Missouri voters send (a few) more women to Jefferson City

The state of Missouri now has a record three women statewide officeholders. Democrat Secretary of State-elect Robin Carnahan will join Republican Treasurer-elect Sarah Steelman and current Democrat Auditor Claire McCaskill in filling half of the six top state jobs. Until now, women have held just two of the six positions simultaneously.

The women in these races and even the unsuccessful statewide women candidates demonstrated that they no longer suffer from inability to raise funds or garner support in any geographical area of Missouri, said Vivian Eveloff, Director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life.

“Women’s ability to win or lose seems to be based on the same issues as their male counterparts,” Eveloff said.

Thirty-six women will serve in the Missouri House of Representatives in the upcoming session, an increase of one over the last session, bringing the total to 22 percent of the 163-member body.

While women picked up one seat in the Missouri House, a special election will determine who replaces Sen. Sarah Steelman (R) as she leaves her state senate office for her new position as state treasurer. Currently, a record high of seven women including Steelman serve as state senators, which is almost 21 percent of the 34-member body. That number will decline if a woman does not succeed Steelman. The national average for all women state legislators is 22.5 percent, according to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University.

“While we’re certainly pleased to see an increase in the number of women serving our state in elected office, women make up more than 50 percent of the population, so 22 percent just isn’t good enough,” said Dayna Stock, Institute Manager. “The women who won these races have shown that if women run, they can win. We need more women to step up and run. When they do, the Institute is here to support them.”

ELECTION 2004

Among the eight women who will join the Missouri House of Representatives as freshmen in January, five are graduates of the campaign school sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. Two of these graduates succeeded in defeating incumbents: Republican Sally Faith of St. Charles and Democrat Sara Lampe of Springfield.

“Few challengers succeed in beating incumbents,” said Vivian Eveloff, Director of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. “The fact that these two women, in different parts of the state, from different parties beat incumbents is truly a remarkable accomplishment.”

Other Institute campaign school graduates:

Institute alumnae win seats in state legislature

(Continued on page 3)
NAMES IN THE NEWS

Kerr Appointed Family Court Commissioner
The 21st Judicial Circuit Court en banc has selected Kristine Kerr as Family Court Commissioner in St. Louis County. Kerr, a former public defender, replaces Commissioner Mary Greaves.

Budget Director Moves to Pennsylvania
Former Missouri State Budget Director Linda Luebbring has accepted a position as fiscal management director for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Women Legislators Elected to Leadership Posts in General Assembly
In November, State Sen. Maida Coleman (D-St. Louis) was elected Minority Floor Leader in the Missouri Senate. She is the first African-American woman to hold the post. Newly elected Sen. Yvonne Wilson (D-Kansas City) was elected Democratic caucus secretary.
In the House, Reps. Robin Wright Jones (D-St. Louis) and Terry Young (D-Kansas City) were elected Democratic Caucus Chair and Secretary, respectively. Rep. Marilyn Ruestman

Jacobi, Blunt join Institute efforts in Kansas City
Mary Jacobi has joined the Sue Shear Institute staff as the program coordinator in Kansas City. She has over 20 years of experience in non-profit and corporate governmental relations and marketing. Before joining the Institute, Mary was a marketing account manager for Humana, Inc.

In March, 2004, Mary was appointed by Governor Holden to serve as a lay member on the 7th District Judicial Commission. She is also a member of the Women’s Political Caucus and the Junior League of Kansas City.
Mary’s predecessor in the Kansas City Office, Jean Peters-Baker, has returned to the Kansas City Prosecutor’s Office, but will continue her involvement with the Institute as a member of the Advisory Board.

Amy Blunt has also joined the Institute’s Advisory Board in KC. Amy is an independent consultant for political clients including her brother, Governor-elect Matt Blunt. She is also an attorney at Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin, LLP. She has worked as corporate counsel for Ferrellgas and Aquila, and served as a law clerk for Appellate Judge John C. Crow in 1997.

Vincent Named Director of Revenue
Governor-elect Matt Blunt has named Patricia Vincent of Jefferson City to lead the state Department of Revenue. Vincent is currently deputy secretary of state for business services.

Three Legislators Win Awards
Departing Missouri House Speaker Catherine Hanaway (R-Warson Woods) was named Legislator of the Year by the Biotechnology Industry Organization for her support of the life sciences. Reps. Melba Curls (D-Kansas City) and Esther Haywood (D-St. Louis) were named Democratic Legislators of the Year by Rep. Bill Ransdall, Minority Floor Leader. Curls was recognized for her work on social justice and government accountability issues while Haywood earned hers for work on youth and education issues.

For more information about these and other women policy makers in the headlines, visit “Women News” on the Institute’s website at www.umsl.edu/~iwpw
Women make modest gains nationally

In January, women will hold more seats in Congress than at any other time.

Women have made small gains in both elected and appointed positions nationally following the November elections.

For the first time ever, the United States’ top diplomat will be an African American woman, following Pres. George Bush’s appointment of National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice to replace Colin Powell as Secretary of State.

In addition to Rice, Bush has named two other women to high-profile White House positions. Harriet Miers will become White House counsel, while Margaret Spellings is set to become education secretary. Both positions have been held by women previously.

Five more women will be taking office at the U.S. Capitol in January, bringing the number of women representatives to 65, or 15 percent, an all-time high.

One notable winner in the House is Cynthia McKinney of Georgia, who won back by a large margin the seat she lost in 2002.

The Senate remains the same at 14 women members with a win by another controversial figure, incumbent Lisa Murkowski of Alaska. Murkowski won a close race against former governor Tony Knowles after having been appointed by her father, Frank Murkowski, to fill his seat following his election as governor in 2002.

Across the country, both Claire McCaskill in Missouri and Christine Gregoire in Washington needed to win to maintain the record nine governorships held by women. With Gregoire’s apparent loss in Washington pending a recount, women will hold just seven.

Six governors were not up for reelection. In Delaware, Ruth Ann Minner won reelection, while Judy Martz of Montana and Olene Walker of Utah did not seek re-election and will be succeeded by men.

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APPOINTMENTS

In each newsletter, we will list women who have been recently appointed to public policy positions. Please let us know of any other women who have joined the public policy process since August 2004.

The Sue Shear Institute works closely with the Governor’s office, as well as with appointing authorities in Kansas City and St. Louis, to serve as a resource and facilitate the growing participation of women on public boards and commissions.

If you are interested in serving on a public board or commission and would like to become a member of the Talent Bank, contact the Institute at (314) 516-4727 in St. Louis or (816) 235-1409 in Kansas City to request a “Public Service Personal Profile.” You can also download a Profile or complete an online one on the website at www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/

For a list of boards and commissions in Missouri, visit the Governor’s website at www.gov.state.mo.us and click on “Boards and Commissions.”

St. Louis City

Lillian Andrade
Central West End Southeast Special Business District

Myrtle Bailey
St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
Incorporated Board

Sandi Daniels
Board of Tax Appeals

Marianna Deal
St. Louis Public Library Board of Directors

Ebony Ingram
Board of Adjustment Alternate Member

Joyce Johnson
Board of Equalization

Angeletta McCormick
St. Louis Philanthropic Organization
Incorporated Board

LaDonna Parker
Affordable Housing Commission

Monique Sellers
Board of Tax Appeals

Freida Wheaton
Art Museum Subdistrict

St. Louis County

Betty Marver
St. Louis County Boundary Commission

Debbie L. Woodside
Lakeside Advisory Board

Kansas City

Councilwoman Deb Hermann
Mid-America Regional Council

Sherry Jackson
Environmental Management Commission

Sherri McIntyre
Mid-America Regional Council

Mary Kay McPhee
Truman Medical Center Board of Directors

Brenda Pelofsky
Metropolitan Ambulance Services Trust

Catherine Singleton
Landmarks Commission

Elaine Spielbusch
Liquor Control Board of Review

Miglena Stefanova-Wilbur
Ethnic Enrichment Commission

Deborah Woodard
Liquor Control Board of Review

Jackson County

Appointment information for Jackson County was unavailable at press time.

State of Missouri

Patricia Allen
Missouri Housing Development Commission

Mary McElwain
Missouri Arts Council

County Appointments

Judith Ann Prince
Miller County Treasurer

Summer Crider
Shannon County Assessor

Sherry Disney
Stoddard County Circuit Clerk

STRAIGHT TALK ON APPOINTMENTS

Q. Now that we have a Republican governor, will only Republicans be appointed to boards and commissions?

This is a question we’ve heard often in the past few weeks.

Most people know that the governor is charged with filling vacancies on the over 150 boards and commissions that carry out the business of the state. What many people don’t know is that often, specific membership requirements are outlined in the statutes that create and govern boards and commissions. Membership may be determined by specific occupational or personal requirements or geographic affiliation.

For example, state law requires that among the membership of the Organ Donation Advisory committee, four members must represent “organ recipients, families of organ recipients, organ donors, and families of organ donors” and one member must be a “health care representative from a Missouri hospital.”

Similarly, many boards have requirements related to political affiliation. It is common for a board to limit the political majority to one member, so that on a board of seven members, for example, no more than four could have the same political party affiliation.

Historically, the majority has mirrored the political party of the governor. Willing public servants with Democratic and Republican leanings will be needed to maintain partisan balance on the boards. However, after 12 years of Democratic leadership in the governor’s office, it is likely that the boards will shift to a Republican majority to reflect Governor-elect Blunt’s political affiliation.

The Institute’s talent bank database includes women of all political persuasions. Notable Republican women who belong to the talent bank and were tapped for board service by Governor Holden include Highway Commissioner and former Kirkwood Mayor Marge Schramm, and former state representatives Marion Cairns and Sandy Kauflman. Cairns serves on the University of Missouri Board of Curators, and Kauflman serves on the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE), along with talent bank members Kathy Swan and Dudley Grove.

The Institute will do its part to continue to serve the governor’s office by advocating for the inclusion of women in
Rhodes Russell appointed to state’s highest court

By Darcina Heusel

In September, Judge Mary Rhodes Russell of the Missouri Court of Appeals-Eastern District was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court by Governor Holden. She is only the third woman to serve on the Missouri Supreme Court and it is the first time in Missouri history that two of the seven justices on the bench are women.

Russell is a graduate of Truman State University and University of Missouri-Columbia Law School. She began her career in law as a clerk for Missouri Supreme Court Judge George Gunn in the same chambers that she now occupies. Russell then moved on to become a partner in the Hannibal law firm, Clayton & Rhodes.

In 1995 Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Judge Russell to the Eastern District of the Missouri Court of Appeals.

Mary Hoemann Newell, a 21st Century Leadership Academy graduate from the University of Missouri-Columbia has clerked for Judge Russell since 2003 and accompanied her to the Supreme Court.

“Like so many others, I admire Judge Russell's professional successes as an attorney in private practice and her work as a judge on the Court of Appeals. More than that, however, I admire her dedication to ensuring that other women continue to break through the ‘glass ceiling.’”

Judge Russell is extremely dedicated to mentoring young women in law school and as they begin their legal careers, Newell said.

She added, “During the appointment process, I was contacted by a number of young women who have been mentored by Judge Russell who wanted to express their excitement for her and to find out how they could offer their support. It is such an honor to work for someone who so nobly represents women in our profession.”

Darcina Heusel is a student at Washington University in St. Louis and is an intern at the Sue Shear Institute.

Noteworthy Numbers...

7.5 Increase (in millions) of the number of unmarried women who voted in 2004 versus 2000.

(Despite this jump, unmarried women are still the largest demographic group underrepresented at the polls.)

6.5 Number (in millions) by which voting-aged women outnumber voting-aged men

21 Percentage of women serving in the MO General Assembly (42 of 197 members)

55 Percentage of women who won races in the Missouri General Election in November 2004

71 Percentage who won in November 2000

76 Number of major-party women candidates in 2004 (in Missouri)

80 Number in 2002

(Continued from page 4)

Nannette Baker succeeds Russell on Appeals Court

In one of the last appointments of his term, outgoing Gov. Bob Holden named St. Louis Circuit Court Judge Nannette Baker to succeed Judge Mary Rhodes Russell on the Missouri Court of Appeals – Eastern District.

Baker becomes the first African-American woman on the Eastern District bench and just the second on the entire Missouri Court of Appeals. Judge Lisa White Hardwick became the first when she was named to the Western District bench in 2001.

Baker’s appointment maintains the gender ratio at 36 percent women and 64 percent men in the Eastern District and increases the minority ratio from 14 percent to 21 percent. Women make up just 22 percent of the judges for the Missouri Court of Appeals as a whole, while minorities now total 15 percent.

Baker was appointed to the City of St. Louis’ 22nd Judicial Circuit Court in 1999 following a two-year stint as chair of the St. Louis Election Board.

In addition, Baker previously worked as a television reporter. She graduated from St. Louis University School of Law in 1994.
**Southeast Missouri State hosts evening with women in public life**

On Thursday, Nov. 11, the Southeast Chapter of Women in Public Life (WIPL) hosted a panel discussion with Cape Girardeau women who are or have been involved in public life.

Former State Representative Mary Kasten, Councilwoman Marcia Ritter, and Coordinating Board for Higher Education member Kathy Swan all talked with Southeast Missouri State University students about the struggles and rewards of being in public office.

The evening was filled with numerous pearls of wisdom and overall encouragement from all panelists to get more involved on campus and in the community.

Kathy Swan gave the group some tips about how to run a good campaign and the challenges she faced being the only woman in a nine-person primary for county commissioner. Rep. Kasten provided an inside look at what really happens in Jefferson City and talked about how the legislature changed over her 18-year career. Councilwoman Ritter provided insight into the challenges of getting her voice heard on an all-male City Council.

Women in Public Life President and 2004 Shear Fellow, Lauren Yogerst, summed up the feelings of the audience and sponsoring organization. “All of these women have triumphed over great adversity and were a true inspiration to all of those present!”

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**Regina Banks**  
*Lincoln University (’98)*  
Regina has accepted a summer associate position with Baker and Daniels, one of the largest law firms in Indiana. Regina is a student at Valparaiso Law School.

**Liana Boone**  
*Truman State University (’02)*  
Liana was the campaign manager for State Rep. Margaret Donnelly’s victorious re-election campaign, and helped Rep. Donnelly garner almost 69 percent of the vote. In the spring, Liana will return to Truman to complete a few courses (including horseback riding) and will graduate in May.

**Angela Burden**  
*Southwest Missouri State Univ. (’04)*  
Angela will graduate (with honors) from SMS in December. She is president of the Philosophy Honor Society and is applying to graduate school to pursue her interest in philosophy and administration. Someday she hopes to be the department head of a university philosophy department.

**Evelyn Chamberlain**  
*University of Missouri—Rolla (’04)*  
Evelyn is pursuing a PhD in environmental engineering, and is involved in various women’s groups on campus. She has also started a personal letter writing campaign to make her representatives aware of her concerns related to domestic issues.

**Jenny Barker Devine**  
*Central Missouri State University (’99)*  
Jenny recently completed her first book, the centennial history of a fraternity at Iowa State University, and has been asked to serve as the assistant editor on a book about the history of Iowa State. Jenny notes that the negotiating and networking skills she learned at the Academy have come in handy as she pursues her interest in writing and publishing. She writes: “ Heck, I not only convinced an entire fraternity that a girl could write their history, but that they should pay me for it too!” Jenny is pursuing a PhD in history at Iowa State.

**Renessa Foronda**  
*Truman State University (’04)*  
Renessa is very involved in several campus organizations, including Student Senate where she serves as communications director. An Italian minor, Renessa is finalizing plans to study abroad in Florence, Italy, next spring.

**Rebecca Henderson**  
*Central Missouri State University (’04)*  
Rebecca completed a summer internship with Judge Jacqueline Cook in the 17th Judicial Circuit, where she worked on a federal grant application for the Cass County Drug Court. In March she will present a paper about drug court at the American Criminal Justice Society meeting in Chicago. Rebecca will take the LSAT in December and plans to attend law school in the fall.

**Allison Howard**  
*Univ. of Missouri—Columbia (’04)*  
Allison spent her summer finishing up a study on kidney disease in mice. She also volunteered for the Democratic party and the Constitutional Defense League. In addition to her studies, Allison is a tutor for the athletic department.

**Joy Jackson**  
*Truman State University (’00)*  
Joy graduated from MU law school in May and recently passed the IL Bar exam. She is the manager of an apartment rental service in Chicago, where she lives with her husband, Jim. They are expecting a baby in the spring.
Heather Lasher  
**Truman State University (’01)**  
Heather was the communications director for the victorious “Russ Carnahan for Congress” campaign in Missouri’s 3rd Congressional District. She was married on November 27 and is planning to relocate to Washington, DC.

Katina Metzidakis  
**Leadership Academy Intern (’03)**  
Katina is living in Chile, where she is teaching English and doing research for a public consulting firm, seeking out sources of funding for public policy projects. She plans to return to the US to begin law school in September 2005.

Vaishali Naruka  
**University of Missouri –Rolla (’04)**  
In January, Shelly will co-op with Adtran Inc., a telecommunications company in Huntsville, Ala., where she co-oped over the summer. An avid skydiver, she is also gearing up to go hang gliding in the spring. Shelly is a electrical engineering/engineering management major.

Jennifer Neer  
**Central Missouri State University (’04)**  
Jennifer is a student in the Master of Public Policy program at American University in Washington, D.C. She also works as a graduate assistant for two professors in the department.

Mary Hoemann Newell  
**University of Missouri –Columbia (’98)**

Mary has moved to Jefferson City to continue as a law clerk for the Honorable Mary R. Russell who joined the Supreme Court of Missouri in October.

Tammy Nobles  
**Lincoln University (’04)**  
This fall, Tammy started “Woman II Woman,” an off-campus organization committed to helping women be more informed about politics. She recently completed her internship with the Dept. of Social Services, and is trying to get an internship with a ProLife organization for the spring semester.

Heather Pierce  
**Truman State University (’02)**  
Heather is a PhD student in comparative politics and international relations at UMC. She is also a teaching assistant for an American Government class.

Kendra Riddle  
**University of Missouri—Rolla (’03)**  
Kendra was offered an opportunity to continue her co-op term as a chemical engineer with Cargill and will remain at the plant in Decatur, AL, until August 2005. After she graduates, she plans to attend law school and hopes to become an environmental and patent attorney.

Christine Schlosser  
**Truman State University (’04)**  
Christine is the official organizer of this year’s Vagina Monologues presentation at Truman State University. She is inter-viewing for a summer internship in Washington, D.C., and will study abroad next fall at James Watt College in Scotland.

Suzanne Struglinski  
**University of Missouri—Columbia (’98)**  
Suzanne continues to write for the DC bureau of the Las Vegas Sun, and expects to write more about Nevada Sen. Harry Reid now that he is the new minority leader in the U.S. Senate. Suzanne got engaged this summer in Boston, while covering the Democratic National Convention.

Jennifer Suedmeyer  
**University of Missouri—St. Louis (’00)**  
Jennifer will graduate from Baylor Law School in April, and plans to relocate to Kansas City, MO.

Gannett Tseggai  
**University of Missouri—Columbia (’02)**  
Gannett spent the summer and early fall as a press assistant for the DNC communications director for Missouri, and the communications coordinator for the Kerry/Edwards Campaign.

Sarah Welch (Harper)  
**University of Missouri—Rolla (’02)**  
Sarah works full-time in the UMR Information Technology Applications Development Group, and is also working on a master’s degree, part-time. She and her fiance, Rich, finally tied the knot in early October.

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**Amethyst Award Applications Available**

The Amethyst Award is given to a Shear Fellow who has distinguished herself by applying the skills and knowledge she gained at the 21st Century Leadership Academy. She will have inspired others by:

1.) overcoming great personal odds, or  
2.) emerging as a strong voice in her chosen field, or  
3.) raising awareness of an important issue to a new level.

The recipient will be selected by a committee and will receive an **unrestricted cash award of $1,000**. She will be honored at the Academy’s keynote dinner.

All Shear Fellows who have graduated from the Academy are eligible for the award. Applications and nominations will be accepted. **To request an application, contact the Institute at 314.516.4727 or visit the Institute’s website at www.umsl.edu.**

**Application Deadline: March 18, 2005**
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.

### Donor Designations

- $500  Contributor
- $250  Advisor
- $100  Partner
- $ 50  Supporter
- $ 30  Friend

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**Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life**

University of Missouri – St. Louis
232 Woods Hall
One University Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank You.

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**Upcoming Institute Events and Important Dates:**

**Women Mayors’ Lunch**
Mon. Dec. 13, 2004
11:30 a.m.

**Candidate Filing Opens for April 5th Election**
Tues. Dec. 14, 2004

**Filing Closes**
Tues. Jan 18, 2005

**Pipeline to Local Office Campaign Workshop**
Mon. Jan 24 & Wed. Jan 26, 2005
6-9 p.m.

**Statehouse Sisters**
Fri. Feb. 4, 2005 @ UMSL
Fri. Feb. 11, 2005 @ UMKC

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

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