Jackson county’s top prosecutor to keynote Leadership Academy dinner

Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney Jean Peters Baker has been a friend of the Sue Shear Institute for many years. More than a decade ago, she led the Institute’s UMKC operation while taking a break from her work in the Jackson County’s Prosecutor’s office. At the time, she had a young child and found her work on child abuse cases especially stressful. Jean was a very effective member of the Institute family as she broadened her experience with “Women in Public Life.”

In 2010, Jean took on a new public life challenge when she ran for an open seat in the Missouri House of Representatives. She was unopposed in her first political campaign and began her House service in 2011, when she was elected Leader of the Freshman Democrats. Jean also spearheaded the Kansas City Caucus and co-chaired their effort to increase economic development in the region. She also advocated for increased funding for the prosecutor’s office.

After about three months in legislative office, Jean had a difficult choice to make. The Jackson County Prosecutor at the time had accepted a judicial appointment which meant that Jackson County Executive Michael Sanders would appoint a successor. He asked Jean to return as Jackson County’s top law enforcement officer: the County Prosecutor, and she accepted. Jean was subsequently elected to the office in 2012.

Jean Peters Baker has instituted many new strategies for reducing crime and recidivism in Jackson County. The effectiveness of her innovative approaches is reflected in the reduction of homicides to a 23-year low. She will share some of her innovative approaches to being a leader on crime fighting and prevention as the Keynote Speaker for the 21st Century Leadership Academy Dinner on May 21, 2015. For information about attending the dinner and meeting the 18th class of Leadership Academy Fellows, please call 314.516-4727 or email Landersm@umsl.edu.

Funding Available for Former Fellows

Each year since 2010, the Institute awards one or more grants to graduates of the 21st Century Leadership Academy pursuing unpaid or nominally paid internships or other opportunities with a focus on the public sector. Thanks to a generous contribution from Nancy Siteman, the application for this year’s Siteman Fellows Fund will be available in May 2015. Check our website often for updates:

www.umsl.edu/sueshear
NAMEs IN THE NEWS

Trifecta in the District
For the first time in the history of the nation’s capital, three women are serving as mayor, schools chancellor, and police chief at the same time. Muriel Bowser was sworn in as mayor of the District of Columbia in January 2015, Kaya Henderson has been leading the schools since 2011, and Cathy Lanier assumed her role as police chief in 2009.

Judicial Hat Trick
The judicial commission for the 16th Circuit in Jackson County, MO, selected a panel of three female nominees for a vacancy on the circuit court. Judges in Jackson County are nominated and selected through the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan. After the commission chose the panel of three women, Governor Jay Nixon appointed one of them to the bench. Jennifer Phillips was appointed to the position on February 10, 2015.

Public Servant, Distinguished Alumna & Friend of the Institute
Debra H. Moore, Ph.D., was appointed interim Director of Administration in St. Clair County, Illinois. She is the first woman and the first African-American to hold this high-level position in the county’s history. Dr. Moore is responsible for implementing policies passed by the county board, oversight of the budget, and more.

The World’s Largest Law Office
Loretta Lynch was confirmed by the United States Senate (56-34) as the 83rd Attorney General of the United States. Lynch is the first African-American woman to hold the post. Her appointment brings the number of women in the Cabinet to seven total. Lynch’s nomination made headlines because it was the third longest confirmation of any appointee to the office: 166 days.

Are you a woman in public life with news to share? Email fantroyj@umsl.edu with updates.

The Institute and UMSL Student Life team up for Women at the Top

For Women’s History Month, the Sue Shear Institute partnered with the UMSL Office of Student Life for the “Women at the Top” series. The Office is tasked with enhancing students’ academic experiences with programs that help them develop as leaders – a perfect match for the Institute!

On March 5, the two groups partnered to shine a light on women in politics. The panelists included St. Louis County Councilwoman Hazel Erby (District 1); Chief of Staff to St. Louis City Mayor Slay, Mary Ellen Ponder; and Town and Country Alderman Linda Rallo (Ward 4). These women leaders shared openly about the responsibility that comes with their power, the things they think about that most men in their positions wouldn’t, and how they balance it all and manage to make time for themselves and their families.

Students in attendance were encouraged by these women’s stories, and one lucky attendee received a copy of Brenée Brown’s book, Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead. The Institute looks forward to partnering with the Office of Student Life again to feature prominent women in public life!
Municipal Elections Break Barriers

In Missouri, elections for local office appear every spring, like daffodils and dandelions. This year, the results in Ferguson and other very competitive elections received special attention. Many graduates of the Institute’s annual Pipeline to Local Office workshops were successful in their contests! Ella M. Jones triumphed over three opponents in garnering over 50% of the votes in Ward 1. She is the first African American woman to serve on this City Council. In Ward 3, Wesley Bell, a 2014 Pipeline attendee, bested Lee Smith, who attended this year. These victories were an important step to making the City Council more representative of the population it serves—a value shared by the Institute. Courtney M. Graves, another ‘15 Pipeline attendee, came in first among five candidates for the Ferguson-Florissant School Board. She will join ‘14 class graduate Donna Paulette-Thurman who was elected last year.

Other successful candidates among Institute program graduates include Amy Rubin and Joanne Soudah, who won seats on the Clayton School Board and the University City School Board, respectively. Both women received the most votes among their group of three candidates seeking the office. Angela V. McCormick garnered 61% of the votes in her three-way contest for the Maryland Heights City Council. Barbara Stocker was elected to the Jefferson County College District Board. Sally Faith’s success in her reelection campaign for Mayor of St. Charles, Missouri is a real tribute to the value of campaign savvy. Mayor Faith first attended a Pipeline program before she ran for the Missouri Legislature in 2004. Her 2015 victory begins her second decade as an elected official.

Running for office requires courage, time commitment, hard work and the support of family and friends. The Institute encourages women and men to step forward and make a constructive difference in the many elected decision making bodies in Missouri. While winners are congratulated by many, candidates who fall short of victory also play an important role by serving as models of civic engagement and providing voters with more diverse options to consider for their government leadership.

While the Pipeline Workshop doesn’t provide a secret formula for success, most candidates reported that it did provide very useful direction.

Congratulations to Pipeline Program alumni who successfully ran in the April 2015 elections!

Wesley Bell — City of Ferguson Council Member, Ward 3
Joanne Boulton — City of Clayton Alderperson, Ward 1
Michele DeShay — City of Moline Acres, Mayor
Sally Faith — City of St. Charles, Mayor
Courtney M. Graves — Ferguson-Florissant School Board Member
Nancy Greenwood — City of Chesterfield Council Member, Ward 2
Ella Jones — City of Ferguson Council Member, Ward 1
Angela McCormick — City of Maryland Heights Council Member, Ward 3
Amy Rubin — Clayton School Board Member
Joanne Soudah — University City School Board Member
Barbara Stocker — Jefferson College Board, Jefferson County
Maggie Strong — City of Northwoods Alderperson, Ward 1
Doris Trojack — City of Greendale, Alderperson at Large
Terri Violet — City of St. Peters Alderman, Ward 3

Continued on page 5
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 and visit our website at [www.umsl.edu/sueshear](http://www.umsl.edu/sueshear) to complete a “Public Service Personal Profile” online.

For a list of boards and commissions in Missouri, visit the Governor’s website at [http://governor.mo.gov/boards/](http://governor.mo.gov/boards/)

The following lists include women who have been appointed to boards and commissions since December 2014:

### St. Louis County

**Cheryl Kunzler**  
Board of Equalization  

**Cynthia Williams**  
Retirement Board of Trustees

### State of Missouri

**Jo Wanda Bozeman**  
St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners  

**Vernal Brown**  
Bi-State Development Agency of the Missouri – Illinois Metropolitan District  

**Sue Ann Childers**  
Christian County, Eastern District Commissioner  

**Nicole J. Colbert-Botchway**  
Administrative Hearing Commission  

**Vanessa F. Cooksey**  
Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents  

**Kelly F. Farrell**  
Bi-State Development Agency of the Missouri – Illinois Metropolitan District  

**Trudi M. Foushee**  
St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners  

**Kathy Galbraith**  
Webster County, County Assessor  

**Nicole Galloway**  
Missouri State Auditor  

**Lisa Goodwin**  
Carter County, Collector of Revenue  

**Kayla Henry**  
Cameron County, County Assessor  

**Sherry Hershey**  
Chariton County, Public Administrator

### Fellows’ Legacy Circle

The Fellows’ Legacy Circle is a society of Shear Fellows who are investing in future leaders by contributing financially to support the participation of Shear Fellows at the Academy each year. This year, Fellows raised nearly $2,000 to support the 2015 Academy!

**2015 CO-CHAIRS:**  
Liana Boone (’02)  
Kelly Newsome (’04)

**CABINET:**  
Karissa Anderson (’12)  
Liana Boone (’02)  
Suzanne Broadfield (’98)  
Chynna Byrd (’13)  
Marcia Chatelain, Ph.D. (’99)  
Jennifer Drake Fantroy (’05)  
Rachel Harris (’08)  
Elaniea Jinks (’14)  
Emily Kelchen (’06)  
Michelle Landers-Ochsner (’08)  
Natalie Lorenz (’08)  
Kelly Newsome (’04)  
Lauren Palmer (’99)  
Lauren Ryan (’07)  
Sarah Welch (’00)  
Dr. Allison Zupon, M.D. (’04)

There is still time to add your name to the list! Contact Michelle Landers-Ochsner at: 314.516.4727 or landersm@umsl.edu to contribute.

**Amethyst Award winner’s advice: Listen to Girls**

On Thursday, March 12, the Institute was happy to partner with the Missouri History Museum to feature Dr. Marcia Chatelain, 1999 Mizzou Shear Fellow and 2008 Amethyst Award winner as a speaker. Dr. Chatelain recently released a book, *South Side Girls: Growing Up in the Great Migration*, which tells the stories of families who migrated to Chicago from the South in the early 20th century through the lens of girls and young women. Her talk in March was entitled “She Was Fighting for her Father’s Freedom: How Girls and Young Women Have Changed the World...And Still Are.”

Dr. Chatelain highlighted her research for the book, which among other things casts women and girls as on the front line of civil rights issues – integrating schools and sleepaway camps, for example. According to the speaker, the voices of girls were underrepresented in the literature, and she is proud to have given people access to this point of view with this book. She signed copies of *South Side Girls* at the event.

We are grateful for Dr. Chatelain’s commitment to Missouri, the Institute, and the success of women and girls. And we extend a special thanks to all the Fellows, Institute Advisory Board members, and supporters who attended the event! ✡

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*Dr. Marcia Chatelain speaks at the Missouri History Museum in March 2015.*
Local elections, continued from page 3

At the Institute’s post-election debriefing party, Ella Jones reported that she faced many hard decisions in the course of her successful campaign for Ferguson Alderman. She reported that, “when in doubt, I looked to the Pipeline syllabus for guidance.”

The Institute is offering its Pipeline to Public Office workshop in Fall 2015. For more information about resources for candidates or to register for program, visit the Institute’s website:
www.umsl.edu/sueshear.

Many thanks to 2014 Institute Contributors!

External support is essential to the continued success of the Sue Shear Institute. It provides funding for Institute programs, including the UMSL LEAD program and the 21st Century Leadership Academy, and assures that programs are open to all who are interested, regardless of ability to pay. To add your name to this list, visit www.umsl.edu/sueshear/donor/donors.html

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Dongying Wei
Ebinee Woods
Vivian Zwick

Thank you for your support!
Margaret has been selected as a Fulbright U.S. Student Award to serve as an English Teaching Assistantship in South Korea. For one year, Margaret will be teaching in South Korea as an Elementary English Teacher.

Allison Coffelt
*Truman State University* (’10)

Allison will be graduating with her Master's in Creative Nonfiction from the University of Missouri in May 2015. Her writing is forthcoming or has appeared in the *Los Angeles Review*, the *Crab Orchard Review*, and several other literary journals.

Shante Duncan
*University of Missouri—St. Louis* (’05)

Shante is the Executive Director of Sisters Helping Each other Reach A Higher Height (S.H.E.R.A.H.). It is a community women's organization with the mission of empowering women to assist in the rebuilding of our communities. Shante hopes to help and guide thousands of women on their journey of healing and self-discovery as a tool for community building. She currently resides in St. Louis with her husband and three children.

Renessa Foronda
*Truman State University* (’04)

Renessa moved back to Charlotte, NC as a Technology Recruiter at Red Ventures. She is looking to get re-established and make Charlotte home for a long while.

Brandy (Barker) Geers
*Truman State University* (’02)

Brandy is a vice president in the public affairs practice at FleishmanHillard. She works with many clients in the health care sector, including the Missouri Foundation for Health on the Cover Missouri initiative. Cover Missouri is an honoree in the “What’s Right With the Region” awards presented by Focus St. Louis for fostering regional cooperation and is a finalist in the 2015 Public Relations Society of America’s Silver Anvil Awards.

Nikki Gomez
*Missouri University of Science and Technology* (’13)

Nikki graduated from Missouri University of Science & Technology in December with her BS in Biological Science and minors in Chemistry, Multiculturalism & Diversity, and History of Science, Technology, and Humanity. After graduation, Nikki began working as an AmeriCorps VISTA in conjunction with the Waynesville R-VI School District to help fight poverty.

Amy Harris
*University of Central Missouri* (’06)

After working for several years in a medium firm in Kansas City as a litigator, in October 2014, Amy left the firm to become Corporate Counsel for UMB Financial Corporation in Kansas City. At UMB Financial Corporation, Amy manages their litigation. Amy lives in a little urban farm in Kansas City with her husband, two dogs and four chickens.

Paula Hodges
*Truman State University* (’05)

Paula moved to New Hampshire during the 2014 election cycle to become the State Director for America Votes NH. She also joined the NARAL board and looks forward to a busy 2016 election cycle ahead.

Chloe Jackson
*Truman State University* (’14)

Chloe has been teaching a course this semester, Grassroots Environmentalism. While teaching over the semester, a Communication student at Truman is making a documentary about the class. Chloe will be traveling to Europe for three months this summer to work on farms in France, Austria, Spain, Italy, and Germany.

Sarah Jackson
*University of Missouri—Columbia* (’03)

Sarah Jackson is currently the Director of Public Affairs for the Dallas Citizens Council and has recently been named by the *Dallas Business Journal* as one of the top 40 Under 40 men and women in business.

Lina Khan
*Truman State University* (’06)

Lina Khan recently became a Senior Analyst in the International Affairs & Trade Group with the U.S. Government Ac-
countability Office (GAO). Aside from tons of research and report-writing, she got to travel to Pakistan and Sudan for work, which was pretty fun.

♦ Elise Kittrell
 **Missouri University of Science and Technology ('12)**
Elise is a Peace Corps volunteer in La Libertad, Peru. She is a part of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program. Elise helps provide people with bathrooms and clean water.

♦ Tahura Lodhi
 **University of Missouri – Columbia (’14)**
In May 2015, Tahura will be graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia with Bachelor's degrees in both Biology and Psychology. She will be attending the University of Chicago Law School in the Fall 2015.

♦ Eve Lofthus
 **University of Missouri – Kansas City (’10)**
Eve will be graduating dental school (DDS) in May 2015. She has accepted a position in San Francisco, where she will be continuing her education by specializing in dental implants and cosmetic dentistry.

♦ Natalie Lorenz
 **Southeast Missouri State University (’08)**
Natalie is an associate attorney at Mathis, Marifián & Richter, Ltd. in Belleville, IL. She is concentrating her practice in civil litigation matters in both Illinois and Missouri.

♦ Meghan Lowery, Ph.D.
 **Missouri State University (’06)**
Meghan has accepted a position with Eli Lilly in Indianapolis as Consultant, Global Assessment/Workforce Research, and bid goodbye to the St. Louis region after almost 4 years with Psychological Associates.

♦ Nabihah Maqbool
 **University of Missouri – Columbia (’08)**
Nabihah earned her Master’s in Public Health from the University of Missouri – Columbia in the Spring of 2014. In Fall 2014, she moved to DC to work as the equity researcher at the public health organization CommonHealth ACTION. In Spring 2015, Nabihah served as the health researcher for the National Housing Conference’s Center for Housing Policy. Her health and housing literature review will be released this April 2015.

♦ Amanda Marchegiani
 **Southeast Missouri State University (’08)**
Since January 2015, Amanda is the community relations coordinator at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute in Scranton, PA. Previously, Amanda was the public relations coordinator at the Abington Community Library. On Sunday, April 12th, 2015, she completed the Scranton Half Marathon with a time of 2:13:11.

♦ Mackenzie Martin
 **University of Central Missouri (’13)**
In March 2015, Mackenzie traveled to Sweden to work with different schools teaching them about American culture and customs. While abroad, she worked with different political offices to learn about the different political structures in Sweden. Mackenzie was able to utilize her knowledge from the 21st Century Leadership Academy while in Sweden.

♦ Heather Mueller
 **Missouri State University (’14)**
Heather works at The Big 550 KTRS AM Radio Station in St. Louis, MO.

♦ Victoria Okoye
 **University of Missouri – Columbia (’05)**
In March 2015, Victoria joined the international NGO Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) as Urban Advocacy Specialist. In her new role, she advocates for inclusive policy, urban planning and urban design to support the livelihoods of informal workers in developing country cities.

♦ Sharon Pruitt
 **University of Missouri – St. Louis (’13); UMSL LEAD (’14)**
Sharon has been accepted into the Phillip Merrill College of Journalism Master's of Journalism program at the University of Maryland.

♦ Heidi Soderstrom
 **Missouri University of Science and Technology (’12)**
Heidi is working as a junior front-end developer at Moat in Manhattan.

♦ S. Ashley Warren, D.O.
 **University of Missouri – Columbia (’06)**
Ashley is on her 3rd year of family medicine residency at the Capital Region Medical Center in Mid-Missouri. Recently, Ashley was appointed chief resident. She is serving on the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physician and Surgeons (MAOPS) as a resident representative and a Wetzel Scholar. She is an active member of her church, including singing as a first soprano in the choir.

For more fellows’ updates, visit [www.umsl.edu/sueshear](http://www.umsl.edu/sueshear).
Yes, I want to support the Institute’s mission in helping women participate fully in public policy decision making arenas.

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