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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

March has arrived and the promise of spring lies just around the corner. It is a time of celebration and growth, and this is evident in the palpable energy around campus. As UMSL acknowledges Women's History month, we take time to recognize amazing women who continue to make a difference through work that advances positive growth and transformation on our campus and in the community. There are also exciting announcements to share this month from the opening of a new grocery store in Pagedale to a list of grants that neighborhood leaders are receiving to support community projects. Furthermore, I am pleased to share that UMSL was recently recognized by the St. Louis American Foundation with a 2023 Corporate Diversity Award.

As we continue to move through the year, there will be many other reasons to come together and to celebrate, including the upcoming 60th anniversary of our university. As I have said before, I am excited to be on this journey with you!

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri–St.  
Louis

### **UMSL Community Connection newsletter**

Received this as a forward?  
[Click here](#) to subscribe.

### **UMSL Community Card**

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

### **UMSL Careers**

[Click here](#) to learn about job opportunities at UMSL. Check back regularly for new listings.

### **UMSL Contracts**

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

### **Community Connect**

[Click here](#) to learn about UMSL resources, services and programs available to the



community.

## STL Community LAB

[Click here](#) to learn about community development trainings and programs.

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## Events & Resources

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## 10 inspiring quotes for Women's History Month

As Women's History Month kicks off, the University of Missouri–St. Louis is celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of women across campus. Here at UMSL Daily, we wish to recognize the strong UMSL women featured within our pages. Whether they are starting new businesses, reporting on community safety issues, helping people with disabilities find jobs or earning their degree after 60 years, they've shared stories of perseverance, overcoming struggle and triumph. [Read on for inspiration.](#)



### Fields Grocery Grand Opening

Tuesday, March 21, 2023  
5:00 p.m.  
6840 Page Ave.  
Pagedale, MO 63133

Fields Foods will celebrate the grand opening of its new shop, located in Pagedale, Missouri. This will be the grocery store's sixth facility, which aims to meet the needs of the local community. The new store has undergone renovations to include a new hot food bar and meat counter.



### The Invisible Race

with Sam Hyun  
7 to 8 pm  
Millennium Student Center (MSC)  
University of Missouri–St. Louis

**23**  
March  
2023

Thursday, March 23, 2023  
7:00 p.m.  
UMSL Millennium Student Center, Century Room

## Fields Foods grocer to replace Save A Lot in Pagedale

*St. Louis American*, Sylvester Brown Jr., Feb 10, 2023

The closing of the Save A Lot grocery store in Pagedale in late 2021 meant that residents who came to depend on the store since its opening 11 years ago were once again without a neighborhood grocer. Transforming what was traditionally known as a “food desert,” Save A Lot was the first grocery store to open in the area in more than 40 years. Its closing also meant that local residents including those residing in a nearby senior citizen home would have to travel miles for groceries or fresh food.

“Pretty much everyone here goes there,” Willie Alexander, one of the seniors at the home, sadly told the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 2011. More than a year after Save A Lot closed, Chris Krehmeyer, CEO of the nonprofit Beyond Housing, the discount grocery store’s landlord, made a major public announcement. A new store, Fields Food, will open this month on the southwest corner of Page Boulevard and Ferguson. “The community was resilient,” Krehmeyer said, explaining their action plan after Save A Lot closed. “We stayed after it.” [Read more.](#)

To learn more about the changes in Pagedale and Beyond Housing, [listen to St. Louis on the Air interview](#) “Beyond Housing welcomes Fields Foods in after grocer left a gap in Pagedale.”

The Grand Opening of the new store will be Tuesday, March 21 at 5:00 p.m. at 6840 Page Ave.



## St. Louis Banker and Entrepreneurs Build Friendship and Businesses

*US Bank*, February 10, 2023

Sam Hyun believes that anti-racism must include eradicating anti-Asian hate in order to truly create an equitable and loving community. By amplifying the voices and perspectives of the AAPI Community he strives to create understanding, social impact, and change. In this program, students will learn to understand the intersections of AAPI Identity, the impact the community has had in the United States, and find pride in who they are. The AAPI Community is no longer invisible. Click [here](#) to reserve a spot.



### UMSL Social Work 2023 Critical Issues Symposium

Friday, March 24, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

UMSL Millennium Student Center, Century Rooms

During this symposium, the School of Social Work invites alumni, faculty, staff, and students and other interested parties to participate in interactive panel discussions and workshops focused on healing racism and the pursuit of disability advocacy and social justice in the community. Register for this event [here](#).

Tony Dansberry and Johnny Little's friendship grew from what started out as purely a business relationship. In 2016, Dansberry, now a U.S. Bank District Manager in St. Louis, was a branch manager and met with Little when he came to the branch to talk about his business goals. Little is CEO of eLittle Communications Group, which provides public relations, marketing, advertising and other services for clients that include federal entities, nonprofits, school districts and a public transit agency. After their first conversation, Dansberry knew then that Little had big dreams....

Little moved from Holly Springs, Mississippi, to Ferguson in the late 1990's after he graduated from Rust College, a historically Black college and university. Part of the Greater St. Louis metropolitan area and known as North County, the Ferguson community has remained important to Little, who has made it his mission to bring businesses and opportunities to the area. "I wanted to invest more in Ferguson, so I purchased a building that had closed during the pandemic in November 2020," Little said. "My No. 1 goal is for people who want to visit our city to feel safe and want to be a part of this resurgence in the community." [Read more.](#)



## St. Louis American Foundation honoring UMSL with 2023 Corporate Diversity Award

The University of Missouri–St. Louis has been helping people of many different backgrounds pursue their goals and achieve success by providing access and opportunity to affordable, high-quality education since its founding. It has also shown a deep commitment to using the talent of its faculty, staff, students and alumni, and the resources it has, to strengthen the St. Louis region. The St. Louis American Foundation is honoring the university for its impact – spanning six decades – by presenting it with its 2023 Corporate Diversity Award at its 21st Annual Salute to Excellence in Business Awards luncheon....



**Electronic Recycling Drive**  
Friday, March 24, 2023  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
UMSL Parking Lot SS, next to the Music Building  
7920 Natural Bridge Rd.

Drive-thru Electronics Recycling! Head to UMSL to get rid of old computers, electronic accessories, and appliances. Coordinated by UMSL Sustainability, services are provided by J&C E-recycling. [Click here](#) for more information.



**Dance St. Louis presents Dorrance Dance**  
Saturday, March 25, 2023  
7:30 p.m.  
UMSL Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center

MacArthur "Genius Grant" winner, choreographer and tap dancer Michelle Dorrance brings her fleet of magnificent dancers and musicians for a riveting evening at the Touhill. Dorrance Dance explores what is most thrilling, brilliant, and beautiful about tap dancing—that it is, at once, movement and music. According to the Boston Globe "Dorrance Dance is boldly revitalizing tap dance

“It’s a corporate diversity award, that illustrates our entire mission – which is to transform lives,” UMSL Chancellor Kristin Sobolik said in a story in *The St. Louis American* announcing the honor. “We are an anchor institution here in St. Louis. So being recognized for everything that all of us are working hard and doing from a very diverse and inclusive perspective out in the broader St. Louis community – that is what I am excited about.” The St. Louis American made special note of initiatives such as the UMSL Bridge Program and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Accelerator. [Read more.](#)



## Neighborhood Leadership Academy Awards 20 Mini-Grants

The [Neighborhood Leadership Academy](#) (NLA) has awarded 20 mini-grants totaling \$46,805 to groups across Missouri. The grants, ranging from \$380 to \$2500, provide support for neighborhood initiatives including community gardens in schools and parks, neighborhood gatherings to build community, and programs to improve the mental and physical health of neighborhood residents. Financial support for the mini-grants is provided, in part, by the Missouri Foundation for Health. Three local grants are going to:

- Felice Skye Hutchinson for the Community Creates Project: Wellston History Podcast. This initiative seeks to improve intergenerational relationships by connecting youth with seniors to collaborate for an audio/visual podcast to document and preserve their history in Wellston.
- Pamela Neal for a project in Hillside to demolish the top five derelict vacant or abandoned properties in the community.
- Marcieta Reed for the City of Vinita Park Garden that will bring together area youth and seniors to plant flower

and dares to push the genre to a new level of execution, innovation, and sophistication.” For information and tickets [click here.](#)



### St. Louis Area Diaper Bank Hosts Third Annual Bloody Mary Brunch

Sunday, March 26, 2023  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
6141 Etzel Ave., 63133

The event – which includes Bloody Mary and mimosa bar and light brunch – will be held at the Diaper Bank’s headquarters and is for those 21 years of age and older. Tickets are \$50 per person, and all monetary donations will go to support the Diaper Bank’s period supply program, which helps nearly one million girls and women annually with period kits. Attendees will have the interactive opportunity to count, sort, and pack period supply kits for local school partners. [Click here](#) for more information.



gardens, trees and shrubs in resident yards. The project aims to create a community of trust and friendship, plus beautification in the community.

"We are excited to support neighborhood leaders in making their projects become a reality, creating positive change at the grassroots level, and ultimately, building the communities that they envision for themselves," says Tasnim Haq, Program Manager for Creating Whole Communities including the NLA. [Read the full press release.](#)

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## UMSL to mark 60th anniversary with yearlong celebration

Planning is underway to commemorate the University of Missouri–St. Louis' 60th anniversary throughout the 2023-24 academic calendar. "Any university milestone can be a galvanizing moment, and what we're really hoping to do is enhance relationships and create awareness about the good work and value of the university," said Susan Elliott, UMSL's managing director of external and donor relations, who along with Chief of Staff Adella Jones is co-leading the planning committee for the 60th anniversary celebration. "While we're going to be looking to the past, because you can't celebrate an anniversary and not, we want to use this as an opportunity to highlight and focus on UMSL's successes and where it's headed." [Read more.](#)

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**Demo Day DEI3, Presented by UMSL Accelerate**  
Thursday, April 6, 2023  
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
UMSL Accelerate Building,  
2993 South Dr., 63121

UMSL Accelerate proudly presents its third annual Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Accelerator DEMO Day, a showcase of six unstoppable Founders. On April 6 these visionary entrepreneurs will light up the stage with their creative product offerings, innovative solutions and game-changing business models. Experience the future of entrepreneurship! [Click here](#) for information.

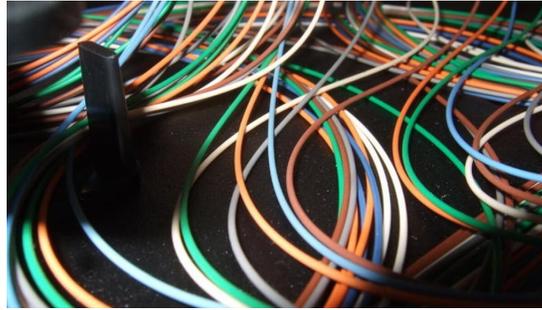
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### VITA tax preparation Ongoing

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is offering help again this tax season. The program provides FREE federal and state tax preparation services for individuals and families earning under \$60,000. It serves low to moderate income families and individuals, seniors, persons with disabilities, and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance preparing their own tax returns.

The College of Business Administration and Beta Alpha Psi student



organization at UMSL are continuing a community service tradition by collaborating with the Gateway EITC Community Coalition to provide these tax preparation services to area residents. Click [here](#) to see the full list of sites.

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## Survey to Help Guide State Broadband Efforts

Missourians are being asked to take a short, six-minute survey about Internet access in their area. Anonymous feedback will help guide state internet expansion and training efforts. Participation is voluntary and respondents must be 18 years of age or older. University of Missouri Extension is conducting this research survey in cooperation with the Missouri Office of Broadband Development. [Take the survey.](#)

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## 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!

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