



CLASS NOTES

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Send class notes and life updates to:

alumni@umsl.edu
umslalumni.org
314-516-5833

1980s **Dennis Hancock**, BSBA 1980, was elected to the St. Louis County Council.

Dan Lauer, BSBA 1983, received the Champions for Diversity and Inclusion Award from the St. Louis Business Journal.

Sheila Burkett, BSBA 1989, was selected for the 2023 St. Louis Titan 100 program.

1990s **Timothy Green**, BA 1990, began a new position as the executive vice president of the Electrical Connection.

Stephen Savis, BSBA 1993, began a new position as the chief human resources officer with ESCO Technologies.

Daniel Isom, BA 1994, MA 2003, PhD 2008, began a new position as vice president of corporate safety, security and crisis management at Ameren.

Joe Anemone, MA 1997, began a new position as an investment management consultant II at Fidelity Investments.

Sarajeni Hammond, BA 1998, was promoted to vice president of human resources, consumer health for North America at Bayer.

Dr. Jacqueline Goerck, PhD 1999, received the 2022 Robert R. Hermann World Ecology Award.

Blake Schwalb, BA 1999, began a new position as director of services at World Wide Technology.

2000s **Opal Jones**, BSBA 2000, was selected for the 2023 St. Louis Titan 100 program.

Sarah Cowart, BA 2002, was promoted to product delivery manager at Mastercard.

Orvin Kimbrough, MBA 2002, received the Corporate Executive of the Year Award at The St. Louis American's 2023 Salute to Excellence in Business Awards.

Leslie Mar'Na, MSW 2002, began a new position as a program manager at Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation.

Christopher Lehmuth, BS 2003, was named vice president of innovation/new products at TurningPoint Healthcare Solutions.

Pooja Srivatsa, MA 2003, began a new position as a product manager at Genentech.

Kelly Kenkel, BSBA 2004, began a new position as a program leader at Edward Jones.

Lauren Updike, BS 2004, began a new position as a registered nurse with SSM Health.

ALUMNI Q & A

IN DECEMBER 2022, AFTER NEARLY 60 YEARS OF DEDICATION, A CAREER, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN,

IRENE GARRISON

FULFILLED A DREAM HER FATHER HAD FOR HER: EARNING A

COLLEGE DEGREE. Garrison began

her college journey in 1966 as a mother of two young children and in December finally walked across the stage at the Mark Twain Athletic Center, earning her bachelor's degree in French with honors at the age of 85.

Why was getting a degree so important to you after all these years?

I wanted to fulfill my father's dream for me to attend university. He was saving money for my education, and I am sure for my younger sister, Katherine. Unfortunately, he died from a heart attack when I was a sophomore in high school and Katherine was in elementary school.

How did the continuous pursuit of your degree impact your life?

I originally enrolled at UMSL in 1966, but disruptions occurred throughout the years, such as moving due to my husband's employment opportunities. Once we returned to St. Louis, I re-enrolled at UMSL and continued from 1986 to 1990. Due to work, continuing education in my profession as well as family obligations, I had to put my pursuit for a degree on hold until retirement. Finally, from 2018 to 2022, I realized I was free to finish what I started, and graduation was only a few credit hours away. Our son, John, and daughter, Kathy, had earned their degrees from UMSL and Washington University in St. Louis, respectively. All five of our grandchildren have graduated from universities in other states, and now I can say that I have followed them in the same path here at UMSL.

What are some of your best memories of your time at UMSL?

I remember having inspiring instructors/professors at UMSL who made me want to learn and research information beyond the classroom. Psychology, geology, English and French literature courses were my favorite and most successful. The professors were always accessible to help with problems when clarification was needed. My last elective course was Spanish, and I would like to thank Professor Amy D'Agrosa for her patience and timeliness in answering my many questions. Sarah Klekamp, my advisor, guided me through each and every requirement of my schedule, for which I am deeply grateful. I was elated to happen to meet them in the building of the graduation ceremony. I would also like to thank Violaine White, French advisor, who was instrumental in making sure that I had followed the planned schedule correctly and completed the required French courses.

Describe the feeling you had participating in commencement.

Being able to participate in commencement was a joyous feeling for me because I achieved my longtime goal of completing my degree and knew that I accomplished my father's wish. I was grateful to my family for encouraging me and, especially, to my husband, Arnold, who has supported me in my endeavor, no matter the time, nor the additional expense. Most of my family members had come a long way to attend the graduation ceremony, and I appreciated their enthusiasm as I walked to receive my diploma.





Alumni help upgrade student-athlete academic commons

With about 270 student-athletes at UMSL and a study space for just 30, the Student-Athlete Academic Commons in the Mark Twain Athletic Center needed an upgrade. Conversations between UMSL Director of Athletics Lori Flanagan, members of the UMSL Advancement team and Stan (MBA 1992) and Terry Freerks (BA 1977, MEd 1979) – UMSL Distinguished Alumni Award winners and avid university boosters – brought that goal to fruition.

Thanks to a generous financial donation from the Freerks, the space was overhauled during the 2021-22 school year and ready for use at the beginning of the fall semester. As former collegiate swimmers – Terry at Arizona State University and Stan at Cornell University – the Freerks know what it takes to succeed in athletics and academics. It’s a fine line to walk, but they understand that doing so develops character and life skills.

“You have to be disciplined, you have to be committed, you have to have a lot of follow-through,” Terry said. “So, this project was one that we felt strongly about because it helped the athletes address the academic side of their responsibilities.”

Kate Kimble, BA 2006, began a new position as a public information director at Larimer County Sheriff’s Office.

Tiffany Patton, BSEd 2006, began a new position as a professional development coordinator at Riverview Gardens.

Lana Kerker Oliver, BA 2007, began a new position as a scrum master with Spire.

Lisa Baker, BA 2008, MA 2012, began a new position as a technical product owner at Brooksource.

Pearlina Boyd, MA 2008, began a new position as a mediator with the Association of Missouri Mediators and was named associate member of the Chicago Bar Association.

Miranda Ming, BSEd 2008, MEd 2010, EDSP 2012, PhD 2015, co-authored “The Path Less Traveled: Creating Authentic STEM Career Pathways by Removing Barriers for Underestimated Youth.”

Michael Rich, BS 2008, began a new position as a financial planning and analysis manager at Milestone Equipment Holdings.

Kavina Sprehe, BA 2009, began a new position as a project/program management coordinator at Elsevier.

Benjamin White, BLS 2009, started a new position as a diversity, equity and inclusion program manager at White Cap.

2010s Danielle Faucett, BA 2010, was promoted to associate registrar at UMSL.

Michael Wolpert, BSAcc 2010, began a new position as a director of global accounts receivable at Cushman & Wakefield.

Ashlee Young, MEd 2011, started a new position as associate director of first scholars initiatives, NASP at the Center for First-Generation of Student Success.

Kitty Castilleja-Cutts, BSBA 2012, began a new position as an HR manager at Operation Food Search.

Alex Ellison, BS 2012, was elected to his second consecutive four-year term as prosecuting attorney of Pike County, Missouri.

Brandon Lewey, BS 2012, was promoted to consulting engineer-system protection at Ameren.

Jennifer McNamee, MBA 2012, began a new position as a fundraising events manager at the American Parkinson Disease Association of Greater St. Louis.

Marisa Roth, BS 2012, MA 2015, began a new position as a data analyst at UMSL.

Jared Wendlandt, BS 2012, began a new position as a senior compensation analyst at Gopuff.

Jennifer Barlass Amatya, MPPA 2013, began a new position as a school relations manager at Greenheart International.

Elizabeth Eikmann, BA 2013, was awarded the Lewis E. Atherton dissertation prize from the State Historical Society of Missouri for her dissertation, "In Her Image: Photography, Whiteness, and Womanhood in St. Louis, 1877-1920."

Hongjin Li, BSN 2013, was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to further her research on supportive care for breast cancer survivors.

Joshua McCoy, BA 2013, began a new position as a new truck sales representative at Gateway Truck & Refrigeration.

Mike Philbin, MSW 2013, began a new position as a sourcing specialist at Intermountain Health.

Darian Cartharn, BS 2014, began a new position as a clinical sales representative at Intuitive.

Natalie Ellis, MA 2014, began a new position as an associate attorney at Amundsen Davis, LLC.

Bailey Finau, BSEd 2014, began a new position as vice principal at Eastwood Hills Elementary.

Anthony Lynch, BS 2014, BSAcc 2016, began a new position as a senior cloud financial analyst at Enterprise Holdings.

Gabriela Murcia, BBA 2014, began a new position as a financial services manager at EY.

Vivien Palacios, BSBA 2014, began a new position as a F/A-M 18 master production scheduler team lead at Boeing.

Kat Riddler, BA 2014, MA 2016, was promoted to senior project advisor at Express Scripts.

Michael Sherman, BS 2014, began a new position as a senior account manager at LG Electronics North America.



About 50 UMSL Business alumni got their kicks during an exclusive event at **St. Louis CITY SC's CITYPARK.**

On Nov. 9, 2022, attendees enjoyed a happy hour in a suite, tours of the facility and some fun conversations. The UMSL Business Alumni Chapter holds networking and social events throughout the year including happy hours, wine tastings and outings at Top Golf.

Daniel Shular, BFA 2014, began a new position as a staff photojournalist with the Tulsa World Media Company.

Allison Wieczkowski, BA 2014, began a new position as a senior integrated technologies owner at Oracle.

Tasha Crenshaw, BA 2015, began a new position as an intake specialist at Mercy.

Naomi Green, MBA 2015, began a new position as an adjunct professor at Lone Star College.

Taylor Heaton, BSBA 2015, began a new position as a recruiter with Insight Global.

Jessica Lodes, BSN 2015, began a position as a registered nurse at Missouri Baptist Medical.

Kent Morgan, BS 2015, began a new position as a process engineer at Vertellus.

David Spagnolo, BSME 2015, was promoted to systems engineer III at Boeing.

Adam Tiemann, BA 2015, began a new position as an investment risk manager with Edward Jones.

Amber Bell-Christian, BS 2016, EdD 2021, began a new position as a coordinated entry program manager at Family Support Center of South Sound.

Stephanie Cole, BA 2016, began a new position as a senior project manager at Trace3.

Tiffany Shockley, BA 2016, began a new position as a contract administrator at Oracle.

Aidan Leisti, BSAcc 2017, began a new position as a senior internal auditor at Enterprise Holdings.

Jimmy Mundell, MA 2017, PhD 2020, began a new position as a people analytics partner at Netflix.

Sherry Nelson Thomas, MSW 2017, began a new position as the director of development at CareSTL Health.

Madeline Oberman, MA 2017, began a new position as a data analyst and grant writer at St. Louis County Family Court.

Emel Saeidi, BA 2017, began a new position as an electrical design engineer at VanTran Transformers.

In Memoriam

1960s

Louis Peters, BA 1969, on Sept. 11, 2022

1970s

Nancy Gleason, BSED 1972, MA 1988, on Mar. 4, 2023

Sheila Ray Reynolds Shantz, BSBA 1972, on Nov. 8, 2022

Ruth Streit, BS 1974, on Dec. 9, 2022

Dr. Eustolia Spuhl, BA 1977, on Dec. 28, 2022

1990s

Robert Leonard Jr., BA 1990, on Oct. 27, 2022

Terry Heil, BSBA 1991, on Feb. 25, 2022

2000s

Jeanne Zack, PhD 2008, on Feb. 19, 2023





Alumnus Joseph Stieven kicks off Alumni Conversations Speaker Series

In November, **Joseph Stieven**, BSBA 1982, MBA 1985, kicked off the new Alumni Conversations series with a talk, "Ethics: A Foundation for Success," delivered to students at the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

The series was conceived by Stieven and his wife, Mary, and inspired by Stieven's relationship with his mentor, St. Louis businessman Elliott Stein, whom he regarded as a pillar of ethics. It aims to assist students in their professional and personal development. Stieven, the chairman, president and CEO of Stieven Capital Advisors, L.P., explained the roots and intention of the series to the audience.

"We thought it would be a great way to help our young students understand the importance of ethics," Stieven said. "We want this to inspire you, letting you hear real life stories of UMSL graduates on how important ethics are to success on the road of life. And all of this, while providing you with a great chance to interact and network with these people."

More than 100 students attended the event, which also included remarks from UMSL graduates Warner Baxter, executive chairman of Ameren; Orvin Kimbrough, chairman and CEO of Midwest BankCentre; Marcela Manjarrez, former executive vice president and chief communications officer at Centene; and Sandra Van Trease, former group president at BJC HealthCare.

The African American Alumni Chapter celebrated its 35th anniversary at the Clubhouse in Forest Park.

More than 85 alumni, friends and family took a stroll down memory lane on Dec. 11, 2022, and honored several alumni and community leaders who left their mark on the chapter, all while enjoying good food, good music and great company. Annually, the African American Alumni Chapter hosts a variety of social, educational and fundraising events that include celebrating the university's newest graduates and honoring the legacy of former Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett through her scholarship.



Natalie Stevenson, BSACC 2017, began a new position as a director of outsourced accounting at Prosper CPAs.

Brian Wade, BA 2017, began a new position as engagement coordinator at Cerner Corporation.

Mohammad Aljamaan, BSIS 2018, began a new position as a senior infrastructure operations engineer at Saudi Telecom Company.

Justin Collard, BSBA 2018, began a new position as a senior planning specialist at Anheuser-Busch.

Karl Guenther, MA 2018, was honored with the Drum Major Award at Christian Hospital Foundation's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

Sibgha Mirza, BA 2018, began a new position as a software engineering analyst at Accenture Federal Services.

Katy Robertson, MBA 2018, began a new position as director of development with Arch Grants.

Rachel Tosh, BS 2018, MA 2020, began a new position as a senior accountant with Healthcare Fraud Shield.

Alisha Acosta, MSW 2019, began a new position as the associate director of quality and compliance with FamilyForward.

Christian Adams, BA 2019, began a new position as a sales agent at Spring Venture Group.

Lamar Chapman II, BLS 2019, began a new position as a customer success representative at SureCam.

Michael Dunlap, BA 2019, began a new position as an academic advisor at The University of Kansas.

Hunter Hebron, BA 2019, began a new position as principal at JTC Academy.

Matthew Housewright, BSBA 2019, began a new position as a sales consultant with RNDC.

Jordan Jenkins, BS 2019, began a new position as a software engineer at GEICO.

Savitha Narendra, BS 2019, began a new position as a principal, provider strategy & contracting with Ascent Health Services.

Jennie Redel, BSEd 2019, began a new position as a Multi Unit Store Manager at Ann Inc.

Koltyn Schilly, BSBA 2019, began a new position as a senior onboarding specialist at Charles Schwab.

Tracy Smith, MA 2019, began tenure as principal of Ross Elementary School in Parkway School District.

Emily Storey, BS 2019, MAcc 2021, began a new position as a senior consultant II at Armanino LLP.

Nicole Swanton, BS 2019, began a new position as a staff structural engineer at Burns & McDonnell.

Rayan Tahir, BSBA 2019, began a new position as a procurement specialist at Saudia Aerospace Engineering.

Samiya Tazeen, BS 2019, began a new position as a research and development specialist at Bayer.

2020s Kalynn Clinton, BBA 2020, began a new position as a TECDP lead analyst at Cigna.

Breanna Colombo, BSW 2020, was promoted to volunteer manager at Make-A-Wish Missouri & Kansas.

Dylan Comparato, BA 2020, began a new position as a senior portfolio administration coordinator at Cushman & Wakefield.

Jack Cradic, BFA 2020, began a new position as an art director at Moosylvania.

Tiffany Daniels, BS 2020, began a new position as a clinical coordinator at BioTAB Healthcare.

Chaddon Griesemer, BA 2020, began a new position as a senior business development representative at 360Learning.

Christy Ivory, BSW 2020, MSW 2022, began a new position as EPICC program manager at Behavioral Health Network of Greater St. Louis.

Over the past several months, the Office of Alumni Engagement revitalized its **Dining With Tritons** program connecting UMSL alumni and current students.

In the fall, students in Lynn Staley’s Business Writing Class met with alumni volunteers over several different dining sessions that included great conversations, sharing experiences and networking. In January, the Alumni Association Legislative Advocacy Committee hosted a Dining with Tritons at Ferguson Brewing Co. with Missouri State Representative Marlene Terry. Thanks to all the students and alumni who made these events possible. Learn more at umslalumni.org/DWT.

Eric Mossotti, BS 2020, began a new position as a sample logistics lab technician at Bayer.

Michael Nguyen, BS 2020, began a new position as a senior accountant at UHY LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

Janazell Rivers, BA 2020, began a new position as a clinical technician I at Children’s Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis.

Dylan Siekmann, BSBA 2020, began a new position as a procurement specialist at ControlTech Automation.

Julia Spoerry, BSPPA 2020, began a new position as a commercial excellence manager at Radiometer.

Victoria Tappe, BA 2020, MSW 2022, MBA 2022, began a new position as a social worker at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bekzod Tolipov, BS 2020, began a new position as a data science fellow at General Assembly.

Jason (JT) Towery, BA 2020, began a new position as an enrollment advisor at Centriq Training.

Kenneth Ade, BSBA 2021, began a new position as a procurement agent - information technology & data analytics at Boeing.

Jelena Basara, MSW 2021, began a new position as a therapist at Compass Health Network.

Alexus Battle, BSBA 2021, began a new position as a contracts & pricing analyst at Boeing.

Corrine Criswell, BS 2021, was promoted to HR analyst at Emerson.

Brytaney Carr, BS 2021, started a new position as account leader at Chubb.

Joshua Carr, BS 2021, began a new position as a manufacturing engineer at Boeing Defense, Space & Security.

Derek Cuccio, MBA 2021, began a new position as a business system analyst at Charter Communications.

Gabrielle Forchee, BS 2021, began a new position as a data specialist at Premium Rental Services.





My Legacy Family

The UMSL Office of Alumni Engagement was thrilled to play host to its inaugural **Legacy Family Lunch** to wrap up Homecoming Week.

On Feb. 25 current UMSL students gathered at the ED Collabiat to celebrate their family's legacy with their alumni family members. The event included alumni speakers, a lunch and a special pinning ceremony where family members presented current UMSL students with a special UMSL Legacy pin.

Morgan Foster, DNP 2021, began a new position as an adjunct faculty member at Averett University and as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner at REBOOT: Mind, Body, Health.

Alex Goedeker, MBA 2021, began a new position as a senior mechanical engineer at Burns & McDonnell.

Jade Johnson, BA 2021, began a new position as a manager of recruitment and admissions at Per Scholas.

Dmitriy Korniyukhov, BE 2021, began a new position as a mechanical engineer at John Harder & Co.

Alexander Kutz, BBA 2021, began a new position as the director of project management at Data Solutions Group.

Nicole Misra, MEd 2021, began a new position as a graduate research assistant at UMSL.

Kerry Moriarty, BA 2021, began a new position as the assistant director of brand development and executive assistant to the director at Terrace House STL.

Vince Pizzo, BSBA 2021, began a new position as a financial services representative at Charles Schwab.

Kristina Pratt, BA 2021, began a new position as a copywriter at Drive Social Media.

Cole Prins, MSW 2021, began a new position as a success coach with the Office of Student Enrichment & Achievement at UMSL.

Briana Riley, BA 2021, started a new position as a marketing coordinator with Bluewave Technology Group.

Tyrese Robinson, BS 2021, began a new position a teacher with the Ritenour School District.

PJ Schappert, BS 2021, began a new position as a field sales and marketing representative with Techronic Industries.

Samantha Scott, BS 2021, began a new position as a paraprofessional at Windsor C-1 School District.

Mary Alice Swann, BS 2021, began a new position as a training and logistics coordinator at the Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis.

Bilal Turan, MA 2021, began a new position as a data scientist at Safety National.

Monica Votaw, BA 2021, began a new position as a club event coordinator at Old Hickory Golf Club.

Kelly Weingartz, BSN 2021, began a new job as a registered nurse at Ranken Jordan Pediatric Hospital.

Stephanie Chidester, PhD 2022, was selected as a postdoctoral iCURE scholar at the National Cancer Institute.

Riahanna Davis, BA 2022, began a new position as a digital media specialist at Harris-Stowe State University.

Sam Dieynaba, BS 2022, began a new position as an administrative associate at Williams Lea.

Cara Ferchen, BASc 2022, began a new position as a tax associate at BDO USA, LLP.

Naresh Kshetri, PhD 2022, began a new position as an editorial board member/associate editor at the Journal of Digital Security and Forensics.

Leah Kuper, MSW 2022, began a new position as a loan processor-project manager coordinator at Mission: St. Louis.

Nguyen Tan, BS 2022, began a new position as a software engineer at Mastercard.