

From the Corner Office

By Bibie Chronwall, Dean, UMKC Emeritus College



UMKC Emeritus College marks its 5th Anniversary.

We have come a long way since 2010, when Provost Gail Hackett appointed a working group to explore the possibility of an Emeritus College at UMKC.

Headed by Nancy Mills, the group worked to blend existing models with one that could fit UMKC's strategic plan and maintain its character as an urban research university. By 2013, the Emeritus College board meetings ambulated between empty classrooms and the Administrative Building. Then, our current home became available. The Board studied floor plans, ordered furniture, and solicited lamps and artworks — all with donated monies or in kind. In February 2014, emeriti faculty were invited to mingle at the Diastole for the announcement of the Emeritus College — the Provost signed our bylaws and we were officially established. To celebrate this auspicious moment, Miller Nichols Library Room 226, our home at UMKC opened its door with great ceremony.

Now, paying members of the Emeritus College include about half of the emeriti in the Kansas City area and quite a few in far-away places. We have grown over the years and feel pride in our educational and entertaining programs, work space for emeriti, support for graduate student writing and research, partnerships with The Consortium on Aging, the UMKC Honors College, SEARCH as well as community engagement through our Speakers' Bureau. Importantly, you are now holding the fifth issue of *The Beacon* in your hands filled with interesting reports and useful information.

Our greatest accomplishment was announced at the 2018 dinner. It started with a surprise: four members sharing happy, early career memories at Pierson Auditorium. They were going to conferences,

making contacts and receiving speaking invitations. Scott Stackhouse, theater faculty, responded to each with his more austere experiences. What was this all about? The skit, conceived and directed by Jennifer Martin, illustrated the need for of our **Early Career Faculty Award**. Donated funds and membership dues have now reached a level that enables us to grant annual awards from the proceeds. Through the diligent work of Jakob Waterborg, Linda Voigts, Denis Medeiros and Jennifer Martin, the Emeritus College Faculty Award, ECFA for short, is listed our website where faculty can submit a concise application.

The news of ECFA has been communicated to deans, department heads, the Faculty Senate, the Academic Council and the research administration. Now, it is for you to keep the campaign "A Hand up for a Step Forward" going because, as the Emeritus College website shows, we have some ways to go before we reach our funding goal. Donate online: ecommerce.umkc.edu/donate/give-ecfa.aspx or make a check payable to: UMKC Foundation with "for the Early Career Faculty Award" on the memo line and mail it to UMKC Foundation, 202 Administrative Center, 5100 Rockhill Road, KC MO 64110-2499.



Members Spotlight

Burton Dunbar



Since achieving professor emeritus status, Burton bristles a bit at the word “retirement.” Instead, he likes the term “time realignment.” He still sees himself as an academic and continues to be active in the graduate program. Recently, under his direction, two M.A. students completed their degrees and two IPh.D.

students are writing their dissertations. Free from faculty duties, he has “realigned” time to expand his art consulting business, work out an extra morning each week, serve as a humanities representative on the St. Luke IRB, deliver lectures for the UMKC Medical Humanities Program and devote another term to the Leawood Arts Council. Burton and his wife, Anna Marie Larkin (also a UMKC retiree), spend three weeks each year abroad and every December in Maui. With his six grandchildren, the rest of the “time alignment” process is quite easy. Burton and Anna live in Leawood tending their ever-expanding Hosta garden.

Deb O’Bannon



Deb grew up in the suburbs of NYC and attended MIT, Manhattan College, and the University of Iowa for degrees in civil engineering. She was tenured at Mizzou, who owned the engineering program in Kansas City, and is proud of her work on the proposal that formally brought the School of Computing and Engineering to

UMKC. After Deb was promoted to professor, she took a sabbatical at Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Israel, and has a close relationship with Ariel University also in Israel, near Tel Aviv. She recently had a chapter published in an Elsevier book and is the volume editor for a Springer publication. Deb runs in a 5K each month and loves to cook. She reads detective novels and keeps a kitchen garden in the spring and summer. She volunteers as the lead for MIT alumni/ae in the area, as a member of Kansas City’s Ethnic Enrichment Commission, and as the chair of the Israel Spirit Committee, which shares Israel in the community.

Stepping on New Land...

I came a little late to experience the beginning that was 20 million years ago, but Iceland is still forming. Plate tectonics action. One foot on the Eurasian, the other on the North American.

Fumaroles and geysers, reveal earth’s hot innards, the plates splitting at the speed of a growing fingernail.

Active volcanoes — but no flowing lava right now. Quakes could happen any time — although sensitive instruments can predict tremblors ahead of time. Eight earthquakes yesterday; measured but not shaking us.

Cones of sleeping volcanoes almost everywhere. Walking the rim, I look down into the center, a perfect amphitheater. Giant hexagonal basalt formations tell how fast the lava cooled. I feel small.

Retreating ice leave moraines just like the textbook illustrations.

Waterfalls, waterfalls, falling waters erode new land. Streams milky with sediment.

At sea, floating-sculpture icebergs. Whales circle our boat.

When aurora borealis erupt you may ask for a wakeup call. I grew up under spectacular displays but was too blasé to see the glimmer.

And no, I do not do hot-pooling. Instead, I walk on scant vegetation, and think of childhood hikes on primordial land in Swedish mountains.



Spring Reading List

Admissions: Life as a Brain Surgeon by Henry Marsh, is an introspective memoir of neurosurgery, life and philosophy. (Jennifer K. Martin)

The Blood of Emmett Till by Timothy B. Tyson, re-examines the horrific event in racial history. Barbara Kingsolver's **Unsheltered**, a parallel history in the 19th and 21st century about Darwin evolution and civic dissolution. (Jakob Waterborg)

The Paradox of Preservation: Wilderness and Working Landscapes at Point Reyes National Seashore by Laura Alice Watt, relays the history and the complications of trying to 'preserve' something that never existed. (Patrick Peebles)

Anything by author Walter Mosley. Also, any of the Donna Leon mysteries. (Marilyn Carbonell and David Weinglass)

Artemis by Andy Weir, is an action-packed thriller about the first and only city on the moon. (Roger Pick)

Introduction to Defender's Play by Edwin B. Kantar, a bridge expert, teaches the defender's skills needed to play winning bridge. It could also double as a motivational book to help the reader see things in a different perspective. (Kenneth Schmitz)

War is a Lie by David Swanson, features the author's thoughts on how war happens and how it is sustained through deception. **Reweaving our Human Fabric: Working Together to Create a Nonviolent Future** by Miki Kashta, provides philosophical grounding for science fiction stories of a future where nonviolence is the norm and describes how our world could be transformed. (Amrita Burdick)

Monthly Programs for 2019

January 24 | The Waldo Story LaDene Morton, author of fiction and nonfiction on developing the neighborhood of Waldo over many decades.

February 11 | Charles Darwin after "Origin of the Species" Dr. William Ashworth, Jr., of UMKC Department of History and Linda Hall Library, discussed Darwin's life after his book that radically changed our view of the living world.

March 11 | "How UMKC Saved UKC: The History of the Merger of the University of Kansas City with the University of Missouri System" Chris Wolff, UMKC Bookstore manager and author will tell us of that historical merger experience; 3-4 pm, MNL 226.

April 8 | Morgan and McKenzie Discover Plate Tectonics, But Still Don't Have Their Nobel Prize Dr. Henry Frankel, professor emeritus in the Department of Philosophy, will discuss how the plate tectonics model built upon the continental drift theory; 3-4 pm, MNL 226.

May 13 | The Holocaust: Historically and Personally Dr. Andrew Bergerson, professor of History & Public, will converse with Irene Starr about her parents' experiences in Germany pre-WWII; 3-4 pm, MNL 226.

September 9 | Behind the Scenes of New Letters on the Air Producer/host Angela Elam will share secrets of the literary radio show that airs locally on KCUR 89.3 FM on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. Learn a bit about the program's 42-year history, and hear some gossip and insights she's gained from the many authors featured over the years; 3-4 pm, MNL 226.

October 10 | Unwinding the Arabesque Primitivism and Exoticism in the work of Gauguin, Van Gogh and Redon and the impact of Japanese Art that gave these artists the visual means to explore the expressive power of ornament and the arabesques. Art History Professor Frances Connelly will share her research focus on the impact of non-Western art traditions; 3-4 pm, MNL 226.

November 11 | An Evening with the Bard Fifth Annual Dinner and Program; Dr. Laurie Ellinghausen, professor of English and associate vice provost of Academic Innovation and Carla Noack, chair of the Department of Theatre, and associate professor of Theatre in Acting with UMKC Master of Fine Arts acting students will present a program with dramatic entertainment; 6:00 pm, Pierson Auditorium.

Beacon Bits

Silver Sneakers Did you make a resolution to get in better physical shape? Don't know where to start? UMKC's retirement program provides us a positive approach to maintaining our health. Silver Sneakers is a health and fitness program available at no cost to seniors who are members of United Healthcare or other Medicare Advantage plans. Programs are located at gyms and other facilities in the Kansas City area and nationwide. Bill and Linda Eddy are members at the Cleaver Family YMCA at 70th and Troost. They say it's a well-equipped facility with classes and other activities such as pickleball. They take yoga and tai chi classes and workout with machines.

Road Scholar Go on the road with the Road Scholar program, a large educational travel institution for older adults. Travel with old or new friends who have similar passions and interests to spark your creativity and intellectual curiosity. There is even a scholarship for retired educators. Visit their website at roadscholar.org.

Companion Creatures Interacting with pets like dogs and/or cats decreases your stress levels that control blood pressure and keep your sleep cycle. They listen, don't talk back and they keep secrets when you confide in them. They are always happy when you return home, no matter when. A dog takes you out to exercise and lets you befriend other pet parents. A cat in your lap is the best laptop ever. Adopt a pet – or several! – from a shelter and you will feel even better.

Welcome New Members

Arts & Sciences

Peter Eaton (Economics)

Karen Vorst (Economics)

Tamera Murdock (Psychology)

Biological Sciences

Ed Gogol

Bloch School

Roger Pick

Computing & Engineering

Deborah O'Bannon

Conservatory of Music and

Dance

Robert Olson and Robert Weirich

Dentistry

Jeffrey Gorski and Marvin Kramer

John Purk, Pamela Overman and

Chris Rice

Education

Etta Hollins and Deb Woodard

Libraries

Chris LeBeau and Nancy Stancel

Medicine

Mary Gerkovich and Chris

Papasian

Alan Salkind and Scott Olitsky

Nursing and Health Studies

Kit Smith and Peggy Ward-Smith

AROHE, UMKCRA and EC Connections Unveiled

AROHE stands for the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education. UMKCRA is our university's Retirees Association and EC is our Emeritus College. As an EC member you are automatically an AROHE member since UMKCRA and EC share an institutional membership. UMKCRA and the EC are different in their organization: EC reports to Academic Affairs and UMKCRA to Advancement and thus their governing structures differ. Their missions also differ: EC focuses on scholarship and creative work whereas UMKCRA serves the needs, interests and welfare of all retired faculty and staff. That includes you. Many emeriti are also UMKCRA members by choice, not only for welfare but also for interesting programs and social events. Our boards collaborate and often have officers in common. To see a diagram on how the organizations are structured, visit umkc.edu/emergitus, click on FAQ and look at number seven. AROHE is evolving as a national organization with local retiree organizations as members. Retirees of higher education institutions may be better organized to deliver similar messages and talking points to address challenges as well as to share information and practices to help each other to face the challenges of this new phase of life. The aim of AROHE is to promote "a culture that values and encourages retirees' continuing contributions to campus and community life." Their website of resources and information assists both campus retiree associations and emeriti groups collectively or individually. Topics include transferring from a life in academia to post-retirement opportunities, mentoring activities for students, hosting speakers and life in the older years in terms of identifying needs as we age.

Steven L. Driever Helps Edit Case Studies of Sorghum, Maize and Rice

“Steven, you know about agriculture in Africa...,” an email from Jakob Waterborg stated. Jakob coordinates the Emeritus College’s Graduate Writing Support program and he was asking Driever to look at a manuscript submitted by Mr. Kim-Ndor Djimadoumngar, an IPh.D. student in geosciences and computer science. The manuscript, co-authored with Dr. Jimmy Adegoke, is titled, “Regression analysis of recent crop production in the Republic of Chad: Case studies of sorghum, maize and rice.” Perhaps a bit Panglossian, Driever replied the same day, “Sure, I can review this student’s manuscript and, hopefully, give him some helpful comments for revision. I have some familiarity with agriculture in Africa and can understand the statistical analysis. I am not, however, very conversant in applied climatology and I won’t get in the way of the student’s relationship with his advisor/co-author.”



The manuscript evaluates precipitation and population as predictors of yields for sorghum, maize and rice in Chad from 1980 through 2011. Djimadoumngar’s findings are important to how food security should be approached for Chad’s food security programs to be successful. They must consider increases in population and how they stimulate agricultural productivity. Djimadoumngar’s findings clearly belie the Malthusian idea that agricultural production creates a ceiling for population growth, and his findings support the Boserup thesis that population pressure triggers strategies to increase food production to meet demand.

The paper is based on Djimadoumngar’s thesis for his 2014 M.S. degree in environmental and urban geosciences. He is a talented and accomplished graduate student who has mastered English as a second language and has earned many awards, including a Fulbright Scholarship (2012-2014) and a Preparing Future Faculty Award (2017-2018). Therefore, Driever’s editorial suggestions were simple and consisted mainly of emphasizing the use of the present tense when possible and using the best sources in support of certain data and techniques. He certainly enjoyed their conversations and was always eager to learn something new. They also discussed to what journal Djimadoumngar might submit the manuscript – and what he might expect in anonymous reviewer comments and how to respond. Thus, reminiscing about Driever’s own experiences of submitting a manuscript for publication.

Audit a Course for Free

Just follow the outlined steps. A bit tedious, but you will get course credit and so will the teacher. Have fun and learn something new for free.

- Enroll at Admission as a community student.
- When you receive your admission acceptance letter, contact the faculty member for permission to audit, ask for a letter or email that specifies course number and rubric and have her/his bona fides at the bottom.
- Go to UMKC Central (former Registration and Records) in the AC, fill out the add/drop for to audit the course and present it to a registrar along with the permission-to-enroll missive.
- Once enrolled, go to HR in the AC and get the form “UM Educational Assistance Program for Retired Employees.” The receptionist may suggest that there is no such form, but it does exist. It may take some time to find it and print it for you.
- Fill out the form (keep a copy for yourself) and either post it to the Columbia address on the form or scan it and email it. You should expect to hear within a few weeks that tuition has been waived.

