

UMSL

magazine

Fall 2011

The CFO secret

Wayne DeVeydt of WellPoint
is among 137 chief financial
officers educated at UMSL





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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 79,000, and the magazine is released twice a year.

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On the cover

Wayne DeVeydt, BSBA 1993, is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Indianapolis-based WellPoint Inc. See Page 9. (Photo by August Jennewein)

Division II of the NCAA has adopted "Life in the Balance," which is an approach to student-athletes that emphasizes providing growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in athletics competition and development of positive societal attitudes through service to community. The balance and integration of these different areas of learning mark a pathway to graduation for student-athletes while cultivating a variety of skills and knowledge for life ahead.

As a proud member of NCAA Division II, the University of Missouri–St. Louis has a robust athletic program, but our focus remains on our classrooms and laboratories. UMSL is in the business of graduating alumni whose career successes stem from their academic prowess.

The cover story of this UMSL Magazine illustrates that point. More than 130 graduates of the College of Business Administration are chief financial officers at their respective businesses or organizations. It's an outstanding, but not surprising, statement.

The College of Business Administration is a long-standing member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – the gold standard for business accreditation nationally. Few business schools qualify. Fewer still qualify for dual accreditation of the school and accounting program. UMSL does.

The five alumni featured in the CFO story – Erin Baskett, Barbara Bentrup, Wayne DeVeydt, William Jackson and Rick Ramos – are outstanding examples of what can be accomplished through hard work and superior academic preparation. I want to thank them for sharing their stories and congratulate the faculty and staff who helped these alumni and thousands of others succeed.

Academic excellence. Successful alumni. UMSL sets the standard for achievement within higher education.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. George

Chancellor

In brief



Tim Eby, general manager of St. Louis Public Radio, stands in front of UMSL's new \$12 million building at Grand Center. (Photo by August Jennewein)

Taking shape: UMSL building in Grand Center to create new opportunities

Construction of a \$12 million building for the University of Missouri–St. Louis is on schedule, and the building is set to open within Grand Center, a St. Louis arts and entertainment district, in spring 2012.

Located at 3651 Olive St., the facility “establishes a UMSL presence” in Grand Center, says UMSL Chancellor Tom George. The building will house the studios and offices of St. Louis Public Radio | 90.7 KWMU, classrooms for the rapidly expanding field of new media, offices for internships in the arts, student teaching and charter school programs already established at Grand Center.

St. Louis Public Radio General Manager Tim Eby says the facility will enable the station to enhance its programming and provide more student internships and new media studies support.

“The proximity to some of the region’s most outstanding cultural and media organizations creates the potential for interesting partnerships that will benefit our listeners,” Eby says. “We’re also excited by the potential to combine our professional and technological resources with partners such as Nine Network of Public Media and the St. Louis Beacon to offer classes in the latest media and communication technology.”

The university has a lease-purchase agreement with BC Development of Kansas City, Mo. A fundraising campaign is expected to raise \$10 million for the project, and UMSL has committed \$2 million.

S.M. Wilson and Company of St. Louis is the developer for the three-story, 27,000-square-foot building. Design architects are Heather Woofter and Sung Ho Kim of Axi:Ome LLC. Chiodini Associates serves as the architect of record.



UMSL educator, graduate student participate in Fulbright program

University of Missouri–St. Louis educator Angela Coker and graduate student Ted Gregory have participated in the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Program.

Coker, associate professor of counseling and family therapy at UMSL, was selected to participate, along with 15 other scholars from around the world, in the Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program. In July, she traveled to Brazil and researched counseling issues facing women.

“Conducting research in Brazil was truly a full cultural and intellectual experience,” Coker says. “Not only did I come away with an expanded understanding of Brazil’s history, but I developed a broader international understanding of the complexities of race, gender and social class differences.”

Gregory, who’s pursuing a master’s degree in communication at UMSL, completed his year-long Fulbright in July at the University of Panama, where he helped begin the first master’s degree in fine arts theater program in Latin America.

“I was very grateful and honored to have been invited to advise on curriculum development, teach graduate courses and direct the first MFA class in various projects,” he says. “In many ways, this Fulbright experience has been a testament to the rewards of interdisciplinary studies.”

The Fulbright program is an international educational exchange program sponsored by the United States government for students and scholars.



Non-invasive blood glucose monitor closer to market

People with Type I diabetes could soon have a pain-free way to check their blood glucose levels. Researchers at the University of Missouri–St. Louis have developed a portable, inexpensive, non-invasive blood glucose detector. The university has licensed patent rights for the device to bring it to market. The rights are licensed to St. Louis Medical Devices Inc., a company with headquarters at Innovative Technology Enterprises, UMSL’s own incubator for startup companies.

The small monitor will allow for pain-free, convenient detection of glucose levels in capillaries of the finger with no waste (e.g., strips, lancets, etc.) and no need to draw blood.

Zhi Xu, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry at UMSL, is the lead researcher for the project. The monitor could be on the market in two years. (Xu is pictured above holding a prototype of the device.)

Enterprise Holdings Foundation gives \$1.5 million to UMSL

A \$1.5 million gift from the Enterprise Holdings Foundation will create scholarships at the University of Missouri–St. Louis that reach beyond the recipients.

The Enterprise Opportunity Driver Scholarship program has three key components: scholarships for full-time undergraduate students from low- or moderate-income families pursuing degrees in the College of Business Administration; stipends for junior- and senior-level students who will mentor scholarship recipients; and opportunities for recipients to compete for internships.

The Enterprise Holdings Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the company that, through its regional subsidiaries, operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car brands.

“This generous gift from Enterprise opens the door to a college education for many students,” says UMSL Chancellor Tom George. “By directing these scholarships to the College of Business Administration, it grows a pool of educated workers in areas critical to St. Louis’ future, such as international business, logistics and operations management and information systems.”

In order to maximize the likelihood that the Enterprise Opportunity Driver Scholarship recipients will complete their degrees, the university will offer additional advising and faculty mentoring support to the students. The peer mentor component will provide a supportive network for undergraduate students and give them additional direction and help them navigate the collegiate environment.

“Our gift to UMSL underscores our commitment to keep our hometown strong by helping to ensure access to higher education for its young people,” says Jo Ann Taylor Kindle, president of the Enterprise Holdings Foundation. “In addition, this contribution reflects our commitment to give back to the communities where our customers and employees live and work.”

The scholarship award is for \$2,500 a semester or \$5,000 a year. The gift was announced Aug. 15 as part of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign, which began in 2005 and is expected to reach its \$150 million goal by June 2012.

“The Enterprise Holdings Foundation does great work in providing access to higher education around the country,” says George Paz, chief executive officer of Express Scripts and chair of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign. “We are most grateful that Enterprise has continued that mission through the excellent public university in its hometown and driven us much closer to our fundraising goal.”

In his own words

Native Nigerian director discusses stage, screen, St. Louis

By Ryan Heinz

Lagos, Nigeria, shaped Niyi Coker. Growing up there, he was surrounded by a culture rich with public theater and music performances. Coker welcomed the warm embrace of the arts. "It enhanced my interest in theater," says the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of African/African American Studies at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Coker has gone on to serve as director of professional theater companies in five countries. He's directed more than 50 plays, among them the UMSL original musical "Booth!" about the effect an infamous assassin's dastardly deed had on his family. Also a noted playwright, Coker co-wrote "Booth!" and his most recent dramatic effort, "Preemptive," a play that toured three continents and drew praise from the BBC.

Yet Coker's talents go beyond the theatrical. He's overseen documentary film festivals and playwriting competitions. And he has a pair each of books, documentaries and feature films under his belt. That includes the award-winning "Pennies for the Boatman," a period piece shot on location in St. Louis using mostly UMSL resources and currently screening on the film festival circuit.

Growing up in Nigeria, what influenced you to explore the performing arts?

My mother's brother was a renowned dramatist who studied at Yale University School of Drama. He was one of the biggest influences in my life. I spent a lot of vacations watching him direct and reading his plays. I knew at a young age that was what I wanted to do.

How do Nigerian and American theater productions differ?

The infusion of technology into performance. African performance, essentially, doesn't rely heavily on lighting. It doesn't rely heavily on sets. It relies mostly on performance. That was new for me. Over here, technology is used as part of the spectacle.

You usually have a few different projects in the works at any given time. What have you been up to?

I'm working on a new documentary titled "Ota Benga." Ota Benga was a guy from the Congo – a pygmy – who was brought to the St. Louis World's Fair at Forest Park in 1904. And at the end of the World's Fair, he was displayed at the Bronx Zoo. He was right in there with the monkeys and the baboons, and people actually came to see him. Eventually he was released and sent to Lynchburg, Va., to the Virginia Theological Seminary and College. It was there where he took his life when he realized he wasn't going to go back to the Congo. The docu-

mentary has taken me to Oxford, to Brussels, to Cameroon and to the pygmy people. It should be ready around December.

And you're making your return to the director's chair for a UMSL theater performance this year.

I haven't directed on campus for a while – not since "Booth!" in 2007. That's changing this winter. I'm excited to be directing "Intimate Apparel." It's a Pulitzer Prize-winning play written by Lynn Nottage. Her family is from Barbados. I do a lot of the film festival work in Barbados. And the Barbados National Cultural Foundation is inviting the production from UMSL to Barbados in March. What they're proposing is a half Bajan, half UMSL student cast. We're working toward that now.

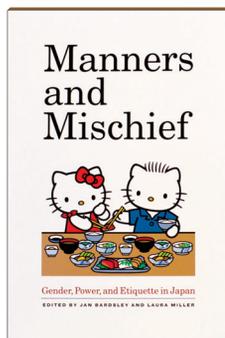
Now that you've been here for about six years, what are your thoughts on the St. Louis performing arts scene?

It's vibrant and easily accessible, and there are a lot of very talented people in this city. I've seen a lot of actors work here, and I've been really impressed and blown away by their performances. You can also get by on doing a lot here on a very low budget. We could not have shot "Pennies for the Boatman" in New York. You couldn't shoot "Pennies" for a million pennies in New York. You would need at least a billion pennies. So we're fortunate in that context. ☰

UMSL



Books by UMSL faculty



“Manners and Mischief: Gender, Power, and Etiquette in Japan”

CO-EDITED BY LAURA MILLER

University of California Press, April 2011

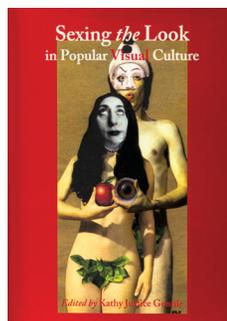
This book, co-edited by Laura Miller, the Eiichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Professor of Japanese Studies, is not a traditional book of etiquette. Instead, the book explores forms of etiquette for different groups in Japan and looks at how shifting norms of manners reflect cultural change. Miller, an expert in Japanese culture and linguistic anthropology, describes how manners give meaning to everyday life and extraordinary occasions as well as illuminate larger social and cultural transformations. The other editor is Jan Bardsley.

“Justice and the American Metropolis”

CO-EDITED BY TODD SWANSTROM

University of Minnesota Press, August 2011

In today's busy society, it is often almost impossible to identify injustice and its root causes. This book, co-edited by Todd Swanstrom, the E. Desmond Lee Professor in Community Collaboration and Public Policy Administration, reveals those injustices. The collection contains essays focused on the various causes of injustice and institutional injustice, and provides a way of planning to achieve justice in the future. In the end, the contributors make the case for a future metropolis where justice is paramount. The other editor is Clarissa Rile Hayward.

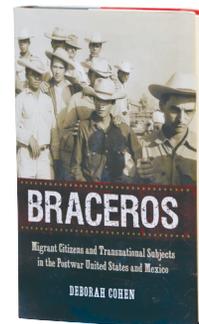


“Sexing the Look in Popular Visual Culture”

EDITED BY KATHY JUSTICE GENTILE

Cambridge Scholars Publishing, November 2010

Kathy Justice Gentile, associate professor of English, defines sexing as the erotic enhancement of images. This collection of essays examines the distortion of what we see in today's culture and how so much of what we see is overly sexualized through a variety of perspectives including literature, history, philosophy and art. Gentile wrote the introduction to the collection and one of the chapters. Minsoo Kang, associate professor of history, also contributed a chapter.



“Braceros: Migrant Citizens and Transitional Subjects in the Postwar United States and Mexico”

BY DEBORAH COHEN

University of North Carolina Press, February 2011

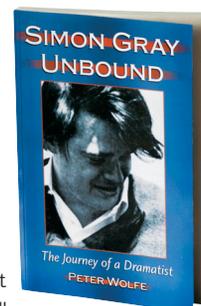
The Bracero Program, which was a series of labor agreements, brought thousands of Mexican men to temporarily work in the United State's agricultural fields. Deborah Cohen, associate professor of history, confined most of her research to the Mexican state of Durango, where she interviewed former braceros in local barbershops and homes. Cohen asks many questions about the feelings surrounding the arrival of these temporary workers and what the Mexican government hoped to gain.

“Simon Gray Unbound: The Journey of a Dramatist”

BY PETER WOLFE

McFarland Press, March 2011

English playwright Simon Gray (1936-2008) may not have been particularly well known by the general public, but Peter Wolfe, Curators' Professor of English, contends Gray was far from unimportant. Wolfe's monograph chronicles Gray's development from using writing to hack away at the formalism and humanism of traditional English to his later work, which explores English professionals and the difficulties they encounter in connecting with each other.





CFO

Five chief financial officers and the university that helped them along their way

By David Baugher

It's been a long road for Wayne DeVeydt. Growing up on public assistance with his mother who worked as many as three jobs to make ends meet, DeVeydt was the first in his family to attend college. It's the kind of background that teaches valuable lessons about how to handle a dollar.

Today, DeVeydt handles nearly 60 billion of them as executive vice president and chief financial officer of health insurance giant WellPoint Inc., a Fortune 100 company that outstripped the 2011 revenues of PepsiCo, Intel and Kraft Foods.

"I remind people that the way you manage a dollar is no different than the way you manage \$60 billion," DeVeydt says. "It's still one dollar at a time."

DeVeydt grew up in south St. Louis, and his path to success was largely cut at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1993.

"I think having a standard that says, 'we'll accept nothing less' is maybe not the most political thing to do, but it was the right thing to do to develop real leaders," he says. "I'm a big fan of the university for that."

DeVeydt's story is only one of thousands to emerge from UMSL's College of Business Administration, which counts 137 CFOs among its graduates.

Not only is the college featured in the 2012 edition of the annual guidebook "The Best 294 Business Schools" by The Princeton Review, but the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business also accredits the college and its accounting program, making UMSL one of only a handful of universities

in the country to hold dual accreditation for its business college and accounting program.

"We've had a very strong accounting program for quite a number of years, certainly one of the largest in the state," says Keith Womer, dean of the business college. "Quite a few of those folks that we've identified as CFOs have accounting degrees and got their start from that program."

And many UMSL graduates haven't stopped at the CFO level. Sandra Van Trease, BSBA 1982, is group president of BJC Health-Care. George Paz, BSBA 1982, is chairman and chief executive officer of Express Scripts, and Warner Baxter, BSBA 1983, is president and CEO of Ameren Missouri. All three leaders have held the position of CFO.

"I think the main thing to know is our commitment to serving the St. Louis business community," Womer says. "The vast majority of our students come from St. Louis and live and work here after they graduate."

continued

Erin Baskett

CFO of Smith, Moore & Co.

Erin Baskett, BSBA 2003, had two dreams during her time at college.

“Ever since taking a finance class at UMSL, I said one day my ultimate goal is to be a CFO or part owner of a big financial firm and to walk onto the floor of the New York Stock Exchange,” she says.

The second dream came true a few years ago when a friend’s uncle got her onto capitalism’s most hallowed ground.

“It was a madhouse,” the 28-year-old says. “You get knocked around like crazy. It was insane.”

Her first dream came true as well. She’s the CFO of Smith, Moore & Co., a financial services provider based in Clayton, Mo. Named to the position about a year ago, she was recently added to the St. Louis Business Journals’ 30 Under 30 list. Her career has spanned a number of organizations including the Moneta Group, Wolfe Nilges Nahorski and A.G. Edwards.

She says she likes the depth the CFO position offers. It’s not her only role, either.

“I get to wear a lot of hats,” Baskett says. “I’m also director of human resources and internal controls and the wellness coordinator. There are a lot of different job duties, a lot of variety.”

She recalls her time at UMSL being, in some respects, much like the hustle and bustle of the NYSE trading floor. She entered the university with credit hours from St. Louis Community College–Meramec and advanced credit courses in high school. She took 18 credit hours a semester at UMSL and earned a bachelor’s degree in only two years.

She says one instructor, in particular, stood out. Baskett took International Finance from G. D’Anne Weise, associate professor of finance at UMSL.

“She gave a lot of real-world information,” Baskett says. “It wasn’t so much just to read it out of a book and take a test. The way she explained things, you really understood how you were going to apply it to your life.”



Wayne DeVeydt

Executive Vice President and CFO of WellPoint Inc.

Wayne DeVeydt, BSBA 1993, sounds a little like Erin Baskett when describing his academic experience at UMSL.

"What I really enjoyed was not just hearing what real life is supposed to be like but hearing from teachers that were actually living real life," he says.

DeVeydt has lived a good bit of real life himself. He worked in leadership roles at PricewaterhouseCoopers for a number of years, eventually making partner before joining Indianapolis-based WellPoint in 2005 as a senior vice-president and chief accounting officer. The next year, he became chief of staff to the chairman and chief executive officer before moving to the CFO position in 2007.

And although the demands of his career are great, DeVeydt makes time to give back. He's involved with the boards of several organizations, including the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis, Cancer Support Community and Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

His recollections of his years in the College of Business Administration at UMSL paint a picture of an institution that insisted on making its students the most competitive in the marketplace.

"When everything is judged on a curve, you just have to be better than the rest of the pack," he says. "What I remember at UMSL, it wasn't about the curve. It was about the bar. There was this drive toward academic excellence and not just a drive toward being better than the next lowest student." continued



Barbara Bentrup

CFO of Delta Dental of Missouri

Barbara Bentrup, BSBA 1989, has had quite a career. She's been auditor at Coopers & Lybrand and audit manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers before becoming finance director and finally CFO of UnitedHealthcare's Missouri market. Somewhere in there she had time to help take a small start-up company public, earn a law degree and master's degree in business administration from Saint Louis University and work as an attorney at the prestigious firm of Capes, Sokol, Goodman & Sarachan.

Today, she's CFO of Delta Dental of Missouri in Sunset Hills, a position she's held since last year.

But she still recalls where it all began.

"Had it not been for UMSL, I may not have had the op-

portunity to attend college in the first place," she says.

It's been a long road and, in some ways, not the one she expected.

"I never in my wildest dreams envisioned myself as a CFO," she says. "When you are in school, you have dreams and aspirations but that was a pretty high goal and hard to attain."

But she's attained it nonetheless. She's even a recipient of two awards by the UMSL Alumni Association – You Make the Difference Award and Salute to Business Achievement.

"I've been very fortunate in my career," she says.

"I've been successful, and I think a lot of that is from the foundation I received in my education at UMSL."



William Jackson

CFO of the St. Louis Public Library

William Jackson, BSBA 1972, has a simple philosophy, and it's one he tries to communicate to others.

"Really, it's all about what you put into it," Jackson says. "Some people these days want it handed to them, or they don't really have an appreciation for how much work is involved in trying to get what you want."

Jackson, 61, has what he wants as CFO of the St. Louis Public Library. It's a position he's held since he came to the organization in the late 1980s. Before that, he was director of finance at the St. Louis Housing Authority. He's also held positions with Consolidated Aluminum, Beard-Poulan/Weedeater, Brown Shoe and Emerson Electric.

"The Emerson job really put me on the path of being a successful accountant, because I got a wide array of experiences and travels with the different companies that we audited," Jackson says. "I got to see a lot of different systems and the various ways that people go about dealing with the business aspects of a company."

But that position is not the only thing that's shaped him. He says advertising, marketing and promotions courses at UMSL also helped his career.

"I enjoyed my whole business curriculum," says the lifetime member of the UMSL Alumni Association. "It definitely prepared me for what I am doing today, because I still draw on some of those experiences and some of the things I learned during my time at UMSL."

continued



Richard Ramos

CFO and executive vice president
of Maritz Holdings Inc.

Richard Ramos, BSBA 1984, can tell you instantly why he loves his job: He's a big picture guy.

"I like being involved in all facets of business operations," says Ramos, CFO and executive vice president of St. Louis-based Maritz Holdings Inc. "In the CFO position, I can see everything from strategy to client negotiation to pricing to internal operating issues such as compensation, benefits, pensions and how we operate domestically and internationally."

The native Floridian has overseen the finances of the \$1.4 billion privately-held corporation for the past five years during which he won the prestigious William E. Maritz Award. In 2008 and 2011, the St. Louis Business Journal nominated Ramos for its CFO of the Year award. He was a finalist in 2011.

His ascension to the CFO position caps a 10-year rise through the corporate ranks over a more than decade-long career at Maritz. Before joining Maritz, he worked

at Purcell Tire & Rubber Company and the audit, tax and advisory firm KPMG. He also practiced as an attorney for a time.

Ramos says the friends and professors he met at UMSL helped him when he was just starting out.

"I would have had no connection to the industry whatsoever if it hadn't been launched by the career center at UMSL," he says. "[That help] was everything to my career."

Now he works to extend those kinds of opportunities to others. Maritz recently held an event for employees who are UMSL alumni, and Ramos says he often tries to recruit from the university's talent pool.

"We have a large contingent of UMSL grads here," he says. "I encourage [Maritz] to hire out of UMSL because of the quality of the students that come from the school and the ability of the students to become successful quickly and prosper." ≡



UNIVERSITY HITS FULL STRIDE TO FINISH RECORD CAMPAIGN

By Bob Samples

You jog a little – around the block mostly. A friend suggests a marathon. Why not, you think. It'll be a challenge.

You train for months for the physical and mental rigors ahead. The gun finally sounds, and you're off. Up hills, down hills, around corners, you keep chugging along – better than you thought possible. You're nearing the finish line in record time.

Then the unthinkable happens. Your friend – with you stride for stride – says let's keep going.

That's the decision that University of Missouri-St. Louis officials faced five years into the seven-year Gateway for Greatness Campaign. UMSL had achieved its \$100 million goal in June 2010.

UMSL's campaign chairman, George Paz of Express Scripts, advised Chancellor Tom George to reset the campaign goal. The chancellor received similar encouragement from alumni and corporate leaders.

So what did UMSL decide to do? It upped its goal to \$150 million by June 2012.

That's right. UMSL decided to keep running.

And for good reason, says Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Martin Leifeld.

"The need for scholarships and investment in our programs and facilities has never been greater," Leifeld says. "So we're running hard and the community is responding."

At the Founders Dinner in September, the campaign stood at \$129 million in gifts and pledges. Eight individuals or corporations made commitments of \$1 million or more since UMSL reset its goal. The million-dollar-plus donors since 2005 stand at 24.

Warner Baxter, president and chief executive officer of Ameren Missouri, one of those million-dollar-donor companies, says Ameren's investment in UMSL is an investment in the community.

"Ameren is honored to be associated with this fine university," Baxter tells the 800 people attending the Founders Dinner. "UMSL's greatest strength is creating opportunity for diverse students who ultimately find great employment right here in St. Louis."

UMSL alumni can be found at every major employer in St. Louis – large and small companies, government offices, schools, hospitals and research labs. And Baxter is one of more than 125 UMSL graduates working at Ameren.

"I will be forever grateful to UMSL," he says. "I was one of those students you see today racing from campus in their car after class to get to work, and like many of them will be, I was the first in my family to graduate from college."

"My story is not unique – not for this university. I turned to UMSL for a world-class education at an affordable price. UMSL is making a difference in the lives of so many individuals and the community as a whole. It really is a Gateway for Greatness." ≡



Through the woods with John Dalton

MFA in Creative Writing director
writes second novel,
'The Inverted Forest'

By Ryan Heinz

John Dalton considers himself a lucky guy. Take 2011. It's been a great year for the University of Missouri–St. Louis alumnus and faculty member. He was promoted to associate professor of English and director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program. Scribner, a division of Simon & Schuster, published his second novel, "The Inverted Forest," to widespread acclaim in publications like Entertainment Weekly, The Wall-Street Journal and St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Yeah, 2011 has been kind to Dalton. But years past? As a kid, he probably didn't envision this banner year.

A self-proclaimed "son of the Midwest," Dalton grew up in Manchester, Mo. He was the youngest among seven children of working-class parents. His teenage years ended fatherless after his dad lost a lengthy battle with cancer. That weighed heavily on Dalton and his academic life.

"I was a very disinterested student," he says. "I was a depressed teenager."

Dalton nearly flunked out of high school, and an evaluation indicated he was not college material. He was washing dishes and says the job felt like a career trap he might not escape. Then, a pending law changed his life. It involved cuts to Social Security benefits for children of the deceased. But if Dalton enrolled in college before the law took effect, he could still receive the benefits. A counselor at Dalton's school pulled him aside and said, "You have to get over to the community college and enroll full time."

So he did. Motivation to crack the books soon followed.

"My first class, this psychology class, was taught by a very nice, very pretty young teacher's assistant," Dalton says. "I remember thinking, 'I don't want this woman thinking I'm a loser.' So I started studying for the first time."

He found out he could be disciplined and achieve passing grades. First it was B's and C's. By the time he was a student at UMSL, Dalton was pulling down straight A's. In 1987, he earned a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in secondary education.



Photo by August Jennewein

MFA in Creative Writing program

In August, John Dalton opened the latest chapter of the Master's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. He was named director of a program started in 1998 by David Carkeet. The two novelists' roles bookend Mary Troy's run of nearly 13 years as director.

Dalton credits Troy, a novelist and short story writer, with nurturing the MFA in Creative Writing to where it is today: a reputable program that attracts talented writers from across the country, produces the semiannual literary journal *Natural Bridge* and graduates award-winning poets and fiction writers. And it's not finished there.

"Our program is growing, especially on the fiction side," Dalton says. "We're getting more and more applicants. And we're getting better and better students every year."

He points to talents like student Angela Mitchell, one of four Riverfront Times MasterMinds recipients this year. She was recognized for her award-winning short stories and a promising beginning to her first novel.

Dalton says the goal moving forward is to bolster the poetry side of the program. To help do this, the program recently received approval for adding a tenure-track poet to the Department of English faculty.

"Our current MFA poetry students are terrific, and we have faculty members with excellent books of poetry and great teaching skills," Dalton said. "But we need to find an eager and accomplished new poet to push the program forward."

Visit umsl.edu/~mfa to learn more about the MFA in Creative Writing program. ≡

He sought a job teaching high school English. But that objective was short-lived after being saddled with five consecutive seventh grade classes at his first teaching gig.

"I worked harder than I ever worked in my life just trying to control these kids and keep up with all of the paperwork," he says. "It wasn't that I was a terrible teacher, it was those seventh graders. I couldn't control some of those classes."

His teaching contract was not renewed. Dalton says he remembers feeling like a huge failure.

"As so often happens in cases of failure, it sort of makes you do something drastic," he says.

In his case, that meant moving away. To Taiwan. There he taught English, paid off his student debt and gained an experience that would later influ-

ence his acclaimed debut novel, "Heaven Lake," which was also published by Scribner.

Upon returning stateside, he enrolled in a prestigious MFA in creative writing program, graduated and returned to his roots in St. Louis and UMSL. He then wrote two books.

His latest, "The Inverted Forest," focuses its first half on a fortnight at fictional Kinderman Forest Camp in the Ozarks of Missouri. The inexperienced counselors struggle to manage a group of mentally disabled campers. The second half deals with the fallout from a disastrous camp encounter.

"I was a little worried about how 'Heaven Lake' readers would receive a book that was darker, stranger and went to a few uncomfortable places," Dalton says.

But the reception has been good. It probably helps that Dalton navigates the darkness with great warmth in writing his characters. The *Wall Street Journal* praised his prose calling it "polished and crisp." *Entertainment Weekly* perhaps best nailed down the dynamic of the novel: "While some of what's described is anything but pleasant, reading it certainly is."

With two successful novels now on the shelf, Dalton is settling into his new role as director of an MFA in Creative Writing program that is gaining prominence with each passing year. That's a long way from a futureless career as a pot scrubber or failed high school teacher. Is it luck? Maybe. If so, Dalton has made his own luck. ≡





UMSL Bridge Program Coordinator Kimberly Edwards uses mock interviews to prepare high school students for college and careers.

Right: Natissa Small, director of precollegiate programs at UMSL, has overseen the UMSL Bridge Program since 2003.

Photos by August Jennewein

UMSL Bridge Program propels students beyond high school toward college success

By Jack Crosby

For more than 25 years, the University of Missouri–St. Louis Bridge Program has served St. Louis-area students by bulldozing barriers to college entry and paving the way for the leaders of tomorrow.

The program was founded in 1986 and remains the university’s flagship precollegiate program. It provides comprehensive, year-round, college-access services to local middle and high school students who represent more than 100 public and private schools.

“Bridge works relentlessly in its efforts to ensure that all students are equipped with the skills necessary to attend college,” says Natissa Small, director of precollegiate programs at UMSL.

The main program components are two academies for ninth-through 12th-grade students.

The Saturday Academy selected 600 students to participate this year and runs for four hours the first two Saturdays of the month from October to March. It provides intensive instruction in math, science, writing and career development.

The Summer Academy nurtures students’ skills in the same areas as the Saturday Academy and runs four hours a day, Monday through Friday for four consecutive weeks. More than 300 students participated in the Summer Academy this year.

Students in both academies receive professional development opportunities through on-campus career fairs, professional speaker series, panel discussions and leadership development.

continued



ENGAGE
EMPOWER
EDUCATE



The program also emphasizes engaged parents. The Saturday Academy, for example, incorporates workshops for parents on many topics, including effective communication, understanding financial aid and navigating the college admissions process.

“Bridge is an investment both for the parent and the child,” says John Fagerlin, father of Melanie Fagerlin, a four-year participant in the program. “It is a worthwhile investment because it goes beyond preparing for college. Bridge teaches students lessons that they will keep throughout their college and professional career.”

Since 2003, under Small’s direction, 100 percent of program students have matriculated to college, representing enrollment in more than 90 post-secondary institutions. Small serves as an assistant dean of students with direct oversight of the Office of Precollegiate Programs, UMSL Bridge Program and Office of Multicultural Relations.

The UMSL Bridge Program is tailored to meet the growing financial needs of families with collegebound students.

“We’ve developed program workshops to deal with the challenges that students and families face around [financial issues],” Small says. “This is a critical area in which support must be provided to families. The rising expense of education can hinder college access, selection and time of matriculation.”

Kelcy Siddall earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at UMSL in 2008. He’s also an alumnus of the UMSL Bridge Program.

“Bridge gave me a realization that college was attainable,” Siddall says. “It defined what was possible and showed me that I was capable of attending college and succeeding.”

Local educators agree.

“Bridge is an awesome opportunity to learn college and career skills,” says Art J. McCoy II, superintendent of the Ferguson-Florissant (Mo.) School District. “This program involves an institution the caliber of UMSL in partnership with school districts, providing the opportunity to change a child’s life.”

That’s exactly what Ronda Fitch says the program did for her son, Reybren.

“I have watched my son evolve into a more confident and focused young man as a result of his participation in the program,” she says.

Fitch also says the program played a major part in her decision to re-enroll in college to finish her post-secondary degree – precisely the type of impact the program seeks to have on students and parents, Small says.

“We believe in removing barriers and stumbling blocks for students and parents who are seeking access to higher education,” she says. “We remain committed to providing college access for every student who desires a college education.”

“This program involves an institution the caliber of UMSL in partnership with school districts, providing the opportunity to change a child’s life.”

— Art J. McCoy II
Superintendent of the
Ferguson-Florissant
School District



Above: Brandon Leopold from Hazelwood (Mo.) Central High School concentrates on the task at hand during a UMSL Bridge Program chemistry lab.

Right: Kaylah Steward from Hazelwood (Mo.) Central High School gathers information during a UMSL Bridge Program career fair in June.



UMSL freshmen Brian Pickens (left) and Nicholas "Daniel" Bolden walk to class on the university's North Campus. The two are friends and participants in The Opportunity Scholars Program, which enrolled its first cohort in the fall. (Photo by August Jennewein)

The



Opportunity Scholars Program

Providing opportunities
for St. Louis'
first-generation
college students

By Linda Tracy

The University of Missouri–St. Louis created The Opportunity Scholars Program last year to recruit first-generation college students and increase diversity among future leaders in science, engineering, math and related fields.

The university selects up to 10 students each year to participate in the program, which includes a full four-year scholarship and residential package. Scholarship recipients receive individualized academic, career and life-skills coaching. Summer jobs and internships with the university's corporate partners enable students to gain professional experience and build relationships.

Brian Pickens, an 18-year-old graduate of Hazelwood (Mo.) East High School, is one of seven students in the first cohort of scholarship recipients. They began attending classes in the fall.

During his high school career, Pickens earned an ACT score of 31, a cumulative grade point average of 4.3 on a 4.0 scale and was ranked first in his graduating high school class. He's also the first in his family to attend college.

"My parents weren't able to go to college, but they're determined that I earn a degree," Pickens says. "I pretty much needed all costs covered in order to continue my education. If it weren't for The Opportunity Scholars Program, my options would have been a lot more limited. I was ecstatic when I received the call that I'd been accepted into the program."

UMSL Chancellor Tom George says the idea for the program started with conversations between the university and St. Louis-area corporate leaders. The discussions centered on the long-term effect on St. Louis' economy if companies cannot recruit and retain a high quality, diverse work force.

"The Opportunity Scholars Program is a step in the right direction toward keeping more of our local talent right here in St. Louis," George says. "The program has so many wonderful aspects beyond the financial advantages to students. Corporate experiences and new relationships also benefit our scholars."

It was the possibilities presented by getting a summer job or internship at a St. Louis-area company that most interested Nicholas "Daniel" Bolden in The Opportunity Scholars Program. Bolden, a 19-year-old engineering major at UMSL and graduate of Hazelwood East, also is in the program's first cohort.

"The Opportunity Scholars Program had the extra feature of guaranteed work at places like Emerson," Bolden says. "That's what I liked about it."

Initial supporters of the program include Emerson, AT&T, Energizer and David and Thelma Steward of World Wide Technology. UMSL is seeking a total of \$10 million in private funding to support the program.

"We have high hopes for the program and would like to see more scholarships offered to a broader range of students," George says. "Our goal is to extend the program to allow as many worthy students as possible to benefit from this life-changing scholarship." ≡

Help us keep the best and brightest in the St. Louis area

Supporting The Opportunity Scholars Program at the University of Missouri–St. Louis is a great way to help deserving students from St. Louis.

In addition to a full four-year scholarship and residential package, students in The Opportunity Scholars Program receive summer jobs and internships at corporate partner sites, along with academic, career and life skills coaching.

To get involved, please call Kent Krober at 314-516-4115 or send him a message at kroberk@umsl.edu.

Clinical psychologist
KAMILA WHITE
studies non-cardiac chest pain in kids



Kamila White is an associate professor of clinical psychology at UMSL. (Photo by August Jennewein)

By Jennifer Hatton

Imagine waking up to hear your child crying from chest pain. You rush to the emergency room. Dozens of tests later, you're told there's nothing physical causing the pain. Your child's heart is functioning normally. The pain, however, continues. You feel helpless.

The number of reported cases of non-cardiac chest pain among children is on the rise, and Kamila White, associate professor of clinical psychology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, is an expert on the phenomenon.

In 2009, White teamed up with Dr. R. Mark Grady, a pediatric cardiologist at St. Louis Children's Hospital and Washington University in St. Louis. They began evaluating patients who'd been diagnosed with non-cardiac chest pain for a recently completed study.

"We looked at children 7 to 18 years of age," she says. "These were children who had presented with chest pain but were screened negative for organic causes and by all accounts had a healthy heart."

Along with UMSL graduate student Cassandra McDonnell, White assessed nearly 160 children and their caregivers. In addition, follow-ups with each child and caregiver were done three months after their first assessment.

"What was surprising to me was the severity of pain many children were experiencing and that even after being told their pain was non-cardiac related, when asked what they thought was causing their pain, most said their heart," White says.

So what's the cause?

In many cases, White says it could be emotional stress, anxiety issues or even mood related.

"We didn't expect to see children this young, even though we only assessed children who were at least 7 years old," she says. "There were cases of children much younger. Also, it was striking to see the degree of persistent pain many children experienced."

One of the variables examined in this study was the degree to which chest pain interfered with children's abilities to carry out normal childhood activities. In 63 percent of the cases, the pain interfered to some extent with a child's ability to take part in activities, including playing sports and participating in gym class.

White says in some cases, the child was so worried or the pain so intense, that they did not participate in any activities out of concern for their chest symptoms.

Also, high anxiety levels in parents were linked with high levels of pain in the child.

"We found that children whose parents reported high anxiety experienced more chest pain interference than children whose parents reported less anxiety," White says.

Non-cardiac chest pain in children remains relatively untouched and unstudied, according to White. She says she plans to continue her research and identify funding sources to support the development of treatment programs.

"My hope is that we can find ways to help support children with non-cardiac chest pain, but at this time, we just don't know enough about this pain problem," she says. "I'd like to see additional research on this topic and, ultimately, we need to find ways to develop interventions to help these children." ≡

Staying connected to UMSL has been no risk for retired actuary **JOE VOGL**

By Maureen Zegel

Armed with a passion for mathematics and a Curators Scholarship, Joe Vogl zipped through 120 credit hours in three years at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. His math professors nurtured his enthusiasm, and when it came time to graduate in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in education, Vogl looked toward a career assessing risk in the discipline of actuarial science, rather than teaching math.

"I had no idea what an actuary did in those days," Vogl says. "I just knew I loved math. Looking back, I don't think I could have gotten a better education than the one I received at UMSL."

Vogl retired last year from Towers Watson, a global risk and financial management company. Remembering his time as a student at UMSL, Vogl and Mary, his wife, established the Joseph M. and Mary A. Vogl Scholarship in Mathematics, a need-based monetary award for undergraduate math majors at the university.

"There is nothing more rewarding than attending a scholarship reception and sitting down with the students who are benefitting from your scholarship," Joe Vogl says.

The son of a carpenter and the first in his family to attend college, he grew up in Jefferson County, Mo., and married his neighbor and high school sweetheart Mary Mateka during spring break in 1975. They have two children and three grandchildren. Their son is studying secondary education at UMSL.

In 1976, Joe Vogl landed a job at William M. Mercer Inc., a large human resource company. He consulted with private companies and governmental agencies on employee pensions, retirement and health-care benefits. He moved to Towers, Perrin, Forster & Crosby (now Towers Watson) in 1985 and worked with some of the St. Louis area's top employers and their employee benefit systems.

Actuaries are experts at using math to evaluate the likelihood of future events and quantify anticipated outcomes so losses can be minimized. Career advancement involves hundreds of hours of study and passing a series of national exams. Vogl attained the rank of Fellow in the Society of Actuaries, and in 1986, he earned a master's degree in math from Saint Louis University.



Joe Vogl, BS education 1975, and Mary, his wife, are keeping busy in retirement but continue to work on behalf of UMSL. (Photo by August Jennewein)

Vogl credits a "good ear" for his long, successful career as an actuary.

"As a consultant, you need to be a good listener," he says. "It's not how much you know, but how much the client can get out of what you know that matters."

Vogl's avid quest for knowledge led him to study religion in the 1980s. He and a small group of friends started a non-denominational Christian church without clergy. He taught himself ancient Greek and studied Hebrew at Concordia Seminary in Clayton, Mo., to better understand early biblical writings.

Joe and Mary Vogl say they're enjoying retirement. They play golf and spend time with their grandchildren.

UMSL is still part of their lives. In addition to their scholarship, Joe Vogl served on the Chancellor's Council from 1999 to 2005 and is the chair of the Arts and Sciences Leadership Council. He won the university's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005.

"[Being involved] is tremendously encouraging," Joe Vogl says, "We're glad we can help." ≡

From trash picker to president and CEO, **DENNY REAGAN** knows the ins and outs of The Muny

By Linda Tracy

Dennis “Denny” Reagan is nothing if not dedicated. He began working at The Muny in 1968 as a summer hire. His role at the outdoor theater in St. Louis’ Forest Park expanded to year-round in 1976. Since he became a full-time employee, Reagan has missed only one evening performance – Aug. 7, 1981.

“My brother got married,” he says.

Reagan has served as president and chief executive officer of The Muny since 1991. The Muny is America’s oldest and largest outdoor musical theater. Producing seven musicals during an eight-week period each summer, the theater’s first performance took place in 1919.

At every show, Reagan can be found greeting the crowds before the performance and bidding them good night after it. Always in a jacket and tie. Even during the record-breaking, 100-plus degree evenings this summer.

“Well, the jacket did come off a few nights,” he says with a laugh.

Reagan, The Muny’s sixth president, says the audience and theater’s staff are what make his job satisfying.

“There’s nothing better than watching the crowds enjoy the performance, and to see them react to something spectacular, or funny, or touching,” he says. “And the staff here is just amazing. There are only 14 of us who work full-time, year-round. Then we amp up to 700 employees during the summer season, and the place explodes.”

Reagan was one of five children growing up in south St. Louis. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Missouri–St. Louis in 1974.

“Frankly, my decision to attend UMSL was largely a financial one,” he says. “I couldn’t afford room and board at an out-of-town school, so UMSL was the best choice for me. That’s why UMSL means so much, because it allowed me to get a quality education at an affordable price.”

Reagan began his career at The Muny as a trash picker, moved on to gofer, stagehand and a number of other jobs. Then, he became director of operations and ultimately president. So he came into his current role well-versed in all aspects of The Muny and says he had a few specific goals in mind.

First, it was critical to update and renovate the historic theater. His second objective was to return the theater to producing its



Denny Reagan, BSBA 1974, is president and chief executive officer of The Muny. The outdoor theater in St. Louis’ Forest Park has raised \$8 million toward a \$20 million endowment goal. (Photo by August Jennewein)

own musicals, and the third was to build an endowment for The Muny. All three of his initial goals have been met.

“We’ve invested \$22 million into the facilities since I’ve been here,” he says. “The concession area and bathrooms were renovated, new seats were installed, a two-story rehearsal space was constructed, public areas were redesigned, landscaping was updated and a lot more.”

The Muny used to bring in touring companies to perform shows mounted elsewhere. Now, it purchases only the script and score. The theater assembles all other elements of the musicals, exclusively for audiences at The Muny. Directors, choreographers and designers are all hired by The Muny, as is every singer, dancer, actor and musician. Every piece of scenery is built and painted by in-house craftsmen.

“Producing our own shows allows us to customize the productions,” Reagan says. “This makes it better suited to our theater, our massive stage, and for the unique enjoyment of The Muny audience.”

The theater wrapped up its 93rd season this summer, and Reagan says he’s looking forward to celebrating The Muny’s 100th summer in St. Louis.

“Plans are underway for the centennial season,” he says. “We’re going to pull out all the stops, and everyone at The Muny is already excited about it! We can’t wait to treat the crowds to the ultimate Muny summer, and frankly, neither can I. It will be one big ‘thank you’ to St. Louis for so many years of support.”

K-5 teacher **EMILY JEAN SMITH** skates to win in St. Louis roller derby league



Emily Jean Smith, BS education 2005, is a member of the Arch Rival Roller Girls, a St. Louis-area roller derby league. The league holds bouts at Midwest Sport Hockey in Queeny Park at 570 Weidman Road in Ballwin, Mo. (Photo by Bob Dunnell, bob@dunnell.net)

By Tom Hockett

Emily Jean Smith is the nicest person you'll ever meet who can knock you down and make you cry for your mommy. She's a classic split-personality athlete. Away from the field of play – warm, charming, sweet. But on it – combative, tenacious, nasty.

Smith, 30, of Glen Carbon, Ill., is one of more than 50 skaters who make up the Arch Rival Rollers Girls, the St. Louis area's all-female, flat-track roller derby league. ARRG has four local teams – the M-80s, Rebel Skate Alliance, Smashinistas and Stunt Devils – and two travel teams – the ARRG All-Stars and Saint Lunachix. The ARRG All-Stars are the best skaters in the league, and Smith is co-captain of the team.

"I try to be a leader on the track and set an example for my team," she says. "I bring it as hard as I can, but I also try to control my game."

Controlled aggression is a big part of what makes roller derby exciting to watch. For the uninitiated, the sport may appear confusing, but basic game play is straightforward.

Each team puts five skaters on the track: one "jammer," who can score points for the team, and four "blockers." The eight blockers make up the "pack." The first jammer to break from the pack is designated

"lead jammer" and is now in the position to score points by re-passing members of the opposing team through the duration of the jam, which lasts up to two minutes.

Smith says jamming is her favorite part of the sport.

"It's the rush you get when you break the pack," she says. "You just got past four people who are trying to knock you down and keep you from getting where you need to be."

Smith, who wears No. 7 for the Smashinistas and the all-star team, has skated in the league since 2005. At first glance, she doesn't have the appearance of a rough-and-tumble roller derby skater. She's only 5 feet 4 inches tall and has a welcoming, bright smile. But a closer look reveals the carved-wood shoulders of a gymnast and the powerful legs of a speed skater.

A reputation accompanies her physical tools. She was nominated for two league-wide awards this year – "Fearless Leader" and "Meanest Roller Girl."

"There are two things I bring to the track – my aggression and my ability to push through," she says. "I'm not a super, crazy agile jammer. But I can power through a whole lot, and it's really tough to knock me down."

The physical competition of roller derby is augmented by the sport's distinct counterculture. Every bout gives fans a healthy dose of tattoos, fishnet stockings, vibrant colors and music with attitude. (Smith's pre-game playlist includes the thrash metal of Slayer and rhymes of Easy-E and Jay-Z.)

The skater's names add to the fun. Each athlete has a creative, often humorous moniker. Among them are Eli Wallop, May Require Stitches, Shimmy Hoffa and The Sound of Violence. Smith says her derby name, The Educator, means a lot to her.

She earned a bachelor's degree in education at the University of Missouri–St. Louis in 2005 and was a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key International Honour Society.

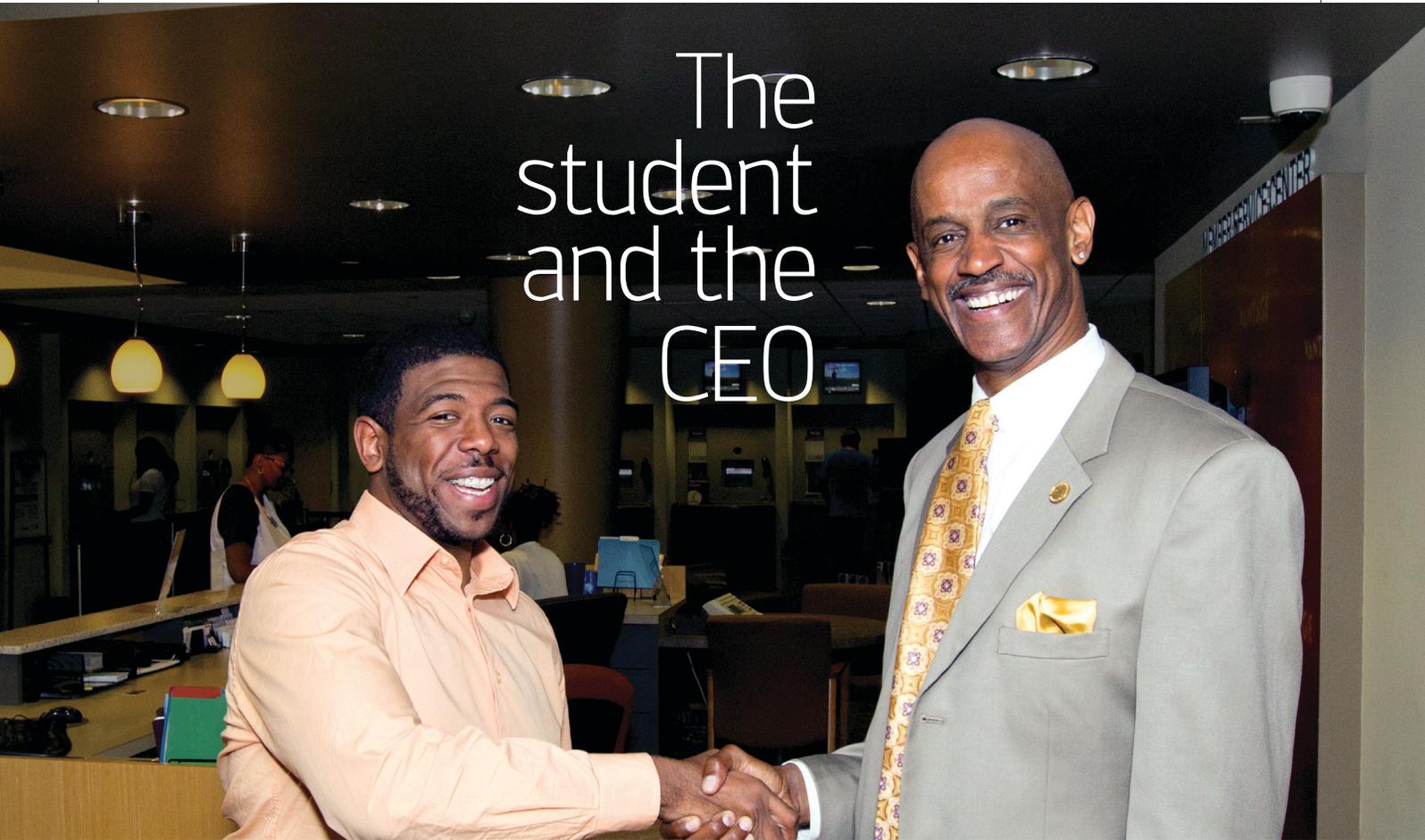
"Becoming a reflective practitioner was the biggest thing I took away from my education at UMSL," Smith says. "You have to know what's working, what's not and how to adjust as you go."

She began working for the Special School District of St. Louis County before she graduated from UMSL. She teaches reading, writing, math and social skills to students who receive special education services at Mason Ridge Elementary School and Carman Trails Elementary School.

"I'm one of those cliché teachers who always knew they wanted to be one," Smith says. "There's just no other job for me. The work that I'm able to do is beyond rewarding."

Visit ssdmo.org for more information on the Special School District of St. Louis County and archivalrollergirls.com for more information on the Arch Rival Roller Girls. ☰

The student and the CEO



UMSL senior benefits from Vantage CEO's mentoring

By Rose Postma

Sometimes good things don't have to come to an end. Many University of Missouri–St. Louis alumni stay connected with their alma mater long after graduation by mentoring current UMSL students.

Last year, Jordan Franks, a senior economics major at UMSL, interned at Vantage Credit Union in St. Louis where he was assigned a strategic schedule, one that exposed him to all facets of the credit union industry and provided real-world experience. But that's not all.

He also had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with Vantage CEO Hubert Hoosman, BS administration of justice 1979. Hoosman is a longtime proponent of mentoring.

"Mentoring enhances the undergraduate experience," he says. "It adds value to the degree. It adds perspective."

Value indeed. Franks shadowed Hoosman and attended board meetings. The CEO even took Franks out to lunch on several occasions.

"I wanted to make sure his work at Vantage was meaningful and was benefitting him," Hoosman says. "I was happy to find

that Jordan was an engaged individual open to new concepts and adaptable."

Franks says he cannot speak highly enough of the experience.

"I am a living testament to the functionality of mentoring," he says. "It means even more to me that someone like Hubert Hoosman takes pride in reaching back to where he received his higher education to foster young minds. Both he and the Vantage organization have played quite a role in my development."

The benefits didn't end with the internship. As a result of his experience at Vantage, Franks received the Pete Crear Scholarship from the African-American Credit Union Coalition and now works part time as a teller for Vantage while he finishes earning a bachelor's degree in economics.

Hoosman says he's excited about the potential of other alumni taking time to mentor a new generation of students.

"There are a lot of UMSL alumni around," Hoosman says. "I hope mentoring programs at UMSL continue to grow and other alumni jump in and help." ≡

UMSL senior Jordan Franks (left) greets his mentor and boss, Hubert Hoosman, at Vantage Credit Union in St. Louis. (Photo by August Jennewein)

Ready to jump in?

Here are several ways you can get involved.

Access to Success

The Sister Scholars program provides mentoring opportunities for female, black students.

Angela Coker
314-516-6088
cokera@umsl.edu

Career Spotlights

This program from the Office of Multicultural Relations helps students understand the range of careers that stem from their majors. The program also gives freshmen and sophomores opportunities for internships.

Bridgette Jenkins
314-516-6567
bjenkins@umsl.edu

IS Mentoring Program

This program helps information systems students by exposing them to the IS industry and expands their opportunities for career development and professional networking.

Joseph Rottman
314-516-6286
ismentor@umsl.edu
umsl.edu/divisions/business/
mis/mentor/member

Next Step

Alumni Mentoring

This program from the Office of Multicultural Relations provides mentoring opportunities with alumni for sophomore and junior students.

Bridgette Jenkins
314-516-6567
bjenkins@umsl.edu

Women's University Mentoring Project

This project empowers female students to realize their talents and potential. Mentors include professionals from St. Louis companies and organizations and UMSL faculty and staff.

Malaika Horne
314-516-4749
hornem@umsl.edu

UMSL Alumni Association Connection

alumni@umsl.edu
314-516-5785

Stay in the loop

SEND 



Submit your information online at umsl.alumni.org or send us an e-mail at alumni@umsl.edu. You'll receive important news and information, invitations to special events and opportunities to connect with students and other alumni.



Class notes

1969

Michael G. Brown, BA political science, is the chief administrative officer of Kirkwood, Mo., and was awarded the Adams Place Retirement Community & Delmar Gardens Family Citizen of the Year Award by the Kirkwood-Des Peres Chamber of Commerce. He also received the Gateway Lifetime Public Service Award from East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

1971

Thomas A. Villa, MEd, was elected to the St. Louis Board of Aldermen in April.

1973

Patrick H. Gadell, BA political science, was appointed by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon to the Education Commission of the States, a nonprofit, nationwide interstate compact whose primary purpose is to help governors, state legislators, state education officials and others develop policies to improve the quality of education at all levels.



1976

Cheryle Dyle-Palmer, MA sociology and BA sociology 1974, is the chief operating officer, interim president and CEO of Parents as Teachers in St. Louis and was one of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2011 Diverse Business Leaders.

1977

Claire Schenk, BA psychology, is a business litigation partner in the St. Louis office of Thompson Coburn LLP. She recently wrote an article in Contract Management magazine.

1979

Hannah Cotton, BS education, retired from Boeing after 36 years. She's pursuing a career in real estate.

Hubert Hoosman, BS administration justice, attended the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Dedication Ceremony and Dream Gala in Washington in August. He is president and chief executive officer of Vantage Credit Union in St. Louis and helped raise more than \$1 million for the memorial.

1980

Clare Ortmeier, MEd, is principal of St. Theodore Catholic School in Wentzville, Mo.

1981

Mark Elhoffer, BSBA, works at Brown and Crouppen Law Firm in St. Louis. He handles worker's compensation and third-party claims.

1983

Ronald Havens, BSBA, is a senior meetings and events planner at Sony Pictures Entertainment in Culver City, Calif.

1985

Peggy Eggers, BM, was crowned Ms. Missouri Senior America 2011. She lives in Florissant, Mo., and is the founder and president of Midwest Lyric Opera Company.

John Vuch, BSBA, is the farm director for the St. Louis Cardinals and was the subject of a recent Springfield (Mo.) News-Leader feature.



1986

Terrence Bouvier Robinson, BA psychology and BS sociology, is a member of the law firm Cozen O'Conner in Houston. He is certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization as a labor and employment specialist.

1987

Teri A. Murray, MEd, is dean of the College of Nursing at Saint Louis University and received the 2011 St. Louis American Foundation's Stellar Performer Award at its annual Salute to Excellence in Health Care recognition event.

1988

Carol Morgan, BSBA, was one of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2011 Most Influential Business Women.

Mathew Shank, PhD psychology and MA psychology 1986, is president of Marymount University in Arlington, Va.

1990

Helen Antoine, BSBA, is chief operating officer at J.W. Terrill, a private insurance brokerage company in Chesterfield, Mo., and was one of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2011 Most Influential Business Women.

1992

John Haller, PhD psychology, MA psychology 1985 and BA sociology 1977, is a health scientist administrator at the National Institutes of Health and is one of four federal agency representatives for the National Robotics Initiative, a funding opportunity initiated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

1993

Lauri Strimkovsky, MBA, is senior vice president for financial affairs and chief of staff at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia.

1994

Steve Brotherton, MEd, is superintendent of the Affton School District in St. Louis County.

Dennis Kraichely, BA chemistry, was selected as one of Pharmaceutical Executive magazine's "Emerging Pharma Leaders" and was one of six chosen to appear on the magazine's June 2011 cover. For the past 10 years, he has worked at Johnson & Johnson in the Philadelphia area.

Gary Silverman, BSBA, is a financial representative for Country Financial in Ellisville, Mo. He lives in Chesterfield, Mo.

1995

Tamela Franks, BSBA, is director of operations at Family Support Network, which works to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing home-based, cost-free counseling and therapy to at-risk families in the St. Louis area. She is also an adjunct professor at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

1997

Brian Gentz, BS education, is the principal of Kellison Elementary School in Fenton, Mo.

Dorothea Nevils, MEd and BA English 1988, is the interim assistant principal at University City (Mo.) High School.

Rudolph Nickens, BA psychology, is director of equal opportunity and diversity at the Missouri Department of Transportation and was one of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2011 Diverse Business Leaders.



Mathew Taylor, PhD psychology, is assistant professor of psychology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. He recently completed research comparing the relationship between youth sports participation and delinquency in African American females.



Lynn White, MEd and BS education 1989, is principal of Eureka (Mo.) Elementary School in the Rockwood School District.

Victoria Zerjav, MA psychology, is a partner at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP in Stamford, Conn. She advises clients on deferred compensation, supplemental executive retirement plans, incentive plans and equity-based compensation and employment and severance agreements.

1998

Douglas Harrison, BA English, is associate professor of English at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers. His research was recognized with a 2010 FGCU Faculty Scholarship Excellence Award, and he is FGCU Faculty Senate President. His book "Then Sings My Soul: The Culture of Southern Gospel Music" is forthcoming from University of Illinois Press.



Dr. Steven Tilley, OD, is serving his fourth and final term in the Missouri House of Representatives, and he's running for Missouri lieutenant governor.

1999

Malissa Parker, MEd, is assistant principal of Babler Elementary School in Wildwood, Mo.

Kenneth Winfrey, BA psychology, is a licensed master social worker and psychotherapist in addiction, attachment and populations with disabilities. He is also a freelance lifestyle and mental health writer.



2000

David Warner, BGS, is vice president in the commercial lending division at Reliance Bank in St. Louis. He specializes in providing lending solutions for health-care professionals. He and

Amanda, his wife, MSN 2009, welcomed their first child in 2009.

2001

Maggie Reim, BS accounting, is assistant director of human resources at Scottrade in St. Louis.

2003

Samuel Anselm, MPPA, is the assistant city manager of Joplin, Mo.

Peter Pranschke, BFA, exhibited his art at the Sheldon Art Gallery in St. Louis earlier this year. He also received the Riverfront Times' 2011 Mastermind Award.

Tim Weis, BS accounting, is vice president for business and finance at Quincy (Ill.) University.

2004

Jeffrey Griesemer, BS biology, is medical director of the Missouri Delta Medical Center's Charleston Community Center in Charleston, Mo.

2005

Regina Iman, MSN and BSN 2002, is an advanced nurse practitioner at the physician group Esse Health in Bridgeton, Mo.

2007

Patt Adjartey, BS criminology and criminal justice, received a master of divinity degree in May from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis.

Stephanie R. Schapp, BS criminology and criminal justice, is a state trooper for the Missouri Highway Patrol in Sedalia, Mo.

Lindsey J. Swanson, BSN, is nurse manager of a neurology-orthopedic unit of SSM DePaul Health Center in Bridgeton, Mo.

Michelle Windon, BS criminology and criminal justice, is beginning her fourth year in the juvenile justice field.

2008

Brian Rich, MEd, is assistant principal at Ritenour Middle School in Overland, Mo.

2009

Rachel Ascher, BSN, is the medical director of Living Way Health Clinic, a medical clinic located outside of Visakapatnam, India. The clinic provides basic medical care to 300 students.

2010

Mike Carmi Jr., BS education, is the new head men's baseball coach at Sullivan (Mo.) High School. He teaches physical education at Sullivan Elementary School and lives in St. Peters, Mo.

Danielle Lee, PhD biology, writes the Urban Science Adventures!© blog, which was a finalist for the 2011 Black Weblog Award in the science and nature category. She was chosen as one of Scientific American's premier science bloggers and in June received the Young Professional of the Year award by the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Young Professionals. She works for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources with the State Parks Urban Population Outreach Program.

Brittany McDonald, BS media studies, is an intake specialist and case manager for Pathways out of Poverty at Better Family Life Inc. The project is part of the Missouri Workforce Development Initiative.

Cathryn Richter, MEd, is participating in the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs Class of 2011-2012. The program prepares diverse, talented and committed individuals for effective and ethical leadership in the public affairs arena.

Megan K. Walker, BS accounting, is a tax team member at Crosslin & Associates in Nashville, Tenn. She is a member of the Missouri Society of Certified Public Accountants.

2011

Melissa Alper, BS public policy administration, is participating in the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs Class of 2011-2012. The program prepares diverse, talented and committed individuals for effective and ethical leadership in public affairs.

Lacey Greninger Van Luven, MA criminology and criminal justice and BS criminology and criminal justice 2009, is a domestic violence investigator with the Circuit Attorney's Office in St. Louis and received the Rookie of the Year Award in March.



Linda Hall, BA English, was one of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2011 Most Influential Business Women.

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