



## AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



### **UMSL College of Business begins a new era**

The college is now named the Ed G. Smith College of Business, honoring the alumnus and marketing leader. This milestone boosts scholarships, experiential learning and workforce development, advancing student success and economic mobility.



### **DBA graduate becomes the first with a geospatial focus**

As the co-founder of Pinnacle Business Strategies, Bennett began his journey in the geospatial field by enlisting in the United States Air Force after high school. Known for his decisive nature, once Bennett commits to a path he dives in wholeheartedly.



### **Ryan Bowman hits ground running with Terrace Wealth**

Bowman, a U.S. Army veteran and finance graduate, recently launched his own firm, Terrace Wealth. After two tours in Iraq and earning a BSBA in 2013, Bowman built a successful



### **Alum Sandra Van Trease Named Director to Watch**

Sandra Van Trease, retired BJC executive, was named a 2025 “Director to Watch” by Directors & Boards magazine for her exemplary board leadership across several

career in financial planning. His new venture combines his professional expertise with a mission to support fellow veterans.

organizations. A long-time donor and advocate, Van Trease continues to support UMSL through service and mentorship.

## Make a Difference. Be a Mentor.

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RISE Academy is kicking off its second year, and we're looking for alumni mentors who want to give back in a meaningful way. As a mentor, you'll support a small group of motivated UMSL students as they build confidence, sharpen professional skills, and prepare to pitch big ideas. It's a low-time commitment with high impact, and a chance to form real connections with the next generation of UMSL leaders. Interested? **Let us know by applying [here](#).**

## NOW ENROLLING FOR OUR SHRM & PMP PREP COURSES

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Looking to take the next step in your career? UMSL's executive SHRM and PMP certification prep programs are designed to help professionals like you succeed. Whether you're pursuing a career in human resources or project management, our expert-led courses provide the knowledge, tools and support you need to excel confidently on your certification exams. Learn more about Executive Education at UMSL [here](#).

SHRM Info

PMP Info

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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A new name. A bold future. We are beyond excited to share that the College has been [named the Ed G. Smith College of Business](#) after accomplished alum and marketing industry leader Ed G. Smith. This naming is unprecedented and will propel the college – already a leader in social mobility and workforce development for Greater St. Louis – toward even greater levels of success. In the next few months, we will share more information about how this support will deepen the college's impact and accelerate outcomes for students. Enjoy the [new video](#) and learn more about the Ed G. Smith College of Business!

### **Shu Schiller, PhD**

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

## **MORE UMSL BUSINESS**

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- Sgt. Clayton Fair makes an impact at UMSL while earning a graduate certificate in accounting - [Read More](#)
- For the second consecutive year, three UMSL accounting students were awarded the prestigious \$15,000 PCAOB scholarship - [Read More](#)
- Master's grad Shiori Kaji has an audit accounting role lined up with Anders CPA - [Read More](#)
- International Business grad Max Hood learned to 'lean in' to UMSL opportunities - [Read More](#)
- Accounting grad Abby Foust is law school-bound - [Read More](#)
- Addison Eaker starting new job at Wells Fargo while pursuing an Accelerated Master's degree in fintech - [Read More](#)

- Inspired by UMSL study abroad trip, information systems graduate Sean Davis is preparing for move to Rotterdam - [Read More](#)
- May graduate Carli Knopf takes international experience to Disney College Program - [Read More](#)

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