



RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

SPRING 2020

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<http://www.umass.edu/retiredfaculty>

President's Note:



I and the Executive Committee (EC) wish all of you much success in preserving your physical, emotional and mental health as you cope with the challenges posed by Covid-19. As your President, I am grateful that our University locked down, even at the cost

of our loss of our April general meeting and our May Spring Banquet.

As with my Fall Newsletter remarks, I am eager to recognize and thank each member of the RFA (EC) for their vigorous contributions to the strength of our organization. This very Newsletter is the splendid work of our Executive Director Mokhtar Atallah. We owe hearty applause to former Provost Jim Staros who creatively serves as liaison between the newly formed Scholarly Activities Committee and the EC. He also facilitated our April EC meeting on Zoom. Eric Einhorn continues his valiant work as Program Organizer, with the enthusiastic help of other EC members. No less vital to our smooth progress are Cynthia Suopis as Secretary and liaison with the MSP, Ernie May as Treasurer and Music Event coordinator, and Chuck DiMare as Chair of the Awards Committee and together with Ernie leads the Nominations/Elections committee. I also salute the hardworking and thoughtful members of the Scholarly Activities Committee under its Chair, Maurille Fournier. Special recognition goes to our Provost John

McCarthy and his Chief of Staff Erica White for their hearty support and collaboration with the EC in the revised RFA Agreement that builds on previous agreements; see below under **News**. Finally, we on the EC appreciate all of you who attend the General Meetings, offer questions and feedback following presentations, and remain steadfast in your commitment to the intellectual life and community of university faculty and professional staff retirees.

Although because of the University lockdown we cannot hand our awards to the recipients in person this May, I happily announce the names of those whom we have honored – our campus alum and former State Senator Stan Rosenberg for his passionate and brilliant advocacy for our campus and Richard (Dick) Stein, distinguished Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, for his unwavering and outstanding service to the Retired Faculty Association. We will publicly award them both virtually via Zoom in September, or, if the campus re-opens this fall, in person at the December Holiday Luncheon.

The EC will continue to hold meetings via Zoom, and, if the campus does not re-open in the Fall, we may hold general RFA meetings with speakers via Zoom. Stay tuned!

NEWS

In February 2020, the Executive Committee and the Provost reached a new "Arrangements for the RFA" to replace the one agreed to in 2009. In addition to what was published in the Fall Newsletter, the

following was established in accordance with the new Arrangement.

- The Provost allocated a budget of \$20,000/year for three years (FY20, FY21, and FY22). This budget will primarily support scholarly activities, such as lectures and travel to conferences. RFA programs, supplies, special functions and travel of RFA representative to the biennial AROHE are also included under this budget.
- The RFA established a "**Scholarly Activities Committee**" that worked at a warp speed to establish the application process and the guidelines for the evaluation and determination of the amount of each grant. Members of the SAC as of March 2020 are:
Jim Staros, Frank Fagundes, Michael Maroney, David Gross, Donna Zucker, Barbara Partee, and Maurille Fournier, Chair
- Announcements about these grants were mailed to all members and the process is up and running.
- Unfortunately **no one** stepped forward yet to be considered for the position **Vice President**. The RFA stands to experience interruptions in the services it provides its members if this position is not filled soon.
- The April meeting and **May Banquet** were **Cancelled** in response to COVID 19.
- Our Annual Spring Banquet was also cancelled.
- COVID-19 prevented the voting to select the 20/21 officers. The current officers will extend their term to the end of fall 2020. Elections will be carried out during the fall.

Events

- At our Holiday Luncheon in December we enjoyed our gathering and were entertained by: UMass Jazz Treble Choir



- Our fall 2020 meetings featured interesting presentations on "Development and Prospects

for On-Line Education at UMass" by Senior Vice Provost John Wells, and on "Free Expression and Student Rights in Higher Education" by retired Attorney Charles DiMare and Professor Paul Collins.

NOTICES:

Make sure to change your UMass email password when asked to by OIT; otherwise you will be deleted from our e-mailing list.

If you need transportation

Retired faculty with mobility issues can use the special transportation services.

<https://www.umass.edu/transportation/specialtransportation>

UMA Transportation Services has a small number of service vans (4) that will provide service on campus and to the immediate surrounding area, downtown to North Amherst. Because of demand, they will not wait for someone who is late. Visit the website to learn about the service and contact Spec. Trans. Department to make arrangements for pickup.

Please send us any information you think would add to future Newsletters and/or would be of interest to the membership, such as grants, publications, awards and honors, presentations at national and international meeting, etc.

Retired Faculty Association Officers:



**President
Joyce
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**Past
President
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**Member
at large
Jim
Staros**



**Executive
Director
Mokhtar
Atallah**

**20/21
Meetings**
09/09
10/14
11/18
02/10
03/10
04/21