Pipeline participants dial for dollars, fine-tune skills for 2014 and beyond

For the almost two dozen participants in the Sue Shear Institute’s November “Pipeline to Public Office” program, surrendering to fears about fundraising was not an option. They were dialing for dollars, literally!

After a brief presentation on fundraising fundamentals, the participants developed their “pitch,” made a list of potential donors, dug out their cell phones and started calling. It was a contest to see who could raise the most money, and for some, a test of courage.

Despite the fact that over the last decade, women running for Congress have raised — on average — more than their male counterparts (New York Times, Nov. 29, 2013), fundraising has been a hurdle for many women candidates, especially those who lack contacts in the business community.

Actually asking for support helped clear away some of the jitters for the Pipeline participants. “I gained a vast number of new skills, but the one that sticks out the most is the fundraising calls,” said Marie Franklin, who has her sights set on a future race. “Being able to practice and make actual calls was helpful.”

Fundraising wasn’t the only topic of the weekend, which began with a reception Friday, Nov. 1, hosted by Clayton Alderwoman Michelle Harris. After nibbling on sandwiches and sweet treats, the participants got their fill of good advice from a panel of women leaders who shared their experiences of running for office. On Saturday, Nov. 2nd, participants met at UMSL to learn the basics of campaigns: how to write a campaign plan, targeting, and communications, including communicating with future donors.

About half of the attendees were candidates, and many are running for office for the first time. Some are already strategizing for races in 2014, while others are looking further down the road. One participant learned a lot but couldn’t get enough...she is returning for the Institute’s upcoming Pipeline to Local Office program.

“See you in January,” she said!
Republican women face greater obstacles in U.S. House primaries, research reveals

Democratic, non-incumbent women candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives have won their primaries at higher rates than Republican, non-incumbent women candidates since 1994, according to a recent report by the Center for American Women and Politics.

“Primary Problems: Women Candidates in U.S. House Primaries” finds that in the most recent elections — 2008, 2010 and 2012 — there has been a difference of at least 20 percentage points between Democratic and Republican women primary candidates’ primary win rates in open seat contests, with Republican women less likely to be successful.

“Women’s congressional representation will only increase with greater success among women non-incumbent candidates, and that success appears much more limited for women running as Republicans,” the report states.

Primary win rates are higher for women in both parties when they are running to challenge an incumbent in the general election. However, Republican women are still less likely than Democratic women to win in these contests.

Currently, a record number 79 members — or 17.9% - of the House of Representative are women: 60 are Democrats and 19 are Republicans.

Ideology, recruitment, and support are three

(Continued on page 4)
Institute presents Ferraro documentary on Feb. 27, director Zaccaro to attend

Twelve months before she died, Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro sat for an intimate interview with her daughter, the filmmaker Donna Zaccaro.

On Feb. 27, parts of the interview will be revealed at an Institute-sponsored private screening of “Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way,” a feature-length documentary film directed by Zaccaro. The screening will be held at Plaza Frontenac Cinema, and will be followed by remarks from Zaccaro, who will attend the event.

“Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way” tells the story of the political trailblazer’s history-making campaign as Walter Mondale’s vice presidential nominee, and the impact she had on American culture and politics.

“There is also the very American story of a child of immigrants rising out of poverty through education to unimaginable achievements,” Zaccaro told Indie Wire on Oct. 13. “There is the story of the struggles of women in this country to achieve power, and what it takes for women to be considered equals to men, including the personal costs involved.”

Ferraro was the first female nominee for national office by a major party in America.

The film features never-before-seen archival footage and stills, as well as interviews with Ferraro and other leading political figures including Secretary Hillary Clinton, President and Mrs. George H.W. Bush, Vice President Mondale, Senators Barbara Mikulski and Olympia Snowe, and many others.

A longtime, award-winning producer for the Today show, Zaccaro is the Founder and President of Dazzling Media, a New York-based media production company. She is the oldest daughter of John A. Zaccaro and Congresswoman Ferraro, who died in 2011 after serving three terms in Congress. Ms. Zaccaro’s husband, Paul Ullman, is a St. Louis native.

“Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way” made its world premier at the Hamptons International Film Festival in October, and was an official selection at DOC NYC, New York’s Documentary Festival, where it sold out. It will be shown at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Landmark Theatres’ Plaza Frontenac Cinema. Tickets are available for $15 and include Zaccaro’s post-film discussion. Advance tickets are required. Proceeds will help underwrite the Sue Shear Institute’s 21st Century Leadership Academy, a week-long residential leadership program for college students.
Appointments

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

If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, contact the Institute at (314) 516-4727 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 August 2013:

State of Missouri

Christine A. Bertelson
21st Circuit Judicial Commission

Sharon Kay Biggerstaff
Clark County Circuit Clerk

Marilynn J. Bradford
Missouri Conservation Commission

S. Margene Burnett
Circuit Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit

Maryann Coletti
Missouri Oral Chemotherapy Parity
Interim Committee

Vicki Corwin
Daviess County Clerk

Anna Crosslin
Missouri Commission on Human Rights

Kristen Ellis
Lafayette County Prosecuting Attorney

Virginia L. Fry
Missouri State University Board of Governors

Denise M. Goodwin
Lewis County Collector

Melissa K. Holcomb
Jasper County Circuit Clerk

Kayla Kapica
State Interagency Coordinating Council

Sara Nell Lampe
Missouri Commission on Human Rights

Karen E. Miller
Missouri Oral Chemotherapy Parity Interim Committee

Jacinda Sheppard
Douglas County Recorder of Deeds

Dr. Tracy Stroud
State Interagency Coordinating Council

Mavis T. Thompson
St. Louis City License Collector

Mayme E. Young
Missouri Quality Homecare Council

St. Louis County

Valerie Bell
St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Melinda Brown
Mid-East Area Agency on Aging

Erica Bumpers
St. Louis County Children’s Service Fund Board

Mary Campbell
St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Joan Cronin
Zoo-Museum District – Missouri History

Museum Subdistrict Board of Commissioners

Dee Joyner
St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

Marian O’Reilly
Commission on Disabilities

Candice Smith
Zoo-Museum District – Missouri History

Museum Subdistrict Board of Commissioners

Regina Ware
Lakeside Center Advisory Board

Sherril Wayland
Human Relations Commission

Janet Yellen poised to be first woman
to head the Federal Reserve System

Economist Janet Yellen has been nominated by President Obama to chair the powerful Federal Reserve Bank. At press time, she was awaiting confirmation by the full Senate after the Senate Banking Committee confirmed her nomination by a vote of 14-8.

Yellen, the current vice chair, would be the first woman to chair the Fed in its 100-year history. She would succeed current Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke who is stepping down in January.

First appointed to the Fed Board of Governors in 1997, Yellen served as president of the Federal Reserve of San Francisco for six years starting in 2004. She has been the vice chair since 2010. Yellen also served for two years as the chair of the President’s Council of Economic Advisors during the Clinton Administration.

When nominating Yellen on Oct. 9, the President said: “Janet is exceptionally well-qualified for this role. She’s served in leadership positions at the Fed for more than a decade. As vice chair for the past three years, she’s been exemplary and a driving force of policies to help boost our economic recovery.”

“Janet is renowned for her good judgment,” the President added. “She doesn’t have a crystal ball, but what she does have is a keen understanding about how markets and the economy work -- not just in theory but also in the real world. And she calls it like she sees it....

I am absolutely confident that she will be an exceptional chair of the Federal Reserve.”

Yellen earned an undergraduate degree in economics at Brown University, and a Ph.D. from Yale. She has held teaching positions at Harvard, the London School of Economics, and most recently, the Haas School of Business at the University of California Berkeley.

If she is confirmed, Yellen will be the highest-ranking woman ever in an economic policy-making position in the United States. She is currently one of two women on the six-member Federal Reserve Board. There are also two female presidents among the heads of the 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks.
LEAD students and National Association of Women Judges to present Girls’ Summit in 2014

Participants in the Institute’s Fall 2013 UMSL LEAD program gathered for their last meeting of the semester on Dec. 6, but they are not ready to call the program over, just yet.

On Jan. 31, 2014, the students will reconvene as hosts of a Girls’ Summit at UMSL, held in collaboration with the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ).

The Summit will expose over 50 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls from diverse backgrounds to educational and leadership opportunities to fulfill their life goals. At the Summit, the girls will meet women from various professions who will encourage healthy life choices and healthy relationships, free from bullying and domestic violence.

They keynote speaker is NAWJ-member Illinois Judge Laninya Cason, founder of “Diamonds in the Rough,” a mentoring program aimed at helping young women make positive life decisions. Other speakers include local author and educator Angela R. Lewis, and Rhonda Gray, the executive director of Almost Home, an organization in St. Louis that provides services for homeless teenage mothers and their children.

For the college students participating in the LEAD program, the Summit is a way to mentor younger women, much as they have been mentored throughout the semester.

“I am really honored to have been given the opportunity to be involved with the planning because I am getting the chance to have an impact on the girls in a positive and uplifting way,” said Aichatou Konte, a sophomore biochemistry major at UMSL.

“Not everyone has a positive role model in their life and this event is a way to provide insight and motivation to these girls. We want to encourage the girls and let them know that they are important.”

The LEAD program met most Fridays during the fall semester, giving the students time to plan and prepare for the Summit, as well as develop and practice their leadership skills. Over the course of the semester, they attended a $tart $mart Salary Negotiation workshop, explored personal leadership strengths using the Strengths Finder online assessment, and spent a morning doing community service at Almost Home, where they painted a bedroom and provided childcare so that residents could enjoy a “Moms’ Morning Out.”

Senior Cynthia Holman said that her favorite part of the program was the opportunity to build relationships with...  

Burnett named Circuit Judge in Jackson Co.

Deputy Probate Commissioner S. Margene Burnett has been named circuit judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit, which covers Jackson County.

Commissioner Burnett has been on the probate bench in Jackson County for 10 years, having been first appointed in 2003 and subsequently re-appointed twice by the Probate Judge. In this position, she has presided over cases involving estate administration, mental health commitments, guardianships and conservatorships. Burnett was president of the Missouri Association of Probate & Associate Circuit Judges for 2011-2012.

Prior to taking the bench, Burnett was in private practice in Kansas City from 1987 to 2003, first as an associate with two law firms and then as a solo practitioner. She obtained her law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and her undergraduate degrees from the University of Missouri in Columbia. Burnett has served in several leadership positions with Sheffield Place, a transitional living facility for homeless women and their children, and also has been active with the UMKC School of Law Alumni Association and the Law Foundation of UMKC.

Her appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Ann Mesle, therefore the gender composition of the court remains the same.

Participates in the 2013 LEAD program volunteering at Almost Home, an organization in St. Louis that provides services for homeless teenage mothers and their children. On Jan. 31, the LEAD students are partnering with the National Association of Women Judges to host a conference for 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls.

The number of women serving in the U.S. House after the newest member, Katherine Clark (D-MA), was sworn in. Seventy-nine is an all-time high, and it means that women hold 18.2% of the 495 seats.
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 UMSL LEAD program. We are proud to share their accomplishments with you! (Note: The number in parenthesis represents year of participation in the Leadership Academy.)

◆ Lovey Davis
University of Missouri-St. Louis (’02)
Lovey is working as a legal investigator with the City of St. Louis in the City Counselors office. Recently, she was elected as the 3rd Vice President of the Urban League Federation of Block Units, a non-profit organization she has been affiliated with for over 20 years.

◆ Jenny Barker-Devine
University of Central Missouri (’99)
Last May Jenny celebrated the publication of her first book: On Behalf of the Family Farm: Iowa Farm Women’s Activism Since 1945 (University of Iowa Press, 2013), which explores farm women’s leadership and unique forms of feminism. Jenny is an assistant professor of History at Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL.

◆ Paula Hodges
Truman State University (’05)
In August, Paula joined the board of the New Leaders Council (NLC) in Rhode Island and is the mentorship chair. Through NLC, she was nominated to participate in a political study tour with the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

◆ Regina James
UMSL LEAD Program, 2012
Regina was recently inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society at UMSL. She was awarded the 2013-14 Harmony Award and scholarship for community leadership and involvement from the College of Fine Arts and Communications, and was a recipient of the 2013-14 Eugene Meehan Scholarship from the College of Arts and Sciences.

◆ Emily Kelchen (Kiddoo)
Truman State University (’06)
Emily recently moved to New Jersey from Wisconsin. While she searches for a full-time position, Emily is keeping busy with contract work for various public interest organizations focused on regulatory and tort reform and studying for the New Jersey bar exam.

◆ Mackenzie Martin
University of Central Missouri (’13)
Mackenzie is the founder of Young Women for America, an outreach program at the University of Central Missouri that encourages women to become leaders on and off campus, including seeking elective office.

◆ Traci Dafler Martin
Truman State University (’01)
After practicing labor and employment defense for five years with Husch Blackwell, Traci took a job with the United States Department of Labor Office of the Solicitor in October 2012, prosecuting wage and hour claims on behalf of the federal government.

◆ Misha Miller-Gilmore
Missouri S&T (’13)
This semester Misha attended the annual Society of Women Engineers National Conference in Baltimore, MD, and was able to network with many inspiring and influential women in STEM careers. In January, she will be spending three weeks in Guatemala to conduct research on ceramic pot filters for her senior design course.

◆ Lauren Palmer
University of Missouri-Columbia (’99)
Lauren is the City Administrator of Parkville, MO.

◆ Jessica Rodas
University of Missouri-Kansas City (’13)
Jessica was one of eight UMKC students (the only female) selected to participate in the Google Community Leaders Program, a year-long program that works with students from Kansas City universities to improve web literacy. She was also the featured student speaker at the 2013 Fall Reception for Avanzando, a program that supports Latina/Latino scholarship recipients at UMKC.

◆ Kelsey Saragnese
University of Missouri-Columbia (’13)
Kelsey was selected to serve on the 2013-2014 National Student Advisory Council for the American Association of University Women, and traveled to Washington DC in November for a leadership retreat with other advisory council members.

◆ Brittany Stegeman
Lincoln University (’10)
Brittany is a second-semester graduate student at the University of Nebraska Omaha, working on a masters degree in Counseling-Student Affairs. In addition to maintaining a 4.0 GPA, she works as a graduate assistant in the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC), a department at UNO that provides professional development to administrators and teachers in the metro-Omaha school districts.

◆ Ashley Warren, D.O.
University of Missouri-Columbia (’06)
Ashley graduated from A.T. Still University in Kirksville in May and is currently doing a residency in family medicine at Capitol Regional Medical Center in Jefferson City.

2014 AMETHYST AWARD: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
Application Deadline: March 14, 2014
If you graduated from the Academy in 2012 or before, you are eligible to apply for the Amethyst Award. To request an application, contact the Institute at (314) 516-4727 or visit the Institute’s website at www.umsl.edu/sueshear
Fellow is finalist for student curator

2013 Shear Fellow
Ericka Thomas is one of three finalists from UMSL to be the student representative on the University of Missouri Board of Curators.

A first generation college student, Ericka is majoring in Public Policy Administration at UMSL. In addition to maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Ericka has worked with several agencies that serve the underserved, including seniors and individuals with Autism. Additionally, she has completed an internship in the St. Louis County Public Defender’s Office.

After completing her degree, Ericka plans to attend law school. Her long-term goal is to create a rehabilitation program that will enable individuals who have served prison sentences to gain skills and education to rebuild their lives and their communities.

The student curator represents the voice of students on the board, and is a prestigious position that rotates every two years to one of the four campuses in the UM system. Ericka participated in three rounds of interviews to become a finalist; At press time, the decision was in the hands of Gov. Nixon, who will make the final selection. If Ericka is appointed, she will replace Student Curator Amy Johnson, from UMKC.

Many thanks to 2013 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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