



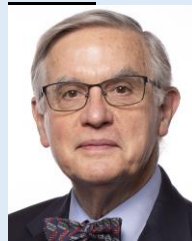
RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

FALL 2023

email: retfac@umass.edu

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

President's Note:



In 2023-2024, we have continued the hybrid RFA meeting format that we had established last year, with our traditional in-person meetings in Campus Center supplemented with a Zoom link for members who are not able to join us in person. One happy outcome of our adoption of this hybrid format is that we have had a few members who have moved out of the area join us for meetings. We anticipate continuing this hybrid format for the foreseeable future. We welcomed two new members to the Executive Committee; Julie Hayes joined us as Vice President and Jim Cathey as Secretary. The full Executive Committee and the membership of our standing committees are listed on the second page of this newsletter. Without the work of its volunteers, the RFA would cease to exist. If you have any interest in contributing to the work of the RFA, please drop me an email (jvs@umass.edu) and I will arrange a Zoom or phone call to discuss your interest, the responsibilities of the position in which you are interested, etc. Any of the other officers would also be happy to answer your questions. And speaking of contributions, the annual Faculty-Staff Campaign is under way. When you are choosing the units to which to direct your contribution, remember that the RFA is part of the Campaign, and contributions to the RFA help to support our work. I hope to see you at our

holiday luncheon on December 15th. Many thanks, Jim

NEWS and EVENTS

- We continued with our hybrid meetings format (Zoom / In-Person) this Fall. Average combined attendance continued at about the same level.
- Since May 2023 we were joined by 18 new retirees.
- Our fall programs included presentations by Wilmore Webley, on *Issues of Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity*; Marty Smith, on *Campus ADA and town compliance*; AnnMarie Thorpe, on *Disability Services*; Arwen Duffy, on *The UMass Amherst Foundation*; and Genny Beemyn, on *Stonewall Center and LGBTQ issues on campus*. **Sincere thanks to all participants.**
- Our treasurer Eric Einhorn reported that the RFA GOF account at the Provost office has \$24,779.20 and that our RFA Gift account has \$8,350.20. Thanks to all donors for their generosity. All gifts are welcome [RFA Gift](#)
- IT has purchased a site license for Foxit, a substitute for Adobe Acrobat. Foxit will be available on request, like the VPN. IT is updating the retiree webpage. (<https://www.umass.edu/it/general/it-guide-retirees>) The SAC will review software requests by retired faculty and has updated the

RFA webpage to include a one-page simple application process for specialized software.

- New retirees were invited to a lunch meeting to introduce them to the organization, its activities and the executive board but resorted to having a zoom meeting due to receiving few reservations.
- **Holiday Luncheon** is Dec. 15th, 2023, 12:00-2:00, Amherst Room, the RFA is subsidizing costs. **Watch for the Announcement.**
- At our Annual Banquet in May 3rd, 2023, we enjoyed entertainment by **Justin Leach**, music masters student and winner of International Trombone Composition accompanied by Nikki Stoia on piano.



- Grants are available for both scholarly activities and for purchase of special software. *Applications for Scholarly Activities Grants these funds are welcome.*

(<http://www.umass.edu/retiredfaculty/grantfunds.html>)

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 2023-2024 :

- **Jim Staros** continues as RFA President for 2023-2024
- **Julie Hayes** was elected Vice President for 2023-2024.

- **Mokhtar Atallah** continues as Executive Director.
- **David Gross** is a member-at-large of the Executive Committee and serves as liaison to the Scholarly Activities Committee. The other Members at large are **Robert Hallock, Patricia Galvis-Assmus, and Nikki Stoia, our RFA impresario.**
- **James Cathey** volunteered for the position of Secretary for 2023-24 and was elected for the position at the April meeting.
- **Eric Einhorn** continues as Treasurer, working in collaboration with the Provost Office's financial staff.
- **Joyce Berkman** continues as Chair of the Program Committee with Ellen Pader (Landscape Architecture), Jim Kelly (Library), Eliot Moss (Computer Science) and Nikki Stoia (Music & Dance) as members.
- **Chuck DiMare** continues as Chair of the Awards Committee with Mokhtar Atallah as member.
- **Barbara Partee** is the Chair of the Scholarly Activities Committee (SAC) and Dave Gross is the liaison with the Executive Committee. Other members are Michael Maroney, David Gross, Donna Zucker, Jarice Hanson, and Julian Tyson.

Show your willingness to move the RFA forward by volunteering to become an officer.

Please send us your scholarly accomplishments and/or your services to UMass to include in our Newsletter.

HAVE GREAT HOLYDAYS

