

The Link



February 2010

University of Missouri-St. Louis Staff Association Newsletter



Photo by August Jennewein

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President's Message

Greetings All!

Good News; Winter Semester enrollment numbers are in and we are again seeing a nice increase over last year's enrollments and credit hours for this semester. These increases are crucial to our success in these trying economic times. We need to continue to grow as an institution and each of us can make a difference in ensuring that we retain this growing student population and contributing to their success and experience on this campus.

In January, President Forsee announced a Benefits Perception Survey to be completed by Faculty and Staff system wide. As per the President's Memo, "The results will be used as a planning tool for the university's Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee to help the university understand what our faculty and staff value in a pay and benefits package". This survey should be released soon. It is important for all of us to take the time to complete the survey.

Thanks to all who participated in Pack the Stands! We had a great turnout and loads of fun!

Save the date of February 27, 2010 for the annual Trivia Night. This event has been a tremendous success and is a great opportunity to join friends for a fun evening.

Happy Winter!
Ken Voss

UMSL Mascot Revealed



Photo by August Jennewein

The new UMSL mascot revealed at "Pack The Stands" night Jan 21.

Riverstars Employee of the Month-January

Marie Steinbach

The Employee of the Month winner for January is Marie Steinbach for “Works Well Under Pressure.” Marie is a Coordinator of Special Events in the Performing Arts Center. Congratulations to Marie!

Volunteer of the Month-January

Tisha Dillon

Tisha is an excellent volunteer. She is very accurate in maintaining her schedule, she is thorough, and she does the assigned tasks in a professional manner. She has proven that she can do her job with minimal supervision. Her future employers will definitely enjoy having her in their departments

IMPORTANT REMINDER – YOUR ID CARD MAY NOT WORK IF IT HAS NOT BEEN UPDATED

As of Tuesday, January 19th our campus has implemented a new ID card management system. This upgrade requires that all UMSL Faculty and Staff ID Cards be printed using Employee ID numbers instead of federal ID numbers. **UMSL ID cards that were issued in the past with the federal ID number no longer function in any capacity on campus including meal plans and door access.**

Late last fall, faculty and staff who needed to replace their ID Cards should have received an email message from the Center for Student Success with details as to how to obtain your new ID card. If you were unable to do so, you should do this right away in order to have a working ID card. It is not too late. Please visit 225 Millennium Student Center to get your updated card. Should you have questions, please contact the Center at x5300 or email to css@umsl.edu

UMSL Master Plan Update

In December, the Board of Curators approved the Campus Master Plan Update. The update can be viewed at:

http://www.umsl.edu/~facplan/pdf/umsl_masterplan2009.pdf



UMSL Master Plan 2009 update



UMSL Staff Honored for Communication, Alumni Programming

The University of Missouri–St. Louis has been recognized for outstanding communication and alumni programming by a regional organization. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District 6 announced Jan. 11 that the university had won nine awards from the group's annual Institutional Awards Program. UMSL's offices of Creative and Media Services took home eight awards, and the ninth went to the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. All three offices are part of the Division of University Advancement, which is led by Martin Leifeld, Vice Chancellor for Advancement. "I'm really proud of our team," Leifeld said. "Their creativity, talent and hard work are valuable assets to the university. This recognition is deserved and greatly appreciated."

Photo by August Jennewein



Pictured (left to right) are staff members from UMSL's offices of Creative and Media Services: Kylie Shaffer-koetter, Sandy Morris, Cindy Bertram, Ryan Heinz, Linda Tracy and Joan Barnidge.

Trivia Night-February 27

This February 27th, the Staff Association and the Office of Student Life will sponsor the 11th annual Trivia Night at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ann Church's Parish Center. The proceeds from this event help support the John Perry/Staff Association Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is awarded to a dependent of a UMSL staff employee.

St. Ann Church's Parish Center, located just blocks east of campus, provides us with plenty of indoor space and plenty of parking. In recognition of the tough economic times everyone is experiencing, and to get as many people as we can to the event, we are keeping the lowered entry fee from last year at \$10.00 per person. That's just \$80 for a table of 8 players! As usual, there will be raffle items, silent auction items, attendance prizes, and a sports memorabilia auction. There will also be a prize awarded to the group with the best decorations. So, pick a theme and decorate your table, wear theme-based costumes, serve theme-based food. Be creative. Have fun with it!

Registration information can be found at www.umsl.edu/trivia. Download the registration form to register your table today. Hurry, registration will be limited to the first 30 paid teams. Hope to see you there!



UMSL DAY-March 6

UMSL Day, Saturday, March 6, is a special day set aside to explain the admissions process to students and their parents. "UMSL Day gives students the opportunity to experience our campus firsthand and get all of their basic questions answered," said Alan Byrd, director of admissions. The program is free and runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Century Rooms at the Millennium Student Center. It includes informational sessions with deans and faculty, programs on financial aid and residential life, and representatives from student organizations, along with music, snacks and refreshments. <http://www.umsl.edu/umsladay> or call 888-GO2UMSL.





The Luminaria Ceremony is the opportunity to remember loved ones lost to cancer and honor those who have won their battle.

UMSL Staff and Relay for Life

Relay for Life is a 12 hour overnight walk to benefit the American Cancer Society. The walk will take place beginning April 23, 6 pm at the MSC Lakes, and includes a Survivor lap, as well as Luminaria to honor or remember someone special who has been profoundly affected by cancer. This is the 4th year for this student sponsored event, and it would be great to have more staff members participate to support our students as well as the American Cancer Society! Please consider joining the UMSL Staff team (or any other team!) and/or making a donation. Family and friends are certainly welcome as well. More information about the event can be found at www.relayforlife.org/umslmo. If you would like more information about joining the UMSL Staff team, please contact Faith Lucas at flucas@umsl.edu. Thanks in advance for your consideration and support.

Focus on the Future – March 30 and March 31

Focus on the Future provides an opportunity for continued professional and personal development for all employees. The broad range of session topics offered by skilled presenters allows you to focus on specific areas of interest, both personal and professional.

Some familiar classes will return:

- Wills and Trusts
- Taking Charge of Your Finances
- Ready, Set, Read: *The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold
- Tai Chi
- Sanford Brown's Chair Massage Therapy
- Cooking with the Chef

Some new classes will include:

- Zumba – a Latin Dance/Fitness class
- Social Networking – Twitter, Facebook
- Crisis Management
- Jewelry making
- Reinventing ourselves after 50
- Photo walking tour

The complete list of classes will be available in the next issue of the Link. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity for growth. For questions and classes you would like to add, contact Karen Pierre, 5823.



Meet the Staff Council– Elizabeth “Betsy” Sampson

What is your position on the Staff Council?

I represent staff on the Physical Facilities, Space, and General Services University Assembly Committee. Our committee works with Vice Chancellor Krueger and his staff on issues regarding physical space at the university.

Why is the staff association important to you?

Participating in Staff Association gives me opportunities to meet staff I may not have contact with for my job. In the long run this has been helpful since duties change, and it makes finding others I need to work with much easier when new challenges arise. Second, the Staff Association is an effective, collective voice for staff. Working together, we can come up with issues that affect us as a whole and work with the administration to address them.

What is your position at the university?

I am the Coordinator, Academic Programs/Records for the Graduate School. It is my responsibility to make sure the 2900 graduate students enrolled with us are meeting the minimum standards set by the Graduate Faculty and making progress towards a degree. Once a student has been admitted, I help with special registrations, transfer credit, g.p.a. checks, and other issues that might arise. At the end of a student's program, I conduct preliminary and final graduation checks. This includes guiding students through the final steps of filing a thesis or dissertation and giving final approval. I have approved approximately 7400 graduate degrees at UMSL.

What are your hobbies and interests?

Right now I am training to run a 5K and my goal is to compete in University City's Memorial Day Run. I like to cook, write creatively, and am learning how to use a camera I received as a gift. I combined these into a blog: <http://foodaoke.blogspot.com>. I am also active in my church's Habitat for Humanity group even though I can't swing a hammer.



Elizabeth Sampson

Staff Association History

In April 1984, the Staff Association Council conducted a Needs Survey. 554 Surveys were mailed and 336 were returned.

- 95% of those surveyed were interested or very interested in UMSL closing between Christmas and New Years WITHOUT staff having to use vacation or personal days.
- 94% of those surveyed were interested or very interested in UMSL providing free parking.
- 84% of those surveyed were interested or very interested in UMSL picking up 100% of the incidental fees and tuition for full-time staff.

(Additional details of this survey will be published in future *Links*.)



Rescuing Daisy– Holli Kubly Shares her Story



Daisy and her toys.

Daisy is a shelter dog that I adopted almost four years ago. She is an Australian Shepherd mix and is about six years old. Because she was picked up as a stray, minimal information was available about her background, but it is suspected she was a feral or outside farm dog because of her lack of socialization and fearful tendencies. Although she has some fairly significant behavioral issues, I couldn't imagine my life without her or the many lessons she has taught me.

One of the reasons I adopted a dog was for companionship but I also receive the added bonuses of exercise from our daily dog walks and a built-in security system. One of the greatest joys she brings is seeing her happiness when she plays with toys. It may seem simple, but it took her over a year to actually play with toys without being scared of them. She now happily trots through the house with her stuffed toy hanging from her mouth.

Consider adopting an older cat or dog. Although kittens and puppies are cute, there are so many loving, adult animals that need homes. Just be sure the shelter you work with has a behaviorist on staff who can identify any issues the animal may have before going forward with the adoption. The shelter may also offer discounted rates on training classes.

Submitted by Holli Kubly



Learn how you can help retain UMSL Students.

The Power of Retention Program

The Power of Retention will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010 from 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. in 126 J.C. Penney. This program is designed to acquaint faculty and staff with the student experience at UMSL by (1) reviewing data on student retention and engagement and (2) focusing attention on strategies each of us can use to contribute to the campus goals to recruit and retain outstanding students. Online registration: <http://www.umsl.edu/~welcome/form.html> Contact: Yolanda Weathersby (516-5460) or weathersby@umsl.edu

Triton Connect—UMSL's Online Community

This online discussion board provides opportunities for UMSL faculty and staff to connect with others on campus with similar professional and/or personal interests. To access [Triton Connect](#), faculty and staff should first log in to the campus network and then go to the following website: <https://tritonconnect.umsl.edu/>. First time visitors to the site should check out the Getting Started forum.

Haiti Scams

Please read the information below and take appropriate precautions when you offer your heartfelt support to the people of Haiti. Utilizing known legitimate links like those in the Chancellor's email or taking the time to double check the validity of solicitors can minimize the risk of having your identity or money stolen and ensure your support is directed those in need.

Cybercriminals quickly mobilized following the news of a massive earthquake that hit Haiti on Tuesday, by introducing several hundred compromised domains embedded with bogus software content related to Red Cross donations and general Haiti earthquake relief information.

The sites are already appearing within the first 10 search results on Google, and upon clicking on them the user is redirected to the spammer's site that will request financial and personal information.

Anticipating the upcoming flood of earthquake relief scams, the FBI has released the following tips in order to raise more awareness:

- Do not respond to any unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails, including clicking links contained within those messages.
- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites.
- Verify the legitimacy of nonprofit organizations by utilizing various Internet-based resources that may assist in confirming the group's existence and its nonprofit status rather than following a purported link to the site.
- Be cautious of e-mails that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files because the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- Make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes.
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

Kenneth L. Voss
Director, Computing Services



Make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The UMSL VITA program provides free tax preparation for low income, disabled, and elderly members of our community-- the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County. All UMSL VITA volunteers have been certified by the IRS to prepare tax returns. <http://www.umsl.edu/~vita/index.htm>

Contact information: Phone: (314) 516-7188, E-mail: vita@umsl.edu



UMSL Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented annually to five university alumni who've made extraordinary career achievements, distinguished themselves through community service or significantly went above and beyond in their support and service of UMSL.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Alumni Association is currently seeking nominations for its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award is the association's highest honor. It is presented annually to five university alumni who've made extraordinary career achievements, distinguished themselves through community service or significantly went above and beyond in their support and service of UM-St. Louis.

The nomination deadline is **April 1**. Recipients will be recognized at the University's Founders Dinner in fall 2010. Please help us identify deserving candidates for this award by nominating outstanding alumni that you may know.

For full consideration, all nomination packets must include:

- A completed 2010 UMSL Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination Form
- A current professional resume or vita
- 2 letters of support

Visit the alumni association website to [nominate](#) an alumnus.

For additional questions, please contact the Alumni Relations at 314-516-6453.

Passport Services Available from the Center for International Studies



Passport applications and renewal services will be provided by appointment only at the Center for International Studies.

The Center for International Studies at the University of Missouri–St. Louis is offering new services. Students, faculty and staff can apply for and renew U.S. passports at the center, 366 Social Sciences & Business Building.

The center charges the same fees for passport application and renewal services as the U.S. Postal Service. Adult passport booklets are \$100, passport booklet with passport card is \$120 and passport card is \$45. Passport photographs can be taken at the center for \$12.

"We hope that this new service will make it more convenient for UMSL students, faculty and staff to apply for and renew their passports," said Joel Glassman, associate provost for academic affairs and director of the Center for International Studies. "We also hope that this service will remove one more obstacle to UMSL students wanting to study abroad. We are the only university in the St. Louis metropolitan region providing this service."

Passport application and renewal services will be provided by appointment only. Appointments are available 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 314-516-7297 to make an appointment.

Visit <http://www.umsl.edu/services/cis/Passport.html> for current passport application fees and wait times.

Trailblazer Reminder

You are invited to nominate women candidates for the Trailblazer Award. Nominations forms can be found online at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/oeo/trailblazers.html> or picked up at Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (OEOD), 127 Woods. **Nominations are due in OEOD by 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 25.**

The Trailblazer Ceremony honors women faculty, staff, students, alumnae or supporters of the university who have blazed a trail—women who were first to occupy positions traditionally held by men, or who have worked to forge new pathways or who have contributed significantly to the university and/or community.

The theme this year is “Writing Women Back into History.” The Ceremony will be held March 18 at 2 p.m. in MSC, Century Rooms B&C.



Did You Know?

Did You Know the retirement calculator is in myHR?

Log on to myHR: <https://myhr.umssystem.edu/psp/prd/?cmd=login>

- ◆ Click on Self Service
- ◆ Click on Personal Information
- ◆ Click on Retirement Calculator

Follow the screen prompts



University of Missouri-St. Louis Suicide Prevention Training Program

It seems we're all under more pressure these days—faculty, staff, and students. And we've all seen how stress can affect ourselves and those around us. But determining the difference between someone having “one of those days” and someone dealing with more severe, ongoing concerns can be difficult. And the situation becomes even more challenging when we suspect someone's safety may be at risk.

UM-St. Louis has a new online resource to help faculty, staff, and students learn more about recognizing and responding to someone who may be thinking about suicide. It's called [Ask-Listen-Refer](#), and it includes a tutorial with information about suicide, including warning signs and risk factors. The program also lists a number of resources on campus and in the community that offer help to those in distress. Visit www.asklistenrefer.org/ums for more information, and learn how you can help save a life.

Submitted by: Jamie Linsin, Counseling Psychologist and Coordinator of Outreach Health, Wellness, & Counseling Services, 131 MSC, 516-5711



Is it “one of those days” or something more serious?

Join A&S and SGA to Cheer for the Tritons



The College of Arts & Sciences, along with the Student Government Association, are sponsoring an exciting night of Tritons basketball as the men and women take on Missouri S&T. Free food, giveaways, halftime contests and much more!

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Mark Twain Building

Women's Game @ 5:30 p.m.

Men's Game @ 7:30 p.m.

Free for students, staff, faculty, and alumni with an UMSL ID. If you have questions you are welcome to contact Lisa Kite at 314-516-5004.

Bring your team spirit!

The Equinox Chamber Players - February 17

In a musical celebration of the rich diversity of St. Louis

Sponsored by the Center For International Studies: The Equinox Chamber Players will perform in **Millennium Student Center, Century Room A, on Wednesday, February 17 from 11:00 am– 12:00 pm.** Gay Holmes Spears' new work, *American Mosaic*, is inspired by the story of leaving one's home and finding another – a musical story of immigration. Spears' music depicts the story from new beginnings to becoming a part of the "mosaic of America," expressing the emotions of apprehension, joy, hope, nostalgia, and reflections of the past. Her expressive work is written in four movements: *A New Land*, *New Days*, *Remembering*, and *Belonging*. Admission is free – all are welcome!

Bellerive Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Bellerive launches its 10th anniversary celebration in the Pierre Laclède Honors College Museum Room on Friday, February 26, from noon to 2:00 p.m.. Professor Richard Cook, Chair of the English Department and recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship in 2009 will be the speaker. Celebrate the arrival of this year's issue, "Archipelago" and their 10th anniversary. Copies of *Bellerive* will be on sale for only \$7.00 (or 2 for \$12.00). Refreshments will be served. For those who would like to submit original works of prose, poetry, art or photography for next year's issue, you may do so by sending them as an attachment to bellerivesubmit@umsl.edu.

Wanted: Your Input and Photos

The staff association unit reps have been sending the communications committee your ideas and thoughts on the Link and the staff association website. Thank you for your comments. In response to your input, we have made some changes to the Link and the website. Do you have a contribution, photo or an interesting story for the Link? Please contact Cindy Wills at willsc@umsl.edu with your concern, request, photo or story.



Equinox Chamber Players



Coming Events

Equinox Chamber Players	February 17 11 a.m.-12 p.m.	MSC, Century Room A <i>See article on page 10</i>
Special Triton Basketball Games	February 18 5:30 p.m.	Mark Twain Building <i>See article on page 10</i>
<i>Bellerive's 10th Anniversary</i>	February 26 12– 2 p.m.	Honors College Museum Room <i>See article on page 10</i>
Trivia Night	February 27 7 p.m.	St. Ann's Parish www.umsl.edu/trivia
Power of Retention Program	March 5	Registration: http://www.umsl.edu/~welcome/form.html
Trailblazer Ceremony	March 18 2 p.m.	MSC, Century Rooms B&C <i>See article on page 9</i>
Relay for Life	April 23	www.relayforlife.org/umslmo <i>See article on page 4</i>

Photo by August Jennewein



***“In the midst of winter,
I finally learned that there
was in me an invincible
summer.”
—Albert Camus***

Budget and Planning Committee Meetings

The Budget and Planning Committee will hold five meetings to deliberate the administration's proposed reductions triggered by a cut in state appropriations anticipated for the coming fiscal year (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) as well as the need to cover certain increased expenses such as utilities.

The first meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, from noon to 2:30 pm in JC Penney 72. The major agenda items will be reviewing the factors driving the overall size of the cuts, discussing budget trends at UM-St. Louis over the past five years, and determining the process for the following four meetings. These meetings are open to the faculty and staff of UMSL.

There will be four additional meetings:

Friday, February 26, 1pm to 3 pm, JC Penney 78

Friday, March 12, 1 pm to 3 pm, JC Penney 78

Friday, March 19, 1 pm to 3 pm, SSB 118

Friday, April 9, 1 pm to 3 pm, JC Penney 222

Bottom Line

If you have questions or concerns about the Link or the staff association, please contact Cindy Wills, Communications Committee Chair and Link editor, at E-mail willsc@umsl.edu

Visit the Staff Association on the web <http://www.umsl.edu/staff>