Institute’s Fall programs help UMSL students step up to lead

For years, UMSL students were among the 36 students from Missouri public universities that participated in the Institute’s spring Leadership Academy. While that continues, in recent years, programs exclusively for students at the Institute’s home campus have grown in scope and impact. The LEAD program, now in its fifth year, will prepare 13 undergraduate and graduate students from a range of disciplines for leadership and to support initiatives that educate and empower women and girls on campus and beyond.

This semester’s participants were selected through a competitive process, and the program kick-off was Friday, September 5, 2014.

A hallmark of the program is its service learning component. The students will select an organization in the St. Louis community that serves women, and work with its staff to plan and execute a service project that will further the group’s mission. In addition, the LEAD program participants will play a leadership role in the Girls’ Summit, a one-day program of the Institute piloted in early 2014 that educates middle school girls about women in leadership, and encourages them to achieve their immediate life goals and plan for the future. Last year’s summit reached 90 girls from a range of St. Louis area schools.

The program’s student leaders this fall are Tyra Pearson, a junior graphic design major, and Shatera Davis, a senior communications major. Both are 2013 LEAD program graduates who will help shepherd their fellow students through this experience. Tyra says, “We have a wonderful group of women who are willing to learn more about themselves and make changes in the environment around them. That is exactly what the LEAD program is about, and I am ecstatic to be a part of something so enriching!”

The LEAD program can be a starting point for many students who go on to pursue leadership positions on campus. This year, the Institute has partnered with the Office of Student Life and the American Association of University Women’s “Elect Her” Program on a workshop to encourage LEAD students and others to consider leadership positions within student government.

At UMSL, only one of 16 student senate seats is held by a woman. Ericka Thomas, a 2014 LEAD program participant, is a representative to the student government association. “At all levels of government, women are alarmingly underrepresented in political leadership. Programs like LEAD hope to change that landscape by developing women’s leadership skills and building the confidence to use those skills in the political sphere.”

Thinking about running for local office? Get in the pipeline!

Pipeline to Local Office
January 26 & 28
Details on page 4
Circuit Court Vacancy

In response to a recent vacancy on the St. Louis County Circuit Court (21st Circuit) after Judge Mark Siegel’s retirement, 31 total applicants are asking to be considered for this position, near half of whom are women. The 21st Judicial Circuit Commission, which includes Chief Judge Angela T. Quigless and Christie Bertelson, will interview all applicants on October 22nd and 23rd. These interviews are open to the public. For the location and a list of applicants, go to www.courts.mo.gov.

Progress in Japan

Japan’s prime minister recently announced appointments of five women to cabinet-level positions, tying the country’s record high for female government executives. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has endured criticism over the lack of women in leadership positions. Japan lags behind the U.S. in women’s representation in government as well as in the private sector.

Women in the Cabinet

Maria Contreras-Sweet and Sylvia Matthews Burwell are the latest additions to President Obama’s cabinet. Both were confirmed by the Senate this spring – Contreras-Sweet as the new head of the Small Business Administration and Burwell at the helm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Other Kinds of Courts

In the world of men’s sports, the National Basketball Association (NBA) is leading the charge on women’s leadership. In July, it elected Michele Roberts as the first female head of the players’ union. Roberts is a former trial lawyer and partner in a Washington-based law firm who will now represent the interests of the all-male league to the team’s owners, all of whom are also male. The San Antonio Spurs have hired Becky Hammon as an assistant coach, the first woman to hold a full-time, paid coaching position in the NBA.

Shear Fellows in Action: Siteman Grants Support Fellows Living out the Institute’s Mission

Each year since 2010, the Institute awards one or more grants to graduates of the Leadership Academy pursuing unpaid or nominally paid internships or other opportunities with a focus on the public sector. Often these crash courses in real-world policymaking are out of reach for those who would otherwise have to raise money on their own for housing and other living expenses.

Thanks to a generous contribution from Nancy Siteman, a St. Louis-area leader and philanthropist, the Sue Shear Institute is supporting two Shear Fellows in their work to become leaders in their chosen fields. Mary Brittany Gholson was awarded a stipend to help cover her living expenses during her training this summer to be a Teach for America instructor in the fall. She will be teaching special education in Chicago, Illinois.

Kelsey Saragnese received a grant to support her time in St. Louis completing the Coro Fellowship in Public Affairs. She was awarded a stipend to cover housing expenses while she lives in St. Louis for a year and works for a variety of agencies that help shape public policy.

Congratulations to Mary Brittany and Kelsey!

We are also pleased to announce the availability of Siteman Fund grants for program graduates to support Spring 2015 internships in Jefferson City, MO and Washington, DC. The application will be available in October 2014.
Amethyst Awardee winner behind #FergusonSyllabus

This year, as most students, parents, and teachers prepared for a new semester, Ferguson, MO was reeling from the death of an unarmed teen at the hands of a local police officer. The outcry and protests among residents gained international attention. Dr. Marcia Chatelain – a University of Missouri-Columbia graduate, 1999 Shear Fellow and Amethyst Award winner, as well as Assistant Professor at Georgetown University – knew that this incident would affect students starting school across the country. She rose to the challenge by developing materials that would help teachers address the issues head on.

Dr. Chatelain turned to Twitter to organize her thoughts and share resources with her followers. At the time, they were mostly personal friends and a few colleagues in academia. She used the hashtag #FergusonSyllabus, and it struck a nerve. Within weeks, Marcia had written three pieces for online publications, including TheAtlantic.com; and she had been a guest on the popular public radio show “St. Louis on the Air.” And in addition to the media attention, she was contacted by countless educators at all levels who wanted to start a conversation about Michael Brown’s death, but weren’t quite sure what to say.

“This has really been about committing to a difficult dialogue. I wanted to help educators reduce their fears and anxieties about bringing up this issue. The idea is that you don’t have to talk about everything but you should talk about something.” That’s what she has done. She originally thought teachers would set aside time on the first day of class to talk about

(continued on p. 4)

Women Underrepresented on Key Policymaking Boards in Missouri

Women often pursue public leadership roles in connection with issues they are interested in, or volunteering for. It would be easy to assume that they are at the table when decisions are being made about the professions they have historically dominated. One such example would be the Missouri State Board of Education, but currently, this important body has no female members.

Despite the impressive representation of women in the profession, both in the classroom and at the administrative level (Missouri’s current Director of Elementary and Secondary Education is a woman), the makeup of the Board of Education does not reflect the staff who implement its policy, nor the population whose tax dollars support its activities.

This gender imbalance is not limited to education. The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life recently compiled a list of select boards and commissions whose members are chosen by the Missouri Governor and can influence policy in the state. The gender composition of each board was reported, along with any vacancies in the membership. Ten of the nearly 60 boards and commissions we list have no female members – in addition to the Board of Education, among them are the Missouri Ethics Commission, the Housing Development Commission, and the Board of Probation and Parole.

The Sue Shear Institute continues to offer support and guidance to women interested in seeking appointments.

“Current research shows that public and private sector governing boards that include even one woman make better decisions than those lacking gender diversity.” We encourage elected officials and other authorities who fill these positions to advocate for more women to be appointed to important policy boards, so that they better reflect the population of the state.

For more information on boards and commissions and to view the full report, visit the Institute’s website at www.umsl.edu/sueshear.

Eileen Fisher Inc. donates to women’s leadership programs

The Institute is proud to be a recipient of a significant contribution from Eileen Fisher, Inc. The company partnered with the Center for American Women in Politics at Rutgers University in a nationwide event to support its NEW Leadership programs, a network of programs across the country including the Sue Shear Institute’s 21st Century Leadership Academy at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Eileen Fisher Inc. donated ten percent of its sales proceeds on Saturday, March 29, 2014, to women’s leadership programs, raising more than $200,000 nationwide. The Institute received a gift of more than $5,000 through this effort. A special thanks to Eileen Fisher and to Institute supporters and Fellows who shopped to support this special event! Your purchases will directly support the experience of the 36 women who will be selected for the 2015 21st Century Leadership Academy.

In Memoriam:
The Institute extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Fred Epstein. Fred and his wife Sara, who survives him, have been longtime supporters of our work and many other causes.
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 to complete a “Public Service Personal Profile” on-line.

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

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

### St. Louis City

None at this time.

### St. Louis County

Shannon Howard
Historic Building Commission

### State of Missouri

Donna Borgmeyer
Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

Sandora Brownsberger
Henry County, County Assessor

Sally Carlisle
Mississippi County, Public Administrator

Reena Hajat Carroll
Missouri Community Service Commission

Sherry Cooper
Missouri Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Professional Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects

Michelle Crockett
Children’s Trust Fund Board

Charlotte L. Haden
Cedar County, Public Administrator

Cynthia L. Heislen
Missouri Community Service Commission

Alicia Herald
Missouri Charter Public Schools Commission

Cheryl Hibbler
Missouri Community Service Commission

Allison Crista Hogan
Public Defender Commission

Kathy Ann Kay
Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

Julia L. Kempker
Statewide Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision

Anita (Shelly) M. King
Clinton County, County Collector

Betty A. Knight
Platte County, Election Board

Rita Milam
Missouri Public Entity Risk Management Fund Board of Trustees

Kimberlee J. Pate
Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board

Deborah Peabody
Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

Janette Kay Rodecap
16th Judicial Associate Circuit Judge

Viola Schaefer
Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan Board of Trustees

Kathleen Tofall
State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision

Bettina Vinson
Missouri Statewide Independent Living Council

Kelly Jo Walters
Lincoln County, County Coroner

### #FergusonSyllabus (cont’d from pg. 3)

Ferguson, but many instructors understood the benefit of weaving the tragedy and its related complexities – racism, Missouri’s history, and even politics and policy – through their entire courses. With Marcia’s help, some teachers have revised their syllabi for the semester to include long-term discussions using #FergusonSyllabus resources.

Dr. Chatelain plans to continue helping educators across the country tackle this issue, and encourages everyone to send books and other useful materials to groups that need them most – prisons, libraries, and resource centers in underserved areas. She’s asking people to write “Ferguson Freedom Library” on the inside, so others will know the spirit in which it was donated. ❖
Shatera Davis is UMSL’s student in new congressional internship
By Rachel Webb, UMSL Daily

As University of Missouri-St. Louis students return to class and catch up on their summer vacations, Shatera Davis has a unique experience to share.

She was UMSL’s first participant in a new program that places students in congressional offices for internships. Her days were long, but worth it.

The Congressional Internship Program places students in the University of Missouri System in the office of a member of Missouri’s Congressional delegation. Davis spent eight weeks in the Washington, D.C., office of U.S. Rep. Lacy Clay, of the 1st Congressional District, where she answered phones, gave tours of the U.S. Capitol and helped with research, report writing and other tasks.

“When I got there, I realized how much the policies that are set there affect our lives,” said Davis, a senior majoring in communication with a minor in management. “I went to a lot of briefings about scholarships that I have, like the Gear Up scholarship. If they didn’t pass those bills I probably wouldn’t have a scholarship to college.”

The University of Missouri System started a pilot version of the program in summer 2013, but this year it was expanded to students at all four campuses.

In addition to the professional experience, there was also significant hobnobbing. Davis met leaders from across the political spectrum, ranging from Sens. Paul Ryan to Claire McCaskill and civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis. She also met some politically active celebrities such as Jerry Greenfield, founder of Ben and Jerry’s, and actress Susan Sarandon, who was participating in a panel on homelessness.

Davis spotted the internship opportunity when she was looking for jobs on the UMSL Career Services website. The Congressional Scholars Program immediately caught her eye, and she’s glad it did. As an intern, Davis was expected to work hard and get work done accurately and on time, while working with others.

“Every assignment they gave us was important,” Davis said. “They never gave us busy work. It needed to be done and it had to be accurate the first time so that Rep. Clay could get stuff done.”

After applying, Davis went through an interview process and highlighted her accomplishments and volunteer experience, such as being secretary of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and working as a peer adviser for the College of Education. She was told that her internship with the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life gave her the biggest edge, though, due to the institute’s focus on public policy.

“We had some excellent candidates apply, but Shatera Davis was selected because she was well prepared, poised and going through the Institute’s [LEAD Program] helped prepare her for work with the public sector,” said Karen Pierre, manager of community relations for the Office of Alumni Engagement & Community Relations, and UMSL’s liaison for government relations.

During the interview, Davis also explained how she would finance her Washington experience. The program offers a stipend to cover housing, but basic personal costs like food are not included. Davis paid for the trip with the Triton Summer Scholarship, careful savings during the school year and help from her family.

More important, though, the internship offered amazing networking opportunities. She shared the experience with interns from all over the world, providing her with a strong network of friends and acquaintances for her future career.

“There are over 2,000 interns every summer, so you meet people from all over the world, and you network all the time,” Davis said. “You never know who you’re going to meet and how you might be able to help each other later.”

Applications for the summer 2015 internship are not yet available.

Time will tell for successful women primary candidates

No news is good news, at least so far for women candidates who ran for seats in the Missouri legislature on the August 5 ballot. All female incumbents were successful in their party primaries, which bodes well for women’s representation in the state’s lawmaking body. The true test will be the general election on November 4th, where 36 female candidates will face off against male opponents. There is potential for significant gains: 16 of the seats for which women are running are currently held by men. Twenty are open races in districts where the seat was previous held by a man.

Two of Missouri’s Congressional seats are currently held by women – both face male challengers in the November election – and two additional female candidates are on the ballot for these federal seats, which are up for election every two years.
Alumni News

It is always exciting to receive “progress reports” from graduates of our leadership programs. In addition to updates from Leadership Academy alums, we’re now including news from graduates of the LEAD program. We are proud to share their accomplishments with you! (Note: The number in parenthesis represents year of participation in the Leadership Academy.)

♦ Caitlyn Adams
University of Central Missouri (’07)
Caitlyn Adams is now the Deputy Director for Missouri Jobs with Justice.

♦ Heather Barnhart
Lincoln University (’13)
Heather Barnhart works for accounting firm Williams-Keepers, LLC, and will receive her graduate degree in December.

♦ Kimberly Burgess
Truman State University (’07)
Kimberly Burgess has been a federal Immigration Services Officer for the Department of Homeland Security for two years. Her volunteer work includes being secretary of the Board of Directors for the Kansas City Chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association and a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Jackson County, MO for children who are in the custody of the state due to abuse and/or neglect.

♦ Antionette (Dickens) Carroll
University of Missouri–St. Louis (’07); Ame-thyst Award winner (’13)
Antionette was recently appointed the National Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force of AIGA: The Professional Association of Design. She leads all national initiatives to create diverse pipelines to careers in design and to make it a more inclusive profession. Antionette was also appointed the Chair of Connect with St. Louis Young Professionals Board through FOCUS St. Louis.

♦ Marcia Chatelain, Ph.D.
University of Missouri – Columbia (’99)
Dr. Marcia Chatelain is looking forward to the release of her first book, “South Side Girls: Growing Up in the Great Migration,” (Duke University Press, 2015) in March. She will also be the keynote speaker at the Women’s Leadership Conference at her alma mater, the University of Missouri-Columbia in March and hopes to meet some former and future Sue Shear Fellows. Marcia is also leading national efforts to encourage teachers at all levels to discuss the tragic events in Ferguson, MO this summer by collecting resources using a Twitter hashtag: #FergusonSyllabus

♦ Julie (McKitrick) Childress
Southeast Missouri State University (’03)
Julie Childress (McKitrick) recently accepted a position as a Six Sigma Black Belt for Eastman Chemical Company. Julie is in the process of training and working to complete her Six Sigma certification. Julie has spent the last 8 years at Eastman, (formally Solutia, Inc.) most recently as a Supply Chain Manager of Customer Service.

♦ Lauren Gepford
University of Missouri – Kansas City (’11)
Lauren Gepford started as Executive Director for the Jackson County Democratic Committee in June.

♦ Precious Hardy
Lincoln University (’14)
Precious Hardy spent her summer at the University of California, Irvine doing research on the relationship between maternal education, child language abilities, and memory. Precious is the Director of Public Relations for the Student Government Association at Lincoln University, where she is studying this fall.

♦ Paula Hodges
Truman State University (’05)
Paula started as the new America Votes - New Hampshire State Director in July, where she will coordinate the electoral activity of progressive independent expenditure groups in NH in 2014 and beyond.

♦ Lorretta Dunn Hunter
Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology (’06)
Lorretta was recently hired as a Regulatory Affairs Manager for Anitox Corp., which makes ingredients for the animal feed industry.

♦ Chloe Jackson
Truman State University (’14)
This past summer, Chloe spent nine weeks volunteering at Navdanya, an organic biodiversity farm in northern India. She worked with local farmers and participated in workshops and discussions on topics like environmental justice and expanding organic markets in local communities. She met and networked with activists from around the world, including world-renowned environmentalist, feminist, and author Vandana Shiva, who founded the farm.

♦ Emily (Kiddoo) Kelchen
Truman State University (’06)
Emily passed the New Jersey bar and is Director of Public Affairs at the New Jersey Civil Justice Institute. She is also participating in the Charles Koch Institute’s Liberty@Work program this year.

♦ Susie Kekec
Missouri State University (’12)
In August 2013, Susie returned from teaching abroad in South Korea and is now working in the English Language Institute (ELI) at Missouri State University. In July 2014, she was promoted to ELI SEVIS Specialist, serving as an immigration adviser for international students.

♦ Elise Kittrell
Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology (’12)
Elise graduated with a master’s in environmental engineering this past May and is heading to Peru in September with the Peace Corps as a Water and Sanitation Engineer.
Mary Grace Lewandowski  
*University of Missouri – St. Louis (’00)*

Mary Grace Lewandowski was recently promoted to Director of Community Planning at East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

Corinne Matti  
*Missouri State University (’11)*

Corinne Matti has spent the last year on various campaigns including Bill Thompson for New York City Mayor and Allyson Schwartz for Governor of Pennsylvania. She recently accepted a position at the Democratic National Committee and is enjoying living and working in Washington, DC.

Dimonique McGruder  
*University of Missouri–Kansas City (’04)*

Dimonique just completed an internship with the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago and is starting her second year of law school at Valparaiso University Law.

Jessica (Nelson) Noble  
*University of Central Missouri (’07)*

Jessica is in her fourth year of teaching at Lewis and Clark Community College in the criminal justice department, where she was just promoted to assistant professor.

She is in her third semester of her doctorate program for an Educational Doctorate in Community College Leadership. She volunteers at the Foster Care and Adoption Coalition.

Christina Parle  
*University of Central Missouri (’12)*

Christina graduated with honors in May from the University of Central Missouri and gave a speech at graduation. She’s now at Penn State where she is pursuing a master of science in Higher Education at and works as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Conduct.

Melissa Sinden  
*University of Missouri – Columbia (’01)*

Melissa has relocated to Atlanta, GA from Washington, DC to begin her new position as Associate State Director of Advocacy AARP’s Georgia State office.

Jacqueline Soderstrom  
*Missouri Univ. of Science & Technology (’12)*

Jacqueline graduated with degrees in applied mathematics and economics from Missouri S&T in 2013. After a year of traveling, she is now attending App Academy in New York.

Brittany Stegeman  
*Lincoln University (’10)*

Brittany has successfully completed her comprehensive exam and graduates in December with a Masters Degree in Counseling with a concentration in Student Affairs in Higher Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Jasmine To  
*UMSL LEAD Program (’13)*

Jasmine was one of three first-year business majors at UMSL selected as a FLITE Intern for the Boeing Company this summer. She credits the LEAD program as giving her the advantage over other students in the internship.

Melissa (Brittain) Wolfe, Ph.D.  
*Truman State University (’99)*

Melissa is a research psychologist for the research, assessment, and doctrine division of the Center for Army Leadership, where she leads the development and implementation of two key programs to assess Army leaders, including a new one that launches in October.

For more fellows’ updates, visit:  
www.umsl.edu/sueshear.

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**2014 Shear Fellows and Advisors**

*Lincoln University*  
Stephanie Clark, Advisor; Precious Hardy, Megan Humphrey, Shameka Kelley, Shirley Murphy

*Missouri State University*  
Nora Cox, Advisor; Bonnie Curry, Julie Greene, Heather Mueller

*Southeast Missouri State University*  
Debra Holzhauer, PhD Advisor; Hayley Bohnert, Allyson Brown, Molly Eggleston, Raven Lanier

*Truman State University*  
Bertha Thomas, Advisor; Clare Fielding, Erika Holliday, Chloe Jackson, Rachel Likert, Rosalie Swingle

*University of Central Missouri*  
Shari Bax, PhD Advisor; Jennifer Benton, Alana Caruso, Kaytynn Clemons, Taylor Jennings

*University of Missouri–Columbia*  
Kirsten Pape, Advisor; Mary Bifulco, Margaret Cleveland, Tahura Lodhi, Emily Waggner

*University of Missouri–Kansas City*  
Brenda Bethman, PhD Advisor; Tira Gilroy, Amanda Johnson, DeAndrea Jones, Elizabeth Menuey

*Missouri S&T*  
Kandis Rodgers, Advisor; Abagail Campbell, Elizabeth Jakich, Elainea Jinks, Darian Johnson

*University of Missouri–St. Louis*  
Farida Jalalzai, PhD Advisor; Jennifer Culman, Lindsey Laird, Myrta Vida

**Faculty in Residence**  
Hon. Rita Heard Days

**Interns**  
Chynna Byrd, Truman Ericka Thomas, UMSL
Yes, I want to support the Institute’s mission in helping women participate fully in public policy decision making arenas.

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| Please make checks payable to the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life University of Missouri-St. Louis 346 Woods Hall One University Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

Contributions are tax-deductible. Thank You.

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Upcoming Events and Important Dates:

- **Last day to register to vote in the General Election**
  - October 8, 2014
- **General Election Day**
  - November 4, 2014
- **Center on Ethics in Public Life Conference**
  - Millennium Student Center, UMSL
  - November 14, 2014
- **Girls Summit, Fall 2014**
  - November 21, 2014
- **Pipeline to Local Office**
  - January 26 & 28, 2015
  - UMSL Alumni Room, 101 Woods Hall