



# Volunteer Connection

*Enriching lives. Enhancing relationships.*

April-June 2009

Volume 5, Number 2

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## A Word From the Coordinator

### Queen for a Day?!

While I am never one to enjoy being the center of attention—I must admit that on May 15, 2009 when it was announced that I was the recipient of the 2009 St. Louis Volunteer Director of the Year award-- I was thrilled! After hearing the outstanding qualifications of my fellow nominees, I was even more honored that I was selected. As I stood at the front of the room my thoughts turned to how many special people and awesome opportunities have been given to me over the past 17 years of working with volunteers. Being in the field of Volunteer Management was never part of my career path—in fact I just answered an ad in the newspaper all those years ago! Ultimately, I found myself learning and growing right along with my volunteers.

After the thousands of volunteers I have encountered—I am still amazed by the tremendous level of commitment and dedication they show in their service to others. When someone recently asked me what I did for living—I replied that I have the best job of all—I get to meet new people every day and encourage them to share their unique talents and skills by volunteering!

I can truly say that I enjoy what I do and look forward to many more years as the Volunteer Coordinator at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



*Living is the art of loving. Loving is the art of caring. Caring is the art of sharing. Sharing is the art of living. -- Anonymous*

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Pawloski  
Volunteer Coordinator



## Volunteer Services

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## Volunteer of the Month Recipients

### APRIL 2009



#### **Donna Johnson**

"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 her class."

### MAY 2009



#### **Stephanie Sivils**

Sara Arnold of Gallery Visio says, "Stephanie is always available to help when we need her. In addition to her full-time job, she always finds time to help install new shows, or to lend her creative talents to help with various art projects. During opening receptions she is friendly and engaging with all visitors. She is prompt, courteous, and always friendly to all Visio patrons. We are proud to have her volunteering for us!"

### JUNE 2009



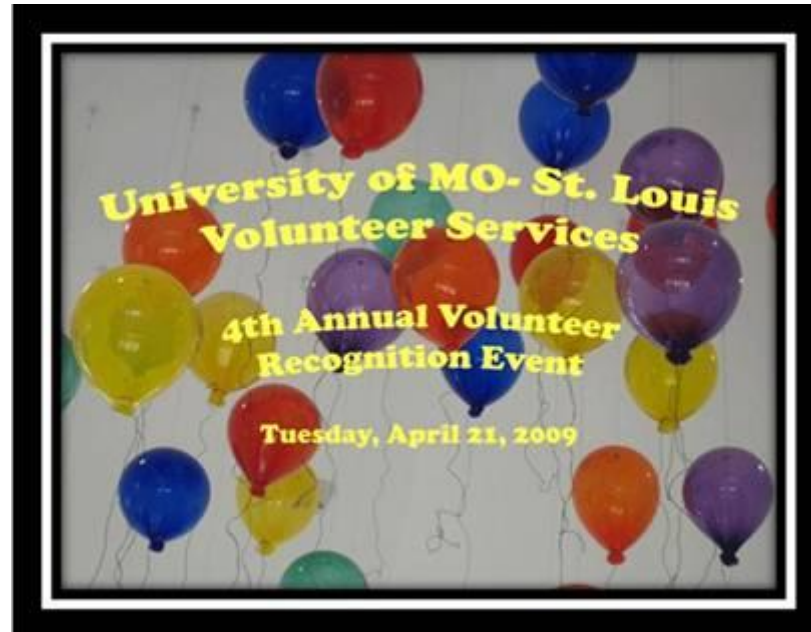
#### **Annie Blum**

In making a Volunteer of the Month nomination for Annie, the staff of the Mercantile Library had a difficult time summing up the great things about Annie because she does so much! Annie is always ready to lend a helping hand. Her lengthy service with the department has given her an in-depth knowledge to the Herman T. Pott National Inland Waterways Library. Annie is described as being reliable, having remarkable consistency and a friendly and gracious demeanor.

# Magic House

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Event

Every year, Volunteer Services holds a recognition event during National Volunteer Week to honor UMSL volunteers. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Event was held on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Magic House! Exhibits were explored, volunteers were honored and fun was had by all. Check out the pics below!



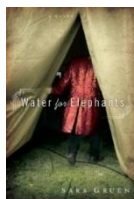


## Save the Date!



The Volunteer Services 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Event will be held the evening of **Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 2010** at the [Touhill Performing Arts Center](#) on campus. Invited guests can look forward to seeing performances by University Singers and Vocal Point!

## Book Connection Book Club



The newest Book Club selection is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. The group will meet on Friday, August 7th at 11:30am in the Volunteer Services office in 2 Normandie Hall. The Volunteer Services Book Club is open to all currently registered UMSL volunteers. Group members are welcome to bring their lunch and we enjoy dessert and great book conversation! Additional copies of the book are available for check out from the Volunteer Services office. Please RSVP by August 3rd if you can join us in the discussion!

The last Book Connection meeting on June 12th covered the novel *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. We enjoyed a great discussion about fables, religion and faith.

## United We Serve

Watch a video of President Obama [announcing](#) United We Serve.

This summer, President Obama announced a new initiative to encourage service in America — "United We Serve" — and asked Americans of all ages to volunteer at nonprofits just like the University of Missouri- St. Louis.



"I'm calling on all of you to make volunteerism and community service part of your daily life and the life of this nation," said President Obama in a video release. "And when I say 'all,' I mean everyone — young and old, from every background, all across this country. We need individuals, community organizations, corporations, foundations, and our government to be part of this effort."

You can see the entire video here:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/United-We-Serve>

## Important Dates

<b>Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Book Connection Book Club meeting</b> Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
<b>Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Start of UMSL Fall semester</b>
<b>Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Labor Day holiday- campus closed</b>