goals in the area of student recruitment and retention. We hope that these would be activities that all retirees might get excited about and want to aid in achieving.
Wine Cheese Reception  
Co-hosted with Women’s Club  

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  

DIASTOLE  
2501 HOLMES  
Kansas City, MO  
(Parking available behind Diastole or on Holmes Street)  

1:15 p.m. Guest Speaker: Dr. Ron Wright  
Topic: “Return to Duty in Iraq”  

Come and enjoy an early afternoon with friends, free food and drink, and hear exciting experiences. Dr. Ron Wright is currently in partnership with two other practicing dentists in Leawood, Kansas. In the 1970s he was a faculty member with the UMKC Dental School. Effective 2001, Dr. Wright retired from the U.S. Army as Full Colonel. However, in 2008, because dentists, physicians, and nurses were in great demand by the military, Dr. Wright volunteered and returned to active duty. He joined the military “Boots on Ground Campaign,” which consisted of a 3-month tour of duty in a war zone. Dr. Wright’s war zone included Iraq.

Please RSVP your attendance to Kim Rudolph at:  
Phone: (816) 235-1563  
Email: rudolphk@umkc.edu  

Deadline is Thursday, October 1, 2009  
This is a free event!!!
YES! I’d like to become a member of the UMKC Retirees Association

☐ Regular or Associate Membership (circle one)  ($10 annually)
☐ Regular or Associate Life Membership (circle one) ($100 one time)
☐ Pre-Retirement Membership  ($10 annually)

(Note: To be eligible as a Pre-retirement member, one must be eligible to retire from UMKC and be over age 55.)

Name ____________________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _________ Zip__________

Phone ____________________ E-Mail ____________________________

Please make check payable to the UMKC Retirees Association and send to:

UMKC Retirees Association
5100 Rockhill Road
AC 300-B
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499