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THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS  FALL 2009

UM St. Louis



Scholarships make
the difference

Just ask this trio
of recipients

UM-St. Louis
launches Gateway
for Greatness Campaign

Dear Readers,

Astronauts. Best-selling authors. NBC News anchors. A long list of renowned speakers have amused and inspired the audience at our annual Founders Dinner. But none has left a more lasting impression with me than the usually soft-spoken George Paz, BSBA 1982.

George, chairman and chief executive officer of Express Scripts, accepted the Des and Mary Ann Lee Medal for Philanthropy, an award given annually by the University of Missouri–St. Louis. George and Express Scripts have collectively donated more than \$4 million to the university since 2005. And his acceptance speech was worth just as much.

George described himself as a nontraditional student – not unlike many who find success through UM–St. Louis. His father had an eighth-grade education and hoped his children would do better. George entered the university in 1973 but dropped out.

It was during the lean times after dropping out that he said he learned the true value of education. He returned to UM–St. Louis and graduated in 1982.

A string of successes at various companies eventually brought him to the lead post at Express Scripts, which is among the St. Louis area's largest employers and among the nation's largest pharmacy benefits managers. George shared many lessons from his journey.

Two stood out to me.

He found the key to individual success is a combination of education, work ethic and passion. He also learned that regional success hinges on job creation and access to quality higher education. He said we must make sure our children have opportunities to succeed here in St. Louis, rather than Chicago, Los Angeles or Boston.

I have long admired George Paz as a business leader. The man himself is pretty impressive, too.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Tom George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "George" clearly legible.

Thomas F. George

Chancellor

UM St. Louis

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Thomas F. George

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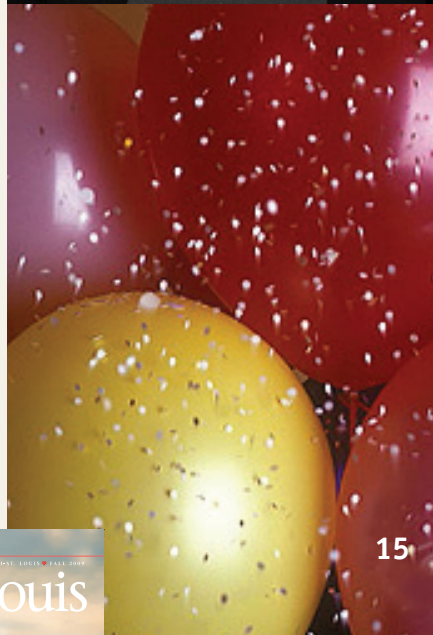
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[On the cover]

UM-St. Louis students (from left) David Specter, Meredith Muehler and Barbara Jackson gather on the university's North Campus in late September. Each has attended UM-St. Louis with the help of scholarships. See Page 21.

Photo by August Jennewein



Barbershop hall of famer Henry wins gold twice



Photo by Lorin May

Jim Henry (center) leads The Ambassadors of Harmony during its gold medal performance in July at the 2009 International Barbershop Chorus Competition in Anaheim, Calif. Henry directs the chorus and the choral studies program at UM–St. Louis.

The month of July has been terrific for Jim Henry. In 2008, the University of Missouri–St. Louis director of choral studies was inducted into the Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame as a member of his former quartet The Gas House Gang. A year later, Henry rewrote history at the BHS 2009 International Barbershop Chorus Competition in Anaheim, Calif. He became the first person ever to take the gold as a director of a chorus and a member of a quartet.

“It’s surreal and very humbling,” Henry said. “But this is not a singular honor. It took an entire team of people to put all of this stuff together.”

He won one gold as one-fourth of Crossroads, a group whose members hail from different states. He earned another gold medal as director of The Ambassadors of

Harmony, a St. Charles, Mo.-based chorus with more than 160 members. To win its championship, the chorus defeated Dallas-based Vocal Majority, a chorus that had not lost in 30 years. The Ambassadors of Harmony won with an elaborate theatrical performance in which members mimicked a marching band replete with onstage tear-away costume changes, fake instrument props and complex choreography. The performance garnered a standing ovation nearly half as long as the actual song.

“This is a great once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said Henry, who directs Vocal Point and University Singers at UM–St. Louis. “But my day-to-day joy comes from working with the kids at UM–St. Louis and watching these young vocalists grow.”

UM-St. Louis welcomes Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is home to a new multidisciplinary center that focuses on the financial well-being of consumers. The Center for Excellence in Financial Counseling is the result of a partnership between UM-St. Louis and the Foundation for Credit Education. The foundation donated \$4.17 million to the university to endow the center.

Vicki Jacobson previously served as president of the foundation and is the director of the new center, which opened in August. She said the center benefits from its location at UM-St. Louis by having access to academic expertise and research in subject areas important to consumers achieving financial well-being.

"UM-St. Louis' unique mission as a land-grant research institution makes it a strong choice as the foundation seeks to further its goal of excellence in financial counseling through research, interdisciplinary efforts and enhanced professional development for credit counselors," Jacobson said. "In terms of current teaching and research projects and future possibilities for enhanced partnership, the university has much to offer."

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George said he was pleased about the center opening on campus.

"I'm delighted to welcome this new entity," he said. "A university setting makes good sense for the center."

Microbiologist is new dean of Arts and Sciences

Ronald E. Yasbin, former dean of the College of Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He took over the post in August.

"I am very excited about being part of a land-grant institution once again," said Yasbin, who was a student and later a faculty member at The Pennsylvania State University, one of the earliest land-grant institutions in the country. "The challenges we face in the future will be better solved by large metropolitan land-grant institutions such as UM-St. Louis."

Yasbin, a noted microbial geneticist, researches the evolution of bacteria and their adaptation to stressful environments. He has served as a faculty member at The University of Texas at Dallas, University of Maryland in College Park, University of Rochester in New York and Penn State in University Park.

A native New Yorker, he earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Penn State, master's degree in genetics from Cornell University in New York and a doctoral



Ronald E. Yasbin

degree in microbiology from the University of Rochester.

Teresa Thiel, professor of molecular biology, had served as acting and then interim dean since January 2008.

KWMU reporter wins Edward R. Murrow Award

A

dam Allington has received a 2009 Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio-Television News Directors Association. The reporter for St. Louis Public Radio 100.7 KWMU was honored for his three-part news series "Gangs of North St. Louis."



Adam Allington

The series detailed the daily life of North St. Louis gang culture. After reporting on news stories in the area, Allington said he realized there was a need for more in-depth coverage of the situation. "There was a lot there besides the murder rate."

Throughout the spring of 2008 he researched and collected tape. "It took time to find the right people to talk to. Gang members aren't known for wanting to talk about what they do."

Reaction to the story has been positive. Allington said it's because it's a topic people respond to emotionally and intellectually. "People like to talk about the series."

The Murrow Awards are presented yearly to honor excellence in electronic journalism. Allington received the award in October in New York, and he learned of it in June. He said news of the award came as a complete surprise.

"We all do good work here," he said, "and anytime you are recognized by your peers it's a good feeling."

UM-St. Louis breaks several enrollment records

U

niversity of Missouri-St. Louis officials cited the battered economy, an increase in available scholarships and a tuition freeze as major factors for the university's record fall enrollment of 16,548, a year-to-year increase of 5 percent.

The previous record of 16,094 students was set in 1996.

"People are increasingly understanding that the university is a tremendous educational value," said UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George. "We have award-winning faculty, nationally ranked academic programs and an excellent metropolitan campus setting, and we have worked hard to remain financially accessible."

An agreement reached with Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon and the Missouri General Assembly enabled UM-

St. Louis and other state universities to freeze tuition during the 2009-10 academic year.

"We also reallocated institutional funds and received generous donations in recent years to increase the number and amount of scholarships we provide," George said.

Fall enrollment is officially calculated after the fourth week of classes. Total enrollment includes students taking credit courses on campus and off. The latter is primarily high school students taking advanced credit courses.

The university's fall enrollment report includes several on-campus enrollment records, including 31 percent of students listed as minorities, 20 percent of students listed as African-Americans and 24 percent of students enrolled in graduate programs.

When Cathy Vatterott watched her son struggle with homework each night, she decided to find a better way. The associate professor of teaching and learning at the University of Missouri-St. Louis soon realized there was not enough research on homework assigned in K-12 schools. So she conducted her own research. The result is "Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs."

The book details the history of homework and offers a cohesive theory of how and why homework should be assigned. Earlier in her career, Vatterott, a former K-12 teacher and school administrator, argued for the abolishment of homework. But her research findings indicate that homework – with a clear academic purpose and that a student can complete easily – can benefit students.

"Homework that cannot be completed without help is not good homework," Vatterott said. "We have a stupid idea that more homework means more rigor."

Homework, Vatterott says, is a problem in education. According to her, teachers do not reflect on why they assign homework, and teacher education programs often fail to offer instruction on assigning and grading homework. In response, Vatterott presents her research and findings on homework in her undergraduate classes.

Lisa Newcomer has taken three of Vatterott's courses.

"I have been influenced by her research and views on homework," Newcomer said. "I plan to keep Dr. Vatterott's theories in my mind and in my practice."

Readers of Vatterott's Web site, www.homeworklady.com, send her countless e-mail messages asking for advice or recounting their own homework stories.

"The chapter on parenting in my book came from discussions at parties and conversations with other moms," Vatterott said. "Everyone has an opinion and a story. All the people I talked to added dimension to the book."

Vatterott said she knew she was on the right track when people who oppose homework said she had sold out. Those on the pro-homework side told her she had given up on homework.

"When you get criticism from both sides you know you are in the right place," Vatterott said.

Laura Berry, a communication specialist for ASCD (formerly the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) said, "The response to the book has been overwhelmingly positive, especially in the blogosphere, where it has been praised by teacher bloggers and homework critics alike."

The book also may appeal to parents who are frustrated by the quality or volume of their children's homework.

"Parents don't want to fight that battle anymore," Vatterott said. "They should have all the information they need to challenge what they think is inappropriate."

If Vatterott has her way, schools will examine their homework policies and make changes that will benefit students.

"Learning should be joyful," she said. "It shouldn't be tedious. The world won't fall apart if teachers don't give homework."

"Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs" was released in July by ASCD. The 180-page book is available for \$23.95 at <http://www.ascd.org/>.

EVERY KID'S DREAM

**A teacher
who's skeptical
of homework**

By Rose Postma



Cathy Vatterott, a teacher of teachers at UM-St. Louis, says homework is a problem for K-12 schools across the country, which is why she wrote the controversial book "Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs."

What once was an 'elegant adventure' is now merely a 'necessary nuisance'

UM–St. Louis scholar pens book on history of air travel

By Jennifer Hatton

Imagine the pure terror of streaking across the sky at 10,000 feet. It's pitch black and so loud you can't hear yourself think. The unyielding vibrations and turbulent jolts could nauseate anyone. You're overwhelmed by the thought of what might happen next.

What may read like the opening lines of a thriller movie script is, in reality, an account echoed by many air travelers in the 1920s. Those who braved the skies during the early days of commercial air travel recall experiencing fear, ear-splitting noise, uncertainty and the joy of adventure.

Aviation expert Daniel L. Rust journeys through the evolution of commercial air travel in his book "Flying Across America: The Airline Passenger Experience."

An assistant teaching professor of marketing at the University of Missouri–St. Louis and assistant director of the university's Center for Transportation Studies, Rust said his fascination with air travel began when he started his doctoral dissertation at the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho. He uncovered the first-hand descriptions of those who'd experienced early air travel, including actor Will Rogers, who died in 1935 in an air crash with pilot Wiley Post near Barrow, Alaska. Rust said he sought out more and became engrossed with each story he read.

"Early airline passengers wrote about many aspects of air travel, including airsickness, deafening noise and primitive in-flight restroom facilities," Rust said. "Their observations also revealed a time when flying was a novel event worthy of passengers' best attire. Cheerful female attendants called each passenger by name, and first class was the only class of airline service."

Rust's colleague Carlos Schwantes, the St. Louis Mercantile Library Endowed Professor for Transportation Studies at UM–St. Louis, encouraged Rust to write "Flying Across America" while Rust was a graduate student. Schwantes said he pushed for Rust to put his research into a book because there was no other book out there like it.

"No one has really written anything about the experience of the passenger in air travel," Schwantes said. "I think because most of us at some point in our lives have been or will be a passenger, this first-hand experience is fascinating and intriguing. Daniel is fast becoming the leading expert on this subject, and I encourage him to continue to spread his wings and soar."

The Center for Transportation Studies provided Rust with funding to include more than 100 historic pictures, many from the TWA Collection at the St. Louis Mercantile Library at UM–St. Louis. He also used extensive corporate papers in the collection that documented significant TWA air crashes, one of which killed University of Notre Dame football legend Knute Rockne in 1931.


"That event changed a lot of things," Rust said. "Moisture had weakened the glue which bonded together the TWA airplane's wooden wings. In a storm over Kansas, one wing separated from the fuselage, resulting in a horrific crash. That was the end for wooden airliners in the United States. People demanded all-metal aircrafts, and manufacturers responded with planes such as the Boeing 247 and the Douglas DC series of airliners."

Rust's research demonstrated that aircraft underwent rapid technological advancements in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s.

"It's stunning to consider the difference between 1929 and 1959," Rust said. "Within just 30 years, commercial airplanes evolved from fragile biplanes of wood and canvas to sleek, pressurized jetliners capable of cruising at 600 miles per hour. The safety features improved immeasurably. It's hard for many people today to imagine flying before the era of modern jets."

Since its release in May, "Flying Across America" has received favorable reviews in several publications, including The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and The Chronicle of Higher Education. Radio stations also have interviewed Rust. He said he's pleased that the book has been so well-received.

"I believe many people want to recall the more pleasant flying experience, common before deregulation and 9/11," he said. "In light of the present tribulations airline passengers endure, I hope 'Flying Across America' will bring readers a new appreciation for an era when air travel was an elegant adventure, rather than a necessary nuisance."

"Flying Across America: The Airline Passenger Experience" was published by University of Oklahoma Press. The 260-page hardcover book is \$45 and available at <http://www.ourpress.com/>. 



UM-St. Louis aviation expert Daniel L. Rust has written the book "Flying Across America." Rust touches one of the two engines that powered the Douglas C-47 that's on display at the Museum of Transportation in west St. Louis County. It's a military transport aircraft used by the Allies during World War II. The C-47 is a version of the civilian Douglas DC-3 airliner.

BIG research

for little patients

By Kylie Shafferkoetter

Two scientists walk into a bar. It sounds like the beginning of a mediocre joke, but it actually was the impetus for a device that could help thousands of premature babies born each year.

In 2002, Wesley Harris, professor of inorganic chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and his colleague Robert Yokel, professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, met for a drink to discuss a recent paper about aluminum levels in drinking water.

"Then Bob – who is an expert in aluminum toxicity issues – mentions that there is a problem with the solution used to feed premature babies intravenously," Harris said. "That's how the project started. It was literally written down on a cocktail napkin."

Fast-forward a few years. Harris, Yokel and their colleagues at UM-St. Louis and UK have since developed a device to help protect premature newborns from the toxic effects of aluminum. Using a small filter, the scientists are able to remove the metal from intravenous feeding solutions used for preterm babies.

"Basically we are perfecting chemicals the aluminum bonds to so we can easily remove it," said Chris Spilling, chairman of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UM-St. Louis. "And of course we are looking for the most efficient way to synthesize this process to keep the cost affordable for hospitals."

More than 12 percent of births in the United States are pre-term, with most of those infants requiring "total parenteral nutrition," meaning all their nutrition must be administered intravenously. Aluminum is commonly found in these TPN solutions, and an excess amount of the element can damage the skeletal system, brain and bone marrow.

"There is a real unmet need here," said Robert Kuhn, director of pharmacy services at Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington. "There is very good documentation that decreasing aluminum in TPN solutions would help the babies' development. That's our number one goal."

In 2007, Harris, Yokel, Kuhn and Spilling founded the private firm ALKYMOS to get funding for the research. The research project is the only one of its kind, according to Kuhn.

And the collaboration has produced two patent applications and a license for patent rights to ALKYMOS. Initial research was funded by the Thrasher Research Fund and later by the National Institutes of Health. Currently, ALKYMOS is up for phase II funding, which will edge the device closer to the market.

"This academic entrepreneurship is important as a way to get talented people together to do something that will be a tremendous help to these infants," Kuhn said. "We're hoping to eliminate 75 percent to 95 percent of the aluminum in TPNs, which would greatly lower any risks involved with toxicity."

The federal Food and Drug Administration recognizes the problem of aluminum toxicity associated with TPN solutions. In 2004, the FDA passed a requirement that large volumes of parenterals used to prepare the solutions should contain less than 25 micrograms per liter. However, manufacturers of these solutions continue having difficulty meeting this requirement.

Harris said he believes the collaboration of scientists from different disciplines is the key to addressing complex problems like this one. "ALKYMOS is attempting to provide the new technology that the pediatric health-care industry needs to deal with this problem."

With a high score on their NIH phase II proposal, Harris and Spilling feel positive about getting the device into hospitals as early as 2011. "If this all works out," Spilling said, "it will be like winning the lottery." 🍀



UM-St. Louis chemists Wes Harris and Chris Spilling check out the material – called "chelating resin" – they're working to pack into filter cartridges. The cartridges will remove aluminum from feeding solutions used to nourish premature babies.

FROM BOOK BAG TO BRIEFCASE

Internships often lead to job opportunities
for UM–St. Louis students By Maureen Zegel



UM–St. Louis alumna Stefanie Davis is a home mortgage counselor at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage. She made the most of the university's internship program, turning a 10-week spring internship into a full-time job in August.

Facing an entrenched global recession and swelling national unemployment rate, Stefanie Davis had an uncertain outlook as she neared college graduation and began searching for work in the spring.

"I had been looking for a job in human resources, and there just weren't any openings," she said. "I was getting discouraged."

Davis completed a bachelor's degree in business administration in May at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. In June, she was offered an internship – one of hundreds available to UM–St. Louis students – with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, the country's largest mortgage lender. "I interviewed for the Wells Fargo internship because I thought it would be a challenge."

By August, Davis turned challenge into opportunity. Her 10-week internship blossomed into a job offer. She was brought on full time as a home mortgage counselor. She said she enjoys the work, particularly her involvement in an industry that's undergoing significant change.

"I've learned more than I could ever imagine about home mortgages – the many loan sources and regulations," Davis said. "But I'm also involved in consumer education. I'm creating educational seminars to help people understand the mortgage process and all the steps to buying a home. It's invaluable knowledge."

Transitioning efficiently from classroom to career is common when students take advantage of the internship program at UM-St. Louis, said Teresa Balestreri, director of the university's Office of Career Services.

"Internships are still the number-one pipeline to hire college-educated, entry-level employees," she said.

UM-St. Louis, according to Balestreri, offers current and prospective students two important assets – the university's reputation for providing excellent, prepared workers to employers and its location in a metropolitan area that's home to thousands of businesses, including 21 Fortune 1000 companies.

Despite the global economy being crippled by a severe recession since December 2007, Balestreri said the year-to-year number of internships that has come through her office has remained constant.

"Although corporate activity has slowed, we still have more than 300 documented junior and senior-level interns at any given time," she said.

Working with hundreds of corporations and organizations, Balestreri's office coordinates internships offering a number of paid and unpaid experiences outside the classroom. Curriculum-based, for-credit programs in education, social work and numerous other disciplines coordinate their own programs but work with Balestreri and share information.

According to the Office of Institutional Research at UM-St. Louis, about 500 students have been enrolled in for-credit internships in the two latest fall semesters.

On any given day, hundreds of UM-St. Louis students take what they learned in the classroom and apply that knowledge in the workplace. For many of them, their intern-

ships provide the opportunity to make career decisions.

"I love this work," said Tom Slais, a senior majoring in finance and stockbroker intern at the online brokerage firm Scottrade.

Slais, who said he wants to become a licensed stockbroker, started his internship in May at a branch office of Scottrade in west St. Louis County. He said interns are given a lot of responsibility as "first-line communicators." He opens new accounts, provides customer service for existing accounts and helps in day-to-day operations.

According to Carrie Trent, a Scottrade spokeswoman and UM-St. Louis alumna, Scottrade employs 382 interns nationally, and 46 percent of the May 2009 intern class accepted full-time positions with the company. Slais said he could be one of them in 2010.

continued



UM-St. Louis student Tom Slais (above left), is an intern for the online brokerage firm Scottrade. He works at one of the company's branch offices in west St. Louis County.

Teresa Balestreri (above right), director of the Office of Career Services at UM-St. Louis, says the university offers students great internship opportunities through the university's strong relationships with many St. Louis-area businesses and organizations.

"Given today's economy, it's a great opportunity to have a job waiting for you when you graduate," he said. "I'm really proud to be working at a major corporation headquartered right here in St. Louis."

Erin Williams and Sarah Feichtner said they understand Slais' excitement. At the UM-St. Louis Fall Internship and Job Fair, they were recruiting students for a cooperative education program at St. Louis-based Monsanto, one of the world's largest agricultural companies.

Williams and Feichtner met five years ago as students in the Information Systems Program at UM-St. Louis. They completed Monsanto's six-month co-op program, which requires students to work 40 hours a week. When they graduated from UM-St. Louis, both accepted full-time job offers from Monsanto.

At least once a year, Williams and Feichtner take a day off to attend the fair at UM-St. Louis. They recruit students for the Monsanto program that launched their careers.

"It sounds like a cliché, but you're not fetching coffee in this internship," Williams said. "The co-op program provides real-world experience. You learn the culture of the company and get to figure out if you like that kind of work. The same goes for Monsanto; They're looking at you, too."

The list of companies that participate in the UM-St. Louis internship program reads like a Who's Who of St. Louis-area businesses. In addition to Monsanto, Scotttrade and Wells Fargo, the list includes Boeing, Edward Jones, Emerson and Express Scripts. Nonprofit organizations also participate. The Saint Louis Science Center is one of them.

Gretchen Haupt, a second-year graduate student in the Museum Studies Program at UM-St. Louis, works 20 hours a week on research and evaluation at the center.

"I'm helping to collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data from visitors," Haupt said. "We are interpreting the research and evaluating educational programs. The work helps many different departments – membership, marketing and education – become more cognizant of visitor needs. After all, visitors are why we're here."

Haupt said hands-on learning is the most appealing part of the university's Museum Studies Program. She's paid a monthly stipend and receives Science Center perks, such as free membership and parking. Like all interns interviewed for this story, Haupt said her internship offered outstanding experiences in a professional atmosphere.

"Unlike some internships you might hear about, the relationship I have with my supervisor and others in my department is that of a colleague," she said. "I just love working here." 🍷



Gretchen Haupt, a second-year graduate student in the Museum Studies Program at UM-St. Louis, works 20 hours a week on research and evaluation at the Saint Louis Science Center.

GATEWAY
FOR GREATNESS
CAMPAIGN



A MESSAGE FROM

George Paz

GATEWAY FOR GREATNESS CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN



Great universities have three things in common – a diverse student body with a drive to excel, faculty members who are recognized as leaders in their fields and facilities that help generate success. The University of Missouri–St. Louis is a great university.

UM–St. Louis offers its students an exceptional education in a metropolitan setting. I know. I was one of those students. Without the combination of affordability, support and excellence that UM–St. Louis gave me, I would not have earned a college degree.

Yet students aren't the only beneficiaries of the university. The region benefits, too. The future of the St. Louis area is built upon an educational foundation, and UM–St. Louis gives us gifted, prepared workers. Did you know that 73 percent of the university's 75,000 alumni live and work in the region? I promise that you know more than one of our alumni.

Take some time and talk with us. You'll quickly learn how much pride we have in the university. We're part of something that has come a long way.

And our challenge now is to grow UM–St. Louis with our **Gateway for Greatness Campaign**. The seven-year, \$100 million effort is the university's first comprehensive campaign.

We're striving to endow scholarships so we can recruit and retain students who will become future leaders. We seek the endowment of professorships to attract additional world-renowned faculty to campus, and we're raising capital to build new facilities and strengthen academic programs. Once achieved, these goals will form building blocks for an even better UM–St. Louis.

Let's make it happen.

George Paz

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Express Scripts

Chairman of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign

BSBA 1982

DRUM ROLL AND CONFETTI



UM–St. Louis launches Gateway for Greatness Campaign

The ballroom at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis was packed in September with more than 650 students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors of the University of Missouri–St. Louis for the annual Founders Dinner.

But it was not your typical Founders Dinner. continued



E. Desmond Lee, UM-St. Louis friend and St. Louis-area philanthropist, closes out the 18th annual Founders Dinner by urging those in attendance to support the university. Lee's fellow Partners for Greatness (donors who have given \$1 million or more to UM-St. Louis) gather on stage behind him.

The traditional buzz in the room was a much louder this fall as UM-St. Louis used the event to kick off the public phase of a seven-year fundraising campaign that began in July 2005. It's a common practice among fundraising professionals to divide comprehensive campaigns into silent and public phases. The public phase usually begins when significant success has been achieved toward an institution's goal. It would be safe to say that UM-St. Louis has been successful.

"The Gateway for Greatness Campaign began in 2005 as an effort to raise a minimum of \$100 million," Vice Chancellor for Advancement Martin Leifeld told the crowd. "Note, I use the word 'minimum' because the aspirations and needs of the university far exceed that original goal.

"And, fortunately, we are well on our way toward surpassing that goal. I am pleased to announce that, as of today, the campaign has reached \$83 million."

The magnitude of the announcement was reinforced when 13 individuals and companies were named "Partners for Greatness." The title recognizes that each of the 13 have given the university at least \$1 million since July 2005.

Express Scripts is among that group. The company also received the Des and Mary Ann Lee Medal for Philanthropy. At \$4 million, the Express Scripts "family" is the largest donor to UM-St. Louis' campaign.

New gifts totaling \$3 million – \$2.5 million from Express Scripts and \$500,000 from Express Scripts Chairman and Chief Executive Officer George Paz and his wife, Melissa – were announced at Founders Dinner.

When Express Scripts moved its headquarters to the UM-St. Louis campus in 2007, the company did so knowing that it shared core values with the university – integrity, excellence and a belief in partnerships. So the idea was that collaboration between the two organizations would be natural.

The follow-through has been terrific. Doors to internships have opened to UM-St. Louis students. Faculty members have worked side by side with Express Scripts staff on several projects that benefit the St. Louis area. Express Scripts has provided substantial financial support to the university's Bridge Program, an award-winning initiative that helps area high school students matriculate to college.

The partnership also has led to the creation of an emerging economic juggernaut in north St. Louis County. Combined, Express Scripts and UM-St. Louis have more than 5,000 employees working as neighbors.

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George praised Express Scripts and all campaign contributors for their enthusiastic support of the university.

"UM-St. Louis and Express Scripts have worked hard to craft a lasting education-based partnership," he said. "We are proud and honored to recognize this company and all the university's friends who are eager to collaborate with our institution to improve this region."

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A CALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Help strengthen programs and facilities at UM-St. Louis

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is defined by its diverse and motivated student body, award-winning faculty and nationally ranked academic programs. These core attributes ensure that our students receive an exceptional education.

But UM-St. Louis is an ambitious place that's filled with ambitious people, and we're working to create an even better university. Through the Gateway for Greatness Campaign and our \$100-million fundraising goal, UM-St. Louis will grow stronger.

And your support is vital to our growth. Case in point: The State of Missouri provides UM-St. Louis with only 30 percent of the university's budget.

Private giving, therefore, is the primary funding source for the construction of new, essential buildings and improvements to existing struc-

tures. Facility upgrades will enable more effective student-faculty interaction. Campaign funds also will support new professorships and enhancements to academic programs.

"We are the St. Louis metropolitan area's public, research university," said UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George. "We have earned our reputation for excellence, and our campaign has us on track to improve our student experience and enhance how we serve the region."

Academic programs enriched by generosity

No one knows and appreciates the value of a UM-St. Louis education more than Peter Schick. One of seven children who grew up in a modest brick home in south St. Louis, Schick earned a bachelor's degree in finance at UM-St. Louis in 1974.

An artist's rendering depicts a new building for the College of Business Administration at UM-St. Louis. The Gateway for Greatness Campaign seeks to raise a minimum of \$25 million in gifts and pledges for the college. The construction of the building will be funded by \$15 million, and \$10 million will fund endowed scholarships and professorships.





UM–St. Louis announced earlier this year its plan to move St. Louis Public Radio | 90.7 KWMU to Grand Center, a thriving arts and entertainment district in St. Louis. The university may also move academic programs from the College of Fine Arts and Communication to the new facility. The artist's rendering depicts what UM–St. Louis at Grand Center may look like.

He went on to join, and eventually acquire, Moneta Group. Based in Clayton, Mo., it's the second largest independent financial planning firm in the United States.

"I'm a first-generation college graduate in my family," Schick said. "Were it not for the University of Missouri–St. Louis, I don't know that I would have been able to pursue my passions. The university prepared me to move into the business world and helped me become who I am today."

Schick's gratitude led him and Maria, his wife, to pledge \$1.7 million to establish an endowed professorship in finance earlier this year. The professorship will be filled through a national search, and the selected scholar will oversee the chartered financial analyst exam preparation program in the College of Business Administration.

The Schicks are not alone in supporting the Gateway for Greatness Campaign.

Greek philanthropist Nicholas Karakas made a gift of \$1.5 million to UM–St. Louis last year. The funds endowed a chair in Byzantine and Orthodox studies and will enable the university to build a comprehensive academic program on the history, culture and politics of the Byzantine era.

In 2006, Whitney Harris made a gift of \$1.5 million in support of what was the International Center for Tropical Ecology at UM–St. Louis. The gift was used to implement and expand the mission of the center. In recognition of the gift, the university renamed the center. It's now known as the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center.

Through partnerships with the Missouri Botanical Garden and Saint Louis Zoo, the center has become a premier institution for graduate studies in tropical ecology and biodiversity conservation.

Harris' support has global reach, according to Patrick Osborne, executive director of the center. "Whitney's generosity helps educate the next generation of ecologists at a time when the conservation and wise use of the world's natural resources is of paramount importance."

The need for improved spaces

UM–St. Louis has identified a number of instructional and research spaces that, with improvements, will spark even more outstanding work by students and faculty.

The College of Business Administration, for example, occupies facilities that have not kept pace with its growing student body and nationally ranked programs. Classes are taught in six buildings, and faculty offices are spread across four.

A new building for the college will foster student-learning experiences that current facilities simply cannot provide – the latest technology, a centralized location and environments that will improve interaction among students, faculty and members of the business community.

The university also has identified needs for new buildings for the St. Louis Mercantile Library, College of Optometry and College of Nursing.

SCHOLARSHIPS

PAVE THE WAY

The road
to success begins
at UM–St. Louis

As one of the cornerstones of the University of Missouri–St. Louis' Gateway for Greatness Campaign, scholarships attract a talented and diverse student body. Scholarships provide an effective way to help promising students succeed by making education affordable to those who may not otherwise be able to attend the university.

During the 2008-09 academic year, 87.6 percent of full-time degree seeking students who applied to UM–St. Louis demonstrated financial need. Since the campaign began in 2005, friends and alumni have given about \$6 million for scholarships, and 68 new scholarships have been created.

Steve O'Hara is president and chief executive officer of Angelica in Chesterfield, Mo. He's also co-chairman of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign and president of the Chancellor's Council, a volunteer advisory group for UM–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George.

O'Hara said donors who establish annual and endowed scholarships are strengthening the university and ensuring the St. Louis area has an excellent work force.

"UM–St. Louis has more than 75,000 alumni, and 73 percent of them live and work in the St. Louis area," O'Hara said. "UM–St. Louis alumni benefit the region like alumni from no other university, and that all starts with opportunities that scholarships create."

Lena Key Cassidy Memorial Scholarship recipient

Barbara Jackson, a junior criminal justice major at UM–St. Louis, is a 48-year-old single parent who works full-time as a teacher's assistant for the Saint Louis Public Schools. Her demanding work schedule means she can only take evening and online courses. On a typical night, two of her five children are in tow as she attends class.

She said she wants to continue her education and become a counselor for at-risk youth.

"I enjoy working with teens and helping them with their problems," Jackson said. "My goal is to not let anyone slip through the cracks. I want to give kids hope and let them know someone is there to help and listen to them."

Jackson received the Lena Key Cassidy Memorial Scholarship in fall 2008.

"I was shocked and elated when I received my letter of congratulations in the mail," she said. "It was like Christmas, and the timing couldn't have been better. My old home computer had just died, and I had no money for a new one. Because of this scholarship, I was able to purchase a new laptop computer and continue with my classes."

Jackson said she anticipates graduating in December 2010 and plans to work toward a master's degree in criminal justice.



Barbara Jackson



Meredith Muehler

Peter W. and Helen M. Goode Memorial Scholarship recipient

Meredith Muehler, a junior elementary education major at UM–St. Louis, said she knew the university was right for her from the moment she stepped onto campus.

“I felt comfortable right away,” Muehler said. “The university is like my home away from home.”

Muehler, 19, of Pacific, Mo., took several college credit classes while in high school and arrived at UM–St. Louis with 33 credit hours already under her belt.

She’s a student in the Pierre Laclede Honors College. She’s a member of the Delta Zeta sorority, and she works part-time in the Office of Admissions.

Muehler has been awarded a scholarship each year she’s attended UM–St. Louis and was most recently a recipient of the Peter W. and Helen M. Goode Memorial Scholarship.

“Because of the scholarships that were awarded to me, I’ve been able to completely pay off my student loans,” Muehler said. “It’s such a relief to be able to focus on classes and studying instead of constantly worrying about money.”

Muehler said she anticipates graduating in December 2011. She said she wants to continue her education and begin a career in speech pathology.



David Specter

Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship recipient

David Specter, a senior communication major at UM–St. Louis, had been working two part-time jobs while attending class.

“I was working about 30 hours a week while trying to juggle classes and participate in some of the honors societies on campus,” said Specter, 22, of Olivette, Mo. “Needless to say, I was extremely happy to be awarded with scholarships from the university.”

The latest scholarship he received is the Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship.

“Because of the scholarships I’ve received, I was able to lessen my work hours and focus more on my classes,” Specter said. “Without my scholarships, this wouldn’t have been possible. They’ve definitely made a positive difference in my life and I’m appreciative to receive help.”

Specter, who will graduate in December, is a member of four honor societies – Lambda Pi Eta, Tau Sigma, Golden Key and Lambda Alpha. He said he plans to work in the St. Louis area and pursue a career in sales, marketing or public relations.

Nathan Birhanu is doing a world of good

SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AT UM-ST. LOUIS

Nathan earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry this spring from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and joined the Peace Corps in November. He's teaching science and HIV prevention in the small South African country of Lesotho.

He was awarded several scholarships at UM-St. Louis. He said being a scholarship recipient has motivated him to help others.

There are many ways to support scholarships at UM-St. Louis. An endowed scholarship requires a gift of \$30,000 or more to establish a permanent award. An annual scholarship requires a gift of \$2,500 or more, and it's awarded to a student for at least four years.

To learn more about supporting scholarships at UM-St. Louis, call Maura Wuellner at 314-516-5666 or send a message to wuellnerm@umsl.edu.



Alumni&FRIENDS

Rollo Dilworth comes home for SLSO's world premiere of his composition

By Ryan Heinz

Rollo Dilworth is one of two sons. His mother Marilyn, a switchboard operator at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said one of her boys was fond of sports and the outdoors. "Rollo," she said through a broad grin, "was my inside child."

Rollo Dilworth, MEd 1994, laughed at the depiction. "Boy, that's quite accurate," he said during a telephone interview.

Self-described as not athletically inclined and plagued with allergies, young Rollo confined himself to his north St. Louis home to avoid ragweed and fresh-cut grass. He didn't mind. The piano was inside. And where the piano was, Dilworth could be found.

All that time at the keys paid off. The 39-year-old has composed more than 200 published pieces. He's performed in Paris and before the pope.

His latest work, "Freedom's Plow," is a choral composition commissioned by David Robertson, music director of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. The piece made its debut Oct. 23 at Powell Hall in St. Louis.

The concert was a homecoming for Dilworth, who moved from the St. Louis area 14 years ago to become director of the choral program at North Park University in Chicago. He moved again this year to Philadelphia, where he's an associate professor of choral music education at Temple University.

Dilworth began practicing piano when he was nine. By 12, he was an accompanist



Photo by August Jennewein

"Freedom's Plow," a choral piece by Rollo Dilworth, MEd 1994, made its world premiere in October in a performance at Powell Symphony Hall in St. Louis.

for Johnnie Brown, his music teacher at St. Matthew the Apostle School in St. Louis. They performed at churches throughout the region and hit the road for shows as far away as Houston and Mississippi.

Among the earliest compositions he performed was "Gospel Mass" by Robert Ray, professor of music at UM-St. Louis. It wasn't exactly meant for beginners.

"But I loved the challenge," Dilworth said. "I wanted to emulate his writing style in some way by bringing African-American gospel, a typically oral tradition, to the printed page. To this day, that mass is one of the most popular pieces of choral music written."

Drawn by the prospect of studying with Ray, Dilworth began pursuing his master's degree in education from UM-St. Louis.

"To admire a role model from afar and then one day have the opportunity to work with that person, that was really a dream come true," Dilworth said. As Ray's student, he expanded his education in choral studies and composition. He also assisted Ray with his chorus at the university. The scholar played down his influence on Dilworth.

"It was just fine-tuning," Ray said. "Even then he was an incredible, enormous talent in his writing skills, arranging skills and certainly his piano playing skills."

Dilworth's relationship with his former professor has now come full circle. Ray prepared the St. Louis Symphony IN UNISON® Chorus to perform his former student's work under the direction of Maestro Robertson.

"For the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra to give me this invitation is very gratifying," Dilworth said. "And most certainly humbling."

Not bad for a kid once kept inside to stymie the sniffles.

Sandra Van Trease

Former scholarship recipient now helps university reach more students

By Linda Tracy

Sandra Van Trease says 1978 is the year of the best decision she's ever made. During that year, she began attending the University of Missouri–St. Louis and was awarded a Curators' Scholarship.

She said she'd completed a few business classes at a St. Louis-area community college and had already discovered her scholastic calling when she decided to transfer to UM–St. Louis.

"I was excited to have the opportunity to become a student of UM–St. Louis' well-known and well-established business college," Van Trease said. "Also, I was incredibly honored to receive a scholarship that lasted the entire four years I was there."

Fast-forward more than 30 years, and Van Trease, who is group president of BJC Healthcare in St. Louis, is still plugged into the university. She remains connected to the UM–St. Louis Alumni Association, and she serves as treasurer on the Chancellor's Council, an advisory group for UM–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George.

"Most recently, I've been asked to co-chair the Gateway for Greatness Campaign, the university's first comprehensive campaign, which is fantastic," Van Trease said.



Sandra Van Trease, BSBA 1982, is group president of BJC Healthcare in St. Louis, and she's a volunteer leader of the Gateway for Greatness Campaign, which seeks to raise at least \$100 million in gifts and pledges for UM–St. Louis by June 2012.

Van Trease and Virgil, her husband, also made a generous campaign gift that will benefit the university's College of Business Administration and Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center.

"Speaking from personal experience, scholarship support is of utmost importance in order for students to have access to a high-caliber university like UM–St. Louis," Van Trease said. "Because of this, Virgil and I decided that the first part of our gift will support scholarships within the business college."

Another portion of their gift will support a new building for the business college, which is one of the campaign goals. The college is currently spread throughout many buildings on campus, and a new building will allow it to be housed under one roof.

"I think the university has done a phenomenal job with what it has," Van Trease said. "However, I'm looking forward to how much further the business college can go within an environment that's even more conducive to learning, innovation and sharing."

The third portion of their campaign gift will support graduate fellowships in the Harris Center, as ecol-

ogy and animal conservation also are of significant interest to the couple.

Van Trease said she feels strongly about the importance of the university to the region, and that's why she wants to help UM–St. Louis obtain capital, infrastructure, endowed professorships and scholarships.

"I think as a result of having this institution in our community, we are so much better off," she said.

"UM–St. Louis is, in fact, one of the pillars of the St. Louis region because it provides access to quality, public higher education, and that is absolutely irreplaceable."

Alumni & FRIENDS

Warner Baxter

Business alumnus leads electric company as lawmakers debate energy bill

By Jack Crosby

As president and chief executive officer of AmerenUE, the largest electric utility company in Missouri, Warner Baxter says he's concerned that Missourians could face sweeping increases in their energy costs in the near future.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 passed the U.S. House of Representatives in June and is undergoing further debate in Washington. Baxter said the legislation, if signed into law, would significantly restrict carbon emissions, while increasing the cost of Missouri's primary energy source – coal.

"As it exists today, this bill will significantly increase future energy costs to Missourians," he said in an e-mail interview. "We believe this legislation will cause our customers to pay electric rate increases averaging between 12 percent and 26 percent starting in 2012 with the potential to reach as much as 50 percent under certain scenarios."

Baxter – who joined Union Electric, AmerenUE's predecessor, in 1995 as assistant controller – said it's his role to advise lawmakers of the possible consequences of the legislation.

"We are working hard on behalf of our customers, communities and the state of Missouri and have shared our findings with key federal and state legislators, customers, regulators and other key stakeholders," he said, adding that his company's Web site, <http://www.ameren.com>, has more information on the impact of the bill.

AmerenUE serves 57 Missouri counties and 500 cities and towns. Baxter oversees 9,500 employees who provide electricity to 1.2 million customers.

He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1983 from the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and he's part of a cohort of university alumni who have moved into positions of leadership and influence in the St. Louis area. He cites his UM–St. Louis education as the foundation of his success.

"I chose UM–St. Louis due to its reputation for providing a first-class education," Baxter said. "Of course, the fact that it offered such a fine education at a very affordable price was a big plus as I paid for my college tuition and was able to work while



Warner Baxter, BSBA 1983, was named president and chief executive officer of AmerenUE in March. Missouri's largest electric utility, AmerenUE provides service to 1.2 million customers in central and eastern Missouri.

I attended school. I was not disappointed in my choice. UM–St. Louis has had a significant impact on my professional career."

In appreciation of his success, Baxter has remained involved with the university. He's a past president of the Chancellor's Council, an advisory board. He currently serves on the council's Advocacy Committee, and he's a member of the Pierre Laclede Society, a giving club whose members contribute \$1,000 or more a year to UM–St. Louis.

"I try to be an ambassador and champion for the university whenever I can," he said. "More than 73 percent of our alumni remain in the greater St. Louis metropolitan area to work. Consequently, our community benefits greatly from graduates of the university as well."

Baxter and Cindy, his wife, have four children: Melissa, Dan, Kathryn and Alec. They live in Eureka, Mo.



Photo by Laura Schmitt (reprinted with permission ©2009 The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

Dr. Eyad Yehyawawi, OD 2004, does squats during a workout in 2007 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He suffered a stroke at 28 and was told to stop weightlifting, but went on to develop a doctor-approved routine and has been featured in fitness magazines.

Dr. Eyad Yehyawawi's story has been told numerous times. The narrative has appeared in publications such as *Men's Journal*, *Exercise for Men Only* and *The Gazette* (Cedar Rapids, Iowa).

Here's the short version.

Yehyawawi (pronounced yay-YOW-wee) had long been a fitness buff. Before attending the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he earned a doctor of optometry degree in 2004, he was a two-sport collegiate athlete and personal trainer.

Then something happened.

He was 28, in great physical shape and one week from completing his optometry residency at St. Louis VA Medical Center. Then his right leg went numb. The sensation persisted and a trip to the emergency room led to a diagnosis. He had experienced a stroke. Doctors told him he may never weight train again. Yehyawawi said he was devastated.

"I was strong my whole life with no major injuries – never a torn ligament or dislocated shoulder – nothing," he recalled. "I wasn't the same person anymore. I felt angry. I felt worthless."

Depression ensued. Leaning on comfort foods, his body fat doubled to 18 percent. Keeping his despair to himself, he moved forward with his optometry career. Then Yehyawawi sought another opinion. It turned out he had a congenital heart defect, which caused the stroke. A neurologist

Dr. Eyad Yehyawawi

Optometrist overcomes adversity with health, fitness

By Ryan Heinz

cleared him to return to sensible weight lifting if he kept taking his medication and had annual physicals.

Yehyawawi pored over physiology, nutrition and weight-training literature and threw himself into developing a new routine. Within a year, he stood on a New York stage for the Naturalmania Bodybuilding competition. His body fat? Less than 5 percent. In competition photos a wide smile stretches across his lean face and a taut torso replaces the gut that protruded from his waistline only six months earlier.

Today, Yehyawawi is based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and specializes in ocular disease. Since participating in the 2006 bodybuilding competition, he was dubbed "Mr. Exercise" by *Exercise for Men Only* magazine, and he wrote "Transformation: Unlock Your True Potential," a fitness book released last year by AuthorHouse.

Dr. Edward Bennett, associate professor of optometry at UM-St. Louis, is not surprised his former student could rise up from misfortune.

"I'll never forget seeing Eyad outside of class," Bennett said. "He was typically doing one of two things: studying or working out. Eyad was an excellent student who consistently displayed tenacious discipline and unwavering determination."

Yehyawawi still lifts weights, but his workout focus has shifted more to aerobic exercise. Nevertheless, he writes a regular column for *BodyBuilding.com*. The 32-year-old sometimes answers more than 50 daily health- and fitness-related e-mail messages until the early morning hours.

"Eyad's always been a tremendous role model," Bennett explained. "He needs to be that. It's in his system."

Yehyawawi's tireless desire to help people is something he shrugs off. His father, a retired doctor from Damascus, Syria, began each workday at 5:30 a.m. by reading medical literature. He also fielded numerous patient calls from home during his off hours.

"I never have forgotten seeing how hard he worked," Yehyawawi said. "I realized that if you really want something, whether it's athletics or academia, you're going to have to work for it."

Alumni

NOTES

1968

Harry Bunn, BSBA, moved to Sedona, Ariz. He opened a business called "Hari."

1969

John Curd, BSBA, was recently married and lives in Springfield, Va.

1972

Mike McNamara, BSBA, retired from the U.S. Army and is a financial adviser for Edward Jones in Whitefish, Mont.

1973

Deborah Douglas, BSBA, founder and managing director of Douglas Group in Frontenac, Mo., was a recipient of a 2009 Most Influential Business Women award by the St. Louis Business Journal.

1975



Tom Anselm, MEd and BSBA 1971, is a special education teacher in the Ferguson-Florissant (Missouri) School District and has written the novel

"You're Never Too Old for Space Camp" (Booklocker.com, 2009). He also writes a biweekly column called "A Boomer's Journal" for the Suburban Journals of St. Louis. He and Jill, his wife, have six children and eight grandchildren.

1976

Gregory Steiner, BSBA, has retired after 30 years as technical director at the Center for Earthquake Research and Information at the University of Memphis in Tennessee. He now owns and operates VLF Designs in Fruitland, Mo., and does seismic instrumentation consulting for universities and foreign governments.

1978

Edward C. James, BSBA, is a project accountant at Jacobs Engineering in St. Louis.

Cathy Vatterott, MEd, is an associate professor of teaching and learning at UM-St. Louis. She wrote the book "Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs" (ASCD, 2009). (See Page 7.)

1979



Hubert H. Hoosman, BS criminology and criminal justice, was honored by the St. Louis County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at

their centennial anniversary celebration and Freedom Fund Dinner in July. Honorees were recognized for their efforts in issues concerning justice, equal education, community revitalization and equal opportunity. Hoosman is president and chief executive officer of Vantage Credit Union in Bridgeton, Mo.

James Finnegan, MBA, co-edited the book "Visiting Wallace: Poems Inspired by the Life and Work of Wallace Stevens" (University of Iowa Press, 2009). He is an executive with Lee & Mason Financial Services in Farmington, Conn.

1982



Chris Nicastro, MEd, was named commissioner of education by the Missouri State Board of Education.

1983

Janice Cataldi, BSN, chief executive officer of Strictly Pediatrics in Maryland Heights, Mo., was a recipient of a 2009 Most Influential Business Women award presented by the St. Louis Business Journal.

1988

Marianne O'Brien Markowitz, BSBA, was the chief financial officer for Barack Obama's presidential campaign. She and Jeff, her husband, live in Chicago with Maura, their daughter.

Charlotte Martin, MS biology, is the president and chief operating officer of Gateway EDI in St. Louis.

1989



Peggy Neely-Harris, BA speech communication, is a singer and teaching artist. She played Auntie Rose

in the film “Street-ballers,” which opened Aug. 21 at Ronnies 20 Cine in south St. Louis County.

1991

Gladys Caines Cogswell, MEd, wrote the book “Stories From the Heart: Missouri’s African American Heritage” (University of Missouri Press, 2009).

1992

Doug Mueller, BSBA, was elected in April to a fifth consecutive term as town-ship supervisor making him the longest-serving township supervisor in Godfrey Township, Ill. He’s an information-technology project leader at Boeing and serves as a mentor in the MIS Mentoring Program at UM–St. Louis. His daughter is a nursing student at UM–St. Louis.

1993

Debra Hellweg, BSBA, vice president of operations for Reliv International in Chesterfield, Mo., was a recipient of a 2009 Most Influential Business Women award presented by the St. Louis Business Journal.

1995



Mary Beth Fortney, BS education, is the principal at Marvin Elementary School in the Ritenour (Missouri) School District.



Kristin J. Frost, BS chemistry, joined Armstrong Teasdale LLP’s St. Louis office as a contract attorney.

1997

Dawn (Shelton) Miller, BA communication, and Mark, her husband, announce the birth of Louis Conley, their son, who was born in July in St. Louis. Louis joins big brother Will, 4.

Stacy A. Weigand, BSBA, is an audit director with RGA Reinsurance Company in Chesterfield, Mo.

1998

Armand Randrianasolo, PhD biology and MS biology 1994, is a researcher and curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden’s William L. Brown Center. He is heading up a research project in Madagascar to identify and preserve native plants from the quickly disappearing rain forests.

1999

Dan Begley, MFA and BA English 1990, wrote his first novel “Ms Taken Identity” (5 Spot, 2009).

2002

Gábor Balázs, PhD physics, learned in September he was the recipient of a \$1.5 million New Innovators Award from the National Institutes of Health to fund

his research. He is an assistant professor of systems biology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

Cassandra C. Jarvis, BFA, is one of the owners of The Luddite Studio in St. Charles, Mo.

Orvin Kimbrough, BSBA, received the Making a Difference Award from the Annie Malone Children’s Home in St. Louis. He’s senior vice president of major gifts for the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

2003

Demetrius Adams, MEd and BS education 2000, is an assistant principal at Berkeley Middle School in the Ferguson-Florissant (Missouri) School District.

Ann Dirks Linhorst, PhD criminology and criminal justice, was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of criminal justice at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

2004

Elizabeth Ashwell, MPPA, started a new job with the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

2006

Sean Hutcherson, BSBA, is a national business account executive with Verizon Wireless in Weldon Springs, Mo. He married Stacy Inmon, BSBA 2009. They live in St. Charles, Mo.

Ann Wilkins, MEd, is a special education teacher with the Special School District of St. Louis County. She instructs an autism classroom at Hazelwood (Missouri) East High School. She and Mathew, her husband, have three children.

Sabrina Ruiz, BS management information systems, was promoted to print specialist at Regency Office Products in St. Louis.

2007

Julie L. Brown, BSN, is a nurse with St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Mo.

Lindsay Swanson, BSN, is a nurse in general surgery at DePaul Health Center in Bridgeton, Mo.

2008

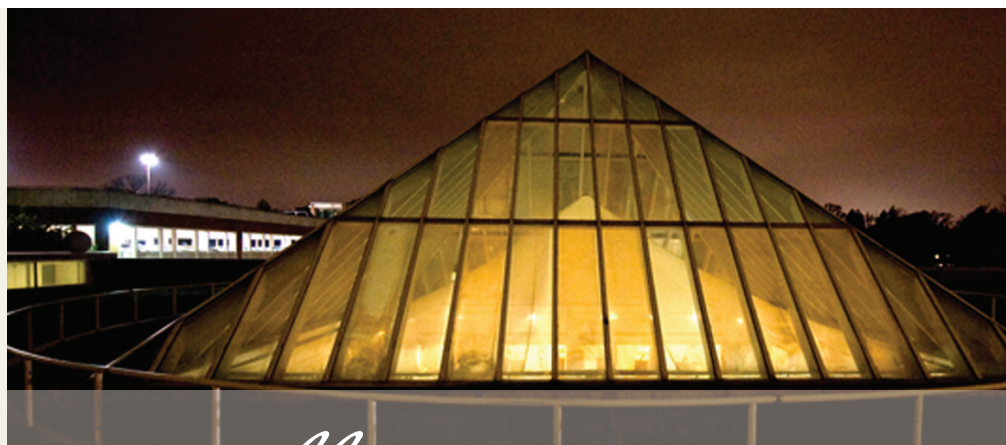
Rebecca Brooks, BS education, is an executive producer at Entertainment Saint Louis.

Jessica Copeland, BSBA, is a management trainee at ITT Educational Services in Earth City, Mo.

Emmanuel Leonardo, MS gerontology, is a physical therapist at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Mo.

2009

Tegan Viggers, MEd and BA communication 2007, is coordinator of student activities and intramurals at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo. She and Mike Klevorn, BA 2009, were recently engaged.



Call FOR NOMINATIONS

2010 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award is the association's highest honor. It's presented annually to five university alumni who've made extraordinary career achievements, distinguished themselves through community service or went above and beyond in their support of UM-St. Louis.

The nomination deadline is April 1. Recipients will be recognized at the university's Founders Dinner in fall 2010.

Visit <http://www.umslalumni.org/> to nominate an alumnus, and call 314-516-5833 for more information.

Share your news

Update your fellow alumni by mailing news and photos to:

UM-St. Louis Alumni Association
101 Woods Hall
One University Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121

Or you can send text and photos to alumni@umsl.edu. Please send high-resolution (300 dpi or greater) images.

CONGRATULATIONS 2009

Distinguished ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



MARK E. BARDGETT, BA psychology 1986, MA psychology 1989 and PhD experimental psychology 1991, is a Regents Professor of Psychology at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Ky.



ROBERTA L. FARRELL, BS chemistry 1975, is a professor of biological sciences at The University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand.



SHARON D. FIEHLER, MBA 1984, is executive vice president and chief administrative officer of Peabody Energy in St. Louis.



BETH FITZGERALD, BS elementary and early childhood education 1977, is president of The Magic House in Kirkwood, Mo.



GEORGE PAZ, BSBA 1982, is chairman and chief executive officer of Express Scripts in St. Louis.

University of Missouri–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George presented five alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award on Sept. 22 during the university's Founders Dinner at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis in Clayton, Mo.

The annual award was established in 1987 as the UM–St. Louis Alumni Association's highest honor. It recognizes extraordinary career achievement, distinguished community service or outstanding support of UM–St. Louis.



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