

# You Belong

CLASS NOTES

ONE OF US

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



## QUOTABLE

VINITA HENRY, OD 1985

I BELIEVE IN HARD WORK, BUT YOU DON'T ALWAYS REALIZE THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE PAYING ATTENTION OR ARE AFFECTED BY YOUR WORK. ”

**1970s**

**Gloria Carter-Hicks, BSAJ**, was sworn in as a commissioner for St. Louis County's Civil Service Commission.

**1980s**

**Elizabeth Peterson, BA 1980**, received the inaugural Dr. Jane A. Miller Award from UMSL's Department of Chemistry.

**Keith Grosz, BSBA 1984**, began a new position as director of business development at Gershman Investment Corp.

**Karen Johnson, BSBA 1993**, was promoted to director of experience and research enablement at Edward Jones.

**Doug Wiese, BS 1993**, began a new position as senior director of security, fire and safety at Volkswagen of America, Inc.

**Angela Kolkmeier, BSBA 1994**, began a new position as a sales engineer at MetalTek International.

**Elizabeth Stonefield, BA 1994**, began a new position as director of community-based services at KVC Missouri.

**Tawana Lawson, MS 1999**, was promoted to associate director of the Hazardous Material Program at Wayne State University.

**Brian Price, BA 1999**, began a new position as a sales manager at Renewal by Andersen.

**2000s**

**Toni Hayes, BS 2000**, began a new position as principal scientist of toxicology for preclinical drug development at Apellis Pharmaceuticals.

**Todd Hicks, BA 2000**, began a new position at Baron Spices.

**Felicia Reum, BA 2002**, began a new position as a manager at Everything But Water.

**James Ewing, BA 2003**, began a new position as a designer at OneTech Group.

**Charles Hinderliter, BA 2003**, was promoted to senior vice president of government affairs at St. Louis REALTORS.

**Julie Mantia, BSAcc 2003**, began a new position as a finance coordinator at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

**Michelle Buckley, BA 2004**, was promoted to talent acquisition director at Renewal by Andersen.

◀ **Dr. Vinita HENRY, OD 1985**, received the Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding long-term contributions to the optometric profession from the American Optometric Association Contact Lens and Cornea Section Council in June. She was extremely honored to be recognized by her peers nationally. "I believe in hard work, but you don't always realize that others might be paying attention or are affected by your work," she says. "It is very nice to know that your work has been beneficial to others in your field." Henry also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators this year and works as clinical professor and associate dean of clinical operations in UMSL's College of Optometry. "Working with students is extremely rewarding. To watch their growth and be a small part of watching them reach their potential is very special. I have had a small role in the education of optometry students for over 35 years, and I get to help many more patients than I would have as a private practitioner because I have played a role in the education of our alumni who practice optometry all over the United States."

**Renee Hardin-Tammons, BSBA 1986**, was sworn in as a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals.

**Tim Jordan, BSBA 1986**, began a new position as director of delivery excellence at Trace3.

**Patrick Chunn, BSBA 1987**, was honored at the Salute to Business Achievement Awards.

**Sam Ganga, MBA 1989**, was honored at the Salute to Business Achievement Awards.

**Jeff Henderson, BS 1989**, began a new position as senior manager of supplier quality at Kindeva Drug Delivery Systems.

**Edward Concannon, BS 1996**, was promoted to vice president of IT systems at CSI Leasing Inc.

**Rebecca Boyer, BSAcc 1997**, was honored at the Salute to Business Achievement Awards.

**Ernest P. Williams III, BGS 1997**, began a new position as supplier diversity program manager at bioMerieux.

**Sarajeni Hammond, BSBA 1998**, was honored at the Salute to Business Achievement Awards.

**Douglas Harrison, BA 1998**, was appointed associate dean for the Division of Applied Undergraduate Studies in the School of Professional Studies at New York University.

**Emmanuel Kalogerakis, BS 1998**, began a new position as the head of controlling and accounting at RLE International Group.

**1990s**

**Cathy Arshadi, BSBA 1992**, was honored at the Salute to Business Achievement Awards.

**Kirk KASICKI, MACC 2004**, was promoted to senior vice president, corporate tax at CSI Leasing Inc. Kasicki worked full-time while studying for his master's degree at UMSL – his daughter was born three weeks before finals during his last semester – and he landed his first job out of college with CSI in the income tax department. He considers himself lucky to have a boss who not only taught him what he needed to learn but also supported him when he took a position at Enterprise Rent-A-Car to further expand his horizons. Kasicki returned to CSI as manager of the income tax department in 2010 and has been leading the department since. He says he was quite surprised and honored to be named among those being promoted this year at CSI's annual company-wide meeting. "It reminded me of the faith that CSI puts into its people and is just one of the reasons that CSI has so many long-tenured employees," he says. "During my time at CSI, I've learned about taxing regimes around the world and also had the opportunity to travel to four continents, getting to know and advising our local teams on tax issues. I've worked on a vast array of projects from structuring opportunities for our customers to due diligence on acquisitions as CSI has continued to grow, especially internationally."



**Vince DeBlasi, BA 2001**, was honored as West Newsmagazine's Educator of the Year.

**Stephanie Gifford, BSEd 2001**, began a new position as an enablement analyst at Ameren.

**James E. Jordan Jr., BSAcc 2001, DBA 2020**, began a new position as acting associate deputy director at USDA Rural Development.

**Lori Bryan, BS 2002**, began a new position as a regional re-entry coordinator at Centurion Health.

**Jen Caby, BA 2002**, began a new position as DevSecOps department leader at Edward Jones.

**Elijah Davis, BSEd 2004**, began a new position as an IPS supervisor at Preferred Family Healthcare.

**Kelly Griffon, MSW 2004**, began a new position as a business development specialist at MapHabit.

**Angela Smith, MEd 2004**, began a new position as a disciplinary education program coordinator at Valley View Public School.

**Sima Eghbal, MBA 2005**, began a new position as manager of strategic accounts at Cedric Millar Integrated Solutions.

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ONE OF US

**Toni Hayes, BS '00**

**HOMETOWN:** St. Louis

**CURRENT LOCATION:** Pepperell, Massachusetts

**OCCUPATION:** Principal Scientist of Toxicology for Preclinical Drug Development at Apellis Pharmaceuticals

Toni Hayes is fulfilling her dream of making a difference through her passion for science. After serving in the United States Marine Corps, Hayes knew she wanted to obtain a four-year degree and ultimately chose UMSL because it was a flexible option that would allow her to continue working while pursuing her interest in biology. She had her sights set on a career working in the sciences, either in academia or industry, and has certainly accomplished that. After completing her bachelor's at UMSL in 2000, Hayes went on to earn her master's in toxicology from Northeastern University in 2006. She is a 2015 diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and a 2022 diplomate of the Safety Pharmacology Society and currently works at Apellis Pharmaceuticals as principal scientist of toxicology for preclinical drug development. She looks back fondly on her time at UMSL, giving a lot of credit to former professor Godfrey Bourne. "He was so inspiring and motivating," she says. "He really encouraged me when I didn't think I would make it through the program, and I'm forever grateful for that."

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE A STUDENT?**

As an undergraduate, I always approached college and my time at UMSL as an acute exercise because I juggled working full-time with academics, and time was always a challenge. I think as a student, especially a nontraditional student, I always felt like I had to hurry ... "catch up!" Now I know that I was exactly where I needed to be to get where I am now. I didn't need to catch up to anyone or anything. I'd love to go back in time and enjoy the process, take my time, get better grades, make more friends, join more clubs.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

I love that the work I do every day has the ultimate goal of bringing therapies to people suffering from rare diseases.

**HOW DID YOUR TIME AT UMSL PREPARE YOU TO BE A LEADER?**

The degree I earned from UMSL was my pivot toward the kind of work that I was really passionate about doing. It's enabled me to be a leader within the STEM community and a voice for minorities and women who are underrepresented in the sciences in general.

**Colleen Songer, BSEd 2005, MEd 2010**, began a new position as a special education resource teacher with Francis Howell School District.

**Kiet Dinh, MBA 2006**, began a new position as a product portfolio manager at Enterprise Fleet Management.

**Rachel Fick, MA 2007**, was promoted to senior vice president of global marketing at CSI Leasing Inc.

**Aaron Golchert, BSBA 2007**, was promoted to vice president of sales at Mana Supply Company.

**Kelcy Siddall, BS 2008**, began a new position as a grants administrator at DOORWAYS.

**Dan Brugere, BSBA 2009**, began a new position as a Content Center of Excellence leader at Edward Jones.

**Anthony D'Agostino, MPPA 2009**, began a new position as chief executive officer at Peter & Paul Community Services.

**Mark Kostedt, BSAcc 2009**, began a new position as global supply chain and integration manager at Phantom Works Advanced Weapons at Boeing.

**Chris Paasch, BSBA 2009**, began a new position as a program leader at Edward Jones.

**Nicole Pacheco, BSBA 2009**, was promoted to director of strategic business initiatives, GFS at Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.

**2010s**

**Angela PERKINS, MEd 2010**, was recently promoted to associate director of talent acquisition at Ginkgo Bioworks, a platform company in the biotechnology space focused on synthetic biology. Perkins learned as an undergraduate resident assistant just how fulfilling it was to help students on their journey and turned that passion into a career helping students develop the competencies that employers are looking for. To advance in her career, she took advantage of the flexibility UMSL provides for working professionals juggling their home life, their career and their academic goals to pursue her master's. After earning her degree, she was promoted and has continued to advance in her career in university relations within corporate talent acquisition.

**June Christian, PhD 2011**, began a new position as an inclusion and diversity manager, learning and education at Starbucks.

**Aya Finley, BSAcc 2011, MA 2012**, began a new position as an audit and compliance senior project manager at World Wide Technology.

**Talia Gholson, MBA 2011**, began a new position as a senior human resources consultant at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

**Adam Moss, BSBA 2011**, began a new position as an operations associate-Addepar/BETA at Stifel Financial Corp.

**Mary Risler, BA 2011**, was promoted to MP&P technical analyst (chemical/contamination) at Boeing.

**Shakina Sheppard, BA 2011**, began a new position as a clinical support supervisor at CenterPointe Hospital.

**Eboni Sterling, BSEd 2011**, began a new position as the director of research and evaluation at Area Resources for Community and Human Services.

**Janelle Stowers, MEd 2011**, was named to St. Louis Business Journal's 2023 list of "Most Influential Business Women."

**Christian Williams, BA 2011**, began a new position as a youth community behavioral health liaison at BJC HealthCare.

**Salih Buric, BSBA 2012**, began a new position as a project manager at Enterprise Fleet Management.



**Matt Lewis, MEd 2012**, began a new position as a human resources advisor at Novaspect Inc.

**Amanda McCrary, BA 2012**, began a new position as a resident physician at SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital.

**Marie Steinbach, MBA 2012**, began a new position as a licensed massage therapist at Massage Envy.

**Brett Alexander Evans, BSBA 2013**, began a new position as vice president of sales at Carbon Direct.

**John Felchner, BSBA 2013**, began a new position as a transportation manager at Nestle Purina North America.

**Samuel Fredeking, BA 2013**, was promoted to vice president of operations at BHR.

**Sarah Gamblin, BA 2013, MA 2018**, began a new position as director of systems change-community information exchange at the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

**Melissa Kaelin, MBA 2013**, began a new position as the director of executive staff integration, US Business Unit at Edward Jones.

**Christian Power, BSBA 2013**, began a new position as a business execution consultant for the Research and Diagnosis team at Wells Fargo.

**Bri Pumphrey, BA 2013**, began a new position as a behavioral health specialist with the Texas National Guard.

**Jill Rogers, MBA 2013**, began a new position as a community manager at The Commons.

**Daman Singh, BA 2013**, began a new position as a VDI and managed endpoint engineer at Capgemini.

**Majed Alam, BSBA 2014**, started as a GA staff advisor at Aramco.

**Samir Alic, BSBA 2014**, was promoted to financial analyst at Cushman & Wakefield.

**Andrew Berhorst, BSBA 2014**, began a new position as the director of accounting at Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition.

**Paige Clark, BBA 2014**, began a new position as a client success consultant at Ad Astra.

**Cynthia Holman, BA 2014**, began a new position as an FP&A analyst at Commerce Bank.

**Natalie Jaggie, BA 2014**, began a new position as a corporate attorney at Stock Legal, LLC.

**Chris Johnson, MBA 2014**, began a new position as a senior manager of Phantom Works Advanced Weapons at Boeing.

**Lyla Kolar, BSBA 2014**, was promoted to vice president of marketing at Omni Logistics.

**Vance Lewis, OD 2014**, began a new position as an optometrist at Swagel Wootton Eye Institute.

**Carmen Stayton, MEd 2014**, began a new position as a program manager/math instructional specialist with the Institute for School Partnerships at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Michael Walker, BSIS 2014**, began a new position as an assistive technology analyst at World Wide Technology.

**Joe Atkisson, BSBA 2015**, began a new position as a financial advisor at Benjamin F. Edwards.

**An Cao, BSBA 2015, MBA 2019**, began a new position as a senior accountant at Medrina.

**Matthew Coker, BSBA 2015**, began a new position as a solutions architect at OSF Digital.

**Liz Drennan, BSBA 2015**, began a new position as a finance manager at Stryker.

**Naomi Green, MBA 2015**, began a new position as marketing manager of association and events at MCI USA.

**Taniza Haq, BSME 2015**, began a new position as an engineering manager at Nidec Motor Corporation.

**Greg Helton, BSCIE 2015**, began a new position as an aviation project manager at Hanson Professional Services Inc.

**Nathan Johnston, BM 2015**, began a new position as a senior IT assurance analyst at Centene Corporation.

**Alicia Kemp, BA 2015**, began a new position as a small business banker at Bank of America.

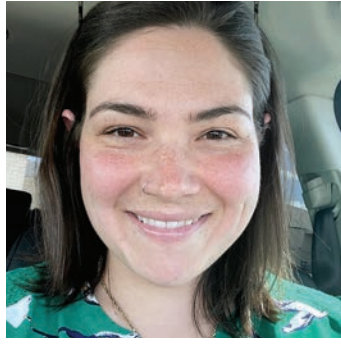
**Carissa Lyle, BSBA 2015**, began a new position as a cost accountant at World Wide Technology.

**Katie Mocivnik, BA 2015**, began a new position as a prospect researcher with the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center.

**Kent Morgan, BS 2015**, began a new position as a corporate process engineer at Aurorium.

**Anita Moudgal, MD, MEd 2015**, began a new position as instructor, medicine-hospitalist at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.





**Nicole LOGRASSO, BSBA 2013**, was recently promoted to small business liaison officer on the Global Supplier Diversity team at Boeing supporting the Air Dominance Division in St. Louis. She began her career at Boeing in 2016 as a procurement agent and worked at the company for more than four years before making the hard decision to leave in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She was excited to return to the company early last year and to have been promoted this spring. "I'm most excited about learning the SBLO side that I wasn't able to learn in my previous time on the team," she says. "I'm also excited about learning more about some of the cross-functional teams that I get to work with in this role, which will further expand my understanding of how Boeing does business outside of just supply chain."

**Amanda Tran, BSEd 2015**, began a new position as a junior kindergarten teacher at Rohan Woods School.

**Kayla Young, BS 2015**, began a new position as a project/program coordinator II at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Jaymi Brooks, BIS 2016**, began a new position as a senior brokerage partner at DTSpade Specialized Real Estate.

**Tiffany Brown, BA 2016**, began a new position as a qualified mental health professional at Integral Care.

**Kayla Cambron, BSBA 2016**, began a new position as a lead customer resolution representative at Wells Fargo.

**Brianda Cepeda, BSIS 2016**, began a new position as a senior data analyst at Network for Good.

**Sean Curd, MA 2016**, was promoted to director of admissions at Stephens College.

**Chandler Duchaine, BSBA 2016**, began a new position as a senior product manager at Klein Tools.

**Nousheen 'Bri' Ehsan, BS 2016**, began a new position on the expert witness team at Maune Raichle Hartley French & Mudd, LLC.

**Olivia Foster, BSN 2016**, began a new position as a psychiatric nurse practitioner at SSM Health.

**Aeisha Johnson, MEd 2016**, began a position as a senior auditor at BJC Healthcare.

**Terrell Jones, BA 2016**, began a new position as a claims generalist associate at Progressive Insurance.

**Sean Marshall, BS 2016**, began a new position as a convention services manager at the Chase Park Plaza.

**Huy (Ben) Nguyen, BS 2016, MS, PhD 2022**, started as an adjunct instructor at Maryville University.

**Josiah Perkins, BS 2016**, began a new position as an account development representative III at Samsara.

**Emma Seidel, BSME 2016**, began a new position as a mechanical design engineer at Stereotaxis.

**Cassie Starrett, BSN 2016**, began a new position as a certified registered nurse anesthetist at Metro-West Anesthesia Group, Inc.

**Audri Adams, BA 2017, MA 2020**, began a new position as a senior academic advisor at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

**Storme Burt, BSBA 2017**, began a new position as an associate event accountant at Maritz Global Events.

**Alex Fischer, BSACC 2017, MSACC 2019**, began a new position as supervising senior tax associate at Armanino LLP.

**Christina Floyd, BA 2017**, began a new position as a chemistry lab supervisor at Infinity Laboratories.

**Nicole Gaehle, BSIS 2017, MS 2019**, began a new position as a technical supporter at UMSL Women's Hackathon.

**Brittany Hafford Smith, BSW 2017, MSW 2020**, began a new position as a development manager at The ALS Association.

**Wade Justice, BSBA 2017**, was promoted to senior AML and fraud investigator at Edward Jones.

**Mirzet Mandzic, BA 2017**, began a new position as a sales manager at Essential Network Technologies.

**Ryan Morse, MAcc 2017**, was promoted to senior analyst in corporate development at Core & Main.

**Sarah An Myers, BA 2017, MA 2021**, began a new position as a contributing writer at the Center for Inquiry.

**Raven Pugh, BA 2017**, began a new position as an associate project manager at Urban Strategies, Inc.

**Mekdes Sirage, BSN 2017**, began a new position as nursing manager in perioperative services at Methodist Hospital.

**Selena Smith, BSCIE 2017**, began a new position as a senior engineering designer at Lee Engineering LLC.

**Gaylon Via, MBA 2017**, began a new position as vice president of strategic planning at UWG Advertising Services.

**Alicia Walker, MSW 2017, MEd 2021**, began a new position as a fifth grade teacher with the Hazelwood School District.

**Amanda Carr, MEd 2018**, began a new position as a member of the Board of Directors at Kids in the Middle.

**Kyle Cope, BSBA 2018**, was promoted to senior program manager at Boeing.

**Phillip Deters, BSBA 2018**, began a new position as senior financial planning analyst in BDS Mobility, Surveillance and Bombers at Boeing.

**Kimberly Falls, BA 2018**, was promoted to store manager at Scandinavian Designs.

**Alexander Friedman, BSME 2018**, began a new position as a sustaining engineer III at Essex Industries.

**Mohammed Khider, BSBA 2018**, began a new position as a human resources specialist at Wataniya Insurance Company.

**Sammie Lienhard, BSBA 2018**, began a new position as controller for Regional Health Services of Howard County.

**Katy Robertson, MBA 2018**, began a new position as the director of development and community engagement at Rung for Women.

**Blaire Stillwell, BA 2018**, began a new position as digital product owner of MySoftware at Emerson.

**Amanda Sylcox, BA 2018**, began a new position as a community support supervisor at Compass Health Network.

**John Tegethoff, BSACC 2018**, began a new position as a property accountant at InnVentures IVI LP.

**Nilkumar Thanki, BS 2018**, began a new position as an analytical and formulation scientist II at Thermo Fisher Scientific.

**Amanda Vanderheyden, MEd 2018**, was promoted to UX architect at Bayer.

**Menasha Adams, BSME 2019**, began a new position as an application engineer at Hitachi Energy.

**Danielle Brickey, BS 2019**, began a new position as an executive assistant at VetBiz.

**Hannah Briner, MSW 2019**, began a new position as an adjunct instructor with the Cincinnati State Technical Community College.

**Rhonda Clayton, MEd 2019**, began a new position as manager of business administration at University of Missouri Extension.

**Ehsan Davarzany, MA 2019**, began a new position as a project manager at Morcom International, Inc.

**Kevin Flood, BSBA 2019**, began a new position as a financial services representative at Charles Schwab.

**Drew Foster, BSW 2019**, began a new position as an urban garden coordinator at The Fit and Food Connection.

**Heather Lange, BS 2019**, began a new position as a trust associate with Central Trust Company.

**Elise McMIndes, MFA 2019**, was promoted to a senior graphic designer at Optum.

**Kimberley Preston, BSBA 2019, MEd 2021**, began a new position as a fifth grade teacher with the Hazelwood School District.

**Kaitlin Riesmeyer, BA 2019**, began a new position as a senior associate scientist at Pfizer.

**Koltyn Schilly, BA 2019**, began a new position as team manager in investor services at TD Ameritrade.



## WHERE IN THE WORLD?

# LONDON

with Veronique DiVoire, MBA 1994



**RIGINALLY** from Lyon, France (a twin city to St. Louis!), Veronique met her husband and fellow UMSL alum, **Subhojit Chakraborty, MS 1995**, while earning her MBA. Together, the couple moved to London, where Veronique now works as the head of human resources for Freedom from Torture, a not-for-profit human rights organization.

### WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO LONDON?

My husband getting a job in London. He is from India and graduated from UMSL too, earning a master's degree in physiological optics and vision science.

### BIGGEST SURPRISE ABOUT LIVING AND WORKING IN ENGLAND?

How expensive London is, in particular accommodations! I was also surprised when looking for jobs. England has its own human resources professional body, the CIPD, and most human resources jobs require a master's or bachelor's accredited by the CIPD. I fought the job market hard when looking for my

first job in England to secure a role that wouldn't require me to do another master's in England. I achieved that and moving roles after that was a lot easier as I had professional experience in England.

### WHERE TO STAY

In the Docklands by the Thames River. It is a brand-new area of London that has developed in the past 25 years.

### MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

The London Eye, Trafalgar Square, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey. Also, the wonderful museums, such as the British Museum and Science Museum, to name a few.

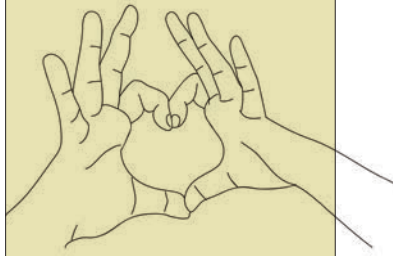
### HIDDEN GEMS

Greenwich and its meridian. It's not as popular as the other attractions and often forgotten by tourists, but it sits in a beautiful park by the Thames outside of the intense central London life.

### FOOD TO TRY

Fish and chips or bangers and mash, of course!

faculty  
member  
who  
inspires  
me



**ASSOCIATE DEAN EMERITUS DAVID GANZ AND DR. EKIN PELLEGRINI BOTH TAUGHT ME TO NEVER GIVE UP AND ALWAYS PERSEVERE. THROUGHOUT EVERY PHASE OF RESEARCH, YOU OFTEN MAY COME UP AGAINST SOME TYPE OF HINDRANCE. MY RESEARCH STARTED RIGHT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, BUT I WAS ABLE TO UNCOVER TWO NOVEL VARIABLES OF ORGANIZATIONAL PRIDE AND 360 COMMUNICATIONS, AND IT IS MY HOPE THAT THESE FINDINGS WILL STIMULATE FUTURE RESEARCH AND CONTRIBUTE TO AN ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING OF GEN X AND MILLENNIALS BUILDING THEIR CAREERS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

*James E. Jordan Jr.,  
BSAcc 2001, DBA 2020*



## ALUMNI NEWS



**Lindsey Sieve, BSBA 2019**, began a new position as an AP supervisor at Enterprise Fleet Management.

**Helena Spikes, BS 2019**, began a new position as a process development scientist at MilliporeSigma.

**Zack Stahr, BSBA 2019**, began a new position as a regional marketing manager at Live Nation Entertainment.

**Ashleah Summers, BA 2019**, began a new position as a senior technician at Valvoline Inc.

**Andrew Tipping, BA 2019, MA 2019**, began a new position as manager on the Health Data Science Team at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health.

**Matthew Walker, BSBA 2019**, began a new position as a technical specialist at Edward Jones.

### 2020s

**Keonna Artis, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a customer service representative at Wells Fargo Advisors.

**Tanvi Bhandary, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a corporate banking analyst at Barclays Corporate and Investment Bank.

**Savannah Boehlein, BES 2020**, began a new position as an elementary school teacher with the School District of University City.

**William Brewer, BS 2020**, began a new position as a career and transfer skills development specialist at Dallas College.

**Ivory Clark, MA 2020**, started a new position as assistant curator at the National Blues Museum.

**Kalynn Clinton, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as TECDP program project management lead analyst at Cigna Healthcare.

**Mathias Dunville, BSBA 2020**, was promoted to portfolio administration associate manager with Cushman & Wakefield.

### SEEN AND HEARD

## UMSL Alumni Association 2023 Distinguished Alumni

The 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award winners are transformational leaders in special education, construction law, business, media, philanthropy and cybersecurity. They also continue to support UMSL with their time and talent. This collective impact can be felt from our campus to the St. Louis region to the larger world, driving positive change for a better tomorrow.

The 2023 honorees are (pictured from left) **Petra Baker, MEd in educational administration, 2003, EdS in administration, 2008; Joseph C. Blanner, BS in public policy administration, 1998; Gloria Carter-Hicks, BS in administration of justice; Kevin Killeen, BA in communications, 1982; Mary McMurtrey, MPPA, 2006, GC in nonprofit management and leadership, 2006. The 2023 Outstanding Young Alumni honoree is Bharath Mukka, MS in cybersecurity, 2021.** The honorees were celebrated at the annual Founders Celebration held at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Sept. 21.

**Selmedin Esmerovic, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a safety specialist at Alcatraz LLC.

**Jeffry Faulkner, BSCIE 2020**, began a new position as an engineer I at Parsons Corporation.

**Daisha Holmes, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a specialized grant programs manager at Johnson County Community College.

**Richard Hua, BSACC 2020, MS 2022**, began a new position as a development operations engineer at Boeing.

**Kyle Jakubeck, BSACC 2020**, received the Elijah Watts Sells Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**Johne'e Johnson, BA 2020**, began a new position as a care coordinator at St. Luke's Hospital.

**Ronald Jones, BS 2020**, began a new position as a code enforcement officer with the City of Dellwood, Missouri.

**Kellen King, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as an associate at Greentech Renewables.

**Chris Little, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a staff accountant at Charter Communications.

**Carly McPherson, BSACC 2020**, began a new position as a staff accountant at Oral Surgery Partners.

**Madeline Morrison, MSW 2020**, began a new position as a preschool teacher at Youth in Need.

**Autumn Nelson, BA 2020**, began a new position as project coordinator in client services at RubinBrown LLP.

**Sally Nguyen, BS 2020**, began a new position as a business product owner at Cigna Healthcare.

**Fatima Omerovic, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a senior account representative at USI Insurance Services.

**Selma Omerovic, BSACC 2020**, started a position as a business analyst with Oral Surgery Partners.

**Bailey Pinette, BS 2020**, began a new position as a supervisor at Eurofins Environment Testing.

**Ally Scheidt, BSBA 2020**, started a new position in Government Cost Accounting with Boeing.

**Mary Kate Soule, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a procurement trainee at Bunge.

**Brianna Stanfield, BS 2020**, began a new position as a clinical research coordinator at the Institute for Medical Research Inc.

**Kayla Stecker, BS 2020, MSW 2022**, began a new position as a hospice social worker at Visiting Nurse Association of Greater St. Louis.

**Lorenzo Streeter, BSBA 2020**, began a new position as a buyer at Gulfstream Aerospace.

**Courtney Taylor, BA 2020**, began a new position as an operations specialist at ATIS.

**Emma Whewell, BSIS 2020**, began a new position as a procurement coordinator at Cushman & Wakefield.

**Chris Allensworth, BSME 2021**, began a new position as a mechanical engineer at Engenuity.

**Bailey Barry, BA 2021**, began a new position as a retention specialist at CarShield.

**Anna Bass, BS 2021**, began a new position as a research technician II at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Nathan Bauer, MEd 2021**, began a new position as an elementary school teacher with the Kirkwood School District.

**Mitchel Becher, BSN 2021**, began a new position as a home health nurse at Deaconess Health System.

**Alex Bower-Leet, BES 2021**, began a new position as an assistant guide and learning specialist at Villa di Maria Montessori School.

**Mulugeta Chekol, BLS 2021**, began a new position as a system analyst at CHR Solutions.

**Mydah Choudhry, BSN 2021**, began a new position as a surgical nurse at Eye Surgeons of Indiana.

**Kendra Clark, BS 2021**, began a new position as an associate training and development analyst at Constellation.

**Naoufel Farid, BSEE 2021**, began a new position as a strategic account manager at Nidec Motor Corporation.

**Olivia Frank, BA 2021**, began a new position as a youth market development coordinator at the American Heart Association.

**Haley Geiser, BSBA 2021**, began a new position as a tech data associate at Gulfstream Aerospace.

**Grace Gresick, BSBA 2021**, started a new position as a marketing specialist at Ad-Venture Promotions.

**Gabrielle Hancher, BSN 2021**, began a new position as a registered nurse at Family Care Health Centers.

**Daniel Hearst, BA 2021**, began a new position as development officer in the Youth Professionals Division at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

**Ericka Jones, BSW 2021**, began a new position as a social services coordinator with the City of Maryland Heights, Missouri.

**Matthew Juergens, PhD, MBA 2021**, began a new position as senior financial analyst-soybean strategy at Bayer.

**Jena Karam, MBA 2021**, began a new position as a sales coordinator at DriveCentric.

**Marissa Knapp, BA 2021**, began a new position as a legal administrative assistant at Thompson Coburn LLP.

**Mike Kohne, BSEE 2021**, began a new position as a staff electrical engineer at Burns and McDonnell.

**Annie McClain, BSBA 2021**, began a new position as a financial analyst at Bank of America.

**Samantha McClure, BSN 2021**, began a new position as a registered nurse at CareRev.

**Angelique Mellas, BSBA 2021**, began a new position as a marketing consultant at High Five Strategies.

**Elma Mujezinovic, BS 2021**, began a new position as an employer branding and culture communications specialist at Lexicon.

**Winnie Needham, PhD 2021**, was promoted to director of faculty development at Principia College.

**Sam Poisson, BSACC 2021**, began a new position as an accountant at Tech Electronics.

**William Pryor IV, MEd 2021**, began a new position as teaching assistant and English teaching fellow at the National Tapei University of Technology.

**Muhammad Qayyum, BSIS 2021**, started a new position as a technical consultant at Perficient.

**Ryan Rawlings, BSIS 2021**, began a new position as a quality assurance analyst I at Charter Communications.

**Tatiahna Richardson, MSW 2021**, began a new position as a staff therapist at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Marissa Smithinsky, MEd 2021**, began a new position as an ESL resource teacher at KIPP Kansas City.

**Mary Alice Swann, BS 2021**, began a new position as senior facilities coordinator at Cushman & Wakefield.

**Sam Taglia, MEd 2021**, began a new position as an assistant manager at Edgeworks Climbing + Fitness.

**Nick Tzianos, BSBA 2021**, was named talent acquisition coordinator for Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

**Michael Watson, BES 2021**, began a new position as a teacher with East Greenbush Central Schools.

**Dasia Williams, BSACC 2021**, began a new position as a substitute teacher at Kelly Education.

**Ebonee Allen, BSBA 2022**, began a new position as a marketing outreach coordinator at Novick Orthodontics.

**Abigail Anderson, BSN 2022**, began a new position as a registered nurse at SSM Health.

**Sydney Byrd, MEd 2022**, started a new position as a mental health counselor at the Megan Meier Foundation.

**Nick Classen, BSACC 2022**, began a new position as an internal auditor at Bunge.

**Justin Hercher, BS 2022**, started a new position as lead systems support analyst at Behavioral Health Response.

**Christina Karam, BS 2022**, began a new position as a medical assistant at Evora Women's Health.

**Mallory Mason, BA 2022**, began a new position as a preemployment instructor at Easterseals Midwest.

**Peter Rees, MEd 2022**, began a new position as a school therapist with Saint Louis Counseling.

**Mollie Shoemaker, BSN 2022**, was awarded the DAISY Award, which is a special honor given to extraordinary nurses for the compassionate contributions they make every day by going above and beyond expectations in science and sensitivity.

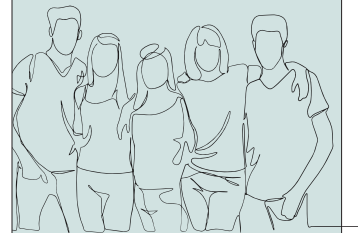
**Ashley Starmer, BA 2022**, began a new position as a data entry clerk at Lincare.

**Shawanda Martin, BS 2023**, began a new position as an operations research analyst at US Transportation Command.

**Jaqui Rogers, PhD 2023**, was named to the board of directors of Pedal the Cause.

**Abhishek Solomon, MS 2023**, began a new position as a product owner at Bunge.

## favorite spot on campus as a student



MY FAVORITE PLACE AT UMSL WAS A MULTIPURPOSE QUIET ROOM IN THE FRONT OF THE MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER. I LOVED TO SIT NEAR THE FIREPLACE AND STUDY THERE. THERE WAS NOTHING LIKE SIPPING A PUMPKIN SPICE FRAPPÉ AND STUDYING NEAR THE FIREPLACE ON A FALL DAY!

**Ketisha Harris Anderson, BA 2014**

## In Memoriam

— **1960s** **Dennis McCarthy, BA 1968**, on Oct. 9 — **1970s** **Thomas Villa, MEd 1971**, on Jan. 20;

**Michael J. Olds, BA 1973**, on Aug. 19 — **1980s** **Virginia Wurthmann, BA 1982**, on March 11;

**Marie McCormick, BGS 1989**, on Nov. 1, 2022 — **1990s** **Thomas Ford, MBA 1993**, on July 11; **Fern**

**Branchfield-Mreen, BGS 1999**, on June 9 — **2000s** **Joshua Bolts Stegeman, BA 2001**, on Dec. 29, 2022;

**Michael Henry Grady, BA 2004**, in Aug. 2023; **Orinthia T. Montague, PhD 2011**, on Sept. 22.