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Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

In the heart of the winter season, February is a time of celebration and engagement. During February, we take time to celebrate Black History to ensure that the rich culture and diverse contributions of the African-American community are acknowledged and honored. In this month's newsletter, we highlight a few stories of Black leadership and partners in our community, as we continue to do so throughout the year.

The semester is now in full swing and the UMSL campus is busy with an array of programs and events. Our events list this month includes activities for all ages beginning with our Tiny Tritons. We are also particularly excited to host the inaugural UMSL Legacy family lunch. If you are an alumnus with a current UMSL student, we hope you will join us for a luncheon and pinning ceremony. As always, we encourage you to visit our [calendar of events](#) regularly for more opportunities on campus. I look forward to seeing you both here and out and about in the community.

Gratefully forward,

UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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UMSL Careers

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UMSL Contracts

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Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



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.



St. Louis Sisters Write the Books They Needed to Read as Children

KSDK, Mike Bush, January 15, 2023

At the Ritenour School for Early Childhood Education, they always make time for story time. And today, these young kids are getting a lesson in self-esteem. "I hope that they begin to see themselves as valuable. That they matter," said Aja Owens. Owens and Adrienne Draper are sisters and the day's guest readers. They're also the authors of the books they are reading.

They grew up in Jennings, and even when they had to stay put, it was reading and writing that took them places. "Honestly, I started writing on anything," said Owens with a smile. "I mean, I would write on a napkin, a receipt, you know." But as they got older, they started to think about the children's books they used to read. And even the ones with illustrations lacked people of color.

"We didn't really see a lot of characters that looked like us," Owens said. "And so it was important for us that as we're sharing these narratives and these stories and the illustrations to look like the kids that we either see or know or ourselves." So, Owens and Draper started creating their own stories. Collectively, they've now published five children's books that reflect families and children of color. "It's not just African American characters," Draper said. "It's Hispanic characters, it's

Events & Resources

County Community Meetups

Thursday February 16, 2023
6:30 PM
Ferguson Community Empowerment Center
9420 West Florissant Ave.,
63136

This Transform 314 event focuses on improving communities through local government! The meetup for February is a Ferguson City Council Watch Party to learn how local governmental meetings flow by using a Ferguson City Council meeting as an example. The group will discuss how decisions made at these meetings impact communities. Contact kelly@transform314.org for more information.



Asian characters. We just want to make sure that it's the same as what you see in your schools, in the community, in life."

[Read more.](#)



A Healing Home

St. Louis County Community News, January 11, 2023

The Core Collective at St. Vincent, formerly known as Saint Vincent Home for Children, will continue to provide a safe space for young people in need.

With a new year often comes declarations of new beginnings. This rings true for The Core Collective at St. Vincent, formerly known as Saint Vincent Home for Children, an organization in Normandy that has been assisting youth and providing a host of mental health, housing and transitional services since 1850.

The nonprofit, which serves over 500 people per year, has undergone a rebranding and has expanded services to accommodate more youth and community members by improving healthcare for families, advancing socioeconomic equity and activating conscious leaders. The name, Core Collective, represents collaboration with the community. The new vision for the organization is focused on fostering healing and well-being, including helping community members secure housing.

Latosha Fowlkes, CEO of the organization stated that the refreshed mission was created to meet the evolving needs of the St. Louis community. "We decided that our new vision must honor the unique qualities of our founding years in that it must

UMSL Student For A Day
Monday, February 20, 2023
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Join UMSL for a campus visit/experience to learn more about the the university or to celebrate being an admitted student. Participants will engage with academic departments, explore campus, participate in student life activities with student organizations and campus departments, and get questions answered about the Admissions process and important next steps in the journey as a UMSL Triton!

[Click here](#) for information.



Community Referral Event for Healthcare

Tuesday, February 21, 2023
3:00 to 5:00 PM
Natural Bridge Branch Library
7606 Natural Bridge Rd.

This event is to help people who need assistance finding a doctor; exploring health insurance options; or learning more about community programs for chronic disease management. A Community Referral Coordinator from the St. Louis Integrated Health Network will be available to answer questions. [Click here](#) for additional information.

be holistic, service-enriched, intergenerational and transformational, so that our collective impact influences multiple generations. [Read more.](#)



Normandy Collaborative Names New Superintendent

KSDK, Jacob Kuerth, January 26, 2023

The Normandy Schools Collaborative has decided who will be its next superintendent....Dr. Michael Triplett, the assistant superintendent of operations for Olathe Public Schools in Kansas, will be the district's next superintendent. "I am incredibly honored and humbled to have been chosen to serve the students, staff, and community of the Normandy Schools Collaborative," said Dr. Triplett. "I look forward to becoming an active member of the community, building relationships and partnerships that will support outstanding opportunities for our students and move the district toward full accreditation."

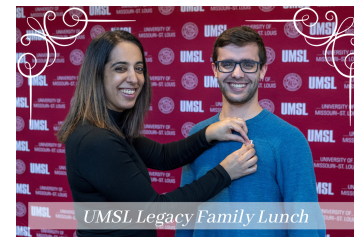
Dr. Triplett began his career as a St. Louis Public Schools substitute teacher. He has served as principal of Paideia Academy, assistant principal of Vashon High School, principal of Sumner High School, in addition to other leadership positions. "Dr. Triplett is the right person to lead the Normandy Schools Collaborative at this crucial time," said Ron Roberts, president of the district's Joint Executive Governing Board. "This role is critical to our ongoing progress as a district. His leadership experience and capacity to accelerate speed to trust and success with school improvement are invaluable as we look to the district's future." [Read more.](#)



UMSL Tiny Tritons Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 25, 2023
10:00 AM to Noon
UMSL MSC Century Rooms

This fun and free breakfast is for children ages 3-12 and their family. Homecoming is a great tradition at UMSL and this is a great way for Tiny Tritons to be involved, too. There will be a live performance with pancake art, a lot of yummy food, and activities for children to enjoy. Registration required. [Click here](#) to learn more.



UMSL Alumni Legacy Family celebration

Saturday, February 25, 2023
Noon
UMSL EdCollabitat

The UMSL Office of Alumni Engagement is excited to host the Inaugural Legacy Family celebration during homecoming weekend. This event will honor parent and family alumni with current UMSL students at a luncheon and pinning ceremony.



Transforming our future

Transformation is coming! Throughout the spring 2023 semester, community members may notice some big changes in the works at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. As the recipient of Missouri State Legislature's multi-million dollar ARPA funds, UMSL is investing in campus and student life as well as the St. Louis community and campus neighbors.

The TransformUMSL initiative kicks off with multiple projects in beginning phases both on North and South campus. Currently, the Patient Care Center is undergoing remodeling to create an inviting space for the College of Optometry. Services in the Patience Care and Eye Center are still offered to the community during remodeling.

Additionally, South Campus begins a process of rebirth as the future home of the North County Business and Workforce District. Throughout the semester, the South Campus development team will be hosting events and information sessions to spread awareness for this major initiative and collect feedback from the community about what they want to see included in the project.

TransformUMSL is an exciting opportunity for the University of Missouri-St. Louis to expand and enhance how our campus community already serves the St. Louis region. Individuals are encouraged to visit the [TransformUMSL webpage](#) regularly for more information.

Share your thoughts and [take the survey!](#)

In alignment with the UMSL Master Plan, the university is planning to develop 35 acres of the south campus for a business and workforce district and public plaza along the Natural Bridge Road corridor to be anchored around the UMSL South MetroLink Station. Questions in this survey are designed to help gather feedback on these goals to best meet the needs of the community. Total time to answer questions should be no more than 8 minutes. To complete the survey, [click here](#).

Registration required. [Click here](#) to learn more.



**Arianna String Quartet:
Heaven and Earth**
Friday, March 3, 2023
7:30 PM
UMSL Blanche M. Touhill
Performing Arts Center

The Arianna Quartet welcomes virtuoso cellist Zuill Bailey. The evening opens with a performance of Gaspar Cassado's Suite for Solo Cello, a scintillating work infused with Spanish flavors and style. The ASQ next performs Carlos Simon's yearning "Elegy" for String Quartet, a piece of raw honesty and beauty dedicated to the memory of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, and Michael Brown, that wrestles with associated anger, fear and anguish. The concert closes with a performance of Schubert's uplifting and celebrated String Quintet in C Major. For information and tickets [click here](#).

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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