

UMSFL

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2015

Voices of Ferguson





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

Chancellor
Thomas F. George

Vice Chancellor
for Advancement
Martin Leifeld

Chief Marketing Officer
Ron Gossen

Editor-in-Chief
Bob Samples

Managing Editor
Rachel Webb

Assistant Editor
Marisol Ramirez

Photographer
August Jennewein

Art Director/Design
Sandy Morris

Design & Production
Wendy Allison

Writers
Jennifer Hatton
Ryan Heinz
Evie Hemphill
Marisol Ramirez
Bob Samples
Rachel Webb

Printer
Ovid Bell Press, Inc.

UMSL Magazine
60 J.C. Penney Building
1 University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121
magazine@umsl.edu
umsl.edu/magazine
314-516-5665

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ON THE COVER

See what members of the UMSL community are doing to help the region move forward.

There are moments when I am especially proud to be the chancellor of the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Commencement comes to mind. Bright, smiling faces. Shaking hands. A random cheer from the crowd – “Way to go, mom!” Yes, we graduate a broad spectrum of students.

I experienced that moment again while reading a draft of this magazine. All of the stories are engaging, but “Voices of Ferguson” made me pause. There has been so much negativity since the death of Michael Brown last August – so many complex issues exposed that hold us back as a community. But there also have been many positive things happening, organizations and individuals who are seeking solutions and taking action.

“Voices of Ferguson” reinforced for me that UMSL is one of those organizations filled with problem-solvers and risk-takers. Powerful profiles in this magazine of just a few of the people associated with UMSL working for positive change.

Change comes in many forms. St. Louis is well known for its role as the Gateway to the West – a gathering point for settlers moving on. St. Louis today is gaining a different reputation, though, as a gathering place of digital and financial entrepreneurs. We’re ranked tops in startups, according to Popular Mechanics. And as you will find out UMSL graduates are at the center of it all.

Finally, I am sad to report of the passing of a man who toiled successfully to turn a golf course into a university. James Luckin Bugg Jr., UMSL’s first chancellor, died in January. Though we never met, I am told that Bugg was just the right combination of scholar, administrator, diplomat and magician to make this bold experiment in St. Louis a success. We all owe him our gratitude and prayers.

Sincerely,

Tom George

Chancellor



UMSL SAVES NORMANDIE GOLF COURSE

Discount for alumni, students and employees

The legion of people who have played and lost balls at the Normandie Country Club and Golf Course stretches miles, including Bob Hope, Babe Ruth, W.C. Fields, Dizzy Dean and Babe Didrikson. That list is guaranteed to grow.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis has purchased the 117-acre tract at 7605 St. Charles Rock Road and signed a 10-year agreement with Walters Golf Management to operate and market the course. UMSL will receive \$1 a year in lease payments. It paid \$1.4 million for the course, adjacent to the southern edge of the main campus, using private funds donated exclusively for that purpose.

“The Normandie Golf Course has been an important community asset for more than 100 years,” UMSL Chancellor Thomas George says. “We want to make sure that over the long term it is operated and developed in a manner that benefits UMSL students and the surrounding community.”

George says the agreement with Walters was the “best way in which UMSL can ensure Normandie thrives” over the next decade without directly investing university or tax dollars.

“We promised the local community that every effort would be made to keep Normandie as a golf course for the foreseeable future,” George says. “The agreement with Walters provides it with financial flexibility to improve and market the course.”

Acquiring Normandie became possible following a meeting of the UMSL Chancellor’s Council in May 2014, when members learned the property near UMSL was for sale.

“We discussed what impact future development of the golf course would have on UMSL and the neighboring community,” says Mark Burkhart, retired executive with Cassidy Turley and chairman of the Chancellor’s Council Committee on Buildings and Grounds. “It quickly became apparent that the best possible option for everyone was an association involving UMSL.”

Realizing that UMSL was not in a position to purchase the property itself, Burkhart says he was delighted that members of the council were able to finance the purchase for the university.

Walters will implement special rates for UMSL students, alumni, faculty and staff – providing up to a 20-percent discount on rounds of golf. Call the course at 314-862-4884 for more details and to schedule rounds, including tournaments.

Alumni earn Emerson teaching awards

A dozen graduates of the University of Missouri–St. Louis received an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award this past fall, including Wilma Calvert, associate professor of nursing at UMSL. Calvert earned her doctorate from UMSL in 2002.

"It was quite an honor to represent UMSL for teaching," she says.

This spring, Calvert is teaching Family and Community Nursing, a passion of hers she wants to pass on.

"I want students to see that working alongside the community is research," she says. "Research doesn't always mean you are in a lab."

Calvert has organized community partnerships with programs like Fathers' Support Center, St. Louis. She's hoping to offer similar opportunities for nursing students looking to complete their clinical requirement through community outreach.

The 11 other UMSL alumni honored were:

- **Barbara Dobbert**, MEd 1999, Clayton High School
- **Kathleen Saunders**, MEd 2010, South Technical High School
- **Rainah Pray**, BSEd 2005 and MEd 2007, Becky-David Elementary School
- **Jessica Karll**, BSEd 2007, Discovery Ridge Elementary School
- **Rhonda Spotanski**, BSEd 1998 and MEd 2003, Hazelwood West Middle School
- **Dana Aubuchon**, BSEd 1995, St. Ann Catholic School
- **Linda Nagle**, MEd 1973, Lincoln Elementary School
- **Wendy Pecka**, PhD education 2011, East Central College
- **Andrew Nieters**, MEd 2011, Desmet Jesuit High School
- **Christine Ries**, BSEd 1999, Airport Elementary School
- **Janet Landgraf**, BSEd 1994, St. Mark's Lutheran School

Now in its 25th year, the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Awards pays tribute to area educators – from kindergarten teachers to college professors – for their achievements and dedication to the field of education. Each honoree received a Tiffany & Co. crystal apple. St. Louis-based Emerson, a diversified global manufacturer and technology leader, sponsors the annual awards.

Patient Care Center receives warm reception amid wintry weather

The promise of new facilities for the University of Missouri–St. Louis' College of Optometry dates back to its inception 35 years ago. Soon it will have a new \$17 million Patient Care Center.

"It's what I would call the first step of a dream," says UMSL Chancellor Tom George at a groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 20. "And the dream is something even larger that's going to involve both optometry and nursing."

About 150 people from throughout the UMSL, nearby and legislative communities gathered at the former Ward E. Barnes Library to celebrate the planned 48,000-square-foot center. Wintry weather pushed patrons inside for the event. The center will be on the old Normandy Hospital site along Natural Bridge Road.

St. Louis-based ICS Construction Services will build the center with an anticipated completion date of fall 2016. Designed by HOK, the center will consist of 32 eye exam and treatment lanes, nine primary healthcare treatment rooms and space for lease partners from complementary health disciplines. It is phase one of a multiphase project that, when finished, will bring the College of Nursing and College of Optometry under one roof.

Dignitaries at the groundbreaking praised optometry students, who overwhelmingly voted in favor of shouldering a student-fee increase to help pay for the center.



"They recognized the need, and they stepped up," says Larry Davis, dean of the College of Optometry. "And this project is really their project."

The Patient Care Center is one of three UMSL buildings under construction. On North Campus, a Science Learning Building has a target completion date of December, and a Recreation and Wellness Center should be ready in time for the fall semester. UMSL is still seeking a \$10 million match from the state to begin construction on a new business administration building.

REMEMBERING UMSL'S FIRST CHANCELLOR— James Bugg

One of the people responsible for shaping the University of Missouri–St. Louis in its earliest years, James Luckin Bugg Jr., the university's first chancellor, died Jan. 15, at his home in Norfolk, Va., at the age of 94.

First appointed as dean of faculty in July 1963, Bugg led UMSL – then a newly founded endeavor – through six crucial years of development.

A longtime professor of history and a World War II veteran, Chancellor Bugg's charge was a unique and weighty one, and he proved to be up to the challenges. Bugg built the young institution's academic offerings, adding depth and breadth, recruiting talented faculty and students, and working to clarify UMSL's mission in the St. Louis region.

Shortly before moving on from UMSL in 1969, Chancellor Bugg wrote, "I honestly believe that the campus is already on its way to distinction, that its faculty had a very real and deep interest in superior teaching as well as scholarship, that its students are already receiving a superior undergraduate education, and the service function is one which is well understood and is being performed as well as our resources allow.



"If the campus can continue to receive adequate minimum nourishment in budget, I think it will rapidly become an institution in which the University, the metropolitan area, and the State can take pride. I hope I prove to be an adequate prophet."*

Bugg's son, Jim, says his father always spoke highly of his time at UMSL.

"He was very proud of the work he was able to accomplish," Jim Bugg says. "He especially liked to talk about his passion for teaching, his students, the faculty and the entire community there."

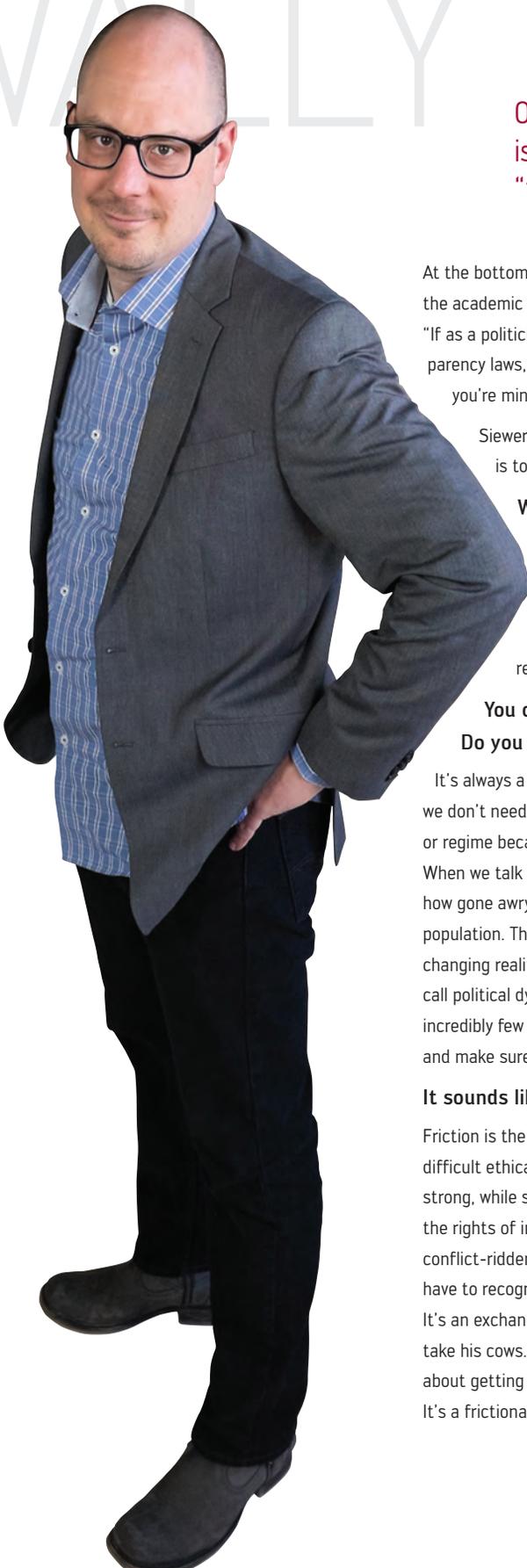
A native of Farmville, Va., Chancellor Bugg was the son of the late James Luckin Bugg Sr. and Hessie St. Clair Woodruff Bugg. He earned a bachelor's degree from Hampden–Sydney College in 1941 and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Virginia in 1942 and 1950, respectively.

Chancellor Bugg served as chair of the Department of History at the University of Missouri–Columbia from 1959 to 1962, just prior to his tenure at UMSL. In 1969, he became the second president of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va.

**Editor's note: Chancellor Bugg wrote these words to Elmer Ellis, president of the University of Missouri at the time, in a letter excerpted in "The Emerging University: The University of Missouri–St. Louis, 1963-1983" by Blanche M. Touhill.*

WALLY SIEWERT

One way to evaluate a politician's ethics is using what Wally Siewert refers to as "the Illinois scale."



At the bottom we might put Blagojevich and at the top we might put Lincoln," says Siewert, the academic director of the Center for Ethics in Public Life at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. "If as a politician you just comply with ethics laws: conflict-of-interest laws, nepotism laws, transparency laws, etc., you don't move very far up that scale. Complying with these just means that you're minimally ethically adequate. You're no Blago, but you're not yet an Abe Lincoln either."

Siewert wants politicians to be more than ethically adequate. The center's goal, he says, is to help people in public life move further up that scale toward ideal statesmanship.

Who does the center primarily serve?

The center is focused on education and outreach to politicians. That includes running ethics workshops, conferences, classes and generally creating a conversation about ethics that's useful to and part of the real-world political structure. We want to bring the academic study of politics down from the ivory tower and the real-world politics up out of the gutter a little bit. Hopefully both meet at road level.

You organized a political dysfunction conference at UMSL in the fall. Do you see political dysfunction as a major issue today?

It's always a major issue. We're never going to turn the corner where the problem is solved and we don't need to pay attention to it anymore. There is no such thing as an ideal form of government or regime because the world is constantly changing, so government must constantly change too. When we talk about political dysfunction, what we're talking about is the process that has somehow gone awry; the things happening at the governmental level don't reflect the interests of the population. There must be constant adjustments to the system to make sure it reflects the changing realities of society. Ethical dysfunction is also very hard to define. What one person might call political dysfunction, another person calls ideal. Some people think a legislature that passes incredibly few laws is a good legislature. Some people think a legislature's job is to keep working and make sure our laws are up to date. These are two legitimate viewpoints.

It sounds like it makes for a lot of friction.

Friction is the name of the game in government. Government is designed to answer the most difficult ethical question in society: "How do we protect the cooperation that makes our society strong, while simultaneously respecting a vast array of individual moral and political beliefs, and the rights of individuals to pursue these divergent visions of the good life?" This is an inherently conflict-ridden process. Our country is founded on the idea of limited government. But we also have to recognize there's not this simple equation of more government equals less freedom. It's an exchange of freedoms. The government takes away your right to shoot your neighbor and take his cows. But that gives you the freedom to invest in cows knowing you don't have to worry about getting shot and having them taken away. That's the nature of the beast with government. It's a frictional and fraught process, which is why it needs constant vigilance. ≡



Senior psychology major Erica Van Cleave puts her feet up while studying in the Fireside Lounge in the Millennium Student Center.



SPACE

TO SIMPLY

be

Student haunts and
hideaways are central to campus
experience

By Evie Hemphill

As useful as a map can be, getting to know a place like the University of Missouri–St. Louis requires exploring it in person. So does discovering a favorite spot – to study, eat or just unwind.

That's how UMSL students locate that perfect table at a busy campus crossroads or little-known nook with remarkably comfortable chairs.

Those spaces are typically not classrooms, but they're a vital part of the UMSL experience. For nursing student Leigh Jacobson, one of those is the Provincial House kitchen, where she has access to a microwave and large table.

"All of these amenities are available in Seton Hall, but the atmosphere there is different," Jacobson says. "It's kind of a social lounge area, and I'm a person who needs as little distraction as possible." Though she describes herself as "a little secretive" about her favorite study spots, Jacobson is quick to offer an informal tour of the Seton and Provincial facilities on South Campus.

"Provincial House was at one time a convent," she says. "Its architecture and layout is something I really enjoy. The hardwood floors provide for a cozy environment and a sweet smell that reminds me of grade school."

For some of Jacobson's nursing classmates, the brightly colored lounge near their academic home in Seton Hall makes the most sense.

"We started hanging out here in between classes because of our short breaks," says junior Jennifer Stephan. "We have classes from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Monday in the same classroom."

Upon special request, Stephan steps over to the nearby piano. She gives an impromptu performance of "Let It Be" before returning to the long table populated with applauding peers, including Amy Dinh, a fellow junior nursing student.

"I usually hang around in the Seton lobby during breaks between classes, to meet for group projects

or to study and work on assignments," Dinh says. "The ambience is nice, and I enjoy being able to relax in an area where peers of the same major also like to relax."

Students can become a little territorial about their haunts. It's hard not to, says David Cross, a sophomore mechanical engineering major.

He's part of a swarm of underclassmen frequently gathered at a particular table in the Millennium Student Center. Once in a while, another member of the UMSL community arrives earlier than they do, unwittingly claiming "their" spot.

"When that happens, we have to go to the backup spot" – one floor up, on the third floor of the busy MSC, Cross explains. But there's something special about that place at the intersection of foot traffic between the bridge and the escalator.

"I enjoy this spot because I get to see everything in the MSC and find new friends," says freshman computer science major Jacob Artis, seated next to Cross. "We're always expanding – we're a friendly group."

Artis met one of the people around the table in sixth grade – his good friend Marcus Leach, who is also now a freshman. Their after-class meetups have been crucial to staying connected at UMSL.

"What I enjoy the most about us getting together is that we are all different and come from different backgrounds," Leach says. "Even though we are all different, we all fit together really well. We can talk about anything. We can vent, cry, whatever, and it's really comforting to have a solid group of friends that can be trusted to support each other."





Some students look for a spot in the middle of everything, but others seek to be off the beaten path. That's what sold Dylan Sullivan and two of his accounting classmates on a hallway hideaway in the J.C. Penney Building/Conference Center.

"We stumbled upon it while going to the Online Testing Center to take a test and thought that it would make a great area to study – it had a blackboard we could write on, was quiet, and, most importantly, it had comfortable chairs," Sullivan says. "It also allows us to project our voice when studying."

Along with Mikia Austin and Marco Yau, the sophomore typically heads there the night before a big exam.

"We want to create a happy atmosphere instead of stressing out over the fact that we have an exam the next day," Sullivan says. "I think it actually helps me learn and retain information better because it is easier to recall information when I am in a good mood rather than a bad one."

For others still, selecting a spot is about something as mundane – and delicious – as a hearty lunch.

"I brought a fairly big lunch today," says commuter and honors student Ashley Westbrook, before taking another bite of salad, "and I knew that the [Honors College] kitchen would be the best place to lay out my spread." ≡



Photos, from top left: UMSL students Leigh Jacobson (at left) and Ashley Westbrook spread out lunch and study materials in the Provincial House kitchen.

Jennifer Stephan, a junior nursing student, makes the most of a piano in Seton Hall.

Dylan Sullivan points at the chalkboard while studying with accounting classmates Mikia Austin and Marco Yau in a hallway hideaway in the J.C. Penney Building/Conference Center.

Melanie Fagerlin challenges a friend to a round of pool in Oak Hall.

Bottom photo: A cluster of underclassmen has laid unofficial claim to a busy spot in the Millennium Student Center, where they typically gather between classes. Pictured (clockwise from left) are Chris Young, Sage Hayes, Brian Kay, Robert Mertens, Alek Breitweiser, Rachel Milliot, Marcus Leach and Omar Shabazz.



UMSL ALUMNI GROW
THE ST. LOUIS STARTUP
SCENE

By Jennifer Hatton

STARTUP



Silicon Valley, the birthplace of the dot-com business, is known as the place for startups. Recently, though, **St. Louis** is gaining momentum.

↑ **St. Louis is the number one startup city in the United States**, according to Popular Mechanics. The publication identified 14 locales among “the next wave of cities building an ecosystem to turn innovators into entrepreneurs.”

↓ University of Missouri–St. Louis alumnus Jan Christian Andersen agrees with that assessment.

Andersen, who earned a bachelor’s degree in communication in 1998, says St. Louis is the perfect landscape for startups. That’s why he’s chosen the city as the home base for his companies.

“I think there are multiple reasons why St. Louis is a great place for startups,” he says. “Number one, it’s a very close-knit community. People are extremely supportive of each other. We have a very open relationship with other founders; there isn’t the same competitive edge to it that you may find in other markets. Here, I think everyone understands the situation we are in as a very fast-growing community – that if one company does well, it’s going to open up a lot of doors for another company.

“The other thing is that we have some great organizations in place to help support startup businesses. There are a number of successful entrepreneurs that have come back to St. Louis and are putting both their time and money where their mouth is, to support this still relatively young, although fast-growing, ecosystem. Throw on top of that the universities in the area supporting entrepreneurship, and you see why St. Louis is doing so well.”

Since graduating from UMSL, Andersen has had his hand in a number of startups, either as an early employee or as a founder. After helping to successfully build Wind Capital Group, a large utility-scale wind energy developer, he and long-time friend Dan Lohman created their own companies.



Jan Christian Andersen sits in Lab1500, the business incubator he co-founded.

The pair started by forming Ignition Tank, a small incubator, which is a company that offers support services to other new companies.

With that in mind, they started looking for space in downtown St. Louis. They found a 120-year-old, two-story brick structure at 1500 Washington Ave., and from there, Lab1500 was born.

"We thought what was missing at the time was a location for people with very early-stage ideas," Andersen says. "Someone who may otherwise stay at home and work from their couch or sit at a Starbucks all day, really had nowhere to go to work or to find people to share their ideas with, bounce things off of, attend workshops and network. We created Lab1500 out of that."

Through Lab1500, the partners met Yomi Toba and ventured into their next startup.

Pushup Social is an easy-to-implement social network that can live within an organization's existing website. The company launched in the fall of 2014 and is in the growing stage.

"I've always been attracted to either early-stage or startup companies," Andersen says. "I like the idea that you get to be creative and wear several different hats. And I certainly like the flexibility of lifestyle that comes with that. You tend to put in probably more hours than most people do in a workweek, but you also have other freedoms that come with that. It's a little less structure I suppose, which certainly fits my personality well."

UMSL alumna Sheila Burkett decided to try the world of entrepreneurship after ending a successful career with Edward Jones. Burkett, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from UMSL in 1989, is president of Tuxedo Park Leasing, a property redevelopment company, and founder and managing partner of Spry Digital, LLC. She is also one of the founders of Women Entrepreneurs of St. Louis.

In 2008, she purchased a building at 2710 Lafayette Ave. and started her own consulting firm, providing technology consulting to small business owners and nonprofit organizations.

By 2009, she partnered with Ken Moire and Julia Koelsch to begin Spry Digital, which offers digital solutions for organizations in the form of web design, development, branding, graphic design, illustration and digital marketing. That successfully launched in 2010. In February 2015, the team founded OpenDonorCRM for nonprofit and community organizations to collect donations and manage events and memberships.

"I believe that St. Louis has the right combination of educational institutions, support systems and cost of living to make it a place for people to create and innovate," Burkett says. "If you look at the fact that St. Louis is home to several large financial service companies, the money is here, too. It is just a matter of showing the people with the money the benefit of investing in these startup companies."

But she also thinks there's still room for improvement with the city.

"I think there are multiple reasons why St. Louis is a great place for startups. Number one, it's a very close-knit community. People are extremely supportive of each other. We have a very open relationship with other founders."

—Jan Andersen

"Funding for startups, small-business owners and entrepreneurs must improve, especially for women and minority business owners," she says. "On the flip side, we must educate and encourage business owners to be open to investors and growing their businesses. Creating an environment where risk-taking and possible failure is OK will enable people to take the chance on becoming the next big innovator."

As Andersen puts it, support is the only thing standing in the way of St. Louis becoming a startup powerhouse instead of "the cute little startup city that could."

"Technology really allows that to happen," he says. "All you need is a laptop and a good idea." ☰

Sheila Burkett meets visitors to Spry Digital, a digital solutions firm where she is managing partner.



SMALL COLLEGE INSIDE A LARGE URBAN UNIVERSITY: An oral history of the Pierre Laclède Honors College

By Ryan Heinz



Fred Fausz (above), the college's first dean, and Dennis Bohnenkamp are pictured and illustrated (on the cover of the honors college publication "Brain Stew") to the right.

Far Right: Blanche Touhill (left) and Marguerite Ross Barnett worked to expand the honors program into the Pierre Laclède Honors College.



The 2014-15 academic year marks the 25th anniversary of the University of Missouri–St. Louis' Pierre Laclède Honors College, a small college with a liberal arts atmosphere nestled

into a large public university campus. To mark the occasion, UMSL Magazine caught up with the college's two deans, the chancellor who hired them, and the college's first writing program director. But the college's story actually begins in 1978 with its predecessor, the Sophomore Honors Program.

BLANCHE TOUHILL [UMSL chancellor, 1990–2002]: The man who ran that program was a fellow named Steve Hause. He was a member of the history department faculty. He had a lounge in Lucas Hall that was designated as the honors program lounge. The students and faculty could sit in there, chat and meet. They just used the regular classrooms. But it was a different kind of setting than the large lecture hall or the course that had 50 students in it. These classes were small. Maybe 20 students at the most. Later, Marguerite Ross Barnett (UMSL chancellor 1986–1990) came along, and she wanted the curriculum for all four years. It was going to have a dean. It would have faculty. And it would be a college. When I took over as chancellor, John Onuska was the director. It was still an honors program but it was moving to be an honors college. I was looking around the neighborhood for space for the college. Our goal was to get the college from 68 students to 300. I went to the Incarnate Word nuns, who had a building. It had a parquet floor, small seminar rooms, offices, a chapel, which we could use for a convocation hall, recreation space in the basement, a little

cafeteria and 10 bedrooms upstairs on one floor and 10 bedrooms on another. The campus had been trying to get a dorm for years. We purchased the building, which became the honors college campus.

FRED FAUSZ [associate professor of history at UMSL, first dean of the honors college]: For most of my tenure, August 1991 to August 1996, I was the only full-time employee. The honors college grew from 45 to 260 students in my five years. I began and ended my tenure in the original PLHC building – the former Incarnate Word convent. That was also UMSL's first residence hall. All honors classes were held in that charming old building, and on the floors above my office were dorm rooms and the nuns' quarters. That was probably the most quiet residence hall floor of any U.S. college! The sisters remained there the entire 1991-92 academic year, cooked hot lunches that sold for \$2.50 and even conducted the last funeral for one of their number in what later became our convocation hall – while classes were in session.

TOUHILL: We were trying to create a small college inside a large urban university to provide a special kind of education for a particular kind of student.

BOB BLISS [current honors college dean]: Fred Fausz and Dennis Bohnenkamp did so much to create collegiality, a sense of belonging among the students. That has been ever so important.





Celebrating

Top: Bob Bliss, who is retiring as the college's dean in May 2015.

Far right: Nancy Gleason



FAUSZ: Denny Bohnenkamp was my two-thirds-time associate dean, and we had student workers in the office and giving tours to families. The two of us read every application, all the writing samples and conducted every interview with all applicants.

BLISS: When (Interim Dean) Bohnenkamp showed me into my office on my first day, my chair completely collapsed – in a heap – when I sat down, with me sprawling on the floor. After that, deandy dignity could not be an issue.

TOUHILL: I hired Bob Bliss, and I said “I want 600 honors students.” In time, we bought the Daughters of Charity property. I asked Bob if he wanted to move the college from Incarnate Word. He had to because to get to 600 students, he needed more classrooms. So we moved him over (to what is now Provincial House), and he did it. He got to 600 students.

BLISS: Since I started as dean in 1997, we have gone from 250 to 600 students, from three faculty and staff members to 10, and from approximately 35 seminars per year to 90-plus. Our 600 students today are as well qualified as those 250 were in 1997, but today’s students encounter a much fuller honors program, including an in-house writing program.

NANCY GLEASON [first director of the writing program, associate dean emeritus]: High-achieving students are attracted to the college, the kind of students who want to be involved, want a “college experience” and want to be academically challenged.

BLISS: Every qualified applicant is interviewed by a faculty member; every accepted student has a faculty adviser. And thanks partly to having

full-time faculty, thanks partly to having Nancy Gleason among them, we have our own in-house writing program, which helps students negotiate their academic career. Almost all honors seminars are put on by the honors college, paid for by the honors college, and – although typically open to main campus students and often crosslisted with major programs – appropriate for an “honors” education. It’s also unusual to have a fully-fledged honors program for transfer students, which we have had here since 1989. Indeed, for the first 10 years, the honors college was the main source for transfer scholarships.

GLEASON: As a graduate of UMSL, I wish that they would have had an honors college back in those days. I like offering students a full experience, and I love getting to know the students really well. It is gratifying. I believe we help students a lot. I believe in the honors college, and I believe in UMSL.

BLISS: When I retire as dean (at the end of the 2014-15 academic year), I plan to teach. My teaching responsibility at UMSL will be in history, but I will continue to discharge part of that responsibility by offering seminars in the honors college. Otherwise, I plan to leave the honors college entirely to those improvements thought most desirable by the new dean and by the honors faculty. Improvements will be needed, and improvements will come.

Visit UMSL Daily at umsl.edu/daily to read an expanded oral history on the Pierre Laclède Honors College. ≡



ICE ANYWHERE I
JUSTICE
everywhere

WE
OUR
BUSINESSES

NEW CHINA
RESTAURANT
PRAYER
PEACE

COMPASSION
Peace!

UNA
ATA
Peace
begins
with a smile



BE THE
DREAM

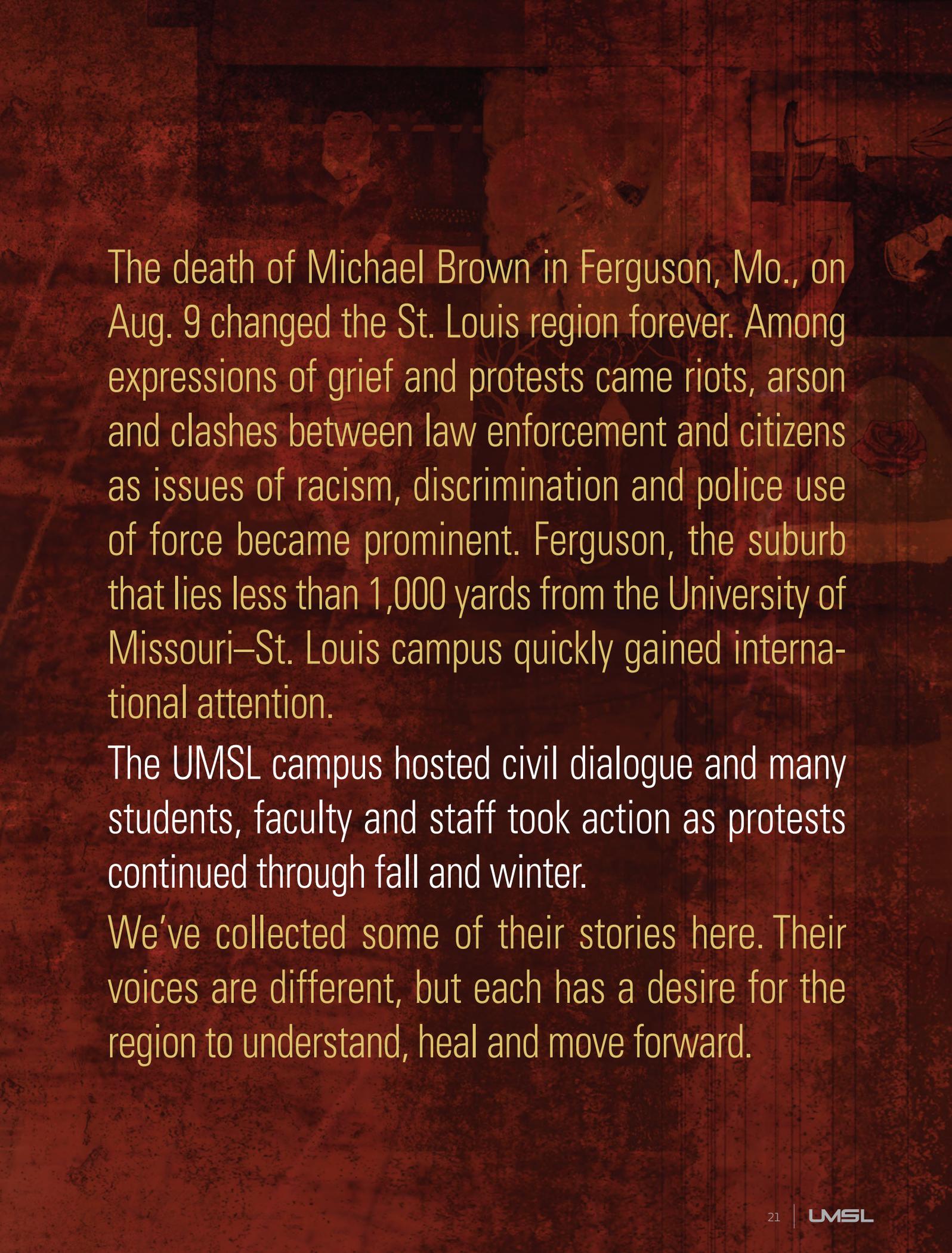
VOICES

of Ferguson

The future belongs
to those who prepare
for it today.

Malcolm X

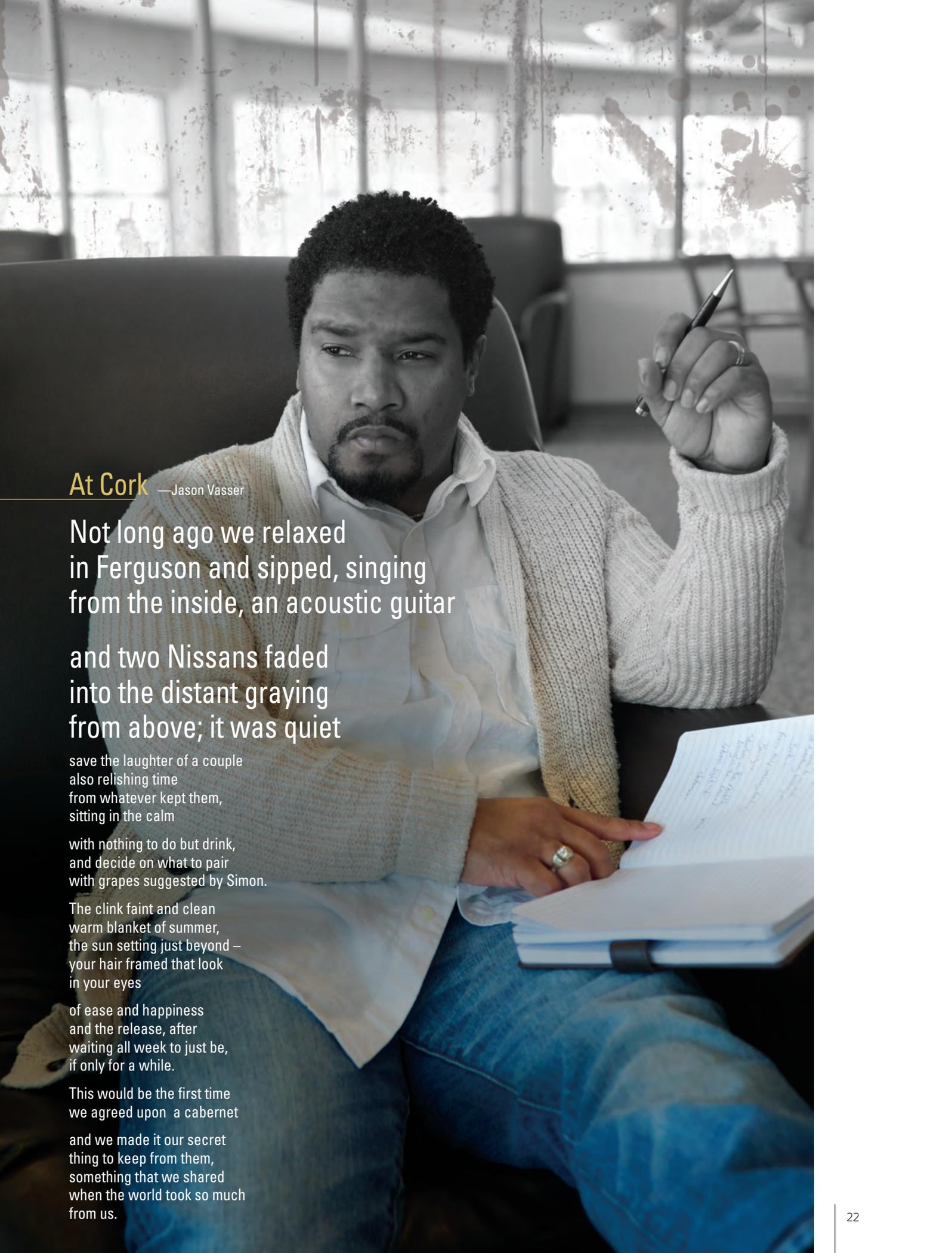
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The death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., on Aug. 9 changed the St. Louis region forever. Among expressions of grief and protests came riots, arson and clashes between law enforcement and citizens as issues of racism, discrimination and police use of force became prominent. Ferguson, the suburb that lies less than 1,000 yards from the University of Missouri–St. Louis campus quickly gained international attention.

The UMSL campus hosted civil dialogue and many students, faculty and staff took action as protests continued through fall and winter.

We've collected some of their stories here. Their voices are different, but each has a desire for the region to understand, heal and move forward.



At Cork —Jason Vasser

Not long ago we relaxed
in Ferguson and sipped, singing
from the inside, an acoustic guitar

and two Nissans faded
into the distant graying
from above; it was quiet

save the laughter of a couple
also relishing time
from whatever kept them,
sitting in the calm

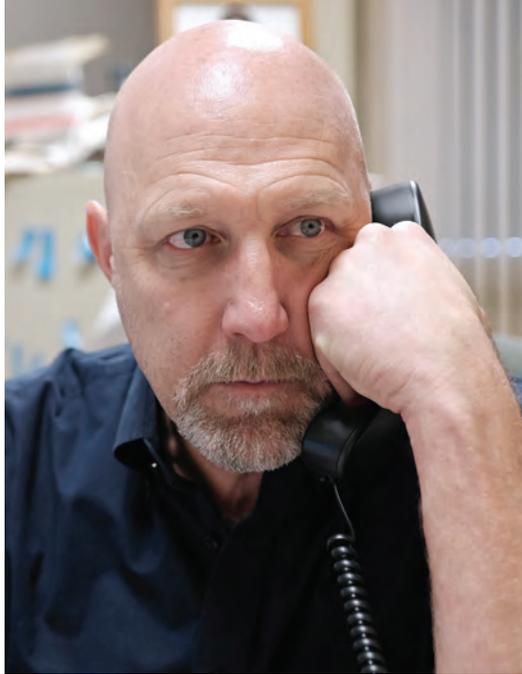
with nothing to do but drink,
and decide on what to pair
with grapes suggested by Simon.

The clink faint and clean
warm blanket of summer,
the sun setting just beyond –
your hair framed that look
in your eyes

of ease and happiness
and the release, after
waiting all week to just be,
if only for a while.

This would be the first time
we agreed upon a cabernet

and we made it our secret
thing to keep from them,
something that we shared
when the world took so much
from us.



Jason Vasser, poet and art activist

Jason Vasser left work one day at Student Retention Services and drove up Florissant Road where he spotted a group picking up trash in a parking lot. He knew what the news reports said but wanted to see for himself what was happening along the road where protesters, police officers and rioters were clashing a few miles from the UMSL campus.

Vasser stopped, grabbed a bag and joined them. The experience was the inspiration for his poem “Picking Up in Ferguson.”

“I would see images on TV where it would be the police force against the people, or showing white people against black people, but picking up trash, it was people of all different nationalities,” Vasser says. “We may not have done a lot, but we did something out of the kindness of our hearts to try to send a positive message.”

Ferguson is familiar territory to Vasser, who graduated from McCluer High School in neighboring Florissant, Mo. He and his wife, Carla, frequent Florissant Road businesses like the Ferguson Brewing Co. and Cork Wine Bar. As of August, he was starting his final semester in UMSL’s MFA in Creative Writing program. In addition to “Picking Up in Ferguson,” Vasser also penned “At Cork” and has found a new focus as an arts activist, creating art in response to trauma.

Vasser, now an instructor at Harris-Stowe State University in St. Louis, wants people to understand that what happened in Ferguson brings up issues of race, status and disparity that are global in nature.

“This isn’t just a Ferguson issue,” he said. “It’s a St. Louis issue; it’s a U.S. issue; it’s a world issue. This is going to take time to rectify. It’s going to take patience, and it’s going to take tolerance.”

—Rachel Webb

David Klinger, criminologist and media source

David Klinger, professor of criminology and criminal justice at UMSL, has done media interviews for most of his career. As a former Los Angeles and Redmond, Wash., police officer and an expert on use of force, reporters from coast to coast seek his insight numerous times a year. But shortly after the death of Mike Brown, Klinger knew this was not his normal sound bite.

“I realized this was different when the national press parachuted in, and that was within a pretty short period of time,” Klinger says. “I would get into the office and my voice mailbox would be full, and I’d have a bunch of emails and press inquiries literally from across the globe.”

In the weeks after the August shooting Klinger spent up to 10 hours a day responding to press inquiries.

As he became the face of law enforcement procedures and protocol during the unrest, not everyone agreed with what he had to say. That often included the reporters.

“Occasionally, I would have anchors say things like, ‘Well, Professor Klinger, isn’t it true that...’ and I would have to say, ‘No, you’re absolutely wrong and here’s why,’” Klinger says. “They didn’t exactly know what to do with that, but they didn’t run the other way or shut me down.”

Klinger is unsure what the coming year has in store for the healing of the local community.

“It’s become a social movement that is essentially divorced from the reality of the event that has mobilized it,” Klinger says. “So trying to articulate in my own mind how it might play out, I can’t; because I can’t draw links with any sense of logical progression.”

—Jennifer Hatton

Andrea Schmidt, street medic

After Aug. 9, Andrea Schmidt knew one thing for certain – she wanted to help. For the then-senior nursing major at UMSL, that took the form of street medicine.

“Feeling like I had a role and that I could put my skills to use was important,” Schmidt says in an interview on the six-month anniversary of Michael Brown’s death.

In the middle of protests she worked in a team of medics as she flushed more than 50 people’s eyes with “LAW,” a mix of liquid antacid and water that helps neutralize acid from tear gas and pepper spray. The medics always work in pairs while marked with red-duct tape crosses, and are considered neutral.

“Things were scary,” she says. “I mean there were police officers with automatic weapons pointed at us, and I had never even seen an automatic weapon at that point. It was very terrifying. I had never seen armored vehicles line up on a street like that before. It was a war zone.”

In the fall, she helped to officially form Gateway Region Action Medics, a small collective based off the Medical Committee for Human Rights from the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s. GRAM now hosts trainings for the public.

“Our goal is to ultimately put that education and that power in the people’s hands because they’re the ones that can use it every day,” Schmidt says. “And it’s not just in a protest; it’s in the community.” —Marisol Ramirez





From left: UMSL student Tiffany Knighten, Assistant Professor Jacqueline Thompson, student Kenyata Tatum and St. Louis actor Reginald Pierre participate in an exercise during the Theatre of the Oppressed workshop at the Kranzberg Arts Center. (Photo by Michael B. Perkins)

Photo below: Holly Wagner, left, and Brian Hutchison, right.



Brian Hutchison and Holly Wagner, counselors

Brian Hutchison and Holly Wagner, assistant professors of counseling and family therapy in the College of Education at UMSL, were called on to help in the aftermath of Michael Brown's shooting death as emotions ran high and questions were left unanswered.

The Ferguson-Florissant School District asked Hutchison to help prepare teachers to respond to students' questions and process their own feelings. Hutchison took a team to the school district, and was also asked to help others in the community express their feelings.

That's when he pulled in Wagner. She has experience helping individuals use sand trays and story stones to express their feelings and heal from traumatic events.

"Facilitating these narratives through the use of sand tray work and story stones provided the healing space that so many desperately needed at that time," Wagner says.

Hutchison says they will continue to help.

"The process of transitioning to healing and action will be gradual," Hutchison says. "So, we are in it for the long run."

His hope for healing is open communication.

"Cross-perspective dialogue is the most important thing to me," he says. "Different sides of the political issues, the communities involved, the color line, need to learn to develop empathy for others' views and listen with empathy so that all are heard."

—Jennifer Hatton

Felia Davenport, Jacqueline Thompson and Kenyata Tatum, actors

A snowy weekend at the end of February seemed far removed from the heat of August, but a workshop organized by UMSL faculty sought to channel the community's feelings into positive action.

Theatre of the Oppressed is a New York-based organization that helps communities deal with issues of conflict and racism through non-violent means. Representatives from TONYC visited Ferguson shortly after the death of Mike Brown, but UMSL theater faculty saw an opportunity for more involvement.

"Whether it be something like Ferguson, or discrimination in general, religion, or politics, this is about how to find a cathartic way to release everything and say your piece without violence," says Felia Davenport, associate professor of theater.

Jacqueline Thompson, assistant professor of theater, worked with the Shakespeare Festival St. Louis to bring instructors to St. Louis for intensive training. Participants included students, teachers and other community members who presented short plays to an audience at the end of the workshop.

"A lot of our students deal with difficult situations every day," Thompson says. "These are the tools that will let them create their own work to create social change in their communities and throughout the world."

The work brought up raw, intense feelings among the participants, said UMSL theater major Kenyata Tatum. The workshop inspired Tatum to consider using acting as a form of activism, she said.

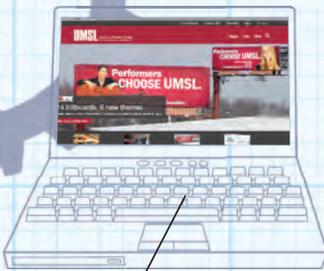
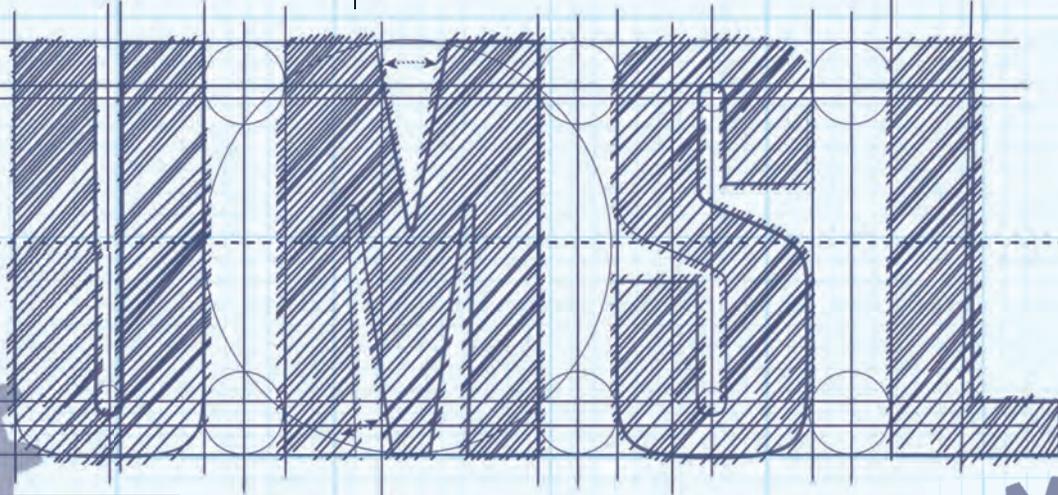
"A lot of people were getting heated in the conversations we were having as a group, but eventually we made it to the point of making the play and putting our differences aside," Tatum says. —Rachel Webb

BUILD- ING THE BRAND

Campaigns

4 years [& counting]

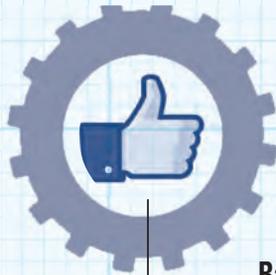
Length of the **I CHOSE** campaign



Website

6.4 million

annual visits to **UMSL.edu**



Social Media

You like us.
You really like us.

Thousands like one or more of the **60+** UMSL-affiliated Facebook pages.



Radio

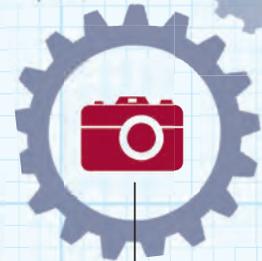
Targeted audiences hear a UMSL ad an average of **5.8 times** during a radio campaign



Billboards

1.1 million

Number of commuters passing UMSL billboards every day!



Flickr

1 million

views of photos on UMSL's Flickr page



528 new posts are made to **UMSL Daily** each year

**THE LIGHTS DIM AT THE BLANCHE M. TOUHILL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, THE MUSIC RISES
AND THE PERFORMERS STEP OUT ON STAGE.** Associate Professor

Stella Markou has a hard time breathing and beads of sweat form on her skin.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis Opera Theatre’s annual production is about to begin, and she’s spent months directing casting, choreography, costume design and even making sure that the performers’ lipstick is sparkly enough.

“When the show starts is the only time I start to worry that this isn’t going to work,” she says. “Failure’s not an option. The music’s too great, the story’s too great and we’ve worked too hard.”

But as her students start to sing, everything becomes right again, and all that hard work has earned the UMSL Opera Theatre national attention. The University of Missouri–St. Louis is the only St. Louis university doing full opera productions.

“I believe in my students,” she says. “I believe in our work, and I believe in our process. Our process is grueling, and our process is intense, but that’s how you make great art.”

Markou leads the program as UMSL’s director of vocal studies and director of the opera theatre. When she arrived at UMSL, Markou started producing performances of scenes from select operas, before expanding to full productions such as “Elixir of Love” and “Die Fledermaus.”

Validation for the program came when the 2014 production of “The Mikado” earned second place in the Opera Production Competition from the National Opera Association. The award typically goes to larger opera programs. A year earlier, her alma mater, Oberlin Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio was in the same slot.

“We want to be nationally competitive,” she says. “This award has basically said we’re playing with the big boys, which is very satisfying.”

*Night
at the*
PERA

By Rachel Webb

Opera performance teaches vocal music students to sing while developing important theatrical skills, says Jim Henry, music department chair. Without the opera program, students might sing operatic pieces in their voice lessons, but they would lose the opportunity to develop characters and learn about staging and blocking.

"It's a huge part of their education," Henry says. "If they were to graduate from here without having any experience of that theatrical side of the musical

art, they would be ill-prepared to go on to graduate school or even any performance venue."

Singing in an operatic style requires a performer to use a greater range of their voice, rather than blending with others, Henry says. That's something Stephanie Crawford values while developing a performance career. Crawford graduated from UMSL in May 2012 with a bachelor's degree in music and performed in several UMSL operas. She's now a cantor and section leader at the Cathedral Basilica and performs as a concert soloist as well.

"With opera you're singing solo a lot of the time and you're very exposed," Crawford says. "Most of the opera repertoire is a lot more challenging than singing in a choir setting. It helped me to become a better musician."

Most opera participants arrive at UMSL with little to no exposure to opera. They may have years of choir or theater experience, but no involvement or knowledge of the art form itself. Many are quickly pulled in by the elaborate combination of music, singing and drama it offers.

"There's a lot more to it than pop culture offers," says junior music education major Andrea Lair. "There's so much creativity. It can also be very modern. It's a cherished tradition, and there's something really special to that."

Lair was the Mother in this year's production of Engelbert Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel." She was so inspired after studying opera that she spent last summer working as an usher with the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. She hopes to continue singing even once she starts working as a music educator.

Like the previous year's production, "Hansel and Gretel" was intended to dazzle audiences with stunning visuals. The traditional Christmas setting was switched to Easter due to the opera's spring timing. UMSL Opera Theatre created a stage that resembled a wonderland complete with giant Peeps.

"This was a very interactive show where people allowed their imaginations and their inner child to come out and play," Markou says. "I hoped to capture the childlike wonderment of the story through the beauty of the music and magnifying the archetypes of my heroes and heroines."

In addition to producing top performers, the UMSL Opera Theatre's productions are noteworthy for Markou's ability to stretch limited resources. The program receives funding from the music department and the UMSL student government, and Markou stretches the resources to produce costumes and sets that dazzle the audiences.

"She's extremely passionate about it, and she gets what she wants done," says junior theater major Thomas Wiggand, who was Hansel. "It's impressive to see what she puts together." ≡

Cast members perform in the 2014 production of "The Mikado". [Photo by Danny Reise]



Rochelle Henderson's numbers change patients' lives

By Marisol Ramirez

There is an energy about Rochelle Henderson, senior director of health services at Express Scripts in St. Louis. She wants to change the world, or at least her corner of it, by better understanding human behavior in relation to prescription medication. She finds her answers in numbers.

"So we have this great amount of uncertainty about the world," says Henderson, who earned a doctorate in political science from the University of Missouri—St. Louis in 2010. "And what statistics allows you to do is, not reduce totally, but minimize that level of uncertainty."

For Express Scripts, a pharmacy benefit manager, Henderson and her team collect data on prescription use, analyze results and help minimize "waste" for pharmacies.

"We're about the right medication, for the right person, at the right price," she says.

The job allows her to combine her passion for statistics with her love of health science. Henderson found that same combination in her doctoral program at UMSL.

"The political science program let me craft and focus my courses," she says. "I was interested in quantitative analysis, but I also took survey classes in the College of Education and gerontology classes that were offered on aging and healthcare. So I was able to cross disciplines to achieve my goal of the Ph.D."

Initially, convenience drew Henderson to UMSL. Working at Express Scripts didn't allow her much time, and the Fortune 500 company was already located on UMSL's North Campus. After getting to know the faculty, she also appreciated their initiatives and strong reputations within their disciplines.

Now she takes what she learned at UMSL and applies it daily at Express Scripts. Henderson is proud of the lab she works in, which divides into three sections: data, behavior and psychology, and clinical specialists. They get to work with some nifty gadgetry, too. In a sleek, modern brainstorming area with a giant touch screen, Henderson explains a pilot test being done with asthma inhalers.

"They are linked up to a cellphone app," she says, "so that you can monitor number of puffs, at what time of day and the events that are going on in terms of things like ragweed and mold counts. On a nightly

basis, it sends that information to our clinical specialists."

When a clinical specialist notices that a patient uses the rescue inhaler more often than recommended or prescribed, the specialist has been trained to reach out to the patient personally and offer guidance.

Henderson notes that medication non-adherence is one of the main factors leading to waste, even in cases like cancer, where one might think taking medication as prescribed is a given.

"What we do really matters," she says. "We really impact the patient."

Besides her role at Express Scripts, Henderson also teaches at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, helps on research teams for Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the Veterans Affairs Hospital of St. Louis, and volunteers for St. Louis—Samara Sister Cities as a healthcare tour guide for visiting Russian physicians. It's a lot to fit into one schedule, but it's absolutely her passion.

"If you love what you do, you find the time." ≡



Hubert H. Hoosman Jr.

UMSL alumnus receives UM System award for giving back

By Jennifer Hatton

Hubert H. Hoosman Jr. views his service to the University of Missouri–St. Louis as his responsibility to give back.

Hoosman, who earned a BS in administration justice in 1979 from UMSL, recalls the impact former UMSL professor Scott Decker had on him.

“He was a very good department head, a progressive thinker,” he says. “He was my personal student adviser and he was always available and accessible.”

Hoosman, a resident of north St. Louis County, learned from Decker’s example.

“I enjoy getting involved with students, I enjoy giving back because a lot of people helped me to finish school,” he says.

His continued involvement and dedication to UMSL was recognized in February when he received the 2015 University of Missouri System’s Presidential Citation Award for his outstanding service.

“It’s humbling to be recognized for doing what comes naturally,” Hoosman says.

He played four years on the UMSL men’s basketball team, scoring 1,351 points in his career, the sixth best total in UMSL history. In 2007, he was inducted into the UMSL Sports Hall of Fame.

After earning his degree, he spent a short time in construction before stumbling onto his real calling in finance.

He spent the next 31 years in the financial world, the last 19, serving as president and chief executive officer of Vantage Credit Union before retiring in April 2013.

At Vantage, he created and facilitated several internship and shadowing programs for UMSL students, and hired some full time.

Since joining the Alumni Association in 1992, he’s continued to give his time to UMSL and its students.

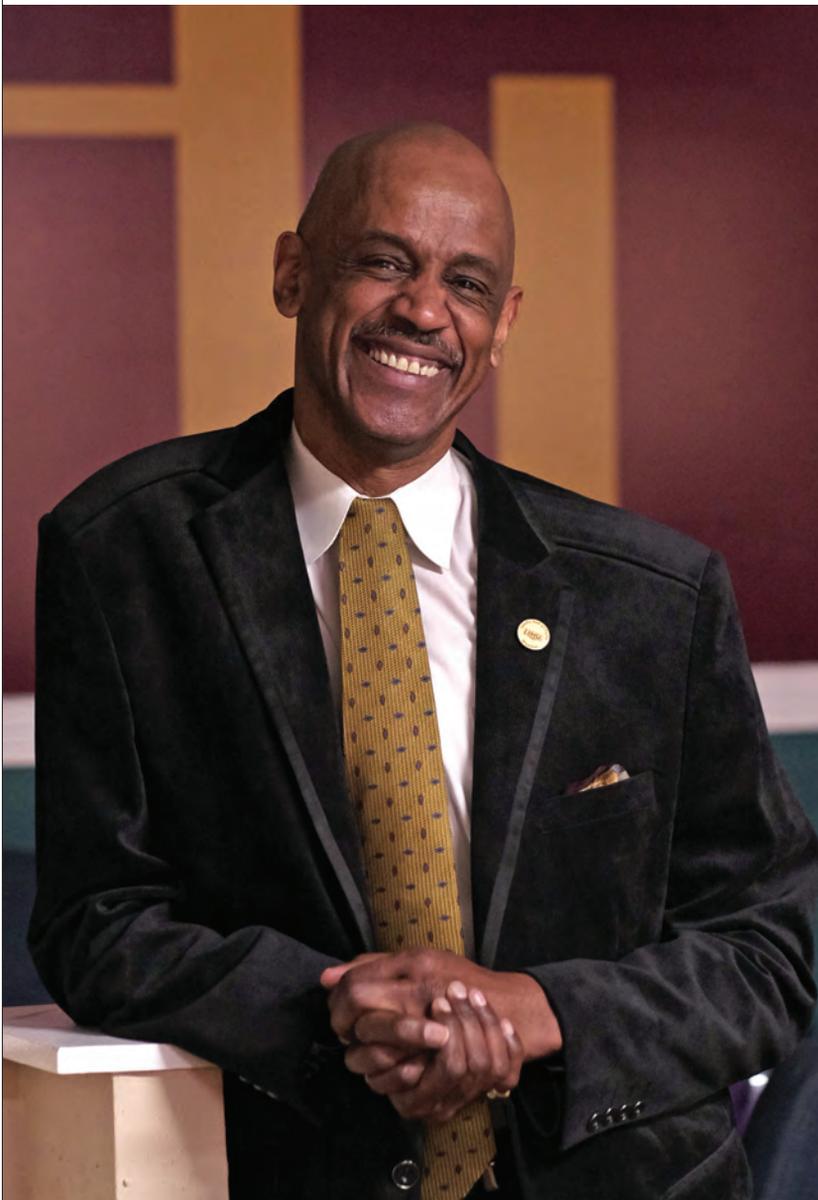
During his time as president of the Alumni Association, he launched the first Alumni Weekend Celebration designed to reconnect the university with its more than 80,000 alumni worldwide. He also established a \$120,000 African American Alumni Chapter Scholarship fund.

He’s a member of the UMSL Chancellor’s Council, in which he led a successful campaign to establish a memorial plaza in honor of former Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett, who was the first African American woman to lead the university and founded the Bridge Program.

“What she did for the university was incredible,” he says. “I felt that she needed to be acknowledged. She’s a hero in the history of the university and we needed something appropriate to acknowledge that.”

After retiring from Vantage, Hoosman and his wife, Andreal, opened Haywood Hoosman Realty and H&H Brokerage in Ferguson, Mo.

“There’s only so much golf to be played in retirement,” Hoosman says. “And this is really a passion of my wife’s. She’s wanted to have her own company for some time, and I’ve been able to bring my skills in from my former life to help. It’s been challenging but also rewarding.”



UMSL vision scientist Carl Bassi studies new golf ball that improves accuracy

By Ryan Heinz

Carl Bassi doesn't consider himself much of a golfer. But his research is providing validation to a new golf ball design that could knock strokes off the scores of amateurs and pros alike.

It started with a phone call out of the blue from Ray Barrett, a St. Louis corporate executive and inventor.

"He was asking around to see if there were people in the area who might be able to help him with his question," recalls Bassi, associate professor of optometry at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

That question: Could a series of three parallel lines on a golf ball help improve a golfer's aim while putting? The answer is yes, Bassi found.

He led a team in constructing a 12-foot green using plywood, AstroTurf and a golf cup, and then testing volunteers' aim using laser technology.

The test subjects – mostly members of Normandie Golf Course, the rest UMSL students – would line up putts from five feet and 10 feet from the cup, using both an unmarked ball and Barrett's patented creation, the Triple Track ball. They would only aim; no contact with the ball was made.

"We did that for a very specific reason," Bassi says. "They might just make a bad putt at the time."

Using the laser to determine the golfers' aim, Bassi found that on average, their aiming accuracy improved 11 to 12 percent with the Triple Track.

The ball features three lines – a unique middle line flanked by a pair of identical lines. The effect of the three lines mirrors that of a gun's sights. Using multiple lines helps the eye better determine the correct path.

Applying the concept to golf balls just made sense, Barrett says.

"Many professional, as well as recreational, golfers draw a line on their golf balls to assist them in aligning the ball with the hole," he points out. "It seemed reasonable to consider a more professional alignment assist."

The United States Golf Association has designated the Triple Track ball "Permitted under the Rules of Golf." Barrett hopes to have the ball on the market by the end of the year.

Bassi's team for the project included research technicians Michael Howe and Wayne Garver, and optometry students John Olson and Matt McCoy, who are both now alumni.

Bassi, Howe and Garver are regular collaborators and hold three patents together. Bassi's lab usually has several simultaneous projects in the works. They're now developing a device to help measure macular pigment better and generating a final prototype for the Q3D, a device designed to help children with ambly-

opia (also called "lazy eye"). Bassi is also conducting a clinical study to validate the Foldscope, an affordable, origami-based pocket microscope developed by Dr. Manu Prakash at Stanford University.

"I feel lucky to work with Michael and Wayne," Bassi says. "They really are remarkable in terms of taking ideas and generating a physical, usable product or working together to come up with creative solutions to problems like the one that Ray Barrett posed with the golf ball." ■



Rosella Ledermann

Alumna puts Japanese skills to work upon return from Tokyo

By Evie Hemphill

Within days of her arrival home from Japan in fall 2014 and unsure of her next move, Rosella Ledermann found an unexpected opportunity waiting for her.

"The job sort of just came to me," says Ledermann, a graduating senior at the University of Missouri–St. Louis at the time. "They were asking, through UMSL, for someone who knew Japanese."

Global Products Inc., a Missouri-based provider of Harley-Davidson accessories to more than

1,000 dealerships worldwide, wanted a sales representative who could communicate with international customers.

"There are over 100 Harley dealers just in Japan," Ledermann explains. "It's a lot."

She accepted the offer, eager to enter the working world and put her Japanese major to use.

"I really enjoy the chance to use those skills in the workplace," says the Dupo, Ill., native,

who didn't speak Japanese before enrolling at UMSL in the fall of 2010. "It's not every single day – it depends on who wants to communicate, who wants to place an order – but sometimes it's really busy and I wonder, 'Can I get all this done?' It's definitely challenging, but also rewarding."

Now more than six months into the job and with a newly minted UMSL diploma in hand, Ledermann is still processing her yearlong experience at Waseda University in Tokyo – as well as her time at UMSL.

"The experience here and the study abroad really have changed my life," she says, recalling faculty members and loved ones who encouraged her along the way. "If I hadn't come here, I wouldn't be where I am now, and I definitely wouldn't be the person I am now. I really discovered that I do have the potential they were telling me I did."

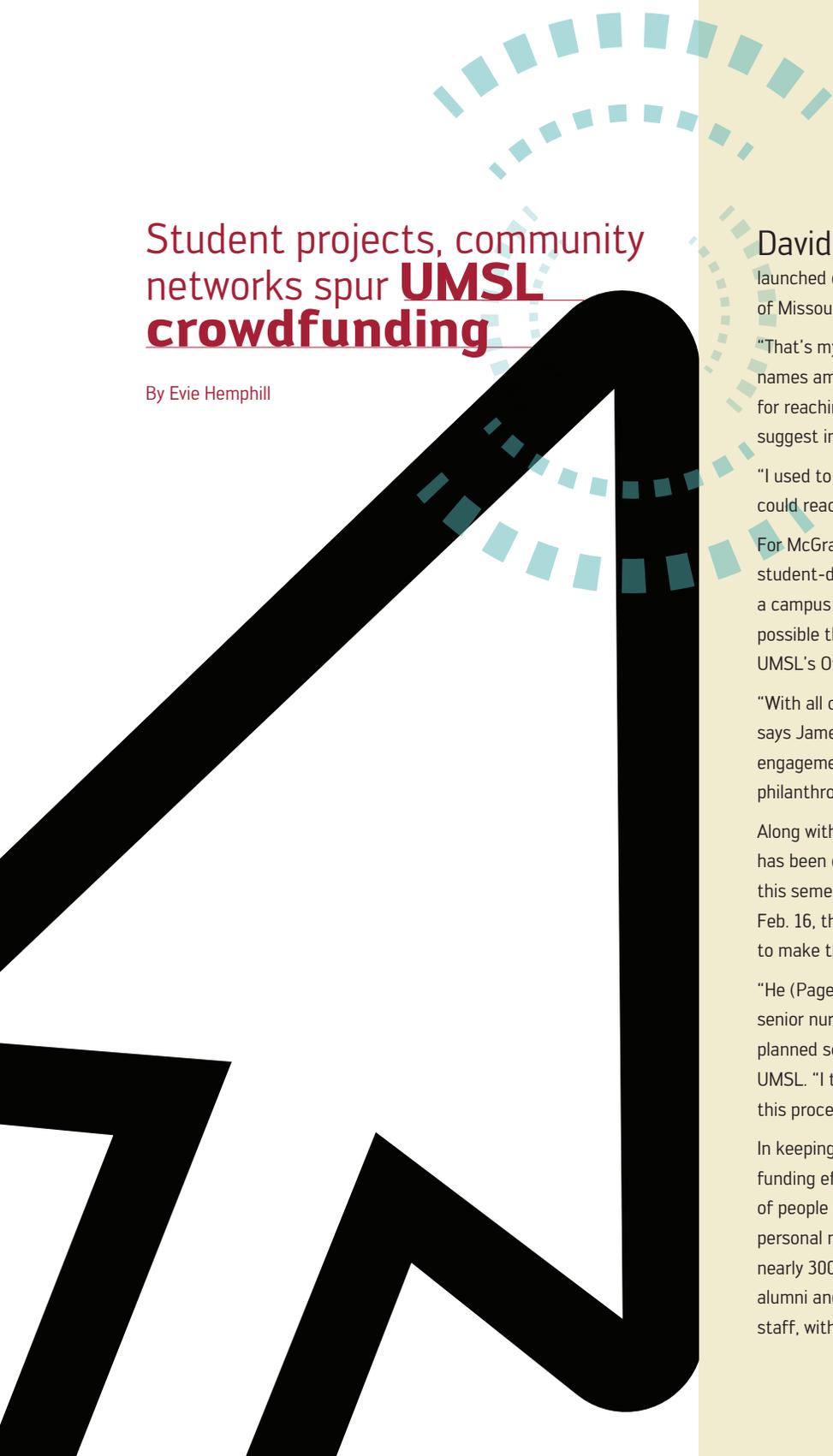
Ledermann, who served as the Student Government Association representative for the Japan America Student Association and as a flutist in the University Symphonic Band at UMSL, experienced homesickness a few weeks into her time in Tokyo. Although she felt adequately prepared by her three years of intensive study at UMSL, it was her first time traveling internationally, and there was some culture shock.

Soon enough she connected with classmates and grew in her confidence with the language. She hopes to return to Japan, perhaps in pursuit of a graduate degree.

Ledermann laughs and shakes her head when asked if she's begun riding motorcycles since joining Global Products Inc., but she admits the job's been an education in Harley-Davidson headwear and accessories.

"The things that sell the most are skull caps and bandanas," she says. "We even sell hair scrunchies. And we do glass imprinting, so we have mugs and shot glasses and such." ≡





Student projects, community networks spur **UMSL** crowdfunding

By Evie Hemphill

David McGraw scrolls through a page on the newly launched crowdfund.umsl.edu site while several of his fellow University of Missouri–St. Louis students eye it on the projection screen.

“That’s my mom, and that’s a coworker,” he says, pointing out a few names among a list of donors. As the group brainstorms strategies for reaching a fundraising goal of \$5,500, someone else pipes up to suggest incorporating in-kind gifts, such as shovels.

“I used to work at a hardware store,” McGraw responds. “Maybe I could reach out to them, too.”

For McGraw and the others in the room, it’s day 11 of a 30-day student-driven campaign to bring to fruition a specific, tangible idea: a campus community garden. Their project is one of a handful made possible through a unique crowdfunding platform recently launched by UMSL’s Office of Alumni Engagement.

“With all of these, it’s not about mass emails – it’s individualized asks,” says James Page, assistant director of student and new graduate engagement. “And it really is about getting students to understand philanthropy and stewardship.”

Along with the crew spearheading the UMSL Community Garden, Page has been coaching and coordinating with several other student groups this semester. Long before the UMSL crowdfunding site went live on Feb. 16, the students were busy developing videos, pages and networks to make their campaigns a success.

“He (Page) set up a pretty strict schedule for us,” says Kim Berry, a senior nursing major and co-organizer of fundraising efforts toward a planned service trip to Nicaragua with the Catholic Newman Center at UMSL. “I think I’ve learned a lot about communication through this process.”

In keeping with the spirit of kickstarter.com – a popular platform for funding efforts through small amounts of money from a large number of people in a limited period of time – the UMSL initiative emphasizes personal networks. Page notes that during the site’s first week live, nearly 300 people donated to the various campaigns. In addition to alumni and friends, that included 70 students and many faculty and staff, with an average gift amount of \$30.



Share to Maximize
IMPACT <

\$8,061
100%

Raised toward our \$8,000 Goal
244 Donors

0 DAYS LEFT
Project ends on February 21, at 11:59 PM CST

Project Owners

Give Now

Share Share Share

UMSL Crowdfund

In 1960 Wayne Good and 28 members of the St. Louis community came together to create the first public institution in the area. Join us in supporting the next wave of great ideas impacting the lives of UMSL students today through crowdfund.umsledu.

UMSL Homecoming Court Philanthropy Campaign
100% 244 0
Funded Goals Donors

Marketing Club- AMA International Collegiate Conference
86% 23 0
Funded Goals Donors

Help UMSL students get jobs through the AAF Career Fair
101% 28 0
Funded Goals Donors

UMSL Community Garden
Catholic Newman Center International Service Trip



Left: UMSL students from diverse fields share a passion for the community garden they envision on campus. Pictured (from left) are Abdul-Karim Matteuzzi, Carolyn Kuenzel, Adela Redzic, sustainability coordinator Katy Mike Smaistrila, Aliou Sanneh, David McGraw and the Office of Alumni Engagement's James Page. Above: A screenshot of crowdfund.umsledu.

The eight candidates for UMSL Homecoming 2015 king and queen collectively raised more than \$8,000 toward scholarships in just seven days, with their presentation of a giant check at the Feb. 21 homecoming dinner and dance drawing wild applause.

But "creating a crowd," Page says, requires a lot of committed leadership and energy – it's no easy task. Sophomore biochemistry major Adela Redzic, one of the students behind the community-garden effort, agrees.

"It's definitely a process," she says. "You think that you can easily make a video and get it together and raise money, but just getting everything organized takes some doing."

Aliou Sanneh, a first-semester graduate student who grew up in the farmland of Gambia, Africa, says that while the group's plan for creating and operating a 12-bed organic garden on campus is detailed and concrete, it's about something more than the garden itself.

"We as students want to contribute to sustaining the environment," Sanneh says. "It's something we value."

A similar passion motivates Berry's work with fellow Newman Center students and alumni as they prepare to head to Nicaragua in July to help build homes for families in poverty.

"Service is such a big part of the Newman community," says fellow organizer and junior psychology major Mo Leahy, noting that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Newman Center at UMSL. "We always do a service project, but this is our first international one."

The first round of student-driven crowdfunding efforts wrapped up March 17. Additional campaign launches are in the works for the fall, Page says.

"Crowdfunding websites are a relatively new phenomenon, and I think it says a lot about UMSL and our students that we are the first university in the region to launch something like this," he adds. "Our students are resourceful and our community is very supportive, and we hope to see great things come from this platform."

At the Ballpark

CARDINALS TICKETS AND MORE UMSL Night *at the Ballpark*

Cardinals nation has always had fans at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. But on Sept. 12, 2014, more than 700 students, alumni, faculty and staff gathered at Busch Stadium for UMSL Night at the Ballpark, and of course, to watch the St. Louis Cardinals defeat the Colorado Rockies 5-1.

UMSL is hoping to show that support again for the 2015 UMSL Night at the Ballpark happening Sept. 1 and organized by the Office of Alumni Engagement and Community Relations. The Cardinals are set to take on the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Last year's evening kicked off with a packed pre-game reception inside the ballpark where 400 alumni, family and friends gathered to eat, catch up and watch UMSL Student Government Association President Cameron Roark throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Even Louie, UMSL's mascot, made it on the field to pose with Fredbird.

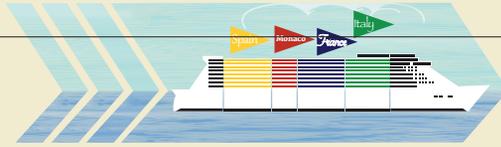
"What more could someone ask for?" said education student and attendee Kim Weible. "UMSL Night at the Ballpark was the best of both worlds – I was able to spend quality time with my family while watching one of the best MLB teams do what all Cardinals fans know they do best – play ball!"

To top things off, every alumnus and student who purchased a ticket received a limited edition St. Louis Cardinals baseball cap with the UMSL logo stitched on the back.

Those caps will return again this fall for the 2015 night at the ballpark. Expect another pre-game reception and the possibility for a field visit with the purchase of a ticket. The field visit will be determined by a drawing. Also expect to hear UMSL students sing "God Bless America."

Check umslalumni.org for ticket prices.





UMSL ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

EUROPE AWAITS

Oct. 22-30, 2015 • 7 nights • 6 ports
Starting at \$2,299 per person

Palma de Mallorca, Spain | Marseille/Provence, France | Monte Carlo, Monaco
Portofino, Italy | La Spezia/Cinque Terre, Italy | Florence/Pisa/Tuscany (Livorno), Italy



Escape to the Mediterranean on a luxury cruise this fall and explore European Hideaways, a trip with fellow University of Missouri–St. Louis alumni and one of the getaways offered through the UMSL Alumni Travel Program.

See the rolling hills of lavender in Provence, France; the grand 12th-century Prince’s Palace in Monte Carlo, Monaco; and Michelangelo’s “David” in Florence, Italy. Aboard the Riviera, Oceania Cruises’ newest ship, are spacious and plush rooms, some with private teak verandas.

The seven-night cruise starts in Barcelona, Spain, and charts the coastline, stopping at six ports and ending in Rome.

The trip is scheduled for Oct. 22-30. Reservations start at \$2,299 per person and include airfare, cruise accommodations and local transportation.

The UMSL Alumni Association offers this trip through Go Next, the alumni cruise leader, and its preferred cruise partner Oceania Cruises.

For additional information, call 1-800-842-9023 or visit gonext.com.

60s

George D. Constantz, BA 1969, wrote the book "Ice, Fire, and Nutcrackers: A Rocky Mountain Ecology," published by University of Utah Press.

George is an independent ecologist in West Virginia where he teaches at both the high school and university levels.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Daniel W. Jasper**, BSBA 1969, on the death of his mother, Dorothy Jasper.

70s

Mark Keen, EdD, MEd 1970, was named 2015 Superintendent of the Year for District 5 by the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents. Mark has been superintendent of the Westfield (Ind.) Washington School District since 1997.

Diane C. Rademacher, BA 1972, wrote the book "Famous Firsts of St. Louis - A Celebration of Facts, Figures, Food and Fun," published in conjunction with Mound City Publishing Co. in St. Louis.

Michael P. David, Esq., BSBA 1973, joined Williams Venker & Sanders, a trial law firm in St. Louis in January. Michael retired in December 2014 after a distinguished 25-year career as a Missouri Circuit Court judge.

Stephanie O. McCutcheon, BSBA 1973, was appointed to the SSM Health Board of Directors in December 2014. Stephanie is principal of McCutcheon and Co. in Pasadena, Md.

Linda M. Nagle, MEd 1973, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award on Nov. 16, 2014. Linda teaches third grade at Lincoln Elementary in St. Charles, Mo.

Kay Werner, MEd 1973, was awarded the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Distinguished Service Award at the May 2014 SIUE commencement. Kay retired as the manager of Information Technology at the SIUE East St. Louis Center.

Maria C. Perron, BA 1977, was awarded the F. Wm. McCalpin Pro Bono Award by Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Maria is a partner at the Perron Law Firm in St. Louis.

Gary L. Rutledge, Esq., BSAJ 1977, joined Saint Louis University's William C. Wefel Center for Employment Law, where he will serve as the center's professor of practice. Gary retired from Anheuser-Busch in January.



Cynthia A. Doria, Esq., BA 1978, was awarded the 2015 Hugs and Kisses Woman of the Year Award by St. Louis Crisis Nursery.

Deceased

Sondra Capps, BSEd 1972, on Jan. 20. Sondra is survived by her husband, Arthur, their four children and seven grandchildren.

Stephen J. Lawrence, MBA 1977, on Oct. 10, 2014. Stephen served as CFO at Touchette Regional Hospital and went on to become executive vice president of Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation in East St. Louis, Ill. Stephen is survived by his wife, Carol Moreland, and his two sons.

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to **Shirley K. Walsh**, MEd 1978, on the death of her husband, Huber Walsh.

Sympathy is extended to **Anne Gantner**, BSEd 1979, on the death of her husband, George E. Gantner III.

80s

David R. Brandt, BSBA 1980, was appointed to the board of directors of the Ronald McDonald House Charities in December 2014.

Edward L. Follis, BSAJ 1983, wrote the book "The Dark Art: My Undercover Life in Global Narco-Terrorism," published by Gotham Books. Edward is the director of special projects for 5 Stones Intelligence based in Miami.

Dan J. Lauer, BSBA 1983, launched AvaStars, an entertainment platform where children can have a doll or action figure created in their likeness. Dan is president and chief executive officer of Possibility Place in St. Louis.

Alene H. Becker, MA 1984, PhD 1990, was appointed director at large of St. Louis Ovarian Cancer Awareness for 2015.

Jane E. Fedder, Esq., BA 1984, was promoted to vice chair of environmental law at Polsinelli in St. Louis.

Pam S. Sigmund, BSBA 1985, was promoted to manager of small business services at Brown Smith Wallace in St. Louis.

Ella M. Jones, BA 1986, was recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women as an outstanding leader. Ella is president of the Ferguson (Mo.) Township Open Democratic Club.

Vicki J. Biggs, BSBA 1987, joined Concordia Seminary in St. Louis as senior vice president for seminary advancement.

Teri A. Murray, MEd 1987, was named president of the Nurses for Newborns Board of Directors. Teri is dean of the Saint Louis University School of Nursing.

Leslie K. Haines, BSBA 1989, joined Allegra, a St. Louis-based design, web and print company, as a senior account manager.

Stephen M. O'Loughlin, BSBA 1989, was elected to the board of directors at The Magic House in St. Louis in October 2014. Steve is president and chief operating officer for Lodging Hospitality Management in St. Louis.

90s

Class Notes



Jeff L. Camilleri, BSBA 1990, joined Citizens National Bank of Greater St. Louis as senior vice president of commercial lending.

Jean M. Evans, BA 1991, joined Keller Williams Realty as a real estate agent in St. Louis.

Sharon K. Reus, BA 1991, joined Creative Producers Group, a full-service marketing agency in St. Louis, as a senior producer.

Wayne S. DeVeydt, BSBA 1993, was appointed to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Board of Governors. Wayne is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Anthem in Indianapolis.

Kay E. Gage, BA 1993, was recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women as an outstanding leader. Kay is a counselor in the Jennings (Mo.) School District.

Jacqueline L. Hamilton-Thomas, BSBA 1993, was recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women as an outstanding leader. Jackie serves as the chief development officer of Beyond Housing, a nonprofit in St. Louis.

Scott E. Knapp, BA 1993, joined Tech Electronics in St. Louis as an education account manager.



The Honorable Steven V. Stenger, BSBA 1993, was elected St. Louis County Executive and was sworn into office Jan. 1. Prior to this position, Steve was on the St. Louis County Council, where he represented the 6th District.

Janet L. Landgraf, BSEd 1994, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Janet teaches first grade at St. Mark's Lutheran School in Eureka, Mo.

Dana E. Aubuchon, BSEd 1995, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Dana teaches third grade at St. Ann Catholic School in Normandy, Mo.

Heidi L. Eckert, BSW 1995, joined The Lowenbaum Partnership as a labor, employment and civil rights defense attorney. Before that Heidi was a founding partner at Clayborne, Sabo & Wagner in Belleville, Ill.

Mark A. Graves, BSBA 1995, was appointed partner at Schmersahl Treloar & Co., a St. Louis-based accounting firm, in November 2014.

Donna M. Laudel, BSBA 1995, joined Conner Ash as a busy-season tax preparer in St. Louis.

Matthew E. Powell, BSBA 1995, was promoted to partner of audit services at Brown Smith Wallace in St. Louis.



Gary J. Jansen, BSEd 1996, was named the 2015 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Gary is a principal at Hazelwood East Middle School in St. Louis.

Mark G. Delcourt, BGS 1997, joined Citizens National Bank of Greater St. Louis as president of the St. Charles (Mo.) Banking Center.

Jody J. Squires, MEd 1997, PhD 2007, was recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women as an outstanding leader. Jody is the associate urban regional director in St. Louis for University of Missouri Extension, an effort that makes the University of Missouri schools' research and education accessible to the community.



Diane Rademacher



Dan Lauer



Pam Sigmund

Patrick E. Lang, BSAcc 1998, joined St. Louis Economic Development Partnership as an accountant.

Rhonda L. Spotanski, BSEd 1998, MEd 2003, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Rhonda teaches communication arts in the Hazelwood (Mo.) School District.

Barbara A. Dobbert, MEd 1999, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Barbara is a teacher at Clayton (Mo.) High School.

Deceased

Harish Sundaram, MS 1991, on Jan. 19. Harish is survived by his wife, Preeti, and children Trisha and Ritik.

00s

Scott S. Niekamp, BSBA 2001, was honored by Northwestern Mutual with Forum Membership, which recognizes individuals for an outstanding year of helping clients achieve financial security. Scott resides in Chesterfield, Mo.

Wilma J. Calvert, PhD 2002, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Wilma is an assistant professor of nursing at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

Nicole J. Colbert-Botchway, MBA 2002, joined the State of Missouri Administrative Hearing Commission as commissioner in December 2014. Previously, Nicole served as Assistant Attorney General to the State of Missouri. She was also recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women as an outstanding leader.

Robert D. Mathes, BSAcc 2002, MAcc 2003, was promoted to partner at Crouch, Farley & Heuring, a certified public accountant firm serving Southeast Missouri. Robert has been with the firm since 2003.

David M. Collet, BSAcc 2003, was promoted to partner of the assurance services group at RubinBrown accounting and consulting firm in Clayton, Mo.

Derek L. Martin, MBA 2003, was appointed to the board of directors for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of St. Louis. Derek is the senior vice president and commercial banking St. Louis division leader for US Bank.

Tim J. Crawford, BSAcc 2004, was promoted to senior manager of assurance services at Stone Carlie & Co., a certified public accountant firm in St. Louis. Tim has been with the firm since 2006.

Andrea A. Jackson-Jennings, BGS 2004, MEd 2007, was recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women as an outstanding leader. Andrea is director of the St. Louis County Department of Human Services.

Luke C. Schulte, BFA 2004, joined Fish Window Cleaning in St. Louis as a franchise development manager.

Sarah B. Smith, MBA 2004, joined Mercy Investment Services in St. Louis as the director of its community investing program, Mercy Partnership Fund.

Matthew J. Bequette, BA 2005, was promoted to director of sales and operations at Digital Partners, Inc. in Clayton, Mo.

Jeanne M. Dee, BSAcc 2005, was promoted to partner at Kiefer Bonfanti & Co. in St. Louis.

Rainah E. Pray, BSEd 2005, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Rainah teaches second grade at Becky-David Elementary in St. Charles, Mo.

Matthew C. Bartholomew, BSAcc 2006, MAcc 2008, was promoted to manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers in St. Louis in August 2014.



Andrea Jackson-Jenning



Jeanne Dee



Misty Manley

Brian J. Ferguson, BSBA 2007, BSAcc 2007, was promoted to manager of assurance services at Stone Carlie & Co., a certified public accountant firm in St. Louis. Brian has been with the firm since 2008.

Jessica M. Karll, BSEd 2007, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Jessica teaches third grade at Discovery Ridge Elementary in O'Fallon, Mo.

Heidi L. Martin, BSBA 2007, is a certified financial planner practitioner at Principal Financial Group in Chesterfield, Mo.

Yelena V. Davydenko, BSAcc 2008, MBA 2011, opened Victor's Home Care in St. Louis this January after serving 12 years as an administrator with Alice Home Health Care in St. Louis.

Class Notes



Rebecca L. Gao, MAcc 2008, was promoted to tax manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers in St. Louis in August 2014.

Sarah B. Fandrey, MSW 2009, was selected to participate in the Indiana State Bar Association's 2015 Leadership Development Academy.

Ashlee B. Goslik, BA 2009, joined ASI Food Safety as an assistant in St. Louis.

Sara Matthew, BA 2009, joined Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis, as the special events manager.

10s

Christina L. Dancy, BSPPA 2010, was named to the operating board of Lutheran Family & Children's Services in St. Louis.

Thomas J. Hill, BSBA 2010, BSAcc 2010, was promoted to senior accountant at Brown Smith Wallace, a full-service CPA firm in St. Louis.

Danielle N. Lee, PhD 2010, was one of EBONY Magazine's Power 100 for 2014. Danielle was recognized as an influencer in social media. She is a post-doctoral research associate at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Kathleen M. Saunders, MEd 2010, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Kathleen teaches broadcast captioning and court reporting at South Technical High School in St. Louis.

Santiago Beltran, MBA 2011, was awarded the 2015 St. Louis Business Journal's 40 Under 40 award. Santiago is a logistics planner for Build-A-Bear Workshop, headquartered in St. Louis.

Luke B. Bobo, PhD 2011, joined Biblical Business Training in Chesterfield, Mo., as curriculum director and resident theologian.

Jeff C. Klaus, BA 2011, joined Brown & James Law Firm in St. Louis as an associate.

Misty N. Manley, BFA 2011, co-illustrated Tony Hale's children's book, "Archibald's Next Big Thing." Misty is an art director at Boxing Clever Publishing in St. Louis.

John P. McKenna, BSME 2011, was promoted to mechanical project engineer at Roeslein & Associates engineering firm headquartered in St. Louis.

Paul M. Mutuura, BSBA 2011, joined The UP Companies in St. Louis as an independent contractor in January.

Andrew D. Nieters, MEd 2011, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Andrew is a teacher at Ladue (Mo.) Middle School.

Wendy J. Pecka, PhD 2011, received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. Wendy is an instructor of psychology at East Central College in Union, Mo.

January B. Realista, MBA 2011, was appointed to the board of directors at St. Louis-based Doorways. Doorways is an interfaith nonprofit organization that provides housing and related support services to improve quality of life and health outcomes for people affected by HIV/AIDS.

Lauren V. Treat, BA 2011, joined First Bank as bank manager of the Florissant-Dierbergs branch.

Anthony M. Alexander, BSBA 2012, MBA 2014, joined St. Louis-based Ascension Information Services as a financial analyst.

Marisa R. Klein, BS 2012, joined the St. Louis branch of Marquette Group, a digital marketing agency, as a senior search specialist in January.

Fredrecka S. McGlown, BA 2012, BS 2012, was recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women as an outstanding leader. Fredrecka serves as a case manager for MERS/Goodwill WorkForce Investment Act Youth In-School Program.

Faith A. Schneider, OD 2012, joined Eyecare Associates as an optometrist in York, Neb.

Ashley A. Thill, OD 2012, joined Mercy Clinic Eye Specialists Optical Shop in Springfield, Mo. Previously, Ashley was a resident optometrist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Fayetteville, Ark.

Caitlin E. Loomis, BA 2013, joined Borgmeyer Marketing Group in St. Charles, Mo., as an account manager.

Andrea C. Caraveo, BSIS 2014, BSAcc 2014, joined Boeing in St. Louis as a programmer analyst in January.

Tucker R. Hiegel, BIS 2014, joined Red Leaf IT Asset Recovery and Recycling in Chesterfield, Mo.

Nour Salmeen, BSBA 2014, joined O'Fallon Brewery as a sales support manager in January.

Deceased

Stephen K. Biermann, PhD 2010, on Oct. 23, 2014. Stephen served as dean of technical education at Ozarks Technical Community College in Springfield, Mo. He is survived by his mother, stepfather, three children and one grandson.

Remembering

**UMSL'S
 FIRST
 AND ONLY
 PALACE**

Over the years at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, things have come and gone, including The Fun Palace, which used to be where West Drive Garage now stands. It was mainly a recreation spot for students to play pingpong and billiards, but the long, slender one-story building overlooking Bugg Lake went through many phases. In 1969, it served as an annex for the Department of Physics, prime territory during a time when UMSL was growing fast in number and small in space. But that was short lived, and The Fun Palace with pool tables and paddle tournaments quickly settled in during the 1970s, even after a petition to claim it for student organization offices. In 1984, The Fun Palace closed, but it still lasts in the memory of some of our very first students at UMSL.



Table tennis tournaments were a regular thing on campus at The Fun Palace before it closed in 1984.

What was campus life like for you in the early years of UMSL? Ever challenge a friend to a game of table tennis or billiards in the old Fun Palace? 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 and Community Relations • 414 Woods Hall • 1 University Blvd. • St. Louis, MO 63121 • 314-516-6453