

# UMSL

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2017



## Love birds

Meet five couples who met on campus

Explore one psychologist's science behind love





## SHUTTER STOP

Senior Nick Domescik, who was elected the 2017 homecoming king two nights later, leads University of Missouri–St. Louis students in cheering on the Tritons during “Pack the Stands” night Feb. 16 at UMSL. The homecoming tradition gathered a sea of joyful and spirited student faces. Catch a flashback to a group of UMSL students from the university’s earliest days as they celebrate a joyous occasion of their own – the graduation of the first class of 1967. See page 29.



ON THE COVER

Two love birds represent the couples who met at UMSL, while also highlighting psychology Professor Sandra Langeslag's research on love. The love bird to the right wears an electroencephalogram cap, like the one used in Langeslag's lab, to measure brain activity as subjects consider their partners and relationships.

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## Mun Choi takes charge of University of Missouri System

### **Collaborative, respectful, resilient.**

Those are the words new University of Missouri System President Mun Choi used to describe his leadership style.

The description came in one of his “First Five Fridays” video messages to the community after assuming his tenure March 1. The series, shared on social media during his first weeks in office, offered insight into Choi and his thoughts on the direction of the university system.

Choi, 52, was chosen in November as the 24th president of UM System following a nearly yearlong national search. He succeeds UM System Interim President Michael Middleton.

In his role, Choi serves as the chief executive responsible for the long-term strategic direction and day-to-day management of the collective university system, which includes

the University of Missouri–St. Louis and its sister universities in Columbia, Kansas City and Rolla, as well as a statewide health-care system, multiple research parks and incubators, agricultural research stations, and a vast network of Extension centers, Telehealth Network sites and MoreNet sites.

Choi first visited UMSL in November as he made his way around the state to each of the system campuses.

“Dr. Choi really hit the ground running, meeting with elected officials and university students and employees throughout the state,” UMSL Chancellor Tom George said. “In November, he shared his deep commitment to the UMSL mission of educating students, fostering innovative research and engaging the local community with respect, diversity and inclusion always in mind.”

Choi has visited UMSL several times since to learn more about operations and help the university in its effort to move forward with a focus on access and outcomes.

“I certainly look forward to working with Dr. Choi to showcase all that we do at UMSL,” George said. “Together, I am confident that we will advance the important work of our university and continue to positively impact the people of the St. Louis region and beyond.”

Born in South Korea, Choi is the first Asian American to serve as system president. He came to the U.S. as a child, and as a young man, he worked in his family’s successful Chicago business, then graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor’s degree in general engineering in 1987. Choi later earned master’s and doctoral degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University.

Prior to his appointment as UM System president, Choi was provost and executive vice president of the University of Connecticut, where he had previously served as dean of engineering from 2008 to 2012. From 2000 to 2008, Choi was department head of mechanical engineering and mechanics at Drexel University after having been an assistant and associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



## New social work dean brings experience, passion to the job



Growing up in Marianna, Arkansas, deeply influenced **Sharon Johnson's** choice to make social work her life's work.

A sleepy Mississippi River Delta town of about 4,200 people today and about an hour southwest of Memphis, Tennessee, Marianna is mostly African American and low-income.

It's not a place ripe with economic and social opportunities.

"I thought about engineering," Johnson said of her early educational and career options. "But deep down I really wanted to help people. I saw what I thought were some injustices [growing up]."

After graduating from high school, she left Marianna for the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where she earned her bachelor's degree in social work in 1989.

Fresh out of college, Johnson took her first social work job in Massachusetts, helping adults with development delays. She ended up settling later in St. Louis, where she served several agencies – including the state Public Defender's Office – while pursuing master's and doctoral degrees in social work at Washington University in St. Louis.

Johnson joined the University of Missouri–St. Louis social work faculty in 1999 and steadily moved toward tenure and a full professorship. In August 2016, Johnson was named dean of the UMSL School of Social Work. She succeeded the school's founding dean, Lois Pierce, who decided to return to her faculty position.

The school enrolls about 500 students, who learn from top-notch research faculty and gain experience at agencies and organizations throughout the region while attending UMSL. Johnson said the practical nature of the program is a unique niche and something she intends to keep growing as dean.

"Our students are committed to this region, and they are impacting lives in positive ways," she said. "They are raising their families here, contributing to the local economy and advocating for the rights of all individuals on many levels. This is important for the continued growth and sustainability of the region."

## Kristin Sobolik begins as new UMSL provost

There were numerous top-notch candidates to consider when the University of Missouri–St. Louis began a national search for a new provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, but in the end Kristen Sobolik emerged as the obvious choice.

"Kristin Sobolik just stood out as the person to lead our academic and research programs," UMSL Chancellor Tom George said in explaining the appointment. "She has great experience across a wide range of activities that are essential to being a successful provost, including strategic planning, reaccreditation, budgeting, student success, capital projects, fundraising and faculty development. I was particularly struck by her successes in diversity and inclusion – areas in which UMSL currently thrives but can continue to grow with Dr. Sobolik's leadership."

Sobolik, formerly dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, joined UMSL May 1.



Photo courtesy of Wright State University

"The University of Missouri–St. Louis has some of the nation's leading scholars who are truly committed to education, research and serving a diverse, vibrant community," Sobolik said. "I am excited by the opportunity to engage with faculty, staff and students to help harness and focus campus resources to ensure our continued growth trajectory and excellence in these vitally important areas."

At UMSL, Sobolik guides academic affairs, student affairs and research administration of the largest public research university in the state's most populous and economically important region. More than half of the university's employees and budget reports through the provost's office.

Sobolik received her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Iowa and master's and doctoral degrees in anthropology from Texas A&M University. She replaces Glen Cope, who retired as provost in June 2016. On May 1, Chris Spilling returned to his role as dean of the Graduate School and vice provost for research after having served as interim provost.

*The Italian  
American philosopher  
at UMSL*

Gualtiero Piccinini says he was “a thoughtful kid.” His parents advised him to think for himself, and he “took that seriously.” He’s been a philosophy professor at UMSL since 2005 and works primarily in philosophy of mind with an eye toward psychology, neuroscience and computer science.

**Gualtiero Piccinini**

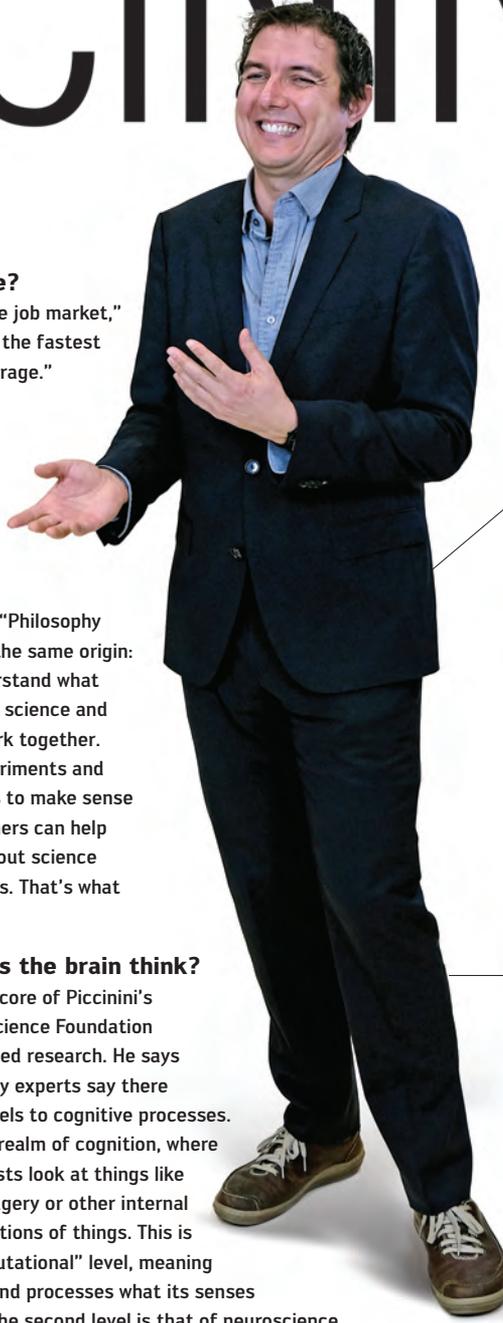
Professor  
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BA philosophy  
and cognitive  
science, University  
in Turin, Italy

PhD history  
and philosophy  
of science,  
University  
of Pittsburgh



# PICCININI



## Almost an engineer.

Piccinini's father was a research engineer, so Piccinini thought he would follow in his father's footsteps. "I was going to do environmental engineering and solve the world's environmental problems."

## Why get a philosophy degree?

"Philosophy majors do very well in the job market," Piccinini says, "and they have one of the fastest growing incomes of any major on average."

**Scholarly life.** Piccinini published one book, 44 articles and 12 review and encyclopedia articles. His book, published out of Oxford University Press, is titled "Physical Computation: A Mechanistic Account."

## Philosopher

**and scientist.** "Philosophy and science have the same origin: the quest to understand what we experience. So, science and philosophy can work together. Scientists do experiments and construct theories to make sense of them. Philosophers can help to think clearly about science and its implications. That's what I try to do."

## "Foucault's Pendulum."

The summer after high school, Piccinini picked up "Foucault's Pendulum," a rather dense, cerebral book full of philosophy and history references. "It was very hard for me to follow. I thought, 'Wow, there's all this stuff I don't know. Wouldn't it be cool to understand all this?'" Later that fall, he changed his major from engineering to philosophy.

## How does the brain think?

This is the core of Piccinini's National Science Foundation grant-funded research. He says traditionally experts say there are two levels to cognitive processes. One is the realm of cognition, where psychologists look at things like mental imagery or other internal representations of things. This is the "computational" level, meaning how the mind processes what its senses perceive. The second level is that of neuroscience and the study of the brain's physical and neural mechanisms.

## The myth of mind uploading.

Piccinini says there is no evidence that the mind can be uploaded on a computer. "Even if the mind were a computer file or simulated on a computer, the simulation would just be a replica, and there is no immortality in that."

**Piccinini's theory.** He does not think cognitive processes are distinct and autonomous from neural processes. "Once you've figured out how neural mechanisms perform the relevant computations, you've already explained cognition. You don't need an additional 'cognitive' or 'computational' level of explanation." In other words, Piccinini's research aims to prove that neural activity already computes a person's psychological reaction.



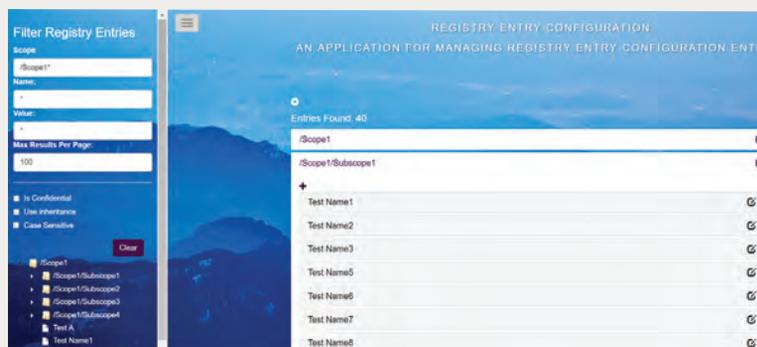
# <h1>LEARNING IN THE REAL WORLD</h1>

<p><b>Partnership with Express Scripts has computer science students developing projects the company can license and use</b></p>

By Steve Walentik

Above: (Seated from left) Students Gary Yerby, Yifei Xu and Richard Chaidez talk to Express Scripts' Mike Shoemaker about the web application they created in a collaborative project between UMSL and the company.

Left: A screenshot of the winning project developed by the computer science students shows the CRUD application – create, read, update and delete – based off the React JavaScript framework. It's equipped with a copy functionality that impressed Express Scripts' Mike Shoemaker.



*It has a way of bringing the best out of students, who usually don't know they'll be working on a project for Express Scripts until after they've enrolled in the course.*

**GARY YERBY** and his teammates had more riding on their work than a letter grade last fall, and it showed during their Enterprise Web Development course.

The computer science students at the University of Missouri–St. Louis came together to build a responsive web application, complete with advanced features such as drag-and-drop capability – to aid users accessing a database. More important than pleasing their instructor, Associate Professor Wenjie He, was satisfying their client, Mike Shoemaker, the director of application architecture and engineering at Express Scripts.

The project was just the latest produced by UMSL students for the Fortune 100 company, headquartered on the northern edge of campus, as part of a program that started a decade ago.

“I think I learned more in this class than most of my other classes,” Yerby says. “I can’t really say what the magic gain was, but I think there’s this portion – it’s a real-world problem so it kind of intrigues you. It kind of pulls you in.”

So too does the competition created with other teams of students in the course attempting to meet the same objective.

They’re also keenly aware of the opportunity they have to show off their creativity for a company that could one day become their employer.

Students might even find extra motivation to do well once they learn of the financial prizes given to all teams whose projects meet the base requirements. There’s even greater reward – not enough to cover tuition, Yerby says, but not nothing – for the winning team.

The agreement between the Department of Math and Computer Science and Express Scripts is one example of collaboration that developed around the time the pharmacy benefit management company was moving into its new space along Interstate 70.

Cezary Janikow, chair of the Department of Math and Computer Science, met with his counterparts at Express Scripts and came up with the idea for computer science students to develop class projects that the company could license and use.

“They pay us royalties on those projects, and the royalty money we turn into scholarship endowments and into some other student support in the department,” Janikow says.

The department has used the Enterprise Web Development course and a Software Engineering course – both open to undergraduate and graduate students alike – as the workshop for developing the projects.

“For other classes, the pressure’s not that high,” says He, who has overseen an Express Scripts project while teaching the Enterprise Web Development course seven times, the first in 2008. “It’s just routine work – although they’re taking tests, but they’re used to it. For this one, we have so many deadlines in a short period of time, they need to do presentations to reach the milestones, so there’s a lot of pressure.”

It has a way of bringing the best out of students, who usually don’t know they’ll be working on a project for Express Scripts until after they’ve enrolled in the course.

Yerby and his teammates – Yifei Xu, Richard Chaidez, Chaitanya Krishna Pilla and Snehasri Thumma – weren’t focused on winning the top prize when they started the project. They just wanted to meet all the requirements set for constructing a CRUD application – create, read, update and delete – based off the React JavaScript framework. They took extra care to ensure it ran without bugs.

But once they were certain they’d achieved those objectives, they built on the advanced features that set them apart from their competition.

“The copy functionality is fantastic, something I hadn’t even thought of,” Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker, who earned an MBA from UMSL in 2011 through an Express Scripts-focused section of the university’s Professional MBA program, has grown accustomed to quality work from UMSL students. And he says getting the chance to evaluate students who could one day work for the company is a big reason Express Scripts has funded the collaboration.

But the experience has proved valuable even if they land elsewhere after graduation.

“For the students, especially those students who did well in this class,” He says, “they’ve told me it’s probably the biggest bright spot on their résumé.”



# Two Hearts

WHERE  
CROSS  
PATHS



*Five couples who found lasting love at UMSL share their stories of meeting on campus*

By Marisol Ramirez

Remember the butterflies? The first glances and shy giggles? For some University of Missouri–St. Louis students, there’s more to be found on campus than the exploration of academic thought. Sometimes there’s a little bit of love in the air at the library or down the hall. And in some cases, there’s a whole life with a special someone just waiting to be started. Meet five of the many couples lucky enough to have found lasting love at UMSL.

## TOM & BECKY MINOGUE

Married in 1977 | Live in Frontenac, Missouri | Children: Beth, Kristen and Rachel  
Tom, BA economics 1976 | Becky, BA economics 1977

**She sat eight rows in front.** It was an intro to biology class. Later they caught each other’s eyes at a tennis match, where Tom played for the university. “I thought he was very cute,” Becky says.

**The art of pursuit.** Tom cooked up a plan to ask to borrow Becky’s biology notes, purposefully missing class so he would need them. “I didn’t want to be entirely duplicitous,” Tom jokes. Becky says years later he admitted “the notes were just OK.”

**The tree outside the library.** Tom asked Becky on their first date outside Thomas Jefferson Library. A cherry tree marks the spot today. On May 4, 1974, they went to see “Serpico” and eat Italian. They celebrate the day every year in addition to their wedding anniversary.

**Tom, who went on to graduate from Harvard Law School, is chairman at Thompson Coburn in St. Louis. Becky raised their three girls full time.**

**307B Oak Hall.** After Candace's roommate invited over a group of friends, including Dorian, to their suite in Oak Hall, Candace said, "I'm going to marry him one day."

**Taking a hint.** After Bible study, Candace suggested they grab a bite to eat. Not realizing her intentions, Dorian invited the whole group. Luckily, their

friends knew how to take a hint. Dorian and Candace grabbed takeout from a local eatery and talked until 3 a.m.

**Married on campus.** Senior year they planned their wedding and were married in the Provincial House Chapel on South Campus. More than 200 family members and friends attended. Their friends call them "Mr. and Mrs. UMSL."

**Dorian is the assistant director of event services for UMSL's Millennium Student Center. Candace is department administrator for the Department of Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis.**

## DORIAN & CANDACE HALL

Married in 2010 | Live in Belleville, Illinois | Children: Edwyn, Bailey and Avery  
Dorian, BSBA 2010, MBA 2013 | Candace, BA English 2010



## STEPHEN & JANE REISE

Married in 1972 | Live in Normandy, Missouri  
Children: Paul and Karen | Stephen, BA political science 1970  
Jane, BA sociology 1969

### White jeans in a muddy cave.

Jane and Stephen met in the spelunking club on a caving trip to Mammoth Cave in Illinois. Jane was impressed because “he wore white jeans in a muddy cave, but never got dirty.”

**Meeting for lunch.** They didn’t have the same classes, so they spent their lunches together. “He would get the canned grapes out of the vending machines in the basement of the administration building,” she remembers.

**Earth Day.** They helped organize the school’s Earth Day festival. Jane still wears her pin from the occasion. The Reises continue to be conservationists and are involved in the Historic Preservation Commission and the Wayside Community Garden in Normandy.

**Stephen retired as a systems analyst from the U.S. Department of Defense. Jane was a school librarian before retiring as a first-grade teacher in the Normandy School District.**



## STEVE & LILY GRELLE

Married in 2007 | Live in Wildwood, Missouri  
Children: Xavier and Luke | Steve BSBA 2007, MBA 2010  
Lily BS accounting 2008

**She stole his table.** Lily passed Steve on the way into the library. Their eyes locked, and they felt an “instant connection.” When Steve went inside, he found Lily had stolen his favorite table, so he sat nearby. Studying for her tax exam, Lily decided to break the ice and ask Steve for some help. After chatting, Steve asked Lily out. “I recommend that everyone go to the library,” Lily jokes.

**Truly best friends.** Both are sarcastic and silly. “We just hang out and have fun,” Steve says. “We give each other a hard time and tease a lot.”



**The best of both worlds.** Lily moved to the states from Vietnam when she was 5. Steve was born and raised in Missouri. “The difference in culture keeps it interesting,” Lily says.

**Steve is vice president for small business loans and commercial lending at Midwest Regional Bank. Lily is an accountant for Centene in St. Louis.**



## HAL & PAMELA CARLISLE

Married in 2008 | Live in Tampa, Florida | Children: Alicia and Logan  
Hal, BA Spanish 2009 | Pamela, BSBA 2009, MBA 2011



**The original plan.** From Lima, Peru, Pamela thought she would earn her degree in the U.S. and return home to pursue a career – until she met Hal. “I never planned to fall in love with an American,” she says. “We get to share our different cultures and our culinary traditions.”

**He was a flirt.** Pamela went to UMSL’s language lab in search of her friend. She found Hal, who worked there as a Spanish tutor. “He approached me,” Pamela says. “We were friends first, but Hal was a flirt.”

**Making life an adventure.** Hal loves Pamela’s spontaneity. “One moment she is laid back and the next she has us zip lining, snorkeling or clubbing in an exotic country,” he says. Pamela’s favorite thing about Hal? “He’s the best friend I could ever ask for,” she says.

**Hal is a technical lead at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Pamela is a SAP IT administrator at Bristol-Myers Squibb.**



Psychology Professor Sandra Langeslag (at right) and a student researcher inject gel into the electroencephalogram (EEG) cap of the volunteer participant. The gel conducts electricity well, allowing the electrodes of the cap to pick up the electrical signals the brain produces during testing.

**When University of Missouri–St. Louis psychology faculty member Sandra Langeslag** tells people that she researches love, the reactions she gets are mixed. Students immediately lean in. Fellow professors, researchers and even small-talking strangers are intrigued. **Journal editors are contradictory. Funding providers can be skeptical.**

"I get totally polarized responses," says Langeslag, who earned her PhD in biological and cognitive psychology from Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. "People either love it or they hate it and think I'm crazy."

Why such strong reactions?

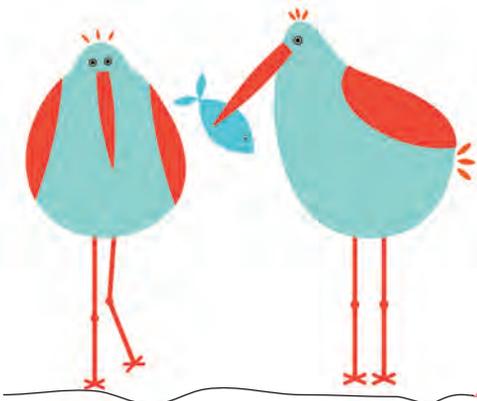


THE  
SCIENCE  
BEHIND

# LOVE

UMSL's Sandra Langeslag investigates

By Jami Hirsch



**Everybody has something to say – and plenty of preconceived notions – about the nearly universal experience of love.**

And now everyone has something to say about the professor of psychology's research.

A study she published last fall in conjunction with Erasmus' Jan Van Strien has caught the eye of several news and media publications including The Wall Street Journal, The Huffington Post Canada, Cosmopolitan UK and many more.

Put very briefly, the study investigates the concept of love regulation by looking at how cognition affects love. In other words, it asks: Can a person change how in love they are by adjusting their thoughts? Can thinking positive thoughts about one's beloved (he's so smart, kind and good) make positive feelings of love increase? And likewise: Can thinking negative thoughts (he's always messy, we have no future together) make love feelings decrease?

The data Langeslag has collected, a combination of measurable participant responses and brainwave analysis, points to an affirmative answer to all of these questions.

**Yes. Love – a feeling many people say they simply can't control – might just be controllable after all.**

Why is this so exciting?

There are several instances in life when being able to change one's feelings of love might be useful and even beneficial for emotional health and well-being.

"Imagine if you love someone who doesn't love you back," Langeslag offers as one example. "Or maybe you are happily married and now you develop this crush on someone else, but you don't want to develop this crush because your marriage is good."

The opposite can be true as well.

"There are also situations where people may be less in love than they want to be," she further explains. "We know that in long-term relationships love feelings can decline over time, and that can cause breakups or divorces where people say things like, 'We don't hate each other and no one cheated, but we're just not in love anymore.'"

Langeslag clarifies that while the results are definitely intriguing, they aren't as simple as they may first seem.

"It's not like we have an on or off switch and you think about negative things and now you're not in love at all anymore."

The effects, she says, at least in this initial study, appear to be smaller and more temporary.

But what if they weren't?

Here at UMSL, through her Neurocognition of Emotion and Motivation Lab, Langeslag and her students are busy investigating that question and many more.

They examine how love improves cognition.

"In my previous work," Langeslag explains, "I've shown that people have more attention for any information that has to do with their beloved. For example, if your beloved is a fan of Brad Pitt, now you will notice movie posters with Brad Pitt on them even though you don't care about Brad Pitt. People remember stuff that has to do with their beloved more than with someone else."

And they study the reverse – how love harms cognition.

"Think of people who say, 'I just can't focus on my work or my homework. I'm thinking about this person all of the time. Does that increased cognition about things that have to do with one's beloved come at a cost? Does it make you worse at tasks you should be doing?'"

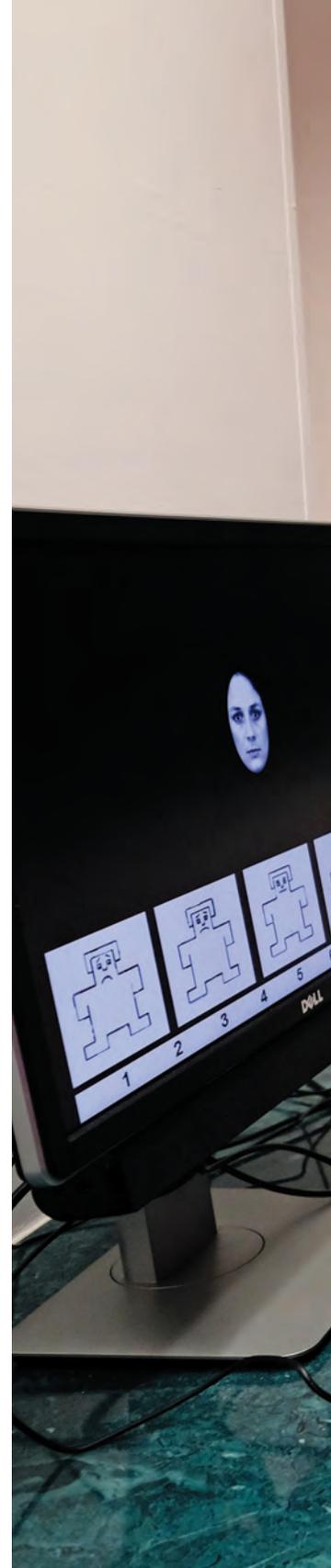
The answers to these inquiries – in other words the potential ability to give people some authority over the personally turbulent aspects of love – are part of what encouraged Langeslag to make it her main research focus in the first place, back when she was an undergraduate student herself.

Indeed, they are also a part of what drew her to her field of biopsychology, a specialty area under the broader banner of psychology in which biology – hormones, chemicals, neurological processes and the like – informs and intersects with the study of human behavior.

It's a discipline that many people don't know exists.

Langeslag says she used to be one of those people. But then she picked up a biopsychology book and things began to click.

"I was like, 'Hold on. Is that a thing?'" she says with a laugh. "I went through this textbook and I realized it was about the brain and hormones and everything,





“He’s so smart,  
kind and good.”

“He’s always messy.”

and how those things influence our daily lives and behavior. I thought, ‘Well that’s it. That’s what I need to do.’”

Langeslag says that now, in the classes she teaches on human learning, memory, emotions and the brain, students are also excited by those same intersections, as well as the moments when research connects to lived experience.

“We discuss the research in class, and the studies often point to, ‘Oh yeah, I do that too,’ or, ‘Oh yeah, I feel that too,’” she says. “So it’s applicable. It’s meaningful in a tangible way. That’s exciting.”

As the volunteer participant studies the face on the screen, she indicates how pleasant or unpleasant and how calm or excited the face makes her feel. While she considers the face, the EEG cap registers her brain activity. Throughout the test, she will see the face of a beloved, a friend and a stranger, providing Langeslag and her research team data on her physical and self-perceived reaction to different faces. In this photo, the face is that of a stranger to the participant.





*“Having someone instantly trust you, because of those red and white scrubs, to help them perform their daily living without even thinking twice about it? That was so humbling.”*

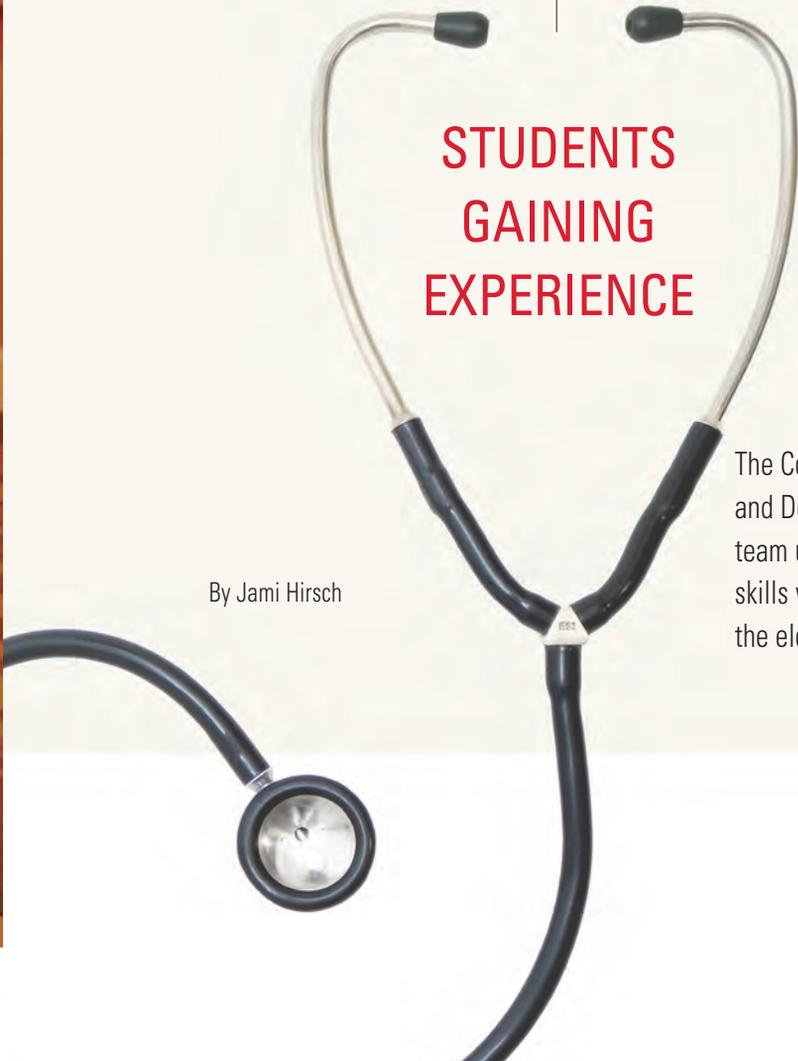
— Cassidy Kinkead,  
a junior nursing major

## ELDERLY NEEDING CARE

STUDENTS  
GAINING  
EXPERIENCE

By Jami Hirsch

The College of Nursing and Delmar Gardens team up to nurture clinical skills while nurturing the elderly





Left: Junior nursing student Cassidy Kinkead assists Delmar Gardens resident Marcy after overseeing the administration of her afternoon medication.



Top right: Sarah Mehrle, a junior nursing student, helps Delmar Gardens resident Joe solve a puzzle while the two spend some quality social time together.



Bottom right: Junior nursing student Michael Oberkramer gets to know Delmar Gardens resident Audrey.

Far right: The butterfly trinket decorates Marcy's bedroom at Delmar Gardens, where the residents get to personalize their space.

**University of Missouri–St. Louis nursing student Cassidy Kinkead didn't just learn the basics of providing care during her clinical rotation at Delmar Gardens. She also got a history lesson.**

Thanks to a favorite patient in the Alzheimer's, Dementia and Memory Care unit of the senior living facility, learning about essential nursing fundamentals went hand in hand with learning about what it was like to be a fighter pilot during World War II.

Part of her Clinical Foundations of Nursing course at UMSL, Kinkead says the opportunity was the best student nursing experience she's had so far – one she won't ever forget.

It was also the kind of opportunity UMSL's College of Nursing and Delmar Gardens had in mind when they joined forces a little over a year ago.

The two institutions teamed up for a shared double purpose. First, provide student nurses with the most thorough, professional training possible. And second,

introduce them to the plethora of opportunity and need that exists for them in the world of senior care.

The hopeful end goal of the partnership is that, upon graduation, the students will be willing and prepared to help meet the needs of an increasingly larger population of elderly citizens.

According to Delmar Gardens Vice President Kathy Gilmore, the relationship is going beautifully.

"We feel the program has been a win-win-win for the residents, staff and students alike," says Gilmore. "Our residents are enjoying the spirit and contagious energy that accompanies the UMSL students. And our staff can't say enough about the quality of those students, coupled with their eagerness to learn and the mutual compassion they have for the seniors we have the privilege of serving."

Gilmore and her staff, along with College of Nursing Dean Susan Dean-Baar, Undergraduate Clinical Coordinator Shawne Manies and other UMSL faculty,

say their aim is to ensure that all students, like Kinkead, continue to have the kind of opportunities that both further nursing education and serve the St. Louis community at large.

Such opportunities are possible at Delmar Gardens because of the wide range of services its many locations offer – from assisted living to rehabilitation services, palliative and hospice care and more.

“It’s really a remarkable experience for our students,” says Manies. “They have the chance to work in these different environments that are both similar and different from hospital settings in many ways. These are state-of-the-art facilities, and the students are getting to do things – administer wound care and IV fluids – that once only happened in hospitals.”

Another benefit for the students is the chance to see and work alongside exemplary nurses in action.

“There was one nurse who treated me as an equal,” says Sarah Mehrle, a traditional BSN student who did a rotation at Delmar Gardens during the third semester of her program. “Whatever she did with a resident, she let me do. I got to help with procedures I’d never had the chance to help with before. She was amazing.”

Aside from the concrete skills they teach, Manies says the Delmar Gardens nurses are also great role models for the students because of the workload they carry.

“A lot of times in a hospital setting, nurses are working with five to seven patients – sometimes fewer depending on patient acuity,” says Manies. “At Delmar Gardens, the resident load is much greater and therefore so is the pace of the work. This pushes our students to learn about proper prioritization of care, and it also teaches them to work as part of a cohesive team.”

“One of the best lessons I learned,” says Mehrle, “is that you have to be ready for anything. You have to be willing to be available for everyone – patients and residents, fellow nurses, CNAs.”

When the partnership first began, only senior synthesis nursing students, those closest to graduation, were assigned to Delmar Gardens to complete their capstone clinical work. While that is still an option, as of fall 2016, beginning nursing students also have the chance – hence the experiences of students like Kinkead and Mehrle, who are both finishing their junior year at UMSL.

The students go in groups for eight-hour shifts once a week during their nursing fundamentals clinic. Their UMSL professor remains on site during their shift and disperses them out to different areas based on resident and staff needs and student interest.

Kinkead volunteered for the Alzheimer’s unit she came to adore. And after a stellar experience with the lead nurse she worked alongside, she says she could definitely see herself working there in the future.

“I loved working with the staff,” says Kinkead. “They were so welcoming, and they work harder than I think many people realize. I honestly can’t think of a better place to learn basic skills than at Delmar Gardens.”

And beyond those basic skills, Kinkead adds, there’s the residents themselves.

“I was so honored to care for them,” she says. “Having someone instantly trust you, because of those red and white scrubs, to help them perform their daily living without even thinking twice about it? That was so humbling.”

Below: Cassidy Kinkead wheels resident Helen down the colorful hallway of Delmar Gardens.



*“We feel the program has been a win-win-win for the residents, staff and students alike. Our residents are enjoying the spirit and contagious energy that accompanies the UMSL students.”*

— Kathy Gilmore,  
vice president of  
Delmar Gardens

## NICK HUSBYE'S literacy clinic gets students teaching sooner

By Jami Hirsch

In the library of Lucas Crossing Elementary Complex this spring, two different types of students are focused on learning – second graders, who are expanding and strengthening their reading and writing skills, and undergraduate education majors from the University of Missouri–St. Louis, who are learning to teach them how.

The effort, a literacy clinic run by Assistant Professor Nicholas Husbye from UMSL's College of Education, is an ever-evolving and unique partnership – one that's reshaping the university's elementary teacher preparation in multiple ways.

For starters, literacy clinics like this one often only happen at the graduate level. Husbye feels that needs to change.

"We can only learn about teaching by teaching," he says. "We can't wait for our preservice teachers to practice during their student teaching experiences. Preparing them sooner is essential."

As part of that goal, Husbye explains, those concrete hours in the Lucas library are only one piece of a much larger puzzle.

"Clinic itself is the Olympics," he says. "It can be easy to point to and say, 'Hey that's interesting,' or 'That looks like fun,' but really there's so much more that goes into it than that."

The "much more" is where the innovation comes in.

Husbye leads his preservice teachers through a back-to-back sequence of rigorous, feedback-driven courses that precede and coincide with their Lucas Crossing hours. Focused on building both literacy assessment and instructional skills, the classes exercise instant application and continual reflection thanks to a hands-on approach.

Kindergarteners from nearby Normandy Kindergarten Center help the UMSL students take their first teaching steps.

By guiding the kids through a series of interactive read-alouds, the undergraduates begin to learn how to recognize, assess and collect data about the specific struggles and roadblocks to literacy acquisition that the children face – skills they'll use again later to identify new students at Lucas Crossing who may benefit from being part of the clinic.

They also start designing lesson plans that speak to these specific issues. What's more – they put those plans to the test through a robust rehearsal schedule that has them performing their lessons for one another, as well as Husbye.

In fact, the entire process for the preservice teachers, from learning in a class to leading one, operates through a team-teaching model. While one student teaches, others observe, collect data and ask questions.

The result is an ongoing opportunity for every future educator to push the limits of their work, ultimately with the goal of creating the strongest teaching practice possible.

This is just as it should be, according to Husbye.

"Teaching," he says, "is about kids learning and joy and pleasure. It's about walking into an experience and walking out a totally different person than you were when you started."

That philosophy applies to the budding teachers, too. ≡



# SOUL MUSICIAN BRIAN OWENS

returns to a campus  
he never really left

By Evie Hemphill

Seated on a bench inside the stunning lobby of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center, Brian Owens is the picture of a community music artist in residence.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis alumnus is squeezing a quick interview in between an afternoon studio session and an evening road trip to his next gig – and every few minutes a passerby briefly joins the conversation. Owens is a familiar face here at the Touhill, where an outreach event is underway.

“This guy’s dad was my dad’s math teacher,” Owens explains after giving yet another impromptu hug.

Moments later, four vocalists wander over to the bench and break into a gospel number on the spot. Owens, who earned his music degree from UMSL in 2008 and is an accomplished American soul singer, doesn’t seem surprised.

“I live here, I work here, I worship here – three important things,” says the musician, who released his latest album, “Soul of Ferguson,” in February. “I graduated from here. So I’m in love with this university, and you know, I really want to develop the artistic culture of my community.”

Toward that end, Owens recently joined the Des Lee Fine Arts Collaborative as its community music artist in residence. It’s a far-reaching educational and community-oriented role that is suiting him well so far, though in some ways it doesn’t feel so new.

“I never really left campus – that’s the thing,” he says. “Even when I hadn’t graduated yet there was a professor who had a stroke partway through the year, and the



department was like, ‘Hey, Brian could teach the class!’ And so I’ve taught here and continued to have a relationship over the years.”

As the busy-yet-easygoing father of six assists the collaborative with a wide variety of initiatives, he works closely with UMSL faculty member Michael V. Smith, the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Music Education.

“He’s like a mentor to me now,” Owens says. “I call him my Obi-Wan.”

The residency, sponsored by the Sterling Bank for LIFE Community Partnership, also has Owens collaborating with the St. Louis Symphony, where he leads its IN UNISON scholarship program and mentors young musicians, including UMSL students.

Tying it all together is the focus on urban youth and the contemporary music industry.

“How do we provide opportunities that prepare them for the jobs that actually exist now and will exist in 10 years?” Owens wonders. “And we’re aiming to do it in a way that’s holistic – so we’re not just dealing with the artistic side but the whole person.”

As he juggles his own pursuits with service to a community he loves, he points to three key things that keep him grounded: faith, family and Ferguson.

“And I’m not moving,” he adds. ☰

## NIQUITA LOFTIS

climbs ladder  
in federal  
probation department

By Steve Walentik

Niquita Loftis had no idea walking into her undergraduate Probation and Parole course more than two decades ago would have her peering through a window to her future.

An officer from the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services System visited the class as a guest speaker and shared information about her job, exposing Loftis to a position in the criminal justice system she hadn't known about before.

"She told our class it's different and unique from other federal law enforcement agencies because you work

specifically for the federal judiciary," Loftis says. "It doesn't fall under the executive branch of the Department of Justice."

It was the details of being a probation officer that really captured Loftis' interest and imagination. In doing so, it started her on a path that – 20 years after earning her bachelor's degree in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Missouri–St. Louis – has her occupying a supervisor position in the U.S. Probation Office for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas.

The speaker talked about the dual roles federal probation officers play.

One is to conduct pre-sentence investigations and use the federal sentencing guidelines to construct reports that federal judges use in determining sentencing of offenders. The other is to work with a caseload of parolees – typically 45 or 50 at a time – to assist them with re-entering society after their release from prison.

"That seemed really fascinating to me because I'm kind of bookish," Loftis says. "So I was like, 'Oh, I would love to just study the federal sentencing guidelines.'"

She also was drawn to courtroom dramas growing up, so the idea of playing a role in court proceedings was intriguing.

That became the primary focus of her work in the early part of her career with the federal probation department in St. Louis after earning a master's degree in criminology and criminal justice from UMSL and spending a year with the state Division of Probation & Parole in Missouri.

She worked on several high-profile cases, including issuing the pre-sentence report for Michael J. Devlin in 2007. He was sentenced to 170 years in prison, to run consecutively with his state sentences, on federal charges related to the abduction of two Missouri boys.

It wasn't entirely coincidental that she shifted to a role supervising parolees after she completed a master of social work degree at UMSL in 2008.

"A large part of my job as an officer sure is part law enforcement, but it's also part social worker," she says. "We have to advocate for our clients. We have to make referrals to different agencies that may be able to assist them."

Loftis, a mother of three, has been finalizing her fourth UMSL degree – a PhD in criminology and criminal justice – in the spring semester while also settling into the supervisor position she took last August.

Her dissertation examines the disparity of supervised release sentences of child pornography offenders in U.S. District Courts. It was inspired by her work, and she says the data analysis skills she acquired in the PhD program were key to her landing the job in Las Vegas.

"The PhD from UMSL again has opened the door for promotional opportunities and advancement," Loftis says. "I hope that it will continue to open more doors because I definitely have aspirations beyond supervisor." ≡





## Football, paramedic career, UMSL chemistry lead **CHRIS TIPTON** to med school

By Marisol Ramirez

At first glance, Chris Tipton appears an odd fit in a laboratory. The hulking former Mizzou Tiger offensive lineman's big stature looks potentially hazardous surrounded by glassware and equipment.

But the truth is, Tipton is right at home. The soon-to-be master's in chemistry graduate works as a research assistant for Professor Chris Spilling at the University of Missouri–St. Louis when he isn't busy being a part-time critical care flight paramedic for Survival Flight Inc.

Through football Tipton indirectly found his true calling in medicine.

After graduating from the University of Missouri–Columbia in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural science, Tipton started a career path popular among his football buddies – firefighting. In his training to get his emergency medical technician and paramedic licenses, he discovered he liked treating the patients more than the fire.

Tipton took a ground paramedic job in Northeast Missouri shortly thereafter and eventually became the lead paramedic for Pike County.

"You handle people on the worst day of their lives," Tipton says. "You're the first person a lot of times that this person will be seeing in their whole continuum of care. So it's really important, the job we do."

In his first week, Tipton delivered a baby on the side of a highway.

"You're almost scared for the tones to go off," says Tipton, recalling his early days on the job.

He's been a paramedic for nine years now, spending the last four and half of those in the air – not a place paramedics start off.

"You get the sickest of the sick," he says. "You might only run one call a day, but that one call has you go through almost every single skill you've possibly learned and all kinds of drugs that you would maybe use in a month's time as a ground paramedic."

After some years, Tipton started to feel as if he had "maxed out" his paramedic certification. A drive to do more in the field of medicine led him back to school, specifically to UMSL, where he could get a master's degree and some more science classes and research under his belt before applying to medical school.

"Dr. Spilling has given me a tremendous opportunity," says Tipton, who is fully-funded and receives a stipend. "That was the only way I could go part time as a paramedic and pursue research full time."

In the lab at UMSL, he works on creating novel therapeutic compounds for people who suffer from sepsis, a type of blood poisoning. He's also found a lot of value in his UMSL coursework.

"Class after class, light bulbs go off," he says. "I've learned a lot of the concepts at the paramedic level, but now I'm learning them at the cellular and molecular levels."

Tipton scored in the 93rd percentile in the science sections of the MCAT. He's returning to his old stomping grounds this summer, not as a football player, but as a student in Mizzou's medical school/PhD program. Tipton plans on conducting cancer research and possibly doing a residency in pathology or immunology.

"Helping people is a huge part of why I do what I do," he says. "What I've gotten from UMSL is seeing how the science translates to that." ≡

**A** circuit judge, a social studies teacher, wife to a mayor, a scientist in an engineering lab and a man that sold Christmas trees. | Those who make up the University of Missouri–St. Louis' first graduating class went on to many different adventures in life, but they all share one adventure in common – taking a chance on a fledgling university. | In the years following UMSL's formation in 1963, campus consisted of a handful of eager faculty members and a former golf course clubhouse that served as its primary structure. The university was, for many, the affordable option that allowed them access to higher education – a need UMSL continues to serve today. | But times were different. It was the height of the Vietnam War, and many young men turned to academics in lieu of rifles. People preached peace and love, and the Civil Rights Movement spurred. | In the midst of that backdrop, came UMSL's first graduating class in 1967 with 205 graduates. Since then, the university has issued 108,000 degrees to 96,000 people – impressive numbers given its relative youth. | “Very few campuses nationally can match our quality growth in educating and graduating people who seek different and better lives,” UMSL Chancellor Tom George says. | In these pages, UMSL celebrates the first of those people who sought “different and better lives.” A few members of the class of 1967 reflect on their UMSL days and adventures since.

# A life well

Stories from the first graduating class in celebration of its 50th reunion

By Bob Samples  
and Marisol Ramirez

**Thomas Jenkins** (not pictured) After Roosevelt High School, Jenkins came to UMSL because of its cost and the need to work during his college career. It turned out to be a fortunate situation.

"My most outstanding memories were in the courses I took from Professor [Charles] Armbruster," Jenkins says. "He excited me about the field of chemistry."

Jenkins enrolled in graduate school at the University of Colorado after earning his bachelor's degree in chemistry from UMSL. His time in Colorado was cut short by a two-year stint in the U.S. Army. Jenkins then took a position with the U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, where he remained for 38 years. And, yes, he also returned to graduate school and earned his doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of New Hampshire.

Jenkins has two children and lives in Gig Harbor, Washington.

**Richard Bresnahan** (not pictured) The Mercy High School graduate was attracted to UMSL for its affordability and remembers fondly the "professors and fellow students who were wonderful and helped me a great deal."

Following his graduation from UMSL with a bachelor's degree in business administration, Bresnahan joined the U.S. Army, serving from 1968 to 1970. Afterwards, he earned his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and practiced law in St. Louis for 32 years before his appointment as a circuit judge in St. Louis County. He retired in 2015, has two children and lives in St. Louis.



Left: A packed parking lot outside the former Bellerive Country Club, which served as the university's administration building in the early days.

Above: The class of 1967 during their graduation rehearsal. Not all graduates were present.

**Linda Ashford** Fresh out of Normandy High School, Ashford was excited to “attend a school in my own neighborhood and be part of a new addition to the University of Missouri System.” She wasn’t disappointed.

“I received an excellent education,” Ashford says. “I enjoyed the professors as well as my classmates. The ’60s were a tumultuous time, and the discussions and debates helped prepare me for my career.”

Graduating with a bachelor’s degree in history, Ashford taught social studies in the Pattonville and Lee’s Summit school districts - with a hiatus in between to raise children. She’s since retired and lives in Lee’s Summit, Missouri.



**Oliver Dunn** Choosing UMSL was an “obvious decision” for Dunn. Recently out of the U.S. Air Force, he was looking for a college that was local, inexpensive and offered his preferred degree - Spanish.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my Spanish classes with Professor Marion Holt, a great teacher,” Dunn says. “I also had some great friends there.”

Leaving UMSL with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish, Dunn went on to Southern Illinois University and the University of Utah for graduate studies. He eventually married, had children and grandchildren, played church organ and taught Spanish in several Illinois schools before retiring from Murphysboro High School.

All and all, Dunn said it’s been a “great life.”

**Marsha Shapiro Silverman** did two years at MU before deciding to return to St. Louis. Transferring to UMSL allowed her to stay within the UM System and retain her credits. Among her favorite memories are spending time in the old country clubhouse and walking - sometimes in the mud - to what was then the “new” building on campus, Benton Hall, which was completed in 1965.

Graduating with a bachelor’s degree in education, Silverman began her career in elementary education before transitioning to St. Louis Community College where she was an instructor and director of its early childhood center.

Today the University City High School graduate resides in Chesterfield, Missouri, with her husband, David. They have two children and two grandchildren.

# CLASS OF 67



**Jack Sieber** came to UMSL after three years in the U.S. Marine Corps and with college credits from two other institutions. He was active in student government and served as the first president of UMSL's Alumni Association, which formed almost immediately after the class of 1967's graduation.

The business administration alumnus remembers the clubhouse fondly, where advising offices were in what was formerly the ladies locker room. He also recalls the "camaraderie" among students and faculty. Donald Driemeier, a young finance professor who would become dean of the College of Business Administration, stood out for Sieber. "He offered a lot of advice and became a lifelong friend," he says.

After graduating, Sieber entered a "hot job market" and joined IBM. He worked in the office printing industry for more than two decades until he started his own company, Quantum Technologies, at the age of 50. Fifteen years later, he sold the company and purchased a retirement home in Mexico.

Sieber says he and his wife, Peggy, will soon leave it behind to return full time to St. Louis to be with their four children and seven grandchildren.

**Irwin Loiterstein** Armed with a bachelor's in business administration, Loiterstein left UMSL to conquer the world of accounting. But somewhere along the way things changed. Loiterstein decided to start his own business.

"After a couple of years I entered the Christmas tree business," he said. "I eventually became the largest wholesaler and retailer of Christmas trees in St. Louis."

Graduating from University City High School, Loiterstein says he liked the teachers, programs and UMSL campus in general. He did not indicate if the numerous trees on campus inspired his ultimate career choice.

Loiterstein has two children, five grandchildren and lives in St. Louis.



**Lois Brockmeier Schoemehl** Graduating with a bachelor's degree in English, Schoemehl was the inaugural director of UMSL's first office for alumni relations, which also came into existence in 1967. She oversaw its operations and growth for nearly a decade, before shifting to raising children, volunteerism and helping her husband's political career.

Schoemehl's husband, Vince, who earned a history degree from UMSL in 1972, was an alderman and three-term mayor for the city of St. Louis, where the couple still resides. They have two children and one grandchild.

Schoemehl chose UMSL for its proximity after graduating from Normandy High School. Her fondest memories of UMSL were student organizations and good teachers, especially William Hamlin who "awakened in me a lifelong love of reading," Schoemehl says. Hamlin was instrumental over the years in building the Department of English.

**Richard Hughes** A "small but aggressive" athlete, Richard Hughes had hoped for a football scholarship upon graduating from Lutheran Central High School, now Lutheran North, but no offers ever came. Hughes, who lived with his parents in The Ville neighborhood of north St. Louis, chose UMSL because it was "the best, most affordable university near home."

Hughes enjoyed playing intramural football on campus. On Fridays, he remembers playing cards and socializing with other students in the student lounge.

One of the first African American alumni of the university, Hughes earned his psychology degree from UMSL but went on to become an attorney after graduating from Saint Louis University School of Law.

His career started in Legal Services of Eastern Missouri until he went into private practice. Hughes also did a stint with the St. Louis Housing Authority in the HOPE VI program, which revitalized struggling public housing projects into mixed-income developments. He retired in December 2016 from Richard G. Hughes & Associates, his own practice, where he worked personal injury, bankruptcy and municipal finance cases.

Hughes has two children and one grandchild and lives in Black Jack, Missouri.

# CLASSNOTES



## 60s



**UMSL'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS CELEBRATES THEIR 50TH REUNION THIS SPRING!**

## 70s

**Mary Troy**, BA 1970, wrote "Swimming on Hwy N: A Novel," published by Moon City Press. Mary is a professor of English at UMSL.



**Malaika Horne**, BA 1972, joined the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity St. Louis.

**Donald Frischmann**, BA 1975, edited a bilingual literary anthology of writers from Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula titled "U Túumben K'aayilo'ob X-Ya'axche' / Los Nuevos Cantos de la Ceiba," published by the Yucatan State Secretariat for Arts and Culture.

Donald is a professor of Spanish at Texas Christian University.

**William Thone, Esq.**, BSBA 1975, was named CEO of AgriBank.

**Robert Bullman**, BSBA 1976, joined Cardinal Title in St. Louis as director of real estate examination.



**Scott Givens**, BSBA 1977, was appointed first vice chair of the board of directors for Memorial Hospitals of Belleville, Ill., and Shiloh, Ill.

**Stephen Hamilton, Esq.**, BSBA 1977, was promoted to the role of vice chairman and chief executive officer at CSI Leasing in St. Louis.

**Leonard Perez**, BA 1977, was named regional director of the National Labor Relations Board. Leonard will operate from the agency's St. Louis office.

## 80s

**Velma Bell**, BSAJ 1980, joined Concordance Academy in St. Louis as the clinical care coordinator.

**Steven Clark**, BA 1980, wrote "The Saint Louisans," published by Walrus Publishing.

**Dave Marzouk**, BA 1980, joined Delegata in Sacramento, Calif., as vice president of global operations.

**Michael Smegner**, BSBA 1982, joined Kaiser Electric in St. Louis as director of accounting and finance.

**Kathy Harris**, BSW 1983, received the Citizen of the Year Award by the Kirkwood-Des Peres Area Chamber of Commerce.



**Warner L. Baxter**, BSBA 1983, was named chair and director of Electric Power

Research Institute in Palo Alto, Calif. Warner is chairman, president and CEO of St. Louis-based Ameren Corporation.



**Judith Zimny**, MEd 1983, was chosen to lead the National Institute for STEM Education, which is the provider of competency-based STEM training and certification for educators across the country.



**Frank Cusumano Jr.**, BA 1984, was promoted to sports director at KSDK (Channel 5) in St. Louis.



**Karen Davis**, BSEd 1984, MEd 1999, was inducted into the American Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Karen coached for St. Joseph's Academy in St. Louis.

**John Hilmes**, BSBA 1984, joined Byrne & Jones Construction in St. Louis as chief financial officer.

**Stephen Sainz**, BSBA 1986, joined U.S. Bank in St. Louis as a commercial banking relationship manager.



**Teri Murray**, MEd 1987, was re-elected treasurer of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Teri is dean of the School of Nursing at Saint Louis University.

**William Dulle**, BA 1988, was appointed chair of the Academy of the Sacred Heart board of trustees in St. Louis. William is the director of administrative services at Ameren.

**Teresa Kinealy**, MEd 1989, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Teresa teaches middle school religion and math at Ste. Genevieve du Bois School in St. Louis.



J. Pruitt-Adams

**Joylynn Pruitt-Adams**, MEd 1989, EdD 2015, was selected to serve as the superintendent for the Oak Park and River Forest School District in Park Hill, Ill.

## 90s

**Jeff Camilleri**, BSBA 1990, was promoted to regional president at Citizens National Bank in St. Louis.

**Timothy Barton**, BA 1992, joined Murphy Company in St. Louis as vice president of industrial business development.

**Valerie Hubbard**, MEd 1992, joined Central Christian School in St. Louis as a counselor.



**Wayne DeVeydt**, BSBA 1993, was appointed to the board of directors for Myovant Sciences in St. Louis.

**Michele Smith**, BSBA 1992, joined Mueller Prost CPAs + Business Advisors in St. Louis as manager of accounting services.



**James Lally**, MBA 1993, was named CEO of Enterprise Financial Services Corp. in St. Louis.

**Carrie Sona**, BSN 1993, MSN 2000, was appointed as a fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine by the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Carrie is a critical care clinical nurse specialist at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

**Lauri Strimkovsky**, MBA 1993, was appointed vice president for finance and administration at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio.

**Amy Hunter**, BA 1994, was awarded the 2016 Brotherhood and Sisterhood Award by the National Conference for Community and Justice of Metropolitan St. Louis. Amy is the director of racial justice for YWCA Metro St. Louis



**Rochelle Gray**, BSPA 1995, was elected to serve on the St. Louis County Council, representing District 4.

**Tasha Pettis-Bonds**, BA 1995, joined Ready By 21 in St. Louis as manager of community voice and leadership.



**Deborah Vandeven**, MAcc 1995, joined Brown Smith Wallace in St. Louis as a principal in the tax services practice.

**Angela Brown**, BA 1996, was promoted to vice president of marketing for Live Nation Midwest.

**Willie Kilpatrick**, BM 1996, was recognized by the Gateway Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women at the Annual Legacy Awards Ceremony. Willie is the pastor of Prince of Peace Church in St. Louis.

**Julia Burke**, MEd 1997, was appointed to the Annie Malone Children and Family Services board of directors. Julia is associate superintendent for human resources for the Hazelwood (Mo.) School District.



**Stacey Massa**, BSBA 1997, was promoted to managing director of UHY Advisors in St. Louis and leading member of the firm's national manufacturing group.

**Shawn Menke**, BSBA 1997, joined Office Essentials in St. Louis as director of sales.

**Jeanne Meyer**, MBA 1997, was promoted to partner at Anders CPAs + Advisors in St. Louis.

**Karen Sieve**, BA 1997, MPPA 2000, received the 2016 Safe Place Coordinator of the Year award by the National Safe Place Network. Karen is the regional safe place manager for Youth In Need in St. Louis.



**Clint Zweifel**, BA 1997, MBA 2001, joined the St. Louis office of Northern Trust Wealth Management as chief operating officer after serving two terms as Missouri state treasurer.

**Joseph Blanner**, BSPA 1998, was appointed to the Home Builders Association of St. Louis and Eastern Missouri board of directors. Joseph is a partner at McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer in St. Louis.

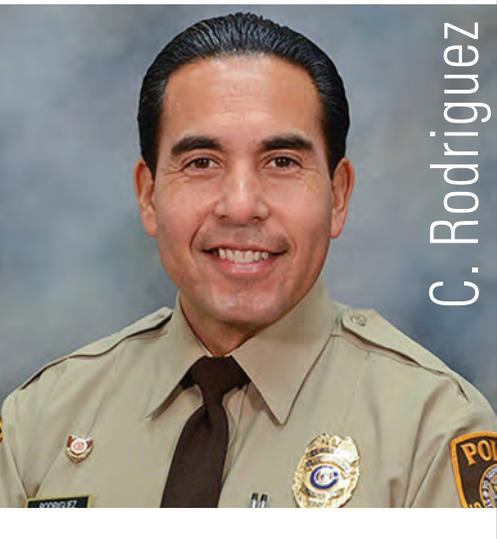


**Sarajeni Hammond**, BSBA 1998, was elected vice chair of FOCUS St. Louis' board of directors. Sarajeni is director of human resources shared services at Monsanto in St. Louis.

**Douglas Harrison**, BA 1998, was recently named associate dean of the Graduate School at University of Maryland's University College.

**Michael Christian**, BA 1999, joined the Pedal the Cause board of directors. Michael is vice president of national projects at American Directional Boring, Inc., in St. Louis.

**Charlie Rodriguez**, BSBA 1994, was promoted to the rank of sergeant in the St. Louis County Police Department.



C. Rodriguez

**Susan TeStroete**, BSW 1994, was promoted to assistant director at St. Louis ArtWorks.

**Dawn Bristow**, BEd 1995, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Dawn is the principal at Nike Elementary School in Catawissa, Mo.



Edward Jones

Alumni and Edward Jones employees (from left) Ashley Wallace, BSBA 1994; Liz Powitzky, BA 1999; Tony Sgroi, BSBA 1984; and Angie Evola, BSBA 1987, gathered August 18, 2016 at Edward Jones North Campus to celebrate the many connections UMSL has with the company. Edward Jones employs more than 500 UMSL alumni throughout its various offices and campuses, making it one of the top employers of the university's alumni in the region. Speakers at the event included Norm Eaker, BSBA 1978, and former general partner for administration at Edward Jones; Ken Cella, BSBA 1993, and principal of branch management; and UMSL Chancellor Tom George. **Work at Edward Jones? Interested in becoming involved in the UMSL/Edward Jones alumni network? Contact Kyle Kerstling, BS and BSBA 2011, at [Kyle.Kerstling@edwardjones.com](mailto:Kyle.Kerstling@edwardjones.com).**



## Alumni on Capitol Hill



With nearly 750 UMSL alumni in the area, Washington, D.C., is one of the Alumni Association's strongest regional networks. D.C. alumni gathered June 22, 2016 for a reception on Capitol Hill (pictured here), a guided tour of the Library of Congress by alumna Mari Cote, MEd 1971, a lecture at National War College and a faculty lecture on cybersecurity at ATTAIN by UMSL Assistant Professor of Information Systems Maurice Dawson. Pictured above are (from left) Katie Hughes, BA 2007; Alumni Association Governing Board member Laura Burkemper, BSBA 1990; Alumni Association President Kirk Richter, BSBA 1968; Jan Anderson with her husband and Chancellor's Council member Dick Jung, BA 1971; Bob Braun, BA 1974; and Anthony Hughes, MPPA 2013.

**James Fox**, MEd 1999, joined Pioneer Technology Group as the Midwest business manager.

**Cory Timblin**, BGS 1999, joined Gershman Mortgage in St. Louis as human resources manager.

## 00s

**James Andrzejewski**, MA 2000, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. James is an English teacher at Timberland High School in Wentzville, Mo.

**Gladys Smith**, MEd 2000, received a Salute to Excellence in Education award from The St. Louis American. Gladys is the

assistant director of counseling and life development at Webster University in St. Louis.

**Barbara Berrong**, BSN 2001, accepted a new leadership role within BJC HealthCare in St. Louis as the vice president of behavioral health.

**Kimberly Berry**, BSEd 2001, MEd 2005, received a Salute to Excellence in Education award from The St. Louis American. Kimberly is a kindergarten teacher at Bermuda Elementary School in Normandy, Mo.

**Carman Bryant**, BS 2001, joined AntriaBio, Inc., in Longmont, Colo., as a quality control manager.

**Terry Kite**, MEd 2001, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Terry is the division chair of

social sciences and business at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo.

**Ryan Kiwala**, BA 2001, was promoted to shareholder at Simmons Hanly Conroy. Ryan is based out of the Alton, Ill., office and is a member of the firm's asbestos trial team.



**Matthew Lanham**, BA 2001, joined Cambridge Engineering in Chesterfield, Mo., as a regional sales manager.

**Eric Madkins**, BA 2001, was named to the 2016-2017 Leadership 100 Cohort of the Regional Business Council's Young Professionals Network. Eric is the Midwest community affairs manager at Regions Bank in St. Louis.

**Jaclyn Overbey**, BSEd 2001, MEd 2006, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Jaclyn is a third grade teacher at Fairview Primary School in the Jennings (Mo.) School District.

**Chad Sackman**, BSN 2001, was promoted to chief operating officer at Signature Medical Group in St. Louis.



**LaWanda Elgin**, BGS 2002, was awarded the 2016 Realtor Associate of the year by St. Louis Realtors. LaWanda is a compliance analyst for Coldwell Banker Gundaker in St. Louis.

**Leo Ganahl**, BS 2002, was recognized at the annual North County Incorporated Salutes 30 Leaders in their Thirties reception. Leo is the principal of Halls Ferry Elementary in the Ferguson-Florissant (Mo.) School District.

**Steven Gabel**, BSBA 2003, was promoted to supervisor of the First Community Credit Union branch in Arnold, Mo.

## Bliss



- Elena Borovkov**, BSBA 2004, to Alex Puorro on Nov. 4, 2016.
- Whitney Harper**, BSEd 2008, to Jack Lee on June 4, 2016.
- Cesar Molina**, BA 2009, BSBA 2011, to **Amy Walsh**, BS 2010, OD 2015 on Sept. 4, 2016.
- Jillienne Touchette**, BS 2009, to Nicholas O'Leary on Dec. 9, 2016.
- Cassandra Maerz**, BSN 2010, to Abhinav Goyal on Aug. 13, 2016.
- Katie Friedmeyer**, BSW 2011, to Landry Sorbel on Oct. 1, 2016.
- Cori Forthaus**, BSN 2012, to **Ryan Parker**, BSBA 2013, on Oct. 15, 2016.
- Justin Schinsky**, BLS 2012, to Ashley Adams on Oct. 22, 2016.
- Steven Abodi**, BSBA 2013, to Rachel Raineri on Nov. 26, 2016.
- Rakeisha Butler**, BA 2013, to Christopher Collins on Oct. 15, 2016.
- John Dalton**, BSW 2013, to **Katie Lottmann**, BSW 2013, on Oct. 29, 2016.
- Christopher Albin**, BSBA 2014, to Ashley Scott on July 2, 2016.
- Joseph Kuczka**, BS 2014, to Audrey Jostes on Nov. 11, 2016.
- Joseph Atkisson**, BSBA 2015, to Tayler Hoag on Aug. 6, 2016.
- Nicholas Civili**, BS 2015, to Jane Schleipman on Oct. 22, 2016.
- Matthew Conners**, MBA 2015, to Nicole Masters on Nov. 12, 2016.
- Ariel Hayes**, BS 2015, to Justin White on July 16, 2016.
- Bethany Wagenmaker**, BIS 2015, to Sravan Poli on Dec. 28, 2016.
- Siri Kemp**, MEd 2016, to Joseph Kemp on June 25, 2016.

**Christopher Shires**, MA 2003, joined the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Mich., as executive director.



**Michael Steevens**, BS 2003, joined Nestle Purina's St. Louis office as a formulation/optimization analyst.

**Candice Carter-Oliver**, MEd 2004, EDSP 2007, PhD 2014, joined Confluence Charter Schools in St. Louis as chief executive officer.

**Gerianne Friedline**, BA 2004, MA 2007, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Gerianne is an associate teaching professor in the Honors College at UMSL.

**Therese Shain**, BSEd 2004, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Therese is a Special School District teacher at Bayless Elementary School in St. Louis.



**Jeanne Dee**, BSBA 2005, joined Anders CPAs + Advisors in St. Louis as a principal in the audit and advisory services group.

**Stephen Grelle**, BSBA 2005, MBA 2010, joined Midwest Regional Bank in St. Louis as the vice president of SBA and commercial lending.

**Medha Kamat**, MS 2005, PhD 2006, joined GlaxoSmithKline in Philadelphia as a bioanalytical external study monitor.



**Kassandra Pierre**, BSBA 2005, was recognized at the annual North County Incorporated Salutes 30 Leaders in their Thirties reception. Cassandra

is an assistant general manager at Jones Lang LaSalle in St. Louis.

**Jerome Farmer**, MBA 2006, MS 2007, joined Slalom as the information management and analytics practice lead for the St. Louis market.

**John Griffith**, EDSP 2006, EdD 2015, joined Hollywood Heights Alternative School in Caseyville, Ill., as building principal.

**Sarah Javier**, MPPA 2006, joined The Animal Protective Association of Missouri as president and executive director.

**Maria Johns**, MS 2006, PhD 2009, joined Patheon in St. Louis as a quality control analytical manager.

**Kelly Jones**, BA 2006, joined St. Louis-based Almost Home as director of programs and performance.

**Pamela Rose**, BA 2006, BSEd 2010, was recognized at the annual North County Incorporated Salutes 30 Leaders in their Thirties reception. Pamela is a branch manager at U.S. Bank in St. Louis.

**Jason Bockman**, BSBA 2007, received a 2017 St. Louis Business Journal's 40 Under 40 award. Jason is a co-founder and owner of Strange Donuts.

**Erin Brooks**, BS 2007, OD 2011, MS 2013, was appointed clinical assistant professor in primary care and community services for UMSL's College of Optometry.

**Howard Fields**, BSEd 2007, MEd 2009, EDSP 2012, was recognized at the annual North County Incorporated Salutes 30 Leaders in their Thirties reception. Howard is the principal of Koch Elementary in St. Louis' Riverview Gardens School District.



**Brynn Sanders**, BSBA 2007, received a 2017 St. Louis Business Journal 40 Under 40 award. Brynn is a senior vice president at Advantage Capital Partners in St. Louis.

**Melissa Yearian**, BA 2007, joined Legal Services of Eastern Missouri as a social worker in the medical legal partnership.

**James Cash**, MAcc 2008, was promoted to tax manager at Schwalter & Jabouri in St. Louis.

**Joe Mouser**, BSBA 2008, joined Tech Electronics in St. Louis as a construction account manager.

**Julie Suedmeyer-Buller**, MPPA 2008, MPPA 2009, joined YWCA South Hampton Roads in Norfolk, Va., as a director of development.

**Ashland Tate**, BS 2008, joined Boys Hope Girls Hope of St. Louis as executive director.

**Natalie Johnson**, BS 2009, BSEd 2009, joined Save the Dunes in Michigan City, Ind., as executive director.



## 10s



## Jazz & Chocolate

English alumna and African American Alumni Chapter President Linda Brown-Reed (at left) thanks FOX 2 (KTVI) journalist Bonita Cornute for serving as emcee at the chapter's Dec. 11, 2016 Jazz and Chocolate fundraiser for the Marguerite Ross Barnett Scholarship Fund, named in honor of UMSL's first African American chancellor and founded to support students who have demonstrated high financial need. More than \$4,300 dollars were raised at the event, which featured the smooth jazz sounds of Jeremiah Allen and Cheryl Brown in combination with chocolate-covered strawberries and other chocolate treats at the Kranzberg Arts Center at Grand Center. If you are interested in volunteering with the African American Alumni Chapter, contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at 314-516-4738 or at [alumni@umsl.edu](mailto:alumni@umsl.edu).



**Dorian Hall**, BSBA 2010, MBA 2013, received a 2017 Salute to Young Leaders award from The St. Louis American Foundation. Dorian is assistant director of event services at UMSL and pastor at Church of God Community Worship Center in East St. Louis, Ill.

**Kimberly Finnegan**, BSW 2010, joined Affinity Law Group in St. Louis as a trust and estate planning associate attorney.

**Greg Hogan**, PhD 2010, joined Texas A&M University in Texarkana as an assistant professor of chemistry.

**Mary Keithly**, BS 2010, joined Missouri Southern State University in Joplin as an assistant professor of chemistry.

**Gregory Laposa**, MEd 2010, was recognized at the annual North County Incorporated Salutes 30 Leaders in their Thirties reception. Greg is the vice president of education strategies at the St. Louis Regional Chamber.



**Gwendolyn Packnett**, PhD 2010, was elected to serve on the Saint Louis Zoo Association's executive committee.

**Lindsay Serrano**, MEd 2010, joined Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville as the university's first confidential adviser for survivors of sexual violence.



L. Serrano



## Legislative Day in Jefferson City

UMSL students (from left) Kyle Lackey, Jordan Lucas, Kat Riddler, Emma Kneifl, Evan Garrad, Joe Rund and Sean Burkett joined Chancellor's Council members and alumni for a reception with Missouri legislators in Jefferson City on Feb. 28. The reception was held in conjunction with University of Missouri System Legislative Day at the state's capitol. All system campuses – Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla and St. Louis – and UM Extensions hosted interactive displays in the capitol's rotunda, and alumni, volunteers and staff visited legislators in their offices. **Interested in getting involved with the newly formed Alumni Legislative Advocacy Committee? Contact committee co-chair Joe Blanner, BSBA 1998, at [alumni@umsl.edu](mailto:alumni@umsl.edu).**

## In Memoriam

- 1960s
- James Feltz**, BSBA 1968, on Dec. 28, 2016
  - Carol Calloni**, BSEd 1969, MA 1977, on Feb. 14
  - Louise Charboneau**, BSEd 1969, on Feb. 1
- 1970s
- James Gannon III**, BA 1970, on Oct. 19, 2016
  - Ellen Sarver**, BSEd 1970, on Dec. 3, 2016
  - Thomas Dykstra**, MEd 1971, on Oct. 3, 2016
  - Jeanette Seigel**, MEd 1971, on Jan. 28
  - Jerry Brown**, BSBA 1972, on Sept. 25, 2016
  - Edwin Kingsley**, BA 1972, on July 7, 2016
  - Birgit Lonergan**, BSEd 1972, on June 7, 2016
  - Joann Black**, MEd 1973, on Jan. 19
  - Ronnie Romer**, BSBA 1973, on Feb. 7
  - Harry Woodhouse Jr.**, BS 1973, on Jan. 5
  - Craig Doyel**, BA 1974, on Oct. 27, 2016
  - Donald Malm**, MBA 1974, on May 29, 2016
  - Nancy Upton**, BSEd 1974, MEd 1979, on Dec. 7, 2016
  - Kenneth Krueger**, BSBA 1976, on Nov. 13, 2016
  - Helen McDonnell**, MEd 1976, on Oct. 25, 2016
  - Marcella Romine**, OSF, BSEd 1976, on Feb. 14
  - Brian Leander**, BA 1977, on Sept. 5, 2016
  - Theodore Wagner Jr.**, BSBA 1979, MA 1997, on Feb. 24
- 1980s
- Linda Baum**, BSEd 1980, on Oct. 30, 2016
  - Mary Lou Jerome**, BSEd 1980, on Jan. 4
  - Lavern Willey**, BSBA 1980, on Nov. 12, 2016
  - Patrick McVey**, BSBA 1983, on Nov. 10, 2016
  - Janet Williamson**, MEd 1984, on Oct. 30, 2016
  - Carole Waugh**, BSBA 1985, on Jan. 22
  - Ronda Hewgley**, BSEd 1986, on Aug. 2, 2016
  - Rochelle Tilghman**, BSBA 1987, on Aug. 26, 2016
- 1990s
- Gary Fagin**, BA 1992, on Dec. 5, 2016
  - Lisa Robertson**, BGS 1992, on Nov. 7, 2016
  - Martin Sherman**, MEd 1992, on Jan. 8
  - Regina Currall**, BGS 1994, on Feb. 1
  - Rita Faerber**, MEd 1994, on Dec. 8, 2016
  - Ronald Houle**, BSBA 1994, on Jan. 28
  - Sean Linehan**, BA 1994, on Feb. 7
  - Marva Miller**, BS 1996, MEd 1999, MEd 2001, on Sept. 29, 2016
  - Jeffrey Strand**, MS 1998, on Nov. 30, 2016
- 2000s
- David Murrey**, BA 2000, BSEd 2008, on Jan. 25
- 2010s
- Christopher Eiceman**, BSN 2010, on Dec. 17, 2016
  - Yasser Almkhtar**, BSBA 2011, on Oct. 29, 2016

## Sympathy

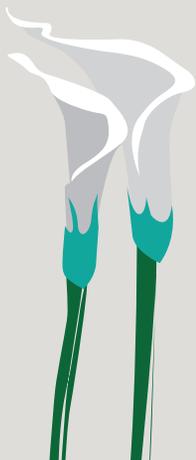
Sympathy is extended to **Roger Sarver**, BSBA 1968, on the passing of his wife, Ellen Sarver, BSEd 1970.

Sympathy is extended to **James Haegele Jr.**, BSBA 1981, on the passing of his father.

Sympathy is extended to **Mark Reichert**, BSAJ 1988, MA 1993, on the passing of his father.

Sympathy is extended to **Raymond Fada Jr.**, OD 1989, on the passing of his father.

Sympathy is extended to **Stanley Freerks**, MBA 1992, on the passing of his mother.



**Ron Austin**, MFA 2011, was one of 10 local artists to receive a \$20,000 Artist Fellowship from the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis.

**Olivia Hancock**, MBA 2011, joined Performance Pharmacy Solutions in St. Louis as an account executive.

**Annais Padua**, BS 2011, was selected for the fall 2016 class of Coro Women In Leadership through FOCUS St. Louis. Annais is a collaborative coaching supervisor for the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority.

**Cordaryl Patrick**, MPPA 2011, was recognized at the annual North County Incorporated Salutes 30 Leaders in their Thirties reception. Cordaryl is the recovery coordinator for strategic initiatives at St. Louis Economic Development Partnership.

**Julia Reinbold**, MBA 2011, was appointed to the board of directors for Almost Home in St. Louis.

**Sasha Walchli**, MEd 2011, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Sasha is a third grade teacher at Henry Elementary School in Ballwin, Mo.

**Paul Gontarz**, MS 2012, PhD 2015, joined Washington University in St. Louis' School of Medicine as a bioinformatician.



**Emily Ingalls**, MA 2012, joined Psychological Associates in St. Louis as director of the organizational consulting team.

**Vivial Lopez**, BA 2012, was selected for the spring 2017 class of Coro Women In Leadership through FOCUS St. Louis. Vivial is regional training manager at Connections to Success in St. Louis.

**Elizabeth Runge**, BSAcc 2012, joined Brown Smith Wallace in St. Louis as a staff member in the entrepreneurial services group.

# CLASSNOTES



**Elizabeth Shaner**, BSBA 2012, joined Northwestern Mutual in Clayton, Mo. as the client relations center director.

**Matthew Skarin**, BA 2012, joined Heffernan Insurance Brokers in St. Louis as assistant vice president.



**Lauren Arthur**, MEd 2013, was appointed to the Children's Trust Fund board of directors. Lauren is a Missouri state representative and works as a project manager at VML in Kansas City, Mo.



**Meaghan Dowd**, BS 2013, was promoted to insurance advisor at POWERS Insurance and Benefits in St. Louis.

**Lindsay Johnson**, BFA 2013, joined Brighton Agency in St. Louis as an art director.

**Gary Mudd**, MBA 2013, joined DOORWAYS in St. Louis as chief financial officer.

**Christan Shelton**, MEd 2013, was awarded a 2016 Excellence in Teaching Award by Emerson. Christan is an educator at Westview Middle School in St. Louis.

**Nicholas Bommarito**, BS 2014, was named the conservation agent for New Madrid County by the Missouri Department of Conservation.



**Matthew Jung**, BSAcc 2014, was promoted to senior assurance associate at RSM in Clayton, Mo.

**Taulby Roach**, MPPA 2014, was appointed to the board of directors of Citizens of Modern Transit in St. Louis.

**Taryn Sandheinrich**, MSN 2014, was appointed by former Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to the Missouri State Board of Nursing. Taryn is a nurse practitioner in the hematology/oncology unit at Siteman Kids at St. Louis Children's Hospital.



**Stacy Hollins**, PhD 2015, received a Salute to Excellence in Education award from The St. Louis American. Stacy was also recently elected to the Mathews-Dickey Boys' & Girls' Club board of directors. She is an associate professor of information systems at Maryville University in St. Louis.



**Shane Mahaney**, BS 2015, was assigned to marine operations at Lake of the Ozarks as a trooper with the Missouri Department of Highway Patrol.

**Kayla Thompson**, MEd 2015, received a 2017 Salute to Young Leaders award by The St. Louis American Foundation. Kayla is founder and chief executive officer of The Finesse Center and site coordinator at Boys and Girls Club of Greater St. Louis.

**Sarah Giboney**, BSAcc 2016, joined Anders CPAs + Advisors in St. Louis as a tax and audit advisor.

**Chase Gobble**, MS 2016, PhD 2016 joined EAG Laboratories in Columbia, Mo. as a staff scientist.

**Nicholas Marso**, OD 2016, joined Central Dakota Eyecare in Pierre, S.D. as an optometrist.



## Nelly @ STL Symphony

UMSL alumni and friends dined at LoRusso's on Grand Feb. 3 before heading over to the St. Louis Symphony to experience hip-hop star and local legend Nelly take the stage alongside conductor David Robertson. The preconcert reception set the tone for the sold-out concert, which featured twists on Nelly's hits, including "Hot in Here," "Just a Dream" and "Country Grammar." UMSL alumni and friends were on their feet for most – if not all – of the concert, with huge cheers for references to iconic St. Louis locations like Natural Bridge Road and Kingshighway. Update your email address at [umslalumni.org](http://umslalumni.org) and watch your inbox for our next alumni engagement event!



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