



CLASS NOTES

1960s **Gwen Moore**, BA 1969, received a Distinguished Alumni award from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Gwen is the curator of urban landscape and community identity at the Missouri History Museum.

1970s **John Dohr**, BSBA 1974, MBA 1982, received the Salute to Business Achievement Award from the UMSL Business Alumni Chapter. **John Hixson**, BSBA 1976, was elected vice president of the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors.

Cheryl Templeton, MEd 1978, welcomed grandson Kaiden John Templeton in January. Kaiden's father, Spencer Templeton, is pursuing his PhD in physics at UMSL.

1980s **Warner Baxter**, BSBA 1983, was elected vice chairman of Edison Electric Institute. **Kenneth Marx**, BSBA 1983, received the Salute to Business Achievement Award from the UMSL Business Alumni Chapter. **Rajiv Banavali**, PhD 1985, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2021 UMSL Founders Dinner. Rajiv is the senior vice president of science and innovation at WestRock Company in Atlanta.

Stay connected

We want to hear from you! Share your news, photos and follow us on social media.



Let us know what you're up to!

Send class notes and life updates to alumni@umsl.edu.

Stephen Kiger, BA 1986, was named president of the Rotary Club of New Albany.

Allison Aden, MBA 1987, was named chief financial officer of Cavco Industries.

Marc Katz, BSBA 1987, was named interim chief financial officer of Tuesday Morning Corporation.

Dave Reifschneider, BSBA 1988, was elected second vice president of the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors.

Steve O'Loughlin, BSBA 1989, received the Salute to Business Achievement Award from the UMSL Business Alumni Chapter in September.

1990s **Toni Douaihy**, BA 1991, was elected president of the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors.

Jean Evans, BA 1991, has been chosen to lead the Missouri arm of the American Federation for Children, a pro-school choice education advocacy organization.

Michael Aufdembrink, MS 1992, MBA 1992, was named chief information officer for Summit Electric Supply in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jim Wallis, BS 1992, was named to the board of directors at Hope Creates in St. Louis.

ALUMNI Q & A

AUTHOR OF EIGHT BOOKS **EARL SWIFT**, BA 1983, DRAFTS COMPELLING NARRATIVES

on topics ranging from forensic science, to the creation of America's highway grid, to sea-level rise and to the last three Apollo missions – in "Across the Airless Wilds: The Lunar Rover and the Triumph of the Final Moon Landings," released this past summer.

How did you prepare for your journalism career while at UMSL?

I arrived planning to stick around for two years, get a slew of survey courses out of the way, then transfer to journalism school. But my first day on campus, I sought out the offices of The Current, and walked out with a story assignment. By the time I got my second, I knew that I'd found my people. I got my first training as a reporter and forged lifelong friendships on the paper's staff.

Before long, I landed a job at the St. Louis Globe-Democrat that led to my getting the Globe's summer reporting internship. That, in turn, convinced me that perhaps I didn't need to go to journalism school – that the wiser course might be to learn about the world I'd be covering, rather than the mechanics of covering it. I decided to stay at UMSL and major in political science. It turned out to be a good call: when I graduated, the Globe offered me a full-time reporting job.

How do you find your inspiration and decide on a topic for a book?

My inspiration is that I like to eat. It's unromantic to put it so plainly, but writing is a job like any other – if you require some mystical form of inspiration to do it, you're going to go hungry. Inspiration does visit but almost always when you're already elbows-deep in the work.

As for the topics I choose, I write the kind of stories I like to read. If I've thought the ideas through to the extent I should, others will want to read them, too.

Why a book about the lunar rover?

Because it's a compelling story, with strong characters and lots of action and surprises along the way. On Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin never ventured more than 65 yards from their lunar module. Jump ahead two years to Apollo 15, you have Dave Scott and Jim Irwin climbing into the first lunar rover and driving more than 17 miles. They explored and conducted science over an area half the size of Manhattan. They climbed hundreds of feet up the side of a mountain as big as Kilimanjaro. All told, the crews of the last three missions drove more than 56 miles on the moon in what was essentially a 1969 General Motors product. The rover changed everything about Apollo.

What does UMSL mean to you?

UMSL offered whatever I asked of it – the community there gave me the room and encouragement to aim as high as I chose to, but success or failure was up to me. That was a real gift: you had to motivate yourself if you hoped to maximize your experience. I've worked with really smart, well-educated colleagues over the years but few who learned to work as hard as I did at UMSL. Over time, that's proved a real advantage, a linchpin to my career. When it comes to telling you just how grateful I am to be an alum, I can't find words big enough.

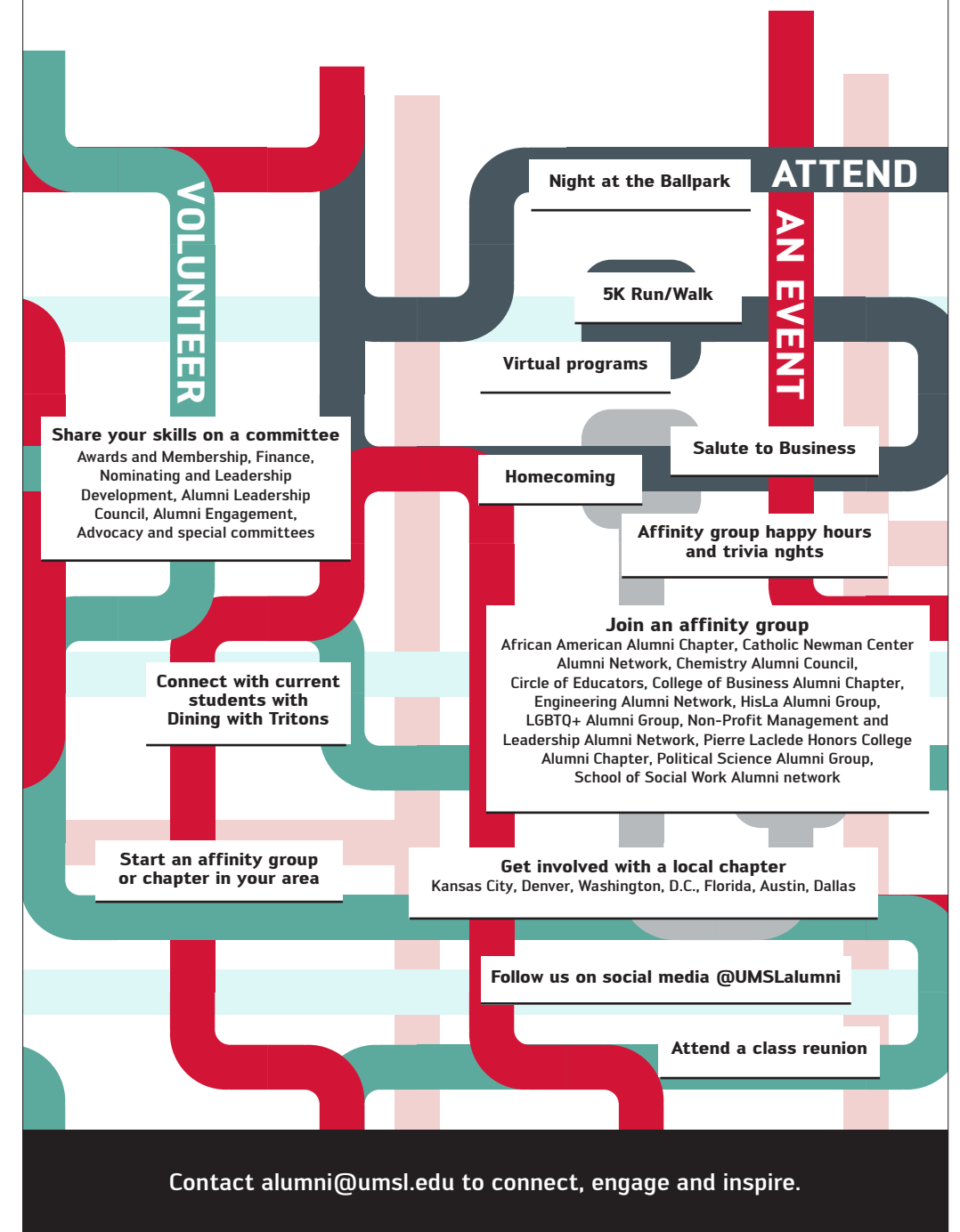


YOU BELONG

If you're an UMSL graduate, you're a member of the UMSL Alumni Association - more than 105,000 alumni strong. From networking and connecting on social media to getting involved in a committee, there is something for all UMSL graduates in the Alumni Association.

Take advantage of membership benefits including:

Discounted membership to the Recreation and Wellness Center • Discounts at the UMSL Eye Care center
Access to the University Libraries • UMSL license plates (Missouri residents) • Much more!



The UMSL Alumni Association **2021 Distinguished Alumni Award** winners reflect the tremendous diversity and amazing abilities, talents and leadership of UMSL alumni.

The 2021 award winners are leaders in the fields of education, veterans' health and nurse leadership, chemistry, and equity and inclusion. Their work transforms lives locally, nationally and globally as they work to change and improve the world around them.

The honorees for 2021 are: **Melanie Adams**, PhD 2014; **Rajiv Banavali**, PhD 1985; **Jennifer Cobbina**, MA 2006, PhD 2009; **Patty Hendrickson**, DNP 2018; and **Amy Hunter**, BA 1992. **LaVell Monger**, BA 2016, received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

The honorees were celebrated during the Founders Celebration on Oct. 7 at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

2000s Eric Madkins, BA 2001, was named to the board of directors at FOCUS St. Louis. **Christine Figge**, BSAcc 2002, MAcc 2003, received the Salute to Business Achievement Award from the UMSL Business Alumni Chapter. **Derrell Carter**, MBA 2003, was hired as vice president for strategic marketing at Stephens College. **Deitra Colquitt**, BSEd 2003, MEd 2010, MEd 2019, EDSP 2020, was one of eight educators selected for EdSurge's inaugural Voices of Change Writing Fellowship. Deitra is the co-principal at Pershing Elementary School.

John McLaurin, BA 2004, has been named deputy commissioner by the Arkansas Securities Department. **Cassandra Kaufman**, MSW 2005, became executive director of the St. Louis Mental Health Board.

Jennifer Cobbina, MA 2006, PhD 2009, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2021 UMSL Founders Dinner. Jennifer is an associate professor in the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University.

Sarah Javier, MPPA 2006, was named to the 2021 class of St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business Women.

James Young, BM 2006, was named the 2022 Missouri Teacher of the Year. James is a sixth-grade musical theatre teacher at Johnson-Wabash Sixth Grade Center.

Carol Berger, BSN 2007, MSN 2009, DNP 2012, led the creation of the documentary, "Rural Children in Crisis: Access to Missouri Oral Care," which highlights the dental health disparities faced by low-income children in rural Missouri. Carol works at Maryville University as an assistant professor of nursing.

Erin Brooks, BS 2007, OD 2011, MS 2013, was featured on the cover of AOA Focus, the magazine of the American Optometric Association, and in a feature story, "Optometry's Reflection," which examined racial and ethnic diversity within the profession. Erin is an associate clinical professor at UMSL.

David Gipson, MPPA 2007, was chosen as the 2021 Jay T. Bell Professional Management Award recipient by the Missouri City/County Management Association. The award recognizes outstanding commitment to the profession of local government management and is the association's highest honor for members.

Maggie Lauer, MBA 2008, was named vice president and chief financial officer of Switch, a St. Louis marketing agency.

Chris Peoples, BSCIE 2008, was named senior project manager at Great Rivers Greenway, where he will work with other staff members, partners and communities to fulfill the agency's mission of connecting the St. Louis region with greenways.

Paul Yorke, MBA 1992, retired as pricing support manager from BP after 35 years of service. He began his career in St. Louis with Amoco Petroleum Additives Company as a financial analyst.

Lorri Edinger Richardson, BSEd 1993, MEd 1999, was honored with the Emerson's Excellence in Teaching Award. Lorri is an eighth-grade U.S. history teacher at Bryan Middle School.

Amy Hunter, BA 1994, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2021 UMSL Founders Dinner. Amy serves as the vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion at Caleres in St. Louis.

Diane Brown, BSN 1995, was named director of Health Services for Parkway Schools.

Tania Farran, BSEd 1996, published a book on parenting, "Raising the Well-Adjusted Child: A Parent's Manual."

Dorlita Adams, MEd 1998, was named principal at Barbara C. Jordan Elementary School in University City, Missouri.

Joseph Blanner, BSPA 1998, became past president of the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors.

Sarajeni Hammond, BSBA 1998, was promoted to executive director of human resources at Bayer.

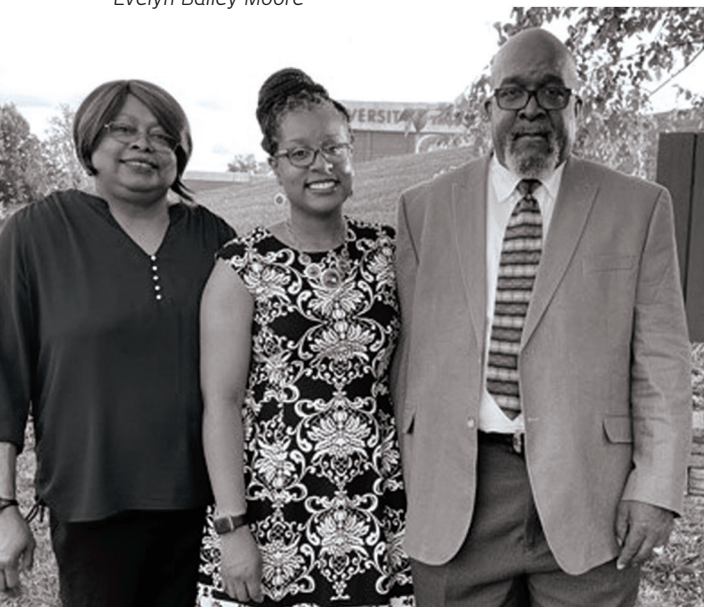
Keesha Strong, BA 1998, was named a St. Louis Business Journal 2021 HR Award honoree.

Art McCoy, MEd 1999, PhD 2002, was named to the board of directors of Mental Health America.

Natissia Small, MEd 1999, MEd 2009, EdD 2016, is one of the honorees of the St. Louis Business Journal's 2021 class of Champions for Diversity and Inclusion.

Clyde Bailey and **Lynn Bailey**, née Scott, BA 1980, met on registration day in the fall of 1972 and married later that year. Years later, their daughter Evelyn Bailey Moore, BSEE 2003, earned her degree while working full time. She is now director of engineering and chief engineer at Boeing.

"UMSL is sentimental to me because my parents met at the school, and as such, the school is at the core of my existence. Attending the university also allowed me to accomplish my childhood dream of being an engineer without having a substantial amount of student loans upon graduation that I was easily able to pay off in a few years. It was the best course of action for me and my family. I would not be where I am today without the Joint Engineering Program and my family support system."
– Evelyn Bailey Moore



Evelyn Bailey Moore, BSEE 2003, (center) with mother Lynn Bailey, BA 1980, and father Clyde Bailey. (Photo courtesy of Evelyn Bailey Moore)

Calling all UMSL legacies

A look at some family legacies tells the story of the unique opportunities that UMSL provides for traditional or non-traditional students and life-long learners. It includes parents and children studying at the same time, multi-generational legacies, siblings, parents inspiring children and children inspiring parents.

Are you part of a family legacy?
Share your story with us!
Email us at alumni@umsl.edu.

Accounting student Natalie Powers followed in the footsteps of her father, Nicholas Powers, BS 2004.



Father Kei Pang, DBA 2021, (left) and son Jo Pang, MS 2011, (right) both found academic homes in the Doctor of Business Administration program.



Twins Luke Ledermann, BSIS 2021, (center) and Leah Ledermann, BA 2021, (left) followed in the footsteps of elder sister Rosella Ledermann, BA 2015, in choosing UMSL.



Three generations of the Scott family have called UMSL home. From left: Brenda Scott, BSN 1990, her granddaughter Jessica Lake, BSW 2010, MSW 2014, MPPA 2014, and daughter Deborah Lake, BA 1989.



Kristen Vogt, BSN 2020, (right) followed her daughter Clare Vogt, BSN 2019, (left) to the UMSL College of Nursing.



Paula Knight, MEd 1996, EDSP 2008, EdD 2014, (left) recalls tagging along to classes with her mother Donna Knight, who earned a BS in public administration from UMSL in 1983.



ALUMNI QUESTION

From the spring 2021 issue:

What was your most memorable date while in school?

"I recall my wife and I regularly attending current movie screenings on campus for just \$1.00. UMSL showed some lesser-known movies, which introduced us to many films we otherwise might have never seen. It was back in the mid-'80s when I was working on my BGS degree while working full-time. Who knew the bargain prices would provide such priceless memories!"

—Russ Sternberg Jr., BGS 1996



Pearlina Boyd, MPPA 2008, joined the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations as early resolution human rights officer. **Erika Cameron**, PhD 2009, was appointed provost and vice president for academic affairs at Palo Alto University in California. **Lauren Collins**, BA 2009, joined Kraft, Bischoff, Buckley & Collins; the in-house litigation department of the Automobile Club of Missouri. **Matthew Hefti**, BSACC 2009, MAcc 2010, was promoted to partner at Rubin Brown.

2010s **Julie Hoff**, MBA 2010, was named vice president of human resources at Sesen Bio. **Laura Ribeiro**, MSW 2010, became an assistant professor of social work at Missouri Baptist University. **Jeremy Brown**, BSEd 2011, started as the new principal at Central High School in Springfield, Missouri. **Gabrielle MacAluso**, BS 2011, MPPA 2013, was appointed to assistant city manager of University City, Missouri. **David McGraw**, BA 2011, BS 2011, MA 2013, MEd 2016, was elected secretary of the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors. **Orinthia Montague**, PhD 2011, was appointed president of Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee.

Sandy Olive, BSEd 2011, BA 2012, MA 2014, appeared on three episodes of "Jeopardy!" in which she was a two-day champion and won more than \$50,000 in prize money. **Cordaryl Patrick**, MPPA 2011, was elected treasurer to the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors. **Keyne Quiroga-Anania**, BLS 2011, was named a recipient of the St. Louis Business Journal's inaugural Business of Pride Award. Those honored are outstanding LGBTQIA+ leaders who are successful in their careers, active in their communities and are advocates for inclusion and equality.

January Realista, MBA 2011, received the Salute to Business Achievement Award from the UMSL Business Alumni Chapter. **Will Werner**, MA 2011, is the new director of UMSL's National Security and Community Policy Collaborative. **Carly Gorka**, BSBA 2012, started as senior marketing automation and production associate with Hinge Health. **Jon McMiller**, BSBA 2012, and his brother, Willie, had their pilot, "Flip it to the Macs," greenlit by HGTV. After years of working in construction for their father, Jon and Willie decided to start their own real estate and renovation business focused on transforming rundown properties in their hometown of St. Louis.

Elizabeth Eikmann, BA 2013, received her PhD in American studies from Saint Louis University, and accepted a postdoctoral fellowship in the study of St. Louis and the American story at Washington University in St. Louis. **Samuel Fredeking**, PhD 2013, MBA 2017, has joined the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board of Directors. Samuel also became director of Human Resources for Behavioral Health Response. **Adam Layne**, MEd 2013, was appointed treasurer for the City of St. Louis. **Gary Mudd**, MBA 2013, is a recipient of the St. Louis Business Journal's inaugural Business of Pride Awards. Those honored are outstanding LGBTQIA+ leaders who are successful in their careers, active in their communities and are advocates for inclusion and equality. **Brittany Pumphrey**, BA 2013, BS 2013, was hired as a behavioral health clinician with HCA Healthcare. **Melanie Adams**, PhD 2014, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2021 UMSL Founders Dinner. Melanie is the director of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, D.C. **Terri Austin**, MEd 2014, became a counselor for Lewis and Clark Community College.

DENVER



KANSAS CITY



ST. LOUIS

I-70 corridor alumni connection



After a summer of empty ballparks due to the pandemic, **baseball and the UMSL Alumni Association** were back this summer!

The Alumni Association celebrated baseball, UMSL and America with alumni in Denver when the St. Louis Cardinals visited the Colorado Rockies in a Fourth of July game. Alumni, family, friends and staff enjoyed the game in a private suite at Coors Field. On Aug. 14, the Alumni Association tailgated with Kansas City-area alumni before the Cardinals and Royals game at Kauffman Stadium and wrapped up the baseball celebration along I-70 with the return of UMSL Night at the Ballpark on Sept. 10 with more than 500 alumni and students as the Cincinnati Reds played the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium.

Nick Bommarito, BS 2014, was named conservation agent for Lincoln County by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Natalie Coyne, BA 2014, started NatalieCoyne.com, a digital marketing consulting business.

Semir Vajzovic, BSEE 2014, has joined the UMSL Alumni Association Board of Directors. Semir was recently promoted to manager of asset and investment management at Ameren Illinois.

Jessepreet Babbra, BSEE 2015, was hired by CASCO Architecture, Engineering & Design as an electrical designer.

Christina Donald, BS 2015, was promoted to senior vice president of advocacy at the Wyman Center.

Sharon Pruitt-Young, BA 2015, joined the NewsDesk Digital News team at National Public Radio.

Chandler Duchaine, BSBA 2016, joined Klein Tools as a product manager.

Christopher Imming, MBA 2016, was promoted to regional president of commercial banking at Midwest BankCentre, which has locations throughout Missouri and Illinois.

Hannah Miller, BFA 2016, started a position as UX designer at Asynchrony Labs.

LaVell Monger, BA 2016, was named the 2021 Outstanding Young Alumni winner. Lavell owns his own business, RTW Photography, and works for Peer Forward, Inc.

Anna Lalumondier, BSBA 2017, became a financial analyst with Ascension.

Joel Richardson, BSCIE 2017, accepted a civil designer position with Castle Contracting in St. Louis as part of its Design-Build team.

Gavin Schiffres, MEd 2017, was an honoree of the 30 under 30 Changemakers Award by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

Saha Cilic, BSBA 2018, became a senior accountant with Electro Express, LLC.

Patty Hendrickson, DNP 2018, received a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2021 UMSL Founders Dinner. Patty is the associate director of Patient Care Services and nurse executive at the Veterans Affairs St. Louis Health Care System.

Logan Page, OD 2018, joined the Center for Sight as an optometric physician at its Siesta Drive office.

Zachary Smith, BSPPA 2018, MBA 2020, became a customer process coordinator with Bayer.

Aditi Tapriya, MBA 2018, started new position as a demand control manager with Beam Suntory.

Ehsan Davarzany, MA 2019, was promoted to BIM Engineer with Helix Electric.

Jennifer Redel, BSEd 2019, became store manager at the Loft in West County, Missouri.

Andrew Saunders, BS 2019, started a position as clinical research coordinator with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Hannah Serafino, BM 2019, started a position as a music faculty member with East Central College.

2020s Allison Belew, BSBA 2020, joined Yoh, A Day & Zimmermann Company as a business development manager.

Christian Brown, BSACC 2020, became a staff auditor at KEB's St. Louis office.

James Jordan, DBA 2020, was named the director of the Program Assistance Division at Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Ruth Kvistad, BA 2020, started the Southern Illinois University MD/ JD dual degree program. She was sworn into the class of 2024 by the Illinois Supreme Court justices in August.

Rhonda Lingard, MEd 2020, was named an operations manager at Court Appointed Special Advocates of St. Louis.

Bronwyn Miller, BS 2020, began a new position as lifestyle enrichment guide with Lutheran Senior Services.

Dalila Omerovic, BA 2020, began her first year at Saint Louis University School of Law.

Sarah Peskar, BA 2020, started a position as a library associate with St. Louis County Library.

Kevin Reynolds, BSEd 2020, began teaching social studies at Sumner High School in the St. Louis Public Schools.

Kevin Sansberry II, DBA 2020, launched the Toxic Leadership Podcast, about how leaders organizations and companies can improve their leadership and practices for organizational success.

Yuima Mizutani, PhD 2020, became an assistant teaching professor at UMSL.

David Schmidt, BSBA 2020, started as marketing and media support professional with Seiler Instrument .

McKenzie Schuessler, BA 2020, was promoted to advancement officer for the UMSL Office of Alumni Engagement.

Delyn Stephenson, MA 2020, was named a Romare Bearden Fellow at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Brad Cary, OD 2021, joined Family Focus Eyecare in Columbia, Missouri.

Shreya Chand, BSIS 2021, became a graduate assistant at UMSL.

Lauren Dermody, OD 2021, joined the joint Missouri practices of Cherry Hill Family Eye Care in Wildwood and Sullivan Eye Care in Sullivan.

Joseph Donato, BS 2021, joined the Missouri Department of Transportation as an investigator for the St. Louis region.

Christine Holt, DBA 2021, was named chancellor for the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana.

Kay Hood, BA 2021, was selected to participate in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. Kay will assist a Japanese teacher in foreign-language classes and serve as a cultural ambassador.

Susan Marino, EdD 2021, was named director of the UMSL Charter School Office, housed in the College of Education.

David McFarland, BS 2021, joined Icon Mechanical as a project manager.

William Pryor, MEd 2021, was

awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Taiwan. He will serve as an English teaching assistant for a year in the capital city of Taipei.

Connor Schultz, BS 2021, began a position with Accenture Federal Services as a software engineer.

Rachel Thompson, BA 2021, BA 2021, accepted a position with the Teaching Assistant Program in France.

LaShe' Tomlin-Wilks, BSN 2021, became a medical-surgical nurse at Mercy Hospital.

Phuonganh Tran, BSBA 2021,

started a position as a claims specialist with Equifax.

JoAnna Watts, MSW 2021, co-founded and now serves as executive director of Missouri's Court Appointed Special Advocate office in Farmington.

Michaela Wells, MEd 2021, became coordinator of Student Organizations and Fraternity and Sorority Life at UMSL.

1960s Kathleen Lorenz, BSEd 1967, MEd 1970, on Jan. 17

John Cleary, BSEd 1969, on June 2

Allan Schindler, MEd 1969, on May 30

1970s Donald Leonard, Jr., BS 1971, on April 13

Thomas Hensley, MEd 1972, EdD 1999, on Jan. 29

Nancy Pasco, BA 1972, on June 10

David Hilty, MBA 1974, on June 21

Willa Furch, MEd 1976, on Feb. 7

1980s Rhonda Drake, BS 1984, on June 13

Bruce Gamble, MEd 1984, on Mar. 4

John McDonnell, BSBA 1989, on April 15

1990s Craig McBride, BA 1997, on April 1

2000s Carole Crowell, MEd 2003, on June 27

Jennifer Putnam, BA 2003, MEd 2020, on Feb. 4

2010s Roseanne Williams, BA 2018, on March 4

