

UMSL

MAGAZINE

FALL 2015

Shaping
New rec center
strengthens heart
of campus up



Serious education.
Serious

FUN

For a few moments, Jericah Selby doesn't know what to say.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis alumna just walked through the main entrance of the UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center for the first time – a place that didn't yet exist when she was a student several years ago.

"It turned out just fantastic," bursts Selby eventually. "It's so welcoming and open, and there's just a lot of space to do what you want to do and feel comfortable. And it's so cool seeing how many people are here."

She turns to Assistant Dean of Students Miriam Roccia, who is along for the late-afternoon tour of the new facility. "Good job," Selby says with a smile.

Roccia is quick to point to UMSL's student body in recent years – including Selby, who was Student Government Association president in 2012 when students voted to fund the project – as the primary force behind the much-anticipated rec center's fall 2015 debut.

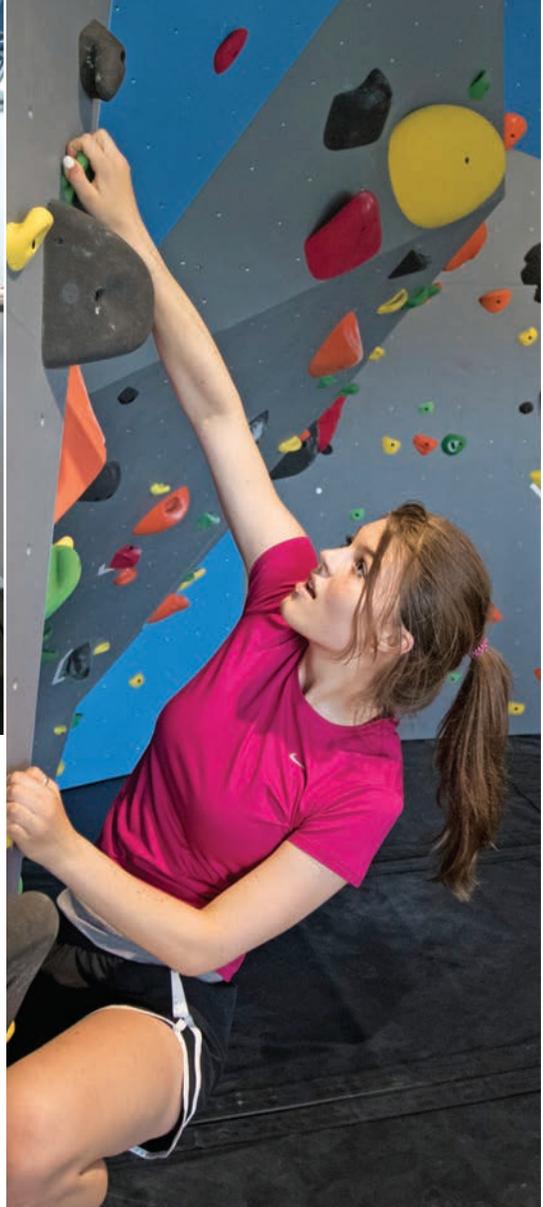
By Evie Hemphill

Student-driven rec center opens





UMSL students Crystal Teigland and Jackson Bond take a dip in the 155,000-gallon pool.



“

They cared about the well-being of future students, and they cared about the growth of the university,” Roccia says. Dedicated student leaders even before Selby had a hand in it, including Dann Rosner, who in 2010 initiated a campus survey to gauge interest in such a facility.

“In seeking out student feedback on how to improve campus, we found that a large number of students were interested in an updated rec center,” recalls Rosner, now an employee at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. “We also looked at it from an enrollment and recruitment standpoint.”

Ask current students for their impressions, and the consensus is that there’s a lot to love about the new \$36 million rec center. From the state-of-the-art fitness equipment, to the rock-climbing wall, to the 155,000-gallon pool and more, it’s garnering rave reviews.

Junior accounting major Cydney Gehner is partial to the elevated indoor track with its plentiful windows and stunning campus views – characteristics that students pushed for in the design phase.

“I’m an avid runner, but every winter I kind of slack off,” says Gehner, who is not a treadmill fan but also doesn’t love running in the cold. “Now I know that after class on Tuesdays and Thursdays this will still be my routine. As open as it is and with all of the natural light, I feel like I’m outdoors even if I’m not.”

Sophomore Rodney Whitney, a pre-med student with majors in biology and Spanish, says he’s “proud that UMSL is improving the simple things” that can really enrich the student experience.

“Maintaining a healthy lifestyle plays a big part in my well-being as a student with a rigorous schedule, so the rec center’s options make it a great place to spend time getting fit,” he says. “I’ve also met and gotten closer to many amazing people just by speaking to the friendly staff.”

That staff includes more than 100 student employees, which speaks to another aspect of the boost the new facility provides: convenient, on-campus job opportunities for UMSL’s busy students. Lifeguards, rock wall supervisors, receptionists, trainers...the list of roles goes on.

Left: From its long open hours to friendly staff to aesthetics, the UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center is “an amazing place to exercise, de-stress and have a good time,” says pre-med student Rodney Whitney, who is majoring in biology and Spanish.

Center: A bouldering wall hangs adjacent to the rec center’s colorful two-story rock wall, with multiple routes to challenge new and experienced climbers.





Whitney adds that while wellness and recreation are in a sense very separate from academic life, he sees the rec center as ultimately “a valuable academic tool” for the campus community.

“It allows students to remove themselves from academics while improving their mental well-being,” he says, “thereby providing life balance and later enhancing academic performance.”

During the first two weeks of the fall 2015 semester, the facility saw between 900 and 1,000 visitors per day. While those figures include some faculty and staff as well as community members, Roccia notes, the vast majority of users are UMSL students. Constructing the rec near the Millennium Student Center on North Campus appears to have been a wise choice.

“Both commuter students and residential students said they would use it if it were here, and I think we’re seeing that,” Roccia says. “I’m watching commuter students

come to campus at 9 a.m., and they have their gym bag and their school bag, and their gym bag just stays in the car while they go to class. Then they change and come right back.”

Junior Tabitha Milon, who takes public transit to campus and works 15 to 20 hours a week at the rec center, says the location is a big plus for her as well.

“I used to hate the long walk to the gym,” Milon says. “This is really close to classes, and MetroLink is really convenient.”

Over refreshing Jamba Juice smoothies at the conclusion of her tour, Selby admits it’s all a bit overwhelming – in a good way.

“Even though St. Louis is my home already, this makes it even more of a home,” says Selby, who recently finished her law degree at the University of Denver but was born and raised in north St. Louis County. “I love UMSL. It’s just a great feeling. I think this just adds so much to the campus.” ≡

THE LINEUP

Campus rec by the numbers

- 14,000 square feet** of open fitness space
 - 123 hours** of operation per week
 - 85 pieces** of cardio equipment
 - 30+ group** fitness classes per week
 - 4 group** fitness studios
 - 3-court gymnasium** (including a multi-activity court with dasher board system)
 - 2-story climbing wall** with bouldering wall
 - 1 elevated track** with two loops, scenic views and an incline
 - PLUS** a zipline, juice bar, sauna, swim lessons, intramural sports and more!
- (See umsl.edu/campusrecreation for further details.)





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Over the 12 years I've been chancellor of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, I've witnessed UMSL make great strides in education, research and community outreach. Some of those advancements gain quite a bit of attention, but did you know that...

UMSL sponsors seven area charter schools with a total enrollment exceeding 2,600 students.

UMSL is one of the region's major players in healthcare education and services, particularly in the mental health field, despite not having a medical school.

UMSL, in cooperation with the Missouri Botanical Garden and St. Louis Zoo, is a world leader in tropical ecology education and research.

Surprised? Well, you're not alone.

This issue of UMSL Magazine shines some light on areas in which faculty, students and alumni are making significant contributions locally and globally, especially in education, healthcare and conservation, which can never be highlighted enough.

I'm also proud to recognize UMSL's first African American faculty member, Marcus Allen, and his lasting impact on students and the campus community that will never be forgotten.

And while this issue of the magazine covers some serious topics, you'll also find some serious fun in its pages. From beer to zombies to yoga, there's so much that brings a fun twist to life and learning at the university.

But I'm most excited about the new Recreation and Wellness Center and how much it adds to campus. It's truly an iconic building. So as students get academically fit at UMSL, they can also work out, get healthy and de-stress.

UMSL Magazine is always informative and entertaining. I believe you'll find this issue among the best ever.

Thank you for your continued support and interest.

Sincerely,

Tom George
Chancellor

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From birds to coral reefs, UMSL alumni lead wild-life conservation around the world.

24 Healing minds

UMSL extends its psychological services to help heal St. Louis.



ON THE COVER

The elevated running track inside the new Recreation and Wellness Center is just one of many features the new facility offers.

EMERSON

Here's how Emerson's support has had an immediate and long-term impact on UMSL.



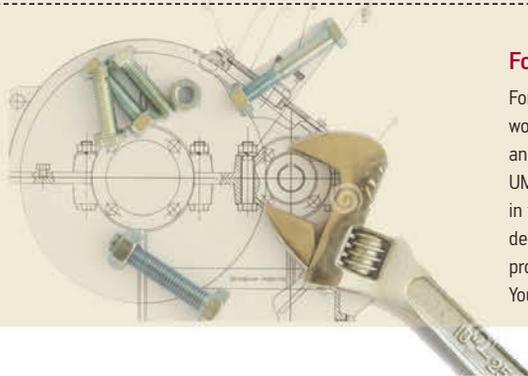
Funding local futures

Emerson and UMSL have been anchor institutions in north St. Louis County for a combined 171 years. Emerson created the Emerson Community Scholarship Program at UMSL to further enhance the impact each has on the area – including the development of its young talent. UMSL and the University of Missouri System added \$500,000 to match Emerson's contribution. The program has attracted 50 new students to UMSL this fall, including business major **Devin Billups**. The Hazelwood Central High School graduate had scholarship offers from nine universities but chose UMSL because of Emerson's support and the quality of the business college.



Fostering a program

For decades, UMSL sought approval for an engineering program that would benefit students of the St. Louis region – particularly women and minorities. Contributions and political support from Emerson helped UMSL establish a joint program with Washington University in St. Louis in the mid-1990s. Nearly 700 individuals have received engineering degrees as a result, including Evelyn Bailey Moore. The 31-year-old program manager at The Boeing Company received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award this year.



Marcus Allen Advising Center dedicated to UMSL's first African American faculty member

The late Marcus Allen studied French as a young man through frigid Pittsburgh winters, warming himself by the heat of his kitchen stove.

"The rich lived in the far off suburbs where steel mills belching smoke and flames did not pollute the air. Blacks were left to live on the side streets and in the alleys," wrote Allen in his autobiography, "One Life: A Memoir."

After serving in World War II and earning a PhD in French from the University of Pittsburgh, he would go on to become a beloved scholar and mentor who would write internationally lauded articles on Voltaire, win the 1972 Chevalier dans l'Ordre des

Palmes Académiques and help develop the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

UMSL honored his legacy with the dedication of the Dr. Marcus Allen Advising Center located in 302 Lucas Hall. Allen's family, former students and colleagues attended the Sept. 3 event. Mary Allen, his wife, offered her insight and described how her husband might feel about the event.

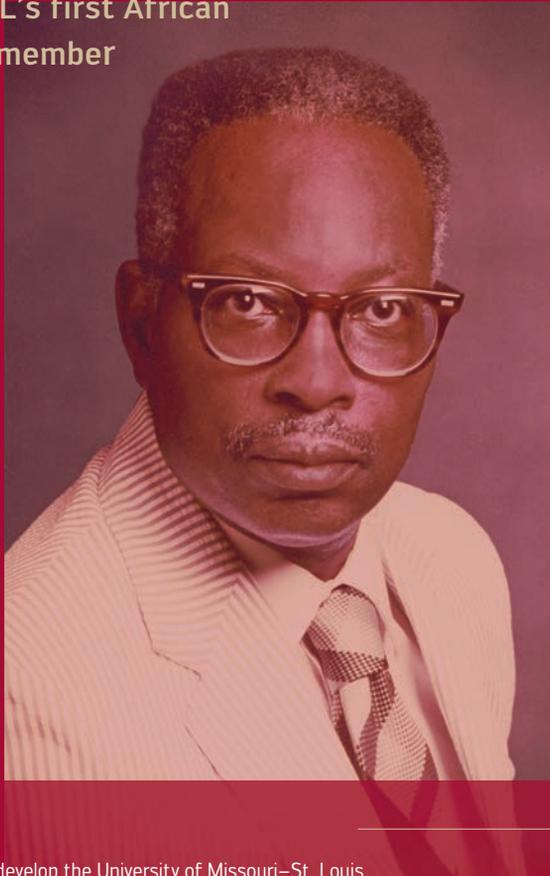
"Since Dr. Allen was a modest, reserved, non-pretentious individual, I think he would feel honored," she said the day of the ceremony. "But knowing him as well as I did, I think he would also be humbled by being recognized in this way."

Mrs. Allen found the addition of a student advisory office at UMSL to be a direct continuation of Allen's efforts.

"Dedicating the advising center at the College of Arts and Sciences to my husband is a fitting memorial to him. He had a special connection to his students, and they to him. This connection was evident in the letters they wrote in support of my naming proposal."

Most importantly, Mrs. Allen expressed admiration for her husband and the UMSL community.

"On behalf of his family, Diane, Amanda, Mark and me, I'd like to say this dedication is a high honor. He loved UMSL, and this recognition is returning that love to him and to us."



State, donors make Anheuser-Busch Hall a reality

Established in 1967, the College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri–St. Louis has an outstanding reputation. It regularly receives accolades from U.S. News & World Report and is the only program in St. Louis with accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business in both business and accounting.

What the college doesn't have is a home base all its own. That situation is about to change thanks to significant contributions from private donors and taxpayers.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon has released \$10 million in state funds that will match \$10 million in private and corporate funds raised by UMSL to construct a new 50,000-square-foot building for the college. UMSL hopes to open the building in 2017.

"They did their part, now we're doing our part," Nixon said. "This project exemplifies UMSL's commitment to giving its students the skills and experience they need to compete for the best jobs in the global economy. That means quality instruction, state-of-the-art technology and modern facilities that are conducive to learning and collaboration."

The building will be constructed northeast of Express Scripts Hall along West Drive and named Anheuser-Busch Hall in honor of a lead \$2.5-million gift from Anheuser-Busch Foundation.

"All of us at Anheuser-Busch are honored to be part of the team that's making this building a reality for the students at UMSL," said Margarita Flores, vice president for community affairs at Anheuser-Busch. "As the global leader in brewing, our dream is to be the best beer



company, bringing people together for a better world. And supporting higher education is a big, big part of that dream."

Anheuser-Busch Hall will streamline all the current business school operations, offering students and faculty a centralized place to collaborate, interact and share ideas within their specific disciplines. It will feature cutting-edge classrooms, modern computer laboratories, faculty offices, seminar and conference rooms, and undergraduate and graduate advising areas. Currently, students and faculty are scattered across five buildings on the UMSL campus.

"Our university's alumni and friends deserve a great deal of credit for helping us get this project off the ground with their generous donations," UMSL Chancellor Tom George said. "Now, thanks to Gov. Jay Nixon and the Missouri Legislature, we can break ground."

MARY ANN MITCHELL

Mary Ann Mitchell, the one-woman media center for UMSL Athletics

Former collegiate volleyball player Mary Ann Mitchell shows grit, determination and heart on and off the court.

In her position as assistant director of athletics for media relations at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, she has workdays that can stretch up to 14 hours, proving herself to be a one-woman media center.

Mitchell manages the UMSL Athletics’ website, writes press releases and articles, facilitates photography, monitors social networks, maintains statistics and records, attends games, handles media requests and will even pull the tarp for a softball game, if need be.

Read her take on sports news, social media and what motivates her work ethic.

The St. Louis sports market is saturated with professional and collegiate teams. How do you attract media attention for UMSL Athletics?

We have a few stations that really do great work with us. KSDK is always out here, covering our teams.

Beyond any marketing strategy I can think up, more media attention comes with winning, the successes of our student-athletes and what they are doing on the court or field. The more our teams win, the more media coverage we are going to get, and I feel that was evident with our softball team last year. Softball had an outstanding season with some great individual performances, including Hannah Perryman pitching several perfect games, a story picked up by ESPN.

Does social media and technology make your job easier?

You would think so, but social media is more overwhelming than anything because you have access to so much information and so many forms of communication. There’s Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Periscope. You could do all that stuff, but there’s really not enough time in the day.

I figure out which social media streams best reach my target audience and go from there.

Considering the various tasks you accomplish and the long hours, what keeps you motivated?

Honestly, supporting the athletic program through media is a fun job. And being around student-athletes just makes it that much better because they’re so young and so vibrant and energetic.

It’s amazing, seeing how student-athletes grow from the time they first step on campus to the time they leave. Besides becoming great athletes, they grow as people, too, and leave with good degrees that lead to good jobs.

Plus, the coaches and staff I work with also keep me motivated. One of the best things about coming to work every day is being around others with the same passion in wanting both the department and the student-athletes to succeed. I am blessed to get to do what I do at UMSL. ☰





UMSL:
A BEACON
FOR ST. LOUIS
CHARTER SCHOOLS

By Jennifer Hatton

WHILE WORKING IN A SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

outside of Chicago in the mid-'90s, Julie Frugo felt like she could do more. "I looked around at my students, and I knew they'd be fine without me," says Frugo.

So she decided to take a leap of faith. She moved to St. Louis, and after a year at a public school district, she embarked on a new journey to become part of something bigger than she even imagined.

In 1998, Missouri passed a law allowing the creation of charter schools in St. Louis and Kansas City. This legislation paved the way for charter schools to provide an option to boost the existing public school systems, some of which were failing.



Julie Frugo, head of school at Premier Charter School, talks with a student about his class assignment.

"At the time, we were all in uncharted territory," Frugo says. "I started as a teacher, the University of Missouri–St. Louis was our sponsor and we were opening one of the first charter schools in St. Louis. Our goal was to offer families an alternative to the educational choices they currently had."

St. Louis Charter School opened its doors in 2000. Now, 15 years and one name change later, the school today known as Premier Charter School is the oldest and one of the most successful charter schools in

St. Louis. Frugo, who earned a master's in educational leadership, a graduate certificate in education and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at UMSL, now serves as head of schools.

"During early years, there were many challenges, but I really credit our success to the people who knew that educational reform in the area was needed and believed in what we were doing," she says. "UMSL supported us, and we were able to put the right people in the right places to assure our success, both financially and academically."

Over the last few years, UMSL's position as a charter school beacon has emerged. The university realigned the coordination of charter schools under the College of Education and hired Bill Mendelsohn to oversee UMSL's charters as the executive director.

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, UMSL'S POSITION AS A CHARTER SCHOOL BEACON HAS EMERGED.



Although UMSL's journey with charter schools wasn't always smooth in the early years of sponsorship – the university had to close a school, revoke a school's sponsorship and faced litigation from the St. Louis Public Schools – Frugo now credits the institution for having a vision and being the first in the area to support charter schools.

With some risk comes reward. UMSL currently sponsors a total of seven charters with two more coming soon. In addition to Premier, UMSL sponsors St. Louis Language Immersion Schools, which consist of The French School, The Spanish School, The Chinese School and The International School; South City Preparatory Academy; Lafayette Preparatory Academy; North Side Community School; Preclarus Mastery Academy and The Biome. Tessera Hall Academy and Vernare School will open in the fall of 2016.

UMSL CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Lafayette Preparatory Academy [K-3] 120 North Side Community School [K-5] 286 Preclarus Mastery Academy [5-8] 175 Premier Charter School [K-8] 900
South City Preparatory Academy [5-8] 190 St. Louis Language Immersion Schools [K-6] 903 The Biome [K-1] 80

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides funding for charter schools, and the schools are accountable to DESE, their sponsor and their families. Charter schools are free to families living in the city boundaries.

"We want our schools to see us as partners; we want to empower them and to provide any and all resources that we can," says Mendelsohn.

dean of the college. "Working directly with our charter schools gives us the ability to simultaneously learn from one another, enhancing the college's programs, teaching and research about what works for children and youth, and providing the charter schools with the support, resources and knowledge needed to expand their innovative practice."



Left: Bill Mendelsohn, executive director for UMSL's charter schools, talks to students during a recent visit to North Side Community School.

Right: Kindergarten teacher Anna Westra and her class do some stretching before moving on to a new subject for the day at Premier Charter School.

Those resources come in many forms, but mostly through the help of the college's faculty and students.

Collaborating with charter school administrators and teachers, UMSL education faculty work on curriculum, training, research and other areas to ensure that charter school educators are prepared.

"The College of Education at UMSL is built on the belief that practitioners, scholars and innovators must come together for improvement and growth of our educational systems," says Carole Basile,

Critics of charter schools have expressed concerns about schools "cherry picking" the best and the brightest of students and being exclusive about the student body. Mendelsohn disagrees and cites the fact that all of UMSL's schools must take any and all students who apply. If there are more applicants than openings, the schools select students through a random lottery.

"Our schools strive to provide students in St. Louis with greater opportunities for a strong education," he says. "UMSL supports their quest to reach this vision." ≡

Better learning through

BEER

ZOMBIES

HBO

TELEVISION:

Nontraditional courses have proven popular with UMSL students

By Ryan Heinz



With safety goggles protecting their eyes and lab books in hand, Brandon Garrison and Taylor Obst patiently monitor a glass cylinder of water as it warms on a heating plate. When the water reaches the right temperature, Garrison dumps a container of milled barley into the cylinder and begins mashing in. That's what first sets this chemistry course apart from others offered at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

Garrison and Obst are brewing beer. For credit.

"I needed a science class for my major," says Obst, a junior majoring in business administration. "I like chemistry, and I like beer. So why not take a class that combines the two?"

"I've always appreciated beer," says Garrison, a senior majoring in biology. "It's interesting to see what goes into making each style."

With a smile, he adds, "Maybe I can figure out why I like it so much."

Bruce Hamper, assistant teaching professor of chemistry, calls the course a "food science class" and enthusiastically says brewing is "chemistry in action."

"We measure alcohol content, carbohydrates, bitterness, carbonation and other parameters of the beer that impact flavor and quality," Hamper says. "Students are likely to remember these experiences long after the semester is over. How often can you say, 'I brewed beer for class credit?'"

The class includes field trips to the quality testing labs at Anheuser-Busch's St. Louis brewery and guest speakers like Marc Gottfried, brewmaster of the William K. Busch Brewing Co., maker of the Kräftig brand.

Students eventually brew a two-liter batch from start to finish. Obst and Garrison plan to brew an American stout, and they'll be exploring the chemistry side of it all along the way.

A sneaky approach to learning

Some might call these courses off-beat or nontraditional. Ron Yasbin refers to them as "sneaky." They're also successful.

"These courses succeed because students choose them out of their interest and not because they have to take them," says Yasbin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "The courses are interesting to the students and are relevant in today's culture. The fact that they carry 'gen-ed' or other required credits is a bonus."

ZOM PIES



Brandon Garrison, a senior majoring in biology, uses a hydrometer to measure specific gravity of the wort and determine the sugar content of a batch of beer he's brewing for the UMSL course Beer Brewing: Chemical and Biochemical Principles.

The college is home to numerous unusual courses. There's Choice and Chance, which is basically a philosophy class on logic and probability that covers required, basic college-level math credits. And there's Chemistry of Art, a museum studies course.

Further examples include Ghosts, Goblins and Godzillas; and Zombies, Vampires and Monsters taught through the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology.

"We investigate why some mythic narratives, like zombies, are so salient in our dominant culture," Jennifer Nolan, assistant teaching professor of anthropology says of the latter. "In the process, students learn storytelling and communication skills and develop cultural and historical awareness."

Taught by four faculty members across the history, English and foreign languages disciplines, the popular Reacting to the Past course involves students role-playing as people from bygone eras. In taking on those historic personas, they debate and defend various issues of the characters' time, which gives the students a better understanding of how people throughout history lived and thought.

Teaching St. Louis through a show about Baltimore

UMSL has offered multiple courses centered on the HBO drama "The Wire." And with good reason.

"The central character of 'The Wire,' so to speak, is Baltimore," says Benjamin Torbert, associate professor of English at UMSL. "To study Baltimore is to study St. Louis."

Torbert, who taught Pierre Laclède Honors College and graduate-level English courses centered on the show, points out that Baltimore and St. Louis share a loss of manufacturing, a sizeable drug trade, a preservation of pre-war housing stock and an independence from the surrounding counties.

"The Wire" examines Baltimore holistically with each of its five seasons adding an additional layer to the storytelling through the different perspectives of the metropolitan police department, justice system, drug trade, dockworker union, city politics, public schools and the news media.

UMSL criminologists Lee Slocum and Elaine Doherty both hail from Baltimore. They believed the show would be the perfect conduit for teaching a course on crime, justice and urban life.

"'The Wire' has been critically acclaimed as a unique show that very poignantly exposes the many issues of urban life,"





Baltimore natives and UMSL criminologists Elaine Doherty (left) and Lee Slocum use the HBO program "The Wire" to teach a course on crime, justice and urban life. The show is based in Baltimore, which is similar in many ways to St. Louis.



Above: Student Tory Freeman looks on as classmate Chelsea Mowery pours wort, a sweet liquid made from milled barley and water, into a graduated cylinder. They're taking a UMSL course that teaches chemistry through beer brewing.

Doherty says. "Thus, it is not a crime show – it is a show that brings to light the challenges of housing, education, drugs and crime, public health, politics and the criminal justice system."

Slocum and Doherty decided to collaborate on the course, which is offered each spring, because they felt their combined areas of expertise – community-police interactions and urban neighborhoods for Slocum, public health interventions and overlap of substance abuse and crime for Doherty – fit harmoniously with the themes from the show.

"The Wire" courses have also proven popular, which doesn't surprise Yasbin, College of Arts and Sciences dean.

"Traditional college courses will always have a place at UMSL," he says. "But our faculty continue to find new and creative ways to capture our students interest while ensuring they learn the material." ≡



SAVING THE PLANET

ONE ECOLOGIST AT A TIME

By Marisol Ramirez

UMSL has 46
alumni total in
leading positions at
conservation sites across

17 different countries.

Belize	Bhutan	Boliva	Brazil	China	Colombia	Costa Rica	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Ecuador	Guatemala	Madagascar	Malawi
1	2	1	3	1	2	3	1	4	1	1	1

Look at the preservation of the endangered Spix macaw

in Brazil or the coral reef off the coast of Costa Rica, and you'll find University of Missouri–St. Louis alumni leading the efforts.

UMSL's location in the city of redbrick buildings and the stainless-steel Arch might make its reputation for excellence in wildlife research and conservation surprising. But among ecologists worldwide, the Department of Biology is known for the leaders it produces in the field. In fact, U.S. News and World Report ranked the graduate biology program among the top in the country in September.

With the support and collaboration of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center (housed in the department), the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo, biology students at UMSL have top-notch research opportunities and field experiences that serve as a springboard to become leading international conservationists.

Almost 200 bird species are endemic to the Atlantic Forest in Brazil, the area Jaqueline Goerck's research focused on for both her master's degree (1995) and doctoral degree (1999) in biology from UMSL.

"The opportunity offered me by UMSL to develop the research for my own country was fundamental in helping shape my career," says Goerck, who is originally from Itapiranga in the state of Santa Catarina.

"Brazil is the leader in the number of threatened birds in the world – 164 species – a very sad record," she says. "Several small forest birds are at the brink of extinction. Some have not been seen for several years and may already be extinct."

Securing "Important Bird Areas" through collaboration with local and national organizations, government agencies, businesses, community leaders and researchers is the everyday work of SAVE Brasil, the bird preservation organization created by Goerck and her team of experts in 2004.

Jaqueline Goerck, SAVE Brasil

Right: Jaqueline Goerck, president of the directing board for SAVE Brasil, poses with a Spix macaw, one of the species she's helping to save from extinction. (Photo courtesy of Jaqueline Goerck)



Nearly 150,000 acres
have officially received
protected area status
by the Brazilian government,
with more than 600 species
of birds directly benefiting
from SAVE Brasil's
conservation projects.

Serra do Urubu is one of the last significant remnants of the Atlantic Forest in northeastern Brazil and is classified as an "Important Bird Area" by SAVE Brasil. (Photo by Alice Reisfeld)



It's part of the global alliance Bird-Life International, which has partners in 114 countries.

"SAVE Brasil already completed more than 10 years of successful conservation work in our country," she says, "and last year we received the Prêmio Muriqui, one of the most prestigious prizes in environmental conservation in Brazil, granted by the Biosphere Reserve of the Atlantic Forest."

Formerly president-director from 2004 to 2015, Goerck recently became president of the directing board this past August. Her time with SAVE Brasil has seen many successes. Nearly 150,000 acres have officially received protected area status by the Brazilian government, with more than 600 species of birds directly benefiting from SAVE Brasil's conservation projects.

"We started a project with the Spix macaw, aiming to create a public protected area at the site where the last individuals were found," she says. "The captive breeding program of the species,

led by the government, has been successful with more than 100 individuals now in captivity. We might be able to see the reintroduction of some individuals into the wild in a few years to come."

Until then, Goerck will continue to oversee projects protecting the most threatened species and the sites that are at greatest risk. She also plans to continue community engagement.

"With the increasing population of birdwatchers in Brazil, there is an excellent opportunity to engage them in citizen science and conservation work."

Alejandro Masís, Área de Conservación Guanacaste, Costa Rica

"I love diving the coral reefs, walking through the dry forest, getting muddy in the rain forest and chilled in the cloud forest," says Alejandro Masís, regional director of Área de Conservación Guanacaste (the Guanacaste Conservation Area) in northwestern Costa Rica.

It's the only site in the Neotropics where one can find four major biomes – marine area and dry, rain and cloud forests – conserved under one conservation organization, ACG.

In fact, ACG makes up two percent of all of Costa Rica's land, 13 percent of the province of Guanacaste and more than 400,000 acres. The contiguous and continuous areas comprise three parks and a wildlife refuge in addition to other conservation lands. And the approximate 335,000 combined plant and animal species represent 2.6 percent of all global biodiversity.

So it's truly a big deal that a 2005 master's in biology UMSL alumnus is in charge of the administration and the enforcement of regulations on logging and wildlife issues for ACG.

"Think of it as having park service, forest service and fish and wildlife fused into one institution," says Masís, "then have the whole country divided into 11 conservation areas, and each conservation area overseeing those three services. There is no typical day for me."

At UMSL, he was awarded the 2003 Compton Fellowship from the Harris Center. He remembers his time on campus fondly.

"The two years I spent at UMSL were just wonderful. The choice of classes that was offered constituted a great balance between science, policy and real-life conservation."

Now he applies what he learned out in the field to protect the land of his home country.

"We have specialized programs that deal with different aspects of our conservation efforts," he says. "There is a traditional 'ranger program,' the guys with guns. There is also a fire-prevention and control program."

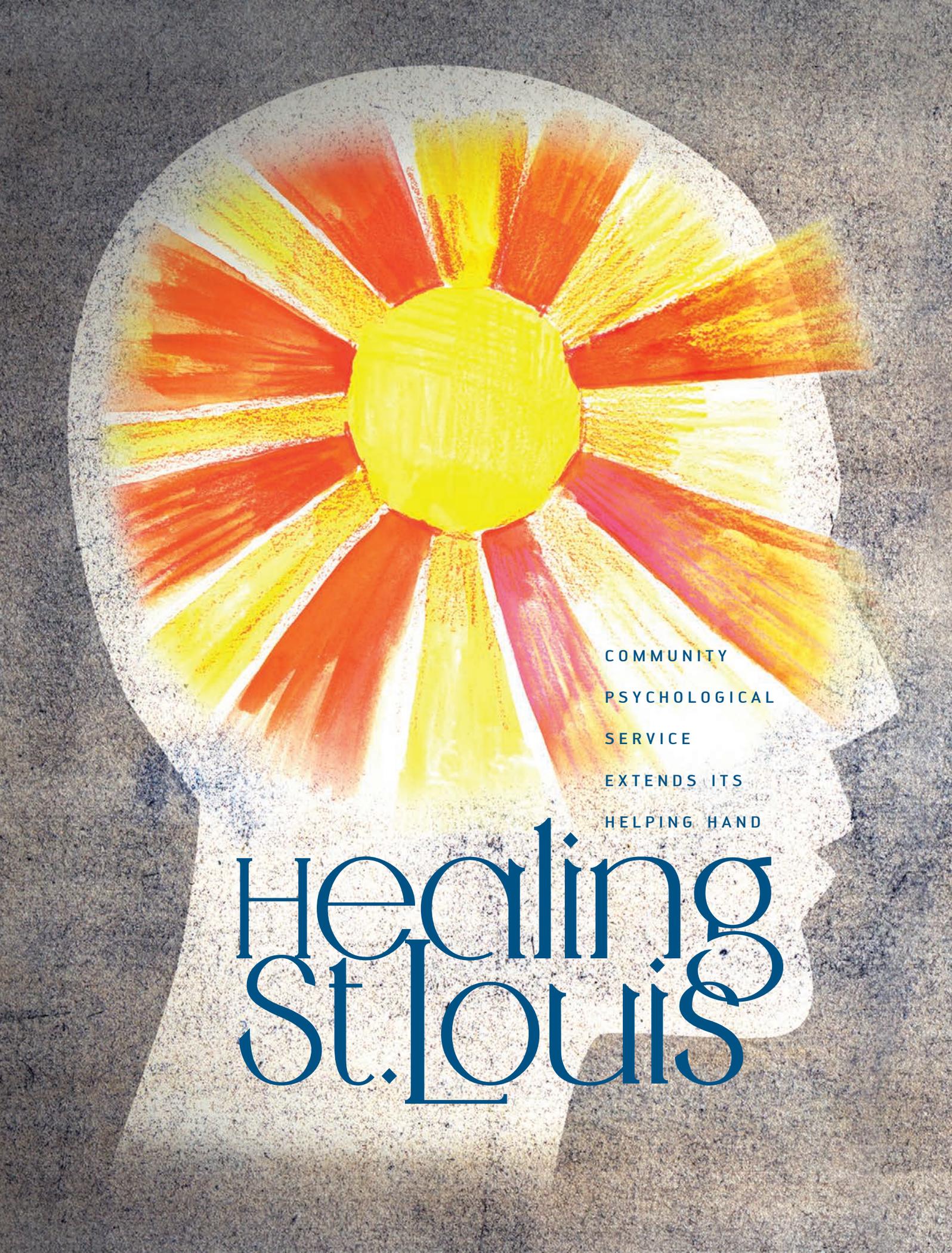
But Masís believes in community involvement and education as conservation tactics.

"Investing more in education and in setting aside the wild lands for intelligent uses, like research and ecotourism, for example, is a much better strategy," he says. "Only through integration of the wild land into society's fabric will it be protected." ≡

Bottom: Alejandro Masís, regional director of Área de Conservación Guanacaste, collects endemic fish from one of ACG's many bodies of water. (Photo by María Marta Chavarría)



This Pipra rubrocapilla or Red-headed Manakin was found at the Frei Caneca Reserve, one of SAVE Brasil's protected sites. (Photo by Ciro Albano)



COMMUNITY
PSYCHOLOGICAL
SERVICE
EXTENDS ITS
HELPING HAND

Healing St. Louis

During his postdoctoral fellowship in New Orleans, John Nanney worked

By Ron Austin

with gunshot victims at a level-one trauma center. He developed a program to offer psychological assessment and therapy to patients at risk of repeat injury due to violent confrontation.

"While the gunshot victims were in the hospital, we had a captive audience," Nanney says. "So we used the opportunity to **intervene** with them, as they were at high risk of being shot again or shooting someone else."

Since then, Nanney has joined the University of Missouri–St. Louis as director of Community Psychological Service, one of several psychological resources UMSL offers to the St. Louis community including the Center for Trauma Recovery, Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis, the Missouri Institute of Mental Health and the Department of Psychological Sciences.

Founded in 1977 and based in Stadler Hall on UMSL's campus, CPS uses a three-pronged approach to treating mental health concerns in areas that exhibit great need. The program trains future clinicians through a rigorous doctoral program, supports faculty who pursue **cutting-edge psychological research** and offers affordable, high-quality assessments and outpatient treatment to area residents.

What Nanney quickly found is that the St. Louis metropolitan area faces challenges and deficits in care similar to New Orleans.

"Constant exposure to violence, inequality and socioeconomic insecurity can cause or aggravate cases of depression, PTSD, anxiety, et cetera," Nanney says. "When a person is confronted with feelings of hopelessness, it's difficult for them to imagine living the American Dream. But psychotherapy offers **concrete strategies** to better cope with these adversities and live a more fulfilling life."

In 2012, CPS received a \$4 million grant from St. Louis County Children's Service Fund to provide psychological evaluations to children and adolescents. Within the first year of using those resources, CPS provided more than 900 area children with psychological evaluations, including testing for ADHD, body-image disorders and school difficulties.

According to Nanney, working with children and adolescents is essential to breaking negative family cycles.

"A lot of the time, people blame bad behavior solely on the child and say they're a bad kid, but it's really the social conditions they're exposed to," he says. "Our job is to provide **solutions** by considering the social and family context that in many ways determines the child's behavior."

Due to the UMSL program's **success** and demand for services, CPS received further grant money and opened the Center for Behavioral Health in 2014. The new clinic, based in west St. Louis County, has proven extremely useful to residents who have difficulty obtaining transportation to north St. Louis County.



John Nanney, director of Community Psychological Service

"We need more mental health professionals in this country who are devoted to meeting the needs of the most underserved populations."

Student-athletes. Great students.

163-92-3
Overall
win-loss
record

20
GLVC Player
of the Week
selections

213
Student-
athletes
at UMSL

4
NCAA
All-Americans

4
Teams
appearing
in the NCAA
Tournament

3
Consecutive
years of
conference
titles in
softball

72
Academic
All-GLVC
Awards

2
GLVC Coach
of the Year
awards

6
Perfect games
tossed by softball's
Hannah Perryman

baseball

basketball

golf

soccer

softball

swimming

tennis

volleyball

FY2015

UMSL is a member of the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Business student Nour Salmeen benefits from big-city opportunities at UMSL

By Ryan Heinz

Growing up in Kuwait, St. Louis wasn't exactly on Nour Salmeen's radar.

"Coming from the Middle East, you think America is just New York and California," says Salmeen, smiling. "Nobody mentions the middle. Obviously it's not what they show in the media, so it's a nice surprise. It's like a hidden world."

And it's a world that's been full of opportunity for Salmeen, who is pursuing her MBA at the University of Missouri–St. Louis after

earning a BSBA with a marketing emphasis from UMSL in 2014.

When moving to the U.S. for college, Salmeen first followed in her older sister's footsteps. She enrolled at the University of Missouri–Columbia where her sister was working toward a journalism degree. Columbia wasn't a good fit for the younger Salmeen, who was studying marketing.

Rather than look to New York or California, she turned her attention 125 miles east on

Interstate 70. She's been in love with St. Louis and UMSL ever since.

Salmeen was drawn to UMSL by the university's strong business program, connections to the community and internship opportunities. She has since coupled her marketing studies with UMSL's outstanding International Business program. She credits Elizabeth Vining, teaching professor of marketing and IB Fellow, for encouraging her to explore the IB program, which was ranked 12th nationally by U.S. News and World Report in September.

She's made the most of her time at UMSL. Salmeen twice went abroad for two-week faculty-led tours, one to Dubai and the other to China. She works as a marketing assistant for UMSL's Millennium Student Center Operations. And she counts among her marketing internships stints with The Firecracker Press and O'Fallon Brewery. For the latter, she assisted with the company's brand expansion and launch of a new \$11 million brewery and taproom in Maryland Heights, Mo.

Salmeen's also compiled a lengthy list of mentoring, volunteering and student program participation efforts. Joe Rottman, director of UMSL's International Business Institute, where Salmeen is a graduate research assistant, sums up her boundless energy by saying she'll be a great catch for any company when she enters the job market.

"Nour represents all that is great about our top-ranked International Business program," Rottman says. "Our students have a reputation of being ambitious workers, eager to embrace leadership roles and community engagement opportunities, and she's no exception. I have no doubt that Nour will do well in the global job market and quickly provide value to any company she joins."

Salmeen keeps busy, but she's had plenty of time to make a realization.

"St. Louis is a hidden gem," she says. "There's so much diversity and so much free stuff to do – all of these events, the zoo, the museums, Forest Park. It's really a great community. I feel like I'm a good fit here and don't see myself moving anywhere else anytime soon. St. Louis is home." ■■■



Nursing alumna Kenya Haney: Fierce leader, minority healthcare advocate

By Marisol Ramirez

As a little girl, Kenya Haney read medical textbooks that her aunt, a nurse with Lupus, had around the house. She knew more about the body system and caring for an ill loved one than most children.

"There is not a time in my life that I can recall not worrying about my aunt and wanting to take care of her," says Haney, BSN 2010, as she traces the roots of her nursing career.

She was raised in north St. Louis in The Plaza housing projects before she moved to south St. Louis and went to Parkway School District schools as a deseg student. Now, she's director of Cardiology Services and Respiratory Care Services at both Progress West Hospital in O'Fallon, Mo., and Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital.

Her climb to her directorship was a spectacular one.

When she entered the RN to BSN program in the College of Nursing at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, Haney already had her associate's degree from St. Louis Community College at Forest Park and was on track to rise through the ranks of the National Student Nurses Association.

"I was looking for a school to complete my BSN, but I was already campaigning to run for president of NSNA. I wanted to be challenged, but still be in a program that was OK with having a student who traveled as much as I did."

Juliann Sebastian, dean of the College of Nursing at that time, assured and supported Haney in her ambitions. While she worked as a registered nurse at Christian Hospital in St. Louis and studied for school, Haney simultaneously served as president of NSNA. She was the national leader of a 63,000-member professional nursing association and also the first black female to hold the position.

"Believe it or not, it was so surreal," she says. "President Obama had recently been elected, and then NSNA elected a woman named Kenya. It was a hat I wore with honor and one I took very seriously."

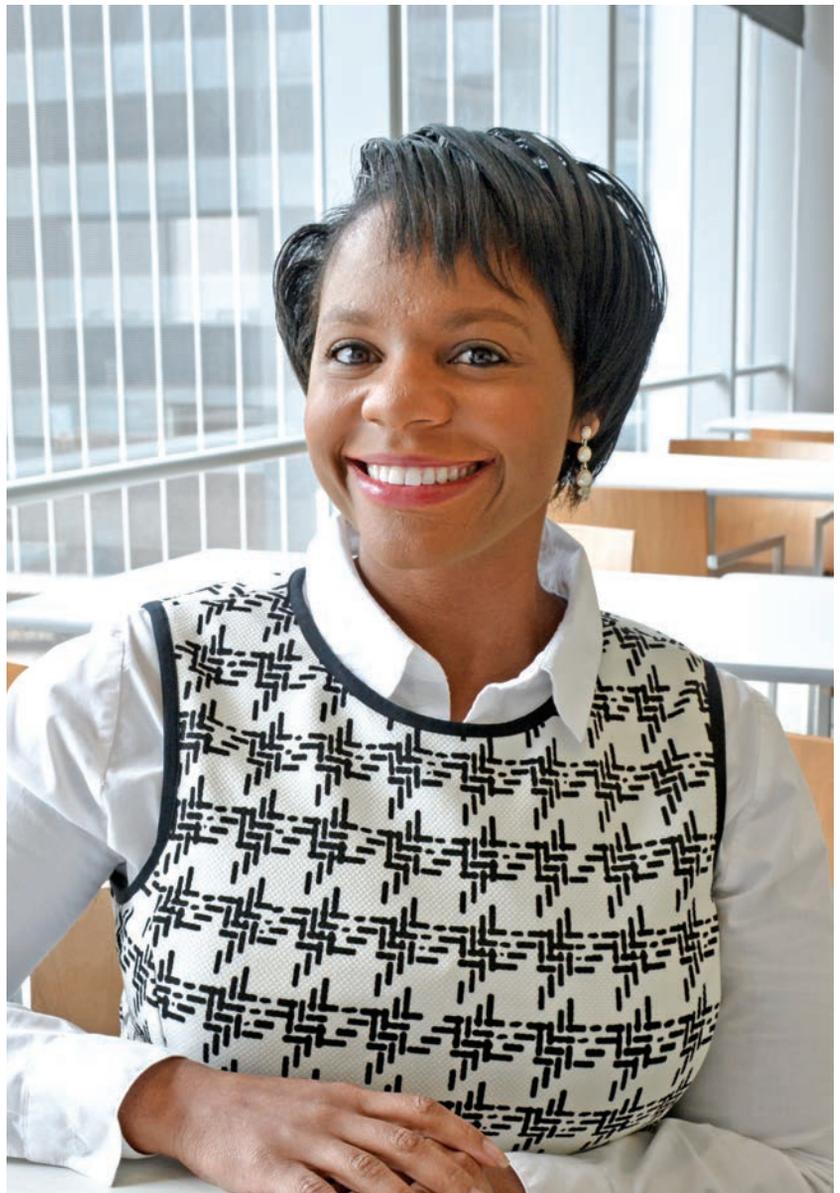
During her term from 2009-10, Haney combined her love of nursing and policy to represent students across the nation and internationally. That experi-

ence has paid off, especially for St. Louis. While still deeply involved with NSNA as vice president of the foundation, Haney has focused her efforts locally this year with the Black Nurses Association of Greater St. Louis.

The original chapter, founded in 1972, dissolved in 2004 due to aging members. Haney, with the help of the nursing community, has revitalized the organization. BNA helps promote better health care for minorities throughout the region through health screenings, fairs, expos and

educational forums as well as assisting first-responders in north St. Louis County. It's composed of all levels of nurses, including students and retirees.

"Right now our goals are simple in nature. We want to raise enough money to give away four scholarships at the end of the year to nurses continuing their education," says Haney. "We are a small nonprofit and this investment is one that stays in our community." ≡



IS professor Shaji Khan creates cybersecurity lab to address demand, create information security professionals

By Jennifer Hatton

Individuals, businesses and governments rely on information technology to get things done. But that comes with a price. Hacked computers, identity theft and leaked information are all-too-common occurrences.

What makes us so vulnerable?

"Our entire business and personal lives are online," says Shaji Khan, assistant professor of information technology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. "The more you're connected, the more exposed you are, and in today's world, we are always connected."

Khan, along with colleague Maurice Dawson, assistant professor of information systems, has been tasked with creating UMSL's new Cybersecurity Certificate programs in collaboration with UMSL's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

"The number of ways things can go wrong is unimaginable," Khan says. "There really is no such thing as 100-percent security, so all we are really trying to do is manage security to a point that the loss would be acceptable."

Khan, who was born in India, worked as an information technology consultant for several years. He became interested in cybersecurity while earning his doctorate in information systems from UMSL.

"It's important, no matter what your business focus is, to care about cybersecurity. It's not just for the IT guys," he says. "Security touches all aspects of business. It's getting scarier; we used to only be worried about someone stealing data. Now it's more real-world."

After receiving his degree in 2012, he accepted an assistant professor position at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

"I wanted to come back to UMSL, and when I saw the position open up for cybersecurity, I knew it was meant to be," he says.

The Cybersecurity Certificate program at UMSL is made up of six courses.

"We are trying to take a holistic approach to creating the next generation of cybersecurity professionals,"

Khan says. "You can't really teach security because it's so organic. It's ever-changing and evolving, so our job is to give students the tools and allow them to learn and discover on their own."

That's where the Cyber Lab comes in.

"First, we've made a completely virtual lab, a 'sandbox,' where students are able to log in and ethically hack in a safe environment," he says. "They are learning penetration test-

ing to see how vulnerable things are and how to make them more secure."

"Next is the actual computer lab. With donations and support from UMSL's Information Technology Services and colleges of business and arts and sciences, we've created a space where students can go deeper into testing security of networks, computers and applications. It is a place designed to foster innovation and collaboration. Hopefully students will inspire each other and use each other as a resource." ≡



Alumna Martha Philipp spreads wellness across campus, community she loves

By Evie Hemphill

Wrapping up one last sun salutation, the students exhale into Tadasana, palms pressed together at their hearts.

"Beautiful!" the instructor enthuses, eliciting smiles throughout the room. "That was just fabulous."

The students are University of Missouri–St. Louis employees making the most of an inexpensive lunch-hour yoga session, and the instructor is UMSL alumna Martha Philipp,

BA communication 1980. She started teaching yoga on campus in 2014, and her classes have quickly gained a following, especially among those new to the practice.

"I do a type of yoga that I think feeds more than just the body," Philipp says.

What she finds most rewarding is seeing students leave the sessions feeling better in both body and spirit – and motivated to make it part of their everyday routine.

"When they start coming more often, I think it's having an impact," says Philipp, whose passion for wellness and for her alma mater is infectious. "Now I'm teaching at the new rec center, and I love it."

Students and others are enjoying Philipp's basic yoga sessions and dozens of other classes available as part of their membership at the UMSL Recreation and Wellness Center. Her reach extends beyond the borders of campus, too.

"My whole goal was bringing yoga to the Normandy [Mo.] community," says Philipp, a lifelong resident of north St. Louis County.

After working as a news editor at KTVI (Channel 2) for two decades, she switched gears to raise three kids and work part time. About five years ago, she set out on a new path to put yoga within reach of the diverse community she loves.

Working with groups ranging from pre-schoolers to UMSL students to community members of all ages, Philipp has done just that. All of the venues where she teaches are within three miles of her Bellerive Acres, Mo., home, including OmTurtle Yoga studio in Ferguson, Mo., which opened last December.

Although her appreciation of fellow yogis from all walks of life and at all levels is obvious to observers, she particularly enjoys introducing young children to the practice.

"Child's pose, happy baby...kids do all that stuff naturally," she says. "And we do a lot of singing."

At UMSL, Philipp makes a point to push her students with new sequences and challenging poses. But the overarching themes of her sessions are mindfulness and breathing, which reap benefits in their everyday lives.

"You're told frequently, 'Take a deep breath,' Philipp says. "That's yoga." ☰



UMSL
Alumni
Association

all alumni

92,000

all mem



Right: Aleshia Patterson (left) and Norma Barr stroll campus as they discuss how the new, all-inclusive Alumni Association membership helps alumni connect to UMSL.

YOU belong.

Two words sum up the newly invigorated University of Missouri–St. Louis Alumni Association. For anyone with a UMSL degree, the message is clear: You belong.

Membership is free of charge, too. The shift away from a dues-paying model to an open, all-inclusive membership means that all alumni, by virtue of their UMSL degrees alone, are members of the UMSL Alumni Association.

“All 92,000 of them,” explains Norma Barr, MEd 1980, who is in her third year serving on the association’s governing board and worked many years in nursing administration in the St. Louis region.

Barr and her fellow board members worked with the Office of Alumni Engagement to make sure the July 1 rollout of the new membership model reached the alumni community.

“Sometimes, especially for recent graduates, money may be a barrier, and this new model allows for everyone to jump right in and become involved,” says Aleshia Patterson, BA communication 2012 and a community troop coordinator for Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri.

Whether establishing more UMSL connections, sharing talent and expertise, using alumni resources, pursuing lifelong learning or making a philanthropic difference, the association offers involvement opportunities for those at any stage in the alumni lifecycle.

“It’s flexible for alumni to connect and experience membership in a wide variety of ways,” says Brian Salmo, BSBA 2006, who just recently joined the governing board.

Barr agrees and says that ways to connect may be defined by alumni themselves instead of being prescribed by the association.

“When we revised the bylaws to support this model, we tried to build an infrastructure to support this new relationship-building process,” Barr says.

And the new model is already seeing success.

“Reconnecting with UMSL has given me personal and professional relationships that have really enriched my life and career,” says Salmo, a business attorney at Polsinelli PC.

“It’s all about cultivating relationships,” Patterson says.

Members can also enjoy a number of amenities through special-access opportunities to services like those offered by the UMSL Center for Eye Care or UMSL Career

Services. Membership also has the perk of discounts at the new Recreation and Wellness Center, the Triton Store, the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center, the Normandie Golf Course and more.

To get started, activate your UMSL Alumni Association membership card at umslalumni.org/newcard. Cards are printable, but alumni are also welcome to use a screenshot image of their cards on their phone.

And to learn even more about your UMSL Alumni Association membership, visit umslalumni.org/youbelong 



2015
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



6

accomplished
alumni
spotlighted,
honored

With so many talented University of Missouri–St. Louis alumni, it's tough to honor only six. But this year's recipients of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award and the Outstanding Young Alumni Award are truly extraordinary.

In the mix: a Missouri First Lady Award winner, a social service community leader, the president of the Society of Trauma Nurses, a university president, UMSL's first graduate of the Pierre Laclède Honors College and a female engineer manager at Boeing.

For their remarkable careers and significant roles in the community, this year's high honors went to Judy L. Burns, Cassandra F. Kaufman, Julie Nash, Matthew D. Shank, Andrew J. Theising and Evelyn Bailey Moore.

The UMSL Alumni Association celebrated the six distinguished alumni at the university's Founders Dinner Sept. 24.

UMSL Chancellor Tom George, who presented the awards before a large crowd gathered at the Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis in Clayton, Mo., described them as "six individuals who have excelled in their fields and made us all proud."



Evelyn Bailey Moore
BS electrical engineering 2003

Not long after earning her bachelor's degree at UMSL and then a master's degree at Washington University in St. Louis, Moore became the Boeing Company's youngest female engineering manager at the age of 31. As manager of Boeing's technical work on the United States Air Force F-15 Warning and Survivability System, she contributes significantly to national security efforts and effectiveness. UMSL named Moore a 2013 Trailblazer for the advancement and empowerment of women.

OUTSTANDING
YOUNG ALUMNI
AWARD

Julie Nash
MSN 2005

Nash is a leader in trauma care. Through her exemplary management of the Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Program at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, she has improved trauma care throughout the St. Louis region and Missouri as a whole. Currently president of the Society of Trauma Nurses, Nash is also an active participant in the Trauma Centers Association of America and a sought-after instructor around the country with the American Trauma Society. Her employees credit her with shepherding them through five successful reviews by the American College of Surgeons.



Cassandra F. Kaufman
MSW 2005

In her work with the St. Louis Mental Health Board, Kaufman draws on extensive experience in nonprofit management and leadership in health and human services to effectively oversee the organization's community investments, partnerships and initiatives. She is also a member of the Community Advisory Board for UMSL's School of Social Work and has distinguished herself in the social service community, lending her expertise in both regional and national capacities. Prior to her tenure with the St. Louis Mental Health Board, Kaufman served as vice president for community investment at United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Judy L. Burns
BS accounting 1979

The company that Burns and her husband founded in 1991 has become a top supplier of commercial and defense aerospace products. Her leadership of Patriot Machine has resulted in high honors within the industry and multiple awards for Burns, including the Missouri First Lady Award for business and innovation in 2008. At UMSL, she serves on the Leadership Council for the College of Business Administration. Burns is a mentor to students and a role model to women interested in similar fields. She also serves as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club in St. Charles, Mo.

Matthew D. Shank
PhD psychology 1988, MA 1986

Shank has significantly strengthened Marymount University in Arlington, Va., since his tenure as president of the institution began in 2011. Reinvigorating its mission with a focus on intellectual curiosity, service to others and a global perspective, he has impacted Marymount, the University of Dayton in Ohio and countless other organizations and individuals since earning two advanced degrees from UMSL. Shank's scholarship and teaching in the field of marketing over the years extends out to real-world projects, benefiting both students and businesses and fostering collaboration among communities.

Andrew J. Theising
PhD political science 1997,
MA 1996, BA 1990

Theising was one of the first graduates of UMSL's then-newly established Pierre Laclède Honors College, where his son is now enrolled, 25 years later. Since his own days on campus, Theising has had a remarkable impact on the bi-state region. A renowned expert on East St. Louis and a longtime faculty member at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, he researches urban issues and applies that knowledge to daunting regional challenges. His scholarship and service consistently bring together key parties throughout the St. Louis community to work toward the greater good.

60s

Richard C. Bresnahan, Esq., BSBA 1967, received the 2015 UMSL Salute to Business Award for Distinguished Career. Richard is a circuit court judge in St. Louis.

Marvin T. Stovall, BA 1969, retired after a 20-year career as executive director of the Community Action Agency in Dubuque, Iowa.

Deceased

Bob W. Barkey, BA 1967, on March 21. Bob served as captain in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Francine L. Longcor, BS 1969, PhD 1984, on April 23. Francine is survived by her three children, five grandchildren, two sisters and many friends.

70s

Marie O'Kain, MEd 1971, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Western Baptist Bible College in Kansas City, Mo., for her work in human services.

Steve M. Finkelstein, BSBA 1972, contributed to the book "Play Smart to Win in Business: Leadership Lessons from Center Court to Corner Office," published by René Vidal Companies. Steve is senior partner at Experience on Demand,

a business consulting firm in Chesterfield, Mo.

◀ **Phyllis M. Smith**, BSEd 1972, voiced the character of Sadness in the Disney Pixar movie "Inside Out." The film premiered on June 19.

Larry N. Arft, MA 1973, retired after a 40-year career as a city manager. Larry spent the last 12 years of his career managing the city of Beloit, Wis.

Ronald D. Swan, BSAJ 1973, retired after a 45-year law enforcement career. Ronald served as Chief of Police for departments in both Missouri and Illinois. Ronald and his wife Doreen live in Maricopa County, Ariz.

Douglas E. Anders, BSBA 1975, retired after a 35-year career as an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ with oversight of 80 churches and 200 clergy in Texas and Louisiana. He has since returned to St. Louis.

▶ **Alice F. Roach**, MEd 1975, received the Lifetime Achiever in Education Award at the 2015 St. Louis Salute to Excellence in Education Gala.



Rae J. Mohrmann, MEd 1976, completed her 100th marathon on April 12. Rae has run marathons in each of the 50 states and has earned 74 top-three finishes in her division. Rae is a fitness instructor at UMSL.

Terry V. Freerks, BA 1977, MEd 1979, was awarded the campus-wide service award at the 2015 Chancellor's Report to the Community. Terry was honored for her contribution to leadership councils on campus, involvement in alumni engagement and revitalizing the UMSL swim team.

Judy L. Burns, BSBA 1979, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 UMSL Founders Dinner. Judy is president and founder of Patriot Machines in St. Charles, Mo.

Joseph W. Gorder, BSBA 1979, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Concordia Seminary and gave the address at Concordia Seminary's commencement.

Deceased

Helen M. Benz, BS 1970, on March 8. Helen is survived by her husband Paul, three children, two

stepchildren, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Robert G. Miltenberger, BSBA 1972, on May 10. Bob is survived by his wife Mary Jo, three children and three grandchildren.

James C. Knop, BSBA 1974, on April 6. James is survived by his wife Elaine, three sons and three grandsons.

Richard K. Gannon, MEd 1975, on Feb. 19. Richard is survived by his wife Nancy, three children and six grandchildren.

James R. O'Brien, MA 1976, on Feb. 17. James is survived by his wife Marlene Ruth, two stepchildren and two grandchildren.

Christopher J. Gaia, BSBA 1977, MBA 1980, on Aug. 20. Chris is survived by his wife Janet, four sons and one granddaughter. Chris was awarded the 2015 UMSL Salute to Business Award for Outstanding Volunteer.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Joseph T. Porter Jr.**, BA 1976, on the death of his mother, Marie Porter.

80s

Timothy E. Griffin, BA 1980, received a 2015 Distinguished Political Science Alumni Award from UMSL. Timothy is vice president of C.J. Thomas Company in St. Louis.

Diann D. Gross, BSBA 1980, was appointed the Americas Deputy Vice Chair of Professional Practice at St. Louis-based Ernst & Young.

Julie M. Thomas, BSBA 1980, joined St. Louis-based Edward Jones as a professional development team leader.

Grayling O. Tobias, BSEd 1980, was awarded Educator of the Year for 2015 by the St. Louis Association of Secondary School Principals.

Donald F. Beckley, MBA 1981, joined Pipe Systems Mechanical in Fenton, Mo., as vice president of business development.

Gordon C. Knight, MS 1981, joined SSM St. Clare Health Center in St. Louis as a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon. Gordon specializes in adult cardiac surgery.

▶ **Sandra D. Marks**, BSBA 1981, joined St. Louis-based Clayco as senior vice president of government and community affairs. Sandra was also recognized as a top woman business owner of 2015 by St. Louis Small Business Monthly.

Judith A. Botz, BSBA 1982, joined 4M Building Solutions in St. Louis as chief financial officer.

Greg W. Stanley, BSBA 1982, joined Vigilant Biosciences in Miami, Fla., as vice president of global sales.

▶ **Sandra A. Van Trease**, BSBA 1982, was inducted into the UMSL Accounting Hall of Fame at the 2015 UMSL Salute to Business Award Ceremony. Sandra is the group president for BJC HealthCare in St. Louis.

▶ **Warner L. Baxter**, BSBA 1983, received the 2015 Tice Humanitarian Award at the Somewhere Over the Rainbow Gala for Rainbow Village in St. Louis. Warner is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Ameren Corporation.

Paula J. Linnen, BSBA 1984, was named director of external relations for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash.

William W. Schneider, BSBA 1984, was promoted to executive vice president at Medicus Management Services, a healthcare solutions company headquartered in Windham, N.H.

William S. Witzofsky, BSBA 1984, was appointed treasurer for Financial Executives International in St. Louis. William is senior vice president at Capital for Business in St. Louis.



Class notes



James T. Grimes, BSAJ 1985, was promoted to partner at St. Louis-based RubinBrown. James will oversee the company's business advisory services group.

Janet B. Wilking, BA 1985, was named 2014 UMSL Inventor of the Year for her work on synthetic pathways for metalloles and metal-laflorenes. Janet is an associate professor of chemistry and bio-chemistry at UMSL.

Matthew D. Shank, MA 1986, PhD 1988, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 UMSL Founders Dinner. Matthew is president at Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

Margaret A. Shoptaw, BSBA 1986, received the 2015 Distinguished Service Award at the Chancellor's Report to the Community. Margaret is a sales engineer for global 500 manufacturing accounts with Dell in St. Louis.

Catherine L. Matthes, BSBA 1987, received a 2015 CFO of the Year Award by the St. Louis Business Journal. Catherine is chief financial officer at Veniti in St. Louis.

Deann A. Wilson, BSN 1988, MSN 2011, was awarded the Pediatrics: Non-Neonatal Award at the 2015 Excellence in Nursing Awards Reception. Deann is a nurse practitioner at Mercy Hospital in St. Louis where she is a part of the cleft lip and craniofacial team.

Linda F. Stewart, BA 1989, was accepted into the Peace Corps. Linda will work as an English language specialist volunteer in Ethiopia for two years. She left for Ethiopia on June 29.

Robbyn G. Wahby, BSBA 1989, MPPA 1998, joined the Missouri Charter Public School Commission as its founding executive director.

Deceased

Paul Simon Jr., Esq., BSBA 1981, on July 12. Paul is survived by his wife Janice, five children, parents and many friends and loved ones.

Gerald A. Paule, BSBA 1984, on Aug. 17. Gerald is survived by his wife Suzanne, five children and four grandchildren.

Mary C. Hizer, BSBA 1985, on April 21. Mary is survived by her parents and five siblings.

Diane M. Tucci, BA 1986, on May 26. Diane is survived her parents, two sisters and two children.

Steven T. Anderson, BSBA 1989, on July 3. Steven is survived by his wife Mary, parents and friends and family.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Herbert G. Hizer**, BA 1983, on the death of his sister, Christine Hizer.

90s

Tracy D. Hall, BA 1990, was appointed president of Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis by the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Audrey L. Katcher, BSBA 1990, was named one of the St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business Women of 2015. Audrey was also elected to the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants Board of Directors. She is a partner at RubinBrown in St. Louis.

Mark J. Nealon, MBA 1990, was inducted into the Missouri S&T Academy of Electrical and Computer Engineers. Mark is director of engineering design and project management for Ameren Missouri.

Andrew J. Theising, BA 1990, MA 1996, PhD 1997, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 UMSL Founders Dinner. Andrew is an associate professor of political science and department chair at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Dannelle D. Ward, BSBA 1990, was named one of the St. Louis

Business Journal's Most Influential Business Women of 2015. Dannelle is partner at Acropolis Investment Management in St. Louis.

Roger L. Griffith, BSBA 1991, joined St. Louis-based SunEdison as corporate treasurer.

► **Tyrone J. McNichols**, MEd 1991, EdD 1999, was appointed principal at Barrington Elementary School in Florissant, Mo.



Gladys A. Coggsell Sr., MEd 1992, received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from UMSL and gave an address at the spring 2015 commencement. Gladys is a freelance storyteller at Missouri Arts Council in Frankford, where she tells tales of Missouri history and culture.

Anne M. Francioni, BGS 1992, was honored with the Citizenship Award at the 2015 Women's Justice Awards for her work with Whole Kids Outreach in St. Louis.

Stanley A. Freerks, MBA 1992, was awarded the campus-wide service award at the 2015 Chancellor's Report to the Community. Stanley was honored for his contribution to leadership councils on campus, involvement in alumni engagement and revitalizing the UMSL swim team.

Elaine Henderson, MEd 1993, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Central Methodist University. Elaine is superintendent of the Silex [Mo.] School District.

Karen P. Robbins, BSBA 1993, was appointed publicity chair for Financial Executives International - St. Louis. Karen is division controller at Cejka Search in St. Louis.

Courtney C. Aldrich IV, BS 1994, is the editor-in-chief of the new web-based American Chemical Society journal, "Infectious Diseases." Courtney is associate professor of medicinal chemistry at University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Stephen R. Johnson, BA 1994, received two regional EMMY awards in September for his work as the interim news director at KFOR regarding the coverage of the tornadoes that hit Moore, Okla., in May 2013.

► **Melanie J. Springer Mock**, MA 1994, received the 2014-2015 Faculty Achievement Award for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship from George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., where she is an English professor.



► **Lee Etta Hoskins**, BGS 1995, was awarded the 2015 Women of Achievement Award. Lee Etta retired from the United States Postal Service after 41 years of service.



Vinh T. Tran, BSBA 1995, joined St. Louis-based CMG Financial as a senior loan officer.

Ronald D. Williams Jr., BSBA 1995, graduated from the Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., with a Doctor of Ministry. Ronald currently serves as Senior Pastor of Bethel Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Kansas City, Mo.

Donelle M. Sherman, BSN 1996, was recognized at the 2015 Excellence in Nursing Awards Reception. Donelle is a nurse practitioner at Dr. Lawrence G. Lenke's Spine Center and at Children's Hospital in St. Louis.

Jeannie M. Aumiller, BA 1997, was promoted to vice president and assistant general counsel at McBride & Sons Homes in Florissant, Mo.

Rebecca L. Boyer, BSAcc 1997, was named one of the St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business Women of 2015. Rebecca is the chief financial officer of KellyMitchell Group in St. Louis.

Kurt R. Bruenning, BSBA 1997, joined Aclara as chief financial officer and senior vice president of finance, information technology and legal affairs.

John R. Schrader, BSBA 1997, was promoted to service operations manager at Murphy Company in St. Louis.



▶ **James A. Duffy**, BA 1998, MA 2006, was honored with the Vincent P. Mesarik Award by the University of South Carolina Beaufort. James is an instructor in the Department of English, Speech and Theatre at USCB.

Tim H. Geraghty, MBA 1998, was selected to participate in the 2015 Leadership Missouri program. Tim is director of operations at Alliance Water Resources in Columbia, Mo.



▶ **Sarajeni A. Hammond**, BSBA 1998, was recognized as a Young Leader by The St. Louis American Foundation. Sarajeni is the director of talent management of global supply chain at Monsanto in St. Louis.

Marcela Manjarrez Hawn, BS 1998, joined St. Louis-based Centene Corporation as senior vice president and chief communications officer.

Eric M. Winkles, BSEd 1998, MEd 2000, joined St. Louis-based Great Circle as chief program officer of education.

Mary L. Gregory, OD 1999, was awarded the Minnesota Business Magazine's Health Care Practitioner Award. Mary practices at Uptown Eye Care in Monticello, Minn.

Debra H. Moore, MA 1999, PhD 2004, received a Distinguished Political Science Alumni Award from UMSL and was promoted to director of administration for St. Clair [III.] County this year.

James T. Murphy, BSACC 1999, was appointed to chief accounting officer at St. Louis-based Foresight Energy.

Christina L. Schlaikjer, BSN 1999, joined Western Plains Medical Complex in Dodge City, Kan., as the new director of surgery services.

Births

David K. Luebbert, BSBA 1995, welcomed granddaughter Scarlet Ann Harding. David is senior systems analyst for Schnucks Markets in St. Louis.

Deceased

Brian C. Bussmann, BSBA 1992, on May 7. Brian is survived by his parents, sister and brother, and many friends.

Chris G. Fader, BGS 1992, BSEd 2001, on June 2. Chris is survived by her husband Rob; four children Riley, Matt, Molly and C.J.; and eight siblings. Chris was an avid runner, completing more than 20 half marathons throughout the country.

Anita T. Yeckel, BSPA 1996, on Aug. 26. Anita is survived by her husband Robert, daughters Jane and Katie, and three grandchildren. Anita served in the Missouri Senate from 1997-2005.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Paul S. DeGregorio**, BA 1992, on the death of his mother, Victoria DeGregorio.

Sympathy is extended to **Rob E. Fader**, BGS 1993, on the death of his wife, Chris Fader.

Sympathy is extended to **Penny J. Thiele**, BA 1996, on the death of her husband, alumnus Michael L. Thiele.



Phillip M. Klevorn, MBA 2000, joined UMB Private Wealth Management as the senior vice president, regional manager in St. Louis.

Geralyn L. Meyer, PhD 2000, was recognized at the 2015 Excellence in Nursing Awards Reception. Geralyn is an associate professor and traditional BSN option coordinator at Saint Louis University School of Nursing.

Melodie A. Rowbotham, MSN 2000, PhD 2007, received the Teaching Recognition Award from the School of Nursing at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Melodie is an associate professor of family health and community health nursing at SIUE.

Christina J. Lochhead, OD 2001, joined Marion Eye Centers in Marion, Ill., as an optometrist.

Danielle N. Spieckerman, BSBA 2001, was elected to serve as president for the Human Resource Management Association of Greater St. Louis. Danielle is the human resources leader at SSM Health.

Joshua B. Stegeman, BA 2001, was named partner at Hennessy & Roach in St. Louis. Joshua specializes in workers' compensation and civil liability defense.

Mark C. Wofford, BSBA 2001, joined Pulaski Bank in St. Louis as chief compliance officer.

Nicole J. Colbert-Bochway, MBA 2002, was appointed by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon as associate circuit judge for the 22nd judicial circuit, which covers the city of St. Louis.

▶ **Russell D. Odegard**, MBA 2002, received the 2015 UMSL Salute to Business Award for Entrepreneurial Spirit. Russell is the co-founder and managing partner of DYNALABS in St. Louis.



Evelyn N. Bailey Moore, BSEE 2003, received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award at the 2015 UMSL Founders Dinner. Evelyn is program manager at Boeing in St. Louis.

Wesley T. Kinerk, OD 2003, won the USAF Armed Forces Optometric Society Senior OD of the Year award.

▶ **Kelly L. Pollock**, MPPA 2003, was recognized as a 2015 Saint Louis Visionary Award Honoree in the category of outstanding arts professional. Kelly was also named one of St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business Women of 2015. Kelly is executive director of COCA (Center of Contemporary Arts) in St. Louis.

Dayna M. Stock, MPPA 2003, PhD 2012, was guest speaker and recipient of one of the 2015 Distinguished Political Science Alumni Awards. Dayna is vice president of regions and special initiatives at United Way of Greater St. Louis.

James Paine Jr., MEd 2004, was promoted to assistant to vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Logan University in St. Louis.

Angela R. Williams-Hanks, BGS 2004, joined Ascensus College Savings as an institutional relationship manager.

Tammy L. Hawkins, BSBA 2005, MBA 2011, received the 2015 UMSL Salute to Business Rising Star Award. Tammy is vice president of authentication technologies within enterprise security solutions at MasterCard in O'Fallon, Mo.

Cassandra F. Kaufman, MSW 2005, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 UMSL Founders Dinner. Cassandra is deputy director of the St. Louis Mental Health Board.

Nadir V. Kinossian, MA 2005, joined the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography in Leipzig, Germany, as a researcher.

Julie L. Nash, MSN 2005, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 UMSL Founders Dinner. Julie is the trauma and acute care surgery program manager at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.



Class notes



Tana N. Rogers, BA 2005, BA 2006, joined Mullen, a Boston-based advertising agency, as associate media director.

Sarah A. Treiber, BSBA 2005, MBA 2009, was promoted to senior marketing manager at Suddenlink Communications' St. Louis branch.

Timothy D. Lambert, BSBA 2006, was promoted to the ownership ranks at LPL Financial in Chesterfield, Mo.

Dr. Abraham B. Medaris, BA 2006, joined St. Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis as a psychiatrist.

Scott R. Stallman, MEd 2006, joined Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill., as associate vice president of outreach.

Robert B. Dixon, BA 2007, received the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from Saint Charles [Mo.] Community College at the spring commencement ceremony. Robert also joined the Missouri Community College Association in Jefferson City, Mo., as the seventh chief executive officer.

Ryan J. Daggendorf, BFA 2007, joined HLK's St. Louis branch as an associate creative director.

Jennifer J. Lewis, MBA 2007, was promoted to senior manager of human resources at QS/1 Data Systems in Spartanburg, S.C.

Kathleen T. Manning McKittrick, BA 2007, was awarded the 2015 St. Louis Business Journal's 30 Under 30 Award. Kathleen is U.S. Row Crops communications manager at Monsanto in St. Louis.

Isaac L. Butler, MBA 2009, was appointed to The Foundation for Barnes-Jewish Hospital Board of Directors and will sit on the major gifts committee. Isaac is a senior director of retail pharmacy provider strategy at Express Scripts in St. Louis.

Matthew G. Nelson, BS 2009, was recognized as a Young Leader by The St. Louis American Founda-

tion. Matt works in IT security at Express Scripts in St. Louis.

Phillip M. Norris, BSEd 2009, was awarded the Gateway STEM 2014 Teacher of the Year by St. Louis Public Schools. Phillip teaches chemistry at Gateway STEM High School in St. Louis.

Benedict Y. Song, BSBA 2009, joined Evans Law Firm in O'Fallon, Ill., as an attorney specializing in civil litigation, personal injury and property matters.

Deceased

Lance C. Ericson, BA 2003, on April 16. Lance is survived by his parents, his daughter Morgan, fiancé Brenda and family and friends.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Richard D. Powell II**, MBA 2001, on the death of his father, Richard Powell.

Sympathy is extended to **Timothy J. Grapperhaus**, BS 2006, MA 2008, on the death of his mother, Sandra Grapperhaus.

10s

Brandon S. Brown, MEd 2010, joined The Mind Trust in Indianapolis as vice president of education innovation.

Julia A. Gordon-Bramer, MFA 2010, wrote "Fixed Stars Govern a Life: Decoding Sylvia Plath," published by Stephen F. Austin University Press. Julia is an adjunct professor of humanities and creative writing at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo.

Rochelle R. Henderson, PhD 2010, was a featured speaker at the UMSL Distinguished Speaker Series. Rochelle is director of health services research at Express Scripts in St. Louis.

Jeremy W. Scott, BSBA 2010, joined the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership as a loan officer.

Lacey A. Shalenko, BSBA 2010, MBA 2012, is an assistant coach for the women's basketball program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Nicholas J. Bardol, BS 2011, MS 2013, joined the International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine in Columbia, Mo., as a process development chemist.

Nicholas A. Beckworth, MBA 2011, was promoted to consultant of emerging payments technology at MasterCard's New York office.

Lauren O. Masterson-Rodriguez, BA 2011, MPPA 2013, was awarded the 2015 St. Louis Business Journal's 30 Under 30 Award. Lauren is a senior manager of retail pharmacy channel management at Express Scripts in St. Louis.

► **Roger D. Whittler**, MEd 2011, was promoted to the rank of captain of the Missouri State Highway Patrol and designated director of the newly created Career Recruitment Division General Headquarters in Jefferson City, Mo. Roger has been on the force since 1987.



Eric W. Fey, MPPA 2012, was appointed to St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners as director of elections.

Swati S. Nigudkar, MS 2012, PhD 2014, joined Monsanto in St. Louis as a senior chemist.

Mary Beth Overby, MEd 2012, received an Outstanding New Advisor Certificate of Merit in the Academic Advising Primary Role category from the National Academic Advising Association. Mary Beth is an adviser at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

Tyler J. Miller, BSBA 2013, was promoted to veterinary consultant at Nestle Purina North America in Dallas, Texas.

Stephanie M. Parrish, BSACC 2013, MAcc 2015, joined Rubin-Brown in St. Louis as a consultant of business advisory services.

Brett R. Gilmer, BSIS 2014, joined Anheuser-Busch InBev in St. Louis as a business analyst for application support and corporate systems.

Christopher M. Putnam, PhD 2014, won the USAF Armed Forces Optometric Society Junior OD of the Year award.

Aihua Yan, PhD 2014, received an award for the best research paper presented at the International Association of Outsourcing Professionals Summit. Aihua is an assistant professor of computer information systems at Saint Louis University.

Taylor D. Bartley, BSBA 2015, joined St. Louis-based Blank Page Consulting as a social media strategist and content marketer project manager.

Katherine M. Gettinger, OD 2015, joined Appelman Eye Associates in St. Peters, Mo., as an optometrist.

Tyler M. Wait, BFA 2015, joined St. Louis-based marketing agency Atomicdust as a designer.



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A little TLC for the hall that's seen it all



The first day students arrived for class at Benton Hall in 1965, the five-story structure was still wrapped in scaffolding. It was the first new building on the University of Missouri–St. Louis campus and not completed until 1966. Designed to house classrooms and laboratories, Benton Hall had to evolve with a rapidly growing university. Early on, it even served as the venue for UMSL's first band concert. And once again, Benton Hall will evolve thanks to a \$25 million makeover – including funds from the state, campus and University of Missouri System. Renovations will create flexible classrooms, study areas, collaborative venues and student spaces. Restrooms and entrances will be replaced to meet current accessibility requirements, and selective repairs will be made to the building envelope and aged interior finishes. Unreliable building infrastructure will also be replaced with modern, efficient systems.



The original architectural sketch of Benton Hall portrays the ambition of a young but maturing campus.

Did you take classes in Benton Hall? 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 comments and photos to donna_carothers@umsl.edu or by mail to: Donna Carothers | UMSL Alumni Engagement | 414 Woods Hall 1 University Blvd. | St. Louis, MO 63121 | 314-516-6453