



Letter from the Chancellor

Greetings!

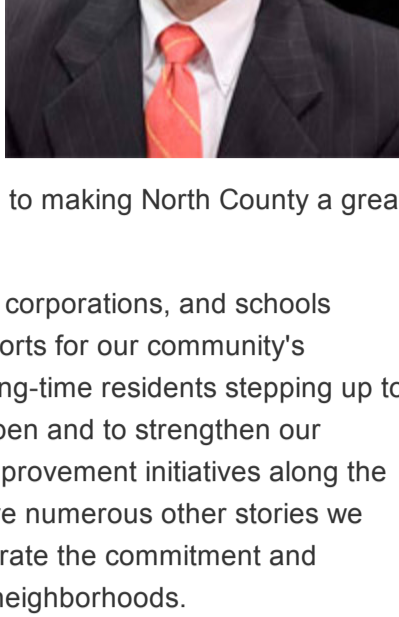
When I think about the stories in this edition of our *Community Connection* newsletter, the word "commitment" comes to mind. Time and time again, I am humbled and inspired by the ways our community is committed to making North County a great place where we live and work.

You will read about organizations, corporations, and schools partnering on programs and supports for our community's youngsters. You will hear about long-time residents stepping up to keep a favored local restaurant open and to strengthen our community's ability to carry out improvement initiatives along the West Florissant corridor. There are numerous other stories we could have included that demonstrate the commitment and compassion people have for our neighborhoods.

I encourage you to share success stories with each other and with us so that we can continue to lift up the great work happening in our own backyard.

Thank you,

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



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](#)

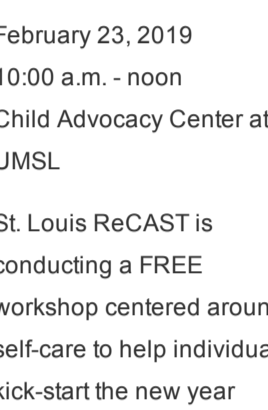
UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)

[Construction Bids](#)

Upcoming Events

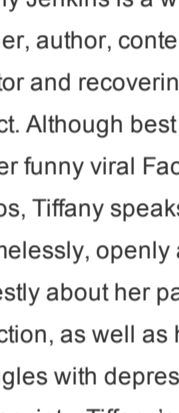


Self-Care & Stress Management workshop

February 23, 2019
10:00 a.m. - noon
Child Advocacy Center at UMSL

St. Louis ReCAST is conducting a FREE workshop centered around self-care to help individuals kick-start the new year leading a healthier lifestyle. Des Lee Professor Vetta Sanders-Thompson will be the guest speaker at this event. She is a noted researcher in the areas of racial identity, psychosocial implications of race and ethnicity in health behavior and access to health services, and determinants of health and mental health disparities.

RSVP to mmitchell2@stloiusco.com or call (314) 615-0508

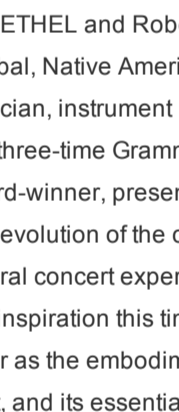


Tiffany Jenkins: This Show is Awkward AF

February 23, 2019
8:00 p.m.
UMSL Touhill
Performing Arts Center

Tiffany Jenkins is a wife, mother, author, content creator and recovering addict. Although best known for her funny viral Facebook videos, Tiffany speaks shamelessly, openly and honestly about her past and addiction, as well as her struggles with depression and anxiety. Tiffany's story of hope has had such an overwhelming response from her supporters that she is ready to tackle her next life goal - travel the globe, meet her fans and make as many people laugh and feel inspired as possible.

Tickets start at \$35. Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) for more information.

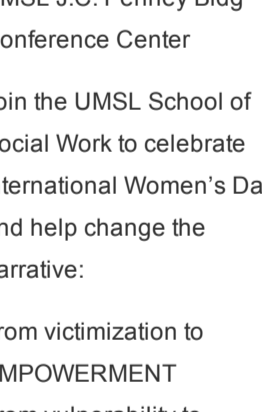


ETHEL + Robert Mirabal - The River

February 27, 2019
7:00 p.m.
UMSL Touhill
Performing Arts Center

Continuing a deeply successful six year collaboration inspired by ceremonies dedicated to the sun, ETHEL and Robert Mirabal, Native American musician, instrument builder, and three-time Grammy Award-winner, present their next evolution of the cross-cultural concert experience. The inspiration this time is water as the embodiment of spirit, and its essential role in life on earth. The audience is immersed in a flow of music, narrative, and ritual that evokes timeless Native American traditions through contemporary musical artistry. As delivered by these master performers, the effect is breathtaking, even ecstatic.

Tickets are \$32. Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) for more information.



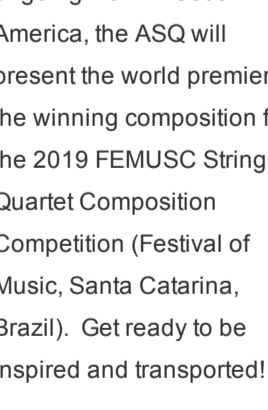
Strengthening the Voice and Ability of Women for Self-Empowerment and Advocacy - Social Work Critical Issues Symposium

March 8, 2019
8:30 a.m. - noon
UMSL J.C. Penney Bldg
Conference Center

Join the UMSL School of Social Work to celebrate International Women's Day and help change the narrative:

- from victimization to EMPOWERMENT
- from vulnerability to STRENGTH
- from silence to ADVOCACY

Free and open to the public. To register, please call (314) 516-6386 or email socialworkevents@umsl.edu.

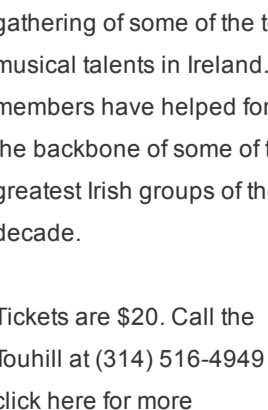


Arianna String Quartet: Viva Brazil!

March 8, 2019
8:00 p.m.
UMSL Touhill
Performing Arts Center

Arianna brings a taste of Brazil to the Touhill! In an evening inspired by their ongoing work in South America, the ASQ will present the world premiere of the winning composition from the 2019 FEMUSC String Quartet Competition (Festival of Music, Santa Catarina, Brazil). Get ready to be inspired and transported!

This performance features a pre-show talk with the Arianna String Quartet. Please arrive 30 minutes early for the pre-show discussion. Tickets are \$29. Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) for more information.



Lúnasa

March 10, 2019
3:00 p.m.
UMSL Touhill
Performing Arts Center

Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is indeed a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Its members have helped form the backbone of some of the greatest Irish groups of the decade.

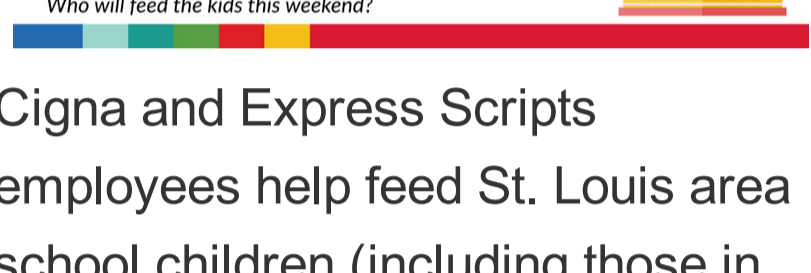
Tickets are \$20. Call the Touhill at (314) 516-4949 or [click here](#) for more information.

Des Lee Fine Arts Festival attracts students from across the St. Louis region

High school and middle school students from across the St. Louis region recently descended upon the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center over two days to take part in the annual Des Lee Fine Arts Festival at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

The festival, organized by the Des Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative, is designed to be an opportunity to enrich the students in art and music, including band, choir and orchestra.

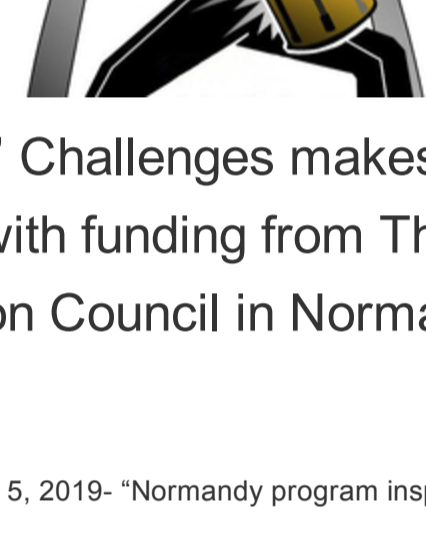
More than 800 students from the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Bayless, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Jennings, Lindbergh, Normandy, Orchard Farms, Ritenour, St. Charles, St. Louis, University City, Warren County and Wright City school districts took part in the event. ... "It is so important to create a safe and creative space where they can mix, mingle, learn together as teenagers, making music and art together, along with making new friendships," said Michael Smith, the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor of Music Education at UMSL who serves as the director of the Des Less-Fine Arts Collaborative. [Click here](#) to read more.



Cigna and Express Scripts employees help feed St. Louis area school children (including those in Normandy Schools)

KTVI (Ch. 2), Jan. 15, 2019- ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO - Cigna and Express Scripts employees helped 'Blessings in a Backpack' to feed some St. Louis area school children. At the University of Missouri - St. Louis campus, Express Scripts and Cigna services employees spent their lunch hour to make sure others will get fed. Normandy School District will receive 3,000 bags put together by these Cigna and Express Scripts employees.

The newly combined Cigna and Express Scripts held a video conference town hall meeting for more than 74,000 employees. The healthier kids for our future backpack event kicked off the \$25-million-dollar five-year campaign to communities nationwide, working with the non-profit organization, Blessings in a Backpack. The newly combined company has big plans for fighting hunger nationwide. [Click here](#) to see the video.

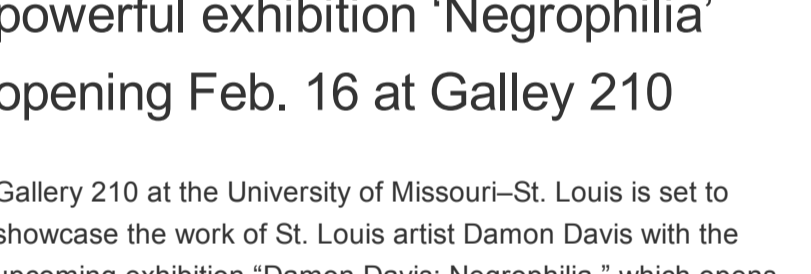


'Beating' Challenges makes an impact with funding from The Arts & Education Council in Normandy Schools

A&E blog, Feb. 5, 2019- "Normandy program inspires through drums"

For Show-Me Sound Organization (an A&E grantee), percussion is about more than making noise on a drum. Each year, middle and high school students in the Normandy Schools Collaborative learn discipline, focus and dedication in the organization's 'Beating' Challenges program, which teaches rudimentary, orchestral, jazz and world percussion techniques.

"The power of the drum has historically provided a resonant call to order, even out of chaos. A lot has gone on in the lives of these young scholars, but we are 'Beating' Challenges, and a percussive call to order is a magnificent device in that goal," explained Terry Artis, Show-Me Sound's founder and executive director. [Click here](#) to read more.



'St. Louis artist Damon Davis' powerful exhibition 'Negrophilia' opening Feb. 16 at Galley 210

Gallery 210 at the University of Missouri–St. Louis is set to showcase the work of St. Louis artist Damon Davis with the upcoming exhibition "Damon Davis: Negrophilia," which opens with a presentation and public reception with the artist beginning at 4 p.m. on Feb. 16 in the auditorium.

Davis, a trans-media artist, earned attention for his work "All Hands on Deck" as well as the documentary "Whose Streets," the Sundance documentary about the civil unrest in Ferguson that he co-directed with Sabaah Folanay.

"Negrophilia," which will remain at Gallery 210 until May 11, should add to that acclaim. The mixed media drawings are his personal, meditative and therapeutic tool for dealing with the constant stress he's felt in the face of what he sees as an obsessive fascination with black death in American culture. [Click here](#) to read more.



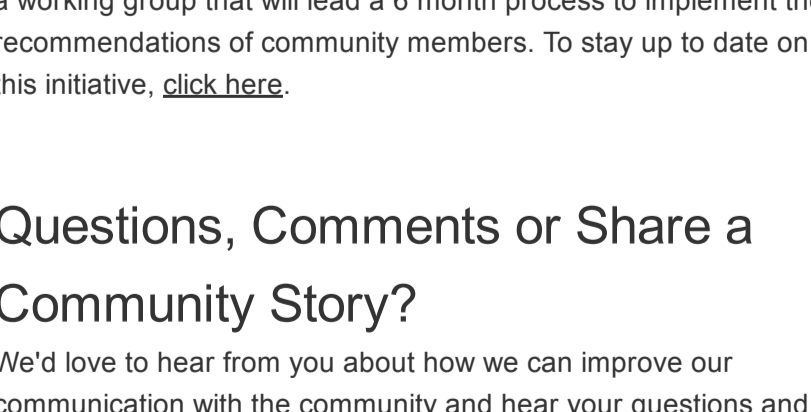
Breakaway Café in Normandy/Bel-Nor revived by Sugarfire alum Matt Quinlisk

Sugarfire Smoke House alumnus Matt Quinlisk is the new owner of Normandy/Bel-Nor institution Breakaway Cafe, which reopened February 4. The restaurant's revival comes just two months after Breakaway appeared to have shuttered for good.

Breakaway Cafe closed abruptly in December, after operating for 30-plus years under various owners, most recently Rick and Barb Kraus. Barb passed away several years ago, and illness subsequently forced Rick to step away from Breakaway.

A lifelong Normandy resident whose family has close ties to the area, Quinlisk told St. Louis Magazine what Breakaway means to him. "My memories go back to when I was 10 years old when it was Andy Myers' place. It was just a real tiny place I used to go to with my mother and father and friends," Quinlisk said. "It's a real neighborhood place. When the kids have a half-day from school, they all walk up there and have lunch. It just means everything to this community."

Quinlisk said that Breakaway's menu of Italian and American dishes—pasta, pizza, sandwiches, and salads—will remain the same, though he does want to share a family twist on an anchovy-based St. Louis creation. "I'm going to be serving my father's Mayfair dressing in a Caesar salad," Quinlisk said. "Sentimental reasons. And it's absolutely delicious. Something I've grown up on." [Click here](#) to read more.



Ferguson, Dellwood, and Jennings Residents, Business Owners Chart Path to Community Improvement Organization

On January 31st, residents, business owners, and other stakeholders in Ferguson, Dellwood and Jennings held a community meeting to discuss findings from over 6 months of community engagement on how to form a community improvement organization. The steering committee of the One West Florissant initiative shared that community members wanted an organization to work along West Florissant and adjacent neighborhoods; that an organization's first action steps should tackle beautification, safety, and youth development; and that the community should explore expanding an existing community organization to adopt a broader role of community revitalization across municipalities.

The One West Florissant Steering Committee, with support from the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, will transition to a working group that will lead a 6 month process to implement the recommendations of community members. To stay up to date on this initiative, [click here](#).

Questions, Comments or Share a Community Story?

We'd love to hear from you about how we can improve our communication 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!