



Volunteer Connection

Enriching lives. Enhancing relationships.

April-June 2009

Volume 5, Number 2

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Contact Us

✉ bradysa@umsl.edu

✉ pawloskie@umsl.edu



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A Word From the Coordinator

Feedback Follow-Up



In January, we sent an evaluation out to our current volunteers. Although the results were not earth shattering – it does give our office insight into what we are doing well and offered suggestions for future programs.

Some of the highlights:

96.9% of the volunteers rated their overall experience with Volunteer Services as great/good

96.9% of the volunteers feel useful

Technology: More than half of the volunteers are utilizing technology by submitting their weekly timesheets on-line and visiting our website on a regular basis. A suggestion was made to send a monthly reminder to volunteers to complete their timesheet (DONE!)

Training: Based on the survey—it looks like we will be offering some exciting new training classes for our volunteers in 2009!

Possible topics might include a tour of campus/hike, wellness, cooking and continuation of the book club.

Volunteer benefits: The most popular benefits utilized in 2008 were the discount at the Touhill Performing Arts Center and usage of the Mark Twain Recreation Center. The best comment that was shared about benefits speaks for itself, “I think the greatest reward is the smile I get after I've completed a volunteer assignment.”

Good news for 2009! Volunteers plan to volunteer between an average of 50-100 hours in 2009.

Some comments just too good not to share...

“Volunteering at UMSL is a wonderful experience.”

“It provides me self-fulfillment for the opportunity to give back to my community.”

“I feel education is a necessary key in building strong communities.”

“I have absolutely loved my time as a volunteer with UMSL.”

“The staff has remained very professional and personal at the same time.”

“I've learned how to network for the first time in my work history, and I'm doing it quite effectively.”

“... great feeling of being on a college campus.”

“The smile on their face or sigh of relief after I have assisted in meeting a deadline is very rewarding. The actual assignment is usually a small task, but the appreciation makes you feel like you have moved a mountain.”

Thank you to all of our volunteers for “moving mountains” on the UMSL campus!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pawloski
Volunteer Coordinator



Volunteer Services

Elizabeth Pawloski- Coordinator
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Volunteer of the Month Recipients

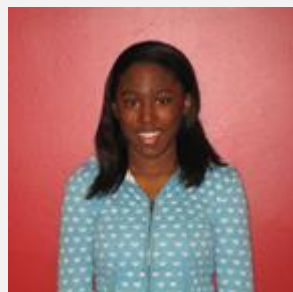
JANUARY 2009



Kathy Vesom

Beverly Bates of the Center for Character & Citizenship considered it a privilege to nominate Kathy Vesom for Volunteer of the Month. "Kathy is very knowledgeable, caring, resourceful and competent volunteer. Kathy assisted the CCC with reports by creating and maintaining databases and analyzing data. Her greatest gift is her flexibility and willingness to do whatever the Center needs."

FEBRUARY 2009



Alexandria Moore

Megan Hill who nominated Alexandria believes her to be the kind of volunteer of which every program director dreams. Not only is her positive personality infectious, she is able to complete any assignment with that same enthusiasm. During Martin Luther King Day of Service, for example, she was given the ominous task of handling the crowds as check-in (the most hectic part of the day) and handled it all with a smile. She is a wonderful girl and is extremely deserving of this award!

MARCH 2009



Daniel Brackmann

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."

4th Annual Recognition Event

 A "Magical" Event

The Volunteer Services Annual Recognition Event will be held on **Tuesday, April 21st, 2009 from 6pm-8pm** at **The Magic House!** The Magic House will be open exclusively for invited active UMSL volunteers and their ticketed guests to enjoy all its attractions. The awards ceremony will take place from 7:30-8pm. If you have received an invitation and plan to attend, you **must** RSVP to receive your entry ticket. A ticket is required for entry. Those who have reserved tickets will receive them in the mail, along with directions and parking information, around April 9th.

Technology Update



Volunteer Services recently launched new software designed to allow volunteers to have more control over managing their hours and communicating with the office. Now, volunteers can log into their own account to enter service hours and view how many posted hours they have accrued. This new program also assists in Volunteer Services' effort to "go green". With the former process, it was necessary to print all time sheets, even if they were entered online, for data entry. The new program allows for all data entry to be done online. If you are unsure how this new process works, you may view a tutorial anytime on our [website](#) or feel free to contact the office for assistance.

Volunteer Spotlight

Antoinette Dickens



2005

Volunteer Services is honored to recognize a former volunteer, Antoinette Dickens. Prior to her coursework as a Media Studies major at UMSL, Antoinette took time to volunteer in the Graduate School in early 2005, when she was a senior at Normandy High School. Recently, Antoinette was included in the American Advertising Federation's annual list of Most Promising Minority Students. She is among 40 advertising, marketing, media and communications students selected from across the United States. Volunteer Services is honored to have been a part of Antoinette's successes.



Present

Book Connection Book Club

UMSL Volunteer Book Discussion Group



The book club meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th has been **rescheduled** for a date TBD in May. The current selection being The Enchanted April by Elizabeth von Arnim was not well received, so we're going to select a new book and a new date to meet. Keep an eye out for information to come.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



Receptionist, College of Nursing

When: April 6th 12pm-5pm, April 16th 3-5pm

Where: College of Nursing, Nursing Administration Building

Duties: Answer the phone, take messages, possibly direct incoming traffic



Alumni Weekend, Alumni Relations

When: April 17th 4-7pm and April 18th 11am-8pm

Where: To be determined

Duties: Assist with registration



Keep Kids Safe Walk/5k, Children's Advocacy Services

When: April 18th 7:30am- mid afternoon, with a 2-hour training/orientation the evening of Friday, April 17th

Where: Creve Coeur Park in St. Louis County

Duties: Assist with registration and/or in one of the various stations such as the Family Fun area, face-painting, clown, bounce house, balloon animals, games, entertainment, food stand, or helicopter visit

Please contact the office if you are able to contribute to these volunteer needs.

Volunteer of the Year Nominations



Volunteer of the Year nominations are being accepted through Monday, April 6th. The recipient of this honor will be recognized at the Volunteer Services Annual Recognition event on April 21st. You may get the nomination criteria and form from the Volunteer Services [website](#).

There is always something happening on the UM-St. Louis campus...

Art exhibits, Guest Lecturers, Athletic Events, Wellness Classes,
Performing Art, and much, much more.

To find out more about these special events we have compiled
a list of available websites :

- [Campus Calendar](#)
- [Special Events](#)
- [Rec Sports Calendar](#) (facility's features and hours, wellness programs, intramurals, martial arts)
- [Academic Calendar](#) (breaks, semester dates)
- [Monday Noon Series](#) (free cultural series)
- [Gallery 210](#)
- [Gallery Visio](#)
- [St. Louis Mercantile Library](#)
- [Department of Music Concert Calendar](#) (from the home page click on Concert Calendar)