

2011 UMSL Trailblazers



Melissa D. Alper

Co-founder of the UMSL Women LEAD Program through the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life; Selected for the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs; Vice President of the Political Science Academy; Inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society; Volunteer for the National Council of Jewish Women; Interned for State Representative Jill Schupp and currently for Planned Parenthood.



Terry V. Freerks

First female Head Coach of Clayton Shaw Park Swim Club; National record holder in age group through Masters Swimming; Olympic trial qualifier; Taught at the U.S. Olympic Training Facility; Member of the Ozark Swimming Hall of Fame; Executive Director of CSP Swimming; Member of the UMSL Leadership Council – College of Arts and Sciences; Recognized by the American Swimming Coaches Association as a Level 5 Coach (highest level).



Janet A. Scott

Co-founder and current owner of St. Louis PublisHers, Inc., which produces the Women's Yellow Pages of Greater St. Louis; Professor Emerita at SIUE; President of Women's Regional Publications of America; Member of the Women's Entrepreneurial Brain Trust; Serves on the UMSL Gender Studies Advisory Board; Two-time recipient of the SBA Women in Business Advocate Award; Received the Quest Award for Distinguished Achievement in Communications; Former 2nd flutist for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.



Natissia S. Small

Director of the UMSL- Office of Precollegiate Programs and has more than tripled its number of participants; Recognized by the Missouri State Senate for "excellent contributions and outstanding dedication to the community;" Winner of 2008 North County Churches United Mentor of the Year Award; Received 2010 North County Incorporated "30 Leaders in their 30's" award; Recipient of 2010 Certificate of Recognition from Mayor Robert Lowery for "making a difference in Florissant and North County."



Marisa X. Smith

First woman to hold the rank of detective in the UMSL Police Department; Member of the St. Louis Major Case Squad; Among the first to be trained as part of UMSL's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT); Member of UMSL's Partners in Prevention; Nominee for the Chancellor's Excellence Award in 2007; Her efforts have contributed greatly to the increased clearance rate of reported crime on campus.