

The Link



December 2007

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 A photograph showing two women standing indoors. The woman on the left, wearing a red jacket, is presenting a dark-colored plaque or award to the woman on the right, who is wearing a dark jacket. They are both smiling.	<h2>Message from the President</h2> <p>The Fall General Staff Association meeting was held in November. Joann Wilkinson was recognized for her efforts as President of the Staff Association. On behalf of the Staff Council, we want to say THANK YOU for your hard work as President, 2006-2007!</p> <p>We also welcomed Susan Lipsitz Cohen, the new director of Alumni Relations and invited her to share her plans for the Alumni Association. She reminded everyone to renew the complimentary membership in the association. Pat Dolan, Special Assistant to the Provost for Accreditation, discussed with us the importance of re-accreditation. Betty Van Uum from the Office of Public Affairs and Economic Development gave an update on the Master Plan and planned projects along Natural Bridge Road.</p> <p>I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and joyous New Year!</p>

Holiday Closing Schedule



Most offices will be closed beginning Monday, December 24th through Tuesday, January 1st.

The campus will be closed from Monday, December 24, 2007 through Tuesday, January 1, 2008, inclusive. The University paid holidays are December 25th and January 1st. Employees may use accrued vacation or personal days (any combination of vacation and/or personal days equal to five days) for December 24, 26, 27, 28, 31; or if no paid days are available, they may take those days as unpaid time off. Employees (exempt and non-exempt) must submit a Report of Absence (Form 60) for all days off, whether paid or unpaid, which are not University paid holidays.

New employees whose units are not open and who have not yet accumulated enough vacation/personal days to cover December 24-31 must make special arrangements with their unit managers and with the approval of the appropriate vice chancellor if they wish to work during the period when other offices (see below) are open. Other employees in these units who, for special reasons, need to work during this time period should follow the same approval procedures.

During this time, the following offices will remain open for some or all of the days between December 24 and January 1, 2008:

Bookstore

Center for Trauma Recovery

Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis

Community Psychological Services

Gift Processing (Development)

Information Technology Services

KWMU

Physical Plant

Police Department

Touhill Performing Arts Center

Limited mail services will be available during this time. More details will be distributed at a later date. If there are important reasons for other units to remain open, unit managers should contact their vice chancellors.

Bi-weekly paychecks will be direct deposited on Wednesday, December 26. Monthly paychecks are currently scheduled to be direct deposited on Friday, December 21st.

Welcome Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has relocated to the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Normandie Residence Hall on South Campus. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the chamber was held Tuesday at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The Chamber was founded April 28, 1982 and represents the interests of more than 2,000 Hispanic-owned businesses in the greater St. Louis region. Their mission is to promote the economic development of Hispanic firms at the domestic and international level, as well as to serve as a link to the non-Hispanic entrepreneur.

Staff Stories Needed

Do you have a positive story about a staff member helping a student? The Accreditation team is looking for these stories for publication. If you have a story to share, please send it to Pat Dolan or Judith Walker de Felix. They are looking for specific details of staff members taking the time to do something special for students. If the story is outstanding with specific details, we can go back a couple of years. Start thinking about all the wonderful things we staff members have done for our students!

Here are a couple of examples of the kind of stories the Accreditation team is looking for:

Steve Miller....maintenance service attendant hosts “Classic Oldies” show on the student radio station—The U. Steve is the DJ working on his own time every Friday from 4pm to 5pm. Steve genuinely is assisting UMSL students’ learning.

Oscar Gardner.....maintenance service, On August 17th an international student fell on his bicycle in the middle of West Drive. Oscar pulled his truck up and turned on the safety lights of the truck on so other cars would go around the student and he wouldn’t get hurt. This truly was an act of promoting a learning environment.

UM-St. Louis' Child Development Center Receives Gift



Pictured are (l to r): James Williams, McDonald's owner and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis board member; Lynn Navin, director of the University Child Development Center at UM-St. Louis; Steffanie Rockette, chair of the UCDC Advisory Committee at UM-St. Louis and Vice-President of UM-St. Louis Staff Association; and Harold Dortch, McDonald's general manager.

The University Child Development Center at the University of Missouri-St. Louis received a \$15,000 donation Oct. 12 from Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis. The gift will assist in funding the construction of a new outdoor learning environment for children of the center, ages six months to three years.

Lynn Navin, director of the center, said the gift is greatly appreciated.

"We're so excited to be able to replace our 15-year-old playground," Navin said. "The new outdoor learning system will feature nine distinct play areas, and it will be ADA compliant."

The center, located on UM-St. Louis' South Campus, is fully licensed and the only state- and nationally-accredited early care and education program in the St. Louis area. The UCDC provides students from UM-St. Louis' College of Education with the opportunity to serve as interns at the center each semester. Nearly 30 students graduate from the college's Early Childhood Education program annually.

Pack the Stands!



Pack the Stands is an event hosted by the campus community in hopes of bringing together students, faculty, staff and alumni. This year's Pack the Stands is tentatively scheduled for February 14, 2008 (yes, Valentine's Day!) at the UMSL basketball team's game versus SIU-E. Family members are welcome. Bring your Valentine! There will be free food, games, attendance prizes and banner wars. Please plan on attending to support the University and our Tritons!

Trivia Night to be Held March 1, 2008

The 8th Annual Staff Association/Office of Student Life Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2008 at the Gym facility at Wild Acres Park in Overland. We will also have silent auction items and sports memorabilia for sale. The Trivia Committee is being chaired by Don Lewis and Drew Griffin, so if you have any questions/comments/suggestions, please contact one of them. Proceeds from this event benefit the John Perry/Staff Association Scholarship fund.



Riverstars Employee of the Month

October 2007 Winner
Effective Leadership

Jason Stahr
Manager Stage Services
Touhill Performing Arts Center

Midday Tai Chi Qigong

As an offshoot from last year’s Focus on the Future, Linda Gatson conducts a midday Tai Chi Qigong (pronounced “chee kong”) practice session. This is an ancient Chinese form of exercise that has many benefits including improvement of balance and flexibility and stress reduction. The session lasts approximately 20 minutes and requires no previous experience. Please contact Linda directly (gatsonl@umsl.edu or extension 5091) if interested.

Did You Know?

Did you know that membership in the UMSL Alumni Association is free to all staff? And that you don’t have to be an UMSL graduate to join? Contact the Alumni Relations office at 516-4165 for more information.

Do you have questions about the Staff Association (or the University in general) that you would like to have answered in the Link? If so, please submit questions to Faith Lucas, 204 Woods Hall or to flucas@umsl.edu. We will try to contact the appropriate department and get an answer for you.

Upcoming Events

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| Holiday Bazaar | December 4, 2007, 10 am-2 pm |
| Chancellor’s Holiday Reception | December 19, 2007, 2-5 pm |
| Winter Break | Dec 24, 2007 – Jan 1, 2008 |
| Pack the Stands Basketball game | February 14, 2008 |
| Trivia Night | March 1, 2008, 7 pm |
| Focus on the Future | March 24 – 26, 2008 |
| Spring Break week | March 24 – 28, 2008 |