Newest Supreme Court Judge to Keynote Leadership Dinner

Most people probably hope they never sit before a judge, but that is unlikely to be the case for guests at this year’s 21st Century Leadership Academy dinner who can look forward to a keynote address from Missouri’s newest Supreme Court Judge Patricia Breckenridge.

Breckenridge will speak to the 2008 Shear Fellows and community members at the dinner on Thursday, May 22, 2008, at Ces & Judy’s Catering at Le Chateau in Frontenac. The title of her talk is, “Finding the Way Through Following our Passions.”

The most recent addition to Missouri’s highest court, Breckenridge was sworn-in in November, and her appointment brings the number of women judges on the seven-member court to three, a record.

Judge Breckenridge was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, in 1990, and served as Chief Judge there from July 1, 1998 to June 30, 2000.

Breckenridge earned both an undergraduate degree in agricultural economics and a law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. After graduation, she was a partner in the law firm of Russell, Brown & Bickel in Nevada. She started her judicial career at age 25 when she was appointed to the bench in Vernon County by Gov. Kit Bond.

Since joining the Supreme Court last fall, Breckenridge divides her time between Jefferson City and her home in Nevada, Mo., where she grew up and continues to reside with her husband.

Judge Breckenridge is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a recipient of The University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law’s Citation of Merit in 1996 and the Missouri Bar President’s Award in 1994, and a 1990 Council of State Governor’s Toll Fellow. She is a member of the Missouri Association of Probate and Associate Circuit Judges, serving as president in 1990-91.

The 21st Century Leadership Academy is a weeklong leadership program for 36 college students representing nine Missouri state universities. The keynote dinner is a culmination of a week that includes a visit to the state capitol and meetings with women elected officials, judges and community leaders. This year, 1998 Shear Fellow Suzanne Struglinski Broadfield will be honored for her accomplishments.

For more information about the dinner, visit www.umsl.edu/~iwpl/leadership/08keynote.html or call the Sue Shear Institute at (314) 516-6623.
Institute Welcomes New Board Member in St. Louis

The Institute is pleased to welcome former Greendale, Mo., Mayor Monica Huddleston to the Advisory Board in St. Louis. Huddleston served as mayor from 2003-2007 and was the first female and first African-American to be elected to this position in her municipality. She is a retired Southwestern Bell executive, and in 2007 she served as Faculty in Residence for the 21st Century Leadership Academy.

Welcome Monica, farewell Stacy...

Administrative Aide Stacy Ross has transferred to another department on campus after five years at the Institute. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Wright Becomes City Administrator in Wentzville

Effective June 2, Diana Wright will be the city administrator in Wentzville, Mo., a community of over 20,000 people just west of St. Louis.

New Spanish Cabinet Includes First Woman Defense Minister

Nine women were sworn into the Spanish cabinet recently, including Defense Minister Carme Chacon, 37, who is seven months pregnant. Counting Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, the Cabinet is split equally between men and women. Zapatero has pushed for gender parity since taking office in 2004. He created two new ministries: The Equality Ministry, headed by Bibiana Aido; and the Science and Innovation Ministry, headed by molecular biologist Cristina Garmendia. Aido, at 31, is Spain’s youngest ever Cabinet minister.

(Source: The International Herald Tribune)

Hodges Named Director of Highways and Traffic in St. Louis County

Sheryl Hodges has been appointed St. Louis County Director of Highways and Traffic. Hodges had served as the county’s public works director since June, and had functioned as the director of highways and traffic since July. Before joining the county, Hodges was an executive with Jacobs Engineering Group.

Baker Retires from Circuit Bench

St. Louis Circuit Judge Evelyn Baker has retired after 25 years on the bench. Baker was Missouri’s first black female circuit judge. She was appointed in 1983 by then-Gov. Christopher “Kit” Bond.

Post Office Named for Harriet Woods

In a ceremony on Feb. 9, the University City Post Office was renamed the Harriet F. Woods Post Office Building in honor of former Lt. Governor Harriet Woods, the first woman elected to statewide office in Missouri. A civic plaza across the street was named after her as well. Woods, who began her political career in University City, died in February of last year.

Are you a woman in public life with news to share? Please e-mail dstock@umsl.edu or fax 314.516.6621.

Remembering Connie Karr

Kirkwood City Councilwoman Connie Karr was a go-getter. Connie attended the Institute’s Pipeline to Local Office workshop in January, 2001 and was elected to the Kirkwood City Council in 2002. She was running for mayor of Kirkwood when she was killed by a resident during a city council meeting in February.

Institute Director Vivian Eveloff remembered Karr stood out in the class. “She distinguished herself by her drive and optimism,” Eveloff said. “She had a clear vision of how to win her election and then tackle her community’s greatest needs.”

In 2003, Karr returned to the Pipeline program as a faculty member, sharing her experiences and teaching other aspiring office holders how to build and execute their campaign plan. And in September, 2007, she participated in the Institute’s “Women Walk Before They Run” event, proudly distributing her red and white “Connie Karr for Mayor” stickers.

(Continued on page 5)
Special elections boost number of women

Election of two women Representatives brings number in House to 33

Special elections on Feb. 5 ushered two additional women into the Missouri House of Representatives, bringing the current number of seats filled by women in the House to 33 out of 163 (20 percent).

A familiar face in the House, Rep. Mary Kasten (R-158) is serving her second tour in the legislature having served as Rep. from 1982 until 2000. Rep. Kasten defeated two male opponents to replace State Rep. Nathan Cooper, who resigned. She represents Cape Girardeau County in Southeast Mo. Kasten will serve out the remaining eight months of her term, but is not seeking re-election in November.

A retired educator, Rep. Kasten served for 20 years on the Cape Girardeau Board of Education. She is the founder of the Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council, a 19-year-old non-profit organization that brings multiple organizations together in hopes of empowering the community to be more self-reliant, responsible and resourceful.

In House District 65, Michele Kratky (D) was unopposed in a special election to succeed her husband, Rep. Fred Kratky, who resigned. Prior to her election, Rep. Kratky served as the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for the St. Louis Association of Realtors. She also was an appointed member of the St. Louis City Board of Adjustment and served as chair for two years. Her civic activities include service on the RCGA Legislative Committee and volunteering her time to the Mothers’ Club at St. Louis University and Vianney High School.

A mother of four sons and a St. Louis native, Rep. Kratky’s district represents parts of St. Louis City. She has filed for re-election and faces opposition in the August Democratic primary.

Women legislators hope to “hold their own”

“It’s just a matter of time.”

We hear this a lot with respect to women’sparity in legislative bodies. As women become more represented in professions such as business and the law - the theory goes - more women will run for office and eventually, parity will be achieved.

While it’s true that U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier’s (D) victory in a special election in California and the April election of five new women state legislators nationally brings the numbers of women in Congress and state legislatures to all-time highs, the situation in Missouri is less rosy.

The election of State Reps. Michelle Kratky and Mary Kasten in February brings the total number of women in the legislature to 40, which is two more than it was in 2007, but two less than the total twelve years ago, in 1996.

The downward trend in the Missouri legislature really began in 2001, and has been accelerated by a steady decline in the number of women in the Missouri House, which peaked at 40. Why the move in the wrong direction?

It is clear that a shortage of women candidates is a contributing factor. Eighty-eight women filed for seats in the Legislature in 2004, but that number dropped to 69 in 2006.

When filing closed for the 2008 election on March 25, the news was mixed. The number of female candidates increased over 2006, but only modestly.

For the Missouri House, 74 of the 342 candidates, almost 22 percent, are women who are running for 61 seats. This represents an increase over 2006 when 17 percent of the candidates were women. On the positive side, 30 of the 74 women who are running this year are seeking open seats which are traditionally easier to win because there is no incumbent. However, 12 women representatives are not seeking re-election, including seven who are term limited out. In four of the districts being vacated by women, there is no woman candidate on the ballot.

In the State Senate, there is a 33 percent increase in the number of women candidates, from nine in 2006 to 11 this year. Of the 11, four face no primary opponent including two incumbents seeking re-election: Sen. Yvonne Wilson (D-9), and Sen. Luann Ridgeway (R-17). Five women are (Continued on page 6)
In each newsletter, we will list women who have been recently appointed to public policy positions. Please let us know of other women who have joined the public policy process since Nov. 2007.

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 www.gov.mo.gov/boards/boards.htm

State of Missouri

Dr. Lynthia B. Andrews
State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services

Famela Arbeiter
MO Assistive Technology Advisory Council

Elizabeth A. Aull
Hazardous Waste Management Commission

Martha E. Black
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Linda R. Bohrer
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Paula G. Bonney
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Kathleen E. Carpenter
State Soil and Water Dist. Commission

Doris J. Carter
Coordinating Board for Higher Education

Debra E. Catlett
Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging

Deborah K. Cook
Children’s Vision Commission

Kathryn Elizabeth Davis
7th Judicial Circuit, Circuit Judge

Linda M. Detring
Comprehensive Entry Point System for Long Term Care Committee

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Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging

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Organ Donation Advisory Committee

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Missouri Real Estate Appraisers Commission

Brenda D. Mitchell
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Dr. Nancy L. Morrow-Howell
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DeEtta L. Murphy
Linked Deposits Review Commission

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21st Judicial Circuit, Associate Circuit Judge

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Gloria Reno
Domestic & Family Violence Council

Lynn Rothbarth
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Michele Schiller-Baker
Domestic & Family Violence Council

Ernestine Shivers-Jones
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Thea Sherry
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Susan Taylor
Domestic & Family Violence Council

Rosemary Terranova
Mid-East Area Agency on Aging

Rebecca White
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Environmental Quality Commission, City of Florissant

Celeste Endicott
Domestic & Family Violence Council

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Domestic & Family Violence Council

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Retirement Board of Trustees

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Domestic & Family Violence Council

Linda Little
Electrical Code Review Committee
Plan now to lace up your walking shoes, grab your friends, and participate in this annual moving celebration of women in public life!

September 20, 2008, 9:00 a.m., Shaw Park in Clayton

Save the date and stay tuned for more information!

Pipeline Graduates Get to Work

When the polls closed on April 8, two of the newly-elected mayors in St. Louis County were women, and many graduates of the Sue Shear Institute’s campaign school were celebrating.

Sixty-six percent of the campaigns represented at Institute’s Pipeline programs won their elections. In all, Pipeline graduates won five city council elections and one school board election.

Fellow Pipeline to Public Office graduates Gerry Biedenstein and Gina Jaksetic won two of the three seats available on the Kirkwood City Council. Both attended the Pipeline program last fall, at the urging of Institute graduate, alderman and mayoral candidate, the late Connie Karr.

In neighboring Webster Groves, two Pipeline to Local Office graduates, Debi Salberg and Anne U. Tolan, were among four candidates for three seats on the City Council. Both won, as did incumbent Kathy Hart, giving the Webster Council a majority of women (5/6)

(Karr, continued from page 2)

Roberta Holst had known Karr for years but lost touch until they both showed up for the 2001 Pipeline workshop. Holst saw her again at the “Women Walk” event last year. Karr’s commitment to public service was borne from an authentic desire to help people, Holst said. “There are certain people who dabble,” Holst said. “Connie wasn’t one of them. She wanted to make change happen.”

In her last e-mail to the Institute, Connie was looking for other Pipeline or Academy graduates who might be interested in volunteering on her campaign.

“I intend to win,” she said. “I’m running on my record of helping citizens, advocating sensible residential development and improved citizen communications.”

Connie was a model student, an enthusiastic supporter of the Institute, a great role model, and a loyal friend. She will be missed. 

Appointment information for Kansas City and Jackson County was unavailable at press time.

Nancy C. Pope
MO Statewide Independent Living Council

Catherine M. Reiss
Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging

Julie A. Robinson
Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board

Melinda D. Sanders
State Interagency Coordinating Council

Jolene M. Schulz
Missouri Community Service Commission

Toni R. Schwartz
Linn State Tech. College Board of Regents

Carol J. Scott
Comprehensive Entry Point System for Long Term Care Committee

Robin R. Shaw
Missouri Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

Ellen L. Siwak
22nd Judicial Circuit, Associate Judge

Ruth A. Smith
Martin Luther King, Jr., State Celebration Commission

Sheryl R. Smith
Governor’s Advisory Council for Veteran’s Affairs

Katheryne M. Staeger-Wilson
MO Statewide Independent Living Council

Rhonda K. Stafford
Missouri Workforce Investment Board

Lori A. Steffen
MO Statewide Independent Living Council

Angela N. Stiffler
Missouri Community Service Commission

Judy P. Stokes
Sixth Circuit Judicial Commission

Kylee M. Strough
Missouri Western State University Board of Governors

Sarah C. Tate
Missouri Workforce Investment Board

Karen L. Thornton
Missouri Women’s Council

Cheryl L. Thruston
Missouri Workforce Investment Board

Clara L. Urrahn
Missouri Workforce Investment Board

Annetta M. Vickers
Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board

Jo Walker
Comprehensive Entry Point System for Long Term Care Committee

Kelly S. Walters
Missouri Workforce Investment Board

Letitia D. Whitaker
Governor’s Advisory Council on Veteran’s Affairs

Penny A. Williams
Missouri State Park Advisory Board

Cheryl L. Woodruff
Comprehensive Entry Point System for Long Term Care Committee

Newly-elected Webster Groves City Councilmember Debi Salberg and Community College Board Trustee Melissa Hattman celebrate at the Institute’s post-election party on April 10. Both are graduates of the Pipeline to Local Office program.

“I’m telling everybody – if you’re thinking about [seeking office], don’t walk, run to the Sue Shear Institute!”

Melissa Hattman, Pipeline to Local office graduate and newly-elected member of the St. Louis Community College Board of Trustees

in addition to Mayor Gerry Welch, who serves on the Institute’s advisory board.

Another Local pipeline graduate,

(Continued on page 6)
(April Elections, continued from page 5)

Stephanie Reynolds, won an open seat to become the only female on a previously eight member all-male Board of Alderman in Valley Park. In addition, several Pipeline attendees were campaign volunteers for the victor of Valley Park’s Mayoral election, Grant Young.

In a race for the St. Louis Community College Board of Trustees, first-time candidate Melissa Hattman handily defeated her opponents with the candidate closest to her in the race receiving less than half the voting support she did at over 48 percent.

“I just want to say how invaluable the [Sue Shear] Institute has been to me,” Hattman said at the post-election victory party. “I’m telling everybody— if you’re thinking about [seeking office], don’t walk, run to the Sue Shear Institute! If you’ve never run for office and want to do it, the Institute is the way to go.”

The Pipeline to Local Office campaign workshop is offered each winter and offers detailed instruction and tips for running a successful campaign taught by women office holders and campaign workers. This year’s faculty members included Webster Groves Mayor Gerry Welch, former St. Louis Community College District President Member Mikkibrewster and former Meramec Valley School Board Member Kristina Starr.

With state budget constraints more severe than ever, our donors are increasingly important to the ongoing work of the Institute.

Thanks again to our loyal 2007 donors!

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Shera Ross
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Michelle Smart
Nanora Sweet
Molly Tallarico
Lisa Taylor
Carol Waggoner
Juanita Walton
Ollie Ward
Hope Whitehead
Janet Wright
Hillary Zimmerman

(Candidates, continued from page 3)

running for open seats but only one will not face another woman in the primary. Senators Robin Wright-Jones (D) and Connie Lajoyce Johnson (D) will face each other in the primary for the 5th district, and Jane Cunningham (R) is one of two women candidates for the Republican nomination in the 7th.

Overall, of the 450 candidates who filed to run in the Primary Elections, 100 are women representing 22 percent of the total candidate pool.

Four women are running in races for the U.S. House. Two will face no primary opposition but will be contested on the November ballot: Incumbent Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-8) and Kay Barnes, the former Mayor of Kansas City who is the challenger in the 6th Congressional District. In the 9th Congressional District, Judy Baker (D) and Danie Moore (R) both state representatives, face contested primaries.

State Treasurer Sarah Steelman (R) is running in the Republican primary for Governor. Steelman is one of three women seeking the state’s top job. One woman is running to succeed her in the Treasurer’s office and three are running for Lieutenant Governor.

Incumbent Secretary of State Robin Carnahan (D) is running for re-election and is unopposed in the primary. In the race for Attorney General, State Rep. Margaret Donnelly (D) is the first woman office holder to seek this position.

Despite historic “firsts” on the national scene, 2008 looks to be a status quo year for women in the Missouri legislature. The bottom line is that women are poised to pickup a few open seats in the Senate, but the net gain of seats in the House is likely to be zero. Currently, Missouri is tied for 33rd with Texas for the percentage of women in the state legislature. Without more candidates, it will be difficult to move up the list.
**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.)

**Regina Banks**  
*Lincoln University* (’98)  
Regina recently started a new job as the Legislative Director for the California Employment Lawyers Association.

**Crystal Brigger**  
*Missouri State University* (’07)  
Crystal is the full-time Grassroots Organizer for Planned Parenthood of Southwest Missouri. She is also a full-time graduate student, pursuing a master’s degree in communication.

**Suzanne Struglinski Broadfield**  
*University of Missouri—Columbia* (’98)  
In her role as the Washington Bureau Chief for the Deseret Morning News, Suzanne was dispatched to cover Mitt Romney’s presidential bid (and even flew on his campaign plane!). She is currently serving her second term as president of the Regional Reporters Association and is an active member of the National Press Club.

**Tameka Bryant**  
*Lincoln University* (’07)  
Tameka is graduating from Lincoln University in May with a B.S. in journalism, and is currently looking for a job in St. Louis.

**Carolyn Chrisman (Lumsden)**  
*Truman State University* (’01)  
Carolyn is living in Kirkville and teaching social sciences at the jr. high, high school and community college levels. She is pursuing a master’s degree in History at UMSL, and serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission in her community.

**Jenny Barker Devine**  
*University of Central Missouri* (’99)  
Jenny is graduating in May with a Ph.D. in history from Iowa State University. This fall, she will be an assistant professor of history at Illinois College, a small liberal arts school in Jacksonville, Ill.

**Amber Clifford-Napoleone**  
*University of Central Missouri* (’00)  
Amber completed her Ph.D. in American Studies and graduated with honors from the University of Kansas in July. She serves on the board of directors for PROMO—Missouri’s largest GLBTQ rights organization—and SCORE, the Unitarian Universalist Assembly, Prairie Star District, Southern Cluster Outreach Organization.

**Caroline Coulter (Muller)**  
*Southeast Missouri State University* (’02)  
After passing the bar exam in August, Caroline started a new position as an associate at Mariesa & Sigmund, L.L.C., a firm in Jefferson City that specializes in real estate, commercial law and estate planning.

**Jennifer Davis**  
*University of Missouri-St. Louis* (’07)  
Jenny is completing her MSW at UM-St. Louis in May, and will begin law school at Northeastern University in Boston in the fall. During the first two weeks of June, she is traveling to London, Dublin, Rome, Florence, Milan, Venice, and Paris in a whirlwind tour of Europe. Jenny credits the her Academy experience with helping her attain her goals.

**Antionette Dickens**  
*University of Missouri-St. Louis* (’07)  
Antionette recently completed a public affairs internship with Express Scripts, located on the UMSL campus. In March, she was celebrated as a 2008 UM-St. Louis Trailblazer, recognizing her contributions to the university as a campus leader.

**Casey Exendine**  
*University of Central Missouri* (’06)  
Casey is employed by the Missouri House of Representatives, working as a legislative assistant for State Rep. Will Kraus R-Raytown).

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**The sky is the only limit: 2008 Amethyst Award winner soars to success in DC**

It was aboard presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s airplane that Suzanne Struglinski Broadfield stopped typing on her laptop, looked up to see Gov. Romney a mere eight rows ahead and gave herself a pinch. The young journalist couldn’t believe that she was actually covering the popular New Hampshire and Florida primaries for the Deseret Morning News.

It was, she said, an unbelievable experience, but for a moment she wondered if it was an experience she deserved. Almost immediately, the drive that got her into that seat and earned her the 2008 Amethyst Award kicked in: “I thought, ‘I worked hard. I may not be the best reporter in the history of all time,’” Broadfield joked, “but I made the right connections to be on this airplane’.”

The UM-Columbia graduate started her career with an internship as a regional reporter through the University of Missouri’s Washington Reporting Program, covering Alabama and New Hampshire’s congressional delegations. She contributed to several papers including the Las Vegas Sun where she followed the 2004 Presidential Election. By December 2005, she was working as the sole Washington Bureau Chief for the Deseret Morning News, Salt Lake City’s oldest newspaper.

A Chicago native, Suzanne grew up in an informed household where the news dominated the television. She decided to become a journalist because she liked the idea of taking information and sharing it with others on a basic level. One “cannot do anything if they aren’t educated about what’s going on,” she said.

Suzanne attended the Leadership (Continued on page 9)
Lacey Filley  
*Lincoln University (’06)*

Lacey is still enjoying her work as First Assistant at Maurice’s (a clothing store) in Osage Beach, Mo., and is eagerly anticipating the summer arrival of a baby boy.

Mayra Flesner  
*University of Central Missouri (’04)*

Mayra is finishing up her first year of Law School at Saint Louis University where her emphasis is immigration law. She recently defeated two male opponents in an election for president of the Hispanic Law Student Association. She has applied to the MBA program at SLU with the ultimate goal of running her own law firm. She is a translator at the Immigration Clinic on campus, and next fall she will be a teaching assistant.

Ellie Glenn  
*Truman State University (’07)*

Ellie is a field organizer for the Nixon for Governor Campaign.

Christin Green  
*Missouri State University (’07)*

Christin has been accepted to the George Washington University Public Policy graduate program where she will pursue an emphasis in gender and social issues.

Taylor Hahn  
*Missouri Univ. of Science & Tech. (’07)*

This summer, Taylor will be participating in a research program at the University of Rochester Department of Pediatrics with a focus on Community and Health Services Research involving identification, screening, prevention, and management of childhood obesity.

Crystal Hardy (Sellers)  
*University of Central Missouri (’03)*

Crystal is a teacher for the State Fair Career and Technology Center, a high school vocational technical program administered through State Fair Community College. She teaches Agriculture Education to Jr. High and high school students at two schools and is also the advisor for the FFA.

Patrice Hutton  
*University of Missouri–Columbia (’05)*

Patrice is preparing to graduate in May with her MSW in Advocacy and Administration from the University of Kansas. After graduation, she hopes to find a job in St. Louis where she can use her skills to do fundraising, grant writing, community organizing and macro advocacy.

Debbie Irwin  
*University of Missouri–St. Louis (’99)*

In January, Debbie became the statewide foreclosure prevention coordinator for Beyond Housing, a nonprofit group that provides housing and support services for low-income families and homeowners. Prior to joining Beyond Housing, she served five years as the director of the Dutchtown South Community Corporation in St. Louis.

Joy Jackson  
*Truman State University (’00)*

Joy is an associate attorney at Faber & Brand, L.L.C. law firm in Columbia, Mo. She and her husband are expecting their second child, a boy, in April.

Arzu Karimova  
*University of Missouri–St. Louis (’05)*

By the time the newsletter goes to print, Arzu will have completed the St. Louis Marathon, her third. She is already planning to run the Chicago Marathon in the fall.

Abrahama Keys  
*University of Missouri–Columbia (’04)*

Abrahama is the coordinator of the membership department at the St. Louis Science Center. She also continues to be passionate about politics.

Emily Kiddoo  
*Truman State University (’06)*

Emily is currently doing an internship with Sen. Mike Gibbons (R-St. Louis County). She is also trying to choose a law school.

Mary Grace Lewandowski  
*University of Missouri–St. Louis (’00)*

Mary Grace is a Senior Planner II at the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (AL), where she is working on a variety of transportation planning projects.

Calling all Leadership Academy Alums in the Kansas City area...

The Kansas City mentoring program is off and running. After ten years and still going strong, the 21st Century Leadership Academy has an amazing network of committed and engaged women alums, including Shear Fellows who are making a difference in the Kansas City community in a variety of ways.

One of the objectives of the Academy experience is to help Fellow build a network and tap into the generosity of women leaders who offered mentoring and advice. For those Fellows in the Kansas City area, we now have an exciting opportunity for you to “return the favor” and use your energy and experience for other women: Volunteering for the Kansas City mentorship program.

The UMKC office of the Sue Shear Institute and the UMKC Women’s Center have received a grant from the American Association of University Women, Kansas City, Missouri Branch, Nettie Irene Van Der Veer Wagy Fund, a charitable trust of the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation to develop a leadership mentoring program using the time, talent, and energies of Academy alums. The purpose of the mentorship is to match women interested in encouraging other women as they figure out how to make a difference within their own community.

If you are an alum who graduated in 2003 or before, you will be matched with either a recent alum or a current UMKC student.

If you are an alum who graduated between 2003 and 2006 you will be matched with a current UMKC student.

If you are a recent Academy graduate (2007 or 2008) you will be matched with a current freshman or sophomore student.

Mentors and protégées will meet approximately once every three to four weeks between the start of the program and August 2008. This is a great opportunity to help another woman become more civically engaged. Matches are still taking place so call the UMKC office of the Sue Shear Institute at 816-235-1409 to learn more and volunteer.
Shear Fellow
Heather's sister, Laura, is a 2008 Truman State University ('01) She is now the Communications Director of her application for a summer internship. After living in Washington, DC for several years, Heather and her husband moved back to St. Louis in December. She is now the Communications Director for the Missouri Budget Project. Heather’s sister, Laura, is a 2008 Shear Fellow.

Rachel Padgett
Southeast Missouri State University ('07)
Rachel is graduating in May with a B.S. in social studies. She is currently student teaching in Belleville, IL and is looking for a full-time position in Indianapolis, IN, for the fall.

Lauren Palmer
University of Missouri–Columbia ('99)
Lauren recently relocated from Des Moines, IA to Manhattan, KS, where she is the assistant city manager.

Christy Schlosser
Truman State University ('04)
Christy completed a master’s degree in public communication from American University in August, and now works as a market research project manager at Applied Research in Kansas City, Mo.

Danielle Siembieda
University of Missouri–Columbia ('99)
Danielle is a new media artist in the San Francisco Bay area. She works for a design school and is pursuing an MFA in digital media at San Jose State University, with plans to do Green Design. In addition, she is the managing editor for the SWITCH online academic journal about art and technology.

Natalie Soltys
Truman State University ('07)
Natalie will graduate from Truman in May and will begin the master’s program in Media, Culture and Communication at New York University in the fall. In the meantime, she is eagerly awaiting the fate of her application for a summer internship at the RNC in Washington, DC.

Heather Lasher Todd
Truman State University ('01)
After living in Washington, DC for several years, Heather and her husband moved back to St. Louis in December. She is now the Communications Director for the Missouri Budget Project. Heather’s sister, Laura, is a 2008 Shear Fellow.

Sarah Welch
MO Univ. of Science and Tech. ('00)
Sarah is an alternate delegate for the 2008 Republican Congressional and State Conventions, and one of her suggestions to the state GOP platform will be considered at the state Convention. She is also the GOP Committee woman for her ward.

Lisa Wayne
Truman State University ('03)
Lisa has been called into active duty with the army and is currently at Camp Crowder in Southwest, Mo., preparing for deployment to Kosovo. She will serve as the division transportation officer and support and services officer for a combat brigade, responsible for moving “stuff” and providing food and sleeping arrangements for her fellow soldiers.

Shelly Wood
Southeast Missouri State University ('07)
Shelly will earn bachelor’s degrees in social work and Spanish in Dec. 2008, and plans to attend grad school to pursue an MSW in Fall, 2009. She spent her winter break in Mexico studying Spanish, and was recently selected by the dean of her college to participate in a weeklong seminar on global issues at the Center for Strategic International Studies, a bipartisan think tank in Washington, DC.

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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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