

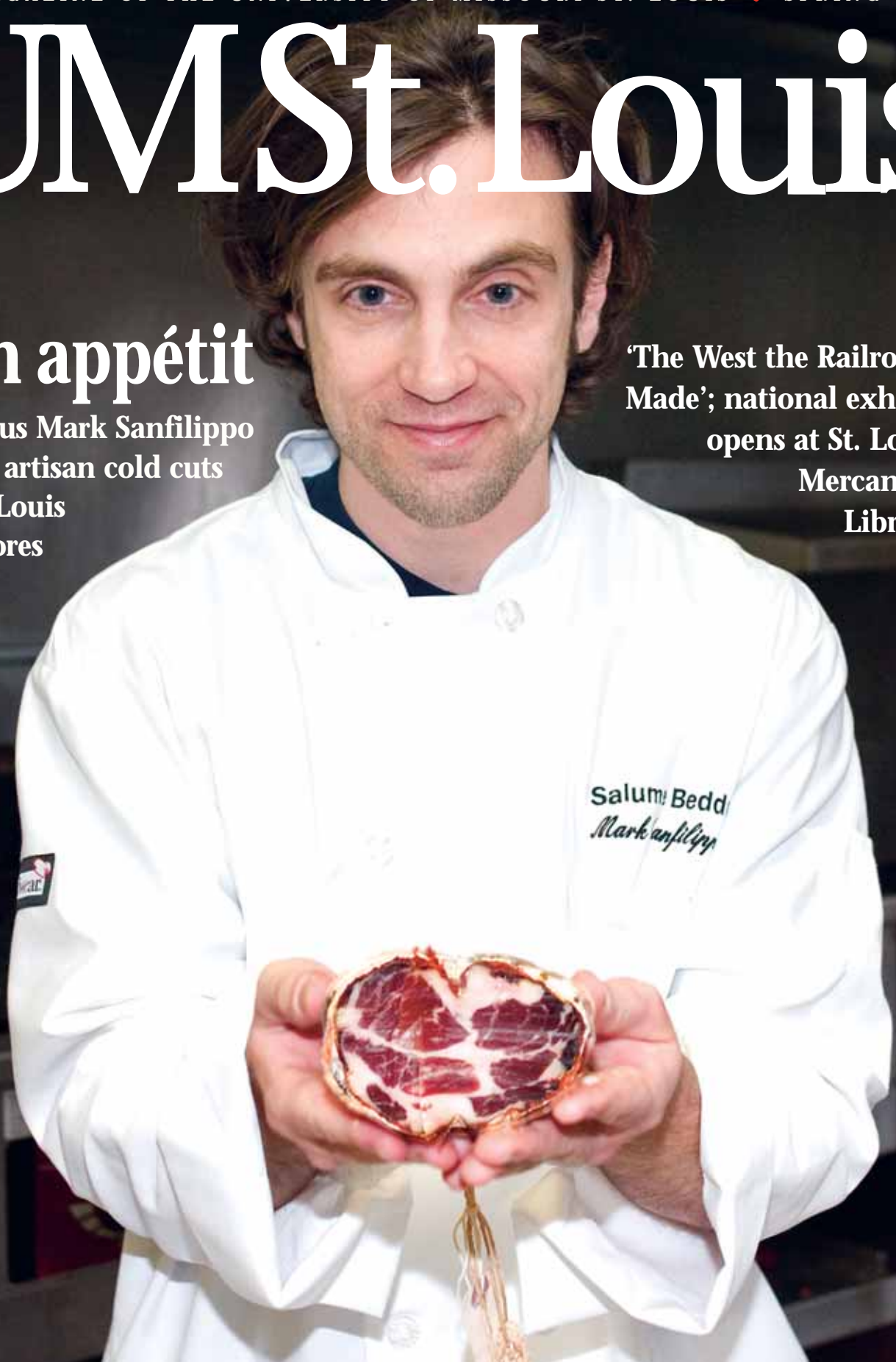
THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS  SPRING 2009

UM St. Louis

Bon appétit

Alumnus Mark Sanfilippo
creates artisan cold cuts
for St. Louis
carnivores

'The West the Railroads
Made'; national exhibit
opens at St. Louis
Mercantile
Library



Dear Readers,

The best-laid plans often come together by happenstance. I thought about that in late April as the University of Missouri–St. Louis hosted two monumental events at the Millennium Student Center.

A Middle Class Task Force headed by Vice President Joe Biden stopped here for a town-hall meeting on college affordability. More than 300 people, including Sen. Claire McCaskill, Gov. Jay Nixon and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, shared their perspectives with the vice president. Even Lesley Stahl from CBS' "60 Minutes" was here. Very exciting. Lots of great ideas.

Biden was upbeat and direct – "College is getting harder to afford. It's our objective to change that. ... What we're talking about today is a passport to the middle class."

I couldn't agree more. As we parted, I told the vice president that UM–St. Louis was working to contain costs, freeze tuition, increase scholarships and make the transfer process from community colleges easier for students. He left for Washington. I left for my office.

Two hours later, I was back in the student center for the university's first Alumni Weekend. As I mingled with the 500 or so alumni and guests, a past president of the UM–St. Louis Alumni Association joked how impressive it was for the vice president to stop by just to kick off the alumni event. Several of us laughed, but later I thought the statement more ironic than funny.

Did the vice president launch our Alumni Weekend? Or was our gathering a continuation of the vice president's town-hall meeting?

You could make a case either way. The purposes of the events were so similar. Affordability. Quality. Community engagement. Upward mobility.

All of it was discussed and displayed. All of it was very inspiring.

Education is a gateway to success. And in the St. Louis area, UM–St. Louis is the primary gateway, and has been for more than 40 years.

The proof is visible every day in our classrooms and, at least for one weekend, among the alumni who gathered here to share their experiences and collectively celebrate their success.

Sincerely,



Thomas F. George

Vice President Joe Biden speaks April 17 at UM–St. Louis. He brought his Middle Class Task Force to Missouri to talk about making college more affordable for America's families.



UM St. Louis

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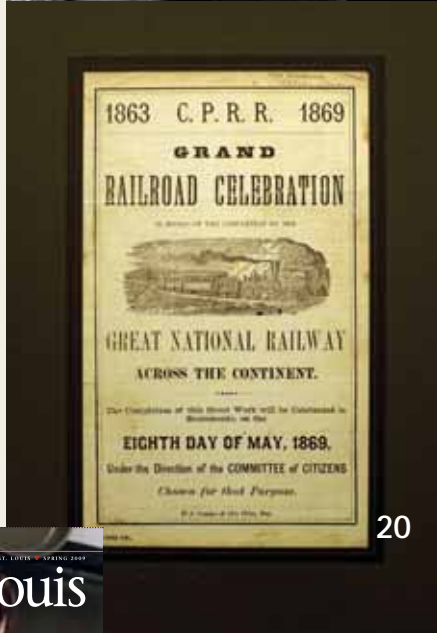
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[On the cover]

Mark Sanfilippo, co-owner of Salume Beddu, shows off one of his creations – a coppa, or traditional Italian cold cut made from pork shoulder. See Page 14.

Photo by August Jennewein



UM-St. Louis hockey club wins national championship



Photo courtesy of IDI Photo

The UM-St. Louis Tritons roller hockey team won the national roller hockey championship on April 5. Team members and coaches are: (reclining in front, from left) Jimmy Steger and P.J. Tallo; (second row, from left) Blake Propp, Adam Clarke, Marty Gwozdz, Jeremy Scott and Aaron Schulz; (back row, from left) head coach Jamie Schulz, Andy Meade, Danny Dwyer, Gus Maloney, Eric Thompson, Jason Holzum, Jake Sheppard and assistant coach James Lambert.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis roller hockey club has done something no university-affiliated team has done in 36 years. It won a national championship.

The Tritons hockey club captured, on April 5, the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association Division I championship in Feasterville, Pa. UM-St. Louis defeated Lindenwood University of St. Charles, Mo., the defending NCRHA champion, by the score of 5-3.

Lindenwood, which had given UM-St. Louis its only four losses of the 20-game regular season, took the early lead 1-0 with just under five minutes remaining in the first period, according to the NCRHA Web site. But UM-St. Louis struck back when Danny Dwyer, a freshman in business administration, took a pass from P.J. Tallo, a freshman in education, and tied the game at one. Tallo gave the Tritons a 2-1 lead early in the second period.

Lindenwood tied the game at two, and the teams traded goals again. With the score 3-3, Blake Propp, a junior in business administration, scored to give UM-St. Louis a 4-3 lead with 17 seconds remaining in the game. Tallo added an empty-net goal as the game ended.

“To defeat Lindenwood, which has been the power in this sport for some time, that was pretty big,” said Jamie Schulz, the Tritons’ head coach. “I’m really proud of our guys. I couldn’t be happier.”

Although UM-St. Louis sanctions the team and allows it to use the Tritons colors and logo, the roller hockey team is self-funded.

The last and only UM-St. Louis team to win a national championship was the 1973 men’s soccer team, which won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II championship.

Biographer named Guggenheim fellow

Following in the footsteps of the subject of his most recent book, Richard Cook has won a Guggenheim Fellowship Award.

Cook is the chairman of the Department of English at the University of Missouri–St. Louis and author of “Alfred Kazin: A Biography.” Released last year by Yale University Press, the book chronicles the

life of Kazin from growing up poor in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, N.Y., to his 50-plus years as a prolific writer, literary critic and historian.

Kazin was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1940 to help him complete “On Native Grounds: An Interpretation of Modern American Prose Literature,” a critically acclaimed book that established Kazin as a leading literary critic.

Cook will use his fellowship to compile an annotated selection of entries from Kazin’s journals.

“Being awarded a Guggenheim is a great honor, and I couldn’t be more pleased,” Cook said. “That the fellowship is to help me publish an edition of Kazin’s journals is particularly gratifying. It was my discovery of the journals in the New York Public Library that led to my writing ‘Alfred Kazin: A Biography.’ Now I have the chance to present the journals themselves – to let Kazin tell his story in his own words.”

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has awarded \$273 million in fellowships to nearly 16,700 artists, scientists and scholars for 85 years. Past recipients include Ansel Adams, Martha Graham, Langston Hughes, Henry Kissinger, Vladimir Nabokov, Philip Roth and scores of Nobel and Pulitzer prizewinners.

Business College receives largest gift in 42-year history



Photo by August Jennewein

UM–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George (left) presents a commemorative mug to David Peacock, president and chief executive officer of Anheuser-Busch Companies on Feb. 12. Peacock announced a donation from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation to help construct a new building for the College of Business Administration.

A new building is in the works for the College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and the project got a major boost on Feb. 12 when the Anheuser-Busch Foundation announced it would donate \$2.5 million over the next five years to help make the building happen.

The university is in the early stages of fundraising and planning for the new Anheuser-Busch Hall. While the college is now spread over multiple buildings, the new facility will house the entire college. Classrooms, faculty and staff offices, research and technology amenities and meeting spaces will be under one roof.

David Peacock, president and chief executive officer of Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc., said the foundation and the company are proud to contribute to the business college and the university.

“Our philosophy is to be the best beer company in a better world,” he said. “By investing in education we’re investing in our future and the economy of St. Louis. We are proud, as a St. Louis company, to be in partnership with the university and to help continue the great work they do.”

UM–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George accepted the gift on behalf of the university.

“The university has 75,000 alumni, and three-quarters live and work in St. Louis,” George said. “This is the largest gift in our business college’s history, and I’m so proud we could mark the occasion of this lead gift with Anheuser-Busch.”

The company and foundation have funded a number of programs, building initiatives and scholarships at UM–St. Louis throughout the university’s history. Most notably, Anheuser-Busch supported the enhancement and completion of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Opened in 2003, the center features two performance spaces, one of which is the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall.

Tim Eby joins KWMU, leads station in move to Grand Center

As the new general manager of 90.7 KWMU-FM, Tim Eby has many responsibilities. Among them is helping to create buzz for the public radio station.

Eby joined KWMU in December after leading WOSU (820 AM) and WOSU (89.7 FM) at The Ohio State University in Columbus. And for several months, he's been meeting people from across the St. Louis area, spotlighting KWMU's highest-ever ratings (fall weekly listening audience of 196,900) and touting the station's upcoming move.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis, which owns the station, announced in November that it would relocate KWMU from the UM-St. Louis campus and construct a new home for the station at 3651 Olive St. in St. Louis. The new address is in the heart of Grand Center, a thriving arts and entertainment district. Eby, 48, said the new location will enable KWMU to serve new audiences and develop partnerships with arts organizations and businesses in the district.

"I am very excited about coming to UM-St. Louis and working with such a talented staff at KWMU," he said. "And we have been presented with some huge opportunities. We will greatly increase our capacity for local news by expanding coverage, offering in-depth interviews, discussion and call-in programming."

The new building also will house university offices and may house academic programs from the College of Fine Arts and

Communication. Its music, studio art, theater, dance and media arts programs could benefit from close proximity to Grand Center neighbors, including the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, The Sheldon Concert Hall, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and KETC (Channel 9).

Grand Center Inc., a nonprofit organization established to revitalize Grand Center, donated the land for the new building. UM-St. Louis estimates the 27,000-square-foot facility will cost \$12 million. The project primarily will be financed from private gifts. The university also plans to commit institutional funds. The building should be completed in summer 2011.



Tim Eby

Biologist elected to National Academy of Sciences

Robert Ricklefs, Curators' Professor of Biology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and he's the only academic from Missouri on the 2009 list of new members.

Founded in 1863, the NAS has 2,100 members, of whom nearly 200 are Nobel Prize winners. Election to the academy is considered one of the highest honors for a scientist or engineer, and it recognizes a career of distinguished research.

"It is a great honor and responsibility," said Ricklefs, who has been at UM-St. Louis since 1995 and lives in University City, Mo. "I think it also is a testament to the high quality of faculty at the University of Missouri-St. Louis."

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George said he's ecstatic about Ricklefs' achievement.

"This is clearly a tribute to his prowess as a scientist and academician, and reflects well on the overall caliber of our young institution," George said. "When I was a dean at the University at Buffalo, a colleague there had to win the Nobel



Robert Ricklefs

Prize in chemistry before election to the NAS. Ricklefs is indeed part of a very select group."

Ricklefs has written or co-written four books, nearly 300 papers and more than 80 articles. He researches evolutionary biology and focuses on the diversification of birds, their growth and life histories. He also has worked on the evolution of plants and other organisms. Ricklefs is a past recipient of a Fellows' Award from the Academy of Science of St. Louis and President's

Award for Research and Creativity from the University of Missouri System.

IS IT TIME FOR GRANDMA TO PARK THE BUICK?

Photos by August Jennewein

UM–St. Louis gerontologist finds state’s driver reporting structure helpful but underutilized

By Jennifer Hatton

Eleanor has always been independent and in charge of her life. At 72, she says she enjoys retirement and spending time with her grandchildren. But lately, Eleanor, whose last name is omitted here to protect her privacy, says she hasn’t been feeling like herself. She’s been forgetful, losing track of appointments and even discovered an unexplained dent in her car. She’s afraid what might happen next time she’s behind the wheel, but even more afraid of losing her freedom.

Thomas M. Meuser, associate professor of social work and director of the

continued



Thomas M. Meuser, director of the Gerontology Program at UM–St. Louis, has studied the efficacy of a Missouri law that’s designed to prevent older, unfit drivers from getting behind the wheel. His co-worker, Beverly Sporleder, lecturer in social work, is a terrific photo model and an even better driver.

Gerontology Program at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, said he hopes he can help drivers like Eleanor while making Missouri roads safe for everyone.

His 2008 study “Medical Fitness to Drive & A State Voluntary Reporting Law: Characteristics of Reported Older Drivers & Safety Outcomes” showed that Missouri’s reporting structure for unfit drivers works well but is likely underutilized by key stakeholders.

The study, commissioned by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, examined Missouri House Bill 1536, which allows family members, physicians, law enforcement officials and others to report drivers who may be unsafe. Most are reported due to medical conditions. All are required to be examined by a physician, and some undergo a road test.

Many of those reported between 2001 and 2005 showed evidence of safety problems months or even years prior.

“While physicians and family members are often in a good position to identify changes in health or function that may impair driving, these groups submitted the minority of reports during this period,” Meuser said.

Instead, more than half of the unsafe-driver reports were submitted by police officers and license clerks based on public observation. Interacting with drivers at the counter, license clerks noted confusion, forgetfulness, vision loss and problems standing or walking. Most police reports detailed crashes and other evidence of dangerous driving.

“When crashes are a primary trigger for reporting, public safety is already compromised,” Meuser said. “Those involved in the lives of older people need education and encouragement to recognize and address driving-related problems early on, both to prevent crashes and to consider transportation alternatives.”

Family members are failing to report elderly drivers for two reasons, according to Meuser. Family members of potentially unfit drivers are unaware the reporting mechanism is in place, and they say the drivers would be upset if they found out who reported them.

Meuser said relatives should get more involved in reporting since the process is confidential.

“If mom can’t see and you know she’s driving and she hurts someone, then you could be sued and lose everything,” he said.

Physicians are an important part of the driver-evaluation process, too. Meuser said patient driving is a function doctors should evaluate on a regular basis, but many physicians are not trained to evaluate for fitness to drive.

In response, Missouri and other states are beginning to better recognize the importance of physician input and are revising forms and training materials to enhance physician participation.

With a \$54,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Transportation, Meuser and his colleagues are working with transportation department officials to alter the state’s patient evaluation form

for driving. The new form — once it’s tested and approved — will enable physicians to assess driving ability by rating patient vision, cognition, alertness and movement. It will ask precise questions and allow physicians to answer by checking boxes and rating the degree of seriousness from low to high.

“We found, with the current form, there was a lot of open space for diagnoses or comments that physicians were not using,” he said. “While also two pages, the new form will ask a series of questions to guide the physician in evaluating driver fitness and thus give a clear, reasoned opinion on safety.”

In addition to improving physician and family reporting, understanding among unfit drivers also needs to get better, according to Meuser. Many older drivers, like Eleanor, have declining skills but are reluctant to acknowledge their poor driving. Meuser said it’s because they believe that doing so will lead to a total loss of their mobility and freedom.

However, many Missouri municipalities offer transportation services for older residents.

In February, UM–St. Louis graduate student Annie Harmon earned a \$3,000 grant from the National Center on Senior Transportation to research transportation decisions and options for seniors. With direction from Meuser, Harmon will develop an informational booklet. It will be distributed nationally by the NCST and will guide family members in making decisions to reduce driver risk while maintaining mobility and choice. 🍷



UM–St. Louis gerontologist Thomas M. Meuser works to help older drivers and make Missouri roads safer for everyone.



Steve Schankman created his own UM–St. Louis legacy

With a bequest benefiting
the Department of Music

Photo by August Jennewein

*“I’ve always felt I had a commitment to pay
back UM–St. Louis.”*

Steve Schankman, BGS 1991, began taking classes at the University of Missouri–St. Louis in 1966. Within a few years, his focus shifted from coursework to booking bands from around the Midwest and creating and building Contemporary Productions, an entertainment booking and concert promotion company.

But Steve returned to UM–St. Louis two decades later and, upon graduating, became a proud alumnus.

“I had a wonderful experience at UM–St. Louis during the sixties,” he said. “It seems that UM–St. Louis and I started at the same time, and this is where I learned how important the school was to my career.”

Steve has made gifts to the university’s Jazz Studies program, The Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival, Maynard Ferguson Music Scholarship and Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

“I’ve always felt I had a commitment to pay back UM–St. Louis,” he said. “This led me to decide on a planned gift, which will benefit the future of the Department of Music.”

Selected Charitable Gift Annuity Rates

Age	Rate*
60	5.0%
65	5.3%
70	5.7%
75	6.3%
80	7.1%
85	8.1%
90	9.5%

*Rates subject to change and restrictions may apply.



Contact Kent Krober, director of planned giving at UM–St. Louis, at 314-516-4115 or kroberk@umsl.edu to learn more about the many planned giving options offered.



Wayne Garver, research scientist and physics instructor at UM–St. Louis, uses his battery-powered 1971 Volkswagen Beetle to teach his students about electronics.

Buggin' out with

ELECTRIC

Electric
Beetle
is a gas
for instructor

By Kylie Shafferkoetter

It's orange. It's almost 40 years old. And it represents a greener way to drive. Wayne Garver's electric car is both a throwback and a leap forward in energy-efficient transportation. The research scientist and physics instructor at the University of Missouri–St. Louis originally converted his 1971 Volkswagen Beetle to an electric engine 25 years ago, but once he married and had kids, the little round bug was relegated to the garage – until recently.

continued



“IT’S certainly a conversation starter,” said Garver, who uses his hobby car to teach UM-St. Louis students about electronics. “And my kids love it. They think I’m really ahead of the curve.”

But Garver joked he actually fell behind the curve a bit once he quit working on it in the mid-1980s.

“The controller kept burning out, and the motor was underpowered,” he said. “I got discouraged and figured I’d get around to it sooner or later.”

But the Beetle he and his wife christened “Paula” with the clumsy crack of a small champagne bottle sat, and sat.

It wasn’t until a new book about building electric cars found its way onto Garver’s desk in 2006 that he was inspired once again. Poring over the pages, he discovered how much technology had improved and what mistakes he had made when he first built the car.

“It’s a lot easier now,” said Garver, sitting in his UM-St. Louis workshop that’s lined with various electronic contraptions complete with knobs, wires and bead-sized lights. “You can buy car parts specifically for this. Originally, I had to do much more myself.”

The new rebuilt engine includes 15 six-volt lead acid golf cart batteries – giving it 90 volts worth of power – and a new commercial controller with much-improved transistors. One-third of the car’s weight is batteries and doesn’t include much else.

“I took out the clutch – the lighter it is the better,” he explained.

For Garver, whose round-trip commute is 20 miles, it’s the perfect everyday car and a better choice for the environment. When he needs more power, he simply plugs the Beetle into a regular outlet and lets it charge overnight.

“It’s about as simple of a car as you can get,” he said, rattling off the things it does not require, like a muffler and oil. “It also has zero emissions, is more efficient than a gas car, quiet and the ultimate in recycling.”

According to Garver, converting a car to electric from gas costs about \$10,000, and once the conversion is complete, a driver can expect to get another 200,000 miles from the car.

But Garver said he doesn’t believe the electric car will take the place of a gas car anytime soon.

“I think families would still need a gas car for its length of drive-time,” he said. “This isn’t ready for long road trips, yet.”

Electric cars have been around since the turn of the 20th century and outsold gas cars in 1900. However, with cheap fuel and better range, petroleum-powered cars won the market.

Electric automobiles did not gain popularity again until the 1970s, during which time Garver was an undergraduate at the University of Miami in Ohio.

“I think my interest in all of this started in an environmental physics class I took,” he said. “The professors were talking about cleaner ways to drive, and it stuck with me.”

The idea is sticking with a lot of people today. The St. Louis-based Gateway Electric Vehicle Club boasts nearly 40 members, including Garver, and eight custom electric cars.

“It’s nice to be able to talk shop,” he said.

And while driving an electric car might not be for everyone, for Garver, it’s been a gas. 🍷

“It’s about as
SIMPLE
of a car as you can get.”

—Wayne Garver

'TRUE COMPETITION'

examined in new book by education researchers

By Jennifer Hatton

Competition can be tremendously positive and productive for competitors, but it also can lead to antagonism, rivalry, egoism and cheating. That's the message of "True Competition: A Guide to Pursuing Excellence in Sport and Society," a new book by David Light Shields and Brenda Light Bredemeier.

"What people often fail to realize is that a contest, whether in sports, business or politics, can lead to two very different kinds of processes," said Shields, affiliate associate professor of teaching and learning at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "The purpose of the book is to help people gain control over which way competition turns."

Those two processes, according to Bredemeier, associate professor of teaching and learning at UM-St. Louis, are healthy competition and a distortion of it the authors call "decompetition." Much of the book is dedicated to defining the two processes and examining their differences.

"While the true competitor is focused on excellence and enjoyment, the decompetitor slips into thinking about competition as a miniature war," Bredemeier said. "Ironically, when decompetitors focus so narrowly on winning, they actually undermine their own optimal performance."

The authors argue that when competition is done well it involves using the challenge presented by the opponent to pursue excellence and finding enjoyment in the act of competing, not just in the outcome. They point to retired tennis great Chris Evert as an example of a "true competitor."

"Evert was asked to recall her favorite match," Shields said. "Interestingly, she named a match against Martina Navratilova that she lost. Why? Because it was one where both she and Martina were at the top of their game, pushing each other to new heights. The enjoyment and satisfaction that she got from extending her own boundaries of excellence were more gratifying than the simple thrill of victory."



Photo by August Jennewein

UM-St. Louis education researchers David Light Shields and Brenda Light Bredemeier have written a book on the good and bad of sports competition.

NBA Hall of Famer and former Sen. Bill Bradley echoes Shields' point in the book's forward.

"I much prefer winning to losing, but when I gave my best, I never regretted having competed," he wrote.

Shields founded <http://truecompetition.org/>, a nonprofit organization that works to "reclaim competition as a place of excellence, ethics and enjoyment." He and Bredemeier said they're working to let competitors know that good, healthy competition and excelling at competition are not mutually exclusive alternatives.

"Ethics and excellence go hand-in-hand," Shields said.

"True Competition: A Guide to Pursuing Excellence in Sport and Society" was published in February by Human Kinetics Publishers. The 239-page paperback book is \$29 and is available at <http://www.humankinetics.com/>. 📖



Photos by August Jennewein

A TASTE OF UM—ST. LOUIS

How four alumni are making their mark
on a flourishing St. Louis-area food scene

By Ryan Heinz and Tom Hockett



adam Kustra grew up in the restaurant business. He was reared on preparing good food and creating a business model that lasts.

His family owns the venerable Italian eatery Kemoll's Restaurant in downtown St. Louis. By the end of eighth grade, he was bussing tables. Earning a culinary arts degree from The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., was a natural move after high school. Following up with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2006 from the University of Missouri-St. Louis was a logical next step.

"People I went to culinary school with could all be great chefs, but horrible business people," Kustra said. "And it takes more than just knowing how to make great food to run a restaurant."

Last year, the 28-year-old opened The U, a gourmet sandwich shop at 3108 Olive St. in St. Louis' Midtown neighborhood. Adjacent to Saint Louis University, the shop has a menu that reads like a course catalog. "CHK 301" is a chicken sandwich with provolone, marinara and fresh basil. A cheese steak is "BEF 101," and salads can be found under "The College of Lettuce Administration."

Success, for Kustra, has come early. Business often is brisk, and the Riverfront Times has recognized The U as the "Best Place for Late-Night Dining" in St. Louis.

Moreover, Kustra's business seems to be part of something bigger. In the past year or so, the neighborhood has seen an uptick in openings - The Fountain on Locust (restaurant that features creative ice cream dishes), The Good Pie (pizzeria) and FUBAR (nightclub). The U shares building space with Pappy's Smokehouse and Buffalo Brewing Co.

"It provides competition to make sure I do a good job and have a reason for people to come here, and it's especially good for this neighborhood by making it a dining destination," Kustra said.

Joe Pollack is a food blogger, co-author of "The Great St. Louis Eats Book" and former restaurant critic at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. He started writing reviews for the Post-Dispatch in 1972, the year five restaurants opened that Pollack said changed dining in St. Louis - Balaban's, Anthony's, Yen Cheng, Jefferson Avenue Boarding House and Duff's.

"It's been growing ever since," he said. "Even in difficult times, the new restaurants keep opening."

Current trends, according to Pollack, include making good food more accessible to epicureans with thin pocketbooks and the creation of more specialty foods.

"People are making their own salami, relishes and spice combinations that are definitely related to the old country," he said.

Elevating cured meat above mediocrity (way above)

Ben Poremba has spent much of his cooking career in search of "the old way." It's that pursuit of knowledge that pushed the chef to study at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Northern Italy, the birthplace of Slow Food, an international movement to counterpunch fast food and the erosion of local food traditions.

"I always tell my girlfriend, 'I wish I lived in the 19th century,'" Poremba said. "I would have felt a lot more at ease with myself. I don't feel very comfortable with the present. I'm very much a man of the past."

Poremba, 28, already has amassed a noteworthy cooking past. Mentored by the gifted St. Louis chef Ramon Cuffie (Bar Italia and La Dolce Via), Poremba garnered critical praise for running the kitchen at Winslow's Home in University City, Mo. He also has worked in kitchens in France, Italy and his native Israel.

His latest gig, however, has Poremba purveying fine meat, and his connection to UM-St. Louis is partly responsible for the current direction of his career.

Poremba enrolled at UM-St. Louis seeking the tutelage of Peter Fuss, now a professor emeritus of philosophy. Poremba earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 2003 and remained friends with Fuss. During a conversation last year, Fuss brought up Mark Sanfilippo, another former pupil who, as it turns out, had started a one-man business making and selling salumi (Italian for "cured meats") and fresh salsiccia, or sausage.

Poremba's experiences in Italy were still bright in his mind. He called Sanfilippo, and the two set up a meeting. Sanfilippo, 33, arrived with a small briefcase from which he drew a cutting board, knife and two small packages. He sliced the cured pork, and Poremba recalled being floored when he tasted it.

"It was as good as the stuff I'd had in Italy," he said.

continued

Top left: As brew master of O'Fallon Brewery in O'Fallon, Mo., Brian Owens heads production efforts for the microbrewery, which is increasing production to keep up with demand for its specialty brews.

Top right: Mark Sanfilippo, co-owner of Salume Beddu in St. Louis, slices his "Pancetta Rigatino," a pork belly cured flat for two months and seasoned with cinnamon and garlic.

Bottom left: Adam Kustra, owner of the gourmet sandwich shop The U in St. Louis, serves up "SAM101," a sandwich with salmon, bacon, Swiss cheese and pesto mayonnaise.

Bottom right: Chef Ben Poremba has a wealth of cooking experience, but his latest culinary foray has paired him with Mark Sanfilippo in the operation of Salume Beddu, an artisan cured meat company.

The "BRG501" is a signature sandwich at The U in St. Louis. The burger features a thick portion of ground beef, bacon, barbecue sauce, cheddar cheese and fried onion strings.





A gourmet entrée prepared by chef and UM–St. Louis alumnus Ben Poremba includes aged, pan-roasted skirt steak, glazed carrots and pea shoots.



Raised in north St. Louis County, Sanfilippo is a third-generation Sicilian American whose grandparents emigrated from the old country in the 1920s and started a produce business now run by Sanfilippo's uncle in north St. Louis. "A great appreciation for food and cooking," Sanfilippo said. "It's just been a part of my life."

His life in the food business, however, did not begin in a typical way. Before heading to Los Angeles to work as a screenwriter, Sanfilippo earned two bachelor's degrees from UM–St. Louis in 1998 – one in German and the other in philosophy.

"[My field of study] is very profitable," he said with a smile and raised eyebrows. "You don't know how many times I get people knocking on my door asking for translations of German philosophy. ... But I love it. I'm actually very passionate about it."

His time in Southern California also included a stint working in the kitchens of Pizzeria Mozza and Osteria Mozza, the side-by-side restaurants founded by culinary stars Mario Batali and Nancy Silverton. It was there that Sanfilippo honed his skills as an artisan maker of cured meats.

Eventually, screenwriting burnout set in, and Sanfilippo was hearing good things about the potential demand for his salumi back home.

So he and his wife decided to return to St. Louis. He started his business – Salume Beddu ("Beddu" is Sicilian for "good," so "good cured meat") – and began curing pork, first in his basement and later in a kitchen at a business incubator.

"The St. Louis now, when compared to the St. Louis that I left 10 years ago, it's like night and day, in terms of the food scene," Sanfilippo said. "I think if I would have tried to push guanciale, cured pig jowl, 10 years ago, I don't think I would have gotten too many buyers. But now it's like customers come to me specifically for that and ask, 'Oh, you got the guanciale?' It's crazy."

Sanfilippo and Poremba's meeting last year has evolved into a full-blown partnership running Salume Beddu. Their offerings include a pancetta that's cured flat for two months and seasoned with cinnamon and garlic, two varieties of fresh salsiccia, two coppas and several salamis.

They're working to obtain a wholesale license, so they can sell to restaurants and retailers. For now, they sell direct to consumers at the Maplewood Farmer's Market, Tower Grove Farmers' Market and Clayton Farmer's Market.



And Sanfilippo and Poremba recently struck a deal with Harry Cope, a cattle farmer in Truxton, Mo. Cope is raising Mangalitsa swine exclusively for Salume Beddu. Within a year, meat creations from Salume Beddu will originate from the swine, a Hungarian heritage breed that's revered for its salami.

"It will truly be an American product that will be extremely special and compete with European-style salami," Sanfilippo said. "We're modeling after European stuff, but the whole thing is that we want it to taste like nothing else. We want it to be specific to Missouri."

The beer pairing

The sun has yet to shine on O'Fallon, Mo. But Brian Owens is up, and he's got beer on the brain. He's not drinking; he's mashing in. "Mixing the grain into the water is the very first part of the process," explained Owens, brew master at O'Fallon Brewery. "That's my favorite part."

And it's just one small step in the process of converting malt, water and hops to ale. Not just any ale, mind you, but award-winning craft brews with tastes as unique as their names: "Goat's Breath Bock Ale," "Smoked Porter" and "Wheach" (a peach wheat beer).

O'Fallon Brewery is small and easily fits within the Brewers Association's definition of a microbrewery (less than 15,000 barrels produced a year). Last year, the brewery churned out 2,900 barrels of beer, roughly the equivalent of what Anheuser-Busch Companies can produce in fewer than 15 minutes.

Owens, 31, sees almost all of the production through, from hand dumping 50-pound bags of grain into a mill and his beloved mashing to hand labeling and packing the bottles. He's a jack-of-all-trades because, well, he has to be.

"When the bottling machine breaks down, I can't call the maintenance department," Owens said. "We have to tear it down and fix it. It's the same with deliveries. When those guys are short of hand, somebody jumps in, whether it's me or [brewer] Dave [Johnson]. Everybody really helps out wherever they can."

Owens, BSBA 2002, spent his early years at UM-St. Louis in a state of indecision. He bounced from one major to another. There was one thing he felt certain about - beer. He was enamored with the process of brewing. When he turned 21, his parents gave him a home brewing kit.

"That's what bit me, that home brew kit," Owens recalled. "I didn't care if I was sweeping floors at Anheuser-Busch. I just knew I wanted to get into the brewing industry."

With the brewery expanding production this year, Owens continues to experiment. He's been aging Smoked Porter in used bourbon barrels for a special release. Recently, he developed the draft-only "Cocoa Cream Stout."

"If I ever learn everything about beer, I'll quit doing it," Owens said with a smile. "But I don't think I ever will." 🍷

MARY SUTKUS wants to tempt you

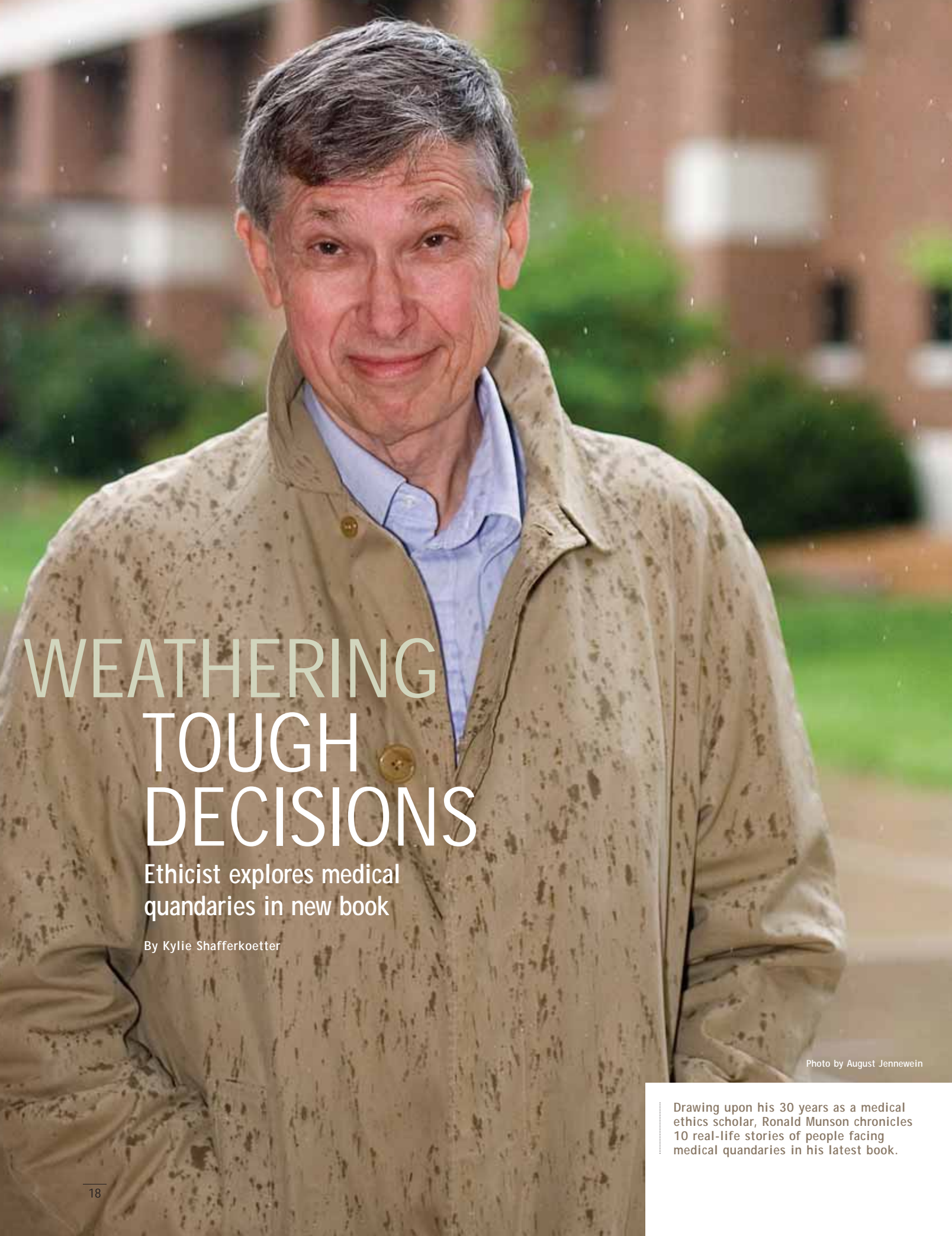
Mary Sutkus (pictured below) loves to cook, and she does her share of it as a culinary consultant. However, her main job is cooking up visual sustenance as a food stylist.

In a kitchen nook in a massive, open photography studio in south St. Louis, Sutkus, MEd 1984, hovers over a well-lit plate of rolled up lasagna noodles that encase a mixture of cheese and spinach. She reaches for an eyedropper, fills it with marinara and carefully places a drop here and there. Nothing is by accident.

"What I strive to do is make the food look so enticing that you are going to want to buy that product or make that recipe," she said.

Her creations can be seen in print advertisements and television commercials. For the past 20 years, she's worked for a number of clients, including Anheuser-Busch Companies, McDonald's, Sara Lee and Schnucks, to make their products look their best. 🍷





WEATHERING TOUGH DECISIONS

Ethicist explores medical
quandaries in new book

By Kylie Shafferkoetter

Photo by August Jennewein

Drawing upon his 30 years as a medical ethics scholar, Ronald Munson chronicles 10 real-life stories of people facing medical quandaries in his latest book.

Rob Hardy looked horrible. His skin was sallow, and he was short on energy. The 20-year-old took too many aspirin after a night of drinking and was in liver failure. Time was scant, and decisions needed to be made. Did he take the pills to end his life, or was it a simple error by an alcohol-impaired person? With other people in need, is he deserving of a second chance? With a shortage of donor organs, a hospital committee worked quickly to answer these questions.

This is just one of the complex cases Ronald Munson tackles in his new book, “The Woman Who Decided to Die,” an intimate exploration into the complicated corners of medical ethics. Drawing upon his experiences from the past 30 years as a medical ethics scholar, Munson highlights stories of real people in medical quandaries.

“I wanted to look at individuals and the way they responded to their circumstances rather than simply write in the abstract,” said Munson, professor of philosophy of science and medicine at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. “For every one national case, there are hundreds of other difficult decisions being made every day by regular people.”

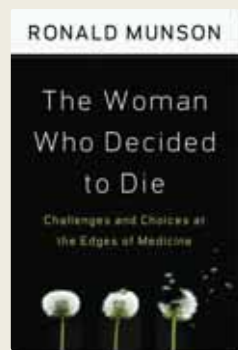
Munson credits the struggle over 21-year-old Karen Quinlan’s fate for bringing medical ethics into the national conversation. In 1975, the New Jersey college student fell into a coma after a party and was put on life support. After an extensive and dramatic court battle, her family won the right to take their daughter off of life-saving machines. Quinlan breathed on her own for another 10 years before passing away.

“That was the moment a very serious question was raised in a very personal way,” Munson said. “People were realizing that this could happen to them and asking themselves how they would

want to be treated because now the medical community could offer a new range of possibilities never available before.”

Other cases in the book include a convicted felon who needs a new heart, a mentally ill student who believes invisible agents are controlling her and a stepfather asked to give a lobe of his liver to his stepson. All names and locations have been changed. The cases read like short stories, not surprising since Munson also has written three novels.

“I tried to choose cases that illustrate the variety of potentially fatal issues people face,” said Munson, whose medical ethics textbook is the most widely used in the United States. “I see this as a guide to what people can expect.



Here are tales about what choices any of us might be expected to make.”

Munson’s career has spanned the rise of medical ethics in the U.S. “There really has been an incredible change in dealing with these issues,” Munson said. “I’ve generally been quite impressed to the sensitivity to ethical issues at medical centers. It’s very different from how it used to be.”

After graduate school, Munson found no one was tracking how medicine and science were becoming entwined as technology evolved. He visited hospitals as a way to acquire background for conceptual and philosophical arguments within the medical realm.

“This was right when medicine began to have sorts of powers it hadn’t ever had before,” said Munson, referring to life-support capabilities.

One story is particularly personal for Munson. Walter Post was a psychiatrist whom Munson would meet periodically for Chinese food and to discuss heady intellectual ideas – mostly about mental illness and personal responsibility. At one of their last meals together, Post, a throat cancer survivor, shocked Munson with news his cancer had returned. He asked Munson to support Martha, Post’s wife, in following his final wishes.

Months later the psychiatrist lay in intensive care. Most of the right side of his face had been removed during surgery. His tongue was gone. Chemotherapy no longer worked, and more surgery would buy him little time.

“He’s had enough,” Munson reported Martha Post saying. “She looked up at me, and her voice was strong again. She’d made the same statement earlier, and I hadn’t asked what she meant. Now I didn’t need to.”

Martha Post asked Munson to go with her to see the doctor. She wanted the doctor to stop treating her husband.

Munson has had years to reflect on where he stands on these delicate issues. He said he hopes his book will help others do the same.

Oxford University Press released “The Woman Who Decided to Die” in March. The 224-page hardcover book is available at the UM–St. Louis Bookstore & Computer Shop for \$27.95. 📖

How the railroads brought the world to the **WEST** and the **WEST** to the world

National exhibit opens at
St. Louis Mercantile Library

By Maureen Zegel

During the last half of the 19th century in America, railroads pushed their way westward, creating an empire so large and complex it promised to transform the world.

A national traveling exhibit depicting that transformation opened March 7 in the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Sponsored by the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library at UM–St. Louis, Mercantile Library and Washington State Historical Society, “The West the Railroads Made” tells the story of how America’s railroads and the West helped to shape each other. More than transportation, the railroads of that era changed the character of the country’s population. They completely altered the landscape with their bridges, depots and towns, and the railroad’s pitch men promoted agriculture, mining and ranching on an enormous scale.

The exhibit – with more than 4,000 square feet of paintings, photographs, three-dimensional objects, video, audio and interactive media – illustrates, in fascinating and often artful detail, those major changes in the country.

There are epic land surveys from the 1850s filled with geographical, natural and ethnographic data, oil paintings depicting life in the West by George Catlin and Theodore Kaufmann and dramatic 19th-century photography. Glass-enclosed display cases house a miner’s tin lunch pail, a scale used to weigh gold found in California’s hills, a conductor’s pocket watch and a “Special Indian” ticket good for one passage on a car platform.

There also are commemorative rail spikes of various metals, symbols of the rail lines successful trek across the often-hostile land west of the Mississippi River. And accounting ledgers show how railroads pioneered standardization for an entire nation, including nuts and bolts, tools and track gauges and the creation of time zones.

“How the railroads replaced the sun,” reads one illustration, which explains the importance of exact time for a new form of transportation traversing thousands of miles.

The exhibit celebrates the Barriger Library’s 25th anniversary and showcases its extensive collection.

“Railroad history used to be a major part of the junior high school and high school curriculum, but no longer,” said Gregg Ames, curator of the Barriger Library.

So Ames worked to make the exhibit a must-see destination for social studies teachers and their students, as well as families, train aficionados and summer visitors from across the St. Louis area.

“Most Americans don’t have a grasp of the significance of how railroads shaped the West, and how they influenced our economy, society and culture,” he said. “One of the goals of this exhibit is to bring railroads back into the public consciousness.”

continued



Commemorative railroad spike, nickel plated, engraved, for the true last spike of the Northern Pacific, September 10, 1883, at Portland, Oregon.
Washington State Historical Society



Ordinary railroad spike, used in Stampede Pass, 1887.
Washington State Historical Society



Commemorative ribbon, opening of Northern Pacific Railroad, September 10, 1883, Portland, Oregon.
Washington State Historical Society

Photos by August Jennewein



Top: Jesse Johnson (left), shop coordinator at Pacific Studio in Seattle, and Adam Freeman, scenic artisan at Pacific Studio, install a glass cover on an exhibit display at the St. Louis Mercantile Library.

Bottom left: Greg Ames, curator of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library at UM-St. Louis, checks out a model train that's part of a touring exhibit at UM-St. Louis.

Bottom right: Fred Poyner IV, registrar of the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, installs the print "Fort Benton: Head of Steam Navigation on the Missouri River."

CARLOS SCHWANTES: The professor the railroads made

By Ryan Heinz

The heavily illustrated exhibit also contains a curriculum-approved Web site for students and teachers. The site focuses on the part of the West where railroads made the biggest difference: the regions between St. Louis, Chicago, Portland and Seattle.

The core of the exhibit contains many artifacts from the Barriger Library, one of North America's largest railroad history collections. The exhibit is augmented with artifacts on loan from more than 20 organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, Frontier Army Museum in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Anheuser-Busch Companies Inc. in St. Louis and Museum of Transportation in west St. Louis County.

Ames said the exhibit is not a model railroad exhibit, but he pointed out a small steam locomotive from the Wabash, Frisco and Pacific Railroad that he called a historic "treasure."

Other noteworthy items include outstanding examples of 19th century marketing.

"The railroads were some of the world's largest purveyors of advertising, promotional and educational materials of the era," Ames said.

Lush, artful brochures and posters entice settlers and tourists alike to a land that was often less bucolic than pictured. "An artful promoter could transform any sagebrush wilderness into paradise," according to one exhibit illustration.

A 200-page illustrated book, "The West the Railroads Made," accompanies the exhibit. (See accompanying story.) Carlos A. Schwantes, the St. Louis Mercantile Library Endowed Professor of Transportation Studies at UM-St. Louis, and James Ronda, the H.G. Barnard Chair in Western American History at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, wrote the book and curated the exhibit.

Significant funding for the exhibit was provided by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, BNSF Railway, TTX, Union Pacific and Ajax Foundation.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. It will run through Sept. 20. The St. Louis Mercantile Library is inside the Thomas Jefferson Library on the North Campus at UM-St. Louis. Group tours are available. Library hours vary. Visit <http://www.umsl.edu/barriger/> or call 314-516-7240 for hours, directions and parking information. 🌱

Carlos Schwantes once reveled in each rumbling pass made by the hulking locomotives on the Pennsylvania Railroad's Pittsburgh-to-St. Louis line. With wide-eyed fascination, he would watch each iron horse gallop down tracks laid mere steps from the backdoor of his boyhood home in Greenfield, Ind.

"Most people would shudder at the thought of living in a place like that, and eventually my parents moved," Schwantes recalled. "But I never really liked it without the trains running through the backyard."

Schwantes is 64 and has long since parlayed an early fascination into a career. He's the St. Louis Mercantile Library Endowed Professor of Transportation Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Trains still run through his veins. So do all other forms of transportation, except maybe rickshaws, he quips.

The rail industry's role in the establishment of the American West is the focus of Schwantes' latest project. Along with James Ronda, the H.G. Barnard Chair in Western American History at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, Schwantes wrote the book "The West the Railroads Made" and curated the companion traveling exhibit. The book, Schwantes' 20th, features a wealth of rare imagery including photographs, maps, illustrations and publicity posters.

Gregg Ames, curator of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library at UM-St. Louis, called Schwantes a "masterful teacher and prolific researcher" with "an infectious enthusiasm for transportation history."

"The iron rail left the world's largest paper trail," Ames said. "And Carlos is a pioneer in discovering the wealth of material that railroads published."

In terms of his research, Schwantes refuses to remain idle. An agglomeration of travel brochures from some of the 3,000-plus U.S. counties he's visited conceals his desktop at UM-St. Louis' Center for Transportation Studies. After taking in the remaining seven counties, he'll put together a book on his journeys. Another book, "One Restless Rider," is due this fall. It will consist of Schwantes' essays and photos documenting his voyages by train.

"The West the Railroads Made" is 229 pages and is available for purchase at <http://www.amazon.com/>. 🌱



Carlos Schwantes

Alumni & FRIENDS

Martin Mlynczak

Scientist returns to UM–St. Louis,
finds university retains human touch

By Jack Crosby

During a visit to the University of Missouri–St. Louis in 2007, Martin Mlynczak found some time to be alone.

“I put aside some time to walk across the campus, slowly,” he said in a recent telephone interview. “I had always enjoyed walking across campus. And I noticed that, even with all the growth and improvements, enough trees had been left up that it was still a very pretty campus.”

Mlynczak (pronounced mill-in-ZACK) graduated summa cum laude from UM–St. Louis in 1981. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physics. He’s now a senior research scientist with the science directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

He visited the university to accept a Distinguished Alumni Award.

“I guess I had two responses,” he said. “First, I was amazed that I was chosen, and second, I felt a lot of gratitude, because I know the foundation I received at UM–St. Louis has enabled my career. I never expected to receive anything like this.”

Mlynczak fondly recalls his time as a UM–St. Louis student.

“It was a great four years,” he said. “I got to work in Jake Leventhal’s physics lab for three years, and essentially got to know the entire physics faculty on a more-or-less personal basis. This was also true of some professors in English and in math.”

Mlynczak described how faculty members often opened their homes to students for social events or combined social and class-related events.

“Professor (John) Onuska in the English department had us over to watch the PBS productions of the Shakespeare plays during the semester I took a course on the Bard with him,” he said. “His class was fun to take because he made it fun.”



Martin Mlynczak, BS physics 1981, is a senior research scientist with the science directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

After graduating from UM–St. Louis, Mlynczak went on to earn a master’s degree in meteorology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a doctoral degree in atmospheric science at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

“Growing up in St. Louis, we always had exciting weather, especially severe weather,” Mlynczak said. “I wanted to work in atmospheric science as long as I can remember. Even in second grade, when we had an assignment to bring in an article from the newspaper to talk about in class, I brought in the weather forecast from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, including the ‘Weatherbird.’”

It’s a field that keeps him busy. He’s working on about six projects.

“There is one major theme – to better understand the disposition of energy in the atmosphere. This ranges from understanding the effects of the sun on the high atmosphere (above 60 miles altitude) to understanding climate change down here where we live.”

Mlynczak’s visit to UM–St. Louis also included spending time with former classmates and teachers.

“I was fortunate to visit with professors Leventhal, Bernard Feldman and Wayne Garver, both on and off campus,” he said. “With Leventhal and Feldman, we talked at the awards dinner, and with Garver we went to lunch at a restaurant just off campus on Natural Bridge (Road). Just like the old days.

“It was great to visit with everyone, but it was too short a time to catch up. I hope to come back soon.”

Clint Zweifel

becomes youngest Missouri state treasurer in 100 years

By Ryan Heinz

Clint Zweifel maintains a vigorous gait as he rounds the corner of Madison and East High streets in Jefferson City, Mo. He breaks free from the inauguration procession to enthusiastically shake hands with parade watchers along the route to the capitol; his warmth cuts through the brisk January chill. He's minutes from being sworn in as Missouri state treasurer and becoming the first University of Missouri–St. Louis alumnus to hold statewide office.

It wasn't so long ago that Zweifel, BS political science 1996 and MBA 2001, was walking the campus of UM–St. Louis, campaigning for vice president of the Student Government Association or toting a reporter's notebook for the student newspaper, *The Current*. He says, even then, he was imbued with a zeal for public service, government and politics. This was not lost on the scholars who taught him.

"There were so many people on that campus who were advocates for me long before I ever thought of running for political office," Zweifel says, calling from his office in Jefferson City.

Zweifel, 35, points to a pair of former UM–St. Louis faculty members who served as mentors: Richard Pacelle and Michele Hoyman. Both recall Zweifel's eagerness to learn, sharp intelligence and fervent participation in mock Supreme Court and collective bargaining simulations. They say he was witty and personable, the type of pupil who stood out in a class packed with nearly 125 students.

Hoyman, now associate professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, helped Zweifel obtain an internship with the United Automobile Workers in Detroit.



Clint Zweifel, BS political science 1996 and MBA 2001, and his wife Janice Smith, BGS 1998, wave to supporters Jan. 12, shortly after he was sworn in as Missouri state treasurer in Jefferson City.

"At the time, he was very interested in the labor movement," she says of Zweifel, who later became the research and education director for Teamsters Local 688. "Even then, I knew whatever route he chose, he would make a big impact, as he was a born leader."

The son of a carpenter and hairdresser, Zweifel grew up in Florissant, Mo. His parents instilled in him at an early age the importance of voting, a strong work ethic and community involvement.

"My experience at UM–St. Louis really opened me up and gave me a chance to see how public service can make a difference," says Zweifel, who went on to serve three consecutive terms in the Missouri House of Representatives.

UM–St. Louis is where Zweifel met his wife, Janice Smith, BGS 1998. He initially noticed her at a meeting of the Political Science Academy and later asked her out.

As treasurer, he's responsible for the management of \$20 billion in annual state revenues and the state's \$3.5 billion investment portfolio. His goals

include making home ownership and higher education more affordable, investing in health care and improving Missouri's overall economic outlook.

Zweifel is mere months into his first term as treasurer, a position that often serves as a springboard to higher office. But his focus remains on the job at hand.

"We want to produce results and make a material difference for taxpayers," he says. "I'll let the chips fall where they may after that."

Steve Novik

Retired Edward Jones executive writes UM–St. Louis into next chapter of life

By Linda Tracy

Steve Novik isn't the type of guy to lounge around in his bathrobe just because he's retired. He's a man with a plan, despite bidding farewell to his 26-year career at Edward Jones in January.

In addition to recently leasing an office so he has a "place to call his own," Novik, BSBA 1972, serves on the board of directors for several corporations. He's heading a fundraising committee at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. He's made numerous travel plans with his wife, and he said he hopes to take up digital photography as a hobby.

Preparation and organization are simply in his nature.

"All my post-retirement plans were made in anticipation of suddenly not having any structure, and that can be pretty unsettling," he said. "I'm accustomed to being busy with my job, but now I'll be pursuing new projects."

Novik began working as a general partner at Edward Jones in 1983. He served on the firm's management committee and executive committee, and for the last 14 years of his career, he was the company's chief financial officer.

Novik's contributions to Edward Jones will be remembered long past his retirement. At the company's annual partners meeting in January, the firm recognized him with a \$100,000 scholarship in his name benefiting the College of Business Administration at UM–St. Louis.

"I was very surprised and touched by this generous gesture," he said. "In the past, a group of us had contributed to the university's Edward Jones Alumni Scholarship, but [the scholarship] was a complete shock."

Novik's pride for UM–St. Louis goes back to 1970. He was a transfer student from a local community college when he began attending classes at the university. He said UM–St. Louis provided a great background and education for him.

"I didn't have the money to attend a private college or go away to school, so UM–St. Louis was a logical transition for me," he said. "I'd already discovered my interest in accounting and finance, and I found the university's courses and professors to be very good."

He went on to earn a master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1974.

Novik said UM–St. Louis is an important part of his new life. In his role as a fundraiser, he's helping the university establish a presence in Grand Center, an arts and entertainment district in St. Louis. The fundraising committee he's leading is raising money to construct a building in the district. The structure will be the new home of the university's radio station, 90.7 KWMU-FM.

"The committee ties in well with the arts and entertainment interests my wife and I share, so I know this will be a great fit," Novik said. "I'm really enjoying the start of this new chapter of my life."



Photo by August Jennewein

Steve Novik, BSBA 1972, retired in January after a 26-year career at Edward Jones in St. Louis County.

Margaret Williams

Alumna named Missouri Teacher of the Year



Photo by August Hennewein

Margaret Williams (center), BS secondary education 1971, teaches social studies at University City (Missouri) High School. She took time out from a lecture in February to be photographed with 11th-grade students in her honors government course. The students are: (seated from left) Tyler Jones, Rebecca Fishman and Maya Foster; (front row standing from left) Caila Q. Daniels, Williams, Deanna Woolfolk, Chantelle Collins, L'Oreal Campbell; and (standing back row from left) Bryant Scaife, Robin Reed, Sydney Gooch and Dominique Dobbins.

By Linda Tracy

It only takes a few minutes of talking with Margaret Williams to realize she's someone who loves her job. And if you excel at your work as she does, then your profession tends to love you back.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in August named Williams, BS secondary education 1971, the 2008-09 Missouri Teacher of the Year.

Her career spans 38 years, and she's been a social studies teacher at University City (Missouri) High School for the past 19. She heads the school's social studies department and coaches the award-winning University City Mock Trial Team.

Before being selected Missouri's top teacher, Williams was recognized as Teacher of the Year by the School District of University City. Months later, she faced a nine-member selection committee that interviewed her and five other finalists to select the statewide award winner.

"This has been a priceless experience," Williams said. "One of the best things about the whole process of filling out paperwork and applications for the award was that

it gave me time to reflect upon my 38 years of teaching. I feel so blessed."

Williams initially had planned to become an attorney when she began taking classes at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the late 1960s. However, she soon discovered her true passion.

"I wanted to be this lawyer who really affected people's lives," she said. "But I'd had the chance to lead my group in a psychology class during my senior year of high school, and I really enjoyed it. I realized that teaching was the way for me to make a difference and create a positive experience."

Williams has taught a number of classes over the years. Her current courses include U.S. Government, Honors U.S. Government and African-American Experience, for which she wrote the curriculum.

She describes her teaching style with one word - "emotion."

"There are topics I have a lot of passion for, and I want students to feel it," she said. "Some of the time, they just think I'm crazy, but I try to do things like play ancient African-American games or listen to tapes of slave narratives to give the kids a different perspective."

Her approach draws praise from colleagues.

"She is the epitome of a teacher," said Joylynn L. Wilson, district superintendent, in an announcement about the award. "She is passionate about her work and has a way of motivating kids so that they want to achieve."

Williams said, since she was named Missouri Teacher of the Year, her already busy life has been a whirlwind. She and Teacher of the Year winners from other states have participated, or will participate, in a number of special activities.

They met President Obama in April in Washington and will visit the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., in July and Princeton University in New Jersey in the fall.

"The prizes and trips we've received are wonderful, of course," Williams said. "But most importantly, teaching is my calling, and that's why I enjoy it so much. That's where my heart is."

Alumni

NOTES

1967

Brian Bass, BSBA, retired after 38 years as finance manager at the St. Louis County Department of Highways and Traffic. He served as trustee for county retirement plans for 12 years and served on the board of directors of County Credit Union for 22 years. He continues to umpire high school baseball and softball games.

1969



Jerry R. Williams, MEd, wrote the book "Sighing Forth My Soul: Reflections Along a Journey of Faith" (Xlibris, 2007).

1972

Steve Finkelstein, BSBA, is senior partner and business consultant with Experience on Demand in St. Louis.

1973

James Arcipowski, BSBA, is a broker at Summit Benefits Group. He lives in Manchester, Mo.

1974



Michael Stroher, BM, is professor of trombone and coordinator of graduate studies at Marshall University in Huntington,

W. Va. He also serves as principal trombone in the Huntington Symphony Orchestra and is an

active performer of jazz and chamber music throughout West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

1975



Roberta L. Farrell, BS chemistry, spoke at a chemistry department colloquium in October on "Science in Antarctica." She

earned a doctoral degree in biochemistry in 1980 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Since 1996, Farrell has been a professor of biological sciences at The University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. She's a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the International Academy of Wood Science. Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of New Zealand, appointed Farrell this year to The New Zealand Order of Merit for services to biochemical research.

1978



Kay Heidbreder, BA political science, is general counsel and special assistant attorney general assigned to Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

Cornell Thomas, BM, is the 11th president at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas.

1979

Donna Atchison, BSBA, is a mortgage representative at Citizens National Bank. She lives in Hazelwood, Mo.

Steven Colter, BSBA, is customer service director at United Airlines in St. Louis.



Robert Poe, MBA and BSBA 1977, has declared his candidacy for governor of Alaska. He has had a 28-year career in the private

and public sectors in Alaska. Initially coming to Alaska to be a mountain guide and business consultant, Poe has served four governors of Alaska.

Natalie (Mascia) Schaefer, BSBA, is a consultant at Fiduciary Advisors Inc. She lives in St. Louis.

1980

Daniel Clay, BSBA, is the chief operating officer of Ladeki Restaurant Group in LaJolla, Calif.

Allen Ozersky, BSBA, is manager of desktop support at ANI Networks in El Segundo, Calif.

Claudette Reed, MEd, retired after 36 years with the St. Louis Public School System. In addition to filling multiple roles in after-school programs, she also designed and implemented an assertive discipline behavior modification technique within the schools. She remains active in volunteer services since retirement.

1981

Steve Dioneda, BA political science, has been appointed to the Webster Groves (Missouri) School District. He is an attorney with Kullmann, Klein and Dioneda. He and Ann, his wife, have four children.

Edith L. Lam-Nardone, MBA, is vice president of DCS Corporation in Alexandria, Va.

1982

Jerry Crumley, BSBA, is president of the U-Haul Company of North Texas.

Carol D. Sullivan, BSW, is a social worker at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.



Chris Wright, MEd, is superintendent of the Hazelwood (Missouri) School District. In October, she was named Missouri Superin-

tendent of the Year 2009 by the Missouri Association of School Administrators.

1983



Warner Baxter, BSBA, was named president and chief executive officer of AmerenUE in St. Louis in March.

He previously served as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Ameren and president and chief executive officer of Ameren Services.

Marilyn Probe, EdD and MEd 1976, co-wrote the book of poems "Nothing Smaller Than Your Elbow" (Bluestem Press, 2008).

1984

Michael Bahr, MEd, is an associate professor of educational psychology, research and evaluation at UM-St. Louis. He has been appointed

director of accreditation and program enhancement in the university's College of Education.

John Grah, BSBA, is the chief operating officer of Providence Memorial Hospital in El Paso, Texas.

1986

Kathy Hart, BSBA, was elected to a second term on the Webster Groves (Missouri) City Council. She also was appointed chief judge of the Division of Workers Compensation.

1987

Dorothea Bean, MS chemistry, is a chemistry teacher at Ursuline Academy in Kirkwood, Mo.

Carol DeFreese, MEd, is the recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

1988

Dorothy James, MEd, is retiring in July after serving 33 years as a resource teacher in the St. Louis Public Schools.

1989

Barbara Bentrup, BSBA, is an associate attorney at Capes, Sokol, Goodman & Sarachan in St. Louis.

1991

Robert Cahn, BSBA, is a compliance specialist for network services at AT&T in London.

1992

David Byrd, BSBA, is the chief financial officer of Des Peres Hospital in Des Peres, Mo.

Robert S. Richman, BSBA, is the director of financial planning and analysis for Esse Health in St. Louis.

1993



Brenda Battle, BGS, was named one of the St. Louis Business Journals' Most Influential Minority Business Leaders in 2008.

Battle is the director of the Center for Diversity and Cultural Competence at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

Wayne Deveydt, BSBA, is the chief financial officer of WellPoint in Indianapolis.

1994

Mark Kushina, BS physics, is a senior laser engineer at Northrop Grumman Space Technology in St. Charles, Mo. He has been at Northrop for more than 13 years. He lives in Maryland Heights, Mo., with Jeannie, his wife, and Mary and Abby, their two daughters. He enjoys playing basketball, riding his motorcycle and reading science articles.

Gail Trendley, MEd and BS education 1981, is a teacher in the Fort Zumwalt School District in O'Fallon, Mo. She teaches kindergarten through fifth-grade students and has been teaching for more than 25 years. She lives in Wentzville, Mo.

Michael Unland, MBA, is a senior project manager at Burns & McDonnell. He lives in Wentzville, Mo.

1995

Janice Hovis, BSBA, is a director at Panera Bread. She lives in St. Charles, Mo.

1996

The Rev. Barrett Ryan Buchmueller, BS criminology and criminal justice, works at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freistaff, Mo.

Raafat (Raef) Shaltout, PhD chemistry and MS chemistry 1994, is an intellectual property attorney at The Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Mich. He was a patent attorney at McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff in Chicago. He earned a law degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago.

1997

Steve Albart, MPPA, is senior vice president at Enterprise Bank and Trust in St. Louis.

L. Richard Feldenberg, BA chemistry, is a pediatric nephrologist at Saint Louis University. He and Julie, his wife, live in St. Louis with their two sons.

Dianna Gravemen, BS education, and Don, her husband, wrote a book about St. Charles, Mo. It's called, "St. Charles: Les Petites Cotes." Arcadia Publishing released the book in March. It's part of the publisher's "Images of America" series. Gravemen is an editor, award-winning freelance writer and adjunct journalism instructor.

Edgar Johnson, BSBA, is a consultant in the human resources, development, retirement and health care deliverables area. He is based in St. Louis.

1998

Janice M. Smith, BGS, earned a master's degree in behavior analysis from the University of Nevada-Reno in January.

Patrick W. Troutman, BA chemistry, is working as a recruiter with Lab Support in Milwaukee. He spent 10 years in the food ingredient industry as a chemist prior to transitioning out of the lab.

1999

Andrew G. Breite, BS chemistry, is a senior research scientist at VitaCyte in Indianapolis. He previously worked as an assay development scientist at Quadraspec in West Lafayette, Ind. He earned a master's degree in biochemistry from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. Breite is completing a master's degree in business administration from Butler University in Indianapolis.

David Haggard, MEd, is superintendent of schools at the New Franklin R-1 (Missouri) School District. He lives in Boonville, Mo.

Alumni

Folahan Osishile, BS computer science, is a manager of information technology at Siemens PLM Software. He earned a master's degree in business administration at Webster University in Webster Groves, Mo.

2000

Michael Jarvis, BS biology, is the executive director of pharmacy at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis.

2001

Denise Brown, BS management information systems, is an information technology business manager at AT&T in St. Louis.



Regina M. Faden, MA history, is executive director of Historic St. Mary's City in Maryland.

Mary G. Singleton, MEd, is Ward 8 councilwoman in Hazelwood, Mo.

Shannon Zipoy, BS criminology and criminal justice, is founder of An Organized Life in Webster Groves, Mo. The company helps individuals and families create more time, space and energy for the people, activities and things that matter most.

Clint Zweifel, MBA and BA political science 1997, is treasurer of the State of Missouri. (See Page 25.) He and Janice Smith, his wife, live in Florissant, Mo.

2002

Brent Daigle, BA history, earned a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction in December at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La. He's an assistant professor of education at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

Vincent Featherston, MEd, is chairman of the Department of Health Technologies at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park.



Orvin Kimbrough, MBA, is senior vice president of major gifts and planned giving at the United Way of Greater St. Louis. He was appointed to the Missouri State University Board of Governors.

Jennifer Lyons, BSBA, is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in St. Louis.

2003

Janice Bingham, BS criminology and criminal justice, is a special education teacher with the St. Louis Public School District. She lives in Florissant, Mo.

Mark Bullock, BS management information systems, is a coordinator of labor relations at SITE Improvement Association. He lives in Barnhart, Mo.

Laura Dale, BSBA, is a district sales manager at Boulevard Brewing Company. She lives in Maryland Heights, Mo.

Elaine Dempsey, MFA and BA English 1984, is director of admissions and recruitment at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.



Monica (Durrwachter) Combest, BA political science, married John Combest in

November. She is a legal and legislative assistant at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in St. Louis.

Maria Tiratsuyan, MA economics and BS economics 2001, is a financial associate at Cushman & Wakefield in McLean, Va. She founded learn4change, a nonprofit organization to promote English language education and economic development in some of the poorest countries around the world. In December, learn4change launched a school supply project that delivered supplies to 96 children in Artik, Armenia.

2004

Sabrina Heidemann, BA psychology, is a pregnancy counseling and support services specialist at Missouri Baptist Children's Home in Bridgeton, Mo. She's completing a master's degree in school counseling at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo.



Holly Hughes, MA history and BA anthropology 2002, was hired in March as the director of education at the

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History at The University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Pamela Ramsey, BSBA, is a production support analyst at Edward Jones in Maryland Heights, Mo. She earned a master's degree in international business at Webster University in Webster Groves, Mo.

2005

Joshua Brown, BSBA, is a technical consultant at Wachovia Securities.

Charles Cappel, BSBA, is a human resources administrator at Jacobs Engineering in St. Louis.

Lori (Bowen) Gwyn, PhD chemistry and MS chemistry 2003, is a postdoctoral fellow at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. She studies protein:DNA interactions. She was awarded a three-year National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2007, and has co-written one paper. She was married in 2005 after moving to Oklahoma City. She had twins last year. Their names are Jacob James and Caroline Grace.

Lori Hirst, MA English, is a professor at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park.

Michelle Pierson, BA communication, married John Kilper in September. She is an alumni coordinator at UM-St. Louis.

Stephanie Randolph, BS criminology and criminal justice, is a court clerk for the State of Missouri.

2006

Carolyn Dalton, BA French, recently returned from France, where she worked with the Franco-American Commission in a teacher exchange program.

Dr. Kyle Dohm, OD, is a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. This spring, he completed six months of training at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. At the conclusion of the training, Dohm received his naval aviator wings for graduating from advanced flight schooling. He is stationed with Ann, his wife, at the Naval Air Facility in Atsugi, Japan.

Matt Klaric, MBA, is president of the St. Louis Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals. He recently awarded the organization's John Grant Helm Memorial Scholarship to James North, a student in the Pierre Laclède Honors College at UM-St. Louis.

Lawrence Miskell II, MPPA and BA political science and German 2001, is a human resources specialist for the City of St. Louis. He recently began law school at Saint Louis University and was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, The National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. He adopted a child in November.

Jennifer Pontious, BS education, is a third-grade teacher at Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Academy in St. Louis.



Nancy Powers, MFA, is a communications manager at Moneta Group in Clayton, Mo. Her poem,

"The Long Way Around" and a short feature about Powers were published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in October. She and her husband have a blended family of five children and eight grandchildren.

Lucas Terando, BSBA, is a freight broker with Sunset Transportation in St. Louis.

2007

Kasi Canis, BS education, is a first-grade teacher in the Ferguson-Florissant (Missouri) School District.

Lelia Covington, BS education, is a teaching assistant in the St. Louis Special School District.

Michael J. Lantzy, BS chemistry, is an inside sales representative with KnowledgeLake, a computer software company. Last year, he was a player and manager of the Hanover Regents baseball team in Germany.

Juan Martinez-Gomez, PhD biology and MS biology 2001, is teaching and conducting research at the Instituto de Ecología in Veracruz, Mexico. He also completed a postdoctoral position there. In his spare time, he scuba dives.

Rachel (Kotva) Mitchell, BS accounting, is a certified public accountant with UHY in St. Louis.

Elizabeth Pickard, MA history, is a theater coordinator at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis.

Nearly 500 attend first Alumni Weekend



Photo by David Ulmer

Five former presidents of the Student Government Association at the University of Missouri-St. Louis gather April 17 at the inaugural Alumni Weekend. They are (left to right): Scott Bopp, BSBA 2006; Nick Koechig, BA political science 2007 and MPPA 2008; Bob Engelken, BA psychology 1975 and MS gerontology 1995; Bob Braun, BA political science 1974; and D'Andre Braddix, BS criminology and criminal justice 2007 and MEd 2008. Nearly 500 UM-St. Louis alumni and their guests attended events at Alumni Weekend, which included an All-Greek Reunion, luncheons at colleges around campus, dance lessons and a jazz concert featuring the John Pizzarelli Quartet and Jon Faddis.

Share your
news

Update your fellow alumni by mailing news and photos to:

UM-St. Louis
Alumni Association
101 Woods Hall
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Or you can send text and photos to alumni@umsl.edu. Please send high-resolution (300 dpi or greater) images.



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The University of Missouri–St. Louis Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is the association's highest honor. It's presented annually to five university alumni who have achieved exceptional distinction in their careers, distinguished themselves through community service or made significant contributions to the university.

The nomination deadline is July 31. Recipients will be recognized Sept. 22 at the university's Founders Dinner. Send the nominee's name and UM–St. Louis major, along with a nomination letter, to:

Awards Committee
Office of Alumni Relations
UM–St. Louis
101 Woods Hall
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

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