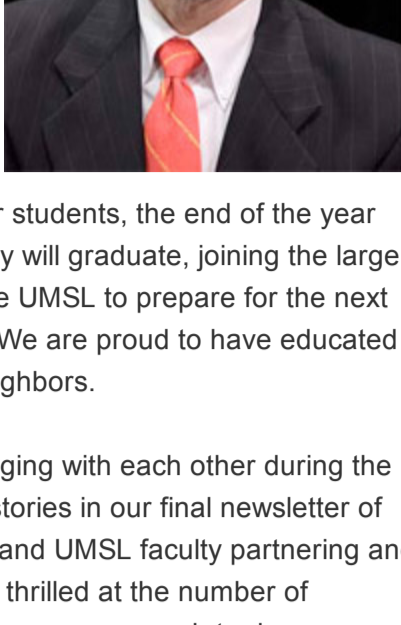


## Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings!



The holiday season is often a busy time filled with wrapping up end-of-year work, gatherings of friends and family, and taking stock of the past year while looking to the year ahead. For our students, the end of the year closes out the Fall semester. Many will graduate, joining the large number of St. Louisans who chose UMSL to prepare for the next step in their professional journey. We are proud to have educated and supported so many of our neighbors.

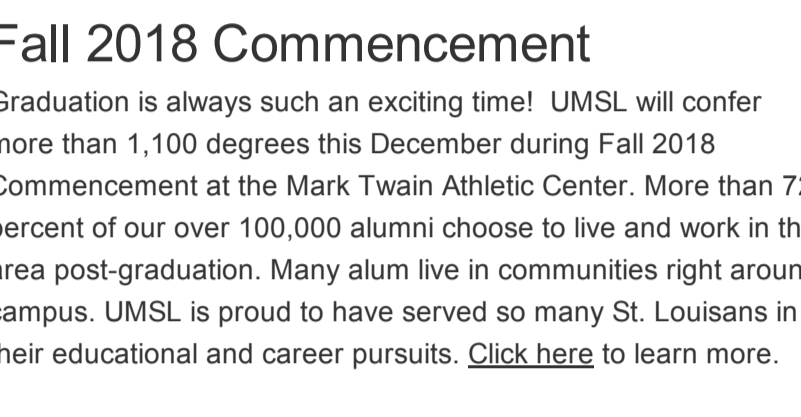
In the spirit of gathering and engaging with each other during the holiday season, we highlight two stories in our final newsletter of the year on community members and UMSL faculty partnering and working with one another. We are thrilled at the number of University/Community efforts that pursue research to deepen our understanding of community issues, as well as opportunities to share the joy of art through live musical performances and programs as highlighted here.

Lastly, welcoming the New Year often gives cause to reflect on the past and envision the future. Our friend and community partner, Dr. Charles Pearson, Superintendent of the Normandy Schools Collaborative, sent a Thanksgiving letter that warmed my heart and speaks to the opportunities we have when we work together around a vision for a better tomorrow. I am pleased to share it with you at the end of this newsletter. We, too, are thankful for the amazing work underway.

In addition to reflecting on your 2018, I hope you will take time to think about your vision for our community and how we, as team, can get there. We look forward to working with all of you in 2019. Together we will continue to transform lives!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday!

Tom George, Chancellor, University of Missouri–St. Louis



## Fall 2018 Commencement

Graduation is always such an exciting time! UMSL will confer more than 1,100 degrees this December during Fall 2018 Commencement at the Mark Twain Athletic Center. More than 72 percent of our over 100,000 alumni choose to live and work in the area post-graduation. Many alum live in communities right around campus. UMSL is proud to have served so many St. Louisans in their educational and career pursuits. [Click here](#) to learn more.



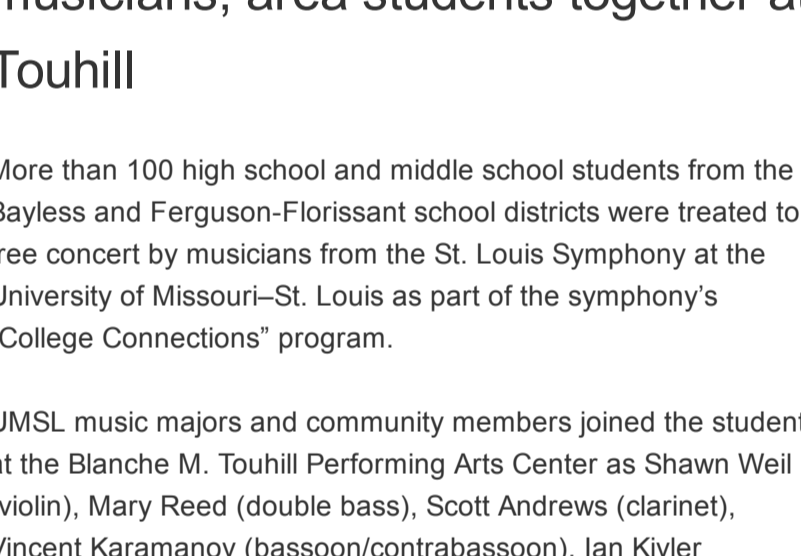
## Social work professor studies community engagement, collective action in Ferguson

When Michael Gearhart was planning his move to St. Louis from Ohio in 2017, he heard multiple variations on the same comment cautioning him against residing in Ferguson. The town, just about three miles down the road from Gearhart's future employer, the University of Missouri–St. Louis, was still fresh in the public imagination after the 2014 officer-involved shooting death of Michael Brown and the civil unrest that followed, including a night of clashes between protesters and police that made international news.

"We're much more comfortable mocking problems instead of talking about them," said Gearhart, a UMSL assistant professor of social work. "We, as a country, do not do a great job of connecting where we are at today to how we got there."

Gearhart is using his proximity to Ferguson to research how the community is bouncing back from that period of turmoil, as well as how implicit bias informs outside views of its residents. He is about a third of the way through a study examining the effectiveness of efforts undertaken by the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center to address the challenges faced by the city's residents and also getting started on work examining police-resident relationships in the wake of the Brown shooting. He presented his progress at the Early Career Research Symposium in October, where he found he wasn't the only UMSL researcher focused on Ferguson.

"It was really powerful to see that we have people doing projects in Ferguson," Gearhart said. "We were down a very community-engaged school, and they're 10 minutes down the road from us. It was good to see that UMSL is doing work there." [Click here](#) to read more.



## 'College Connections' program brings St. Louis Symphony musicians, area students together at Touhill

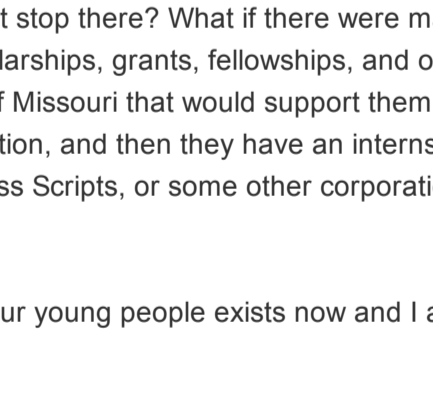
More than 100 high school and middle school students from the Bayless and Ferguson-Florissant school districts were treated to a free concert by musicians from the St. Louis Symphony at the University of Missouri–St. Louis as part of the symphony's "College Connections" program.

UMSL music majors and community members joined the students at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center as Shawn Weil (violin), Mary Reed (double bass), Scott Andrews (clarinet), Vincent Karamanov (bassoon/contrabassoon), Ian Kivler (trumpet), Amanda Stewart (trombone) and Alan Stewart (percussion) performed Igor Stravinsky's "L'Histoire du Soldat" (The Soldier's Tale).

"As the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Music Education, I am always thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with the St. Louis Symphony and the other fine St. Louis art agencies," Michael Smith said. He directs the Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative, which presented the concert.

The high school and middle school students began their visit to campus by listening to a presentation from members of the UMSL Admissions staff, and they toured part of North Campus.

Before the concert, Smith and Associate Teaching Professor Gary Brandes and Teaching Professor Jim Widner took turns sharing information about UMSL music programs, including upcoming summer camps the students can take part in. [Click here](#) to read more.



## Normandy Schools Superintendent letter to Friends & Community

November 20, 2018

Normandy Friends & Community,

When I became Superintendent three and a half years ago, I had a specific vision about education in the Normandy community, in the Normandy footprint. What if our children could envision attending our Early Childhood Center, then Kindergarten, then go to an elementary school, middle school and high school in this footprint, but not stop there? What if there were majors, programs, scholarships, grants, fellowships, and opportunities at the University of Missouri that would support them attending that four-year institution, and then they have an internship and later, a career at Express Scripts, or some other corporation or business in our footprint?

This vision for our young people exists now and I am incredibly thankful.

Two months ago, while sitting with an Express Scripts executive and discussing the UMSL Bridge Program, I was informed that this program offers scholarships to UMSL that our students can apply for. To truly appreciate this, the UMSL Bridge program was developed with Normandy students in mind. In essence, it prepares students for success in college and also trains parents in strategies to support their future college students.

I stood on that hill neighboring UMSL, looking at the foundation and rising walls of the new Normandy Early Learning Center. To the east of the site is Lucas Crossing Elementary Complex, soon to be a 1-8 Elemiddle School. To the north of the Early Learning Center site is the UMSL North Campus. In addition to the four years spent at the high school, at this site, I can see the vision I have for the Collaborative — from early learning to college to career, all within our footprint.

I am thankful for the privilege to be alive now. At this time, in these challenging days ripe with opportunity, I get to serve as the Superintendent of Schools in the Normandy Schools Collaborative and work with a team of committed adults who refuse to settle for low aspirations for our children. I am thankful for the families who trust us to do the right thing for their children, to find ways to support families and teach children. I am thankful for collaborators and community partners who have come alongside us to do what can be difficult. I am thankful for the chance to make a difference.

As I stood on that hill looking down at the walls of the new Early Learning Center rising out of the ground, the footprint of the building is clear now. I can imagine the space completed and filled with our youngest scholars. This was the vision: lay a solid foundation for our youngest learners, create an educational experience that both they and their families will value. This is the foundation that will change our future for the better.

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to thank each of you for helping make this vision a reality. May your thanksgiving be a joyful start to the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles J. Pearson  
Superintendent of Schools  
Normandy Schools Collaborative

## Questions, Comments or Share a Community Story?

We'd love to hear from you about how we can improve our community with the community and hear your questions and comments about UMSL and neighboring communities. We also welcome stories about great things happening in our communities. Your thoughts will help shape content covered in future newsletters to be pertinent to you and your neighbors. Leave any suggestions, questions, or stories [here](#).

Thank you!

## UMSL Community Connection

[Sign up for this monthly newsletter!](#)

## UMSL Calendars

Interested in events on campus?  
[Campus Calendar](#)  
[Athletics](#)  
[Performances](#)

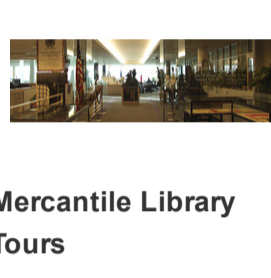
## UMSL Careers

Interested in a job at UMSL?  
[Open Positions](#)

## UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?  
[Procurement Bids](#)  
[Construction Bids](#)

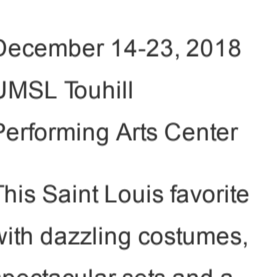
## Upcoming Events



### School Board Candidate Filing now open

Missouri residents interested in filing candidacy for local public school board elections may do so between now and January 15, 2019. Voting for school board members in Missouri takes place during municipal elections on April 2, 2019.

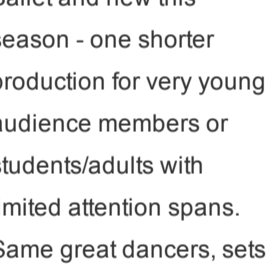
The Missouri School Boards Association has a lot of good information about the requirements and responsibilities for being on a local school board on their [website](#).



### Mercantile Library Tours

Saturdays at 11 AM and Sundays at 2 PM  
Visit the St. Louis Mercantile Library for a free, docent-led tour of the Library. Weekend tours provide a wonderful opportunity for lively discussions about topics ranging from the founding of St. Louis to the Mercantile's art collections, railroad and steamboat travel.

No reservations are necessary. Group tours can also be arranged for the [website](#) or call (314) 516-7281 for more info.



### The Nutcracker

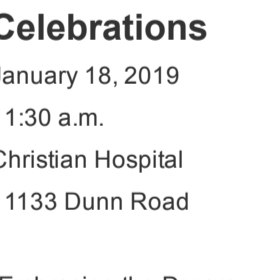
December 14-23, 2018  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center  
This Saint Louis favorite with dazzling costumes, spectacular sets and a sizeable cast, helmed by the professional company of Saint Louis Ballet, returns to the Touhill. Tickets range from \$35 to \$72. Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) more information.



### The Nutcracker - Narrated Performance

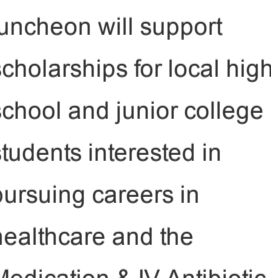
December 19, 2018  
11:00 a.m.  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center  
Presented by Saint Louis Ballet and new this season - one shorter production for very young audience members or students/adults with limited attention spans. Same great dancers, sets and costumes, but the inclusion of narration and a "no-shushing" atmosphere. (We strongly encourage adults and families with school-aged children to choose one of the traditional evening or matinee performances.)

Tickets are \$25. Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) more information.



### Normandy High School Basketball Holiday Tournament

December 27-29, 2018  
Normandy High School  
6701 St. Charles Rock Road  
SAVE THE DATE – Normandy Schools Collaborative High School Annual Holiday Basketball Tournament. The tradition continues. [Click here](#) for more details.



### Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations

January 18, 2019  
11:30 a.m.  
Christian Hospital  
11133 Dunn Road  
"Embracing the Dream—The Beloved Community"

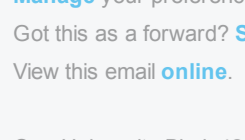
Join the Christian Hospital Foundation in celebrating inspiration, hope and healing for our beloved community at the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Luncheon in the Paul F. Detrick Building Atrium. The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of Repairers of the Breach. A portion of the proceeds from this luncheon will support scholarships for local high school and junior college students interested in pursuing careers in healthcare and the Medication & IV Antibiotic Fund for the indigent patients we serve. [Click here](#) for more info or to purchase tickets.

January 21, 2019  
10 a.m. - noon  
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center  
The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration is a free, open to the public event sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at UMSL. [Click here](#) for more information.

January 22, 2019  
5 to 7 p.m.  
St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley  
Terry M. Fischer Theatre  
3400 Pershall Road  
"Standing for Truth, Knowledge and Unconditional Love"

SLCC-Florissant Valley and North County Churches Uniting for Racial Harmony and Justice have planned a great celebration this year. Shawntelle Fisher, STLC-Florissant Valley alumna and founder/CEO of The SoulFisher Ministries — which aims to spread hope and empower youth and convicted felons to be positive, productive, and socially responsible members in the community — will serve as the keynote speaker. A reception from 5-6 p.m. precedes the program at 6 p.m.

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