

December 2025

## VIDEO MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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On December 20, 2025, the Ed G. Smith College of Business will congratulate 305 students on their graduation! We are proud of their achievements. I hope you will enjoy reading our stories in this newsletter. The College continues to provide excellent education and professional preparation for our students, traditional and nontraditional, domestic and international. This month's video features our international students and their success. Their words are powerful and inspiring, reminding us of the great importance of strong partnerships with our business partners and community.

[Shu Schiller, Ph.D.](#)

Dean, Professor of Information Systems  
Ed G. Smith College of Business  
University of Missouri–St. Louis



**Alex Paubel Extends Paubel**



## Family Legacy

Accounting major Alex Paubel became the ninth member of her family to earn a UMSL degree and served as opening speaker at the College of Business dedication ceremony.

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## Eric Zhang balances piano passion, Supply Chain

Senior Eric Zhang, a dual major in music performance and supply chain management, won the Young Artist Competition and captivated audiences performing at the 2025 UMSL Founders Celebration.

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## Paula Penagos Wins Best Video Award

Supply Chain PhD student Paula Penagos won the Best Video award at the 2025 INFORMS conference for her impactful research presentation on flash flood emergency messaging.

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## Dr. Marcia Countryman Honored as Outstanding



## Educator

UMSL accounting professor Marcia Countryman was named the 2025 Outstanding Educator of the Year by the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants for her commitment to student success and professional engagement.

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## Dr. Tessa Garcia-Collart Leads Seminar in Finland

Assistant Professor Tessa Garcia-Collart led an immersive two-day digital marketing seminar at Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences in Finland and extended her research on consumer happiness while abroad.

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## **VantageLinks: Jake and Leah Amir combine their passions for tech and health care**

UMSL alums Jake and Leah Amir were featured for combining their expertise in technology and health care through their company VantageLinks, showing how their UMSL education shaped their careers and business success.

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## **DBA Research by MasterCard VP Published**

Regina McWilliams honored late dissertation chair Bettina Casad when her DBA research on cultural microaggressions was published in the International Journal of Cross Cultural Management.

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## Alum turns inspiration into corporate consulting

Quahana Hendree founded Q. Hendree Art Consulting, helping organizations transform workspaces with art that reflects culture, community, and identity, blending business and artistic expertise.

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## Entrepreneur of the Year Awards shine in newly renovated UMSL Innovation Center

UMSL honored Angela Garland, Jae Brandon Blue, Charli Cooksey, and Ben Molina at the 2025 Entrepreneur of the Year Awards for their achievements and contributions to the entrepreneurial community.

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## UMSL EIC Wins Small Business Administration Growth Grant

UMSL's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center received a \$75,000 Small Business Administration Growth Accelerator grant to expand the Anchor Accelerator program and boost student involvement.

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## UMSL Team Shines at Case Competition

UMSL students took third place at the 12th annual International Business Case Competition, where teams from across the country crafted real marketing strategies for Dot Foods.

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## Supply Chain Symposium breaks ground in sixth year

The 2025 Supply Chain and Analytics Symposium paired UMSL faculty with industry experts across four sessions, bridging theory and practice while highlighting innovation, sustainability, and real-world solutions.

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## UMSL host the fifth annual 5K for Alumni & current students.

About 300 alumni, students and community members participated in UMSL's fifth annual 5K Run and Walk around North Campus, reconnecting and celebrating Triton pride.

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## Recognizing: Alumni at Boeing



### Beth DeCamp, BDS Fighters Director of Finance & CFO

**Graduation program and year:** BS Accounting 2004

**How has your education at UMSL Business transformed your life?** "During my junior year, I realized that pursuing a career in the public accounting industry no longer seemed appealing to me personally. Other business classes and career paths were more interesting to me, but I wasn't sure how to best navigate what to do. UMSL professors and staff members encouraged me to apply for various internships to get a sense of what I may like. I got an internship at Boeing and over 20 years later, I am still here having had a diverse and rewarding career path to date."

**How are you involved with business students at EGSCoB today?** "I am currently the Boeing Executive Sponsor to EGSCoB and sit on the Dean's Executive Advisory Council. Through this role I have the ability to engage with the university in so many exciting ways! Boeing has a long-standing mentorship program with the college; I have participated as a panel speaker/participant in several events and classroom engagements. I have so much pride for this university and love my time engaging directly with students."



### Christopher Hogland, Senior Manager – Government Accounting – Cost Policy

**Graduation program and year:** BS Accounting 1990 & MBA



1994

**How has your education at UMSL Business transformed your life?** "UMSL has given me a strong foundation to learn about myself, while allowing me to critically think and solve problems. This foundation has been essential for my successes personally along with having an accomplished career at Boeing."

**How are you involved with business students at EGSCoB today?** "I am supporting these activities 1) Mentor for Boeing UMSL Mentorship Program 2) Boeing representative for the UMSL Accounting Advisory Board 3) Support Boeing with UMSL campus recruitment activities 4) Participated in various Accounting Club Activities related to Professionalism and Life for employees at Fortune 500 Companies."



**Undergraduate Business Programs**

**Graduate Business Programs**

**Executive Education**



**UMSL Event Calendar**



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