



Boston University Society of Retired Faculty & Staff

Summer 2023 Newsletter

[Retiree Perks](#)[Evergreen Fall '23](#)[BUSRFS Board](#)[Contact Us](#)

Welcome

Congratulations and welcome to the 166 new retirees who were honored at the June 2023 University Retirement Dinner. Moreover, we should mention the 481 retirees who were honored at the June 2022 University Retirement Dinner. This large multi-year group included everyone who retired since November 2019.

Every BU retiree is a member of the **Boston University Society of Retired Faculty and Staff (BUSRFS)**, which fosters the continued relationship of retirees with the University and supports your interests and needs.

Our website is maintained by Human Resources at bu.edu/hr/retirees. The BUSRFS Board of Directors meets monthly during the academic year to plan events of interest and discuss matters of concern to BUSRFS members. If you are interested in getting involved, have a question or an idea, please email the Board at retired@bu.edu.



BUSRFS Grants

For many years, the University has provided funds for the BU Society of Retired Faculty and Staff to [distribute grants to retirees](#). The BUSRFS Grants Committee selects proposals for Retiree Project Grants of up to \$500. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to retired faculty and staff for defined projects that enhance their educational, creative, and/or productive activities.

To whet your appetite, check out the 14 grants totaling \$7,000 distributed since 2020:

Rebecca Alssid *equipment for documenting history of BU program*

Deborah Belle *pay for former MA student to add to database*

Nicole Prudent *office expenses for nonprofit Haitian Health Initiative*

Alan Meyers *registration costs for nonprofit Haitian Health Initiative*

Stjepko Golubic *research collaboration on pores in undersea rocks*

Samuel Hammer *roman style gateway*

Jennifer Salman *memorial bench in new city park*

Cassandra Smith *honorarium for high school student collaborator*

Samuel Stern *research costs for account of a pair of murders in Germany*

Sidney Tamm *microscope time on Ctenophores with transient anus*

Leah Zipf-Schatzberg *translation costs for 1942 Jewish family letters from Ukraine*

Bernie Phillips *recording of lecture series on his personal philosophy*

Mark Kroll *research on two most important musicians of color in 18th and 19th C.*

Michael Creech *VHF transceiver for ham radio hobby and public service in emergency*

For 2024, information about how to apply will be sent in February.



Upcoming BUSRFS Baseball Game

Red Sox vs. Baltimore: September 9



This summer we are again providing reduced price (\$15) Red Sox tickets for BUSRFS outings to Fenway Park. Blocks of tickets have been obtained for the Baltimore game on Saturday, September 9th at 4:10pm.

Limited tickets remain.

Get Your Tickets

Let's Have Fun Committee Recap

Horticultural Garden at Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA

The BUSRFS created the Let's Have Fun Committee (LHF) in the winter of 2022 for two reasons: to build community among retirees and, as the name suggests, to have fun together. With these simple goals in mind, we planned our first outing – a visit to the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum in June 2022. While our Committee is a newbie at BU, we are happy to have taken the plunge with you!

BU, as most of you probably know, originated as a small seminary in rural Vermont, founded by abolitionist Methodist leaders from Boston in 1839. After moving to Boston in 1867 and incorporating as BU in 1869, we have developed into a world-class institution. A trip this year, on June 6, took us to the even older Massachusetts Horticultural Society, established in 1829, as America's first horticultural organization whose founding motto was 'Commune Bonum'—for the public good, a mission carried on today at the beautiful Massachusetts Horticultural Garden at Elm Bank!

The LHF-organized tour of the Massachusetts Horticultural Garden at Elm Bank in Wellesley was attended by 21 retirees and their guests. The group enjoyed a tour of the gardens led by a professional Elm Bank staff member. She guided us through the many gardens explaining their history, pointing out the plantings, answering our many questions, and, sharing fun facts. For example, the Goddess Garden, pictured below, is home to the three Roman goddess statues that once adorned the facade of the second Horticulture Hall on Tremont Street in Boston, built in 1864.



Image courtesy of Massachusetts Horticultural Society

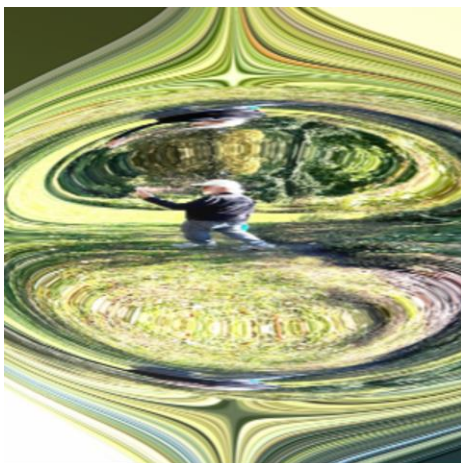
Left to right, we see Flora, the goddess of flowers, Ceres (at 13 feet tall), the goddess of agriculture, and, Pomona, the goddess of fruit. Our guide explained that the faces of the statues had worn down over the years and needed to be restored when they were going to be reset at Elm Bank. The artist remade the faces in the image of the donors who made the restoration possible! This was one of the many interesting tidbits our guide shared as we toured the gardens!

The Italianate Garden, designed by Boston's own Olmsted Brothers landscape architectural firm, graces the area in front of the Manor House, which was built in 1907. The centerpiece of the garden is a 14th century Spanish baptismal font.



At Elm Bank we drifted from the historical to the ultramodern. “Seeing the Invisible” is an augmented reality show being hosted by 12 select botanical gardens in seven countries. Via the “Seeing the Invisible” app, as you aimed your phone at a target you would see what is not in reality there along with the reality that does exist — as if looking into another dimension!

The Ribbit Exhibit, with its many copper frog sculptures, was also showing, causing smiles and chuckles in unexpected places as we toured the grounds. While the frogs “worked,” the group enjoyed more camaraderie and a picnic lunch together at the Jim Crockett Memorial Garden before concluding our visit.

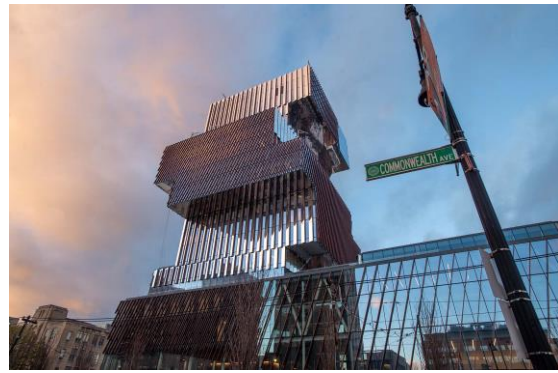


Tour of BU's Center for Computing and Data Sciences

On June 15th the BUSRFS had a tour, organized by LHF, of the newest BU building, the Center for Computing and Data Sciences. The block of Commonwealth Ave. and Granby Street has a history of being home to unusual architecture. This corner was home to a fan shaped building, the Peter Pan restaurant, which occupied that space into the early 70s. It was replaced by a Burger King, parking lots, and a Middle Eastern food trolley.



The Peter Pan restaurant, now replaced by the Center for Computing & Data Sciences. Photo from the 1968 Hub yearbook; smaller photo by BU Photo Services.



A view of the Center for Computing & Data Sciences along Commonwealth Avenue. Photo by Cydney Scott, BU Photo Services.

Tour guides Dennis Carlberg (AVP for University Sustainability) and Walt Meissner (AVP Operations) introduced us to this amazing edifice. We learned how the building concepts evolved both to meet the needs of the new occupants and to fulfil the University's commitment to a carbon-free future. Some of the key features of this building include 31 deep-drill wells to tap into geothermal layers, heating and cooling system based on efficient heat pumps, and electrical power offset by credits in windfarms in South Dakota. The tour was limited to 20 people, and all were impressed with the complex efforts to make this carbon-neutral and architecturally intriguing building an important reality.



This year LHF went from flowers to frogs to augmented reality to geothermal energy. Who knows what fun activities LHF will plan for next academic year? Watch your inbox for information and invitations and join us! Let's have fun!

More BUSRFS Moments Together

Retiree Fenway Outing: Red Sox vs. Rays, June 4

With generous support from the University, the BUSRFS has been able to offer retirees deeply discounted tickets for two Red Sox games again this year. The first of these traditional Fenway outings occurred on Sunday afternoon June 4th, with the Red Sox taking on their divisional rival (and American League-leading) Tampa Bay Rays. Retirees purchased a total of 37 tickets for themselves and their guests.

While the weather on game day was dreary (with gusting winds and intermittent rain throughout the day), the BU group was comfortably sheltered in Left Field Grandstand Section 32, a family-centered section (no alcohol allowed) right next to

the iconic Green Monster. They turned out to be perfect seats. Attendees were protected from the wind and rain, had a great view of both the infield and outfield action, and were spared the inconvenience of other fans walking back and forth in front of them getting beer. Before the game, many had the chance to go up the nearby staircase to enjoy the view from the Green Monster seats more than 37 feet above the playing field (a particularly exhilarating view on a windy day).

The game itself was a little disappointing. It's fair to say that the Red Sox have played better than they did that day. While they had nearly as many hits as the Rays, runs were hard to manufacture and the Sox defense had some consequential defensive lapses in the top of the sixth inning that helped secure a Tampa 6-2 win. Uncharacteristically sloppy fielding and two Sox throwing errors turned what should have been a harmless Tampa single into an RBI first and then a home run (two runs total) to put the game out of reach.

All that said, the weather and disappointing play did not dampen the spirits of fans in Section 32. From a robust rendition of the national anthem before the game to a lusty version of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the seventh inning stretch (just after the sixth inning debacle described above, by the way), followed by a heartfelt "Sweet Caroline" (probably in the eighth) and frequent outbursts of spontaneous dancing to more contemporary music by younger members in this family-centered area, the fans in Section 32 did their best to cheer the home team on to victory for the entire game. The multi-generational fans in the BU group joined in as well.

During the game, BU retirees may have reconnected with former colleagues and introduced themselves to children, grandchildren, and friends of other retirees sitting near them. Those who stayed until the very end may have exited by the open staircase looking out on the vendors on Lansdowne Street and leading to the bridge crossing the Mass Turnpike to Kenmore Square. No doubt, since the game was on a Sunday and they are members of the BU Community, many went on to Bay State Road where they had parked their cars for free and where they were greeted by the imposing presence of the new Center for Computing and Data Sciences, the latest addition to the BU skyline. All-in-all, a very good day.

[The second 2023 Fenway Outing for BU retirees will take place on Saturday, September 9th, Red Sox vs. Baltimore Orioles. We look forward to seeing you there.](#)

2023 Annual Luncheon & Business Meeting, May 24



Our largest event of the year was our 2023 Annual Luncheon, which featured socializing, great food, a short Business Meeting, and an interesting program by Brian McGrory, new Chair of the BU Journalism Department.



As usual the Annual Luncheon was held in the Trustees Ballroom on the ninth floor atop the Questrom School of Business. As retirees and their guests arrived and socialized with each other, hors d'oeuvres and drinks were available in the foyer of the ballroom. When the doors opened, retirees and their guests chose with whom they wished to sit. After a welcome by BUSRFS President Bill Skocpol and an invocation by Rev. Robert A. Hill, dean of Marsh Chapel, the luncheon began, and servers soon began to bring the entrée plates.

When most persons were finished, a very short Business Meeting was held for re-election of five Board members who had reached the end of their three-year term, as well as confirmation of the interim appointment. The Business Meeting was adjourned, dessert was served, and the Program was started.



The Board of Directors is shown here. Left to right: David Berndt, Sonia Parker (leaving Board), Kevin Carleton, Claretta Tonetti, [Brian McGrory, speaker], Sandra Dilesio, Bill Skocpol (President), Paul Clancy, Marlene Oscar Berman, Gerald Clarke, Christine Rosell (Vice President), Julia Lidano, and Kalman Zabarsky. Jo-Anne Richard (Secretary, absent)

Board Member Kevin Carleton introduced and interviewed Brian McGrory, former Editor of the Boston Globe and now Chair of the Boston University Department of Journalism. Brian recounted his path into journalism and some interesting experiences at the Globe. Audience members also asked questions and learned more about his views on current and future journalism, and how his Department can evolve to continue to best serve its students.



Men's Hockey Game vs. Cornell, Jan. 14

The annual free hockey game for Boston University retirees took place once again this past winter. On Saturday, January 14th, 65 BU retirees attended the Cornell vs. BU Men's Hockey game at Agganis Arena. Cornell has been a historic rival of the Terriers with many exciting games through the years, and this year's meeting did not disappoint.

It was a tight contest with sustained back-and-forth action the entire game before the Terriers finally prevailed 4-3. The winning BU goal was scored by freshman Lane Hutson with 3.8 seconds left in the game— right in front of the BU retiree section!



By Matt Woolverton, featured on [Boston University Athletics](#)

Attendees got to see a Terriers team that continued on to a very successful season, including winning the Hockey East regular season and tournament championships and advancing to the Frozen Four in April after beating Cornell (2-1) in another tight game in the Eastern Regionals. Coach Jay Pandolfo was named the New England Coach of the Year, and freshman Lane Hutson received several honors, capped off by being selected as New England Division 1 Most Valuable Player. Quite a freshman year!

We remain pleased to present this annual free hockey game for Boston University retirees thanks to a special partnership with Boston University Athletics, who has graciously agreed to continue this opportunity going forward into the future.

We hope you can make next year's game!



BUSRFS Communications

The BUSRFS newsletters and event announcements are among a wide variety of distributions shared with you, with the help of BU Development & Alumni Relations marketing team. As many retirees are also alums of Boston University, the BUSRFS Board of Directors works with that office to share select emails, like "Bostonia Extra" bi-weekly stories from the university, and the "Alumni Digest" from the BU Alumni Association featuring events, on-demand webinars, and stories that may be of interest to you, plus special invitations like BU Day at Tanglewood.

At the University Retirement Dinner, BUSRFS President Bill Skocpol explained that as Retirees, we are all "protected" by the CAN-SPAM Act, which requires any unsolicited email to contain an unsubscribe option. BU obeys the law, and fully unsubscribing once from BU may cut you off from everything sent by BU. If certain content does not interest you, feel free to delete it or just unsubscribe from that specific option, but do not "Unsubscribe" or "Mark as Spam". Doing either of those would also prevent you from receiving email invitations from BUSRFS.

Any BU retiree who believes that they are not receiving electronic communications from BUSRFS, or would like help updating their communication preferences, should send their name and request to the BU Alumni & Friends Help Desk at alumni@bu.edu or call 617-353-9511 during business hours. Development & Alumni Relations works in concert with BU Human Relations and is here to help.