

UMSL

MAGAZINE

FALL 2014

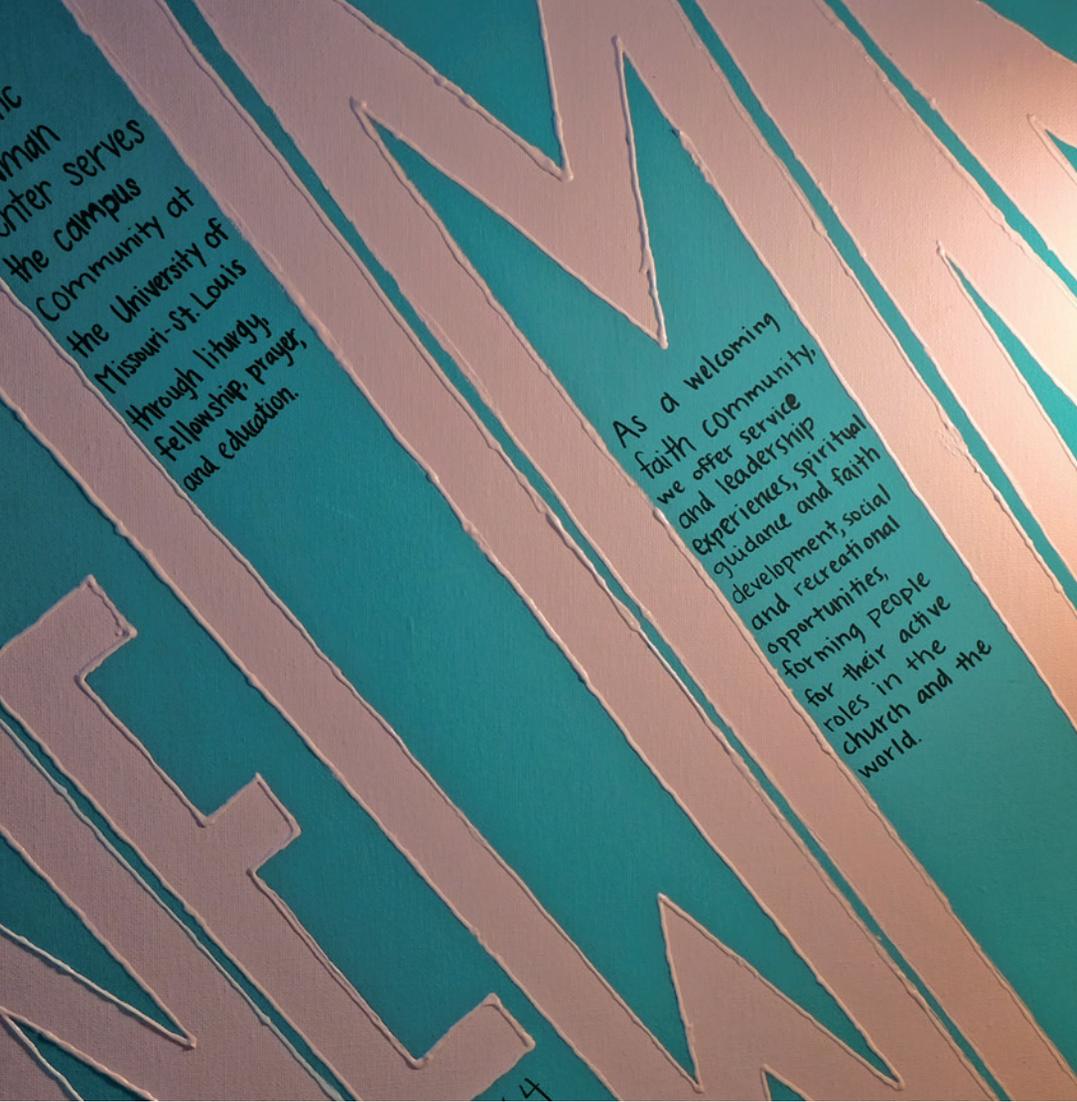
You're Hired!

The Office of Career Services
helps students become
professionals

Roger Barker

New Employee
St. Louis, Mo

Edward Jones



9

The University of Missouri–St. Louis publishes **UMSL** Magazine for alumni and friends. The magazine highlights excellence at the university. Circulation is 88,000, and the magazine is released twice a year.

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A new scholarship makes it possible for students to complete their degrees without worrying about finances, such as one recent nursing grad.

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A group of the finest minds in business, academics and the community advises UMSL's chancellor.





Nothing stirs a debate at a research university more than the meaning of a college education.

Some feel pursuing knowledge for knowledge's sake is a lofty ideal. Studying to learn more about the world and oneself is a noble cause. It's a journey that offers many rewards – most unintended and not conceived in the beginning. Faculty tend to fall into this camp.

Students and parents are more straightforward. They want to know that their time and money is invested in an education that leads to a good job.

I believe the University of Missouri–St. Louis is an excellent blend of the ideal and practical. We provide students with a broad-based education that prepares them for life and for work.

This issue of UMSL Magazine focuses on the diverse services the campus provides to students and young alumni pursuing their first professional job or next promotion. You will see that we get excited helping people succeed.

Speaking of succeeding, congratulations are in order for our own Joe Gorder. In May, the 1976 UMSL graduate was named president and CEO of Valero Energy Corp., a San Antonio-based company with nearly \$140 billion in revenue.

UMSL is now one of only two universities with undergraduate alumni heading Fortune 20 companies – Gorder and George Paz at Express Scripts. Find out what Gorder had to say about his education here.

Also read in this magazine about the 50-year connection this campus, its students and alumni, has with the Newman Center. It's certainly a birthday worth celebrating.

Sincerely,

Tom George

Chancellor

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20 Celebrating St. Louis

UMSL has played a major role in helping St. Louis celebrate the big 2-5-0.

24 UMSL creates leaders

One of the largest companies in the country has a UMSL alumnus at the helm. He's not alone.



ON THE COVER

Find out how the Office of Career Services helps students like Roger Barker make a seamless transition from classroom to career.





US News touts UMSL online programs

Students of the University of Missouri–St. Louis are getting the best undergraduate online experience in the state, according to U.S. News and World Report’s 2014 Best Online Programs rankings.

US News ranks UMSL first in Missouri and 34th nationally in the category of online bachelor’s programs. UMSL ranked 43rd in national online bachelor’s programs in 2013. The full rankings are at usnews.com.

“UMSL’s online programs are designed to provide students maximum quality and flexibility,” Provost Glen Cope says. “We are finding that students succeed here best when they use online courses to supplement their on-campus schedules.

“The high-tech, high-touch approach resonates well with our students,” she says. “They appreciate

our online courses, but continue to seek face-to-face opportunities with their peers and faculty.”

UMSL offers about 800 courses totally or mostly online. Blended courses include a mix of online work with on-campus class time or on-campus testing. More than 20 percent of UMSL credit hours – about 55,000 – are taken online.

For the 2014 Best Online Degree Programs rankings, U.S. News compiled a list of public, private and for-profit colleges and universities in the U.S. that offer programs online, then collected data from each of those schools. In calculating the rankings, U.S. News considered student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, admissions selectivity, and student services and technology.

Magazine honors UMSL with national diversity award two years running

For the second year in a row, the University of Missouri–St. Louis has received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

UMSL is one of just two Missouri institutions among the 83 U.S. colleges and universities on this year’s list, which

recognizes those that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

“We are making progress, and I think most people feel welcome and embraced at UMSL,” says Deborah Burris, chief diversity officer for UMSL. “We attract a broad spectrum of students, and that diversity is also represented in our staff and faculty. This is an opportunity to show the world just a small snapshot of who we are.”

Burris notes that UMSL is diverse in terms of race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status and also across the board, with the campus attracting international students, people with disabilities, members of the LGBT community, military veterans and first-generation college students.

“You put all of this together, and that’s who we are,” she says.

A commitment to access and opportunity for all people is not new at UMSL, but there are still areas for growth as the university works to recognize and appreciate the contributions of everyone, adds Chancellor Tom George.

“The external recognition is gratifying in that it acknowledges the many ways in which UMSL is a welcoming, inclusive community,” he says. “The cultural diversity council we formed several years ago gives our students, faculty and staff a real voice on these matters and has enabled us to identify priorities going forward.”

Burris joined UMSL in 1991 and leads the university’s Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity. She says one of the most rewarding parts of her job is observing moments on campus when someone from one background comprehends where a member of a different demographic is coming from.

“When you see the light bulb come on,” Burris says. “When you see people stop and think, ‘Yes, I really get it,’ and they really have understood the issues and concerns voiced by someone else, that is what pleases me most.”

DIVERSITY

UMSL sets record for gifts and pledges

\$31.2M

Averaging \$26 million, UMSL has raised \$130 million over the past five years

30,000,000

20,500,000

10,000,000



\$3.5M

Donors helped create 70 new need-based and merit-based scholarships



\$3M

24 individuals, 4 foundations and 2 trusts created a fund to transition St. Louis Beacon journalists and staff to UMSL’s St. Louis Public Radio



\$2M

Donors endowed the directorship of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, bringing to five the number of endowed positions associated with the library.

\$1.8M

More than 400 faculty and staff members made contributions to UMSL

8 Number of UMSL alumni giving more than \$1 million—a single year record.





focus on Ferguson-area graduates

Young people in Ferguson, Mo., and surrounding communities will benefit from a new partnership between Emerson, a global manufacturing and technology company, and the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

On Sept. 18, Emerson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer David Farr announced a five-year commitment of \$1.5 million to provide scholarships to UMSL students from the Ferguson-Florissant, Normandy, Jennings, Hazelwood, Riverview Gardens and Ritenour school districts.

Beginning next fall, graduates of these local high schools will be eligible to apply for one of up to 60 annual UMSL scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 each. Preference will be given to those studying business, science, math, engineering and technology-related (STEM) disciplines, but students in all disciplines will be considered. Emerson is headquartered in Ferguson.

“The ‘Ferguson Forward’ plan reflects Emerson’s longstanding commitment to our neighbors by investing in early childhood education, job training and funding for higher education,” Farr says. “UMSL is a crucial partner as we work toward ensuring a strong future for our region.”

More than 1,000 UMSL students reside in Ferguson or neighboring north St. Louis County communities, and the impact of the Emerson Community Scholarship Program will be significant, says UMSL Chancellor Tom George.

“We are proud to partner with Emerson in this important effort supporting Ferguson and surrounding areas – home to many of our students, faculty and staff,” George says. “This is an investment toward a better St. Louis and positive change in our community and the entire region.”

In addition to the scholarship, the partnership seeks to maximize the success of the recipients, with UMSL making peer mentors, tutors and other retention services available to the students.

Emerson’s pledge also builds on a partnership between the company and the university – the Opportunity Scholarship Program, which began in 2011 with a \$1.5 million contribution from Emerson. The program recruits top St. Louis-area high school students who are underrepresented or first-generation college students. It enhances the quality and diversity of the region’s future leaders STEM fields, providing participants with a full scholarship and internship opportunities.

Over the top: UMSL enrollment reaches record

Total enrollment at the University of Missouri–St. Louis this fall is 17,085 students – a new campus record. The previous record – set in fall 2011 and matched again in fall 2013 – was 16,809.

Highlights include a 6-percent increase in first-time freshmen and a 6-percent increase in students living in UMSL-owned housing. UMSL also experienced a slight bump in minority enrollment – which now encompasses 32.65 percent of students studying on campus.

“We are ecstatic,” Chancellor Tom George says. “The quality, quantity and diversity of our students are reflective of enhanced recruitment and retention efforts. Students better understand the value of a college degree in determining their future and increasingly see UMSL as an institution that provides superior academic programs at a reasonable cost to them.”

UMSL filed its final enrollment report with the state of Missouri on Oct. 8.

UMSL enrollment by the numbers:

- Total enrollment* – 17,085
- On-campus enrollment – 12,161
- First-time freshmen – 531

Top feeder high schools:

- Bishop DuBourg
- Fort Zumwalt West
- Francis Howell North
- Gateway STEM
- McCluer
- Mehlville
- North County Technical
- Parkway North
- Pattonville
- Seckman

Top feeder two- and four-year colleges:

- Jefferson College
- Southeast Missouri State University
- St. Charles Community College
- Saint Louis University
- St. Louis Community College – Florissant
- St. Louis Community College – Forest Park
- St. Louis Community College – Meramec
- St. Louis Community College – Wildwood
- University of Illinois
- University of Missouri–Columbia

** Total enrollment includes undergraduate and graduate students taking courses on and off campus as well as high school students in UMSL’s Advanced Credit Program.*

By Jennifer Hatton

What started as a profession selected out of financial convenience has led to a rewarding and successful career for Lynn Beckwith Jr.

Beckwith, the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Urban Education at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, chose to attend a teachers college because it was affordable. Since then, he has spent more than 50 years in education. He’s served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, director of federal programs and executive director of state and federal programs for St. Louis Public Schools, and as superintendent for the University City [Mo.] School District.

The past 14 years have been spent at UMSL as an endowed scholar and the liaison between the university and the public schools. Since 2010, he has served as chair of the Special Administrative Board for the Riverview Gardens School District in St. Louis County and in 2013 he received the Lifetime Achiever in Education award from the St. Louis American Foundation.

What do you think makes a good teacher?

I believe a good teacher is one who has a firm grasp of the subject area that he or she is teaching, knows how to deliver instruction to students in a manner that students can best understand, treats students in a caring and respectful manner and has a firm belief that all students can learn at high levels.

What is the biggest challenge facing education in the St. Louis area?

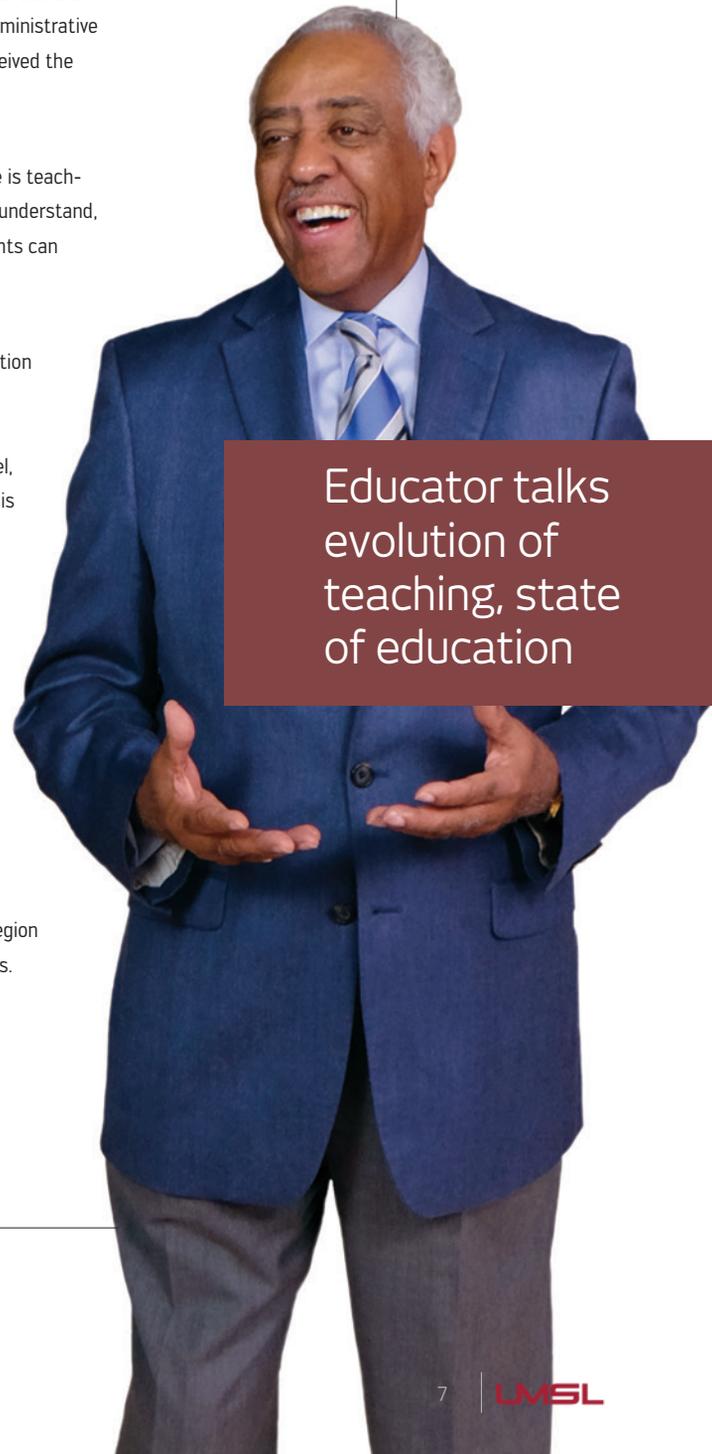
I believe at the K-12 level the Missouri Student Transfer Program is the biggest education challenge. While I believe in quality education for all, I do not believe that should be achieved by ultimately bankrupting unaccredited school districts and/or lapsing such districts, and assigning them to an adjoining district. At the college and university level, I believe the biggest education challenge in the St. Louis area is affordability. Often this leads to a corresponding student loan debt load that many students must carry in order to attend college.

What do you see as the solution for the region?

While there is no silver bullet to these challenges, I would suggest at the K-12 level, fully funding the Missouri Foundation Formula. Continually underfunding Missouri’s mechanism for funding its schools appears to make education in Missouri a lesser priority. Good schools cost money. A solution would be to become proactive rather than reactive in addressing the multiple challenges and needs of underperforming school districts. Also to put a greater emphasis on funding for early childhood education programs so that a greater focus can be put on addressing very early the developmental delays and lags in children. At the university level, I would suggest increasing the region’s understanding of the fact that the economic success of the region will depend in large part on the number of graduates from our colleges and universities.

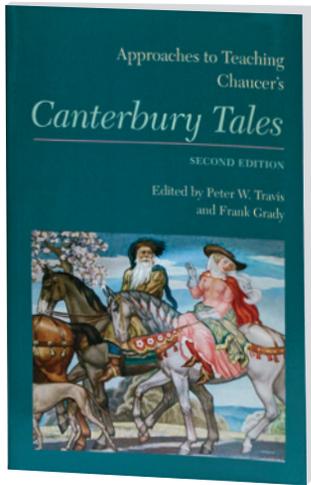
What is your hope for the future of education in the region?

My hope for the future of education in the region is for there to be a collaborative and well-funded effort in support of the educational process for all of our students, regardless of economic status, race, religion or creed that begins with quality early childhood education and extends through the college level. That has the capacity to produce well-educated citizens who can serve as the engine in making the St. Louis region a world-class metropolitan area. ■■■



Educator talks evolution of teaching, state of education

BOOKS
BY UMSL
FACULTY



Approaches to Teaching Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Second Edition
CO-EDITED BY FRANK GRADY

Modern Language Association of America, May 2014

This long-awaited second edition covers the diverse perspectives and methods instructors use to teach the "Canterbury Tales." It considers the evolution of Chaucer scholarship over the past 30 years, as well as the wide variety of contexts in which students encounter the poem. Perennial topics such as class, medieval marriage, genre and tale order are accompanied by modern considerations of violence, postcoloniality, masculinities, race and food in the tales. Edited by Professor of English Frank Grady, the first section reviews materials and the second, approaches. The other editor is Peter W. Travis.

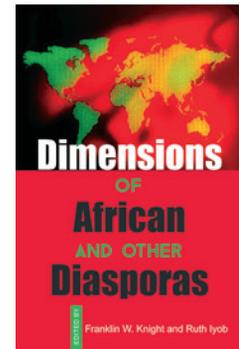


Shakespeare's Medieval Craft: Remnants of the Mysteries on the London Stage

BY KURT SCHREYER

Cornell University Press, August 2014

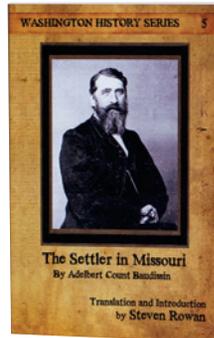
Kurt Schreyer, associate professor of English, offers new insight into the long-debated connection of Shakespeare's plays to the late medieval English biblical drama tradition known as the mystery plays. Through close study of the Chester Banns, a 16th-century proclamation announcing the annual performance of the mystery plays, Schreyer draws parallels to Shakespeare's similar use of theatrical objects and spaces. His analysis reveals that these tactics did not simply precede Shakespeare, but were entwined with the poetry of his plays to create new theatrical masterpieces.



Dimensions of African and Other Diasporas

CO-EDITED BY RUTH IYOB
University of West Indies Press, May 2014

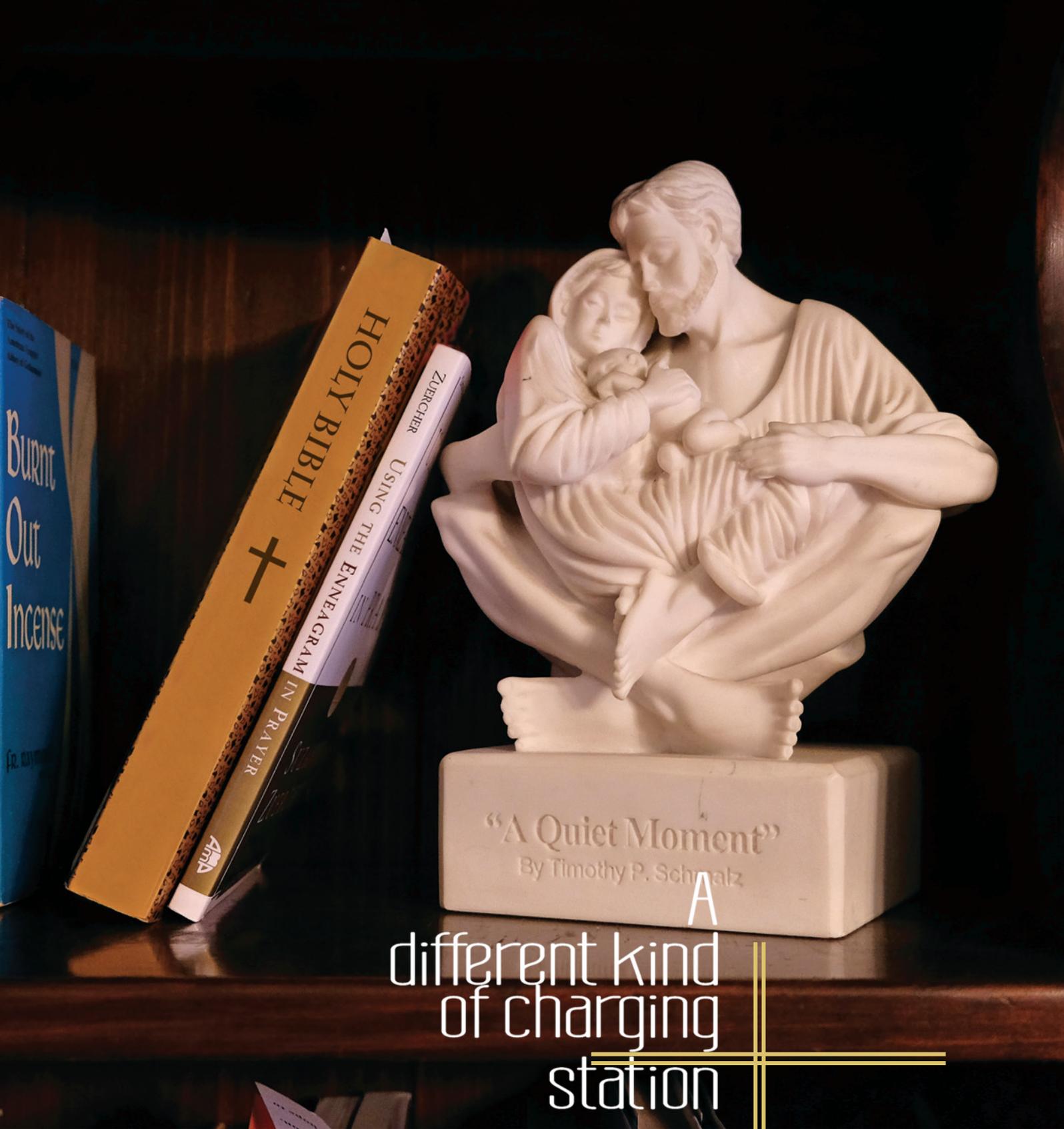
Professor of Political Science Ruth Iyob's book of scholars' essays provides a panoramic view across time and geographical space that explores the inherent variety and formation of African diasporas. The essays build a case for the understanding of the diaspora as a responsive space, sensitive to specific geographic location as well as social, political and economic circumstances. European and Asian diasporas are also touched on. The other editor is Franklin W. Knight.



The Settler in Missouri by Adelbert Count Baudissin
TRANSLATED AND INTRODUCED
BY STEVEN ROWAN

Washington (Mo.) Historical Society, August 2014

Published in 1854 and first written in German, "The Settler in Missouri" served as a guide for German-speaking immigrants to American culture and the rural life in Missouri. Professor of History Steven Rowan's translation, the first in English, allows a unique perspective into pre-Civil War Missouri and the early immigrant experience. Count Baudissin is known for having founded the Courier, Washington, Mo.'s first newspaper. This is the fifth book in the Washington History Series.



A different kind of charging station

By Laurisa Mahlin

The charming house on the corner of West Drive and Natural Bridge Road is one of the oldest gathering places at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. It's the UMSL Catholic Newman Center, and this year Newman turns 50.





Some things have changed since 1964 – like the computer lab and the wiring that Director Fr. Bill Kempf installed to accommodate all the new devices and charging stations.

But in a way, the place has always been a charging station.

Stop by and you'll find a student studying at the dining room table, making a sandwich in the kitchen or taking a nap on one of the too-comfortable-to-leave couches. It's this tradition of being present for students, whether they have difficult life questions or just need a snack, that is Newman's legacy.

The UMSL Newman Center is part of a national network of Catholic ministry centers on more than 400 university campuses. Cardinal John Henry Newman, a 19th-century Catholic theologian, is the organization's namesake.

The UMSL Newman Center began when UMSL was just a year old. Its first director, Fr. Don Dahmhorst, was adamant that faith and academia should complement each other.

The way to accomplish this was through fellowship, not just worship. For many years, Newman was the only social, non-academic building on campus and provided a gathering place, even hosting faculty happy hours in the 1960s.

At the time that Mark Wilhelm, BSBA 1976, chose UMSL, fraternities like his Pi Kappa Alpha provided a unifying element for students who juggled full course loads and part-time jobs.

Newman wasn't a Catholic fraternity, so it was surprising when then Director Fr. Bill Lyons offered the center for the Pi Kappa Alpha weekend retreat. That was the first time that Wilhelm and about 50 of his fraternity brothers saw the Newman Center.

"I can't say enough good things about the Newman Center," says Wilhelm. "Fr. Lyons had a way of encouraging conversation from us – a group of mixed-faith college-aged guys who were really not interested in deep discussions – that allowed us all to come away from the retreat as better people."

Wilhelm's busy schedule did not allow him time to attend Mass, but after that weekend, he made it a priority to attend retreats. Despite a demanding life now as the CEO of Safety National, Wilhelm keeps in regular contact with his UMSL friends. And when his children left for college, he made sure





Top: Students at the UMSL Newman Center share a meal in the communal dining room. Bottom left: UMSL alumnus Matthew Hubbard, left, and student volunteers Janelle Miller, Sharee Chambers and Meagan Burwell, work at a community garden as part of a Newman Center service project. Bottom right: Newman Center Director Fr. Bill Kempf talks with a student in the center's living room.

Today the Newman Center remains a special place for student experiences. Thanks to an active group of student officers, its calendar is full of soup dinners, service projects, game nights, trips to the Saint Louis Zoo and much more.

they knew where the Newman Center was on their respective campuses.

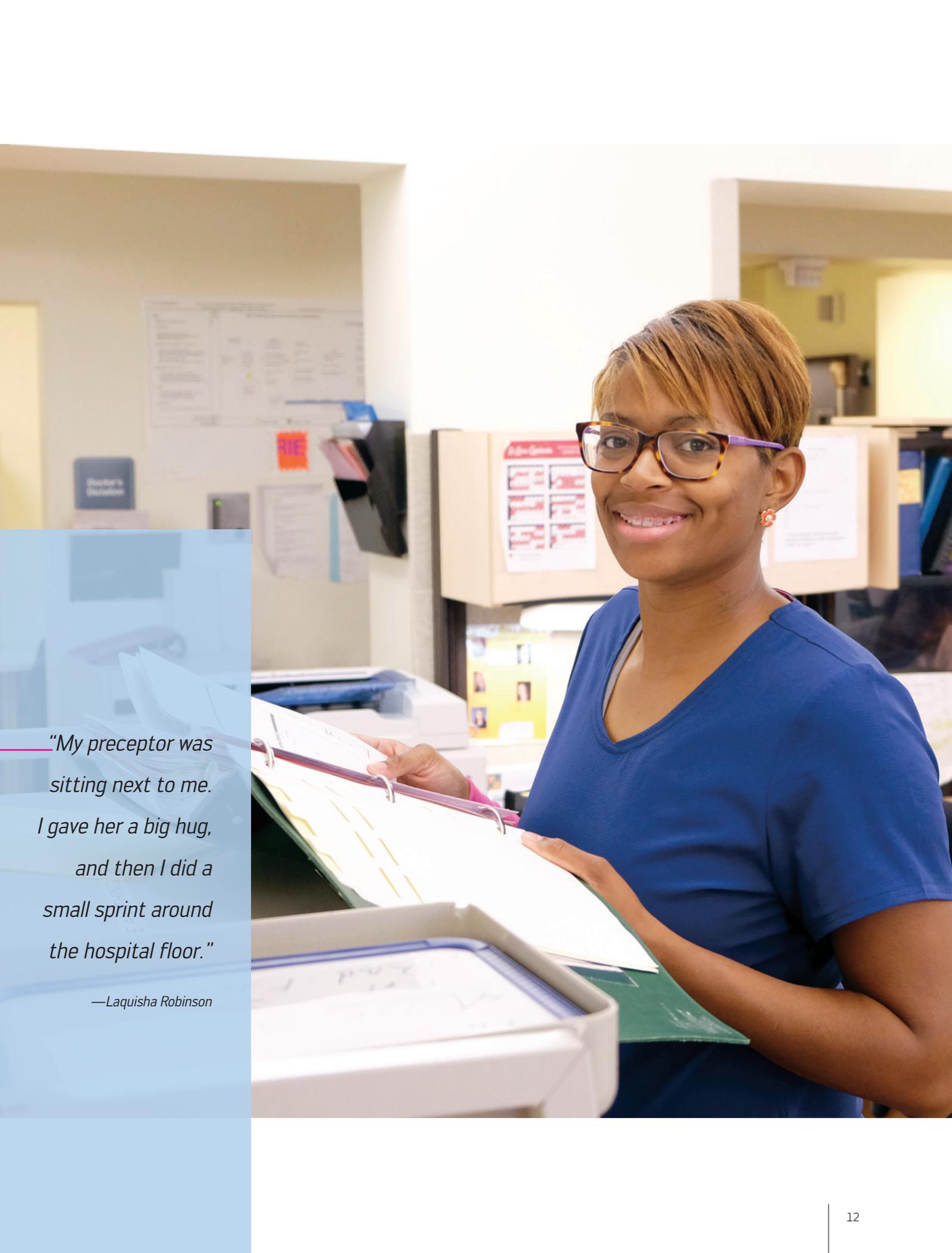
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Liz Hampton, a sophomore psychology major, was an officer last semester. She commutes to UMSL from South St. Louis County and uses the center to work on homework between classes. But the best part of her experience has been reuniting with one of her best high school friends at a Newman retreat.

"I had no idea that she even went to UMSL," says Hampton. "But now I don't know what I'd do without her! I'm so thankful for the Newman Center."

Gratitude is literally part of the groundwork. Alumni purchased rocks for the new conversation garden with sayings that reflect their experiences at the Newman Center. One reads, "A Great Place to Meet Your Spouse" – a reputation well earned as Fr. Kempf has married at least 10 couples who met at the Newman Center and even baptized several of their children, affectionately referred to as "Newman babies."

The fellowship, service and friendships of the Newman Center have made it a campus charging station for 50 years. Here's to another 50. ☰



“My preceptor was sitting next to me. I gave her a big hug, and then I did a small sprint around the hospital floor.”

—Laquisha Robinson



Pregnant at 15. A teenage mother at 16. At an age when most people are thinking about driving and going to prom, Laquisha Robinson was struggling against becoming just another statistic.

After graduating from Hazelwood Central High School in Florissant, Mo., she enrolled at the University of Missouri–St. Louis majoring in accounting. The year was 2003. Two years later she dropped out and enrolled at St. Louis Community College–Florissant Valley. What followed resembled a revolving door. She'd finish one semester, then drop out for two before re-enrolling and repeating the pattern.

In 2010, now a single mother of three, she was determined to finally get her degree. She returned to UMSL with a new attitude and career focus. She wanted to be a nurse.

"I wasted a lot of time. I utilized a lot of financial resources that were available to me. I knew that I didn't have room to make mistakes. I needed to stick with it this time," she says. "It was a constant struggle working from check to check and trying to take care of my children. I wanted to change my life around, live comfortably and set a good example for my kids."

She was accepted into the College of Nursing's BSN Traditional Part-Time Option program. Her academic focus was solid, but her finances were shaky. Her last year of school was a struggle. Her grants were capped and she couldn't get any more funding, she'd maxed out her student loans and she didn't have any money. With no family to turn to, she sold household items on Craigslist. Friends helped when they could.

"I got through the summer of 2013, but by fall of 2013 I was pretty much tapped out. I really didn't have any more money," she says.

Then she wrote to UMSL's Office of Financial Aid pleading for help and filled out a slew of scholarship applications, including one called the Finish Your Degree Scholarship. The scholarship assists seniors who are unable to return to UMSL because they have a balance or debt to the university they can't afford to pay.

Robinson was in clinical rotations at Barnes–Jewish St. Peters Hospital when she scanned her emails and learned she'd earned the scholarship.

"It told me what the award amount was, and then it said 'Now your balance is zero.' I was in total disbelief," she says.

Robinson was so excited she took a victory lap around the hospital floor.

"My preceptor was sitting next to me, I gave her a big hug, and then I did a small sprint around the hospital floor. I was just totally excited," she says. "I didn't want to give up just because I didn't have the money to pay for school. Without the scholarship, I would not have been able to finish that semester at all. Plus, it allowed me to focus on just finishing out school. I didn't have the worry about, 'I may pass this exam, but am I going to be able to pay the rest of my way through this semester?'"

Robinson graduated in December 2013. Now 29, she works as a staff nurse at Barnes–Jewish Extended Care in Clayton, Mo.

"I'm much happier. It's been a huge change. Things have just taken off, and I can see that I have a bright future ahead of me," she says.

To find out how you can make a gift to this important program or for more information, contact Brenda McPhail at 314-516-6503 or bmcphail@umsl.edu. ☰

Down but never out:

Scholarship helps
students finish degree

By Myra Lopez



Above: Tira Wilkerson, center, visits with sister Iriah and Career Services coordinator Lynn Willits as they visit UMSL's fall Internship & Job Fair. Right: UMSL student Roger Barker enjoys a full-time job at Edward Jones thanks to his résumé help from UMSL Career Services.

WORKING WONDERS

Path to a great job begins early in Career Services

By Evie Hemphill

Roger Barker first visited the Office of Career Services at the University of Missouri–St. Louis in search of résumé help.

"I wanted to find a job really in the heart of my field," says the computer science major. "I went to Career Services to fine tune my résumé, and then I learned about the upcoming career fair."

Barker discovered new ideas for marketing himself to potential employers and soon secured a 10-week summer internship at Edward Jones that allowed the company to become familiar with Barker and his work on a daily basis. He is now a full-time programmer-analyst at Edward Jones.

UMSL Career Services plays a critical role in preparing students for professional success by helping incoming freshmen identify career interests, organizing workshops and job fairs, and assisting graduates in the thick of the job search. They get students to think about the process early, enabling them to be more intentional in their academic program.

"It's important for students to understand themselves, to understand the job market, and then work at connecting the two together," says Teresa Balestreri, director of Career Services. "We aim to help students in this process, and our staff is committed to empowering students to tap into all of the services we provide."

Continued



Like Barker, junior Iriah Wilkerson remembers the spring day she first stepped into the Career Services office in the Millennium Student Center. The business administration major and honors student was anxious.

"I was nervous going in, but Lynn [Willits] was so great," Iriah Wilkerson says. "She gave me great pointers, and I was able to create a really strong résumé for the job fair in September."

Intent on landing an internship for summer 2015, Iriah Wilkerson left that appointment with helpful ideas and a lot more confidence going into the fall – a crucial time for networking and applying. Her older sister and fellow UMSL student, Tira, encouraged her to explore the Career Services resources.

Tira Wilkerson initially visited the office in search of a new major. She'd chosen biology, but it didn't seem the best fit as she delved deeper into it. In consultation with a Career Services coordinator, Tira completed an assessment to identify and connect her interests to a career path.

"I didn't really realize how many different careers there were," she says. "Taking the assessment really opened my eyes to the different possibilities in each field."

She decided to major in information systems, which appeals to her because of how it unites people and technology. The sisters each have a year and a half before graduation, but they are making the most of Career Services opportunities to gain work experience, build their portfolios and connect with potential employers.

"We've done the research, and we know what we want," says Iriah. "I'd like to get as many different experiences as possible. I know that once I graduate, having a real job involves a lot of ups and downs."

"I'm really glad for this time," her sister says. "It's going to take a while to develop a strong network and interviewing skills."

Through Career Services the sisters have found part-time jobs on campus that relate to their fields and offer networking opportunities. They plan to turn those first forays into the job hunt into career-related internships like Barker's.

When Edward Jones offered Barker a salaried position doing what he loves after completing his internship, he accepted it with enthusiasm. In his new role, he assists with designing company software, coding and providing technical support.

Barker has juggled those responsibilities along with his final semester at UMSL, where he'll graduate this December – and where he has appeared on behalf of Edward Jones already. At an information session on campus, he shared his experience as an intern with about 40 people. He also joined an Edward Jones recruiter at this fall's Internship & Job Fair, this time experiencing it from the employer's side of the table.

"It's a lot of fun. It's also an opportunity to learn to talk in front of people," the self-described introvert says. "In a leadership position, you're expected to do that, and I need to be able to handle that."

In addition to taking advantage of the many in-person and online resources available through Career Services, Barker's advice to fellow students is to persevere.

"Look at things that you're definitely interested in but also things that pique your interest just a little bit," he says. "And keep applying."

Learn more at careers.umsl.edu. ☰

Construction inspector

>> Jeff Chambers

Jeff Chambers had worked in construction for five years when he had to go back to school. As a project manager, he realized a degree in civil engineering would allow him to move up in the field he loved.

"I knew that the [UMSL/Washington University Joint Engineering] Program was what I needed," Chambers says. The program consists of two years of pre-engineering coursework at UMSL followed by three years of night classes on the WUSTL campus.

In 2012, a summer internship with the Public Works Department in Clayton, Mo., developed into a regular position. Chambers stayed for 13 months while finishing his last year of school and making the most of the resources in UMSL Career Services.

"Kristen [Wilke] did mock interviews with me, and she did not hold back," Chambers says. "I don't believe you'd get that kind of feedback from real interviews. She was amazing to work with."

In July of 2013, Chambers took a job with the Missouri Department of Transportation, where he works as a construction inspector based in Chesterfield, Mo.

Customer service representative

>> Andrea Rees

As the spring 2014 semester drew to a close, graduating English major Andrea Rees felt lost. She made an appointment with Rachel Boehlow, assistant director of Career Services.

"Graduation once seemed so far off, and suddenly it was standing in front of me, breathing down my neck," Rees says. "But Rachel was quite calming. She steered me in a direction that I hadn't thought of."

Boehlow encouraged Rees to go beyond combing the typical job-posting sites and think about her career search in a different way.

"She taught me how to connect to what I might be capable of doing," Rees says. "I completely reformatted my résumé and my way of thinking about potential employment. I also took those skills into the interview and thought about my answers before blurting them out."

The strategy succeeded. In a few weeks Rees secured a customer service job in the agriculture industry with fantastic benefits. It puts her English degree to use, challenging her to use language in ways that communicate clearly to those she serves.

"I didn't really realize how many different careers there were. Taking the assessment really opened my eyes to the different possibilities in each field." — Tira Wilkerson

RECENT GRADS FIND JOBS THEY LOVE



Career Services: A Snapshot

- Nearly 300 representatives from 122 organizations connected with 520 UMSL students and alumni at this fall's Internship & Job Fair.
- Roughly 3,200 people paid a visit to Career Services during 2013-14.
- More than 3,000 jobs and internships are posted each year in UMSL's database, UMSLCareerKey, and about 400 employers visit UMSL for career fairs and on-campus interviews.
- The unit's small staff puts on upwards of 280 workshops, outreach programs and classroom presentations during the school year.
- More than 1,100 career assessments were administered to students in the last year, including 600 "Strong Interest Inventories" infused into UMSL's first-year experience classes to foster career development early in the academic cycle.

“The Chancellor’s Council is invaluable to me as chancellor of this university and to this campus as a whole”.

—Tom George



Chancellor Tom George, left, visits with Vice Chancellor of Advancement Martin Leifeld and Chancellor's Council President Sandra Van Trease, during a recent Chancellor's Council meeting.

When University of Missouri–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George has a tough decision to make, he has an august panel of experts at his fingertips.

The more than 40 members of UMSL's Chancellor's Council provide guidance and advisement to the university's chancellor, often influencing major projects and programs on campus.

The membership consists of top minds with UMSL connections, including leaders in medicine, law, utilities, health care and other fields. Many are UMSL's brightest and best alumni, but others are active community members who care about the university. Council members meet quarterly and advise the chancellor on matters including community development, fundraising and the future of the university.

"The Chancellor's Council is invaluable to me as chancellor of this university and to this campus as a whole," says George.

The council was also heavily involved in UMSL's strategic planning process, says Martin Leifeld, vice chancellor of advancement at UMSL. The group not only contributed to the plan, but also listens to the chancellor and other administrators on strategic university goals, offering creative solutions and ideas. The partnership that brought the Express Scripts headquarters to university property is credited to the wisdom of the Chancellor's Council, Leifeld says.

As a successful, influential alumna, Sandra Van Trease exemplifies the traits that many members of the council offer. She graduated from UMSL in 1982 with a degree in business administration and is group president of BJC Healthcare.

"The opportunity to become involved with the council was of interest to me as an alumna and a St. Louisan who sees the underlying connection of the university with our communities," Van Trease says. "It was an opportunity to serve with like-minded individuals and provide the chancellor and his leadership team with input and observations regarding issues as well as connections to other people in order to serve the best interest of the university, the students and the region."

A look at UMSL's influential advisory group:

The Chancellor's Council

By Rachel Webb

The council can also be a driver in helping to revitalize areas of north St. Louis County that have experienced challenges after the economic downturn, says Tom Minogue, the incoming council president and chairman of Thompson Coburn, LLP law firm.

"UMSL's a big part of the solution to that going forward," Minogue says. "UMSL is a tremendous community resource that plays a positive role in moving north county forward, which is where I grew up during my teenage years."

Minogue became involved with the Chancellor's Council at the encouragement of former UMSL Chancellor Blanche Touhill and Kathy Osborn, president of the Regional Business Council. Minogue graduated from UMSL with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1976 before attending Harvard Law School.

"It was a very easy 'yes' for me," Minogue says. "UMSL was in the right place at the right time for me in the 1970s, and I figured if I could give back to the university in some way that would be a great thing. The university was the foundation of my life both from a family and career perspective."

Originally, the group was made up solely of members from the St. Louis region, but has now grown to include people from Texas, Florida and other far-away locales.

"Over 20,000 of our alumni live outside of the St. Louis region, and that's a large group of people, most of whom are living extraordinary lives and making a difference in their respective communities," Leifeld says. "It also gives us the perspective of people from the outside looking in."

Van Trease expects the council to make even more improvements to help to drive the university forward.

"Like that of the university, the future of the council is a bright one," Van Trease says. "We have talented, dedicated individuals who are committed to ensuring we continue to provide the best opportunity for our students to thrive and succeed, here in the St. Louis region, or wherever their destiny takes them." ■■■



Photo by August Jennewein



Happy
birthday,
St. Louis!

MSL

helps
the city
celebrate
250 years

By Ryan Heinz

The University of Missouri–St. Louis has existed for only a fifth of St. Louis’ 250 years, but has been a treasure trove of information and resources when celebrating the city’s sestercentennial.

A journal by Auguste Chouteau, one of St. Louis’ founders, offers some of the only clues to the city’s start, and it’s counted among the vast holdings of UMSL’s St. Louis Mercantile Library. His family donated the papers to the Mercantile nearly 150 years ago.

“Chouteau’s hand-written account of the founding of St. Louis not only recounts an event that is at the heart of our city’s history, but the document itself is a starting point for all the published histories that have been produced about St. Louis,” says Julie Dunn-Morton, curator of the Mercantile’s Fine Arts Collection.

Fred Fausz, associate professor of history at UMSL, pored over the papers for his books, including “Founding St. Louis: First City of the New West.” Fausz’s name typically pops up in the news media each Valentine’s Day for his deciphering of Chouteau’s poor penmanship to determine St. Louis’ birthdate. Fausz says Chouteau wrote Feb. 15, 1764, and most academics agree while a few still claim it’s Feb. 14.

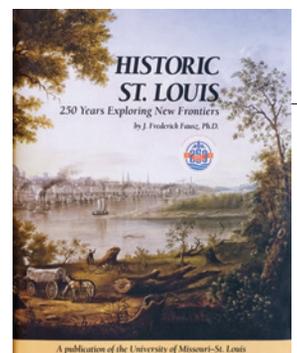
This 30-foot-wide view of St. Louis from 1875 is part of "Mapping St. Louis History," an exhibition at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. (Photo by August Jennewein)



The fragile pages of Chouteau's journal were displayed early this year, and the library loaned a page to the Sheldon Art Galleries in St. Louis. View an online copy under "Collections" at umsl.edu/mercantile. The Mercantile is the oldest library west of the Mississippi River and offers a large collection of historic books and documents. The facility and its collections were housed in downtown St. Louis before moving to the UMSL campus.

"I find the early journals and letters in our collections to be particularly fascinating, such as the journal of Edward Hempstead, clerk of the legislature of the Louisiana Territory, describing early procedures leading up to the naming of the Missouri territory," Dunn-Morton says. "Also, the articles of the Missouri Fur Company and letters written by John Jacob Astor of the American Fur Company tell so much about the economic processes of the region prior to and early in St. Louis history."

This print depicts Washington Avenue as it appeared circa 1917. (Courtesy of UMSL historian Fred Fausz's collection)



"We don't unclog pipes or repair roofs, but we do share the joy of text – both reading it and writing it – in the belief that historical accuracy matters within and between every generation," Fausz said in his kickoff speech.

Laura Kuehling, a UMSL student pursuing a master's degree in history, says the conference addressed the city's nationally significant past and challenged the audience to contemplate a progressive future. She enjoyed access to some of the top minds in history.

"History can sometimes be a solitary experience. Often we research, write and read alone," she explains. "Interacting with other historians – prominent and amateur – reminds us that we are part of a larger pursuit to uncover and make sense of the past."

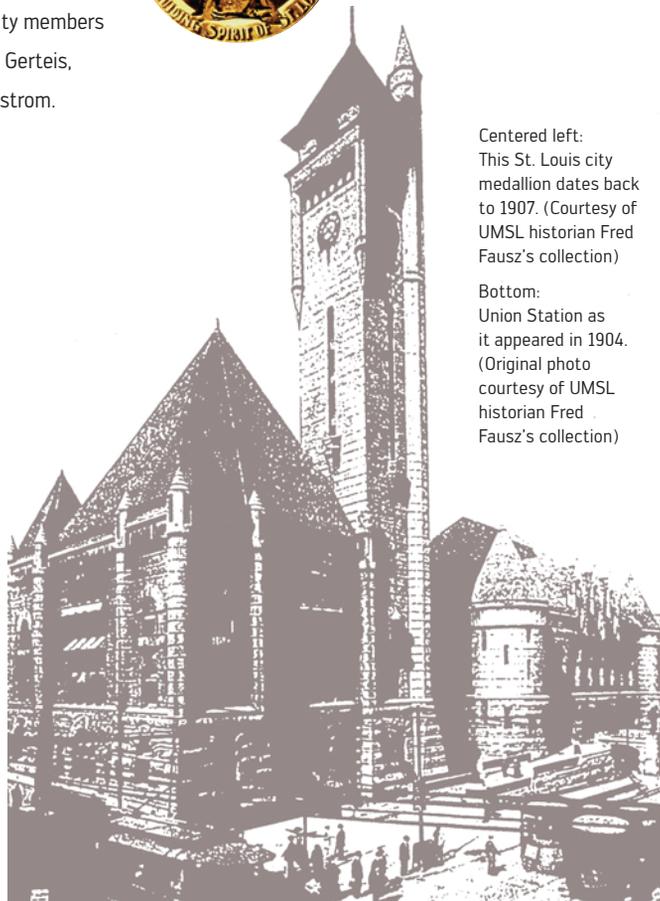
Hempstead and the fur company appear in Fausz's new book, "Historic St. Louis: 250 Years Exploring New Frontiers," which UMSL published as part of the yearlong STL250 celebration. Fausz produced a historic feast with much to devour in the book's 47,000 words and 174 images. "Great illustrations, 57 in color, help interpret stories rather than being merely decorations," he says. "I would be most pleased if my oversized 'coffee table book' was never left on a coffee table but read for enjoyment as well as education."

In April, more than 150 historians gathered at UMSL to share that story. Presenters at the conference "St. Louis Metromorphosis: The Significance of a City Across Centuries" were a who's who of St. Louis experts, including UMSL faculty members Priscilla Dowden-White, Louis Gerteis, Steven Rowan and Todd Swanstrom.



Centered left: This St. Louis city medallion dates back to 1907. (Courtesy of UMSL historian Fred Fausz's collection)

Bottom: Union Station as it appeared in 1904. (Original photo courtesy of UMSL historian Fred Fausz's collection)



Fred Fausz, associate professor of history at UMSL, wrote the book "Historic St. Louis," which explores 250 years of St. Louis history.

Auguste Chouteau signed this 1820 Bank of Missouri \$10 note. (Courtesy of UMSL historian Fred Fausz's collection)



St. Louis anniversary events at the Mercantile Library:

"Mapping St. Louis History"
Open through June 2015
Exhibit of historic maps, rare books and images tracking the city's development and expansion over 250 years.

"St. Louis in its Golden Age, 1840-1880"
Open through March 2015
A speaker series honoring the founders of the Mercantile Library and the founding of St. Louis.
More information: umsl.edu/mercantile, 314-516-7240

Additional St. Louis history books of note by present and past UMSL faculty and staff:

"Lion of the Valley: St. Louis, Missouri, 1764-1980"
by James Neal Primm

"Auguste Chouteau's Journal: Memory, Mythmaking & History in the Heritage of New France" by Gregory P. Ames

"Civil War St. Louis" by Louis Gerteis

"Groping toward Democracy: African American Social Welfare Reform in St. Louis, 1910-1949"
by Priscilla Dowden-White

"From Neighborhood to Village: A History of Old North St. Louis" co-written by Andrew Hurley

"Fragmented by Design: Why St. Louis Has So Many Governments" by Terry Jones

Public Policy Research Center's "St. Louis Metromorphosis" series:

"St. Louis Metromorphosis: Past Trends and Future Directions" edited by Terry Jones and Brady Baybeck

"Hidden Assets: Connecting the Past to the Future of St. Louis" edited by Richard Rosenfeld

"St. Louis Plans: The Ideal and the Real St. Louis" edited by Mark Tranel

UMSL LAYS FOUNDATION FOR

LEADEX

By Jennifer Hatton

A strong work ethic and business acumen pushed Joe Gorder up the ladder at Valero Energy Corp., where he was named president and chief executive officer in May.

He took the same hard-work and business-minded approach as a student at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Gorder, who earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1976 with an emphasis in marketing, chose UMSL because of its strong program and flexibility.

“UMSL was the right school for me,” he says. “The broad availability of classes made it possible for me to work 30 to 40 hours per week and graduate on time. I could afford it and it was the best value.”

His promotion makes him the second UMSL undergraduate alumnus listed as CEO of a top 20 company in the Fortune 500 ranking. George Paz, president and CEO of Express Scripts, is the other alumnus on that list. UMSL and Cornell University are the only universities with two undergraduate alumni CEOs in the top 20.

Gorder didn’t slow down after graduating from UMSL. He held several positions before joining Valero, a San Antonio-based international manufacturer and marketer of transportation fuels, petrochemical products and power with 16 refineries throughout the world.



Photo Courtesy of Valero Group

"We make products that make people's lives better," says Gorder, who attributes his company's success to having the best team in the fuels refining and marketing business. "I believe that a leader is one who serves. I surround myself with talented people and give them the latitude to do their jobs without micromanaging them. I am responsible for our performance when things don't go so well and proud of our team when things do."

Gorder chose UMSL after graduating from Pattonville High School in Maryland Heights, Mo. The middle child and only son of a St. Louis Metropolitan Police officer and private-school teacher, he followed in his older sister's footsteps and chose UMSL for its great programs and affordability.

"My entire focus was on learning 'how' to do something, graduating and getting a job," Gorder says. "I learned business fundamentals – accounting being the most important. Having worked during my undergraduate studies at UMSL, I learned to balance

many activities. This is a critical skill for managing a large, diverse business."

Paz echoes Gorder's praise for a UMSL education as preparation for business leadership.

"UMSL was a great preparation for what I would experience in the business world, and it opened my eyes to opportunities and a future that I wouldn't have otherwise imagined," says Paz, who earned his bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting in 1982.

Prior to joining Valero, Gorder served as vice president of business development at Diamond Shamrock.

To Gorder, his most successful partnership has been his marriage of 32 years, his two children and his two grandchildren – with a third on the way.

"God blessed me with a great family!" he says. ☰

Susan Kendig

Lifelong nursing scholar who earned law degree

By Myra Lopez

More than 30 years into a nursing career, Susan Kendig made a surprising move. She enrolled in law school.

"I say this jokingly, but the reason I went to law school was because health care was such a mess and I decided I was going to fix it before I died," says Kendig, a teaching professor at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, where she coordinates the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner program. She earned her law degree from the University of Missouri–Columbia in 2007.

"It's the best thing I ever did," she says.

For years she worked on policy initiatives and advising associations and task forces, so acquiring a legal degree made sense to her.

"By combining my two professions, it helped me to be able to read the law, understand the intent of the law and then help health care professionals understand what that means in their day-to-day practice," she says. "Helping healthcare providers and policymakers understand how policy affects peoples' lives is the heart of what I do."

For three-and-a-half years Kendig commuted daily to Columbia for classes at the MU Law School. The travel was tough, as she still taught at UMSL, but UMSL's College of Nursing offered flexibility that eased the situation.

"I could not have done it if I worked in most other places. They were flexible and that's a really important point," she says.

She praises the college and its environment that values lifelong learning. Kendig says that environment is why she's still at UMSL seven years after finishing law school.

"I do policy work. I do some legal work as part of my clinical practice, but I just felt that after the university supported me in attaining my educational goal, I needed to give back to the university. And they have created a space where I can do that and use the skills that I developed in law school," she says.

Kendig has always focused her work on women and infants. The crack epidemic that took hold of this country in the mid-1980s and early 1990s got her interested in working with women who were pregnant and chemically dependent. The subject motivated her to earn her master's degree in nursing.

"I was really interested in making sure women knew they were important and that their health was important as well, because if we improve women's health, we actually improve the health of families and of our communities," she says.

Kendig says being a lawyer has made her a better teacher.

She often gets calls from policy colleagues in Jefferson City, Mo., with questions about a bill, seeking her nursing expertise. She has

even used it as a lesson by putting the exchange on speakerphone so her class could hear policy in action.

"There is nothing special about me. I'm not smarter than any of my students," she says. "When my students graduate I hope that they'll also take an active interest in policy issues."

For her work to improve women's health, Kendig was named a 2013 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year in Women's Health. ■■■



Danielle Lee

White House honors alumna for STEM outreach to minorities

By Myra Lopez

In the lab or behind a lectern, scientist Danielle Lee is usually in the minority. Rarely does she see people who resemble her.

"I always seem to be one of the few people like me, who look like me and come from an inner-city community like me," says Lee, an African American female who earned her doctorate in biology from the University of Missouri–St. Louis in 2010.

Lee has set about to change what she sees. She is a force on social media, emphasizing

sharing science with general audiences, particularly underserved groups. She writes a popular blog, "The Urban Scientist," for Scientific American. She also received recognition from the White House this year.

"I care very much about making science in general very accessible to audiences that have been traditionally underserved and under-represented. We can't deny the mathematics in that," she says.

Ads and brochures for science programs or events tend to show young children and the people tend to be white and suburban, she says.

"For anyone who is not like that – they have to work hard to deliberately insert or imagine their face in those brochures. I don't even think it's something negative. I think it's something that's not consciously thought about," she says. "So, I decided I really wanted to participate in outreach in a way that was very cognizant and culturally aware and was very deliberate in whom it was trying to reach."

Lee wants to disrupt the image that science is only for "beautiful middle-class white families from the suburbs."

In February 2014, the White House named her one of 10 "Champions of Change" for her work to support and accelerate science, technology, engineering and math opportunities for African Americans.

"I was really, really honored that it caught the attention of people at that level and they thought that the work that I do – primarily since it's in social media – was worthy of recognition," she says.

Growing up, it never crossed Lee's mind to be a scientist, but she was doing science all along.

"Blowing dandelions, catching frogs, playing outside and making mud pies is what I did outside as a kid, and all of those things exposed me to this awesome fun stuff that I now get paid to do, called ecology," she says.

Lee is a post-doctoral research associate in the Department of Psychology at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Her research frequently finds her in Tanzania, examining the behavior of African giant pouched rats. The rats have an acute sense of smell and are used to sniff out landmines. Every year, landmines kill 15,000 to 20,000 people, according to the United Nations.

"I'm very fortunate. I'm one of those people who enjoys her job, and I like to tell that to people, particularly those who think science isn't interesting or fun," she says. "I'm like, 'If you're not having fun then you're doing it wrong.' This job is a blast."

Follow her on Twitter at @DNLee5. Visit her blog at blogs.scientificamerican.com/urbanscientist.



Richard Rosenfeld

UMSL criminologist partners with St. Louis police to reduce crime

By Jennifer Hatton

The idea was simple: create a partnership that would improve public safety in St. Louis. But how?

The answer was to concentrate law enforcement efforts into areas where crime rates were the highest. This is where Richard Rosenfeld came in.

Rosenfeld, Founders Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, understood this when he helped establish the St. Louis Public Safety Partnership in 2012 with UMSL, the city of St. Louis and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

An internationally known criminologist who specializes in crime trends, Rosenfeld secured a National Institute of Justice grant to support the partnership.

“I split my time between the university and the police department as the department’s ‘criminologist in residence,’” he says. “In that capacity I helped to design the department’s first randomized controlled field experiment to evaluate the effectiveness of police patrol strategies to reduce crime. I conduct research to improve the data systems used by local criminal justice agencies and have been part of the planning process for a new integrated database to monitor how those who commit firearm crimes are handled by the justice system.”

Along with UMSL graduate student Michael Deckard, who is embedded halftime in the department’s Crime Analysis Unit, Rosenfeld has created and mapped targeted areas to concentrate patrol efforts.

“This was done by using so called ‘hotspot’ policing,” he says. “We randomly designated high crime areas for ‘enhanced directed patrols’. Similar areas were subject to normal patrol.”

Rosenfeld says an officer is sent to this area, remains there 10 to 15 minutes and returns at least three times during a shift.

The outcome has been a 50-percent drop in firearm assaults in treated areas compared to the control areas.

“Ours is not the first university and law enforcement partnership,” Rosenfeld says. “But I do think ours is very distinct in the fact that politics have not gotten in the way. I have to say the principals have been terrific partners, the St. Louis Police Chief Sam Dotson, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay and Deputy Chief of Staff Eddie Roth.”

Mayor Francis Slay credits Rosenfeld’s work for many improvements to the department and the city. Slay awarded Rosenfeld and the university with the 2013 Quality of Life Award for the impact the partnership has had on the city.

“Rick has helped us to build on the best traditions of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, and with the support of UMSL doctoral students and faculty colleagues, to usher in a new era of police service in which

public safety is secured through evidence-based strategies and national best practices,” Slay says. “We are deeply grateful for his contribution.”

Rosenfeld hopes the partnership will endure, even after his participation is over.

“My hope is to establish a permanent foundation for researcher-practitioner partnerships that will bring other researchers into collaborative relationships with criminal justice professionals in St. Louis,” he says. “That would be a truly rewarding outcome of my involvement in public service.”



Kim Hudson

Path to new position was an unexpected one

By Rachel Webb

Long before Kim Hudson's face graced television screens across the St. Louis area, she was a familiar sight at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, whether she was covering campus news for *The Current* or leading cheers at basketball games.

Hudson was promoted to host of KTVI's "AM Show" in July, where she replaced former host Tim Ezell. Her new gig lets her sleep in a few hours later than her previous position of anchoring Fox 2's 4 a.m. spot, and has her doing everything from helping out with a chocolate dip in the on-camera demonstration

kitchen one minute to delivering hard-hitting news the next.

Hudson's job doesn't end when she leaves the set. Her position also requires her to plan and prepare stories and segments for the show. Hudson graduated from UMSL in 2000 with a communication degree, and the new high-profile job has made her grateful for the education she received at UMSL.

"It is like planning a huge dinner party, with multiple courses and a band, everyday," Hudson says. "I really appreciate my faculty advisers in student activities

for teaching me about confirmation letters and contracts. I am using every bit of that knowledge."

Hudson's path to her new position was an unexpected one. She graduated from Metro Academic and Classical High School in St. Louis with interests in science and parents who hoped she would become a doctor. As a talented biology and Pierre Laclède Honors College student at UMSL, she shocked her classmates when she switched her major to medical physics. In her fifth year, she realized that she had a passion for journalism and switched again to mass communication.

"I was wanting to tell the truth about women, children, people of color and poor people," Hudson says. "I felt like there are so many stereotypes out there. I wanted to be one of the journalists I saw every day working to break those, working to tell people that when there's a shooting in north St. Louis, there's a family behind it."

Hudson is a second-generation UMSL graduate. Her mother, Stephanie Hudson, graduated in 1993 with degrees in sociology and social work.

While on campus, she stayed busy as a reporter for the student newspaper *The Current*, and a member of the dance team, cheering on what were then the Rivermen in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center.

As a student, Hudson often went beyond the basics of her assignments, taking care to go into details on current-events quizzes and conduct more interviews on a topic than were required, says Mike Murray, Curators' Teaching Professor for Media Studies at UMSL.

Many graduates move around for their news careers, Murray says. Hudson's presence in St. Louis reminds the community of the high quality of UMSL's media studies and communication programs. She's worked at numerous news outlets in the city, both on-camera and off.

"The career trajectory of most people in TV news means that many of our sharpest and most ambitious alumni had to leave town to become successful in smaller markets," he says. "It is a tremendous tribute to Kim that the managers at Fox 2 have put their faith in her. This faith is well-placed and very well-deserved." ■■■



Hannah Perryman

will strike you out

By Ryan Heinz

With Hannah Perryman, there's no secret. Every batter knows almost exactly what the University of Missouri–St. Louis softball standout will throw.

"All I have is a riseball and a curveball," says Perryman, a junior pitcher.

Then why do so many struggle against the 5-foot-5-inch southpaw?

"I'm effectively wild," she says, laughing. "I've never been a finesse pitcher who can hit the spot dead on. I just keep batters on their toes. They don't know where the pitch will end up because I don't know exactly where it's going either."

That's it. Controlled chaos. To say it serves Perryman well is an understatement.

In just two seasons, she amassed statistics making her worthy of UMSL Sports Hall of Fame consideration. Perryman, 21, strikes out nearly two batters per inning, and she smashed a program record with 760 career strikeouts – 246 more than the original record. She's also second in wins (53), third in ERA (1.37) and fourth in complete games (44).

Perryman's pitching skills have garnered her All-American nods and conference Pitcher of the Year honors in each of her first two seasons. This year, she helped lead a young UMSL Tritons team that fell a single run shy of a College World Series berth.

She succeeds by slinging softballs across home plate at up to 67 mph. For perspective, a softball thrown at 70 mph can move about 37 feet from pitcher's hand to home plate in .35 seconds – or quicker than a baseball pitched 100 mph from a major league mound, according to ESPN's "Sport Science."

Fear and helplessness? These are not things Perryman experiences when pitching for the Tritons. But she knows those feelings well from her teenage years.

From fifth through 11th grade, a slightly older girl from Perryman's suburban Chicago neighborhood stalked her. There were regular verbal torments and loitering on the sidewalk outside Perryman's house. She calls the experience a "mental attack." Police told her family there was little they could do.

Perryman says she suffered post-traumatic stress disorder and took antidepressants during this time. She also dove headfirst into softball.

"I never wanted to be home," Perryman says. "I was always practicing."

She spoke out about the situation with journalists and lawmakers, leading to changes in Illinois laws. She even went to Washington, D.C. for a public discussion with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. It also sparked her interest in criminology and criminal justice, which she's studying at UMSL.

Perryman loves the CCJ department. She rattles off faculty names – "Isom, Bursik, Klingler" – as if she were listing her favorite pro ballplayers. She ultimately wants to help those who've suffered experiences like she has.

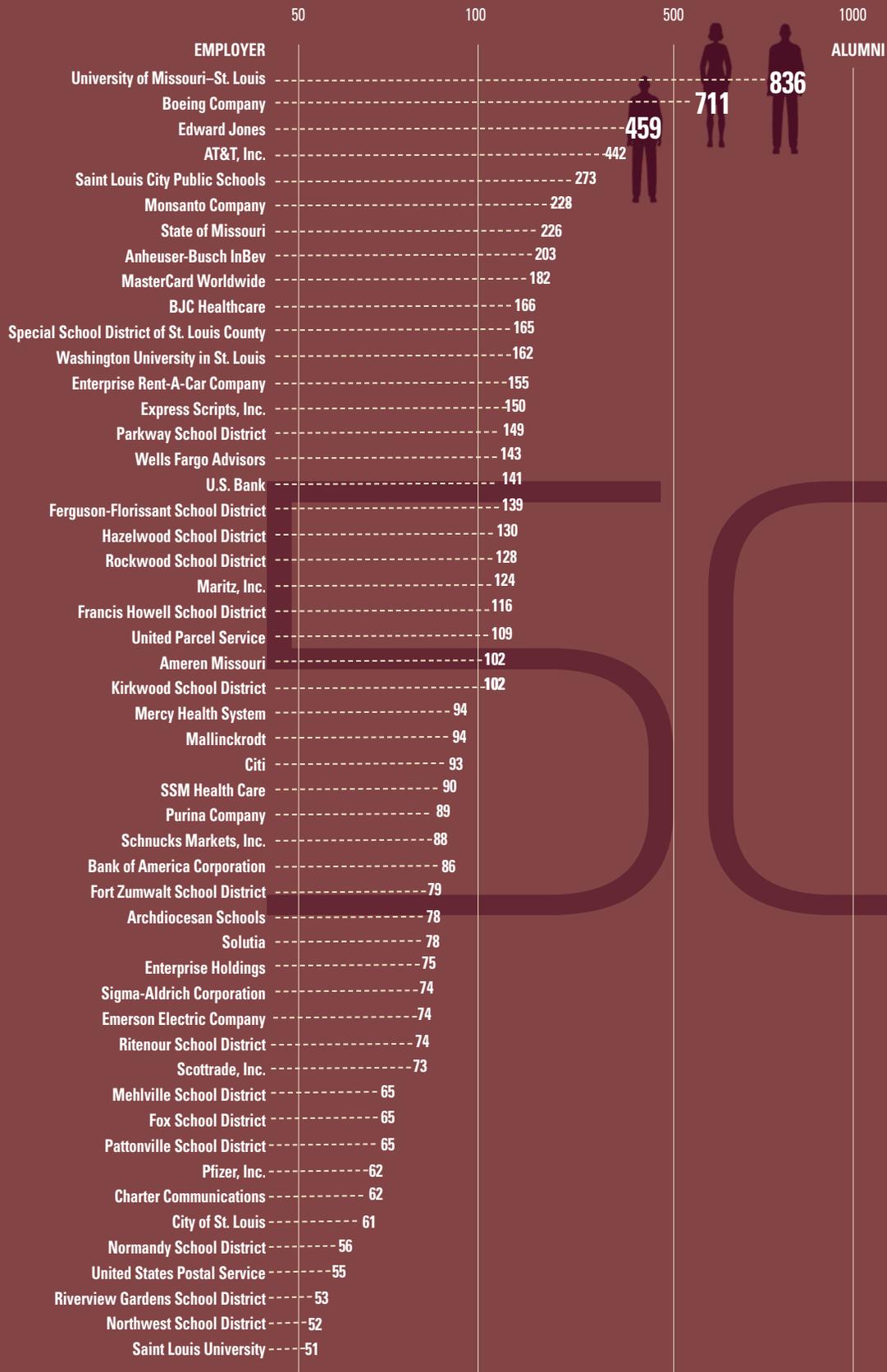
The 2015 season could be big for Perryman. Her best friend and fiercest competitor joined her on the softball team, as a CCJ major and a roommate.

"She's one of the people who helped me get through everything before," Perryman says of her 19-year-old sister, Jennah. "She's always been my rock. I'm so excited to have her here."

Sibling competitiveness pushes the sisters to work harder in the classroom and on the field, Perryman says. That bodes well for the team's odds of a 2015 College World Series bid. ■■■



TOP 50 EMPLOYERS OF UMSL ALUMNI



Link in with UMSL | ASK

By Marisol Ramirez

The name may suggest an online space for posting questions, but UMSL | ASK does so much more than provide answers. Alumni Sharing Knowledge, the phrase behind the acronym, is the basis for the new LinkedIn group formed and managed by the Office of Alumni Engagement and Community Relations at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

"This group is all about connecting students and alumni together through career advice," says James Page, assistant director of alumni engagement.

LinkedIn is a professional network site, which Page hopes more UMSL alumni and students will use. He encourages members of UMSL | ASK to reach out to one another, share articles, offer tips and post job opportunities. The group also gives members the opening to connect over their shared background with the university.

That's something that excites UMSL | ASK member Laura Burkemper.

"Networking, or better said, relationship building, helps us to gain knowledge, uncover opportunities, build stronger alliances and even grow global economies by narrowing the theory of six-degrees of separation."

Burkemper, BSBA 1990, is chief executive officer and business & brand catalyst at The Catalyst Center in St. Louis. She says students on UMSL | ASK generally seek employment and an understanding of what opportunities and resources are available to them, whereas alumni connect for subject matter expertise, skill sets or strategic partnerships to align and grow business.

"It's about service," she says. "And finding out what we can do to help each other."

LinkedIn is an extremely valuable tool professionally for Burkemper.

"Relationships are a catalyst for success. After all, none of us are as good as all of us. Not only is it important to know your strengths, but it is equally important to surround yourself with others whose strengths you may one day need to lean on for assistance or advice."

UMSL | ASK provides just that. The group's news feed has links to articles like "6 things you must do before a successful interview" and "Turn your job into your dream career."

If a member is searching for specific skill sets, there are more than 65 other members to tap. Burkemper is an ideal connection for expertise in the areas of business strategy, brand and marketing as well as entrepreneurship, angel investing and guest speaking. In fact, she approaches her LinkedIn profile with some of the same strategies she uses in business.

"Great brands create a competitive advantage by conveying their unique value," she says. "In the same manner, it's important to brand yourself appropriately. Create the message, profile and image that fits your goal and objective at hand."

This is helpful advice for all users of LinkedIn who are either longtime members looking to makeover their profile or new members just developing their social media presence. In a world where business is becoming increasingly reliant on digital connection, UMSL | ASK makes smart business sense for alumni and students of the university alike. ☰



Laura Burkemper



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James Page



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Great Advice for Students

James Page



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My first job out of college was less than perfect for me. I was selling life insurance in Boston and was unhappy. I wasn't passionate and I didn't feel challenged. My boss had questionable ethics (He would later go to federal jail.) It just wasn't a...

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UMSL distinguished alumni honorees stand out in their fields



Claire M. Schenk

BA psychology 1977

Claire M. Schenk is a partner with Thompson Coburn, joining the law firm in 1997 after 14 years of service with the United States Department of Justice. Earning her bachelor's degree from UMSL at the age of 19, Schenk went on to law school and a distinguished career that includes some of the most complex healthcare and securities investigations in Missouri.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis Alumni Association honored five alumni with a 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award at the university's Founders Dinner on Sept. 26.

This year's accomplished awardees are a diverse bunch. Whether it's on a stage, in a courtroom, a classroom, lab or clinic, their outstanding careers and commitment to service bring honor to each of them, and in the words of Chancellor Tom George at the ceremony, "shine a bright light on the university."

Classnotes

1960s

Gary S. Jacob, BS 1969, was awarded the honorary doctorate of science degree by UMSL. Gary is chairman and chief executive officer of Synergy Pharmaceuticals, Inc., in New York City.

1970s

Joseph A. Bergfeld, BA 1970, was the commencement speaker for UMSL College of Arts and Sciences graduates in May. Joseph is president of the St. Louis-based Pittsburgh Pipe & Supply Corp.

The Honorable Rick A. Stream, BSBA 1971, received the 2014 Legislative Award for his work to improve Missouri's budget and tax code. Rick is a Missouri state representative.

Patrick H. Gadell, BA 1973, received the doctorate of humane letters from UMSL. Patrick is an attorney with the Law Office of Thomas R. Green in St. Louis.

James C. Lutz, BA 1973, received a 2014 Community Builders Network Award. James is a housing development project manager with RISE, an organization that serves the St. Louis community.

Robert D. Roberson, C.P.A., BSBA 1973, president and chief executive of Frontenac Bank, was named the bank's chairman in August. Robert and his wife, Celeste, live in St. Charles, Mo.

James J. Scott, Esq., BA 1973, is general counsel for CRB, a design, construction and consulting firm in St. Louis.

Cheryle F. Dyle-Palmer, BA 1974, MA 1976, was named a 2014 Most Influential Business Women honoree by the St. Louis Business Journal. Cheryle is chief operating officer for the Parents as Teachers National Center in St. Louis.

Peter C. Drozdoff, BSBA 1976, was named vice president of marketing with Grande Communications, a Texas-based broadband communications company.

Julianne C. Niemann, MBA 1977, was appointed to the board of directors for Mary Ryder Home, which provides for the neediest of St. Louis senior women. Julianne is executive vice president of portfolio management at Smith, Moore & Co. in Clayton, Mo.

Richard M. Baker, BSBA 1978, became president and chief executive officer of Starlight Theatre Association of Kansas City, Mo.

1980s

Catherine S. Bear, BSEd 1980, MEd 1985, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Catherine is dean of the School of Education at Maryville University in St. Louis.

Geoff T. Roach, MBA 1980, was appointed to chief operating officer of Loqate, an international address verification company, in San Mateo, Calif.

Sandra D. Marks, BSBA 1981, was named a 2014 Most Influential Business Women honoree by the St. Louis Business Journal. Sandra is principal at Marks and Associates in St. Louis.

Angela R. McLemore, BSEd 1981, MEd 1986, substitutes for the Hazelwood (Mo.) School District. Angela retired from teaching with the Riverview Gardens School District in St. Louis.

Kasey C. Bergh, BA 1983, was promoted to director of community affairs at Nestle Purina PetCare. Kasey resides in St. Louis.

Cletus C. Glasener Jr., MBA 1983, received the Distinguished Career Achiever award from the UMSL College of Business Administration Alumni Chapter at the 2014 Salute to Business Achievement Awards. Cletus is chief financial officer and vice president of Elbit Systems of America, a global defense and aerospace electronics company in Fort Worth, Texas.

Nancy M. Durham, BSEd 1984, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Nancy is a first-grade reading recovery teacher at Glenridge Elementary School in the School District of Clayton, Mo.

Robert D. Cissell, BSBA 1986, was appointed to the Midwest BankCentre St. Charles Region Board. Robert is owner and broker of Cissell Mueller Company, LLC, in St. Peters, Mo.

Mark J. Long, BA 1986, was promoted to senior vice president of property management at Gershman Commercial Real Estate, a St. Louis full-service real estate firm.

Debbie M. Pike, BSBA 1986, received the Saint Louis University John Cook School of Business 2014 Excellence Award. Debbie is an assistant professor of accounting at Saint Louis University.

Sheldon E. Webster, BSEd 1986, is the McCluer North High School track and field coach in Florissant, Mo. Sheldon led the McCluer North High School girls track team to win the Missouri track and field championship at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo.

Michael G. Wagner, BSBA 1987, became director of purchasing at PayneCrest Electric & Communications, Inc., in St. Louis.

David M. Herschel, BA 1988, is chief information officer of the U.S. Navy Reserves, OPNAV 0956, and is completing his master's degree in governmental leadership from the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

Bobby Norfolk

BGS 2003

Bobby Norfolk has been recognized with Emmys, Parents' Choice honors and the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence Award as a story performer and teaching artist. Starting out in St. Louis as a comedian and actor, he made his first appearance as a storyteller at the St. Louis Storytelling Festival in 1979. Norfolk inspires audiences of all ages and spreads joy through the oral tradition of telling and listening.





Kathleen Boyd-Fenger

PhD education 2012

Kathleen Boyd-Fenger has impacted countless St. Louis teens during her three decades of service at Logos School, an organization that gives struggling youth a second chance at academic success. Once a Logos student herself, Boyd-Fenger is now the school's top administrator and an inspiration to current students. She is a leader in the mental health and educational fields, frequently contributing her expertise in the St. Louis community and beyond.

Classnotes Continued

James D. Tuxbury, BA 1988, filmed "Landmark of Legends," a documentary about the making of the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge that crosses the Mississippi River in St. Louis and St. Clair County, Ill. James is a photographer for KSDK [Channel 5] in St. Louis.

Sharon P. Bachesta, BGS 1989, is director of marketing for Pavilion Services, a St. Louis management services organization.

Kevin J. Ballentine, BSBA 1989, was appointed as director of development at Logan University in Chesterfield, Mo.

Sheila A. Burkett, BSBA 1989, received the Entrepreneurial Spirit award from the UMSL College of Business Administration Alumni Chapter at the 2014 Salute to Business Achievement Awards. Sheila is founder and managing partner for Spry Digital, LLC, and founder and president of Tuxedo Park Leasing, both based in St. Louis.

Kenneth R. Kruse, BSBA 1989, was appointed to the Midwest BankCentre St. Charles Regional Board. Ken is president of the homebuilding company Payne Family Homes in St. Louis.

Jeffrey S. Robben, BSAJ 1989, joined the St. Louis-based manufacturing and service firm Epic Systems as a facility technician.

Deceased

Michael B. Hart, BSBA 1983, on April 20. Michael is survived by his wife, Marilyn, sons Adam and Daniel and grandson Charles. A Lutheran pastor, Michael served congregations in Illinois and Minnesota. He enjoyed spending time with his family, nature, gardening, literature and music.

Elizabeth J. Schreiber, MEd 1983, on April 3. Elizabeth is survived by her five children, 15 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a host of family and friends. Elizabeth enjoyed summers in Door County, Wis., with her family.

Robert H. Scollay III, BSBA 1985, on Dec. 13, 2013. Bob is survived by his wife, Sarah, and their two daughters Kathryn and Ellen.

1990s

Steven F. Schankman, BGS 1991, taught Introduction to Music Business in the School of Professional

and Continuing Studies at UMSL during the summer of 2014. Steve is president of Contemporary Productions, an event and entertainment agency based in St. Louis.

Michael J. Rose, BSBA 1992, became chief financial officer of Weekends Only Furniture Outlet in St. Louis. Michael served as director of real estate and worked in the finance department with PetSmart prior to his new role.

Robert W. Haggerty, BSBA 1993, was promoted to partner of Brown Smith Wallace, a St. Louis-based accounting firm.

Mark D. Redburn, BSEd 1993, was named head softball coach at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Mo. Mark won 90 games in five years during his previous head-coaching stint at the University of Evansville in Indiana.

Aron L. Blanke, BM 1994, MME 2004, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Aron is a third-grade music teacher at the Center for Creative Learning in the Rockwood School District in St. Louis.

Daniel W. Isom, BS 1994, MA 2003, PhD 2008, is director of the Missouri Department of Public

Safety as appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon. Daniel is Endowed Professor of Policing and the Community at UMSL.

Jolene A. Lampton, MBA 1994, received the Distinguished Service to Education award from the UMSL College of Business Administration Alumni Chapter at the 2014 Salute to Business Achievement Awards. Jolene is assistant professor of management and accounting at Park University in Austin, Texas.

Joseph C. Stewart III, BSBA 1994, was re-elected as member director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines. Joseph is chief executive officer of BancStar, Inc., in St. Louis.

John P. Luetkemeyer, BSBA 1994, joined Total Hockey, a St. Louis hockey retailer, as director of hockey development.

Barbara M. Belcher, BSEd 1995, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Barbara is a second-grade teacher with Holy Child Catholic School in Arnold, Mo.

Lori I. Humphrey, BSEd 1995, MEd 1996, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Lori is a second-grade teacher at Old Bonhomme Elementary School in the Ladue School District.

Sandra Mary Kardis, MMIS 1995, was elected Toastmasters International District 8 governor for 2014-2015. District 8 includes eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois. Now retired, Sandra has been active in Toastmasters International's communication and leadership program for a number of years.

Debra L. Opich, BSBA 1995, is director of operations at Prosser Financial Group, LLC, in Chesterfield, Mo.

Ronald G. Pettus, MA 1995, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Ronald is an associate professor in the arts and humanities department at St. Charles (Mo.) Community College.

Kel K. Ward, BS 1995, received a St. Louis American Foundation's 2014 Salute to Excellence in Health Care Award. Kel is manager of community relations at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Ronald L. Gibbs, MBA 1996, joined Webster University's Leigh Gerding College of Fine Arts as a development officer.

Sean C. O'Donnell, BSBA 1996, MBA 1998, received the Outstanding Leader Award from the UMSL College of Business Administration Alumni Chapter at the 2014 Salute to Business Achievement Awards. Sean is vice president and general manager of Charter Communications in Missouri and Illinois.

Erin K. Budde, BA 1997, was appointed vice president of strategic giving and innovation for the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Pamela A. Duffy, MBA 1997, is a member of the associate board of directors for The Bank of St. Louis and the owner of Rhodey Construction, a St. Louis-based company specializing in general contracting for industrial, healthcare and tenant finish work.

Kevin S. Amsler, BSBA 1998, co-authored the book "The Architecture of Maritz & Young: Exceptional Historic Homes of St. Louis," published by the Missouri Historical Society.

Daryl W. Favignano Jr., BA 1998, joined St. Charles-based Borgmeyer Marketing Group as senior editor.

Scott A. Harrison, BSBA 1998, was promoted to portfolio manager with the accounting firm Argent Capital Management in St. Louis.

Yun J. Kim, BA 1998, is a lecturer in the Faculty of Business and Design department at Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak in Malaysia. Yun graduated from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom with a PhD in political science.

Jennifer D. Ehlen, BSBA 1999, was named one of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2014 Most Influential Women and also received the St. Louis Business Journal's 2014 Innovation Award for her creativity and success in the workplace. Jennifer is vice president of Thompson Street Capital Partners in St. Louis.

Debra H. Moore, MA 1999, PhD 2004, was appointed to the board of directors for the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois. Debra is executive director of the St. Clair County (Ill.) Intergovernmental Grants Department.

Christine E. Ries, BSEd 1999, received the 2013 Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher of Missouri Award from the Science Teachers of Missouri, a state chapter of the National Science Teachers Association. Christine is a fifth-grade teacher for Combs Elementary School in the Ferguson-Florissant (Mo.) School District. She is also a PhD in education candidate at UMSL.

Deceased

Rachelle A. Ahner, BSEd 1990, on Sept. 17, 2013. Rachelle was a sixth-grade teacher at Guffey Elementary School in Arnold, Mo. She was a recipient of a 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Rachelle is survived by her two daughters.

The Honorable Sheila F. Lumpe, MA 1990, on June 4. Sheila was appointed chief utilities regulator by Missouri's governor and served until 2003 on the Public Service Commission. Prior to that, she was a state representative for University City, Mo. from 1980 to 1997. Sheila is survived by three sons, one daughter and six grandchildren.



Barbara Willis Brown

BA chemistry 1984,
OD optometry 1998

Barbara Willis Brown is quick to acknowledge the pivotal role that the Department of Chemistry and College of Optometry played in her life as a student. Her contributions to her profession, the university and those in need of vision care around the world in the years since, have been immeasurable. Brown remains a tireless advocate for optometry students and for UMSL.

2000s

Kimberly A. Brown, MPPA 2000, received a St. Louis American Foundation's 2014 Salute to Excellence in Health Care Award. Kimberly is the administrator of Cooper House, part of Doorways, an interfaith nonprofit organization that provides housing and related supportive services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the St. Louis area.

Steven L. Harris, BSACC 2000, was named one of the St. Louis American's 2014 Young Leaders. Steven is a partner with the firm RubinBrown LLP in St. Louis.

Opal M. Jones, BSBA 2000, was the featured speaker for the UMSL African American Alumni Chapter New Graduate Recognition Reception. Opal serves as president and chief executive officer of Doorways in St. Louis.

John M. Killoran III, BSACC 2000, MS 2002, is manager at Brown Smith Wallace Small Business Services, a St. Louis accounting firm. John also serves as finance chair, board member and executive committee member on the board of Vision for Children at Risk, an advocacy group for St. Louis children's health and welfare.

Scott S. Niekamp, BSBA 2001, qualified for Top of the Table membership in Million Dollar Round Table, an association of more than 42,000 of the world's leading life insurance and financial services professionals. Scott is a wealth management adviser for Northwestern Mutual and resides in Chesterfield, Mo.

Melissa R. Null, BA 2001, joined the St. Louis-based law firm Lashly & Baer PC as associate.

Jaclyn M. Overbey, BSEd 2001, MEd 2006, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Jaclyn is a third-grade teacher with Fairview Primary School in the Jennings School District in St. Louis.

Jeffrey S. Bishop, BA 2002, joined The Lincoln County Journal as a staff reporter. Jeffrey reports on community, government and school events. He resides in St. Charles, Mo.

Michael S. Fague, BSMIS 2002, is senior database analyst in the Division of Biostatistics at Washington University in St. Louis.

Orvin T. Kimbrough, MBA 2002, received the Distinguished Community Service award from the UMSL College of Business Administration Alumni Chapter at the 2014 Salute to Business Achievement Awards. Orvin is president and chief executive officer of the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Beverly L. Miller, MSN 2002, joined Mercy Clinic in Cuba, Mo., as a nurse practitioner.

Russell D. Odegard, MBA 2002, is co-founder and managing partner of the St. Louis analytical testing lab company DYNALABS, LLC.

Laura S. Schmidt, BA 2002, MPPA 2008, wrote her debut young adult novel "Sweeter Than Life,"

published by Martin Sisters Publishing. Laura is the owner and office manager of All Out Wildlife Control, LLC, in Festus, Mo.

Matthew D. Huber, BM 2003, is director of recruitment at Harrisburg Area Community College in Pennsylvania.

Jamie L. Kerry, BA 2003, is the owner and book designer for the publishing company Belle Étoile Studios in Raleigh, N.C. Jamie is mother to Robert Elliott.

Adam R. Rustige, BSBA 2003, is a commissioning technician at Sitton Construction and Energy Solutions in O'Fallon, Ill.

Lance P. Obermeyer, BFA 2004, joined the St. Louis-based Paramount Mortgage Company as a mortgage banker.

Darnetta D. Wafford, MEd 2004, MEd 2007, was awarded an Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Darnetta is a sixth-grade teacher at Normandy Middle School in St. Louis.

Shanee E. Haynes, BA 2005, recently became a full-time communications instructor at East Central College in Union, Mo.

Linda S. Murphy, BA 2005, received the Southern Community College's Keokuk Campus 2014 Distinguished Alumni award. Linda is a published author and is active with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and the St. Louis Writer's Guild.

Stephen P. Nicholas, MBA 2005, became vice president of medical affairs - service line practices for the SSM Health Care - St. Louis Physicians' Organization.



William Shiang

BA chemistry 1984, PhD chemistry 1989

William Shiang leads the Global Supply Team for Dow Chemical Company, where he was first recruited in 1990 following his postdoctoral work in organic chemistry. Prior to his remarkable career at Dow, Shiang expertly balanced his coursework at UMSL with full-time work managing his family's restaurant business in downtown St. Louis in the early 1980s after deciding to go back to school at the age of 28.

Stephen oversees the SSM Cancer Center, SSM Heart Institute, SSM Neurosciences and SSM Orthopedics.

Mark C. Petty, BS 2005, graduated from The Royal Veterinary College at the University of London and is a veterinarian at the Humane Society in St. Louis.

Matthew R. Barker, MPPA 2006, is vice president of health policy at the Missouri Foundation for Health in St. Louis. Matthew was recently a panelist for a discussion on the Affordable Care Act hosted by Express Scripts.

Misty L. Burton, BA 2006, joined Variety the Children's Charity of St. Louis as therapy services manager.

Monica C. Clonts, BSN 2006, is the communicable disease coordinator for Phelps/Maries County Health Department in Rolla, Mo. Monica was recently featured in The Rolla Daily News for her career achievements in the nursing field.

Colleen C. Kirby, BSBA 2006, MPPA 2012, was promoted to assistant vice president of Gateway Community Development Fund in St. Louis. The Fund is an affiliate of the St. Louis Equity Fund and helps provide affordable housing to lower-income families.

Michelle N. Murphy, BA 2006, is a revenue cycle manager at Precision Practice Management in St. Louis. Michelle is mother to Jaxson Henry Amptmann.

Heidi L. Martin, BSBA 2007, was appointed to senior financial services representative with Princor in Chesterfield, Mo.

Olena O. Zhadko, MEd 2007, PhD 2011, is a manager of curriculum development at the New York Institute of Technology.

Melissa A. Borchardt, BA 2008, was promoted to Architectural Technology Department chair at Rankin Technical College in St. Louis.

James E. Cash, MAcc 2008, was promoted to tax supervisor at Schowalter & Jabouri PC, a St. Louis CPA and consulting firm.

Timon W. Edwards, MBA 2008, received the St. Louis American Foundation's 2014 Salute to Young Leaders award. Timon is senior manager and management consultant at The Hackett Group in St. Louis.

Serena N. Muhammad, MFA 2008, is a senior project director for strategic partnerships for the Saint Louis Mental Health Board.

John M. Russo, BSEE 2008, joined Epic Systems, Inc., a St. Louis-based engineering and fabrication firm, as project engineer.

Scott Brown, BSIS 2009, joined the public relations firm Cork Tree Creative in Edwardsville, Ill., as graphic designer and lead web developer.

Robert A. Haupt, BS 2009, was a guest on NBC's "Steve Harvey Show." Robert lives in St. Louis.

Marriage

Nicholas P. Meirink, MBA 2009, to Melissa Claire Haberer on May 3. Nicholas is a senior accountant at Centene Corporation in Clayton, Mo. The couple resides in Kirkwood, Mo.

2010s

Shelly D. Beckemeier, MBA 2010, joined HOK in St. Louis as regional leader of consulting.

Gianna S. Jacobson, MFA 2010, is editor and publisher of the St. Louis-based literary magazine "december."

Albert L. Jones, BSAcc 2010, joined Mueller Prost, a CPA and business advisers firm in St. Louis, as health care consulting manager.

Hannah M. Jones, MA 2010, wrote "Attempting to Define: Love (Volume 1)," published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Hannah is also author of the self-published book "Monochrome." She is a part-time composition instructor at Northwest Indian College at the Port Gamble S'Klallam site in Kingston, Wash., and a mother of two.

Brittany G. McDonald, BS 2010, became an enrollment counselor at Western Governors University, an online university.

Karolina J. Migdalska, BA 2010, joined Wood Brothers Realty in St. Louis as an agent.

Anthony J. D'Agostino, MPPA 2011, joined Springboard, a St. Louis provider of arts and cultural integration and enrichment programs, as a senior program director.

Sandra Dilber, BSAcc 2011, was promoted to senior accountant at Schowalter & Jabouri, P.C., in St. Louis.

Lydia G. Mason, BLS 2011, BSN 2014, is a registered nurse in the emergency room at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

Marcelle H. Piglia, MAcc 2011, was promoted to senior financial analyst, forensic and valuation services with the St. Louis-based accounting firm Anders CPA & Advisors.

Kathleen M. Boyd-Fenger, PhD 2012, was named one of the Most Influential Business Women of 2014 by the St. Louis Business Journal. Kathleen is head of the Logos School in St. Louis.

Keisha Mabry, MEd 2012, received the St. Louis American Foundation's 2014 Salute to Young Leaders award. Keisha is a business development manager for Dot Foods, Inc., in Chesterfield, Mo.

Kimberly A. Warner, BA 2012, was appointed to the Midwest BankCentre Southeast Missouri Region Board. Kimberly is vice president of Blue Owl Restaurant in Kimmiswick, Mo.

Victoria M. Bolton, BA 2013, joined Renaissance Financial in St. Louis as a financial adviser.

Blair E. Brown, BA 2013, is a member of the a capella quartet Double Date, which won the gold medal at the 2014 BinG1 competition in Dortmund, Germany. Double Date is the first American group to win the competition.

Jason R. Buhlinger, MBA 2013, was promoted to manager in the financial advisory services practice at the St. Louis-based accounting firm Brown Smith Wallace.

Rachel E. Engelbarts, OD 2014, joined Palmetto Eye Specialists as an optometrist in Hilton Head, S.C.

Melanie M. Gowdy, MSW 2013, is outreach and enrollment specialist for Legal Services of Eastern Missouri in St. Louis.

Paul Huber, BS 2013, was named to the board of directors of Doorways, an interfaith AIDS housing and services agency in St. Louis. Paul is a revenue manager for Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

Gary M. Mudd, MBA 2013, joined the St. Louis accounting firm Kerber, Eck & Braeckel LLP as an audit manager.

Ravi Raghuram, BM 2013, is a member of the a capella quartet Double Date, which won the gold medal at the 2014 BinG1 competition in Dortmund, Germany. Double Date is the first American group to win the competition.

Nathan A. Schauf, MPPA 2013, was appointed city administrator for Owensville, Mo.

Eric Messmer, BS 2014, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Eric is assigned to the Jefferson Barracks Military Post as a signal officer in the Army National Guard in Lemay, Mo.

Tasha N. Hack, BSN 2014, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Tasha is assigned to the Texas Army National Guard with the Army Nurse Corps.

Kimberly R. Kras, PhD 2014, is a research fellow in the Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Nermin Zimic, BFA 2014, received the 2014 Judges Choice Award for his piece in the AIGA Saint Louis competition for best overall work submitted by students and professionals in graphic design. Nermin is an assistant art director at Falk Harrison, a brand communication agency in St. Louis.

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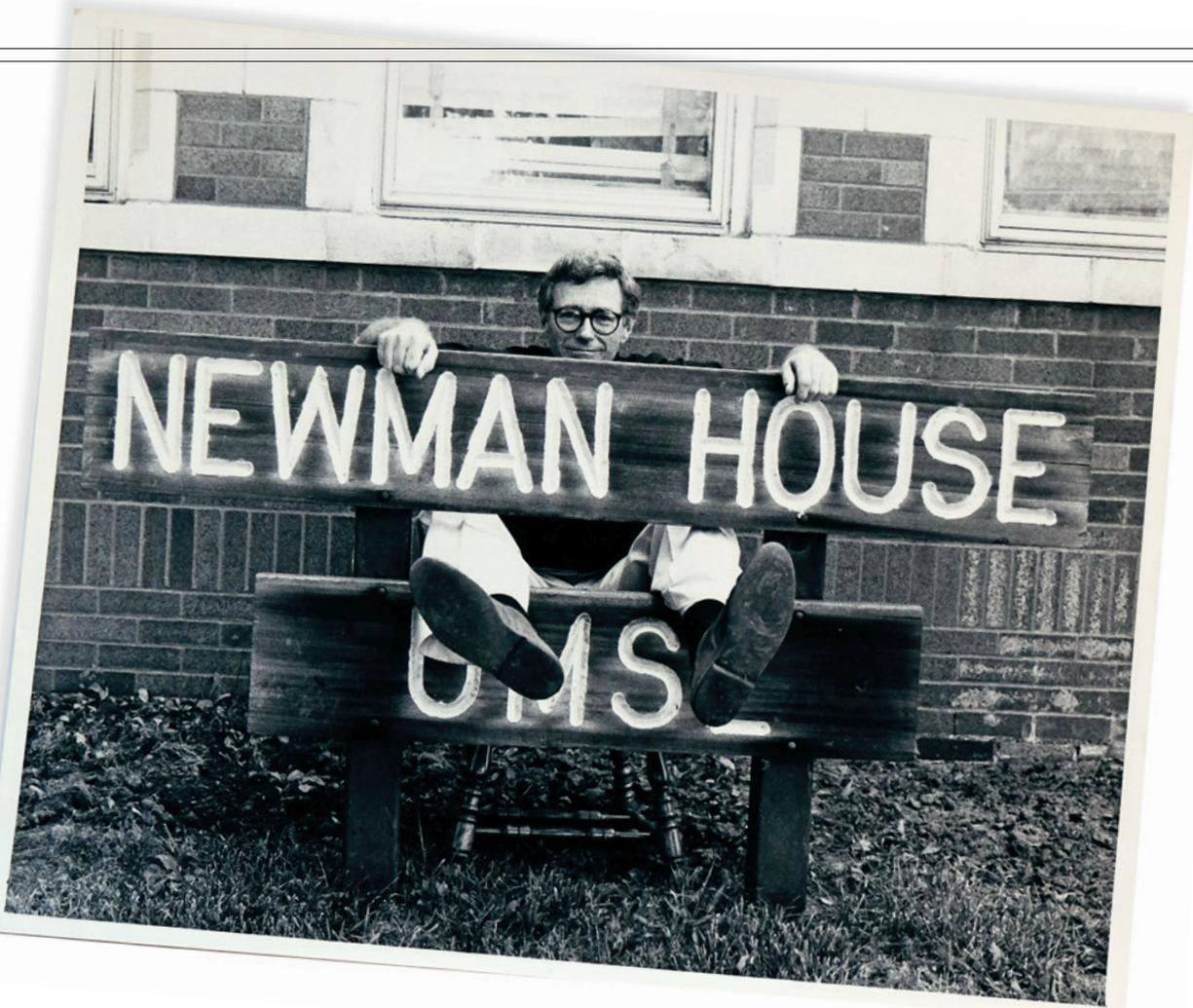


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HAPPY 50TH TO UMSL'S NEWMAN CENTER

It's been 50 years since the University of Missouri–St. Louis' Newman Center opened its doors in 1964. The center remains a place of social gathering, where service and faith and sharing experiences, build a warm community for students, alumni, faculty and staff. The late Father Bill Lyons (pictured) was the third director of the center and helped shape the community for 27 years, the longest directorship to date. He held the title from 1967-94. Known for inspiring college students to talk about deep issues, Fr. Lyons was a passionate man, often animated and enthusiastic in his mannerisms. An enlarged image of his fun pose hangs on display today in the UMSL Newman Center's dining room.



Fr. Bill Lyons plays in the sign for UMSL's Newman Center in the late 1960s.

What was campus life like for you in the early years of UMSL? Do you have a fond memory of participating in UMSL's Newman Center or any other organizations? Tell us what you were up to when you were a student on campus, and send us a picture of your college days. Your response could be featured in the next issue! Send your comments and photos to donna_carothers@umsl.edu or by mail to Donna Carothers • UMSL Alumni Engagement and Community Relations 414 Woods Hall • 1 University Blvd • St. Louis, MO 63121 • 314-516-6453