

# UMSL

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2018

## A sprouting business

Three alumni open local aquaponic farm







## SHUTTER STOP

Engrossed in the teaching moment, Criminology and Criminal Justice Professor David Klinger explains the importance of accurate measures for analyzing concepts. Students intently listen as he elucidates how murder rate might be a good measure of violent crime in cities, but it doesn't capture a full picture of violent crime, which also includes assault, robbery and kidnapping among other types. As Klinger passes on his knowledge, he continues the longstanding mission of higher education – to question, analyze, debate, think, write and research. See page 21.



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ON THE COVER

Alumnus Tim Hydar inspects a collection of rambo radishes at his indoor aquaponic farm in Ferguson, Missouri. Hydar co-owns Straw Hat Aquaponics with his high school friends and fellow UMSL alumni Tom Bortz and John-Paul Knobloch.

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Finding their voice

Michael Nye's collection of work adds to the growing list of published authors to come out of UMSL's MFA program in its first 20 years.

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The University of Missouri–St. Louis publishes UMSL MAGAZINE for alumni and friends. The magazine highlights excellence at the university. Circulation is 103,000 and the magazine is released twice a year.



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## On the same team

An intersecting path has brought two prominent UMSL alumni together again to fuel innovation and support promising energy startups.



## TALK OF THE TOWN



Photo courtesy of Lawrence Bryant, The St. Louis American

The UMSL-affiliated 2018 Salute to Young Leaders honorees are (from left) Lauren Collins, Channon Peoples, Antione Lawrence, Alandrea Stewart, Alona Sistrunk and Christina Dancy.

### UMSL alumni make up quarter of Salute to Young Leaders honorees

The University of Missouri–St. Louis had five alumni among the 20 honorees at the 8th Annual Salute to Young Leaders reception Feb. 15 at the Four Seasons Hotel St. Louis.

The St. Louis American Foundation recognized the group of outstanding African Americans for their professional excellence, achievements and service early in their careers. All those recognized are under the age of 40.

“I’m not surprised so many of our graduates made the list,” Chancellor Tom George said. “UMSL is known for educating young, diverse talent as well as graduating the next leaders of the region. Our alumni continue to guide St. Louis toward a progressive new future of diverse excellence. Congratulations to this talented group that is paving the way!”

**Lauren Collins**, BA English 2009, is an associate attorney at HeplerBroom Law Firm in St. Louis.

**Christina Dancy**, BSPPA 2010, is assistant vice president and assistant director of anti-money laundering for U.S. Bank’s Compliance Division. Dancy is also founder and CEO of Your Purposeful Legacy in St. Louis.

**Antione Lawrence**, MBA 2012, is the owner of Hybrid Real Estate in St. Louis, where he also works as a broker.

**Channon Peoples**, MPPA 2013, is assistant director of the UMSL Bridge Program.

**Alandrea Stewart**, MEd 2014, is director of Student Support Services at Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis.

In addition to the five UMSL alumni honored, **Alona Sistrunk**, an associate producer of the “We Live Here” podcast by St. Louis Public Radio, made the list. St. Louis Public Radio is a service of UMSL.

### Kern Family Foundation awards UMSL \$3M grant to foster character education

Developing more K-12 school leaders focused on character education and servant leadership is the goal of The Kern Family Foundation \$3 million grant awarded to the Center for Character and Citizenship at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

“It is the hope of KFF that this grant will have a long-term positive effect on student outcomes and that the center’s work will become a model for colleges of education across the country,” Kern Family Foundation Senior Program Director Beth Purvis said.

Housed within UMSL’s College of Education, the center will use the four-year grant to design, implement and evaluate a regional program that amplifies the reach and impact of character education through the professional development of emerging school leaders who UMSL and other local universities educate. Curriculum will fully prepare, mentor and support their efforts to implement character education within area schools.

“This grant will extend our long-time goal of ensuring the next generation of school leaders prioritizes student character as they step into administrative roles,” said Marvin W. Berkowitz, the Center for Character and Citizenship co-director and grant co-investigator.

“Together, we have the opportunity to create schools that foster a holistic approach and offer children a comprehensive education that values their character as much as their academics,” added Melinda Bier, the associate director of the center and grant co-investigator.

The grant and program serve as an extension of the rich existing character education leadership base established by the center since its opening in 2005 with the goal of creating stronger learning environments through caring and respect for all students, faculty and staff.



### Proven educators make up UMSL's three new deans

A familiar face and two fresh ones have answered the call to serve as deans of three colleges at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Since Jan. 1, Ann Taylor has overseen the College of Education, and on Aug. 1 Andrew Kersten and Edward Munn Sanchez are set to join the campus community to lead the College of Arts and Sciences and the Pierre Laclède Honors College, respectively.

“One of the privileges I have had as provost so far is taking part in the process of hiring three excellent individuals who will provide important leadership for the university,” said Kristin Sobolik, provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs. “Each are proven educators

Kersten will transition to UMSL's College of Arts and Sciences after four years leading the College of Letters, Arts, & Social Sciences at the University of Idaho. During his tenure, he helped reverse enrollment declines and increase student retention, including a 46 percent increase in incoming residential first-year students and a 99 percent retention rate of first-year students from the 2016-17 to 2017-18 academic years.

Kersten's academic background is in history with a bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin–Madison and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Cincinnati.

From left: Ann Taylor, Andrew Kersten and Edward Munn Sanchez will respectively lead three of UMSL's six colleges.



and collaborators, committed to our mission and vision. I look forward to working with them and the rest of our community to positively impact our students' lives.”

Taylor's appointment comes after having served as interim dean of the College of Education since August 2016. In that time, she helped launch the Teach in 12 program and expanded teacher prep programs to require volunteer experience at community agencies and a year of teaching experience with one of UMSL's 30 Studio School partners.

She holds a bachelor's degree in geography from Nottingham University, a master's in education from the University of Sheffield and a PhD from Washington University in St. Louis.

Sanchez will lead the Pierre Laclède Honors College at UMSL after having served as assistant dean for academic affairs and diversity at the University of South Carolina Honors College. In his 12 years with SCHC, Sanchez led the college to consistent top national rankings and a significant increase in enrollment, including a 69 percent leap from 2012 to 2017.

He completed his undergraduate degrees in history and Greek studies at Cornell College and earned a master's degree and PhD in philosophy from Emory University.

KERN FAMILY FOUNDATION \$3M

**Harry Hawkins  
channels his  
undergraduate  
experience  
in the new role**

—  — *UMSL's* —  — *first* —  — *LGBTQ+* — 

By Sara Bell

The air feels lighter when Harry Hawkins enters a room, bringing with him a contagious optimism and a dash of tension-easing sarcasm.

As the first LGBTQ+ coordinator for the University of Missouri–St. Louis, Hawkins' approach helps during those tough conversations he's eager and humble to broach.

This is a vulnerable version of himself he's still crafting, though. His more confident and driven form is likely unrecognizable to his 18-year-old self.

An undergraduate at Mississippi State University at the time, Hawkins was mostly closeted and ambivalent toward advocacy efforts. He admired that passion in others – particularly one leader he met through MSU's gay-straight alliance – but Hawkins remained idle on the sidelines.

And then the phone rang.

On the other end was tragic news that the role model he only knew for a short time had been beaten to death in a hate crime for being gay.

"That moment really changed my thinking," Hawkins remembers, "because I said, 'People are dying for being who they are. This is a thing. I can't just sit back and be quiet when people are dying.' And so I really jumped in at that point."

Hawkins is still gaining momentum from that initial leap from an "armchair activist" to a frontline advocate.



# coordinator



His work naturally began at MSU, where he earned his bachelor's degree in educational psychology and policy and a master's in clinical mental health counseling. Hawkins' efforts as a student senator and president of Spectrum, the university's gay-straight alliance, eventually caught the attention of the Human Rights Campaign, which hired him to help carry out an \$8.5 million investment to bring more LGBTQ+ programs to the South.

While he was passionate about that work, Hawkins was eager to get back to his first love – higher education. That calling led him to UMSL in July, where he has since taken on several projects, including reviving UMSL's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board, chairing the St. Louis Transgender Spectrum Conference as it returns to UMSL's campus in November and helping create a citywide LGBTQ+ student group.

But most of all, it's his direct work as a liaison to faculty and staff and adviser to students that motivates his efforts.

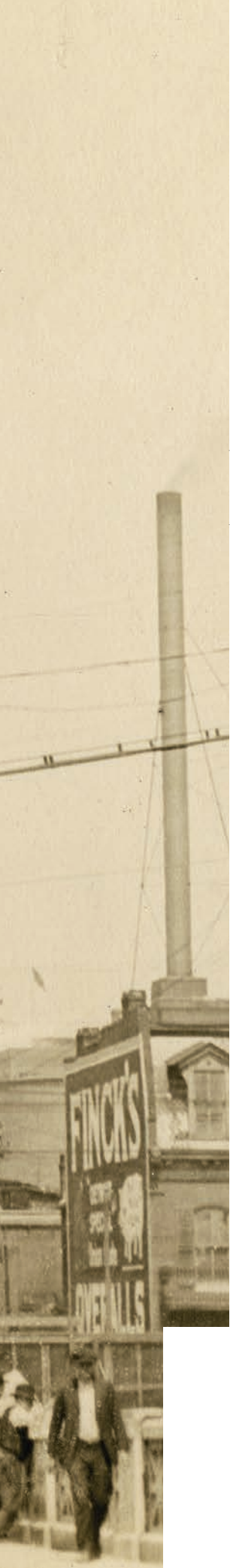
"Growing up as a gay man, you didn't see a lot of LGBTQ+ professionals outside of celebrities, musicians or artists," Hawkins says. "But now we have more people that are out and living their truth. For me, being a mentor for students – either directly or indirectly – I take that very, very seriously. To say, 'Yes, you can be out, you can be in a career and you can be happy.' We're all lucky to be at a place like UMSL where you can." ≡

**Harry Hawkins' new position as UMSL's diversity and LGBTQ+ program and project support coordinator** was first presented to administrators by students involved in PRIZM, UMSL's queer-transgender-straight alliance. Hawkins, who joined the university staff in July, believes the vision of these advocates "speaks to the heart and soul of our students on this campus."

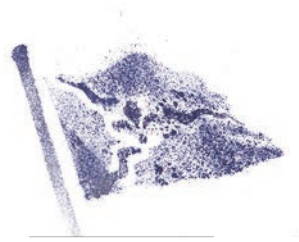
*Priscilla Dowden-White's teaching of the past offers lessons for the future*

# The history that helped divide St. Louis





The "Welcome to St. Louis" sign greets visitors in 1920 at the foot of the St. Louis Municipal Bridge. Photo courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis.



By Steve Walentik

Priscilla Dowden-White knows the fractures in her hometown of St. Louis have been hard to ignore in recent years. The whole country could see them in 2014 as images of civil unrest over the issue of police brutality in the aftermath of the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson played nightly on cable news, and they were visible again last fall after a not guilty verdict in the trial of City of St. Louis police Officer Jason Stockley for a 2011 shooting.

The divisions also have manifested themselves in the inability of the region to come together on big projects, as when city voters irked many in the metropolitan area when they voted against a measure to publicly fund a downtown stadium to attract a Major League Soccer team.

More recently, St. Louis found itself excluded from a list of 20 finalists trying to land Amazon's second headquarters, and some criticism of the region's bid pointed to the unwillingness of officials in St. Louis County to subsidize the project at a level on par with the City of St. Louis and St. Clair County, Illinois.

"We can't hide it," says Dowden-White, a University of Missouri–St. Louis graduate and now associate professor of history at her alma mater. "We're talking about how a metropolitan area views itself and its vision, where it's going, its potential. We've got a long way to go in really working through those issues."

Dowden-White can trace the origins of many divisions clearly in the city's history – something her students come to learn well through taking her courses. Mending divisions in the present requires understanding and reckoning with that past.

"One of the larger issues that didn't create the fracturing but that I think exacerbates it is that our city is not a part of the county," Dowden-White says. "So some of the fracturing that major, urban cities and surrounding counties experience across the country is magnified in our area."

Racial tension underlies many of the divisions in the St. Louis region, but it does not appear to have been the primary motivator for city residents who voted to withdraw from St. Louis County in 1876.

More likely, it had to do with taxes. The city and its 310,000 residents felt they were wasting money on about 27,000 people living in what at the time were far-flung communities such as Kirkwood and Florissant.

In a decision that continues to reverberate to this day, officials set the city's western border at Skinker Boulevard and severed governmental ties to parts beyond it.



"I think they had an outsized inflated sense of themselves and the city," Dowden-White says of the officials behind that decision. "In some ways it caused them to see themselves as an island unto themselves. And it hampered their ability to have vision and to look at this in the long term and to look at St. Louis as being anything other than who they were."

**Dowden-White's real expertise lies in the often-overlooked period beginning more than three decades later. Her book "Groping toward Democracy: African American Social Welfare Reform in St. Louis" spotlights actions and events that occurred between 1910 and 1949 with consequences stretching into the present day.**

*Above: The former Homer G. Phillips Hospital looms in the background as Associate Professor Priscilla Dowden-White (third from left) strolls down Cottage Avenue in the Ville Neighborhood with former students (from left) Michelle Raydin Seymour, Brian Weaver and Cassandra Carter.*

Chief among them were implementation of race-restrictive covenants – agreements entered into by a group of property owners not to sell, rent or lease property to blacks or other minorities.

Dowden-White is currently at work on a biography of attorney and civil rights leader Margaret Bush Wilson. It was Wilson's father, a real estate broker, who was the organizing force behind the 1948 U.S. Supreme Court case *Shelley v. Kraemer* that finally struck down the use of race-restrictive covenants.

The case originated in north St. Louis after J.D. Shelley and his family decided to fight for their right to live in housing of their choosing at 4600 Labadie Ave. The Court ruled the covenants aimed at preventing them from doing so were unenforceable under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

Before then, the practice served to segregate city neighborhoods in a pattern that continues today and is visible in the so-called "Delmar Divide."

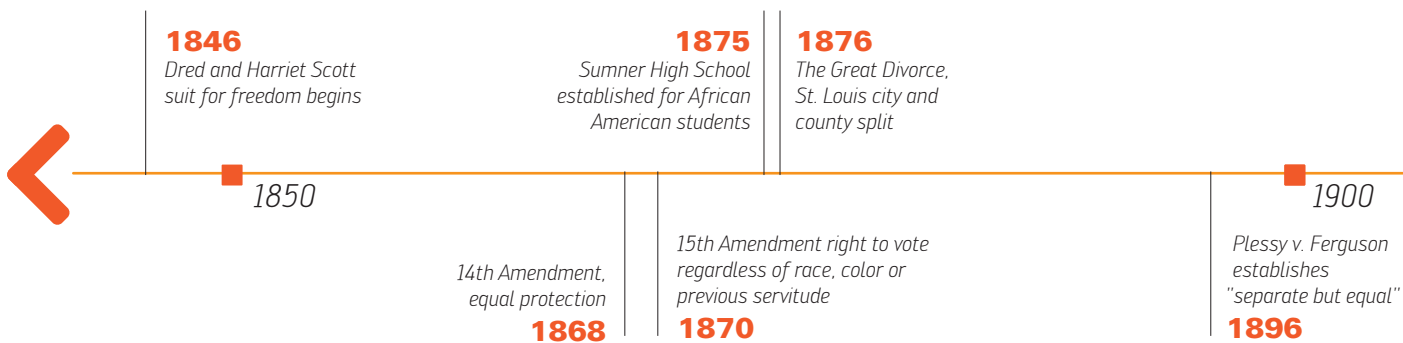
"If you do any research on race-restrictive covenants, you'll see that all of the race-restrictive covenants started in the first decade of the 20th Century, and it started then because that's when the Great Migration became apparent," says Dowden-White, referring to the migration of African Americans in the South into urban areas in the North.

The non-white population of St. Louis increased 150 percent during that period.

The concept of separate space for people of different races had previously won formal approval in the landmark Supreme Court decision in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case that established the constitutionality of racial segregation in public facilities as long as the segregated facilities were equal in quality. The doctrine came to be known as "separate but equal."

"St. Louis followed the patterns in some ways of the South in that our public schools were segregated," Dowden-White says. "Yet our public transportation was not segregated. Blacks could go to the public library here freely."

**A brief timeline of Missouri's African American history focused on Dowden-White's period of expertise**  
*Selections from Missouri State Archives*



Dowden-White also noted that African Americans were not denied the right to vote in St. Louis the way they were throughout much of the South. That voting power could help explain why the city invested as much as it did in segregated institutions.

That was particularly noticeable in the historic Ville neighborhood of north St. Louis.

That's where Sumner High School – the second oldest black public high school with a comprehensive curriculum in the United States and first west of the Mississippi River – settled in its third and current location.

It's also where the city established Homer G. Phillips Hospital, which was the city's public hospital designated for African Americans from its opening in 1937 until 1955, when the city's hospitals began desegregating. It was one of the few hospitals in the country where African Americans could train as doctors and nurses.

"There are a lot of buildings that before her class, me and my family would just drive past, and I didn't know anything about them," says UMSL sophomore Brian Weaver, who took Dowden-White's course on African American History: From Civil Rights to Black Power. "I didn't know the things that transpired."



Even after the Shelley case and other landmark decisions such as Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, which hammered away at the principle of "separate but equal," undoing racial segregation created in the first half of the 20th Century has proven challenging.

Race might not have been the driving force at the start of the city's split with the county, but it could be an impediment to reunification. More affluent and largely white communities in the county seem resistant to taking on the problems in the city, where predominantly African American neighborhoods suffer from issues such as crime and lack of resources.

The county, too, remains largely segregated.

The shooting of Brown and ensuing unrest brought attention to how many municipalities in north St. Louis County used traffic tickets and other citations to profit at the expense of their poor, primarily African American residents – breeding mistrust between citizens and law enforcement in the process.

"We, of course, were surprised when Mike Brown's murder touched off the movement that it did," Dowden-White says. "But some of those who have studied Ferguson and our inner suburbs far more than I have, they've explained that we should not have been surprised that it happened."

That's a lesson that Dowden-White has tried to impart on all her students about the larger issue of segregation, in hopes that greater understanding might bring about change.

"It doesn't have to be that way," says alumna Michelle Radin Seymour, who became a history major after taking Dowden-White's African American History course in the fall of 2015 and who completed her degree last December.

"That's why I think these classes are so important for everybody because we all need to realize that deliberate decisions were made, and this isn't an accident. And it's still so much a part of the fabric of St. Louis and how we view each other." ≡

**"Deliberate decisions were made, and this isn't an accident. And it's still so much a part of the fabric of St. Louis and how we view each other."**

*– Michelle Radin Seymour, BA history 2017 and former student of Dowden-White's*

**1916**

*St. Louisians passed a local segregation ordinance. Supreme Court declared a similar Louisville, Kentucky, ordinance unconstitutional in 1917*

**1948**

*Shelley v. Kramer Supreme Court decision strikes down use of race-restrictive covenants*

**1950**


*Missouri Public Accommodations Act of 1965, ends discrimination in public facilities*

*Homer G. Phillips Hospital completed*

**1937**

**1965**





## It's a brisk February evening in Ferguson, Missouri,

and under dim fluorescent lighting, Tom Bortz is tending to his herd.

He tosses food into a 1,200-gallon fish tank, checks the airflow of the handcrafted container, harvests what produce he can and then heads out for the night. The rest of the Straw Hat Aquaponics operation relies on a mixed collection of koi, cichlids and oscars.

These fish, Bortz explains, are the engine of his aquaponic farm and the secret to growing what he proudly claims is "the best kale in St. Louis."

For the past two years, Bortz, an alumnus of the biology and chemistry departments of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, as well as his high school friends and fellow UMSL alumni, Tim Hydar and John-Paul Knobloch, have been running Straw Hat Aquaponics about two miles north of campus.

Their system uses waste produced by fish to fertilize a wide range of soilless produce. These plants then naturally filter the water before it flows back to the tank where the cycle repeats itself.

Essentially, Bortz, Hydar (BSBA 2016) and Knobloch (MBA 2012, MAcc 2012, MPPA 2015) have created a pesticide-free ecosystem – first from the confines of a studio apartment and now from a commercial property tucked in historic downtown Ferguson.

From the exterior, the space is far from a standard picture of a blossoming ecosystem. All signs, including the red one outside, point to the basement's former life as a cantina for El Palenque Mexican Restaurant. But the friends have transformed the 1,600-square-foot facility into a center where plants grow quickly and with a distinct flavor.

# The best kale in town

Three UMSL alumni combine expertise to produce some of St. Louis' freshest greens from a Ferguson basement

By Sara Bell



Tim Hydar (pictured) and his business partners Tom Bortz and John-Paul Knobloch allot what time they can in the evenings and weekends to harvest the produce growing in their Straw Hat Aquaponics farm. All three UMSL alumni maintain their day jobs, challenging the friends to find innovative ways to streamline the production process.

**“The produce stays very tender,** which is attributed to the roots always being in the water,” Bortz says while standing next to a three-level tower of vertically grown micro-greens. “Normally, the plants are in the ground and the roots are spreading out trying to find water. These always have it.

“Plants that grow in an aquaponic system are physiologically different as well. The cell walls aren’t going to be as thick because they don’t have to work so hard to retain water. As a result, the kale we end up with isn’t tough, it’s not bitter. You almost get a sweet flavor.”

In addition to their brag-worthy kale, the friends turned business partners also grow an expanding selection of greens with an impressively long shelf life – from lemon basil to their top-selling pea shoots.

Their produce is personally delivered to five restaurants in the St. Louis area and is sold seasonally at the Midtown Farmers Market in the Delmar Loop. Straw Hat also has a partnership with Eat Here St. Louis, a regional wholesaler, so the scope of the farm’s reach is difficult to quantify.

“We’ve found really good reception here in St. Louis,” Hydar says. “Luckily, it’s been great. All of the produce goes straight to the restaurants. The day we harvest it, it’s there. There’s no transportation or storage.”

Two years in, the co-owners are pleased with the success of the passion project so far.

The idea to start such a venture sprouted about four years ago over a beer at Ferguson Brewing Company, a restaurant along the same street where they would attempt their first home system and eventually expand their business model.

True to form, Knobloch, a CPA, had been running the numbers of opening an aquaponic farm prior to pitching the idea over a pint. Bortz, a molecular biologist by day, had simultaneously but privately researched the science behind running a home system, so he was quick to agree. From there, it was only natural to add Hydar’s logistical expertise to the mix.



## WHERE TO

“It just kind of made sense to put together this three-headed monster,” Bortz says of the team. “We all have pieces of this that we are more responsible for than others, but that’s not to say that I only work with the fish and JP only looks at the financials. If we need help, we can help each other. We just do whatever we can to get it all done.”

With everyone in the group maintaining their day jobs, getting it all done isn’t easy, no matter how much

Vin de Set  
Oceano Bistro  
Panorama at the  
Saint Louis  
Art Museum





John-Paul Knobloch (at left), Tom Bortz and Tim Hydar enjoy a **“Flower Power” cocktail** at Frazer’s Restaurant and Lounge in the Soulard neighborhood. The specialty beverage, created specifically to incorporate Straw Hat Aquaponics produce, consists of **citrus champagne, pear, thyme and vanilla liqueur, and a buzz button flower**. The yellow bud and stem may be small, but the flower packs an electrifying sensation when it touches the tongue.



FIND *Straw Hat* PRODUCE  
*Aquaponics*

OmTurtle Yoga  
and Cafe

Frazer’s Restaurant  
and Lounge

Midtown  
Farmers Market

they have streamlined the process over the years. This is where their friendship and passion for the rapidly growing method of aquaponics nurtures their budding business.

“We all wear every hat,” Hydar says. “We’ve each done any and everything you can imagine. We’ve painted walls. We’ve built things. We all plant. We all harvest. It’s true entrepreneurial spirit.” ☰



Demeaning comments, even if made in jest, can be powerful, cutting and spark long-term health consequences.

# Drake Anderson's undergraduate research on the physiological effects of sexism fueled more than a future in psychology

Three years ago, Drake Anderson was a suburban-raised teen with little to be angry about.

He had a clear path ahead through his top college choice – the University of Missouri–St. Louis – with a major he had been thinking about since elementary school – psychology.

Anderson was confident these decisions would take him somewhere. He just didn't think it would be to the steps of the Missouri State Capitol, where he would speak with legislators about higher education and sexism.

But after taking a job in Assistant Professor Bettina Casad's research lab his freshman year, Anderson's outlook on life, research and the harsh realities of discrimination are much different.

During his tenure in Casad's lab, Anderson has assisted with several studies focused on identifying how stigma and

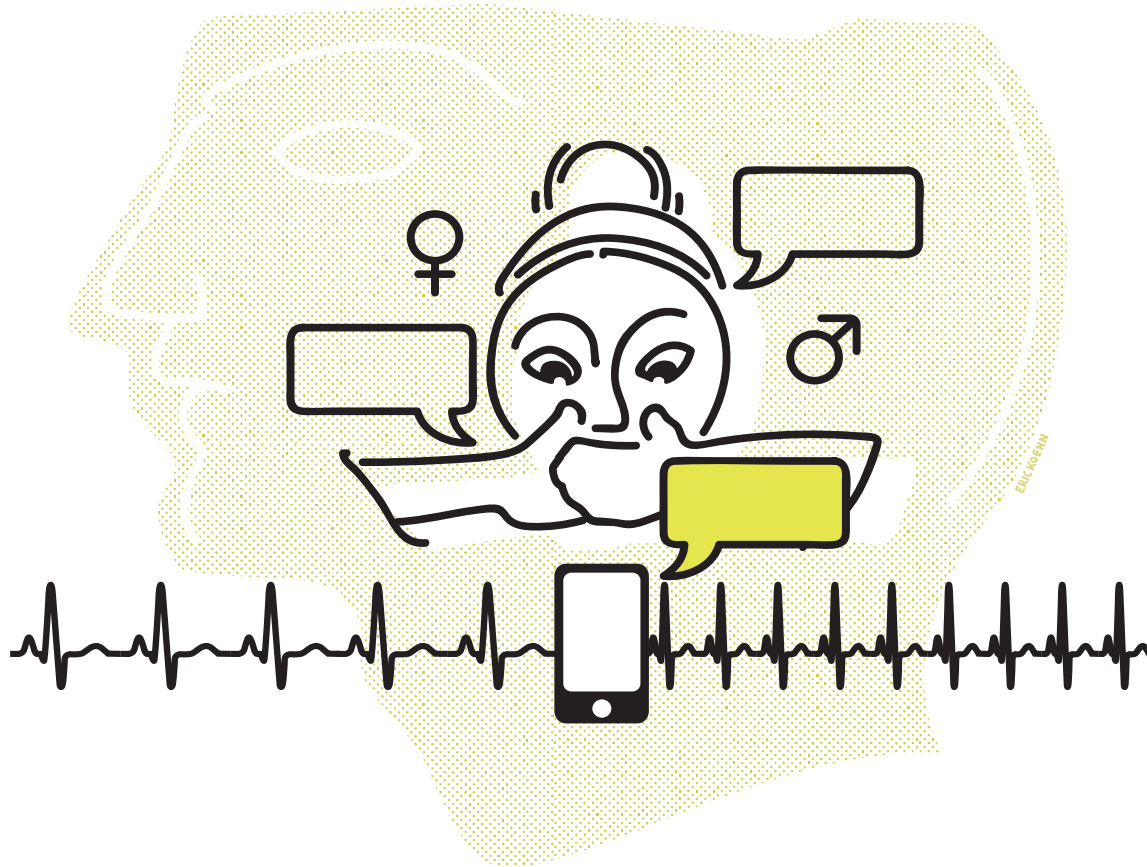
prejudicial environments influence physical health, brain functioning, and education and career performance.

What he has discovered is both enlightening and concerning.

In one particular study, Anderson and other members of Casad's lab found that some women who stayed silent after experiencing a sexist comment showed signs of total peripheral resistance, a restriction of blood flow throughout the body. This resistance is associated with heart disease and hypertension, creating physiological concerns for victims of perpetual discriminatory behavior.

Through this research, Anderson, who is also involved in Assistant Professor Suzanne Welcome's behavioral neuroscience lab, has come to realize that demeaning comments, even if made in jest, can be powerful, cutting and spark long-term health consequences.

Female study participants engaged in virtual conversations with men who were given scripted sexist responses. Psychology major Drake Anderson and his fellow researchers recorded total peripheral resistance following the interaction.



"I think the biggest implication of this study is that it's more than just being upset or uncomfortable," the Pierre Laclède Honors College junior explains. "There are physical health issues that can arise from being in a sexist condition, specifically with being told to maintain group harmony."

"In the real world, it's not always possible to stand up and be your own advocate. Sometimes, you have to suppress that and move on. This study shows that you can have significant health problems from suppressing those responses."

The implications of the study also apply to other forms of prejudice, prompting Anderson to speak out about the research.

Since his first year at UMSL, he's presented study findings at undergraduate research symposiums in the St. Louis region, including UMSL's URS. In April, he took his research on the road to Jefferson City, Missouri, where he presented alongside other UMSL and University of Missouri System students for Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol.

The presentation allowed him to speak with state lawmakers about the significance of the lab findings and demonstrate the value of undergraduate research in higher education.

"My experience at UMSL has been very helpful," says Anderson, who is just one of the many students taking advantage of undergraduate research opportunities across campus. "It feels like a smaller place where I can really be engaged and have opportunities for research. I've enjoyed my experience here a lot, and I don't know that I would have had the same experiences at a different university."

Thanks to his presentation skills, years of hands-on lab experience and portfolio of published work, Anderson has established a strong research identity – one Casad presumes will serve him well in an increasingly competitive graduate school application process.

Anderson also believes the revolving opportunities he's acquired at UMSL will help as he pursues a career in researching subconscious influences of decision making and behavior.

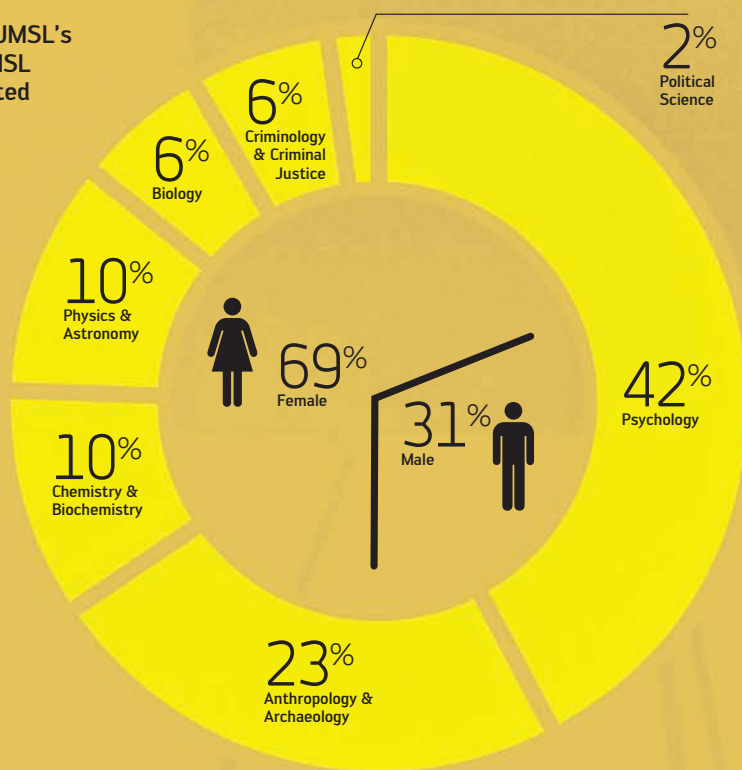
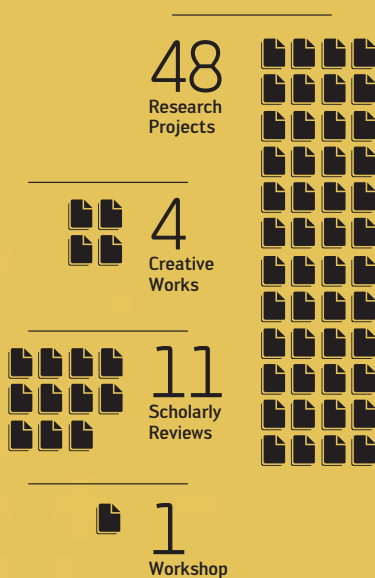
"Research is not something that I've always wanted to do, but once I saw it, it opened my eyes," he says. "I think the biggest thing is that the more research you do and the more experience you get, the better off you are." ≡

# Researchers in training

UNDERGRADUATES PUT THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Fatema Medhat's exploration around the city can be linked to a theory she learned in a University of Missouri–St. Louis classroom. The idea that ignoring a broken window and other visible signs of disorder could foster more serious crimes piqued her interest. And so, the philosophy and criminology and criminal justice double major took to the streets to test the hypothesis and discover new correlations.

Similar stories of research inspirations beginning in the classroom are available across the UMSL undergraduate research scene. A glimpse into some of this student-driven inquiry is available annually at UMSL's Undergraduate Research Symposium. Here, UMSL Magazine examines some of the topics presented and curiosities satisfied during the 2018 event.



## Topics of interest

**Tianna McBroom, physics major**

Adviser: Professor Eric Majzoub

*Density functional theory studies on the thermodynamic and structural properties of silicon-based borohydrides*

**Ari Zakroff, biology major**

Advisers: Associate Professor Godfrey Bourne, Professor Thomas Meuser and Interim Dean of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Dan Gerth

*Lizards, warming climate and body temperature: How hot is too hot?*

**Claudia Campbell, psychology major**

Adviser: Assistant Professor Rachel Wamser-Nanney

*Children's perception of coping efficacy and symptoms following childhood trauma*

**Brian Rainey, criminology and criminal justice major**

Adviser: Associate Professor Terrance J. Taylor

*A multifaceted exploration of the factors associated with youth's risk of experiencing violent victimization*

**Anastasia Jensen, chemistry major**

Adviser: Professor Keith Stein

*Glycoprotein detection on nanoporous gold by electrochemical methods*

**Joseph McBride, psychology major**

Adviser: Associate Professor Zoë Peterson

*The association between sexual narcissism and sexual coercion perpetration: Gender as a moderating variable*





## The tale of St. Louis ties behind Ameren Accelerator

*Two leaders of the region's first energy-focused accelerator trace their start before UMSL to boyhood*

By Bob Samples, Marisol Ramirez and Sara Bell

Warner Baxter and Dan Lauer first met in the early 1970s as young opponents on the basketball court playing for St. Gregory's and All Souls in the Catholic Youth Council League of St. Louis. Neither opponent could have ever guessed they would turn their childhood connection into an innovative partnership.

But life had a funny way of tossing Baxter and Lauer on the same team.

They attended the same middle school in the Ritenour School District, and when it came time for college, they shared a path through the University of Missouri–St. Louis and its College of Business Administration, both earning bachelor's degrees in 1983.

Out of college, Baxter joined public accounting–consulting giant Price Waterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and later transitioned to Ameren, where today he is chairman, president and CEO.

Lauer worked as a banker before his entrepreneurial spirit led him to create Lauer Toys and invent Waterbabies, a have-to-have doll of the '90s. A serial innovator, Lauer later returned to UMSL to create UMSL Accelerate – an initiative designed to foster entrepreneurship and help bring concepts from mind to market. He's now the executive director of the program, which has sparked entrepreneurial course development across campus.

When the educational component of UMSL Accelerate started picking up momentum, Lauer began to consider options for an externally

Left: UMSL Accelerate Founding Executive Director Dan Lauer discusses the significance of his brainchild, the Ameren Accelerator, during the inaugural startup selection announcement at the Cortex Innovation Community. He's joined on stage by CEO and Managing Partner of Capital Innovators Judy Sindecuse (center) and Ameren Chairman, President and CEO Warner Baxter.



Right: Warner Baxter (at left) converses with Ameren Accelerator interns and UMSL students (from left) Mohammad Aljamaan, Stephen Hanna and Yaniv Dudaie during the Ameren Accelerator selection event.



focused project – an accelerator. Knowing Baxter's background and success at Ameren, Lauer's first call was to the St. Louis-based CEO.

"Warner and I share a passion for creating better," Lauer says. "The respect we share allowed us to collaborate in advancing how a large energy company and a statewide university system could break new ground together."

The pitch from Lauer and business college Dean Charles Hoffman piqued Baxter's interest, giving rise to the Ameren Accelerator – an innovative program powered by UMSL Accelerate, the University of Missouri System and Capital Innovators that assesses, mentors and invests in energy technology startup companies.

The Ameren Accelerator is the St. Louis region's first accelerator to focus on energy technologies and the first North American corporate accelerator specializing in the energy sector.

"We recognize that our industry is transforming," Baxter says. "The energy grid of the future is becoming more integrated and complex. The need for safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy has never been greater and our customers' energy needs and expectations continue to rise.

"I saw the Ameren Accelerator program as an opportunity to leverage the incredible expertise brought to bear by Dan, UMSL, the University of Missouri System, Capital Innovators and Ameren co-workers to help us identify and ultimately implement those new energy technologies."

*"Warner and I share a passion for creating better. The respect we share allowed us to collaborate in advancing how a large energy company and a statewide university system could break new ground together."*

*– Dan Lauer, founding executive director of UMSL Accelerate*

The accelerator also offers UMSL students paid internships among the startup companies selected for the program. Baxter envisions the interaction among Ameren employees, students and entrepreneurs will help create an innovative culture and attract more talent to work for a regulated utility.

"The Ameren Accelerator is a program that provides students with hands-on experience in the energy industry," Baxter says. "I want the

best and brightest working for Ameren and in our industry in the future."

Lauer is delighted by the early success of UMSL Accelerate and the Ameren Accelerator. But he's not surprised.

"This is a great institution and our students are phenomenal," he says, noting that Ameren and Capital Innovators have signed on for the second Ameren Accelerator.

The 2018 program will run for 12 weeks from June 11 to Aug. 31.

Back on campus, UMSL Accelerate continues its success as well. Faculty welcomed continued growth and development of more entrepreneur-focused courses with sights set on a degree program in the near future.

"We are in the business of teaching," Lauer says. "Our desire is to engage in the community in meaningful and relevant ways with our corporate accelerator model at the center. In the end, our position is to attract outstanding students from around the world to come to UMSL as a place of entrepreneurship, as a place of innovation."

With the early success of UMSL Accelerate and the Ameren Accelerator, Lauer envisions scaling the model to a variety of other industries. Until then, he's thankful for his first team – particularly the thought leadership of Baxter – who helped make the vision possible. ≡

# CULTIVATING THE NEXT WRITERS OF THE LITERARY WORLD

The MFA in Creative Writing program celebrates 20 years of giving rise to new voices and more than 50 books

By Marisol Ramirez

The budding writers of the MFA in Creative Writing program climb the stairs to the fourth floor of Lucas Hall at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, past the Rembrandt poster that becomes a familiar sight and signal of the next hours focused on refining words, plot, syntax, form and meaning.

A handful of faculty, with fiction writers Mary Troy and John Dalton and poets Steven Schreiner and Shane Seely at the program’s core, help guide these ambitious souls toward poetry and fiction theses, manuscripts and hopefully publications.

The MFA program – now in its 20th year – has grown into a true incubator of the next Maya Angelous, T.S. Eliots and Mark Twains to come out of St. Louis.

Beyond writing, students gain experience working on Natural Bridge, the program’s literary journal, which serves as a springboard for graduates into editor positions with journals nationwide.

They also have opportunities to run reading series through the Graduate Writers Association and practice teaching as part of Writers in the Schools.

The varied academic and professional experiences of the program make for talented, adaptive and driven graduates that take their skill with words on to many professions, often working 9-5 jobs while toiling away on their writing projects late into the night or in the wee hours of the morning.

In only 20 years, MFA alumni have gone on to write and publish more than 50 books. Here, we offer a glimpse into five of those writers and their creative works.



## SALLY VAN DOREN EXPLORES A MODERN WOMAN'S DOMESTIC INTERIOR

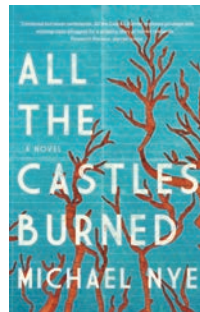
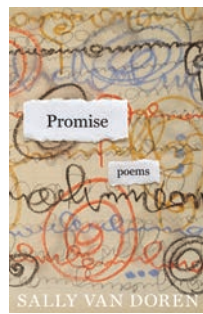
The minutiae of home life – the lurch of the washing machine, a neighbor’s sycamore trees, a mother scrubbing shoes in the driveway – fills Sally Van Doren’s latest book of poems “Promise.”

“A lot of my poems are sort of clues to who I am,” says Van Doren, MFA 2000, who spends her time writing poetry and caring for her family.

The collection is anything but docile with its cunning, sometimes sassy observations of interior life as the speaker tackles chores and gazes at her neighborhood block through windows.

“Promise” is Van Doren’s third book out of Louisiana State University Press, preceded by “Possessive” (2012) and “Sex at Noon Taxes,” which won the 2007 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets and broke Van Doren onto the poetry scene.





Left: Sally Van Doren is author of three poetry collections published by Louisiana State University Press. Her recent book "Promise" came out August 2017.

Right: Michael Nye's debut novel "All the Castles Burned" dropped this February from Turner Publishing.



## ADOLESCENT FRIENDSHIP, BASKETBALL AND FAMILY CRISIS FILL MICHAEL NYE'S DEBUT NOVEL

Michael Nye's "All the Castles Burned," out of Turner Publishing this February, takes place in the halls and on the basketball court of Rockcastle Preparatory Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio.

It's a fictitious setting inspired by Nye's past in a private school in the city's suburbs.

"I liked that it was familiar for the reader, but I also wanted to make it new for them," says Nye, MFA 2006, of the high school scene.

He does so with a fresh telling of male adolescent friendship as the novel follows Owen Webb, a working-class boy who earns a scholarship to Rockcastle and befriends wealthy and popular Carson Bly.

"I'm interested in what divides the wealthy from the working class and how teen boys get along and not in the usual flat sense that they're written in," Nye says.

"At that age, they really express themselves physically through sports."

Nye also mines the depths of his past with a father who lived a secret double life as a thief and was arrested when Nye was 12.

The results of an absent father become an undercurrent in the novel, straining Owen's friendship and threatening his promising future.

*Nye first published "Strategies Against Extinction," a short story collection out of Queens Ferry Press in 2012 and has served as editor of multiple literary magazines, including Natural Bridge, the Missouri Review and Boulevard. He holds a bachelor's degree in English from The Ohio State University. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, and works as a digital marketer for AARP, doing search engine optimization. He's currently at work on another novel.*

"I let language lead my first two books," she says. "This third book, I'm letting my own narrative and emotions lead me."

Van Doren's eye for the small moments continues in her poems, which she describes as "spontaneous gestures of emotion, psychological state or mood translated into lyric poetry."

*Van Doren grew up in Ladue, Missouri, and graduated from Princeton University with a BA in comparative literature before earning her MFA from UMSL. She splits her time between St. Louis and New York and has taught in St. Louis Public Schools and at the 92nd Street Y. She's currently editing her next manuscript from the Connecticut farmhouse of famous poet Mark Van Doren, her husband's grandfather.*

## 14 NOVELS

**Dan Begley**

*Ms. Taken Identity*

**Denise Bogard**

*The Middle Step  
After Elise*

**Michael Nye**

*All the Castles Burned*

**Angie O'Gorman**

*The Book of Sins*

**Jason Rizos**

*Supercenter  
Prom Night on the River  
of Death*

**J.E. Robinson**

*Skip Macalester*

**John Joseph Ryan**

*A Bullet Apiece*

**Inda Schaenen**

*Saddle Wise: Rainy Day Rescue*

*Saddle Wise: The Quarter Horse*

*Saddle Wise: School Day Rides*

*All the Cats of Cairo*

*Things Are Really*

*Crazy Right Now*

## 5 SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS

**Ron Austin**

*Avery Colt Is A Snake,  
A Thief, A Liar*

**Angela Mitchell**

*Unnatural Habitats and  
Other Stories*

**Michael Nye**

*Strategies Against Extinction*

**J.E. Robinson**

*The Day Rider and  
Other Stories*

**Ryan Stone**

*Best Road Yet*

# THE 51 BY



## ANGELA MITCHELL REVEALS THE 'WILD AND WOOLY' OZARKS AND THE TERRIBLE IN PEOPLE

Angela Mitchell, MFA 2012, thought only sophisticated places and people occupied literature until she read Eudora Welty's everyday Mississippi world.

Mitchell grew up in the Ozarks, which she calls "wild and wooly." It's the setting of her forthcoming short story collection "Unnatural Habitats and Other Stories" out of WTAW Press.

Her stories examine the effects of drugs and money laundering on the rural, hilly area and its people, who can't hide away so easily anymore with the intrusion of cell phones and the Internet.

The collection has seven stories, including a closely tied trilogy, which tells the tale of two men and a woman who run a high-risk insurance company as a front for the drugs they sell.

"An awful lot of my best characters are not particularly likeable," Mitchell says. "In fact, I think a couple are really, really terrible."

Mitchell goes a level deeper, exploring her characters' prolonged adolescence, lack of independence and parent/child relationships.

"Even horrible people have a child, parent or someone who just adores them – even when they don't deserve love," Mitchell says. "That's pretty interesting to me. Salt with the sweet. One enhances the other."

*In addition to an MFA, Mitchell holds a BA in English from the University of New Orleans and an MEd from the University of Arkansas. Mitchell lives in St. Louis, where she directs a community writing workshop and serves as an associate editor for december magazine. She's an eighth generation native of southern Missouri, where she maintains a small farm on her family's land, and is at work on her first novel.*

## 26 POETRY COLLECTIONS

**Kelli Allen**

*Imagine Not Drowning*  
*L'appel du Vide*  
*Some Animals*  
*How We Disappear*  
*Otherwise, Soft White Ash*  
*Applied Cryptography*

**María Balogh**

*Cumbia Soul*  
*Bailar Caribeño*

**Allison Creighton**

*Drawing Down the Moon*

**Matthew Freeman**

*Everything I Love Restored*  
*and Other Poems*  
*Trying to Take a Nap*

**Eve Jones**

*Bird in the Machine*

**Tim Leach**

*Corncurls for the*  
*Medulla Oblongata*  
*Icarus Flees the Garden*  
*of Earthly Delights*

**Colleen McKee**

*The Kingdom of Roly-Polys*  
*Nine Kinds of Wrong*  
*A Partial List of Things*  
*I Have Done for Money*  
*My Hot Little Tomato*

**Matthew Schmeer**

*Twenty-One Cents*

**Ryan Patrick Smith**

*The Death Metal*  
*Pastorals*

**Jen Tappenden**

*Independent City*

**Sally Van Doren**

*Sex at Noon Taxes*  
*Possessive*  
*Promise*

**Jason Vasser**

*Shrimp*

**Rewa Zeinati**

*Bullets and Orchids*

## 2 NONFICTION BOOKS

**Adam Patric Miller**

*A Greater Monster*

**Rewa Zeinati**

*Nietzsche's Camel Must Die*

## 4 SCHOLARLY/ACADEMIC BOOKS

**Julia Gordon-Bramer**

*Fixed Stars Govern a Life:*  
*Decoding Sylvia Plath's*  
*Decoding Sylvia Plath's*  
*"Daddy": Discover the Layers*  
*of Meaning Beyond the Brute*  
*Decoding Sylvia Plath's*  
*"Lady Lazarus": Freedom's*  
*Feminine Fire*

**Inda Schaenen**

*Speaking of Fourth Grade:*  
*What Listening to Kids*  
*Tells Us About School*  
*in America*

# BOOKS

## MFA ALUMNI



### RON AUSTIN TELLS STORIES OF STRIFE AND STRENGTH IN NORTH ST. LOUIS CITY

The North Grand neighborhood, where Ron Austin, MFA 2012, grew up, lies at the heart of his first short story collection, "Avery Colt Is A Snake, A Thief, A Liar."

Twelve stories follow Avery, a loose persona of Austin, from age 9 to 17 as he lives in a community struggling with the effects of zoning practices, segregation and lack of services.

A fictionalized version of his grandparents' corner market parallels the neighborhood's decline while themes of toxic masculinity arise in the narrative.

The forthcoming collection won the Nilsen Literary Prize out of Southeast Missouri State University Press.

Austin noted that readers find the title intriguing, perhaps because it is twofold in meaning. It captures Avery's self-questioning of his own virtue and also how Austin believes black men and women face unfair judgement.

"Sometimes folks who don't understand your experience assume your conditions define your character," he says. "I want to change that perspective for the better."

*Austin won a 2016 Regional Arts Commission artist fellowship to complete his story collection and begin additional projects. He lives in St. Louis and holds a BA in English from Saint Louis University in addition to his MFA. Austin is at work on another short story cycle that will serve as the basis for a magical realist novel about destructive capitalism and industry.*



## A POETRY THAT DANCES MAKES UP BILINGUAL WRITER MARÍA BALOGH'S BOOKS

María Balogh sometimes finds herself composing poems as she sweeps the bright colorful skirt of her traditional folkloric dress to the music of her home country, Colombia.

"I've been told my poem 'Caribeña' – song to the Caribbean woman – just dances away," says Balogh, MFA 2007, who feels drawn to combine the two art forms in her books.

"Bailar Caribeño," meaning "Caribbean Dance," was Balogh's first book of poems published by Ediciones Torremozas, a Spanish press based in Madrid.

A bilingual poet, she's transferred the poems from their original English forms, many of which she features in her second book of poetry, fiction and nonfiction "Cumbia Soul," published by Cool Way Press.

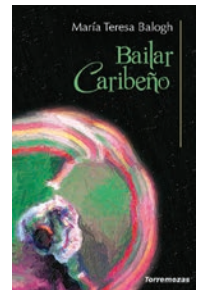
Balogh originally started creative writing in English to honor and tell the life story of her grandmother, an avid dancer herself.

"Pretty soon her character came to life," she says. "She was my grandmother, yet she wasn't. She became a character of her own."

But Balogh's poems find inspiration in other characters as well, from the newspaperman to children begging on the street.

"I'm especially drawn to social issues," she says. "I feel the need to talk about it and show it."

*Balogh studied languages at Universidad del Atlántico in Barranquilla, Colombia. She moved to the U.S. in the late '90s to earn an MA in foreign languages and literature from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Balogh is an associate teaching professor of Spanish at UMSL. She dances for Grupo Atlántico, a folkloric dance group in St. Louis and continues to write. ≡*



Left: The vivid, sweeping motions of Colombian folkloric dance inspire María Balogh's writing, particularly her first book of poetry "Bailar Caribeño."

University of Missouri–St. Louis Master of Social Work student Gregory Faupel personally knows the care and foundational support system needed by people who preliminarily test positive for HIV.

Six years prior to working as a treatment coordinator and prevention specialist at Saint Louis Effort for AIDS, Faupel awaited his own results.

Faupel awoke in April 2012 with a bilateral facial palsy. He couldn't speak, smile or close his eyes for eight months. He taped his eyelids shut to attempt sleep.

An extremely rare condition, with an incidence of one in five million, the bilateral palsy pointed to an underlying cause. That's when Faupel learned his HIV positive status.

He had a viral load of 350,000 and a white blood cell count of 192 – an AIDS diagnosis being any count below 200. His doctor prescribed antiretroviral therapy to suppress his HIV viral load to undetectable status, allowing him to live a healthy life.

Faupel grew up in Ferguson, Missouri. Throughout high school, an undergraduate degree in musical theater performance and even into his original career on stage, he struggled to reconcile childhood experiences of sexual abuse unknown to his family.

Faupel began using drugs intravenously to bury the past until he found himself broke on the streets of Nashville, Tennessee, in 2013. He messaged the single Facebook friend he had in town with three words: "I need help."

Faupel's "savior" got him home to his family, and he was immediately admitted into inpatient rehabilitation. Upon successful completion, he developed a plan while residing in a halfway house. He would build a record of reliability through volunteer work and apply to a social work degree program.

That's how Faupel first started volunteering at the front desk of EFA in 2014 in a gesture of gratitude for the agency's support. The following year, he gained acceptance into the MSW program at UMSL.

By fall 2015, Faupel began his coursework, including a grant-writing class that resulted in his team submitting a winning grant to the Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust.

## GREGORY FAUPEL REBOUNDS from drug addiction, HIV to Saint Louis Effort for AIDS career

By Marisol Ramirez



"I noticed that there was a need for an extra prevention specialist," remembers Faupel, who volunteered at EFA on walk-in testing days Monday and Wednesday. "Clients were being turned away due to testing capacity."

The grant funded a second prevention specialist, extended testing hours on Wednesdays and financed Faupel's certification in phlebotomy, allowing EFA resources to double the number of people tested in a day from 11 to 22.

"I want to help as many people as possible," Faupel says.

His dedication didn't go unnoticed. Faupel became a volunteer manager for the prevention volunteer outreach team and stepped into his paid full-time position in January before graduating with his MSW from UMSL this spring.

"My objective is to grow EFA's treatment coordination program through community collaboration," he says, "and effectively build, bridge and link community stakeholders, assets and resources to strengthen our community." ≡

## Nursing student **EMMA SPENCER** FIGHTS TO BETTER MISSOURI HEALTH CARE

By Jami Hirsch



University of Missouri–St. Louis doctor of nursing practice student Emma Spencer believes access to proper health care is a right – one she’s determined to fight for on behalf of every Missouri patient she meets.

Spencer developed her belief while working as a nurse navigator at SSM–St. Mary’s Hospital, a role she took on after earning her first UMSL degree, a BSN, in 2014. The key to the still relatively new health-care position was in the name – listen to chronically ill patients’ fears and concerns about gaps in their care and help them find ways to navigate them.

Often that goal meant spending hours trying to identify community resources. Often it consisted of calls to insurance providers with distraught patients at her side.

“I quickly began to see that many people – especially our most vulnerable populations – need much more help than what we can financially offer in our hospitals,” Spencer explains. “I would have these conversations and make these calls and still, with all of my education, experience and training, not be able to understand the answers about policies that my patients were being given. That just did not sit right with me.”

In answer, Spencer returned to UMSL to pursue a DNP with an emphasis in leadership, population health and health-care systems. The unique course of study includes a 1,000-hour residency in the communities she most wants to impact and allows her to deep-dive into the social determinants of health – like

food scarcity, transportation issues and socioeconomic status – that play a key role in keeping people from the care they need.

“What it comes down to for me is that we can’t leave people out when they come to us for help,” says Spencer, who currently works as a registered nurse at Siteman Cancer Center. “If a doctor is prescribing it, a patient should be able to access it.”

Spencer’s advocacy has taken her beyond academics and into the political sphere as well.

Last July, she joined the board of Missouri Health Care for All, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide organization that advocates for health-care reform through grassroots initiatives. As part of the Health Care Listening Project, Spencer continues to focus on Missourians and their needs.

“We want to reach out to voters and have genuine conversations about their health-care experiences,” she says. “The purpose is to make sure that we understand every Missouri voice, what barriers they face, and what works for them.”

She and fellow board members take those voices to the state legislature and magnify them during lobby days in Jefferson City. The political environment may be new for a nurse, but according to Spencer, it’s exactly where she and other nurses need to be.

“Most people – including me at one time – wouldn’t put nurses and politicians together,” she says. “But I think that’s something that needs to change. UMSL instilled in me that as nurses, we should be leaders in the community. I want to be that powerful voice.” ■

# YOUTUBE STAR RICHARD WILLIAMS

takes on the education  
system and more

By Steve Walentik

The video opens with a close-up of a goldfish swimming in a bowl, and when the camera pans out, the audience sees it resting in the hands of Richard Williams.

The 2011 anthropology graduate of the University of Missouri–St. Louis is performing under his stage name, Prince Ea, and wearing a dark gray suit while standing in a courtroom with a judge peering over his shoulder.

Williams addresses the jury about the inherent nonsense of judging a fish by its ability to climb a tree. Then he quickly brings the analogy to education as he pretends to put the American school system on trial.

“Tell me, school, are you proud of the things you’ve done? Turning people into robots, do you find that ... fun?” Williams says in the poetic language that has defined his work as a spoken-word artist. “Do you realize how many kids relate to that fish, swimming upstream in class, never finding their gifts, thinking that they’re stupid, believing that they’re useless. Well, the time has come, no more excuses. I call school to the stand.”

Williams spends the remainder of the 6-minute video making an argument for how the school system is failing its students, calling attention to the lack of innovation he sees in the classroom, its laser-like focus on meeting standardized test scores and the unfair burden he believes it puts on teachers.

His message resonated with the masses. The video has been viewed more than 10.3 million times on YouTube and shared countless more on Facebook since it was released in September 2016.

Williams – who’s generated more than 100 million views on his YouTube channel – has taken on a number of other topics, including marijuana legalization and climate change. But education is a subject he’s returned to frequently, earning him a spot on the Forbes 30 under 30 Education list for 2018.



His views on education grew out of his own experience as a student who struggled in schools largely because he didn’t feel engaged.

“When I was younger, I didn’t care about school,” Williams says. “I was like, ‘I’m just doing this to make my parents happy.’”

A change happened in high school, and he credits hip-hop music for inspiring it.

He found himself listening to the words of rap artists and wanting to know more about the issues described in their songs, and he began engaging more with his teachers in a quest for knowledge.

After graduating from Metro Academy in St. Louis, Williams enrolled at UMSL while working to launch a hip-hop career of his own. He was featured in VIBE magazine after winning the VIBE Verses contest in 2009.

But about four years ago, Williams left what he describes as the often ego-driven culture of hip-hop because it wasn’t fulfilling. After some searching, he realized he could use video to talk more deeply about issues around him and inspire others. ≡

# 60s

**Gary Jacob**, BS 1969, was named executive chairman of Synergy Pharmaceuticals Board of Directors.



**Gloria Moore**, BSEd 1977, joined Conner Ash in St. Louis as a manager in the Tax and Business Services Department.

**James Shrewsbury**, BA 1978, was appointed to the Advisory Law Committee of the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center. James is an attorney in St. Louis.



**Gerard Mantese**, BA 1979, received the Hudson Award by the State Bar of Michigan for outstanding

contributions and commitment to the legal profession. Gerard is a business law attorney at Mantese Honigman, with offices in Michigan, Missouri and New York.

**Warner Baxter**, BSBA 1983, was appointed chair of Variety the Children's Charity Board of Directors. Warner is chairman, president and CEO of Ameren in St. Louis.

**David Holtgrave**, BA 1983, joined the State University of New York at Albany as dean of the School of Public Health.



**Frank Cusumano Jr.**, BA 1984, was recognized as a 2018 Media Person of the Year by the St. Louis Press

Club. Frank is the sports director at KSDK (Channel 5) in St. Louis.

**Michael Hannegan**, BSBA 1984, was appointed to the State Lottery Commission by Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens. Michael is an investment representative at J.W. Cole Financial.

**Jeanette Hencken**, BA 1985, received the Aspirations in Computing Educator Award for 2017 from the National Center for Women & Information Technology. Jeanette is a chemistry and forensic science teacher at Webster Groves High School in St. Louis.



**Jean Thies**, MA 1985, MA 1997, PhD 1998, was appointed to the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board by Missouri Gov.

Eric Greitens. Jean is a professor of political science at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo.

# 70s

**Denny Reagan**, BSBA 1974, received the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts award from the St. Louis Arts and Education Council. Denny is president and CEO of the Muny Theatre in St. Louis.

**Christopher Shamel**, BSBA 1975, joined Anders CPAs + Advisors in St. Louis as principal in the Tax Services Group.

**Deborah Patterson**, MA 1976, joined St. Louis Regional STEM Learning Ecosystem, a local initiative with the goal to make science, technology, engineering and math education available to K-12 students throughout the region.

**Michael Ransom**, BSAJ 1976, was appointed to the St. Patrick Center Board of Directors in St. Louis.

**Gloria Carter-Hicks**, BSAJ 1977, received the St. Louis American Foundation's 2017 Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the Salute to Excellence in Business reception. Gloria is president and CEO of Hicks-Carter-Hicks.

# 80s

**John Scariot**, BSBA 1980, MBA 1982, was appointed to the Missouri Housing Development Commission by Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens. John is the chief financial officer for BluePenguin Payments.

**Mary Johnson**, BA 1981, joined Roberts Perryman in St. Louis as an attorney.

**Dennis Parazak**, BS 1981, MS 1987, PhD 1996, joined Diversified NANO Solutions Corporation in San Diego as a principal scientist.

**Susan Fluegel**, MEd 1982, EdD 1990, was appointed to the Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board by Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens. Susan is a retired educator from the Lindbergh School District, where she taught first, second and fifth grades.

**James Carmody**, BA 1985, was named Lawyer of the Year for family law by Best Lawyers. James is principal at Carmody MacDonald in St. Louis.



J. Carmody

**Renee Hardin-Tammons**, BSAJ 1986, was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court Task Force on Criminal Justice. Renee is an associate circuit court judge for the 21st Judicial Circuit, which covers St. Louis County.



R. Hardin-Tammons

**Joseph Howe**, BS 1989, MA 1991, received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. Joseph is a mathematics professor at St. Charles Community College in Missouri.



G. Carter-Hicks





## Match made for Mardi Gras

Two of St. Louis' most cherished cultural institutions came together in February with a pair of University of Missouri—St. Louis alumni in the middle of the marriage.

Mardi Gras Inc., now in its 39th year and under the leadership of Director Tim Lorson (at right) — a 1992 communication graduate — held its annual St. Louis parade through the streets of Soulard. Its theme was “Celebrating #Muny100,” meant to honor the country’s oldest and largest outdoor musical theater about to kick off its 100th season in Forest Park.

Denny Reagan (at left), the president and CEO of The Muny and a 1974 College of Business Administration alumnus, was thrilled when first approached about the plan last fall.

“Frankly, we thought it was a great opportunity for us to reach a different demographic, so we thought it was a great idea,” said Reagan, whose tenure as CEO began in 1991. “Anytime we can

get two St. Louis traditions pulled together, it makes sense.”

Parade floats were inspired by some of the numerous productions to grace The Muny stage over the years, from *Anything Goes* and *Carousel* to *Wicked* and *The Wizard of Oz* and, of course, *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

“I thought it went great,” said Reagan, who attended The Mayor’s Ball the night before the parade.

The following morning, thousands lined the route from downtown to Soulard.



**Melva Pete**, BSPA 1989, received the Corporate Executive of the Year Award at the

St. Louis American Foundation's Salute to Excellence in Business reception. Melva is vice president of human resources at SAK Construction in O'Fallon, Mo.

**Edward Protzel**, MA 1989, wrote "Honor Among Outcasts," the second book in his DarkHorse trilogy, published by TouchPoint Press.

**David Knes Jr.**, MEd 1991, was appointed to the Midwestern Higher Education Commission by Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens. David is the superintendent of Valley Park School District in Missouri.

**Brenda Messervy**, BSBA 1991, joined Open Circle in Wellesley, Mass., as finance and operations manager.



**Jeffrey Arnett**, MEd 1992, was named superintendent of the Kirkwood School District in St. Louis.



**Tim McDonald**, BSBA 1992, joined TRUaire in Santa Fe Springs, Calif., as the

managing director of business.

**Timothy Schamel**, MBA 1992, was promoted to president of Nidec Motor Corporation's newly created heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration business for Commercial Industrial Solutions Americas.



**Wayne DeVeydt**, BSBA 1993, was appointed CEO of Surgery Partners and

joined its board of directors.

**Paul Fregeau**, MEd 1994, became superintendent of the Decatur School District in Illinois.

**Brenda Hebenstreit**, BSBA 1994, joined RubinBrown's St. Louis office as a manager.

**Steven Rooney**, BA 1994, MS 1996, co-wrote "How Aspirin Entered Our Medicine Cabinet," published by Springer International

Publishing. Steven is an adjunct professor of chemistry at Tarrant County College in Fort Worth, Texas.



**Leann Hefner**, BSEd 1995, joined Ferguson Roofing in St. Louis as sales manager.

**Michael Wessler**, BA 1995, joined St. Louis-based Curium as director of marketing.

**David Roither**, BA 1996, was appointed by Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens as Associate Circuit Court Judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit, which covers the city of St. Louis.

**Kathleen Eckelkamp**, BSEd 1997, received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. Kathleen is a gifted education specialist in the Hazelwood School District in St. Louis.

**Clint Zweifel**, BA 1997, MBA 2001, was appointed president of St. Louis-based Northern Trust Wealth Management – Missouri.



**Jennifer Ehlen**, BSBA 1999, was appointed CEO of Brazen Global in St. Louis.

**Art McCoy II**, MEd 1999, PhD 2002, received the 2017 Advocacy Award from St. Louis Children's Hospital. Art is superintendent of the Jennings School District in St. Louis.

## 00s



**Kimberly Brown**, MPPA 2000, was named executive director of The Haven of Grace, a home to

homeless pregnant women in St. Louis.

**Joshua Berin**, BA 2001, joined Concentric AB as vice president of sales for hydraulics in North America.



**Jennifer Bussen**, MSN 2001, was appointed president of Chamberlain College of

Nursing in St. Louis.



**Norman Mann**, BS 2001, was named one of North County Incorporated's 30 Leaders

in their Thirties. Norman is a captain with the St. Louis County Police Department.

**Matthew Dunn**, BA 2002, joined Eurofins Bioanalytical Services in St. Charles, Mo., as a quality assurance specialist supervisor.

## 90s

**Michael Kopp**, BA 1990, joined Chicago-based Leiters as executive vice president of commercial operations and business development.



**Anjanette Clark**, MEd 1991, received the Iota Phi Lambda Inc. Sorority

Apple of the Year award. Anjanette is an instructional coach at Hazelwood West High School in St. Louis.

E. Protzel

A. McCoy





Alumni living in and around Washington, D.C., gathered on Oct. 24 at the capital's most St. Louis spot, Pi Pizzeria, in the Penn Quarter neighborhood. They dined on featured pizzas such as "The Berkeley," "The Maplewood" and "The Kirkwood" and had a chance to reminisce about their college years. On the table were placards, offering the alumni the chance to pitch in their words for the university's "Choose Your Word" campaign, which promotes the characteristics most common in people who choose UMSL.



## A slice of UMSL in DC

**Viktoriya Gruden**, BS 2002, MS 2004, joined Lickenbrock Technologies in St. Louis as a business operations coordinator.

**Kimberly Gutchewsky**, MA 2002, was named a 2017 Missouri Regional Teacher of the Year for the St. Louis region. Kimberly also received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. She is an English-Language Arts teacher at Ladue Horton Watkins High School.



**Jonathan Frost**, BSEd 2003, was appointed executive director of Sigma Pi Fraternity

International headquartered in Lebanon, Tenn.

**Crystal Gale**, BA 2003, BSEd 2003, received a 2017 Excellence in Education Award from The St. Louis American Foundation. Crystal is director of performance management for St. Louis Public Schools.

**Darija Hadziselimovic**, BA 2003, was promoted to principal compliance chemist at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals in St. Louis.

**Steve Hutson**, BSEd 2003, received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. Steve is a physical education teacher for the Clayton School District in Missouri.



**Erik Smetana**, BA 2003, was named executive director of compensation and talent in the Human Resources Department at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

**Stephanie Bell Martin**, BA 2004, was appointed to public health administrator for the Randolph County (Mo.) Health Department.



**Andre Stevens**, BSBA 2004, was named a 2018 St. Louis Business Journal 40 Under 40

honoree. Andre is a manager for Daugherty Business Solutions in St. Louis.



**Bruce Green**, MEd 2005, was named one of North County Incorporated's 30 Leaders in their Thirties.

Bruce is the assistant superintendent for high school education for the Hazelwood School District in St. Louis.

**Lori Gwyn**, MS 2003, PhD 2005, was promoted to associate professor of biochemistry at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla.

**Todd Larkin**, MBA 2005, joined Intalere in St. Louis as vice president of contracting.

**Jana Loftis**, BA 2005, BSEd 2005, received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. Jana is a social studies teacher at the Jennings Educational Training School in St. Louis.

K. Gutchewsky





## Call Center Connection

The next time the phone rings in the evening, you might be lucky enough to find Wendall Post on the other end of the call.

The information systems major from Black Jack in north St. Louis County is one of the 22 paid students manning the phones at the newly reopened UMSL Call Center.

Fundraising is a goal of the center, which operates through UMSL Advancement. But it is also intended to put alumni in touch with real students at their alma mater who share about great things happening at the university and how alumni support can make it possible for even more.

Flexibility was what first attracted Post to his job. He had been working at a local pizza place in the city and was sometimes getting off at 1 a.m. and having to find his way to class later the same morning.

He's now able to set his own schedule and spends 12-15 hours each week in the center, which is stocked with candy, stress balls, emoji key chains and other things that make it an enjoyable place to work.

"It's a relaxed environment to work in that's really making a difference at UMSL," Post said.

More importantly, he's enjoyed the opportunities to connect with some of the people who came before him at UMSL.

"My most memorable phone call was one I made to an alumnus who shared a lot of my same interests," Post said. "He owned his own business, and he was so impressed with our conversation that he even said he wanted me to come work for him when I graduate if I stick with my major."

Other students have connected with alumni over their areas of study, like a psychology major speaking to the owner of a health insurance company about addiction and people who suffer from it.

Those conversations can encourage students to continue down a particular career path and also give alumni a sense of the young, bright and talented minds worth investing in at UMSL.

James Bragado, a 2016 UMSL graduate, manages the Call Center. It operates from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and on Sundays from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**Steven Taff**, PhD 2005, received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. Steven is an associate director and instructor in the Program in Occupational Therapy at Washington University in St. Louis.

**DeAndre Thomas**, MEd 2006, is principal of Mallinckrodt Academy of Gifted Instruction in the St. Louis Public School District. Under DeAndre's direction, Mallinckrodt Academy was recognized as a Blue Ribbon School, a national program that honors schools for high academic performance and progress in closing achievement gaps among students.

**DeAnne Veal**, BSAcc 2006, MBA 2008, joined Anders CPAs + Advisors in St. Louis as a tax senior in the Tax Services Group.



**Erin Brooks**, BS 2007, OD 2011, MS 2013, was named one of North County Incorporated's 30 Leaders in their Thirties.

Erin is an assistant clinical professor of optometry at UMSL.

**Krista Mallette**, BA 2007, was named executive director of JCI USA in Chesterfield, Mo.

**Timothy Smith**, BSW 2007, was appointed by Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens to the Missouri Veterans' Commission. Timothy is the owner and founder of Patriot Commercial Cleaning in St. Louis.

**Nancy Burns**, BSAcc 2008, joined Hastings+Chivetta Architects as an accountant.

**Meghan Halbrook**, BA 2008, joined Randolph College in Lynchburg, Va., as a professor of sport and exercise studies.

**Christiane Hubbard-Valentine**, MEd 2008, PhD 2011, was named one of North County Incorporated's 30 Leaders in their Thirties. Christiane is the director of institutional research at St. Charles Community College in Missouri.



## Bliss

**Lindsay Ruhr**, BA 2009, MPPA 2012, to **Derrick Redhead**, MPPA 2013, on Sept. 16

**Ryan Kopyy**, BSBA 2011, to Victoria Lang on Nov. 3

**Bryan Kayser**, BS 2012, to Christine Hollander on Nov. 25

**Kori Williams**, BA 2012, BSW 2012, MSW 2015, to Brandon Wright on May 19

**Samantha Coates**, BA 2013, BSEd 2014, to John Brusati on Nov. 18

**Jordan Geller**, BSN 2014, to Kyle Leifield on Sept. 16

**Mariah Mense**, BA 2014, BSEd 2014, to Robert Kiser on Nov. 25

**Bledar Lalollari**, BSN 2016, to **Hollie Thole**, BSN 2016, on Dec. 30



**Miranda Ming**, BSEd 2008, MEd 2010, EDSP 2011, PhD 2015, was named one of North County Incorporated's

30 Leaders in their Thirties. Miranda is assistant principal at Jennings Senior High School in St. Louis.



**Jane Rubin**, MEd 2008, received the Founder's Award at the Missouri Eating Disorders Association's

annual benefit gala. Jane is a licensed professional counselor in private practice in St. Louis and specializes in eating disorders.

president and assistant director of anti-money laundering for U.S. Bank's Compliance Division. She is also the founder and CEO of Your Purposeful Legacy in St. Louis.



**Everett Neville**, MBA 2010, was appointed executive vice president of strategy, supply chain and

specialty at Express Scripts in St. Louis.

**Byron Rogers**, MEd 2010, was promoted to program manager at St. Louis ArtWorks.

**Kathryn Trouton-Alexander**, BSBA 2010, was selected to participate in the 2018 class of FOCUS St. Louis' Emerging Leaders. Kathryn is team leader of transition and integration at Edward Jones.

**Jacqueline Womack**, BSBA 2010, was named one of North County Incorporated's 30 Leaders in their Thirties. Jacqueline is a branch manager with U.S. Bank in St. Louis.

**Carolyn Amacher**, MS 2011, is president of the Hadassah St. Louis chapter, which is part of The Women's Zionist Organization of America.

**Lucy Feicht**, BSBA 2011, was recognized as one of Realtor Magazine's 30 under 30 brokers in 2017. Lucy is the owner of Lou Realty Group in St. Louis.



L. Feicht

**Katherine Glass**, MEd 2011, was named a 2017 Missouri Regional Teacher of the Year for the St. Louis region. Katherine also received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. She is a theatre and public speaking teacher at Bayless Junior High School.



**Katherine Lampe**, BA 2011, was promoted to chemistry manager at DYNALABS in St. Louis.

**Brian Owens**, BM 2008, released "Soul of Cash" on Ada Cole Records. Brian is a St. Louis Symphony artist in residence, a UMSL community artist in residence, and founder and CEO of LIFE Arts Inc.



B. Owens

## 10s

**Christina Dancy**, BSPPA 2010, received a 2018 Salute to Young Leaders award from The St. Louis American Foundation. Christina is assistant vice

## In Memoriam

### Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Mario DiPrimo**, BSBA 1973, on the passing of his wife.

Sympathy is extended to **Patty Montaigne**, BA 1973, on the passing of her husband.

Sympathy is extended to **Patricia Barton**, BA 1977, MA 1980, on the passing of her son.

Sympathy is extended to **Fred Absher**, MEd 1978, on the passing of his father.

Sympathy is extended to **Patricia McNamee**, MEd 1983, on the passing of her father-in-law.

Sympathy is extended to **Robert McNamee Jr.**, MEd 1995, on the passing of his father.

Sympathy is extended to **Lynn Urban**, MA 2001, PhD 2005, on the passing of her husband.

Sympathy is extended to **Robert Meyerkord Jr.**, BSMIS 2002, on the passing of his father.

1960s | **Barney Hapner**, BSEd 1967, on Nov. 13, 2017  
**Leonard Million**, BSBA 1967, on Sept. 23, 2017  
**Steven Chaskelson**, BA 1968, on Dec. 26, 2017  
**Dorothy Foster**, BA 1968, MEd 1973, on Aug. 1, 2017

1970s | **George Fischer**, MEd 1970, on Nov. 17, 2017  
**Charles Fitzgerald**, MEd 1970, on Oct. 12, 2017  
**Rebecca Kruse**, BSEd 1970, on Sept. 20, 2017  
**Floyd Dunlap**, BSAJ 1971, on Dec. 4, 2017  
**Donald Fetzer**, BSBA 1971, on Nov. 28, 2017  
**Karen Parker**, BSEd 1971, on Dec. 12, 2017  
**David Shanahan**, BA 1972, on Dec. 12, 2017  
**Louise Berglund**, MEd 1973, on Oct. 21, 2017  
**Catherine Cowan**, BA 1973, on Nov. 6, 2017  
**Doris Eschbach**, BA 1973, on Nov. 1, 2017  
**Patricia Galati**, BA 1973, on Sept. 27, 2017  
**Donald Lange**, MEd 1973, on Jan. 22  
**Lana Vlahiotis**, MEd 1973, on Sept. 17, 2017  
**Marcia Witte**, BSEd 1973, on Nov. 12, 2017  
**Nathaniel Burger Jr.**, MEd 1974, on Dec. 8, 2017  
**Linda MacRunnel**, BSEd 1974, on Jan. 9  
**Thomas Van Deven**, BSBA 1974, on Oct. 4, 2017  
**Katherine Yost**, MEd 1974, on Sept. 25, 2017  
**Janice M. Bitzer**, BSEd 1975, MEd 1990, on Dec. 5, 2017  
**Donna Jepsen**, MEd 1975, on Dec. 7, 2017  
**Richard Delklaus**, BSBA 1975, on Aug. 23, 2017  
**Michael Schultz**, BSBA 1975, on Nov. 26, 2017  
**Aline Carver**, MEd 1976, on Nov. 18, 2017  
**Ronald Eaton**, BA 1976, on Nov. 4, 2017  
**John Klosterman**, BA 1976, on Dec. 17, 2017  
**James Swinford**, MA 1976, on Oct. 20, 2017  
**Barbara Barnett**, MEd 1977, on Nov. 30, 2017  
**Donald Hollingsworth**, MBA 1977, on Sept. 20, 2017  
**Nancy McMahon**, BA 1977, on Dec. 18, 2017  
**Lillian Winning**, MEd 1977, on Dec. 22, 2017  
**Betty Cotner**, BSBA 1978, on Sept. 9, 2017  
**Isabella Lenhardt**, MEd 1978, on Sept. 12, 2017

1980s | **Ruth Bartholomew**, MEd 1980, on Jan. 23  
**Kathleen Parmeter**, BSEd 1980, MEd 2000, on Jan. 22  
**Gail Volz**, MEd 1981, on Dec. 22, 2017  
**Susan Findley**, BSEd 1983, on Sept. 13, 2017  
**Mary Gooch**, MA 1983, PhD 1989, on Feb. 13  
**Mark Baechle**, BSBA 1984, on July 27, 2017  
**John Aleksick**, BSBA 1985, on Feb. 6  
**Raymond Griffie III**, BSAJ 1986, on Nov. 16, 2017  
**Marla McVey**, BGS 1989, on Jan. 18  
**John Perry**, MEd 1989, on Feb. 5  
**Christine Post**, BSBA 1989, on Dec. 29, 2017

1990s | **James McMullan**, BA 1990, on Nov. 21, 2017  
**John Hefti**, BGS 1991, on Sept. 21, 2017  
**Richard Slowey**, MBA 1991, MAcc 1993, on Nov. 1, 2017  
**Beverly Wirt-Flavin**, MA 1991, on Dec. 21, 2017  
**Richard Metz Jr.**, BA 1992, MA 1997, on Nov. 2, 2017  
**Thomas Bunda**, BSBA 1993, on Sept. 15, 2017  
**Lori Tullmann**, BSEd 1993, on Dec. 3, 2017  
**Philip Burdett**, BSEd 1995, on Dec. 30, 2017  
**Elizabeth Shen**, BGS 1995, on Oct. 7, 2017  
**Dan Kuhnert**, BSBA 1996, on Sept. 14, 2017  
**Suzanne Hagan**, OD 1999, on Oct. 18, 2017

2000s | **Mark Politowski**, MS 2000, on Nov. 21, 2017  
**Steven Tomey**, MEd 2005, on Dec. 9, 2017  
**Ronni Ducommun**, BSN 2007, on July 4, 2017

2010s | **Kathleen Myrdahl**, BLS 2011, on Nov. 14, 2017  
**Jonathan Soboleski**, BA 2015, on Nov. 28, 2017  
**Timothy Caton**, BSIS 2017, on Nov. 23, 2017





## Celebrating Entrepreneurship

Anselm Viswasam (at left), the co-founder, president and CEO of Hyperion, chatted with Eric'el Johnson, BSEE 2016, from the Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors at the Celebrating Entrepreneurship and Innovative Thinking event on Oct. 18 at the Cortex Innovation Community. The board invited Missouri legislators to come meet with current students, faculty, administrators and alumni to learn about UMSL in general and tour the UMSL Accelerate program's space in Cortex. The night featured companies – including Hyperion – that were part of the first Ameren Accelerator cohort.



**Kevin Martin**, MEd 2011, EDSP 2012, EdD 2016, received a 2017 Excellence in Education Award from The St. Louis American

Foundation. Kevin was also named one of North County Incorporated's 30 Leaders in their Thirties. He is the assistant principal of curriculum and instruction at Hazelwood Northwest Middle School in St. Louis.

**Jagodige Yasomanee**, MS 2011, PhD 2014, joined MilliporeSigma in St. Louis as a senior scientist.



**Mallory Box**, BA 2012, joined Citizens for Modern Transit in St. Louis as director of membership and programs.

**Michael Dalton Jr.**, BS 2012, joined O'Leary, Shelton, Corrigan, Peterson, Dalton & Quillin in Richmond Heights, Mo., as a founding partner and trial attorney.

**Antione Lawrence**, MBA 2012, received a 2018 Salute to Young Leaders award from The St. Louis American Foundation. Antione is the owner of Hybrid Real Estate in St. Louis, where he also works as a broker.

**Erin Graves**, BSEd 2013, MEd 2016, received a 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award from Emerson Electric. Erin is a science teacher in the Rockwood School District in St. Louis.

**Nicholas Kriegel**, MBA 2013, was promoted to senior vice president and general counsel at Safety National Casualty Corporation in St. Louis.

**Channon Peoples**, MPPA 2013, received a 2018 Salute to Young Leaders award from The St. Louis American Foundation. Channon is assistant director of the UMSL Bridge Program.

**Pamela Westbrook-Hodge**, MBA 2013, was



elected vice president of the Joint Executive Governing Board for the Normandy Schools

Collaborative in St. Louis. Pamela is a senior director of governance and systems for corporate procurement at Express Scripts.

**Michelle Cooley**, MEd 2014, MEd 2017, was named one of North County Incorporated's 30 Leaders in their Thirties. Michelle is an instructional coach at Westview Middle School in St. Louis.

**Alandrea Stewart**, MEd 2014, received a 2018 Salute to Young Leaders award from The St. Louis American Foundation. Alandrea is director of Student Support Services at Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis.

**Ericka Thomas**, BSPPA 2014, MPPA 2016, was selected to participate in the 2018 class of FOCUS St. Louis' Emerging Leaders. Ericka is a development coordinator with Optometry Cares in St. Louis.



**Rebecca Lich**, MBA 2015, joined Lockton Companies in Denver as senior vice president and pharmacy practice leader.



**Shawn Williams**, MEd 2015, was appointed principal of EAGLE College Prep in St. Louis.

**Emily Balestra**, MEd 2016, became a partner and co-founder of Clayton Family Therapy in St. Louis. The new practice specializes in anxiety and depression, self-esteem, ADHD, life transitions and grief counseling.

**Makita Hill**, MPPA 2016, joined FOCUS St. Louis as program and events coordinator.



M. Hill



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**First-year student Bryce Perry wants to be a teacher, and Joycene Davis, MEd 1974, wants to help him toward that career.** That's why the University of Missouri–St. Louis alumna and local educator established the James T. Broadnax Memorial Scholarship through an endowed gift aimed at helping finance education students with plans on teaching. She named the scholarship in memory of her father, who had been a licensed teacher in Mississippi but did not meet Missouri certification requirements when he moved to St. Louis in 1943. With a growing family, he had to set aside his education to provide for his children. With the Broadnax scholarship, Joycene has made it possible for Perry and future recipients to pursue the education her father couldn't.

*You can do the same.*

Contact Sharon Fenoglio at **314-516-6788** or [fenoglios@umsl.edu](mailto:fenoglios@umsl.edu) for more information on making an endowed gift.