

# UMSL

magazine

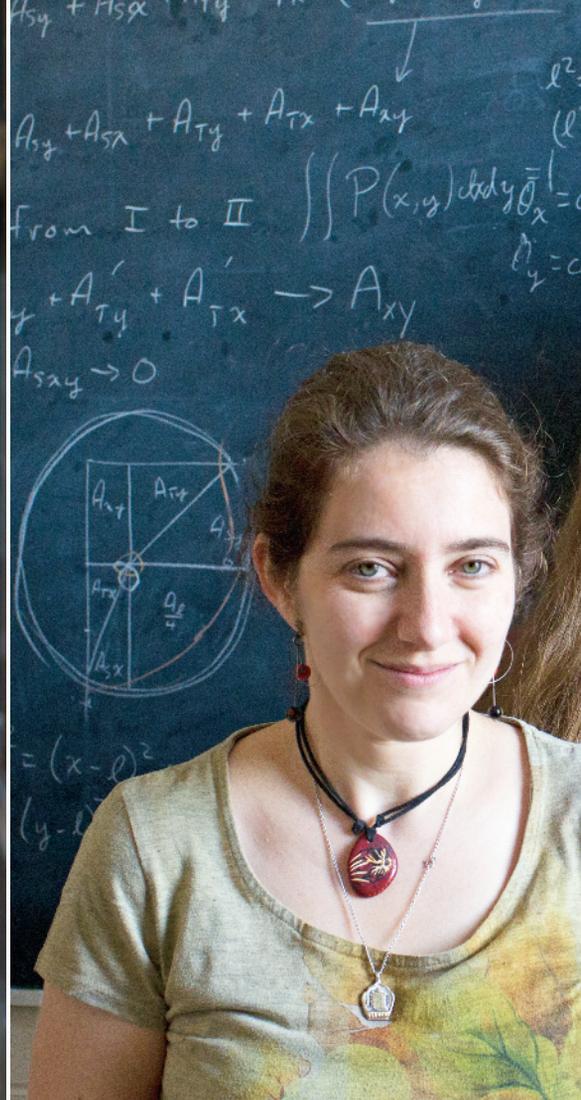
Fall 2012

## A grand ambition realized

New building puts UMSL in media, entertainment district

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS  
GRAND CENTER





# 12

The University of Missouri–St. Louis publishes **UMSL** magazine for alumni and friends. The magazine highlights excellence at the university. Circulation is 81,000, and the magazine is released twice a year.

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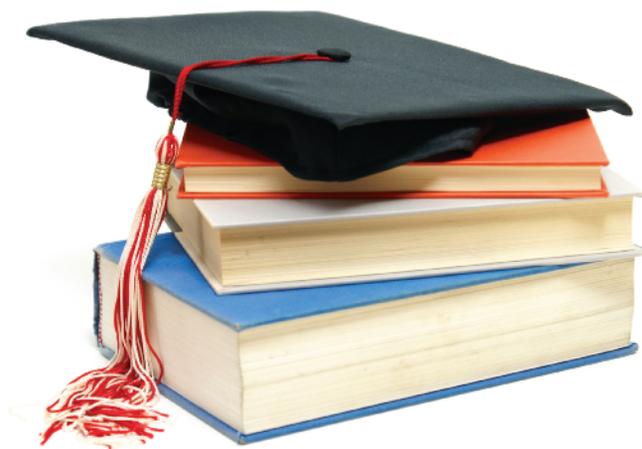
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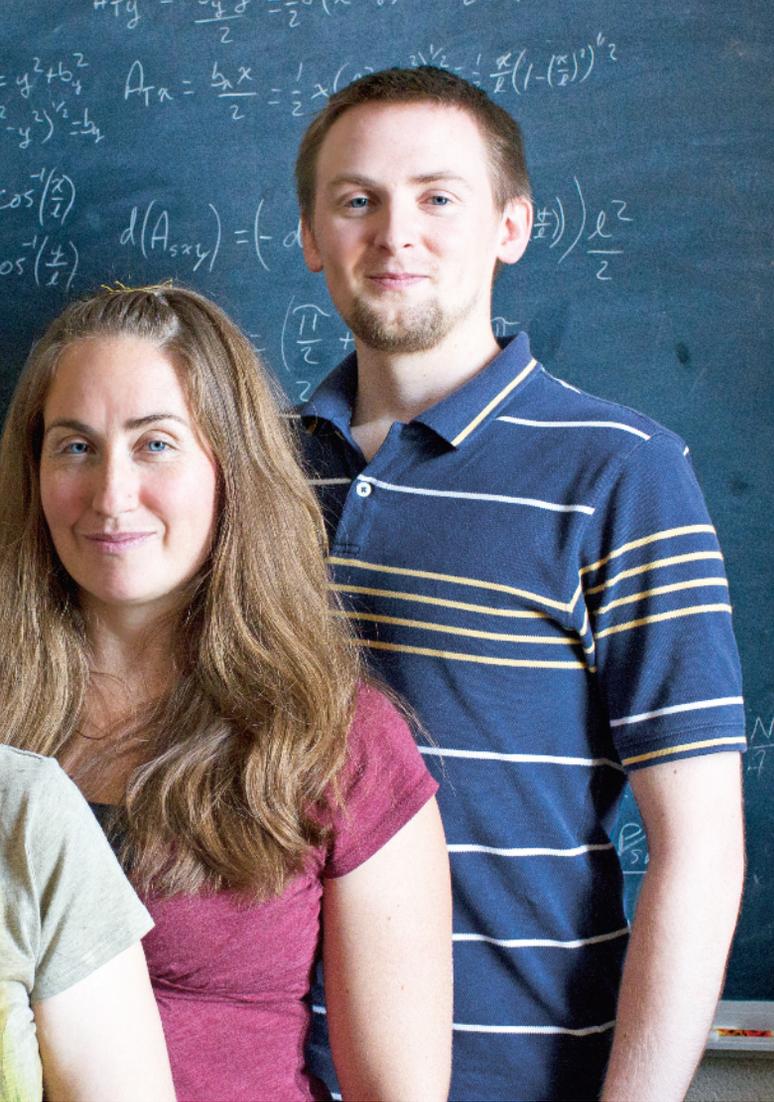
A growing community of UMSL alumni and friends helped the Gateway for Greatness Campaign exceed its \$150 million goal.

## 12 new scholarships

Gifts to the Gateway for Greatness Campaign create scholarships that make education affordable and attract many students to UMSL.



# Dear Readers



I was deeply saddened in July by the passing of former University of Missouri–St. Louis Chancellor Arnold Grobman (1918–2012). He was a man of great energy and intellect. He accomplished much in the fields of science and higher education nationally and contributed mightily to the development of this university.

Dr. Grobman was a national leader in the movement to create educational opportunities for college students in urban areas – a movement that led to the creation of UMSL and the University of Missouri–Kansas City.

The university's leader from 1975 to 1985, Dr. Grobman helped acquire the Marillac College property along Natural Bridge Road that's now the South Campus and home to our education, optometry and nursing colleges.

He created the Chancellor's Council and Chancellor's Report to the Community to better engage our partners in the community.

And Dr. Grobman was not shy in confronting University of Missouri System administrators and fellow UM chancellors over the issue of equitable funding for UMSL. Near the end of his tenure here, he wrote in one of his reports, "UMSL has waged, and will continue to wage, a constant struggle to achieve a funding level necessary to provide St. Louisans a quality, affordable higher education experience in a variety of program areas."

The efforts of Dr. Grobman and others set the foundation for the equity adjustments UMSL has received in recent years. But the equity issue continues today. As does UMSL Magazine, which Dr. Grobman launched to tell the university's story.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. George  
Chancellor

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### 16 **umsl at grand center**

The university opens a new facility that's home to UMSL media technology courses and award-winning St. Louis Public Radio | 90.7 KWMU.

### 20 **academic advancement**

UMSL stays ahead of the curve with new grant-funded research, learning spaces and professorships.



#### On the cover

The opening of UMSL at Grand Center marks one success of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign. See Page 16. (Photo by August Jennewein)



## Projects planned for Benton-Stadler science complex

The fate of the University of Missouri–St. Louis science complex (pictured) is back in the hands of university administrators, who seek funding to construct a building and renovate existing space.

Benton Hall and Stadler Hall anchor the five-building complex. Current project plans were developed in 2009 but were not funded due to the failing economy and budget cuts from the state of Missouri.

Plans call for \$30 million for construction of a 76,000-square-foot, four-story addition that will house science teaching labs and \$60 million to transform Benton Hall and Stadler Hall into state-of-the-art learning facilities.

“We’re working within the University of Missouri System to fund the new construction ourselves by issuing \$30 million in bonds,” UMSL Chancellor Tom George says. “Bonds could be issued next year. Construction also might begin next year.”

The Curators of the University of Missouri System, according to George, have listed the \$60 million renovation of the science complex among their highest priorities for state capital appropriations in fiscal year 2014, which will begin July 1.

## Larger, smarter incoming freshman class leads to spike in undergraduate enrollment

More new undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Missouri–St. Louis in August than any fall semester since 1999, despite a decline in Missouri high school graduates. The 2,519 new students comprise the second largest transfer class (1,972 students) in UMSL's history and an incoming freshmen class that set a record average ACT score of 24.

The Pierre Laclède Honors College also set a new record at 573 enrolled students. This year, the college's 116 new freshmen (up from 79 in 2009) averaged 28 on the ACT exam.

Bob Bliss (pictured), dean of the honors college, attributes the increased interest to word of mouth, new endowed scholarships and admissions work by the college's faculty and staff. He says classes are jam-packed for a college that works to maintain a 15:1 student-to-faculty-member ratio. But that hasn't stopped

the honors college from recruiting a few more exceptional students.

"I talked to a prospective student in the lunchroom today, and I think we might get him," Bliss says, smiling.

Overall, on-campus undergraduate enrollment of 9,285 students at UMSL is about the same as last year. Graduate and professional programs, however, are down more than 7 percent from last year after being up every year since the start of the recession in 2008. Demand for graduate and professional degrees tends to drop off as the economy and job market recovers from recessions.

Because of the increase in undergraduate students and decrease in graduate students, the university experienced little fluctuation in year-over-year enrollment numbers. UMSL's total on- and off-campus enrollment for the fall semester was 16,719 students.





## New trail makes campus even more bike friendly

The University of Missouri–St. Louis solidified its reputation as a bike friendly campus by adding the St. Vincent-Cross Campus Trail. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Sept. 20. The new bike trail connects two existing pathways – the St. Vincent Greenway Trail and Ted Jones Trail – and features an underpass that runs east beneath Arnold B. Grobman Drive and continues behind the Millennium Student Center parking garages.

Ellis Anderson (pictured), an elementary education major at UMSL, took advantage of the St. Vincent-Cross Campus Trail on Sept. 12 and says it makes traveling between North Campus and South Campus much easier.

“I have a car, but the bicycle is a lot more economical and more convenient than the shuttle buses,” he says.

The university will operate and maintain the trail, and Great Rivers Greenway funded the \$1.3 million project. GRC is a private organization that’s developing an interconnected system of trails throughout the St. Louis area.

UMSL Police Chief Forrest Van Ness says the trail was designed with students’ safety in mind. New lighting has been installed, and blue emergency phones with direct access to the campus police office have been added in the underpass.

A wheelchair-accessible pathway connects the new trail to the lower level of Millennium Student Center Garage South. Using the underpass, students can now avoid crossing Grobman Drive between the garage and student center.

## University to build recreation center

The Curators of the University of Missouri System in September approved Cannon Design as the project architect for a new recreation and wellness center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. Construction is expected to start in the summer, and the university plans to open the building in fall 2015.

In March, UMSL students voted on and approved a fee of \$19.25 a credit hour to fund the \$36 million center.

“I’m just really proud,” says Jericah Selby, past president of the Student Government Association at UMSL. “It was really encouraging to know that students got out, heard about this issue and participated in the initiative.”

The building will be constructed south of the Millennium Student Center on space currently occupied by parking lots C and D.

The new center will have 94,000 square feet of floor space. Amenities will include a three-court gymnasium, six-lane pool, whirlpool, strength- and cardio-training rooms, an elevated jogging track and locker rooms.

The UMSL Tritons will continue to use the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center for athletic training and events.

Cannon was founded in 1945 in Buffalo, N.Y., and operates a regional office in St. Louis. The architecture, engineering and interior design firm specializes in health care, education and corporate commercial facilities.

## In his own words

### Historian looks back at 'The Civil War in Missouri'

By Jack Crosby

Many of us labor over choosing a career path. Figuring out what you want to be when you grow up can be tough. But not for Louis Gerteis.

"I always enjoyed history in school," he says. "It was a subject I had no trouble with, and when I went to college, I decided to pursue it as a vocation."

Gerteis earned a doctoral degree in history at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1969, the same year he joined the Department of History at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. He was made a full professor in 1987.

"UMSL has always valued and promoted interactions and exchanges between the university and St. Louis' cultural institutions," he says. "I have enjoyed and benefitted from collaborations with the venerable St. Louis Mercantile Library, Missouri History Museum and the relatively new St. Louis branch of the Missouri State Archives."

Gerteis' research focuses on the Civil War, and his most recent papers include "New Madrid Bend: The Most Important Civil War Battle in Missouri," which was published by Gateway, the magazine of the Missouri History Museum. The University of Missouri Press released Gerteis' fourth and latest book, "The Civil War in Missouri: A Military History," in July.

#### Why did you choose the 19th century as your area of study?

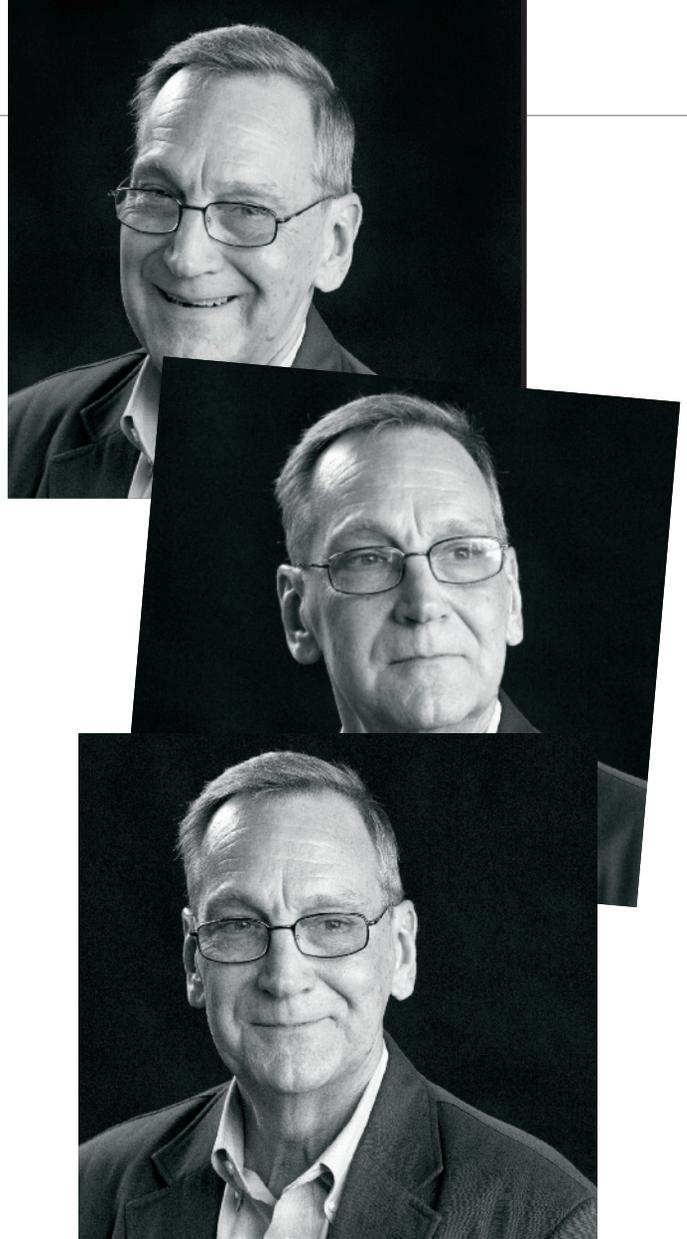
The Civil War era always fascinated me. I was born in Kansas City, Mo., but raised in Arlington, Va. The Civil War seemed close at hand in northern Virginia, and I became interested in its causes and the way it changed society.

#### What was Missouri's significance during the Civil War?

Of greater significance was St. Louis. It was the 10th largest city in the nation, the gateway to the West, as we still refer to it today. It was a supply area for the westward migration. Jefferson Barracks was the largest military installation west of the Mississippi River at the time. St. Louis and the Missouri Valley corridor were strategically and militarily important. It was a vital portal to the transportation route to the free-state settlements in Kansas and to the far West.

#### How does Missouri's role in the Civil War impact the state today?

The state is still very much divided along the lines that existed at the time. The debates today about the role of the federal government echo the themes that were being discussed during the time of the Civil War. The political and economic distinctions between St. Louis, which voted for Abraham Lincoln, and much of the rest of the state were stark in 1860 and 1861, and they remain stark today. The sense during the Civil War that federal forces had "invaded" Missouri animated those who supported



the southern cause and Civil War-era denunciations of federal tyranny would sound familiar in today's political environment.

#### While conducting research for your book, did you discover anything that surprised you?

One thing was the scale of the military operation in the taking of New Madrid Bend on the Mississippi River and Island No. 10, which is southeast of New Madrid, Mo. Federal forces won a battle there in the spring of 1862 that opened the river all the way to Vicksburg, Miss. I have been impressed by the efforts of the Missouri State Archives in adopting digital technology to make the vast Provost Marshal records more readily available to historians. The federal Provost Marshals enforced martial law in Missouri during the Civil War, and the records they left behind await systematic use by historians. More needs to be studied and understood about the Civil War in Missouri.

#### What's your next project?

I'm working on a history of the Vicksburg Campaign, seen from the perspective of Milliken's Bend, La. Milliken's Bend was a major federal staging area and the site of a battle between federal black troops and Confederate soldiers. ☰

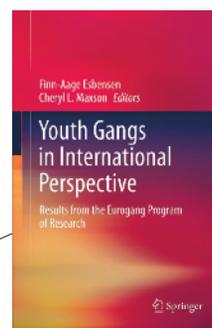
## Books by UMSL faculty

### “Front-Page Science: Engaging Teens In Science Literacy”

BY WENDY SAUL, ANGELA KOHNEN,  
ALAN NEWMAN AND LAURA PEARCE

National Science Teachers Association Press, December 2011

For many teens, science happens in the lab, not on the front page of the newspaper. Wendy Saul, the Allen B. and Helen S. Shopmaker Endowed Professor of Education; Alan Newman, research professor of education; Angela Kohnen, research assistant in education; and Laura Pearce, doctoral candidate in education; want to change that perception. Their text provides detailed instruction on how to teach science journalism, including teaching students how to find a story and write headlines.



### “Youth Gangs in International Perspective: Results from the Eurogang Program of Research”

CO-EDITED BY  
FINN-AGE ESBENSEN

Springer, December 2011

While the U.S. serves as the popular nation of interest in youth gang studies, gang culture exists beyond its borders. Finn-Aage Esbensen, the E. Desmond Lee Professor of Youth Crime and Violence, explores youth gangs in Europe. Drawn from surveys of interviews with youth, official records and interviews with victims, the book discusses definition and measurement issues, group processes of gangs and gang research. The other editor is Cheryl L. Maxson.

### “Religious Ideas and Institutions: Transitions to Democracy in Africa”

CO-EDITED BY RUTH IYOB

Unisa Press, March 2012

The separation of church and state in Africa’s case may prove detrimental to solidifying democracy there, according to associate professor of political science Ruth Iyob. She argues that to consolidate democracy, constituents’ incentives and beliefs must factor into institutional choices and structuring. Iyob considers the effects of both secular and religious elites on the state. The other editor is Edmond J. Keller.



### “Transient Truths: An Essay in the Metaphysics of Propositions”

BY BERIT BROGAARD

Oxford University Press, March 2012

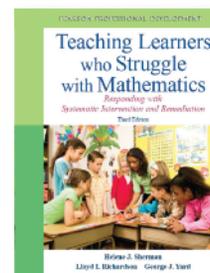
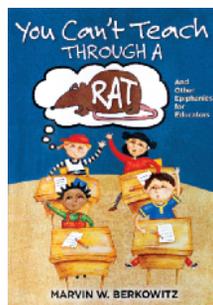
With Darwinian spirit, Berit Brogaard, professor of philosophy, challenges her field’s popular belief in the view that all truths are eternally true and all falsehoods eternally false. Brogaard argues for temporalism, a view that holds that discourse can change its truth-value along with changes in the world. Besides this fundamental argument, Brogaard also attempts to revise Priorian tense logic and show that meaning contents are relative to speakers or bearers of mental states.

### “You Can’t Teach Through a Rat and Other Epiphanies for Educators”

BY MARVIN W. BERKOWITZ

Character Development Group, Inc, June 2012

Its title may sound ridiculous, but this book is serious about education. Marvin W. Berkowitz, the Sanford N. McDonnell Endowed Professor of Character Education and co-director for the Center for Character and Citizenship, aims to improve schools and classroom environments by illuminating crucial lessons for educators in developing the entirety of the child. He does so using comical stories to illustrate social dynamics in the educational workspace.



### “Teaching Learners who Struggle with Mathematics: Responding with Systematic Intervention and Remediation, 3rd edition”

BY HELENE J. SHERMAN,  
LLOYD I. RICHARDSON  
AND GEORGE J. YARD

Allyn & Bacon, April 2012

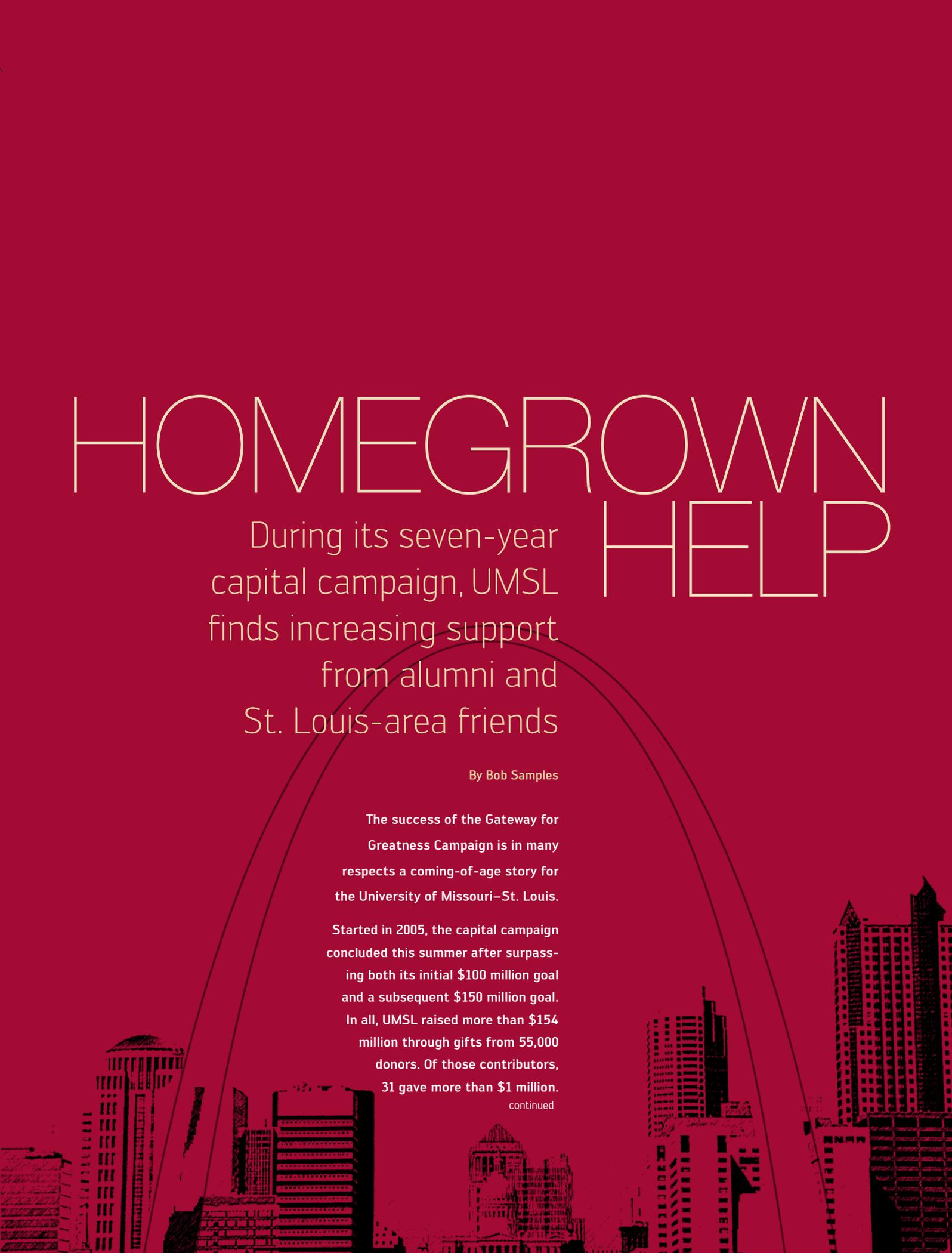
Helene J. Sherman, professor of education and associate dean for educator preparation, teams up yet again with Lloyd I. Richardson, Curators’ Teaching Professor of Education and Mathematics, and George J. Yard, associate professor emeritus of education, with the goal of improving math education. Equipped with a data analysis sheet to identify exact points of confusion, the text teaches its readers how to systematically assess math students’ problems and resolve any learning difficulties with the correct strategies and activities.

### “Graphing Jane Austen: The Evolutionary Basis of Literary Meaning”

CO-WRITTEN BY JOSEPH CARROLL

Palgrave Macmillan, May 2012

Joseph Carroll, Curators’ Professor of English, bridges the great divide between science and the humanities with this book that applies scientific methods of questioning to literature. Specifically, Carroll explores 19th century English novels with a modern understanding of human evolutionary biology. Now literary analysis comes from measurable data that indicates a literary character’s determination of the importance of gender and moral disposition, for example. The other authors are Jonathan Gottschall, John A. Johnson and Daniel J. Kruger.

A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a city skyline, featuring the Gateway Arch in the center. The buildings are rendered in a grid-like pattern, and the overall color palette is a mix of dark and light tones, creating a graphic, almost architectural feel. The Arch is the central focus, with its two curves framing the text below.

# HOMEGROWN HELP

During its seven-year capital campaign, UMSL finds increasing support from alumni and St. Louis-area friends

By Bob Samples

The success of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign is in many respects a coming-of-age story for the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Started in 2005, the capital campaign concluded this summer after surpassing both its initial \$100 million goal and a subsequent \$150 million goal.

In all, UMSL raised more than \$154 million through gifts from 55,000 donors. Of those contributors, 31 gave more than \$1 million.

continued



TOM GEORGE



NORM EAKER

“Many people had suggested our alumni were too young and our economy too weak to support a major campaign,” Chancellor Tom George says. “But our alumni and corporate and community leaders proved differently. They have responded in record numbers in terms of supporting scholarships and providing funds to ensure we have quality programs and facilities.”

The top 31 donors accounted for more than \$55 million in campaign gifts. Particularly pleasing, George says, was that eight of these donors are UMSL alumni.

“We had a handful of million-dollar donors before the campaign – none of whom were alumni,” George says. “We now have several graduates who have the desire and capacity to support UMSL at a level not possible just a decade ago. They are committed to helping others succeed as they have succeeded.”

Norm Eaker, BSBA 1977, is one example. He began classes at the university just a few short weeks after his first visit to campus with his father.

“We didn’t have the money for me to go away to school, and my dad knew that UMSL was affordable and had a good reputation,” Eaker says. “Plus, I could work and go to school at the same time, which was a necessity.”

# PARTNERS FOR GREATNESS

The University of Missouri–St. Louis thanks its 31 Partners for Greatness. These are individuals and organizations that contributed \$1 million or more during the university's Gateway for Greatness Campaign.



MARTIN LEIFELD

For the majority of his college career, Eaker worked the night shift making doughnuts at a St. Louis-area shop. After graduation, he landed his first job at Peat Marwick (now KPMG) before joining Edward Jones in 1981 as an internal auditor. He's now a principal and chief administrative officer at the company.

Eaker and Laura, his wife, created the Eaker Family Scholarship at UMSL, which sponsors inner-city students throughout their college education. The Eakers also made a campaign gift that will help fund the construction of a new building for the College of Business Administration.

"UMSL's business college gave me an excellent educational foundation, and I'm sure much of my personal success is attributable to the quality of education I received," Norm Eaker says. "I feel it is a privilege to help by giving back to UMSL and my community."

Martin Leifeld, vice chancellor for advancement at UMSL, says the Eakers' gifts are extraordinary, but Norm Eaker's story is not. Leifeld and his team of fundraisers have spoken to thousands of other like-minded alumni and business leaders who have expressed a growing appreciation of UMSL's teaching, research and service contributions to them as individuals and the St. Louis region as a whole.

Leifeld also pointed out that many of the corporate gifts surpassing \$1 million resulted from alumni advocacy or leadership within a company. Having many alumni in leadership roles is vital, he says.

"Reaching and surpassing our campaign goal speaks loudly to the importance UMSL has in this community," Leifeld says. "We have 84,000 alumni and hundreds of community partnerships. No other university brings more to bear on the social and economic advancement of the region. UMSL truly is a Gateway for Greatness."

- Ameren Missouri
- Anonymous Business
- Anonymous Business
- Anonymous Individual
- Anheuser-Busch Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Wayne S. and Michele Jackson DeVeydt
- Norman L. and Lauralea Eaker
- Edward D. Jones & Company Foundation
- Emerson Charitable Trust
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Express Scripts Foundation
- Express Scripts Inc.
- Gary D. and Sherry Forsee
- Foundation for Credit Education
- Stanley A. and Terry V. Freerks
- Thomas F. George and Barbara C. Harbach
- HTC Foundation
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- Monsanto Company
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- Emily R. Pulitzer
- Steven F. and Katie R. Schankman
- Peter G. and Maria A. Schick
- Joseph A. and Mary K. Stieven



# Access and

Briona Perry, a sophomore biochemistry major at UMSL, aspires to become a pharmacist. The ambitious Opportunity Scholars Program participant works multiple part-time jobs, including one as a pharmacy technician at a Walgreens near campus. (Photo by August Jennewein)



# excellence

## Private scholarships make a difference for hard-working students

By Ryan Heinz

The University of Missouri–St. Louis raised about \$20 million in private scholarship funds over the course of its seven-year Gateway for Greatness Campaign. What does that mean for UMSL students?

“Access and excellence,” UMSL Chancellor Tom George answers. “Because of (scholarship donors), more students have access to a quality education that leads to excellence in their careers and lives.”

Those scholarships also mean something for the donors whose gifts created them. Their contributions are an investment in young, talented students who will someday strengthen the St. Louis-area work force.

Here’s a look at three UMSL students who received scholarships created during the campaign.

### Briona Perry: Opportunity Scholars Program

Briona Perry graduated from Francis Howell North High School in St. Peters, Mo., with a 4.2 GPA, numerous honors and a lengthy list of extracurricular activities. She was destined to receive a major scholarship that would likely determine her college choice, and that could have meant her moving far away, possibly never to return to the St. Louis work force.

That didn’t happen. Instead, she chose UMSL thanks to a program that was created to retain students just like her: the region’s best and brightest.

“I would not have been able to afford college without the Opportunity Scholars Program,” Perry says. “I plan to pursue a pharmacy degree, which requires eight years of school. This scholarship took the weight off of four years and will allow me to go into graduate school relatively debt free.”

The Opportunity Scholars Program began in 2011 through a partnership with UMSL and Emerson, which contributed \$1.65 million in funding and internships. AT&T, Energizer and David and Thelma Steward of World Wide Technology provided additional support.

The program enhances the quality and diversity of the region’s future leaders in science, technology, engineering, math and related fields.

Participants are top St. Louis-area high school students who are under-represented or the first in their family to enroll in



John-Mark Scott, a freshman accounting major at UMSL, works on an assignment in a computers and information systems course in Express Scripts Hall. A recipient of the Enterprise Opportunity Driver Scholarship, Scott says he hopes to someday work as a chief financial officer in St. Louis. (Photo by August Jennewein)

college. They receive an all-inclusive four-year scholarship and residential package, as well as one-on-one academic, career and life-skills coaching. They also gain access to internships through UMSL's corporate partners.

"It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Perry says.

She was among the Opportunity Scholars Program's first cohort, which began in fall 2011. She learned about the program through her participation in the UMSL Bridge Program for precollegiate students.

Now a sophomore in the Pierre Laclède Honors College and a biochemistry major, Perry's grown fond of UMSL. She's quickly made new friends, including a trio with whom she now shares a suite in Oak Hall.

"The faculty is great, the staff is great, the students are great, and I just feel welcomed," says Perry, 19, who is involved in several campus organizations and works as a part-time Walgreens pharmacy technician.

A self-described "family person," Perry says she looks forward to someday starting a career in the same area as her St. Charles, Mo.-based family.

"The community can look forward to me someday being their pharmacist," she says.

## John-Mark Scott: Enterprise Opportunity Driver Scholarship

John-Mark Scott's grandfather, Lance Hellwig, is a proud UMSL alumnus, who graduated in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

"He actually had classes in the church across the street from Benton Hall," Scott says. "He remembers [Benton] being built. He always wanted me to go here."

Scott told Hellwig he would consider UMSL. But the 18-year-old from Florissant, Mo., says he wanted to leave his options open. He looked at several St. Louis-area universities, but he says his grandfather's alma mater stood out.

"This just felt right," Scott says.

So his mind was already made up when he applied for, and ultimately received, the Enterprise Opportunity Driver Scholarship. It pays \$5,000 annually for his tuition, room and board and includes internship opportunities.

"It was overwhelming," Scott says of earning the scholarship.

He's among the first group of students to benefit from the newly established scholarship. It was created through a \$1.5 million gift from the Enterprise Holdings Foundation to the College of Business Administration at UMSL. The Enterprise Opportunity Driver Scholarship also includes stipends for UMSL juniors and seniors who mentor the scholarship recipients.

Scott had only completed his first three weeks at UMSL when he met to discuss his scholarship, but he says his experience here has already exceeded his expectations. He's particularly fond of his three courses in the Pierre Laclède Honors College.

"There's a lot of interesting information jam-packed into them," Scott says. "They always said your professors would know your name and they do. It's a friendly relationship."

He says he also enjoys no longer sharing a room with two of his brothers. He now lives at Oak Hall, where he has his own room in a suite with three roommates he quickly befriended.

As for his major choice, he drew on inspiration from an accounting class he took at Hazelwood



Through the Ready Readers program, Erin Tinker, a senior psychology major at UMSL, works with students at Hickey Elementary School in north St. Louis. The Eugene J. Meehan Scholarship recipient is trying to get more UMSL students involved in service-learning and Ready Readers, a St. Louis-based nonprofit organization that helps preschool children from low-income communities become readers. (Photo by August Jennewein)

Central High School in St. Louis County. Something in that class struck a chord with Scott. Now he has aspirations of someday being a chief financial officer for a St. Louis-based company. "I like to dream big," Scott says.

## Erin Tinker: Eugene J. Meehan Scholarship

Erin Tinker took an unconventional path to an undergraduate scholarship. The 29-year-old, a senior majoring in psychology at UMSL, earned a Eugene J. Meehan Scholarship about a decade after starting college.

After graduating from Bourbon (Mo.) High School, Tinker enrolled at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and pursued a theater degree. Before finishing, a fitness club offered her an operations manager job with an office.

"I took the office," Tinker says.

She worked in business management for seven years before being laid off in 2008. That thrust her into a turbulent job market, pitting the degreeless Tinker against MBA recipients. It was time for a change.

"I made an assessment of my skills and desires and came to the conclusion that I should be

doing something in the community working with children," Tinker says.

She worked a series of part-time jobs and eventually landed a director's position with the YMCA. She also returned to school, completing an associate's degree at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley.

Tinker was drawn to UMSL for the strong reputation of the psychology program and degree value.

"I feel I get way more for my education at UMSL than some individuals I know who go to private school or more expensive schools," Tinker says. "I don't think I'm getting anything less by not paying more."

As a member of Psi Chi, the international honors society for psychology students, she heard about the Meehan Scholarship.

The scholarship is named for Eugene Meehan, who taught political science for 20-plus years at UMSL. He died in 2002, and Alice, his wife, died in 2010. Their estate funds one of the university's largest privately funded scholarships, which annually awards \$5,000 to juniors and seniors in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Scholarships are important to students because it gives them recognition for their hard work," Tinker says. "It's also been important for me because it's allowed me to expand my opportunities at the university and not worry how I'm going to pay for my education."

The Meehan Scholarship means Tinker will graduate with little to no debt from UMSL. It also meant she didn't have to work, which allowed her to volunteer at Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis at UMSL. That led to a paying part-time job at CASGSL, which includes research and networking opportunities.

Tinker also volunteers weekly by reading to preschoolers through Ready Readers, a program she discovered in a UMSL English class that emphasizes service-learning. She's since developed a curriculum for including Ready Readers volunteering in more classes, which she intends to pitch to psychology faculty members.

After graduating in May, she plans to seek work at an agency and later pursue a master's degree in psychology at UMSL. ≡



# URBAN EXPANSION

The University of Missouri–St. Louis celebrates the opening of UMSL at Grand Center

By Maureen Zegel

A celebration weekend with more than 800 students, alumni, faculty and friends marked the grand opening of the University of Missouri–St. Louis' newest building – UMSL at Grand Center.

The three-story, \$12 million project features a saw-tooth facade and large, plentiful exterior windows (9,000 square feet of glass in all). The building is located at 3651 Olive St. in the heart of Grand Center, a burgeoning entertainment and media district in St. Louis' Midtown neighborhood. UMSL at Grand Center houses new university classrooms, faculty offices and St. Louis Public Radio | 90.7 KWMU, the university's award-winning NPR station.

The celebration began with a reception Sept. 14 to thank donors, and a public open house was held the following day. St. Louis Public Radio aired a live broadcast of the open house festivities, which featured tours and a guest appearance by Renee Montagne, co-host of NPR's "Morning Edition." Live music included the premiere of an original fanfare by composer and UMSL Professor of Music Barbara Harbach and performances by national recording artists Brian Owens, BM 2008, and Erin Bode.

Montagne, St. Louis Public Radio General Manager Tim Eby and UMSL Chancellor Tom George cut the ribbon and welcomed guests to the building.

continued



Photos by August Jennewein

Renee Montagne, co-host of NPR's "Morning Edition," Tom George (center), UMSL chancellor, and Tim Eby, general manager of St. Louis Public Radio, cut a ribbon to officially open UMSL at Grand Center on Sept. 15.



Don Marsh (left), host of St. Louis Public Radio's "St. Louis on the Air," interviews Marvin Berkowitz, the Sanford N. McDonnell Endowed Professor of Character Education at UMSL, on Aug. 29 in the show's new studio at UMSL at Grand Center.

"I couldn't be more excited about what we have here," George says. "Classes have started. St. Louis Public Radio is on the air, and we are thrilled to have the St. Louis community see the exciting things the University of Missouri–St. Louis is doing in Grand Center."

A blend of austere simplicity and modern comfort, the building's interior spaces are largely clad in white and designed to foster engagement. The lobby includes interactive electronic boards that display a building donor list with photos, facility directory and other information.

The Monsanto Community Education Center was funded by a \$1 million gift from Monsanto. The center occupies the entire first floor and features three multimedia editing rooms for UMSL students and two classrooms. (See sidebar for more information on the university's new teaching and learning efforts.)

The center includes a community room that seats more than 100 people and enables the university and St. Louis Public Radio to offer public programs, such as educational lectures, town hall meetings and live radio productions.

"UMSL at Grand Center is a special place, not only for our staff and the students who attend class here, but for the entire St. Louis community," says Eby, the St. Louis Public Radio manager.

The station broadcast much of the building's celebration weekend from the community room, and NPR aired its midday news-talk program, "Talk of the Nation," there on Oct. 3. A live studio audience was on hand as host Neal Conan and guests previewed and discussed the first of three presidential debates.

After broadcasting for more than 40 years from the university's North Campus, St. Louis Public Radio aired its first broadcast from the new space on June 18. Administrative, underwriting and membership staff moved from the station's previous location in Lucas Hall to the new digs in the weeks that followed.

The station, which reaches nearly 235,000 listeners a week, occupies about two-thirds of the 27,000-square-foot UMSL at Grand Center. The building includes nine broadcast studios and expanded office space. Eby says the new working spaces "accommodate St. Louis Public Radio's increased investment in reporters and producers to cover the St. Louis area."

Another key attribute of the building is its location in Grand Center. The university and St. Louis Public Radio now have a presence in a flourishing part of St. Louis. Within a few blocks are the Fox Theatre, The Sheldon Concert Hall, Grandel Theatre, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts.



Next door to UMSL at Grand Center at 3655 Olive St. are: Nine Network of Public Media, the home of PBS station KETC (Channel 9); HEC-TV, a producer of St. Louis-area education, arts and cultural television programming; and the St. Louis Beacon, a nonprofit online news provider.

St. Louis Public Radio has partnered with the three organizations on a number of projects, and the station and St. Louis Beacon signed a letter of intent in October to explore the formation of an alliance to better serve the St. Louis area through journalism.

"We see the digital revolution as a historic opportunity to further establish St. Louis as a leader in journalism innovation," Eby says. "As we plan together, the core idea that will guide us is the question: Will this help us better serve the community?"

UMSL at Grand Center was designed by architects Heather Woofter and Sung Ho Kim of Axi:Ome of St. Louis. Chiodini Associates served as the architect of record. S.M. Wilson was the general contractor. CBC Real Estate Group, formerly BC Development, is the developer. The university has a lease-purchase agreement with the Kansas City, Mo.-based company. ≡

## New building, new scholar, new media | By Myra Lopez

BC Biermann peers at his smartphone's screen as he points the phone's camera lens at a graphic design projected on a classroom wall. Students huddle behind him to get a look at the display. Through the phone, the static image on the wall suddenly comes to life. An airplane flies. Words flow into view. Cars roll along a street.



This overlaying of virtual objects and information on the real world is known as augmented reality. Biermann (pictured above) not only produced the classroom AR content but studies and teaches AR and other emerging media as an assistant professor of media studies and art at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

"My academic interest is really in art and public space," he says. "So, I use technology as a way to bring ideas or concepts to bear in reality."

Re\*public is an AR project that Biermann created along with two colleagues from New York. The project explores how technology and creativity can re-imagine public spaces. The trio designed an experimental software application for mobile devices that enables smartphone and tablet users to resurface physical buildings in urban centers by overlaying digital content onto the physical environment.

"[AR] allows us to engage public spaces in a way that's legal," he says. "We can put art on buildings that we couldn't do physically."

About a dozen students are taking Biermann's first course at UMSL this semester. It's called "Fundamentals of Emerging Media," and he's teaching in one of the classrooms in the Monsanto Community Education Center at UMSL at Grand Center. The students are learning about the mobile Web, mobile Web applications, AR and video projection mapping.

Prior to taking the position at UMSL, Biermann worked in Southern California as a university professor and tech developer. He says he was attracted to the job here because emerging media is a new academic offering from the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and he wants to help mold the courses.

"They were looking for someone to guide the new program in new media, and really get into the program on the ground floor," he says. "To have a chance to be really creative and build a program was exciting to me."

He also was won over by being part of a new facility with top-notch technology and by the building being located within Grand Center, a district in St. Louis' Midtown neighborhood and a hub for the arts, entertainment and public media.

"To have access to other media outlets, other creative cultural institutions and other private design companies is very important," he says. "To create collaborative public-space art projects with these other institutions is definitely on my map."

Visit [republiclab.com](http://republiclab.com) for more information on Re\*public and BC Biermann. ≡



Photos by August Jennewein

Sonya Bahar (center), associate professor of biophysics and director of the Center for Neurodynamics, is flanked by her graduate students Adam Scott and Dawn King. The trio is researching computational and mathematical models of evolution with help from a James S. McDonnell Foundation grant.

# Academic advancement

UMSL stays ahead of the curve with grant-funded research, new learning spaces and endowed professorships

By Jennifer Hatton, Tom Hockett and Myra Lopez

The University of Missouri–St. Louis set and attained many fund-raising objectives over the course of its seven-year, \$154 million Gateway for Greatness Campaign that ended this summer. No objectives were more important than enhancing teaching, learning and research at the university.

What follows are three examples of how the university advanced academics with support from individuals and organizations.

## Funded research

Discoveries that arise from university research can foster economic development and lead to innovations that help people. Those are just two outcomes that underscore why research is a pillar of the university's mission, according to Nasser Arshadi, vice provost for research at UMSL.

"We are currently working on four dozen new technologies in medical devices, diagnostics and drug discovery," Arshadi says. "At its best, university research improves lives."

But sustaining the university's research initiatives can be challenging. An economy that's been slow to recover from a recession, budget cuts from the state of Missouri and a decline in federal funding have increased the need for UMSL and other universities to obtain additional funding from nongovernment sources, including nonprofit foundations, corporations and individual donors. Sonya Bahar, associate professor of biophysics and director of the Center for Neurodynamics at UMSL, garnered a three-year research award last year from the James S. McDonnell Foundation. The organization is based in Richmond Heights, Mo., and awards millions of dollars each year to support scientific, educational and charitable causes around the world.

The grant, "Complex dynamics, phase transitions, and scaling in an evolutionary model," totaled more than \$188,000 and is enabling Bahar and graduate students Dawn King and Adam Scott to work on computational and mathematical models of evolution. They're studying how the amount of mutation in a system effects the formation of species and how organisms break up into different species.

"In this case, I think the McDonnell Foundation is willing to fund things that are a little bit more theoretical, a little more exploratory and with less immediate applications than a larger government funding agency," Bahar says.

The funding not only makes the trio's efforts possible, but the dollars enable King and Scott to work full steam ahead on their research, without many distractions, while pursuing doctoral degrees in physics at UMSL.

"They can focus on doing the work they need to finish their degrees," Bahar says.

When King first came to UMSL she worked as a graduate teaching assistant. She says it was doable but difficult to balance all of her responsibilities, which included research, coursework and teaching. The grant has given her a little more flexibility and the chance to work more closely with Bahar, her faculty mentor.

"The grant provides an opportunity for me to participate in cutting-edge research so that I'm more marketable when I earn my PhD," King says.

While the McDonnell Foundation is a private funding source, Bahar says support in all forms is essential to researchers.

"Without funding, it would be possible to do research," she says. "But the process would go much, much more slowly."

continued

## Renewed learning spaces

Thanks to a \$750,000 gift from St. Louis-based Peabody Energy, UMSL will renovate two existing lab spaces – creating a modern technology-based physics laboratory and an environmental sciences laboratory that will enable students to better understand the impact humans have on the Mississippi River.

The physics lab will be located on the third floor of Benton Hall, and the environmental sciences lab will fill a spot on the third floor of Stadler Hall. The buildings are among the oldest on campus, constructed in 1964 and 1967, respectively. They're central to the education of all UMSL students but are particularly important to the 1,500 students, who study in the STEM disciplines, or science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"Peabody invests in the education of the next generation, because we believe an educated society is key to building stronger, safer and healthier communities," says Greg Boyce, chairman and chief executive officer of Peabody Energy. "Our investment in UMSL recognizes

the university as one of our region's most valuable assets in delivering quality STEM education at a reasonable cost. The renovations of these laboratories are important for our region, and they're important for our future work force."

Patricia Parker is the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Zoological Studies and chair of the Department of Biology at UMSL. She led the push to create the environmental sciences lab. In the spring semester, her department welcomed its first students to a new interdisciplinary minor program in environmental studies. The lab will enable the biology department to add a course to the program – one in applied environmental studies.

The renovated space will be equipped with many new tools for students, including microscopes, one or two DNA sequence analyzers and a half dozen or so PCR machines. (The polymerase chain reaction is a technology that allows scientists to identify a piece of DNA and make many copies of it so it can be studied in the future.)

The course will be an elective that will target non-biology majors. Parker says the Mississippi

River will provide those students with excellent opportunities to learn how people can change chemical and physical aspects of vital waterways. For example, water samples and the organisms they contain can be analyzed microscopically and genetically to measure the concentrations of human waste or gauge the impact of other contaminants.

"A lot of it will be open-ended, exploratory stuff where we can compare what's above St. Louis to what's below St. Louis and make the deduction that the difference is attributable to what's happening as the water passes through our human population," Parker says.

The new physics lab will improve teaching and learning in two critical courses offered by the Department of Physics and Astronomy, according to Bernard Feldman, professor of physics and associate dean of the University of Missouri–St. Louis/Washington University in St. Louis Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program.

About 210 students a year take Basic Physics I, a course predominantly filled with undergraduate



students who are pursuing non-physics degrees. Another 90 students a year take Physics: Mechanics and Heat, a required course for physics majors. Both courses funnel year-round through the same lab, one that's remained largely unchanged for decades.

The new lab will be created in an unused room so that construction won't disrupt current sections of the two courses using the existing lab. Audio-visual gear will be upgraded. Workstations will have interfaced computers so students can collect, analyze and display data. Round tables will replace the existing rows of long, narrow worktables, and the lab's layout will bring the students and instructor closer together.

"The students can interact better," Feldman says. "Rather than being situated in a line, they're in a circle, so they can talk to each other, help each other out and work together better."

Peabody's major gift was the final one booked toward the Gateway for Greatness Campaign. Renovations are scheduled to begin in the spring semester. Both labs will carry the Peabody name.



## Endowed professorships

The Gateway for Greatness Campaign has supported a number of faculty positions. Among them are a new endowed professorship, an endowed chair position and a directorship. An existing curatorship was also supported.

Anonymous gifts helped establish two positions in the College of Nursing – the director of the Collaborative Center for Nursing Outcomes, Research and



Yuman Tse (left) and Peter Schick meet at the Moneta Group in Clayton, Mo., in September. Tse is the new Peter G. Schick Professor of Finance in the College of Business Administration at UMSL. Schick (BSBA 1974), chairman emeritus of Moneta Group, funded the professorship through a \$1.7 million commitment that creates an endowment for the college.

Innovation and the Endowed Chair for Advanced Nursing Practice. An additional anonymous gift will sustain the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association Endowed Curator of Art, which is held by Julie Dunn-Morton.

Peter G. Schick, BSBA 1974, funded an endowed professorship in the College of Business Administration. In July, Yuman Tse became the first Peter G. Schick Endowed Professor of Finance at UMSL. Tse has classroom and research responsibilities. He also oversees the business college's prep program for the chartered financial analyst exam. The CFA is a professional credential offered to investment and financial professionals by the CFA Institute.

Schick is chairman emeritus of Moneta Group, an investment management firm based in Clayton, Mo. He credits the university with his success and says the professorship is a way to give back.

"Establishing a professorship is an important opportunity for many parties to benefit – the students, the university, the clients of Moneta Group and Tse," Schick says. "Far too little research is currently being done at the university level as it relates to the practical side of creating ideal investment portfolios. This endowment can change that."

Tse is an expert in investments, international finance, finance theory, corporate finance, applied econometrics and research methods. He came to UMSL from the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he served as professor of finance. Prior to that, he was an associate professor of finance at Binghamton University, State University of New York and a visiting scholar at City University of Hong Kong.

Tse says endowed positions are vital to UMSL.

"They enable universities to attract and retain distinguished scholars and teachers," he says. "The endowed fund can support different kinds of academic and research activities that are beneficial to students and the university. Endowed chairs are the hallmark of a great university." ≡

UMSL Professor of Physics Bernard Feldman (far right) teaches a physics course in October. A gift from Peabody Energy will enable the university to replace the much-used lab in the spring with one that will make working in teams easier for students.

# Missouri Teacher of the Year **CATHY CARTIER** makes learning matter

By Jennifer Hatton

A warning bell rings, marking the upcoming third period at Affton High School in south St. Louis County. A group of sophomores begin to gather in a cozy classroom. The walls are lined with posters of Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman. As the students hurry to their seats, a smiling Cathy Cartier greets each one and hands out a photocopied article from the Associated Press.

It's business as usual, except for one thing – a new piece of furniture in the corner of the room. It's a well-crafted wooden chair, a congratulations gift to Cartier from the Affton School District. The engraving reads, "2012-13 Missouri Teacher of the Year."

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education selected the veteran English teacher in August and honored her at a dinner in October. Cartier was chosen from a field of six finalists following personal interviews that were conducted by a 12-member selection committee.

Asked en masse, Cartier's students are quick to explain why the award came her way.

"Mrs. Cartier makes the subject matter, matter to me," one says.

"She's serious, but hilarious," another says.

"It's not just what she teaches, it's how she teaches it," a third student chimes in.

Case in point: The same students are studying the groundbreaking novel "Things Fall Apart" by Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe. It was a summer reading assignment, and the pupils know the characters, plot and setting well.

But the teacher pushes for more. Through several questions, Cartier has them reach beyond the story and focus on what it really means and how the novel relates to them.

Don Henning, a teacher's aide with the Affton School District, has observed Cartier's classes.

"She's very dedicated, and she strives for excellence in teaching," he says.

"She's also very passionate about what she does, and that shows."

Teaching wasn't always on the horizon for Cartier. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis in 1977 and began a career in social service. It wasn't until after she began her own family that the teaching bug bit.

"I was asked by board members to join the staff of the private school affiliated with my church," she says. "That really began my teaching career. My most important teaching job came when I started raising a family. I stayed home until I began subbing in the Affton School District in order to see exactly what the public schools had to offer my own children."

More than 12 years later, Cartier still teaches in the district, where she's served as curriculum co-chair for English language arts and spearheaded preparation for the high school's end-of-course testing.



Cathy Cartier, BS psychology 1977 and MEd 2007, has been teaching English at Affton High School in south St. Louis County for the past nine years. She turned to teaching after starting a family and leaving a career in social services. (Photo by August Jennewein)

She returned to UMSL to earn a master's degree in secondary education in 2007.

"My experiences at UMSL have prepared me well for my life in the classroom," says Cartier, who's also a teacher consultant for the university's Gateway Writing Project, a conference for teachers.

"The fact that Cathy Cartier is an excellent classroom teacher is evident in her selection as Missouri State Teacher of the Year," says Nancy Singer, associate professor of education and director of the Gateway Writing Project at UMSL. "However, she is also a gifted teacher-leader, one who is willing to share her expertise with others and one who leads by example."

Cartier attributes her success as a teacher to two things – student relationships and achievement.

"I am a lifelong learner, and I recognize the importance of building relationships with my students," she says. "Secondly, I know that students achieve so much more in class when they trust and respect their teacher. I know that I can set the bar high if they know that I am on their side." ≡

Finance major  
**JONATHAN MCMILLER**  
 excels at Boeing internship



Jonathan McMiller, a senior finance major at UMSL, is completing an extended internship at Boeing in Hazelwood, Mo. He says he'd like to get a job there after he graduates in December. (Photo by August Jennewein)

**By Jennifer Hatton**

Jonathan McMiller sees himself as a sponge.

"I want to absorb as much as I can," says McMiller, a senior finance major at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. "Every opportunity I have to learn something or experience something, just gives me a greater understanding of the world."

That philosophy helped earn McMiller a summer internship at Boeing. Michael Long, manager at Boeing, supervises McMiller. Long says McMiller came to the Boeing finance team with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute.

"His open-minded approach to challenging situations and his strong focus to achieve results were very successful for him," Long says. "Jonathan demonstrated a 'working together' approach in executing his assignments. My team and I were very impressed with the accomplishments he made during his internship this summer."

That impression turned into an additional opportunity for McMiller. Based on his performance, Boeing extended his internship through December, when he's set to graduate.

"I'm thrilled," he says. "This could open up possibilities for future employment that I didn't have a year ago."

His internship at Boeing has been a great experience. Not only has he gained valuable skills, he's learned about positive corporate cultures.

"I was impressed with the corporate culture that Boeing has," McMiller says.

"You think that you could get lost inside a big company like that. But Boeing is really putting an emphasis on employee development. They are really looking into the emotional intelligence side of things."

McMiller, a Florissant, Mo., resident and a student ambassador at UMSL, says Joel Miller, lecturer in finance, is one of his favorite teachers and helped prepare him for the internship at Boeing.

"He's very professional," McMiller says. "He would encourage us to dress like we were attending work. Come prepared and on time. Deadlines are deadlines. But he also taught us to come to him. He had an open-door policy, and if we needed anything, he was available."

McMiller, whose mother earned an education degree from UMSL, chose the university for its accredited College of Business Administration and his interest in personal finance.

"The reason I went into [finance] originally is because I believe everyone should have a good understanding of how to manage money and how to manage their wealth throughout their lives so that retirement is an option for them, so that they live the most comfortable life that they can," he says.

What does the future hold for McMiller? He says he's hoping for more opportunities.

"I could see myself working for Boeing or a company like it with the same positive atmosphere," he says. "I want to continue to learn everything I can, and enjoy doing it at the same time." ≡

# MARILU KNODE

## links UMSL with Laumeier Sculpture Park

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By Myra Lopez

Marilu Knode's art career was pure happenstance.

As an undergraduate at The University of Kansas in Lawrence, she overheard some guys talking about a friend of theirs. The friend was breaking up with his wife – who happened to teach renaissance art history.

"There was something about what they said that made me think, 'Wow, what's that? That I'm interested in,'" Knode says. "I took her class, and that was it for me."

Fast-forward 30-plus years: Knode oversees operations at Laumeier Sculpture Park, in Sunset Hills, Mo. Owned and operated by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation, the park is a premier open-air museum and one of the oldest and largest dedicated sculpture parks in the country.

Laumeier also exemplifies the Des Lee Collaborative Vision at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. The DLCV links educational, cultural, governmental and social-service organizations to make the St. Louis area a better place to live and work.

Under the umbrella of the DLCV, Laumeier and UMSL are partners. So in addition to being the park's executive director, Knode is the Aronson Endowed Professor in Modern and Contemporary Art History at the university. She's held the joint appointment since September 2009.

"This is my dream," Knode says. "To be paid to think about art."

And one of her main areas of concentration is strengthening the connection between the university and park. Sharing and borrowing expertise, according to Knode, is important for organizations with limited resources.

"We have something here that faculty and students can use as a platform for their research," Knode says.

Laumeier regularly taps UMSL students for internships, and students often help install artwork. The park also employs a graphic design student from the university. The annual position is funded through the DLCV.

"We're always trying to prioritize UMSL students since there is this really long-term connection between the institutions," Knode says. "We're trying to find more areas where we can have some overlap."



Marilu Knode holds a joint appointment as the Aronson Endowed Professor in Modern and Contemporary Art History at UMSL and executive director of Laumeier Sculpture Park in Sunset Hills, Mo. (Photo by August Jennewein)

Knode began her career at the Museum of Modern Art in New York as a cataloguer. She transitioned to curator before making the leap to senior management positions. Prior to joining Laumeier and UMSL, she was the assistant director and head of research at Future Arts Research at Arizona State University in Phoenix.

"I came to St. Louis specifically because I really love what Laumeier represents," Knode says. "It's got a really great track record of playing a leadership role in defining what public art can look like and what sculpture looks like."

The park was incorporated in 1977. Over the years, it's grown to 105 acres. It receives more than 300,000 visitors annually, and the audience is a diverse group that includes art lovers, dog walkers and picnickers.

During the summers, Laumeier offers programs for K-12 students. New shows arrive every six months, and Knode is working on year-round adult education programming.

"Forward momentum is important, because museums are niche organizations," she says. "Everybody has to refresh their model." ≡

## A first at UMSL: JENNIFER SIDUN leads national student optometry organization



Jennifer Sidun, a fourth-year optometry student at UMSL, is serving a one-year term as the president of the national American Optometric Student Association. She's the first UMSL student to lead the 6,000-member organization. (Photo by August Jennewein)

### By Ryan Heinz

It's September, less than a month into the new academic year, and Jennifer Sidun has no trouble keeping busy. The University of Missouri–St. Louis optometry student is in Cleveland where she spends her weekdays working on her first of two advanced clinical rotations there. She'll complete six rotations over her final nine months as a student.

Her weekend? Sidun will fly to Charlotte, N.C., to test her clinical skills on patients. It's one of three board exams optometry students must complete before they can practice.

This is the life of a fourth-year optometry student. There are the external rotations, studying and board exams. It's the last sprint to the finish line that will end a four-year marathon for a coveted doctor of optometry degree.

"Fourth-year is crazy," Sidun says.

But she's not just a typical fourth-year optometry student. She's also president of the American Optometric Student Association.

Dr. Edward Bennett, associate professor of optometry at UMSL, calls the AOSA president the most important leadership position for U.S. optometry students. Sidun is the third straight student from UMSL to hold an officer

position for AOSA, but she's the first to be president of the national organization, which has 22 chapters and 6,000 members.

As president, Sidun can have a direct impact on efforts to unify her profession. That's important to her.

"It ultimately makes the experience for our patients better," she says. "Sometimes people get caught up in politics or other things and forget patient care should come first."

Sidun's responsibilities during her one-year term include overseeing the organization's Board of Trustees, serving as national liaison to the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and representing the entire AOSA membership during conferences.

Her role as president took her this year to New Orleans, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto and Arkansas. And she'll sneak in at least two more trips back to St. Louis and trips to Charlotte and Phoenix before the year ends.

Bennett says Sidun has brought national attention to the College of Optometry at UMSL.

"Jen is very dedicated, easily approachable and interested in the opinions of others," Bennett says. "She's outstanding at multitasking and accomplished it all with a smile. When you think about it, those are the qualities of a good leader. She epitomizes what embodies effective leadership."

Sidun spent her undergraduate years at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. She discovered her interest in optometry after taking science courses, like a biology class in which she dissected an eyeball. She soon began working for a Lexington-area optometrist and found her calling.

"I enjoy working with people and being able to help them see better," Sidun says.

She chose UMSL to pursue her optometry degree because she liked the small class sizes and the college's homey feeling. In a program known for its student participation, she became one of the most active students.

For example, she played a key role in creating, with her classmates, a music video explaining the rules for the Optometry Student Bowl at the annual Optometry's Meeting in Chicago. Their video was an elaborate reinterpretation of a signature song from the musical "Chicago."

"These kinds of events really bring our class closer together and give us a break from studying or clinic," she says.

When Sidun graduates, she will seek employment in her native Cleveland where her fiancé works. She has already touched base with the Ohio Optometric Association, because she wants to continue her service to the profession. She says she'll miss UMSL. She's made lifelong friends, and looks forward to return visits to St. Louis.

And how will Sidun's life change at the conclusion of her AOSA presidency?

"I'm sure it will be a huge change going from being so busy (as president) to basically nothing overnight," she says. "Luckily, I am in the process of planning my wedding as well, so that will still keep me busy."

Staying so busy might not be for everyone, but it suits Sidun just fine. ■■■



## UMSL honors 6 alumni for achievements

By Marisol Ramirez

The University of Missouri–St. Louis Alumni Association honored six alumni at the university’s Founders Dinner on Oct. 2.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is traditionally presented to alumni whose extraordinary, long-term careers and significant roles in community service set them apart from their peers. This year, the association added the Outstanding Young Alumni Award category.

The recipients are: Terrence J. Elmendorf (BSBA 1986, MBA 1995), senior director, international finance and contracts for Boeing; Col. Daniel W. Isom II (BS 1994, MA 2003, PhD 2008 criminology and criminal justice), chief of police, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department; Randi L’Hommedieu (BM 1974), director and professor of music education, School of Music, Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant; Judith A. Marth (BSBA 1975), director, IT Global Services and Support

and chief logistics integration officer for The Boeing Company; Steven R. Sullivan (BSBA 1981, MBA 1994), chairman and president of Ameren Energy Resources; and Jason Jan (BSBA 1999), founder and owner of FroYo Premium Frozen Yogurt.

Jan is the first recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

The nomination process for the 2013 awards is under way. Any individual or organization may nominate an alumnus or alumna of the university. An association committee reviews the submissions and selects the recipients. Nominations are being accepted until May 15.

Visit [www.umslalumni.org](http://www.umslalumni.org) or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 314-516-6453 for nomination forms and additional information on the UMSL Alumni Association.



UMSL alumni (from left) Jason Jan, Daniel W. Isom II, Terrence J. Elmendorf, Randi L'Hommedieu, Judith A. Marth and Steven R. Sullivan are recipients of 2012 awards from the UMSL Alumni Association.

## TAKE A BITE OF THE BIG APPLE

Experience the "City that Never Sleeps" for the first time, or in a brand new way, when you travel to New York with fellow University of Missouri–St. Louis alumni through the UMSL Alumni Travel Program.

You'll stay at the Crowne Plaza in the heart of Times Square for three nights. A Broadway show and dinner at Sardi's will offer a classic taste of New York. You'll also tour Manhattan, visit Ground Zero and behold the Statue of Liberty.

The trip is scheduled for June 1-4. Estimated cost is \$1,250 a person, airfare included.

The UMSL Alumni Association offers the travel program in partnership with alumnus-owned Gwins Travel. Gig Gwin, BA history 1971, and Susan Sander Honich (BSEd 1970), president of the association, are thrilled to offer alumni a "great way to connect with the university and each other."

Three other exciting trips are planned:

- St. Louis Cardinals Spring Training (mid-March)
- Ski Holiday (March 23-27)
- British Isles Cruise (Aug. 3-16)

Call Gig Gwin at 314-822-1957 to book your trip to New York or for more information on any of the UMSL getaways.



# Class notes



## Alumni Center's new niche celebrated

University of Missouri–St. Louis officials and alumni gathered July 10 to mark the grand opening of the Alumni Center on the first floor of Woods Hall. The UMSL Alumni Association's 17 chapters and six standing committees "finally have a home of their own," said Deborah Tansil Graham, director of alumni and community relations at UMSL.

The photo: Susan Sander Honich, president of the association, cuts the grand opening ribbon in Woods Hall with (from left): Chancellor Tom George; Graham; Michael Finkes, second vice president and Student Engagement Committee chair; and Michael Wismann, treasurer and Finance Committee chair.

by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon. The Senate confirmed the appointment in February.

1983

**Barbara "Barb" Bergquist, BS** computer science, retired after nine years as a project manager at Harley-Davidson Financial Services. She previously worked for 15 years as a software engineer at McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing).

1987

**Sarapage McCorkle, EdD and MA** economics 1971, is a vice president at Junior Achievement of Mississippi Valley Inc. She was the director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Education at UMSL and a member of the faculty for 32 years.

1989

**Victor Wendl, BSBA and BA** mathematics, is president of Wendl Financial Inc. and is also president of Wendl Foundation, a nonprofit organization.

1991

**Ronald R. Johnson, MEd**, teaches extension courses throughout western Michigan for Spring Arbor University. He wrote the book "Customer Service and the Imitation of Christ" and produces the audio blog Mythic Adventures.

1993

**Tim Giblin, MS** physics and BS physics 1991, trains astronauts for NASA and was the guest speaker at the banquet for the 20th Annual Meeting of the NASA Missouri Space Grant Consortium held at UMSL in April. Giblin also is an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

1994

**Dennis Kraichely, BA** chemistry, was recognized as one of Pharm Exec's 2011 Emerging Pharma Leaders. He leads the chemistry, manufacturing and controls team and is an associate director of portfolio management and technical integration at Johnson & Johnson in Exton, Pa.

1967

**Brian Bass, BSBA**, was appointed chair of the Supervisory Committee at Electro Savings Credit Union.



1970

**William "Bill" L. Berg, BSBA**, served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He retired as president of Burnes of Boston after holding executive positions at Newell/Rubbermaid companies Mirro Corporation, WearEver Aluminum and Anchor Hocking.

1971

**Sanford A. Asher, BA** chemistry, won the Charles E. Kaufman Foundation 2011 Award for his work on developing: sophisticated laser based methods for determining the mechanisms of protein folding; standoff detection of hazardous chemicals; and smart photonic crystal chemical sensing materials. Asher is

a distinguished professor of chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh.

**Harry W. Orf, BS** chemistry, returned to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston as senior vice president of research management after once working there as director of molecular biology laboratories. Orf earned master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

1975

**DeLois Buckley, BS** education, is an educator and author of two poetry collections, "Poetic Spheres: A Book of 21st Century Descriptive and Narrative Poetry" and "Poetic Eclipse: Shadows in the Sands." His latest project is "Faces in Perils and Emerging Truths: Poetic Monologues."

1978

**James F. Shrewsbury, BA** political science, was appointed to the St. Louis Regional Convention and Sports Complex Authority



**Dennis Turner**, BS physical education, is a world champion slow-pitch softball player. He's part of Louisville Slugger and has worked as national promotions manager for Worth Slowpitch since 2007.

## 1996

**Michael Kennamann**, MA economics, is a strategic supply chain manager for large track-type tractors at Caterpillar Inc. He began with the company as an analyst in economics and sales and operations planning.

## 2002

**Elizabeth A. Amin**, PhD chemistry, MS chemistry 1998 and BA chemistry 1996, won the 2011 American Chemical Society's HP Outstanding Junior Faculty Award, which is presented by the Division of Computers in Chemistry. She's an assistant professor of medicinal chemistry at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

## 2001

**Joel P. Winter**, PhD psychology and MA psychology 1998, has worked for Wells Fargo in San Francisco for seven years and recently joined the Customer Experience Leadership Team.

## 2003

**Edward R. Albin**, BA English, is an associate of Williams Venker & Sanders LLC. He practices law primarily within the toxic torts practice group, but also has experience with insurance and personal injury defense. Albin earned a law degree at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.



## 2005

**Adam Bimslager**, BSBA, has been promoted to branch administration manager at Scottrade. He was most recently an assistant branch administrator overseeing 34 branches in South



Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Bimslager started at Scottrade as an intern.

**Linda S. Murphy**, BA English, wrote "Reaper," her debut young adult novel to be released by J. Taylor Publishing in January. Murphy has also been published in "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Just for Teenagers," "UnCONventional" and "Detritus Anthology."

## 2006

**Adam M. Bossler**, PhD criminology and criminal justice, was awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistant grant with Jessie Krienert (Illinois State University in Normal) for their research paper "Innovative Programs for Special Correctional Populations: Assessing the Current State and Disseminating Program Information in an Innovative Way."

**Seth R. Hein**, BS computer science, is a systems analyst at RGA Reinsurance Company.

**Michael Nye**, MFA creative writing, has written "Strategies Against Extinction," a short story collection that Queen's Ferry Press released in October. Nye's stories have appeared in "Boulevard," "Crab Orchard Review," "New South," "Sou'wester" and "South Dakota Review."

**Christal Rogers**, BSBA, is the founder of Precise Plans, an event planning company that specializes in reunions and parties.

## 2009

**Mark Berg**, PhD criminology and criminal justice, is an assistant professor at Indiana University-Bloomington. He previously worked at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

## 2010

**Bridget Ryder**, BA Spanish, is a music writer for examiner.com in Boise, Idaho. She wrote for The Current at UMSL, taught ice skating and preschool and walked the Way of St. James, a Christian pilgrimage across Spain.

**Jennifer Stefl**, BS education and BA mathematics, teaches remedial math courses at St. Louis Community College at Meramec.

## 2011

**Kelli Allen**, MFA creative writing and BA English 2008, is author of the poetry collection "Otherwise, Soft White Ash," published by John Gosslee Books in October. Allen is an award-winning poet, editor and scholar. Her fiction has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and she was a finalist for the 2011 Rebecca Lard Award. She's an adjunct professor of English at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., and St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley.

**Kristina Marie Darling**, MA philosophy, is the author of six books of poetry. In August, Ravenna Press published her collection "Melancholia (An Essay)." Darling has been awarded fellowships from the Corporation of Yaddo, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Ragdale Foundation. She won grants from the Kittredge Fund and the Elizabeth George Foundation.

**Lindsey Duesterhaus**, MSN, is a family nurse practitioner for Gateway Asthma & Allergy Relief. She works at the clinic's offices in Belleville, Ill., and in south St. Louis County.



**Jessica Kennedy**, MA history and BA art history 2007, is public programs manager in the Education Department at The Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, Texas. She previously worked at the Dallas Museum of Art and the Saint Louis Art Museum.



Send your news to [alumni@umsl.edu](mailto:alumni@umsl.edu)



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# JUBILEE KICKOFF



Save the date: Feb. 1

The University of Missouri–St. Louis will celebrate its 50th anniversary throughout 2013. We'll kick off our yearlong celebration with a spectacular evening of entertainment and fun. Join us at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

This night to remember will feature a presentation by bestselling author and critically acclaimed motivational speaker Shep Hyken, a champagne reception, music by The Fabulous Motown Review and a fireworks display. Frank Cusumano, sports anchor at KSDK (Channel 5) in St. Louis, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The festivities are free, but tickets are required.  
Call 314-516-5442 to reserve your ticket today.

[umsl.edu/jubilee](http://umsl.edu/jubilee)

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