THANK YOU
CHANCELLOR BAILEY!

Former UMKC Chancellor Guy Bailey has now moved on to lead Texas Tech University. Their gain is our loss. While he was at UMKC, Bailey provided support and encouragement to UMKCRA and helped fund its activities, especially those that allowed us to reach out to and represent all UMKC retirees. We wish him well in his new opportunity.

Interim Chancellor Named; UMKCRA Asks for Involvement in Search for New Chancellor

Leo Morton, who served as Chairman of the UMKC Trustees, has been named Interim Chancellor by UM President Gary Forsee, effective August 1, 2008. Morton will continue until a new Chancellor is named. We look forward to meeting the Interim Chancellor and working with him on UMKC and retiree issues.

UMKCRA President Dick Hetherington has written to President Forsee to ask that a representative of UMKCRA be on the committee that searches for the new chancellor. The system–wide group of officers from the four campus Retirees Associations had one seat on the committee that helped identify Forsee and we have asked that the precedent be followed in this situation. Citing the “value added” and continuing commitment to UMKC by retirees through their volunteer and other efforts, Hetherington expressed hope that his request would be honored.

CALENDAR

September
13 Fall Convocation & Awards (volunteer opportunity)

October
18 - 2 p.m. UMKCRA and UMKC Women's Club
"Faculty Spotlight" at Diastole. Prof. Max Skidmore on 2008 Presidential Elections

November
4 - 9 a.m. Board Meeting: Plaza Room at the Administrative Center

December
5 - 11 a.m. Holiday Reception and Luncheon; Pierson Auditorium

February
6 - 9 a.m. Board Meeting: Plaza Room at the Administrative Center
21 - 7 p.m. Possible Basketball Game event---Municipal Auditorium

March
TBA - On campus site program

April
4 - 11 a.m. Spring Reception and Luncheon; Pierson Auditorium

May
6 - 9 a.m. Board Meeting; Plaza Room at the Administrative Center

June
TBA - Possible Off-Campus Program
**MOVE IN DAY**

The August 2008 ‘Move in Day’ for new students and their parents once again found a number of UMKCRA volunteers joining in the activities. This is the second year of our involvement in helping keep everyone energized and refreshed by handing out cold drinks and hotdogs as they cart belongings into the dorms and apartments that will be home away from home for the next academic year. This is but one example of things we do. Even the rain did not dampen our spirits!

**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

*We are presented with another volunteer opportunity as we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasonal “vacations” in the academic calendar. Last year, in cooperation with the UMKC Alumni Association, our members opened their homes to international students who had no place to go during the Holiday breaks. Whether for a meal or a day on or near the holiday date, these opportunities for caring and sharing were rewarding to all who took part. We encourage you to consider volunteering this year when the invitations to join in this activity are mailed to you.*

**WATCH FOR “PERSPECTIVES”**

*If you have not already received your copy of the September 2009 issue of UMKC Perspectives, watch for it in your mailbox. It contains a special edition of the UMKCRA Newsletter with information and photos of interest and use to all UMKC retirees.*

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Sandy Salz has resigned from the Board of Directors. Long-time member and former officer of UMKCRA, Jack Heysinger was approved by the Board at its August 6, 2008, meeting to fill the vacated seat. Sandy had also been chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Benefits. Ted Sheldon has been named to chair the committee and Jack will take a seat on the committee, bringing many years experience to its efforts from previous service (both while employed and then after retirement) on the UM System Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee.

(Editor’s note: If you would like to be considered for service on one of our committees, on the Board, or for an office, please contact President Dick Hetherington or Nomination Chair, Dale Neuman. We are starting to look to our needs for next year and you may be able to assist us.)
**Check the Mailing Label on This Newsletter**

Your mailing label will now contain two additional bits of information that can save you money. First, if there is an “L”, it means that you joined as a Life Member and need not send in annual dues every December. And the three digit number is the membership number that you can give along with your name and address that will identify you as a UMKCRA member in good standing when you order discounted tickets.

**UMKCRA Finances**

The Treasurer’s Report for August 6, 2008 shows, that we are still in good shape. Here are the numbers:

**Assets:**
- UMKC MO-Code Account (-$393.75)
- Capitol Federal Checking $3,723.36
- Capitol Federal CD (10/06/08) $1,231.88
- Capitol Federal CD (10/16/08) $5,915.03

**Total Assets** $10,476.52

**Known Liabilities:**
- (Web Assistant) $200.00

**Net Assets** $10,276.52

**Note 1:** The MO-code deficit is the result of printing costs for the special insert for September edition of “Perspectives” featuring retiree topics that is to be paid for by the Chancellor’s Office. The transfer of about $1400 has yet to take place.

**Note 2:** There are named memorial funds escrowed within the assets. These are in memory of: George Young, by Paul and Karen Haigh; John R. Hodges, by anonymous donor; Joe E. Brown, by anonymous donor; Gerald Olsen, by anonymous donor.

**NEW WEBSITE TO DEBUT SEPTEMBER 1**

After a year’s effort by Dick Hetherington, aided by several able graduate students in Computer Science and others in various UMKC offices, the new UMKCRA website will become operational on September 1, 2008.

At its meeting on August 6, the Board of Directors was given a preview of the website’s appearance and functionality, including a demonstration of how content can be easily added, modified and deleted using tools developed specifically for the UMKCRA website. The UMCRA Board and Standing Committees will monitor those parts of the website that display information in their areas of responsibility to assure accuracy, currency and relevancy of the content. They will recommend changes to the Web Manager who will make the actual changes to the website.

All of the old UMKC Retirees web sites that have been created over the years and never removed will be replaced by the new website.
The new site will allow on-line application for prospective members and on-line sign up for volunteering at events. Members can check out upcoming activities, find other useful links to retiree-relevant sites, find past copies of the newsletter and much more.

We will now be able to get the “news” out when it is news rather than having to wait for the quarterly newsletter by which time it is “history.” We will still have a quarterly printed newsletter for those who do not have internet access. The URL for the new site is: www.umkc.edu/advancement/umkra.

**Board Committees at Work**

All committees were charged at the May Board meeting to begin acting on their duties immediately. As you will see in this issue of the newsletter and in other ways, they have been meeting that charge.

**Benefits Committee Report:**
The newly formed UMKC Retirees Benefits Committee has undertaken an effort to make information about benefits more readily available to retirees. This effort takes two forms.

First, the Committee has finalized descriptions of UM System benefits and revised the listing of UMKC benefits for presentation on the new Retirees website. Included are web links to information on retirement; medical, dental and vision insurance; and life insurance options. Also included is information about discount pricing for theater and UMKC sports events. The new website “Benefits” tab will be active by early September. Take a look! Send your thoughts to whenyouretire@gmail.com.

Second, the Committee is planning an open session on benefit programs and changes in benefit plans for retirees to coincide with the open enrollment period in November and December 2008. It is hoped that the session will feature a representative from the UM System Retirees benefits office discussing changes in benefit plans, and concerns and issues received from retirees in the course of the last year. UMKC campus benefits will also be discussed. Plenty of time will be available for questions in the open forum in the last half of the session. All retirees and soon-to-be retirees are welcome.

Contact the UMKC Retirees Benefits Committee at whenyouretire@gmail.com, 913-345-0393.

**Communications Committee Report:**
The Communications Committee has been busy with the August 31 release of the UMKCRA Website. Major decisions were made about ease of access to the most used content and the need for retaining
important historical data. By introducing drop-down link lists, users can navigate quickly to the information they want.

Two new features have been implemented: prospective new members can now apply for membership on-line. Their names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are collected electronically and filed with a ‘pending’ status until their dues payment is received, at which time their records are filed alphabetically in our master membership list. We will soon be able to accept credit card payment on-line as well, making the whole procedure even more efficient. Volunteering, also, can now be accomplished on-line. This feature requires more intense monitoring and will be developed in collaboration with the Program Committee who are responsible for the actual listings and reports of volunteers for each opportunity.

The Communications Committee members agreed to regularly sign on and visit all the pages of our website to keep it accurate, timely and useful. Please help us by browsing around the website http://www.umkc.edu/umkcra and telling us about anything you see that is inaccurate, out of date or not worthwhile. Report your findings or any questions you might have to hetheringtonr@umkc.edu or call 816-235-5975.

**Membership Committee Report:**

Committee members called several dozen retirees who are not members of UMKCRA to encourage them to attend the Chancellor’s Reception on June 4, 2008, and to offer them transportation to and from the event in Pierson Auditorium. Many of those called who attended said they would not have come without the call.

Some important projects are being planned by the committee for the coming months. Included are 1) publication of an UMKCRA Brochure to be used to introduce our Association and to recruit new members; 2) a campaign to gain access to expanded contact information for non-member UMKC retirees (we are currently denied access to mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses); 3) an effort to have photo ID cards issued to retirees at the time of their retirement together with a ‘catch up’ program to get photo IDs for all current retirees who do not already have one.

Of course, the big effort is aimed at a major increase in the number of UMKCRA members, with a target of 500 members by the end of our 20th Anniversary year in November 2009.

If you’d like to help out in any of these projects, please contact the Membership Committee Chairman, Denny Schemmel at schemmeld@umkc.edu or 913-897-5079.
Program Committee Report:
The responsibilities of the Program Committee are shifting as UMKCRA moves forward. Because it is dependent on events and scheduling, volunteering has been added as a major new Program Committee responsibility, while responsibility for preparing newsletters or mailed announcements for all events is moved to the newly formed Communications Committee. The Program Committee is recommending appropriate changes to our By-Laws to reflect these shifts in its responsibilities.

UMKCRA volunteering activities fall into two broad categories: 1) services to UMKC, the community and beyond; 2) services to UMKCRA. While both categories are very important to our success, the first has been slow to develop until recently and is now generating a lot of attention among our members. To record the number of hours donated by retiree volunteers, the Program Committee recommends that each individual maintains an accurate log of time spent on each volunteer activity and reports the totals on a specific schedule. Details on the collection and reporting of this data will be forthcoming.

The UMKCRA calendar, which appears elsewhere in this newsletter, is an ongoing responsibility of the Program Committee.

The Ad Hoc Constitution and Bylaws Committee:
This committee has recommended to the Board both some editing and some substantive changes that are designed to allow UMKCRA to respond in a more effective way to the needs we now face. Dick Hetherington will be calling a special Board meeting to consider these and other proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws prior to the regular November Board meeting. Recommendations approved by the Board will then be brought to the general membership for approval at a future business meeting of the association. All board approved changes to the Constitution and Bylaws will be sent to the membership with ample time for review before the meeting.

Planned Events

**Faculty Spotlight event in collaboration with the UMKC Women’s Club:** Mary Droll and Pat Spring, representing the UMKC Women’s Club, are working with the UMKCRA Program Committee to offer a "Faculty Spotlight" event featuring Max Skidmore discussing presidential elections. This event will be held at Diastole at 2 p.m., Saturday, October 18. Parking should be easy on Saturday. A reception follows the presentation. For reservations, call 816-235-6060.

**Retirees Night at Municipal Auditorium:** Discussions are under way for retirees to be featured at a Roos basketball game on Feb. 21, 2009. Details will be finalized soon and reported in our November Newsletter.
Plans include food service, meeting players and coaches, tossing out the official game ball, and bussing from campus to avoid driving and parking problems. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for future UMKCRA programs. Call Marj Finley at 816-454-6287 or Nancy Mills at 816-224-9118.

Note from the President

For most retirees, there are few things more important than our pensions and healthcare. When decisions are made that affect these benefits, we want our voices heard. As retirees, we believe we should have a real influence in these matters that directly affect our welfare.

We can maximize our influence on the decision process by demonstrating that we retirees are a proactive constituency that adds significant value to UMKC and the UM System.

The three primary ways to do this are through donations, volunteering, and personal or professional achievements and activities.

DONATIONS: If you saw the article in our insert in Perspective Magazine, you know that since 1989, retirees have given an astonishing $3.3 million to UMKC. Nearly half of UMKC retirees are donors, as compared to nine percent of alumni. We are doing great. Keep up the good work, everyone. The figures continue to amaze!

VOLUNTEERING: This past year over 1,750 volunteer hours were recorded by UMKCRA members, although we suspect all UMKC Retirees donated many more hours that were never counted.

PERSONAL EFFORTS: Personal and professional achievements enhance UMKC’s reputation. We know that UMKC retirees are active and successful in their professional activities and in the community, although only a few of these activities are formally documented.

UMKCRA is identifying ever more areas in which we can donate our time, services and expertise. There’s truly something for everyone. These opportunities will be described on line, with on-line registration. So, if this isn’t the year that you feel you can increase your monetary donation, please give more of your time. And please report all hours you volunteer, don’t let modesty hold you back. The university looks at and values these hours and we want to build our worth in their eyes.

Achievements? Recognition? Please let us know by contacting Marj Finley at 816-454-6287 or 2finley@sbcglobal.net or me at 816-235-5975 or hetheringtonr@umkc.edu.

Richard G. Hetherington