Eight women Senators will serve

Our post-election analysis borrows a line from Abigail Adams’ historically famous note to her husband John: “remember the ladies.”

Instead of Sen. Hillary Clinton or Gov. Sarah Palin, let’s focus on the women in Missouri who scored wins in the Nov. 4 general election.

At the top of the ticket, U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson was re-elected to an eighth term in the 8th Congressional District and remains the sole woman in Missouri’s nine-member delegation.

Robin Carnahan was re-elected to a 2nd term as Secretary of State, receiving the largest number of votes among statewide candidates. However, the number of women holding statewide office in 2009 will shrink to two with the departure of Sarah Steelman from the Treasurer’s Office.

A total of 41 women will be sworn into the 95th Missouri General Assembly in January; five shy of the record set in 2001, but an increase of one over the last session.

The increase is in the Senate, where the election of Robin Wright Jones (D-St. Louis) and Jane Cunningham (R-Chesterfield) brings the total number of women Senators to eight, an all-time high.

Jones and Cunningham both served in the Missouri House before running for the Senate. Both won competitive primaries in districts that heavily favor their party. Jones won the Democratic primary by under 100 votes and did not have a Republican opponent in the general election. She succeeds Democratic Sen. Maida Coleman who was unable to seek re-election due to term limits.

Cunningham won a hard fought three-way Republican primary, earning 46.2 percent of the vote. In the general election, she earned 54,553 votes to defeat her Democratic opponent, winning over 61 percent of the 89,000 votes cast.

The two new women Senators will join incumbents Luann Ridgeway (R-Smithville) and Yvonne Wilson (D-Kansas City) who were re-elected, as well as four women Senators who were not on the ballot during this election cycle. Of the eight women in the Senate, five are Democrats and three are Republicans: seven are former House members.

The number of women in the House will remain the same at 33: 24 Democrats and nine Republicans. The all-time high of 40 women state reps was set in 2001, but that number has dipped as low as 31 in 2007.

Maintenance of the current number of women representatives, 33 of 163, was anchored by 20 incumbent women representatives who won re-election. They will be joined by 13 newcomers, all elected in open seats.

What’s Your Point, Honey?
full story on page 6

For related story and a list of women elected on Nov. 4, see page 3.

Election Recap

Records were in set in both houses of the U.S. Congress, with at least 74 women elected to the U.S. House of Representatives (57D, 17R) and 17 women elected to the Senate (13D, 4R). Overall, women comprise 17 percent of the 535 members.

An all-time high of eight women will serve in the Missouri Senate (5D, 3R), while the number of women in the House holds steady at 33 (24D, 9R).

In 2009, women will comprise 20.8 percent of the Missouri Legislature—the national average is 23.7.

What’s Your Point, Honey?
full story on page 6
NAMES IN THE NEWS

Schriro recognized for work in AZ

Arizona Director of Corrections Dora Schriro has been recognized by Innovations in American Government for her launching and leadership of “Getting Ready,” a pre-release preparation initiative. Schriro served as Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections from 1993 through 2000. Innovations is sponsored by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Kenley Promoted to Troop Commander

Captain Lee Ann H. Kenley has been named Troop Commander for Troop I of the Missouri Highway Patrol. She is the first woman troop commander in the Patrol’s 77-year history.

The Missouri Highway Patrol has nine troops and more than 1,050 officers. Kenley has been with the Patrol since September 1985. She is a graduate of the Northwestern University Traffic Institute School of Police Staff and Command in Evanston, IL, and the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

Thompson Elected to Lead the National Bar Association

Former St. Louis Circuit Clerk Mavis Thompson has been elected president-elect of the National Bar Association. She is a solo practitioner specializing in civil trial practice, an Adjunct Professor of Nursing, and Prosecutor for the City of Berkeley, Mo.

Vannoy Named Circuit Judge in the 22nd Judicial Circuit

Robin Ransom Vannoy was appointed Circuit Judge in the 22nd Circuit (St. Louis City) by Gov. Matt Blunt in September. She has served as Family Court Commissioner since 2002, and practiced family and juvenile law for 14 years.

“What’s Next” makes a difference in KC

Time will tell, but if the feedback from the participants is any indication, “What’s Next: Women Making a Difference in Their Community” is sure to make a positive difference in Kansas City.

About two dozen women participated in “What’s Next,” a six-week program designed to help participants develop the knowledge and skills to achieve their public service goals.

Participants reported that the program helped them articulate their passion and develop a plan for taking on leadership roles in their community. They also indicated greater knowledge of how public meetings are conducted, and increased understanding of the tools of public policy.

The participants were a diverse group, representing the public, private and non-profit sectors, as well as public relations, health care and law. They also spanned the age spectrum: The youngest participant was 26 and the oldest, 59.

“I originally thought we’d see primarily women who were empty nesters,” said UMKC Institute Manager Julie Warm. “It was actually a much broader group.”

In addition to increasing their understanding of the public policy process, participants also left the program feeling more empowered, inspired and confident. One participant said that the program gave her “the confidence to see myself in the way I have previously only imagined.”

Overall, the program was an opportunity for the participants to expand their network and think about how they want to use their skills to make a difference in the community. Several have expressed an interest in the appointments process.

Regardless of “what’s next,” an overwhelming majority of the participants indicated that the program exceeded their expectations and was well worth the $75 investment.

“You could charge a lot more for this event and it would be worth every penny.”
Pipeline participants ace election day

Pipeline graduates now a quarter of women state representatives in Mo.

“Eat tonight, because this will be your last time eating on the campaign trail!”

Representative-elect Jill Schupp (D-82) vividly remembers this advice from Institute Director Vivian Eveloff. It was just one of the simple truths that she learned at the Institute’s Pipeline to Public Office program last fall.

“When Vivian said, ‘Eat tonight,’ she was right,” Schupp said. “I did not want to meet a supporter with a mouthful of food.”

Schupp was one of eight Pipeline graduates elected to the Missouri Legislature on Nov. 4. She and two others, Tishaura O. Jones (D-63) and Vicki Lorenz Englund (D-85), were first-time candidates for the House. Pipeline graduates now comprise a quarter (8/33) of the women serving in the Missouri House of Representatives.

Jones won a competitive primary in August, but did not have a major party opponent in November. Englund and Schupp, on the other hand, won hard fought general election victories, using skills that they learned at the Pipeline program.

As a former Creve Coeur councilwoman and member of the Ladue School Board, Schupp was no stranger to campaigns. She said that the most challenging part of this particular campaign was the competitiveness of her district.

“My district was pretty well split between Republican and Democratic voters,” she said, “I knew that the race could go either way. We established a plan and followed the plan through.”

Rep.-elect Englund reported knocking on close to 14,000 doors to defeat her opponent, who also happened to be a woman.

When asked by the Post-Dispatch about her win, Englund said, “The difference, I think, was in that face-to-face contact and listening to working families and seniors who wanted to talk about economic concerns.”

Five other Pipeline graduates were incumbents who won re-election: Maria Chapelle-Nadal (D-72), Rachel Storch (D-64), Pat Yaeger (D-96), Sally Faith (R-15) and Sara Lampe (D-138).

While several were unopposed in the general election, Reps. Faith, Yaeger and Lampe faced major party opposition. Faith’s district is the 15th which includes parts of St. Charles County; Yaeger represents a district in South St. Louis County, and Lampe is the State Representative for the 138th district which includes parts of Springfield, in Southwest Missouri.

The eight Pipeline graduates will join 25 other representatives for a total of 33 women in the House. Several of the newly-elected women are leaving local office posts, creating opportunities for other women who want to get their foot in the door to public life. One of them is Schupp who is leaving a seat on the Creve Coeur City Council. Another is Jeanne Kirkton (D-91), who is leaving the Webster Groves City Council.

Schupp says that the Institute’s campaign school allowed her to “build a list of resources of people that want to help women running for office.” She highly recommends the Pipeline program to women considering running for office.

The next installment in the Institute’s Pipeline series is the “Pipeline to Local Office” program, Jan 27 & 29 at UMSL. The program is open to anyone, but will be geared toward candidates preparing for school board and municipal elections in March and April. For more information, visit the Institute’s website or call Ashley at 314-516-5974.

The following is a list of women who will serve in the Missouri General Assembly in 2009.

**Senate**
- Robin Wright Jones, D-5, St. Louis
- Jane Cunningham, R-7, Chesterfield
- Jolie Justus, D-10, Kansas City
- Yvonne Wilson, D-9, Kansas City
- Rita Days, D-14, St. Louis
- Luann Ridgeway, R-17, Smithville
- Joan Bray, D-24, St. Louis
- Norma Champion, R-30, Springfield

**House**
- Rebecca McClanahan, D-2, Kirkville
- Rachel Bringer, D-6, Palmyra
- Sally Faith, R-15, St. Charles
- Anne Zerr, R-18, St. Charles
- Cynthia Davis, R-19, O’Fallon
- Jeanie Riddle R-20, Fulton
- Therese Sander, R-22, Moberly
- Mary Wynne Still, D-25, Columbia
- Beth Low, D-39, Kansas City
- Shallon Curis, D-41, Kansas City
- Kate Meiners, D-46, Kansas City
- Jeanette Mott Oxford, D-59, St. Louis
- Jamilah Nasheed, D-60, St. Louis
- Tishaura Jones, D-63, St. Louis
- Rachel Storch, D-64, St. Louis
- Michele Kratky, D-65, St. Louis
- Gina Walsh, D-69, St. Louis
- Sharon Pace, D-70, Northwoods
- Maria Chapelle-Nadal, D-72,

**St. Louis**
- Margo McNeil, D-78, Florissant
- Rochelle Walton Gray, D-81,
- Black Jack
- Jill Schupp, D-82, Creve Coeur
- Vicki Lorenz Englund, D-85, St. Louis
- Jeanne Kirkton, D-91,
- Webster Groves
- Sue Allen, R-92, Ballwin
- Patricia (Pat) Yaeger, D-96, St. Louis
- Sue Schoemehl, D-100, St. Louis
- Linda Fischer, D-107, Bonne Terre
- Belinda Harris, D-110, Hillsboro
- Marilyn Ruestman, R-131, Joplin
- Sara Lampe, D-138, Springfield
- Shelley Keeney, R-156, Marble Hill
- Ellen Brandom, R-160, Sikeston

We would also like to extend a special thanks to the businesses that supported the Institute’s 2nd Annual Women Walk Before They Run event, presented by Advantage Capital Partners, Klieve Group, LLC and Pfizer:

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- Lusso
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- Overland Medical Center
- The Running Center
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- Starbucks
- Straub’s
- Stone Carlie

**FACULTY AFFILIATES**
- For a complete list and biographies of 2008 Faculty Affiliates, visit our web site at www.umsl.edu/~iwpl
- Shari Bax, PhD, University of Central Missouri
- Patricia Breckenridge, Judge, Missouri Supreme Court
- Mikki Breuser, MO Foundation for Health
- Rachel Bringer, State Representative (D-6)
- Connie Burkhardt, former Curator, Univ. of Mo.
- Rashda “Sonny” Buttar, Clayton School Board
- Robin Carnahan, MO Secretary of State
- Maria Chapelle-Nadal, State Representative (D-72)
- Madia Coleman, Minority Floor Leader, Missouri Senate (D-5)
- Jane Drummond, Director of Health and Senior Services
- Monica Durrwachter, Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Sally Faith, State Representative (R-15)
APPOINTMENTS

Serving on a public board or commission is an excellent way to put your talents to use in public service without running for office.

If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, contact the Institute at (314) 516-4727 in St. Louis or (816) 235-1409 in Kansas City and visit our website at www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/ to complete a “Public Service Personal Profile” on-line.

For a list of boards and commissions in Missouri, visit the Governor’s website at www.gov.mo.gov/boards/boards.htm

Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life

Jacqueline M. Hempen
Advisory Commission for Dental Hygienists

Cynthia E. Heischmidt
Mental Health Transformation Working Group

Rhonda L. Haake
Mental Health Transformation Working Group

Cynthia E. Heischmidt
Advisory Commission for Dental Hygienists

Jacqueline M. Hempen
Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority

S

Michelle L. Hoffmeister
Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities

Becky L. Houf
State Interagency Coordinating Council

Margaret J. (Mitzi) Huffman
Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board

Eddy A. Justice
Missouri State Employees Voluntary Life Insurance Commission

Marianne M. Kilroy
Missouri State Council on the Arts

Mary A. Long, Ph.D.
University of Central MO Board of Governors

Ivy Love
Missouri Southern State University Board of Governors

Phyllis A. Lovett
State Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind

Dr. Jennifer A. Lowry
Advisory Committee on Lead Poisoning

Teresa K. McElvea
Missouri State Board of Nursing

Anne E. McRoberts
Missouri Real Estate Appraisers Commission

Regina M. Meyer
Unmarked Human Burial Consultation Committee

Kyra K. Mills
Safe Drinking Water Commission

Judith A. Muck
State Interagency Coordinating Council

Diane Mutti-Burke, PhD
Missouri Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Brenda L. Niemeyer
Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities

Sharon D. Oetting
Job Training Partnership Act Board

Mary E. Secora
Board of Equalization

Robin E. Threlkeld
Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board

Janet L. Vanderpool
Missouri State Board of Nursing

Christina R. Warren
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Susan M. Wendleton
MO Public Entity Risk Management Fund

Carol J. Wessel
Citizen’s Advisory Committee on Corrections

Lisa S. Wilburn
Professional Services Payment Committee

Sandra J. Williams
Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children

Sharon M. Williams
Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities

State of Missouri

Laura Fitzmaurice Amick
Professional Services Payment Committee

Sarah K. Anderson
Children’s Trust Fund Board

Beth C. Biggs
Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board

Judene R. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children

Mary M. Burns
Platte County Election Board

Cecilia M. Callahan
State Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind; State Rehabilitation Council

Martha (Mart) L. Cortez
State Lottery Commission

Victoria A. Damba
Professional Services Payment Committee

Jacquelyn C. Eaton
Well Installation Board

Susan K. Eckles
Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities

Diza A. Eskridge
MO Western State Univ. Board of Governors

Christine M. Gardner
Missouri Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

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Missouri Technology Corporation

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Missouri State Council on the Arts

Rhonda L. Haake
Mental Health Transformation Working Group

Cynthia E. Heischmidt
Advisory Commission for Dental Hygienists

Jacqueline M. Hempen
Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority

St. Louis City

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Donna Catherine Jones
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Katherine Joslin
Workforce Investment Act Board

Anne Kasal
Forest Park Advisory Board

Lydia Padilla
Workforce Investment Act Board

Leta Price
Forest Park Advisory Board

Brooke Sehy
Board of Trustees for the Community Health Fund

Mary E. Sheridan
Board of Equalization

St. Louis County

Antoinette M. Bailey
Botanical Garden Subdistrict Commission of the ZMD

Bernice Baver
Justice Services Advisory Board

Evelyn Benford
St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District

(Continued on page 5)
Prepping for the Ms. President Patch

On a beautiful October Saturday, approximately 250 Girl Scouts from the Greater Kansas City area gathered with the support of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life and the Mid-Continent Public Library to explore the role of women in public life and earn their Ms. President Patch.

The Institute worked primarily with the 11-17 year-old girls and together, they explored issues such as campaigning and the status of women in elective and key appointive roles. The girls met with area women leaders to discuss how one becomes a leader and how the girls can show leadership within their own communities and schools.

Girl Scouts of the USA developed the Ms. President patch program in cooperation with The White House Project, a national, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization, that aims to advance women’s leadership in all communities and sectors, up to the U.S. presidency.

Above: Newly-elected Platte County Commissioner Kathy Dusenbery talks to the Girl Scouts about women’s leadership.

Sweatworking: At annual event, women walk, and talk about running

It was a grey day, but the clouds couldn’t dampen the spirits of the more than 75 women and men who gathered in Clayton’s Shaw Park for the Institute’s 2nd “Women Walk Before They Run” event, on Sept. 20. Clayton Mayor Linda Goldstein was on hand to welcome walkers and women elected officials from around the state, including State Auditor Susan Montee.

Two traits make the walk unique: The display of women’s campaign yard signs that line the walking paths, and the location of the walk each year in a new community governed by a woman mayor. Stay tuned for information about next year’s host community!

AT RIGHT: State Representative Kathlyn Fares (R-Webster Groves), visits with Webster Groves City Council members Anne Tolan (left) and Debi Salberg (right) at the Institute’s “Women Walk Before They Run” event.
Institute hosts preview of new documentary film
Filmmaker stresses need for women candidates: “it’s not about one”

“Tell us what you notice about this ruler?” instructs the self-possessed Katie-Couric-in-training to an unassuming peer with an unruly ponytail and dainty, sparkly stud earrings.

(The setting is a park bench, the soundtrack is The Guess Who’s “American Woman,” and these little women look to be about 11-years-old.)

The girl holding the ruler gives it a quick once over.

“There’s my favorite president, John F. Kennedy,” she says with a giddy grin and a girlish giggle.

“Well, yeah,” her questioner says, while the girl with the ruler turns it this way and that to get a better look.

The questioner waits for her respondent to notice the obvious. Impatient, she prompts, “None of them are women.”

Aha!

“That stinks!” the giggly girl says.

This opening scene is one example of the disarming approach used to address the serious subject of the absence of a woman in the White House in “what’s your point, honey?” a new documentary film presented by 250 Pickup Productions.

The Sue Shear Institute hosted the St. Louis Premiere of “what’s your point, honey?” on October 22. St. Louis is one of only about a dozen cities to host a sneak-preview of the film.

One of the film’s writers/directors/producers, Amy Sewell, attended the screening at COCA’s newly renovated Founder’s Theatre.

Sewell is best known for her 2005 film, Mad Hot Ballroom, a documentary about New York City elementary school students who enter a ballroom dancing competition.

“What’s your point, honey?” is Sewell’s directorial debut. The film puts a new face on political leadership by introducing seven college women—all CosmoGirl! Project 2024 interns—who are poised to pursue elected office. Project 2024, is a joint initiative between CosmoGirl! and The White House Project, designed to involve more young women in politics so that we could see a day when just as many women as men run for the highest office in the country — getting beyond gender to agenda.

The screening of “what’s your point, honey?” brought out women and men of all ages. About a dozen honor society students from Cor Jesu Academy attended the film with their advisor. In addition, several teachers and students from Teach for America were present as well as several matches from Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

After the film, many stayed for a reception and Q/A session in the Millstone Gallery at COCA where Sewell talked about her inspiration for the film, and the important issues she attempted to address. She said that the idea for the film was conceived when one of her twin daughters (featured in the film) suggested that her mother could not get a motorcycle because “girls didn’t ride motorcycles.” When pressed, she said that she had never seen a girl ride a motorcycle, which led Sewell to ponder other things her daughters had not seen women do.

It was clear from the event that the film’s creators share the Institute’s mission of making sure that girls and young women see the day when a woman makes it to the White House in more than just a supporting role. Those of us who are not so young would like to see it too.

During a busy lunch hour at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, students who didn’t get the opportunity to attend the sneak preview at COCA got their own taste of Honey (and free popcorn). A campus screening of the film was held Oct. 30, in the Millennium Student Center as part of the Office of Student Life’s “Get Out the Vote” week.

The event was co-sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute, the UMSL Office of Student Life, the Women’s Resource Center, and the Institute for Women’s and Gender Studies.

(Election, continued from page 1)

Two of the newly-elected women will succeed other women of their party: Jeanie Riddle (R-20) will replace Danie Moore and Mary Wynne Still (D-25) will succeed Judy Baker. Moore and Baker were both unsuccessful in bids for the open seat in the 9th Congressional Dist.

In addition, Jeanne Kirkton (D-Webster Groves) will succeed Rep. Kathryn Fares (R) in the 91st, continuing a tradition of women’s leadership in the district that extends back to Marion Cairns’ election in 1976.

While Missouri women were busy trying to break even, women in the New Hampshire Senate were busy winning a majority, electing 13 women to the 24-member body. This is the first time any state in the country has elected a legislative chamber in which women outnumber men. Overall, 1,751 of the 7,382 state legislators in the country are women (23.7 percent). This in an increase of two over 2007-2008.

Additionally, record numbers of women won races for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives: Seventeen women were elected to the 100-member Senate (an increase of one) and 74 women were elected to the U.S. House, topping the previous high of 71.

Note: At press time, incumbent Rep. Vicki Schneider and former Rep. Joan Barry were engaged in recounts for the 17th House District and 1st Senate District, respectively.
Staff Spotlight on Brooke Redmond: Media Intern

On the first day of her internship, Brooke Redmond wrote a press release announcing the Institute’s annual “Women Walk Before They Run” event. She has since mastered on-line calendar submissions for Institute events, written and published her first electronic newsletter, talked to the press about the impact of the election, and even made an appearance on Show-Me St. Louis.

Suffice it to say that Brooke has hit the ground running as the Institute’s new media intern, and she has been impressed with the women she’s had the opportunity to meet.

“This is my first experience with women elected officials,” she said. “They have all been so grounded and down-to-earth.”

A Kirkwood native, Brooke is a senior communications major and has already completed a minor in media studies. She is working on certificates in writing and advertising. She has been named to the Dean’s List from Fall 2005 to present, and is the communications director for the UMSL AdCorps Advertising Club. In addition to her internship, Brooke is a student assistant in the Information Technology Services office on campus, and “moonlights” as a sales consultant for Bridal Inspirations, Limited.

When she graduates in May, Brooke hopes to find a job in public relations, specifically corporate communications.

In the meantime, she has found a good fit at the Institute. A first-time voter, Brooke says that her internship has helped her appreciate the importance of becoming an active citizen. “While working at the Institute during this election, I have become more engaged and knowledgeable about politics, and women in politics, not only at the national level but on the local level as well. I think that will stick with me for years to come.”

Academy Alumni News

It is always exciting to receive “progress reports” from Leadership Academy alums, and we are proud to share their accomplishments with you! (Note: The number in parenthesis represents year of participation in the Leadership Academy.)

♦ Makita Abraham
Truman State University (‘08)
Makita in finishing up her semester and looking forward to doing a legislative internship in Jefferson City next spring. “I look forward to finding out who I will work for,” she says. Makita is a junior at Truman, majoring in English.

♦ Doris Agwu
University of Missouri (‘04)
Doris graduated in May with bachelor’s degrees in Biology and Psychology (with a minor in Business) from the University of Missouri where she served as president of the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students and the African Students Association. She is currently on the job hunt!

♦ LeAnn Beaty
Missouri State University (‘00)
LeAnn is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Government at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU), in Richmond, KY. This semester she is teaching American Government and Public Budgeting.

♦ Jumoke Balogun
University of Missouri-Kansas City (‘08)
Effective Jan.5, Jumoke will be the federal lobbyist for the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM), and will intern for Congressman Lacy Clay and the UM governmental relations office in Washington, DC. She will graduate in May, and plans to attend graduate school (hopefully in DC) in the fall.

♦ Pearlina Boyd
Missouri State University (‘00)
In August, Pearlina became the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Missouri and St. Louis.

♦ Tameka Bryant
Lincoln University (‘07)
Tameka is a marketing/PR intern at Barnes Jewish Christian (BJC) Health Care in St. Louis, where she is building her portfolio and gaining valuable work experience in the marketing field. She also works part-time at BJC as a unit secretary, and hopes to find a full-time paid marketing job sometime soon.

♦ Alma Collins
Lincoln University (‘08)
This fall, Alma was inducted into the Alpha...
Kappa Mu National Honor Society, and was chosen as a Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute Scholar. She was one of three students at Lincoln to receive the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Scholarship, and has been selected as a member of the Lincoln University Women’s Leadership Academy. Alma’s proudest achievement this semester, however, is holding her own as the sole math student (and female) in a class of thirteen engineering students.

Tamila Gresham
Southeast Missouri State University (’08)
Tamila was appointed Director of Student Affairs for Missouri State University’s Student Government Association in May. This summer she was an At-Large Student Government Association in Student Affairs for Missouri State University. Tamila was appointed Director of Student Affairs for Missouri State University (’08). This summer she was an At-Large Student Government Association in Student Affairs for Missouri State University.

Anna Gourdin
Southeast Missouri State University (’05)
Anna is finishing up her MPA at Southeast Missouri State University. This fall she worked on the campaigns of two women candidates running for state representative in the St. Louis area.

Antionette Dickens
University of Missouri—St. Louis (’07)
Antionette was one of 40 seniors from around the nation named the American Advertising Federation’s Most Promising Minority Student for the Class of 2009.

Jenni Davis
Univ. of Missouri—St. Louis (’06)
Jenni is enjoying her first semester at Northeastern University School of Law. She is already working on lining up her co-op (1 of 4) for next summer, and would like to clerk for a judge or work in the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Caroline Coulter (Mueller)
Southeast Missouri State University (’02)
In September, Caroline took a new position with the Attorney’s General’s Office in Jefferson City. She works in the Public Safety Division, in the Habeas Corpus Unit, and reports that she really enjoys being back in government.

Natascha Harried
University of Missouri—St. Louis (’06)
Natascha recently started two new jobs. She is a social services worker for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and a grassroots organizer in the political department for Planned Parenthood. She and her family recently relocated to Alton, IL and are very happy there!

LaShonda Harvey
University of Missouri—St. Louis (’99)
LaShonda was recently recognized as the Ultimate Sales Professional by Hampton Hotels. LaShonda is the director of sales for the Hampton Inn Gateway Arch, where she directs all of areas of the hotel’s sales office, including guest services, sales and marketing, and hotel administration. She is also a regular volunteer with Our Little Haven, which offers residential care for abused, neglected, drug exposed and special needs children, ages birth through five years.

Rebecca Henderson
Univ. of Central Missouri (’04)
Rebecca finished up law school at Michigan State University last December (07), and has since become licensed to practice law in IL and MO. She is currently working part-time as an independent contractor for a law firm out of Kansas City, doing online document review for a discovery request. Rebecca recently got engaged and is planning a July wedding. She and her husband will live in Peoria, IL, so she is actively seeking a permanent full-time law position there.

Paula Hodges
Truman State University (’05)
Paula recently became the Statewide Political Director for America Votes-Missouri, and works in the St. Louis office with 2008 Fellow Jessica Pace (UMSL). She also recently married and enjoyed a long post-election honeymoon in Costa Rica. She continues to make her home in Jefferson City.

Patrice Hutton
University of Missouri (’05)
Patrice was a campaign representative for the United Way of Greater St. Louis’ fall campaign. Her team leader was 2002 Shear Fellow Angela Marino (Missouri State University). Patrice recently got engaged and is planning a move to Jacksonville, FL in a few months.

Sarah Jackson
University of Missouri (’03)
Sarah Jackson is a public relations account executive at DCI Group in downtown Washington, DC.

Mary Grace Lewandowski
University of Missouri—St. Louis (’00)
Mary Grace welcomed a new addition to her family in September: Jakob "Jake" Walter Brinkman. Mary Grace is a planner at the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (AL).

Nabihah Maqbool
University of Missouri (’08)
Nabihah is busy maintaining her reputation as "a woman activist on sweet wheels." When she is not riding her new bike, she is bringing speakers to campus for Students Against Genocide and the
(Continued from page 8)

(Continued from page 8)

Muslim Speakers Organization. She hopes to start a Teach Against Genocide program at MU and has been urging fellow students to register to vote.

Jessica Nelson
University of Central Missouri (’07)
Jessica is a volunteer at the Johnson County Prosecutor’s Office, and hopes to work as a victim’s advocate when she graduates in May. She says, “Thanks again to you and the Institute. I wouldn’t have found my passion for government without you.”

Jackson Post
Truman State University (’01)
In addition to her work as the statewide field director for the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Jessica is working with several high ranking women (including the Coordinated Campaign manager and the campaign manager for Al Franken) to host a post-election roundtable and networking session for women interested in politics.

Cynthia Tharp
Missouri S & T (’01)
Cynthia is finishing up her thesis and will graduate from UMSL with a master’s in History in December 2009. She was recently honored as the 2008 Alumna of the Year Award from Missouri S&T, “in recognition of outstanding professional achievements and dedication to enhancing the lives of women.” She was also selected to receive the Gordon Klatt Award for efforts in support of the American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life of Phelps County.

Kelley Robinson
University of Missouri (’07)
Kelley was a regional youth vote organizer for the Obama Campaign, working with 10 universities in Missouri. She plans to graduate in May after finishing a research project to identify reasons why Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Baton Rouge and Houston have not returned to New Orleans. In the meantime, she is headed to Atlanta to work on a runoff campaign for the U.S. Senate.

Sarah Robinson
University of Missouri-Kansas City (’05)
Sarah is a real estate agent in Kansas City. She recently switched companies from Reece & Nichols to Keller Williams.

Suzanne Struglinski
Broadfield University of Missouri (’98); Amethyst Award Winner, 2008
Suzanne is the new senior editor at Provider Magazine for the American Health Care Association.

Corinna Willis
Lincoln University (’08)
Corinna was recently to receive the “Second Chance Scholarship” from the Zonta Club of Jefferson City. She is a senior majoring in agriculture with a minor in Spanish.

Shelly Wood
Southeast Missouri State University (’07)
Shelly is currently doing a social work field placement at Community Caring Council in Cape Girardeau, and plans to graduate in December with a BS in social work and a BA in Spanish. She and a professor recently co-authored a paper entitled “Fossil Fuels and Food Security: Analysis and Recommendations for Community Organizers,” which is forthcoming in The Journal of Community Practice. In her spare time, Shelly is organizing a group in Cape to strengthen the local food system by increasing the capacity for local food production.

Get on the List!
Fellows, don’t miss out on job and internship opportunities that are posted on the Leadership Academy e-mail list. Remember to send us your updated e-mail address when you graduate. We don’t want to lose touch!

This issue’s Abundant Update trophy goes to MU, with 7 updates!
Yes, I want to support the Institute’s mission in helping women participate fully in public policy decision making arenas. Please place me on your mail list for notice of upcoming events and to receive the Woman Watch newsletter.

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Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

Pipeline to Local Office
UM-St. Louis
Jan. 27 & 29, 2009

Statehouse Sisters
UM-St. Louis
MSC Century Room C
February 6, 2009

Amethyst Award Application Deadline:
March 13, 2009

21st Century Leadership Academy Dinner
May 21, 2009

Visit our website for more details: www.umsl.edu/~iwp/