President’s Message

I am so pleased with the outpouring of individuals who have offered to serve on Staff Council and Officers of our Association through our nomination process. It takes everyone’s efforts, leadership and involvement to continue our collective success and growth. Elections will be held mid-May and I ask that everyone vote and be a part of the process; it is important. Those of you who wish to be involved but are unable to commit at this time, please remember, we will be asking for committee members in the Fall and I hope that you will become more engaged at that time.

The Staff Association is for everyone, serving all staff members at UMSL.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 28, 12:15-1:15 p.m., SGA Chambers for our General Meeting. All staff members are invited to attend. We will introduce our new Staff Association officers and Council members as well as provide updates from this past year. Please make time to attend.

As always, feel free to contact me or your unit representative for anything you may need, we are here for you. Thank you for your continued support, it means so much

~Steffanie H. Rockette

Student Affairs’ Relay for Life Team

The Office of Student Affairs has participated in UMSL’s Relay for Life since its inception in 2007. This year, the team walked in honor of Bob Roeseler.

The event was held on April 27 from 7 p.m. and until 7 a.m. the following morning. This year's relay raised $27,722 for cancer research.
Riverstars Employee of the Month

April 2009 Winner
Marvelous Motivator

Elizabeth (Bette) Ramirez
Coordinator Program/Project Support
Continuing Education

Volunteer of the Month

March 09 Winner
Dan Brackmann
Thomas Jefferson Library

Aziz Atai- Langroudi is very proud to have Dan Brackmann working with him in the MERLIN/MOBIUS unit at the Thomas Jefferson Library. “Dan defines a new standard in diligence. Thoroughness, timeliness, accuracy are all key characteristics of his manner. His profession as a lawyer gives him a unique analytical perspective on the way he looks at the job. Through his work, he demonstrates that the deeper the understanding, the more effective the results.”

April 2009 Winner
Donna Johnson

Diane Thames is Donna's teacher in the Career Training Program. Diane says "Donna is a definite asset to the classroom. Her supervisors sing her absolute praises. She is gentle and kind with the kids and they are always so happy to see her. She enjoys helping out in any way she can. Donna is responsible, poised and cares and takes pride in her job. She always has a positive attitude about her volunteer position. She is a role model for our class."

Delta Zeta Hosts Trivia Night

Delta Zeta will be hosting it's annual Trivia Night on May 29th, 2009 from 6pm-12am at the Overland VFW, 10815 Midland Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63114

The cost is $15 a person or $120/table (8 people per table). There will be a 50/50 raffle and silent auction. Beverages will be offered. Teach team may bring food for their table.

Please pre-register no later than May 9th. For more information, please contact Erin Balentine @ 618-910-7682 or dzerin10@yahoo.com
University of Missouri
Enhances Security of Social Security Numbers

COLUMBIA — March 16, 2009 — It may be only March, but the university is already in the midst of a system-wide spring cleaning—of Social Security numbers. The project, which takes place on all four campuses, University of Missouri Health Care, Extension and UM system, will replace all Social Security numbers necessary to UM business with alternate identification numbers and delete all those unnecessary.

“The university takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard the personal information and identity of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, retirees, friends and donors” said UM President Gary Forsee. Forsee went on to say, “This project will go a long way toward protecting the security and personal identity of our associates.”

A Division of Information Technology team has been created to initiate the process of securing Social Security numbers in a centralized database and replacing them with alternate identification numbers. Social Security numbers that are no longer necessary will be deleted to prevent exposure to outside sources. This is a huge project and will require the cooperation of everyone across the entire system.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Begin by searching your electronic and paper files for Social Security numbers and deleting or shredding those that are no longer necessary. Additional information can be found at https://doit.sharepoint.missouri.edu/sysops/public/SSNProject.

UM system will keep you informed of this project as it progress. For more information on the SSN Project: http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/is/

Swine Flu (H1N1) Advice

Many employees have expressed concern about the swine flu. Following are some credible sources of information and help:

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/?s_cid=swineFlu_outbreak_001

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm

http://www.redcrossstl.org/

Coverage under the UM medical prescription drug plan includes Tamiflu (formulary) and Relenza (non-formulary), which are used for treatment of the swine flu. These are not considered preventive. The applicable copay/coinsurance amounts would apply. Employees with questions about applicable benefit coverage should contact Joann Westbrook, Human Resources, at extension 5639.
Keeping Breakfast Healthy

We all know that fast food is not a healthy choice. However, do you know how bad fast food is? For example, you order a deluxe breakfast (large) at McDonalds to start your day. You decide to skip the butter and syrup to watch the extra calories. Good choice? You just consumed 1150 calories and 60g of fat. To put that intake into perspective, to burn off those calories from 1 meal, you would have to either walk 3.75 hours or jog 2.25 hours! Was that meal really worth it? An extra 500 calories per day will result in 1 pound of weight gain each week. It is important to plan ahead and spread out your calories throughout the day.

Eat or pack a breakfast that will get kick your metabolism in gear without providing more than the recommended daily fat intake. Plan ahead and make it easy to eat on the go. A healthy way to start your day would be raisins and walnuts added to your favorite oatmeal. You are getting protein, healthy fat and complex carbohydrates to help prevent mid morning mindless snacking. If you need to grab and go, choose a whole grain English muffin with peanut butter or a slice of lunch meat. Another idea for a quick breakfast is trail mix. Over the weekend, mix your favorite nuts, dried fruit and cereal. Place mix in single servings in zip-lock bags. If you still find yourself in a drive-thru, educate yourself on what options are best by visiting the website of your restaurant of choice.

Healthy for Life

2009 Komen Race for the Cure is June 13, 2009
Sign up today to be on the UMSL team! Bring your family and friends to raise awareness and money for breast cancer education and research. Registration cost of $25 (includes a t-shirt.) Registration deadline: May 21, 2009!
To sign up online:
2. Click on “Race for the cure”
3. Click on “Join an Existing Team”
4. UMSL Team name: 09044-International team (in honor of our diversity!)
If you prefer to sign up manually with a check, please email either Anne-Sophie Blank at asblank@umsl.edu or Jaime Capizzi at capizzij@umsystem.edu

Weight Watchers Open House
Learn more about Weight Watchers at work or have your Weight Watchers online questions answered. Meet the instructor, Ricarda, on June 9th in 225 MSC at 11:30 am. Feel free to email capizzij@umsystem.edu for more information.
Shoes for Zambia (An Update) by Linda Gatson

Many of the children and adults in Zambia are getting staph infections and other diseases due to the bad water and the ground that they walk on. Children’s and adult’s flat soled shoes of all sizes (new or used) are needed. There is also a need for dresses (suitable for attending school) for both the teachers and girls. If you have any usable shoes or dresses that you no longer wear and would like to contribute, please send me an email (gatsonl@umsl.edu) and I will work out arrangements to pick them up on campus.

Important Update
The group who will be traveling to Zambia has moved up their shipping date for the shoes due to their bulky nature. My new deadline for collecting the shoes is Friday, May 15th. This will be the last day that I will be able to accept shoes for this project. Dresses can be accepted through the end of June. I would like to thank everyone who has already contributed shoes for the adults and children of Zambia. The outpouring of support from the UMSL community has been amazing!

What’s New in the Bookstore?
Stephanie Eaton, Assistant Bookstore Manager

The semester is winding down and that means it’s buyback time! The big end-of-the semester textbook buy back is from April 29th – May 15th. Students can sell their textbooks and get as much back as 50% of the new book price (even if they purchased it used). Commencement is just around the corner so check out the great gifts for your grad!

Mother’s Day is May 10th. “UMSL mom” shirts and stickers are always favorites or what mom doesn’t love a great book to read? The general Book Department has all the bestsellers with a 20% everyday discount-gift bag included! Remember you also get a 20% discount on all UMSL clothing everyday! Have a happy and safe Memorial Day! For more information please contact Stephanie Eaton X5765 or Stephe-nie@umsl.edu

Food Service Summer Hours for 2009

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<td>Provincial House</td>
<td>Summer Hours 11:00-2pm</td>
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<td>Dining Hall</td>
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If you are bringing a group onto campus – please email Alayne.Jennings@co mpass-usa.com or call ext. 7301 to ensure your group's dining needs are met.
Stimulating Your Paycheck

EFFECT OF THE STIMULUS PACKAGE ON YOUR PAYCHECK

Employees may see an increase in their take-home pay and a reduction in federal income tax withholdings on their next pay advice. This change is due to the Making Work Pay Credit provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which was signed into law February 17, 2009. It provides for a tax credit of up to $400 for working individuals and up to $800 for married taxpayers filing joint returns, refunded in segments on each paycheck until the end of 2009. This tax credit will be calculated at a rate of 6.2 percent of earned income and will phase out at 2% of income over $75,000 for single filers or $150,000 for married couples filing jointly. It does not apply to employees who are claimed as dependents. Employees who are paid on a bi-weekly basis should see the first installment of the refund in their April 29, 2009 pay, and employees who are paid monthly should see it in their April 30, 2009 pay.

Employees with additional jobs or married couples whose combined incomes place them in a higher tax bracket may choose to submit a revised W-4 to ensure enough withholding to cover the tax for the combined incomes. Publication 919 provides guidance for tax withholding including a special Making Work Pay worksheet. Employees who choose to adjust their Federal W-4’s should log onto myHR at https://myhr.umsystem.edu to make the change. In deciding whether to adjust their W-4’s, employees may also wish to consider the effect on their taxes of the pre-tax contribution to the retirement plan which will be effective on July 1, 2009.

Since Missouri income tax calculations include an exemption for the amount of Federal income tax withheld, employees receiving reduced Federal tax withholdings should expect a slight increase in their State tax withholdings. Employees who wish to adjust their Missouri W-4’s must print them and deliver them to the payroll office in the Human Resources department. A link to the Missouri W-4 Form may be found at: https://myhr.umsystem.edu.

The payroll office cannot estimate the amount of change employees should anticipate in upcoming pay or provide tax advice, so employees with questions about individual tax liability should consult Publication 919 as described above or contact a tax professional. Employees with general payroll questions should contact Errol Benson at extension 5803.

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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.
May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) is celebrated in May to commemorate the contributions of people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States. Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. Congress later voted to expand it from a week long to a month long celebration.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates many varied Asian cultures, each with distinct customs, languages, histories, and traditions, while recognizing common experiences in American history. Throughout the country, communities come together to celebrate Asian Pacific American heritage and culture with festivals, civic award ceremonies, and educational activities.

According to the 2000 Census figures, Missouri's population is more diverse than ever, especially in urban areas. Missouri's Asian and Pacific Islander race category experienced the largest percent increase, 55.1% growing from 41,758 in 1999 to 64,773 in 2000. St. Louis County has the largest number of Asian and Pacific Islands with a population of 22,857. Asian/Pacific Islanders comprise 3% of UMSL staff.

In honor of Asian Pacific Heritage Month, St. Louis County Library (Daniel Boone Branch) will host an Asian Heritage Festival on Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Festival will be held at the Library's Asian Center, which is located in the lower level of the Daniel Boone Branch. The Festival will feature dance, music, art, food, fashion, culture and crafts from eight Asian countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

Can you answer these trivia questions?
1. NASA astronaut Kalpana Chawla was the first Indo-American woman to launch into space on Shuttle STS-87 in what year?
2. What US city has the highest population of Asian-Americans?
3. He is the most successful Asian American politician in U.S. history and served in President George W. Bush's Cabinet as the Secretary of Transportation for over five years. The San Jose International airport is also named after him. What is his name?
4. Jerry Yang, an Asian-American, was the co-founder of what popular internet search engine?

Answers on page 9
37th Gypsy Caravan

The Symphony Volunteer Association (SVA) will soon hold its 37th Gypsy Caravan, held annually on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2009. It is one of the largest antique, craft, and flea markets in the Midwest and will again be held on the campus of the University of Missouri - Saint Louis (UMSL). We are expecting attendance to approach up to 30,000 and will have 350 booths from vendors that come from over 20 states. The events runs from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., rain or shine and admission is $5. For those early birds, a special early bird admission is available for $20 and will allow you to enter at 7 a.m.

Gypsy Caravan is the largest annual SVA fundraiser with proceeds benefiting the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and its music education and community programs. In order to have another successful event, we need the support and commitment of many SVA members and friends of Gypsy Caravan. Can we count on you this year? There are many ways you can help. Volunteer for a few hours to work at one of the three entrance gates. This includes taking money, making change (if necessary), handing out shopping bags, stamping hands (for return entrance into the event if necessary), and giving directions. They also need volunteers to work in their Finance Office, set-up the site in the early morning and clean-up at the end of the day. If you can volunteer, contact Cindy Vantine at Cindy_Vantine@umsl.edu or Kathryn Snodgrass, Gypsy Caravan Volunteer Coordinator at skmdet@aol.com or call 314-304-5873 for more information. Web: www.gypsycaravan-stl.org

Cambio de Colores

Latinos in the Heartland
May 18-20, 2009

Cambio de Colores is a multi-state conference about the integration of immigrants. The conference is being held in the Millennium Center at the UM-St. Louis. To register or learn more about the conference, visit http://www.cambiodecolores.org/
**Coming Events**

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<tr>
<td>Stay Strong, Stay Healthy</td>
<td>Apr 2-June 18</td>
<td>North Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambio de Colores</td>
<td>May 18-20</td>
<td>MSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gypsy Caravan</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>MSC</td>
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<td>9 a.m.-5 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chancellor’s Report to the Community</td>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>Touhill Performing Arts Center</td>
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<td>Staff Association General Meeting</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>SGA Chambers, MSC</td>
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**Bottom Line**

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

Answers to questions on p. 7

1. 1997 (She was one of seven crew members killed in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster in 2003.)
2. New York City
3. Norman Y. Mineta (He was the only Democratic Cabinet Secretary in the Republican George W. Bush Administration.)
4. Yahoo