Meet Your UMAR Executive Board

*These are the members who are charged with making the University of Memphis Association of Retirees a meaningful part of the University community, and a fun organization to participate in.*

Carol Crown Ranta
UMAR President
Retired Professor Emeritus from the Art Department.

John Wasileski
Immediate Past President
Retired from Information Technology

Michael Osborn
President Elect
Program Committee Chair
Retired Professor emeritus from the Department of Communication

Larry Pivnick
Treasurer
Retired Professor emeritus from the School of Law

Sheryl Maxwell
Secretary
External Agency Liaison
Retired Associate Professor from the Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Department of the School of Education

Linda Bennett
Faculty Senate Representative
Retired Professor emeritus from Department of Anthropology

Chip Ordman
Faculty Senate Representative

Lisa Abitz
Staff Senate Representative
Retired from the Art Museum

Nancy Hurley
Staff Senate Representative
Caring Committee Chair

Ann Harbor
Nominating Committee Chair
Retired from the office of the Provost

Bob Boone
Scholarship Committee Chair
Retired from Student Financial Aid

Roger Iles
Communications Committee Chair
Retired Instructor from the College of Business and Economics
(Earlier: M.B.A., 1997)

David Acey
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair
Retired Professor emeritus from Department of Communication

Pat Faudree
Membership Committee chair
Formerly taught in the Department of English
(widow of former Provost Ralph Faudree)
UMAR Clubs and Groups

All UMAR Members and guests are welcome. Contact the club’s chair for additional information.

**Early Bird Supper Club:** Contact Ann Harbor, Chair (annflukerharbor@aol.com). This group meets the second Monday of every month, at 5:00 PM. Contact Ann for location.

**Breakfast Bunch.** Contact Bill Crump (901-853-0958) or Sheryl Maxwell (smaxwell@memphis.edu). Join the UMAR Breakfast Bunch, which gathers at Perkins located at White Station and Park Avenue at 9:00 am the FIRST Tuesday of each month. The 15 to 18 UMAR members, spouses, and occasional guests order their individual breakfasts, chat about recent happenings, laugh lots, and basically just enjoy each other’s company. We invite you to show up at this Perkins at the designated hour to start your morning and month socially with friends. Call Bill or Sheryl for more information.

**Lunch Bunch:** Tom Caplinger (trcap24@aol.com) and Frank Dyer (fdyer 1941@yahoo.com). The club meets on the third Tuesday of the month and members are notified as to location with RSVP requested by Sunday prior to the meeting.

**Book Club:** Sheryl Maxwell (smaxwell@memphis.edu), Chair. Would you like to be challenged to increase or resume reading differing books about a variety of topics? Join the UMAR Book club! The books we read have been recommended by the members, voted on, and then discussed. The 12 to 15 members meet every other month, so there is plenty of time to read the selected book. Thoughts and opinions about each book are welcomed in the lively discussion amid the bites of a delicious lunch. We always meet the 4th Tuesday of the selected months (January, March, May, July, September, & November) at the Grove Grill at 11:30 am. The book for the meeting of March 26th was *The Door* by Magda Szabo. Contact Sheryl for the title of the book for May 28th.

**International Club:** Susanne Darnell (sbdarnell@me.com) and Linda Bennett (lbennett@memphis.edu), co-chairs. This group alternates months with the Book Club. They meet on the third Wednesday of the months of February, April, June, August, and October, at 3:00 PM at the Alumni Center. David Ciscel facilitated the February 20th meeting on the topic of “Globalization: Why We Hate It and Can’t Do Without It.” The next meeting will be on April 17th; contact Suzanne or Linda for the topic (selected at the February meeting).

**UMAR COMING EVENTS**

**Spring, 2019**

April 5: **Lenten presentation by Rabbi Micah Greenstein**, followed by lunch @ Calvary Episcopal Church.

April 17-21: **UMAR Meets Africa in April**: Special programs for UMAR in connection with this year's honoree, Nigeria. Planning in cooperation with our own David and Yvonne Acey, founders of Africa in April.

April 30: **Tour of Dinstuhl's Candy Factory.** Everything from the history of candy to how fine candies are made. Complimentary goodies at end of tour. Tour starts at 10:15 am, limit 25 persons. RSVP required.

May 16th: **Docent tour of Dixon Galleries** followed by annual UMAR picnic on the grounds. Dixon will host a tour of special exhibits (admission for educators is free). Welcome new retirees to UMAR.

**What Have UofM Retirees been doing since retirement?**

**Lawrence Pivnick**, Emeritus Professor of Law and UMAR member, has released the 2019 edition of his two-volume treatise *Tennessee Circuit Court Practice*, published by Thomson-Reuters (West Publishing Company). The treatise was first published by the Harrison Company in 1981, and has been revised periodically over the past 37 years to keep up with procedural statutory, rules, and case law changes in Tennessee, governing pre compliant, post compliant, and appellate issues in civil cases initiated in or appealed to Tennessee’s Circuit Courts, the state’s court of general jurisdiction.
**Michael Osborn**, retired from the Department of Communication and UMAR member, recently published a book, *Michael Osborn on Metaphor and Style*, in the Rhetoric and Public Affairs Series sponsored by Michigan State University Press. The book updates and contextualizes four essays written by Dr. Osborn during his career at the University and offers four new essays. The book examines how metaphors of light and darkness, water and the sea, disease and cure, birth, death, and rebirth, and symbolic space can serve the purposes of communication, especially the spoken word. Across time and culture, artful and eloquent uses of such metaphors can build and sustain, or diminish and destroy, the fate of nations. Speakers such as Demosthenes, Edmund Burke, Churchill, FDR, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama receive special attention in the book.

Initial reviews are encouraging. One reviewer describes the book as "a rich intellectual feast," while another comments, "What a gift!" A third describes the book as "a wonderful read." In recent months Osborn has spoken and attended book signings at the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville and at the National Communication Association convention in Salt Lake City. He has also responded to a program of papers based on his book at the Southern Communication Association convention in Montgomery.

**Roger Iles**, retired instructor in the College of Business and Economics and UMAR member, has continued his participation in drag racing. He finished the 2018 season in fifth place in points in the DOT class at Memphis International Raceway, his best performance since 2008. He finished in ninth place in the 2017 season, and in sixth place in 2015. He drives an extensively modified 2001 Ford Explorer Sport, one of very few SUV’s seen at a drag strip and the only Explorer he has ever seen racing.

**Nancy Mardis**, Associate Professor Emeritus of Legal Business Studies and Finance, is now an artist known as The Wedding Sketcher. She does watercolor, pen & ink sketchbooks of weddings and other events, either live or from photographs. She also does commissions working in watercolor, mixed media and 3-D watercolor of landscapes, city scenes and dog and home portraits. She’s a member of the Memphis Urban Sketchers.

UMAR member **Jane Hooker** was featured in the Fall 2018 issue of UofM Magazine, highlighting her passion for Memphis athletics. Here is a link for the issue (this article is on Pages 61 – 63): https://issuu.com/univofmemphis/docs/um_fall_18_mag?e=3497880/65014247

**Gilbert Ferrell Michael Sr.**, age 84, of Memphis, Tennessee passed away on Tuesday August 21, 2018. Gilbert was born August 30, 1933. An instructor and administrator at the University of Memphis for more than 30 years, Mr. Michael, 84, died Tuesday at his Atoka home and studio after suffering a massive stroke, according to his longtime business partner at Gil Michael Photography, Pauline Cuevas. Born in Booneville,
Mississippi, but raised in Memphis, where he essentially lived the rest of his life, Gilbert Ferrell Michael pursued the twin interests of photography and music for most of his life. Introduced to the fiddle by an uncle as a boy, Mr. Michael played in bands for fun and side money while studying journalism at the University of Memphis (then known as Memphis State University) and working as a photographer for The Commercial Appeal. Eventually, Mr. Michael was put in charge of the university's Journalism Department photo lab. In 1963, he was tapped to run the school's new Photo Services center, which shot and collected photographs of university events. He held that job until his retirement from the U of M in 1996. It was in his capacity as a respected and trusted university employee that Mr. Michael was recruited to be the only photographer allowed in the Shelby County jail on July 19, 1968, when James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was escorted into his cell by deputies after being apprehended in London and extradited to Memphis.

Mr. Michael never lost his passion for music, notably playing for a time in the late 1950s with Memphis rockabilly artist Eddie Bond. In the 1970s, he found an unexpected commercial outlet for his talent when he learned that his friend and fellow Memphis State professor, Bob Tucker, was the leader of the Bill Black Combo (sometimes known as Bill Black's Combo), a successful instrumental group founded by Elvis Presley's original bassist, Bill Black. Mr. Michael's music made people dance and his James Earl Ray photos made history, he probably made his biggest impact on society as a mentor and teacher at the university, where his students included (among others) Richard L. Copley, who shot the most iconic "I Am a Man" photographs during the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike. In recognition of this impact, in 2012, Mr. Michael was presented with the Herbert Lee Williams Award by the University of Memphis Journalism Alumni group. In addition to his university work, Mr. Michael's Gil Michael Photography business was frequently hired as official photographer for the Memphis PGA Tour golf event, now known as the FedEx St. Jude Classic.

Dr. Jerry B. Michel, born August 15, 1933 in Harlingen, Texas, died December 23, 2018 in Memphis, Tennessee. Raised in Marble Falls, Texas by his parents, Gus and Lillian Michel, with one older brother, Doug, and one younger sister, Nancy. He graduated from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Theological Seminary, Texas Christian University and the University of Texas. He served in the United States Army as an officer and as a Ranger in Germany for 2 years, followed by service in the Army reserves. He retired from the University of Memphis 2003 after 33 years as Sociology Professor and former Chairman of the department. He was a member and deacon of Second Baptist Church in Memphis since 1970.

Dr. John Tienson, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, died in December of 2018. Professor Tienson was known for his work in the philosophy of mind, cognitive science, metaphysics, philosophy of language, and the British empiricists. He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the university of Illinois, and taught at Memphis beginning of 1986.

Poetry Corner
UMAR members please share poems that you find amusing or uplifting for inclusion in our Newsletter. Please include the author’s name, and publisher if from a collection. Submit to riles@memphisretirees.org.

Here are some tips that will bring you a beautiful day!

Enjoy the Ride
Submitted by Sheryl Maxwell

Take a 10-30 minute walk every day and while you walk, smile.

Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.

When you awake up in the morning complete the following statement, “My purpose today is to . . . today.”


Spend more time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.

Dream more while you are awake.

Try to make at least three people smile each day.
Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of life that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.

Smile and laugh more. It will keep the energy vampires away.

Life isn’t fair, but it is still good!

Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.

Don’t take yourself too seriously. No one else does.

You don’t have to win every argument.

Agree to disagreements.

Make peace with the past, so it won’t mess up the present.

Don’t compare your life with others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

Burn the candles. Use the nice sheets.

Don’t save it for a special occasion. Today is special.

No one is in charge of your happiness except you.

Forgive everyone for everything.

What other people think of you is none of your business.

However good or bad a situation is, it will change.

Time heals almost everything. Give time, ... time

Your job won’t take care of you when you are sick.

Your friends will stay in touch.

Get rid of anything that isn’t useful, beautiful, or joyful.

The best is yet to come.

No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.

Do the right thing!

Call your family often.

Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements: “I am thankful for ...” “Today I accomplished ...”

Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.

Enjoy the ride. Remember this is not Disney World and you certainly don’t want a fast pass. Make the most of it and enjoy the ride.

Never argue with a fool; onlookers may not be able to tell the difference.

Mark Twain