

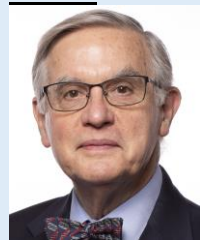
# RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

SPRING 2023

*email: [retfac@umass.edu](mailto:retfac@umass.edu)*

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

## President's Note:



The 2022-2023 academic year was one of transition. After two and one-half years of virtual meetings, we transitioned to a hybrid format for the October 2022 meeting, with those who could meet in person meeting in the pre-pandemic mode in the Campus Center, but with a Zoom link for those who could not. The hybrid model was so successful that we continued it for the remainder of the academic year. We welcomed two new at-large members of the Executive Committee in the spring, Bob Hallock (Physics) and Patricia Galvis-Assmus (Art). For 2023-2024, the membership elected Julie Hayes (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) Vice-President and Jim Cathey (Languages, Literatures & Cultures) Secretary. Without candidates to succeed them, Jim Staros (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) was reelected President and Eric Einhorn (Political Science) Treasurer for 2023-2024. Without the work of its volunteer leaders, 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](mailto: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. I hope to see you at the annual RFA dinner on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many thanks, Jim

## News & Events

- We continued with our hybrid meetings format (Zoom/In-Person) for the remaining meetings of the year. Average combined attendance continued at the same level.
- Since September 2022 we were joined by 26 new retirees.
- Through the Spring, our program included presentations by Sonya Atalay & Kathleen Brown-Perez, on *Indigenous Studies at UMass*; Eric Poehler & Emiliano Ricciardi on *Digital Humanities*; Karen Howard & Terry Carroll on *Computer Software for Retired Faculty*; & Dean Mari Castañeda, on *Commonwealth Honors College*; she also joined Monte Belmonte, in a presentation on *Radio: Present & Past*.

*Sincere thanks to all participants.*

- **Annual Dinner**, is May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, 6-9pm Amherst Room. **Watch for the Announcement.**
- Joyce Berkman's new book "Edith Stein's Life in a Jewish Family, 1891-1916", Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, is expected to come out this April.
- Our treasurer Eric Einhorn reported that the RFA GOF account, at the Provost office has \$12,221.86 and that our RFA Gift account has \$7,377.75. Thanks to all donors for their generosity.
- All gifts are welcome [RFA Gift](#)
- Since September 2022 we were joined by 26 new retirees.

- At our Holiday Luncheon on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we enjoyed entertainment by **Sara Holms**, first year Vocal Performance master's student studying with Dr. Jamie-Rose Guarrine, an Amherst local, recently returned from studying in Los Angeles, accompanied by Nikki Stoia on piano.



- Also, at the luncheon, President James Staros presented Joyce Berkman the RFA Distinguished Service Award for her services to RFA in multiple offices on the RFA Executive Committee.



- To date, the Executive Committee has approved recommendations of the Scholarly Activities Committee for grants totaling \$17,817:

Linda Shea	\$1,500
Michael Maroney	\$1,500
Rex Wallace	\$ 600
Frank Fagundes	\$2,500
Donna Zucker	\$1,500
Jarice Hanson	\$2,500
Chris Condit	\$1,500
Jose Ornelas	\$1,087
Carolyn Moriconi- Anderson	\$2,500
Bret Jackson	\$1,030
Joyce Berkman	\$ 600

Applications for these funds are welcome. Go to <http://www.umass.edu/retiredfaculty/grantfunds.html>)

- The RFA has learned that the Amherst Council on Aging seeks new members. COA members are appointed by the Amherst Town Manager and must live in Amherst. The RFA brings this to the attention of its members in case any members might be interested in the COA or the possibility of a COA membership. Expressions of interest should be addressed to Hayley Bolton, Director of Senior Services at the Amherst Senior Center ([boltonh@amherstmas.gov](mailto:boltonh@amherstmas.gov)).

### **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF NEW OFFICERS:**

- **Jim Staros** will continue as RFA President for 2023-2024.
- **Mokhtar Atallah** will continue as Executive Director.
- **David Gross** joined the Executive Committee as member-at-large and as liaison to the Scholarly Activities Committee. The other Members at large are **Robert Hallock** and **Nikki Stoia**.
- Position of Vice President is currently "**Vacant**". **Julie Hayes** was elected as Vice President for the 2023-24 year.
- **James Cathey** has volunteered for the position of Secretary for 2023-24 and voted in at the April meeting.
- Eric Einhorn will continue as Treasurer, working in collaboration with the University's financial office.
- Joyce Berkman will continue 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.
- The Scholarly Activities Committee (SAC) Chair is Barbara Partee and Dave Gross is the liaison with the Executive Committee. Other members are Michael Maroney, David Gross, Donna Zucker, Jarice Hanson, and Julian Tyson. Please send us your scholarly accomplishments and/or your services to UMass to include in our efforts to show how active our members are.

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

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER**