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Friends, neighbors, and community partners,

We are now well into the new year with classes back in session and thoughts of warmer weather in the not-too-distant future. We are also hopeful for an end to the COVID-19

pandemic. Included in our newsletter is information about sign-ups for the vaccine as well as an interview with UMSL College of Nursing Director of Clinical Operations Shawne Manies discussing her thoughts on the vaccine and rollout.

As we celebrate Black History Month this February, let us honor and commemorate the historical achievements, services, and sacrifices of Black Americans who have challenged, inspired, contributed, fought, and sometimes died for this country to improve all lives. We know that issues of racial inequity continue to challenge us and we are working together to address them. UMSL has a fantastic line-up of Black History Month programming listed here. We have also provided a snapshot of other community partner programs designed to both increase our knowledge and inspire us to action. We hope that you can join us for some of these events.

Stay safe and stay connected!

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St. Louis



Michele Norris highlights need for real reckoning on race in MLK Holiday Observance address

The Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday has long been used as an opportunity for Americans to mark racial progress in the country while honoring the work and legacy of the late civil rights icon.

But, this year, it seemed even more important to spend time reflecting on the ways in which the United States still falls short of the hopeful dreams King had for social equality.

America's divisions have been all too evident over the past 12 months, with a wave of Black Lives Matter protests in response to police violence sweeping across the country throughout the summer and, earlier this month, a mob that included white supremacists storming the U.S. Capitol.

Journalist Michele Norris, a former NPR host who is now the founding director of the Race Card Project, discussed these tumultuous times while also pointing to more hopeful signs of progress as she delivered the keynote address Monday morning during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Observance at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

"This past summer, America did see real changes," Norris said in a 30-minute address to an audience that numbered in the hundreds when the virtual event premiered on YouTube. [Read more.](#)



Celebrating Black History Month with 10 stories of verve, tenacity and passion

This February, as the U.S. begins its month-long commemoration of the contributions and achievements of Black Americans throughout history, the University of Missouri–St. Louis takes a moment to honor the accomplishments of UMSL students, alumni, staff and faculty. Those featured in these 10 stories lead communities, improve the health and education of the St. Louis region, make the best of tough situations, work to improve the lives around them and so much more. [Read more.](#)

[Listen to the UMSL commencement address](#) by alumna and City of Ferguson Mayor Ella M. Jones from December.

girls inc.

of St. Louis

Spotlight



Inspiring all girls to be strong, smart and bold By Paula Miller, UMSL graduate student

student

This month's feature is UMSL community partner Girls Incorporated of St. Louis and an interview with Cheryl Jones, the CEO and President of this nonprofit organization. Learn more about Girls Inc. St. Louis at <https://www.girlsincstl.org/>.

"Girls, Inc. is by far one of the greatest opportunities I've had in my lifetime, and I've had many," said Ms. Cheryl Jones, CEO and President of Girls Incorporated of St. Louis. "We're doing all the things that we're supposed to do, connecting with partners connecting with schools." Hearing the laughter, feeling the energy and inquisitiveness of the girls is the heartbeat of Girls Inc. according to Jones.

Each day when the girls arrive from their schools, they are directed to activities such as the after-school learning extension programs in a variety of subjects including math, science, piano, and dance. "Every program that we have is designed to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold," Jones said.

Girls Inc. promotes diverse extension learning opportunities, which helps to unite and expand community engagement. In addition to offering after school programming, Girls Inc. offers virtual summer programs including transportation and outreach for Grades K-12. They currently serve over 9,000 girls from 72 area schools.

"Most of the girls that come to us are from our community, and how we unite them is, we want to make sure that they're also community servants. And what I mean by that is we have service-learning opportunities where we want our girls to not just focus on themselves but on how to build a better community outside the walls... We have our own community, and we have character development and values that we all really try to live up to. But we also know that any great person is only as great as the community they serve. So we asked our girls to step out of themselves and out of their communities and try to impact the larger community."

[Read more](#) of this article.



Assistant Professor Marisa Omori examines racial inequality in criminal justice system

Marisa Omori, an assistant professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, examines racial inequality in the criminal justice system. She shared insight during our latest moment of national reckoning.

Q- Why do you think the inequity in criminal justice didn't gain more widespread attention before the last five or 10 years with the killings of Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, George Floyd and others?

A- Massive racial inequalities happened as a function of longstanding politics and policies long before that – they are endemic to the United States historically, going back to slavery. If you look at the levels of mass incarceration and mass criminalization specifically, they exploded, starting in the 1970s, in a way that disproportionately impacted people of color. The public is paying attention now because it's more visible and clashes with a narrative of a post-racial America.

[Click here](#) to read more about Dr. Omori's interests and research on drug crimes and inequalities in criminal justice.



Ask an Expert: Shawne Manies discusses the COVID-19 vaccine and rollout

The development and U.S. Food and Drug Administration emergency-use approval of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have given Americans a first glimpse into the post-pandemic future. However, the rollout has so far been less than what many hoped for. To understand what's happened and what the near future holds, UMSL Daily consulted an expert close to home.

UMSL Daily sat down with College of Nursing Director of Clinical Operations Shawne Manies to discuss the vaccine the day after she volunteered with the St. Charles County Department of Public Health at a mass vaccination event. Along with nearly 100 other providers, Manies helped administer the vaccine to about 1,000 individuals in one day. [Click here](#) to learn her thoughts about the vaccine and rollout.

COVID-19 VACCINATION SIGN-UPS in the St. Louis region

The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC's recommendations to protect yourself and others will offer the best protection from COVID-19.

Local healthcare providers are taking registrations for the COVID-19 vaccination. To register, click one of the links listed below.

- SSM Health: [SSMHealth.com/covidvaccine](https://www.ssmhealth.com/covidvaccine)
- BJC HealthCare: [bjc.org/vaccines](https://www.bjc.org/vaccines)
- Mercy: [mercy.net/VaccineMissouri](https://www.mercy.net/VaccineMissouri)
- St. Louis County: <http://ow.ly/zJGN50D1yu7>

Share with Us

We'd love to hear your questions and comments about UMSL and 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!

COVID-19 Resources

[Click here](#) to view resources for support during the pandemic.

UMSL Community Connection

[Click here](#) to sign up for the community connection newsletter.

UMSL Community Card

[Register](#) for a community card to receive benefits and discounts at UMSL events and facilities.

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?

[Procurement Bids](#)
[Construction Bids](#)

Upcoming Events

Black History Month Events



Celebrate with UMSL 2021 Black History Month!

If you missed UMSL's Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday Observance, you can [watch it here via YouTube!](#) Be prepared to be inspired and empowered in community activism in volunteering and in helping others!



UMSL Online Events:

2/15 Black Love VIII

6:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to register.

2/17 "Gone with the Wind?": Rethinking Missouri's WPA "Slave Narratives"

Noon [Click here](#) to register.

2/18 A Conversation with STL's Expect US organizers and activists

Noon [Click here](#) to register.

2/24 Black in St. Louis: Reimagining Criminal Justice

6:30 p.m. [Click here](#) to register.

Sponsored by: Office of Student Involvement, Associated Black Collegians, Pierre Laclède Honors College, University Program Board, UMSL Alumni Association - African American Alumni Chapter, The Black Futurity Group, English Department, Gender Studies Program, SUCCEED, & Minority Student Nurses Association

UMSL | University of Missouri–St. Louis



St. Louis County Library has a full line-up of virtual programs including author events, concerts, performances by the

St. Louis Black Repertory Company, poetry and drawing workshops and more. Details at www.slcl.org/black-history-celebration. Here are a few:

2/11 Frankie Freeman Inspirational Keynote Address: Walter Mosley, “Blood Grove: An Easy Rawlins Mystery”

7:00 p.m.

To register, [click here](#).

2/13 Poetry Workshop with local poet and word artist, Pacia Anderson, exploring creative presentation, Black history and poetic form.

1:00 p.m. To register, [click here](#).

2/19 Set the Night to Music featuring the saxophone melodies of Rhoda G!

7:00 p.m. To register, [click here](#).

2/20 Draw Your Own Black Hero with local artist Cbabi Bayoc

1:00 p.m. To register, [click here](#).

2/25 & 2/26 The St. Louis Black Repertory Company presents “The Incredible Jungle Journey of Fenda Maria” based on an African folktale, for all ages.

7:00 p.m. To register, [click here](#).

2/27 Gift of Gospel featuring Gregg Haynes and the Happy Guitar, singers Frank and Stephanie Thompson, and saxophonist Angelo Shaw.

1:00 p.m. To register, [click here](#).



Read & Play Kits available for check-out

Enhance a child's reading skills. Each kit contains books, an interactive activity and early literacy tips around a different theme. Kits will be available for check-out for two weeks at any SLCL branch.

Recommended for ages 2-6. Browse the list of available kits. For more information, [click here](#).



St. Louis County **Library**



All God's Children Got Rhythm - De'Joneiro Jones

February 1 - 28, 2021

Good Shepherd Arts Center Online gallery visits- For a Zoom link, email GSAC at info@goodshepherdarts.org.

For more information, go to

<https://goodshepherdarts.org/events>

Your feet will move, your heart will skip to the aliveness of De'Joneiro Jones' artwork. All events are family friendly.



COVID-19 Vaccination Pre-Registration through CareSTL Health NOW!

COVID-19 Vaccinations are available near you through CareSTL! To pre-register, [click here](#).



EarthDance is offering Spring Training Free!

Would you love to grow your own food but don't know where to begin? Or have your previous attempts at gardening fruits and veggies fizzled? Enjoy gardening success in 2021!

Spring Training is free to residents in Ferguson, Kinloch, Berkeley, Calverton Park, Cool Valley, or Dellwood. Choose from any of 5 Earthdance classes. [Read more.](#)

Training registration is available now! Sign up early; space is limited!

Class Schedule: April 14 - May 15, 2021 -Online and In-Person

To register, [click here.](#)



Food & Justice Fellowship Details: Nine Months

March - November

Grow Food with Urban Farmers

Join A Red Circle and other urban growers in North St. Louis County to learn about food production, agribusiness, food justice, and more! This is the first year for this Fellowship so, in addition to participating, Fellows will help A Red Circle develop the curriculum for the future. Successful Fellows will earn up to \$1800 for their participation, will receive free produce and more, and will benefit from networking and resume support. Contact Erica Williams at A Red Circle at erica.williams@aredcircle.org to apply today!

Qualifications: Be between 19 and 26 years old and live in North St. Louis County

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