

29th Annual FOUNDERS CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 29, 2020

Welcome

Paul Herring, vice chancellor, University Advancement
Kristin Sobolik, chancellor, University of Missouri–St. Louis

Presenting Sponsor

EDWARD JONES

Alumni Recognition

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Jennifer Jezek-Taussig, associate vice chancellor, Alumni Engagement

UMSL Students Succeed Virtually Anywhere Video

Vice Chancellor Herring

Donor Recognition

PIERRE LACLEDE SOCIETY

Vice Chancellor Herring

1963 SOCIETY

AUGUSTE CHOUTEAU SOCIETY - New and Advancing Members

Sharon Fenoglio, associate vice chancellor, University Advancement

THE E. DESMOND AND MARY ANN LEE MEDAL FOR PHILANTHROPY

Vice Chancellor Herring



The E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Medal for Philanthropy Presented to Laura and Norman Eaker

Norman Eaker, a 1978 graduate of the College of Business Administration joined Edward Jones as an internal auditor in 1981, was named general partner in 1984 and retired as Chief Administrative Officer in 2016. Both during his 35-year career at Edward Jones and after his retirement, Laura and Norm have been tireless advocates of his alma mater. In 2010, Norm delivered a heartfelt commencement address that encouraged the graduates to be grateful and optimistic, and to show appreciation to all those who helped them in their journey. That same year, he was recognized as a distinguished alumnus at our annual Founders Dinner celebration and in 2016 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his life-long commitment to UMSL.

These accolades are much deserved as Norm has selflessly volunteered his time and talent by serving as a Chancellor's Council member from 2008 through 2015. In 2010, Laura and Norm established the Eaker Family Scholarship at UMSL, which supports students from North St. Louis. Since its creation, this award has, in no small way, ensured the success of 29 recipients with 15 students having earned their degrees. The Eaker's ties to the university extend beyond Norm and Laura with two of their three children having earned degrees from UMSL.

2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



James G. Brennan, BSBA 1974

Jim is the president and owner of McKelvey Homes, the oldest builder in St. Louis, and the fourth largest builder in the St. Louis area. Jim is well known for his community service and activities on behalf of the homebuilding industry. He is a past-president of the Home Builders Association of St. Louis and Eastern Missouri, and was elected to its prestigious Hall of Fame for Excellence in Achievement.



Stanley A. Freerks, MBA 1992

Stan is retired as the owner and president of S A Freerks & Associates, a multi-state insurance brokerage firm. Over the course of his 43-year career, Stan worked as an account executive dealing directly with the insurance buying public and later, owning his own firm. In addition to recognition in the Wall Street Journal and Who's Who in Colleges and Universities, Stan has also received the Dean's Medal from the UMSL College of Business and the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Medal of Philanthropy.



Terry V. Freerks, BA History 1977, MEd 1979

Terry is a licensed professional counselor in private practice and the CFO, Executive Director Emeritus and Retired Head Coach of the Clayton Shaw Park Swimming Team. Terry currently serves on the Chancellor's Council, the College of Arts & Sciences Leadership Council, the Nursing Lab Campaign and the Alumni Finance Committee. Along with her husband, Stan, Terry is often seen at UMSL athletic events, sporting their UMSL gear and cheering on UMSL students.



Stephen A. Kolodziej, BA Chemistry 1987, PhD 1992

Stephen is an associate research fellow in biotherapeutic pharmaceutical sciences at Pfizer Inc. He is one of the senior researchers at Pfizer, and during his long career has been issued 16 patents, and had a prolific publication and presentation record, having lectured at universities and conferences all over the world, including MIT and University College London, where he is a visiting staff member. He has collaborated on research with UMSL, which led to peer-reviewed publications and substantial funding to the Demchenko lab.



Elizabeth C. Petersen, BA Biology 1980, MEd 1996

Elizabeth is a science educator and STEM facilitator. She currently works for Washington University in Saint Louis. She is recognized nationally as a curriculum writer, leader, collaborator and facilitator in STEM education, and is sought out as a speaker on a range of topics including best practices in teaching, gender and racial equity in the classroom, and environmental opportunities. Among the many awards Elizabeth has received, especially prominent is the St. Louis Educational Equity Award and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Stream Team Teacher of the Year.

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