

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS  WINTER 2008

UM St. Louis

Visual appeal
UM-St. Louis' role in
local arts scene

Family establishes
soccer tradition
at university

Students discover
Greece's ancient past



Dear Readers,

This fall, a co-worker called with a story idea for UM St. Louis magazine. He said readers would enjoy learning about two University of Missouri–St. Louis student-athletes and their father. Danny and Krisie Muesenfechter play soccer for the Tritons. Dan Muesenfechter, BS administration of justice 1985, is a soccer inductee in the university's Sports Hall of Fame.

So I picked up the telephone and called Danny's coach and Krisie's coach. Without hesitation, both used "good kid" to describe their respective players.

They were right.

I had seen Danny and Krisie on the playing field, but a photo shoot for what would become the magazine feature (see Page 11) gave me the opportunity to get to know the siblings and their father, at least a little bit. I was struck by how genuinely nice they are, their pride in being a part of the university and their passion for the game.

That meeting brought into focus the significance of Danny and Krisie, and thousands of past and present UM–St. Louis students like them. Good, hard-working student-athletes are not only a source of on-the-field excitement and university pride. They also become good, hard-working professionals and proud alumni advocates for UM–St. Louis.

Dan Muesenfechter is one example.

Danny and Krisie Muesenfechter will be soon.

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[On the cover]

UM–St. Louis student Leigh Pierce interacts with “Untitled” by Cameron Fuller. The work was exhibited in the summer at the university’s Gallery 210. See Page 19 for a story on how the university impacts visual arts in St. Louis.



Whitney Harris wins Lee Medal for Philanthropy

St. Louis philanthropist Whitney Harris was awarded the Des and Mary Ann Lee Medal for Philanthropy Sept. 25 at the University of Missouri–St. Louis’ annual Founders Dinner. The medal honors Whitney and Anna Harris for their longtime support, including a gift of \$1.5 million to implement and expand the mission of the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at UM–St. Louis.

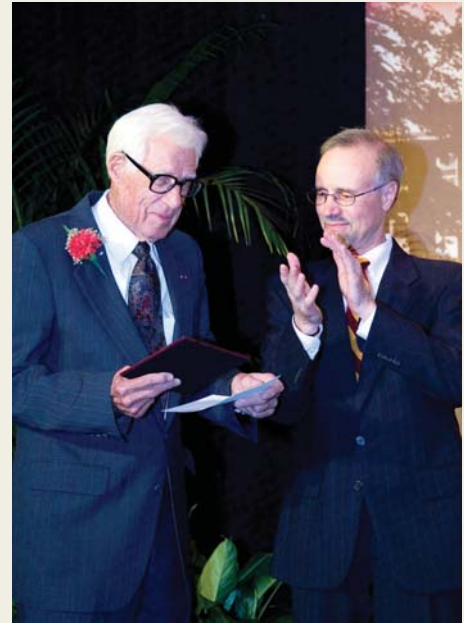
The center, formerly known as the International Center for Tropical Ecology, encourages conservation of tropical and temperate ecosystems and supports the education of future ecologists.

“As the human population grows and the supply of natural resources decreases, supporting ecology becomes more critical,” Whitney Harris said at the dinner. “It’s a vital subject for university study. I am honored to support the center and its mission, and I’m honored to receive this medal. Des and Mary Ann Lee are very dear friends of mine.”

The annual award recognizes and shows appreciation to donors who provide significant support to the university. St. Louis philanthropists Des and Mary Ann Lee are the award’s namesakes and inaugural recipients (in 2006).

Tom Eschen, vice chancellor for advancement at UM–St. Louis, said the Harris’ support of the university and ecology is profound.

“Whitney and Anna’s impact on the university, and St. Louis region, is immeasurable,” Eschen said. “The university is honored to acknowledge such generous, passionate and caring people.”



UM–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George (right) applauds after presenting St. Louis philanthropist Whitney Harris with the Des and Mary Ann Lee Medal for Philanthropy.

2007 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence



University of Missouri–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George presented five faculty members with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence on Sept. 18 at the university’s J.C. Penney Conference Center. Award recipients are (from left) Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice Jody Miller (for service); Associate Professor of Accounting Stephen Moehrle (for teaching); Teaching Professor in Mathematics Shahla Peterman (for academics non-regular); Assistant Professor of Counseling and Family Therapy Angela Coker (Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award); and Professor of Political Science Joyce Mushaben (for research and creativity).

UM-St. Louis appoints new athletics director; Teams dubbed 'Tritons'

The Department of Athletics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis took two big steps as it prepared for the 2007-08 season.

In June, John Garvilla was named director of athletics at UM-St. Louis. He replaced Patricia Dolan, who stepped down in March after 11 years as athletics director. Garvilla is UM-St. Louis' third full-time director of athletics.

"I am honored to be selected director of athletics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis," Garvilla said. "As I researched the institution and the Department of Athletics, I realized it was an excellent fit for me. I believe the athletics program has great potential."

Garvilla comes to UM-St. Louis from Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss. During his three years as athletics director at Belhaven, he was instrumental in raising more than \$750,000 for facility development and renovation. His other accomplishments included: founding of the Blazer Club, a booster group for the athletics department; development of new logos for the athletics teams;

John Garvilla joined UM-St. Louis in July as director of athletics. He came to UM-St. Louis from Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss., where he served as director of athletics for three years.

establishment of the Program for Academic Success; and 17 winning seasons for Belhaven teams.

The other change within the UM-St. Louis athletics department occurred before Garvilla's arrival. In April, the university announced that it had selected the "Tritons" as the new name for the university's athletic teams. "Tritons" replaced "Rivermen"



and "Riverwomen," which had been the team names since the 1960s.

For years, the university had considered changing its team name.

"There had been a sense for some time that the 'Rivermen' really had never caught on with the students or the public," said Curt Coonrod, vice provost for student affairs.

Several committees had considered the subject, with no decision being made. The latest committee, made up of students, faculty, staff and administrators, sought assistance from 501creative, a marketing firm in Clayton, Mo. The firm suggested the "UM-St. Louis Identity Project," which sought input from across the campus through a dedicated Web site.

Triton is a mythological Greek god. The son of Poseidon, he's the messenger of the deep. The name "Tritons" was suggested during the project and then submitted to UM-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George, who approved it.

"The project committee liked 'Tritons' because of the connection to water," Coonrod said. "We thought it was something tangible, positive and unique."

Academic Analytics ranks UM-St. Louis 5th

The research effort of University of Missouri-St. Louis faculty has positioned UM-St. Louis as the fifth most productive small research university in the country, according to the 2006-07 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index. UM-St. Louis ranked 11th last year in the same index.

And this year, the university's Information Systems program ranks third most productive among management information systems programs.

"Our students are learning from scholars who are pioneers in their fields," UM-St. Louis Provost Glen Cope said.

"They're the individuals creating the knowledge and writing the books other faculty use in their classrooms. I think, generally, students learn more from research-oriented faculty, and we're proud to have assembled this group of faculty."

The FSPI, released in November, is an evaluation method created by the company Academic Analytics. The index measures faculty productivity based on publications, citations and financial and honorary awards. Institutions included in the small research university category have fewer than 15 doctoral programs; UM-St. Louis has 13. More than 7,000 doctoral programs in 100 academic disciplines nationwide were examined for the index.

Fulbright awards presented to anthropology scholar, graduates

Susan Brownell, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, and UM–St. Louis anthropology graduates Lana Kerker and James Daugherty are spending the year conducting research abroad. All three are recipients of J. William Fulbright awards.

Brownell received the J. William Fulbright Scholar award to study the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. She arrived at Beijing in August and will stay through the completion of the games in August 2008. Brownell is studying the process and preparations leading up to the city holding the international event. She's focusing on globalization and cross-cultural exchange during the organization of the games.

Kerker and Daugherty completed bachelor's degrees in May and were each recipients of a J. William Fulbright Scholarship award during their final semester. Both began their award projects in October.

Kerker, of Warrenton, Mo., is in a mountainous, tropical rainforest in Madagascar, Africa, where she is studying the feeding ecology and daily habits of the endangered lesser bamboo lemur, a primate that feeds on bamboo and is found only in Madagascar.

Daugherty, of Overland, Mo., traveled to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, where he's researching the standards and terminology used in courtroom translations between the K'iche'-speaking community and Spanish-speaking community, with the goal of improving the legal process for all parties.

Kerker and Daugherty are the first UM–St. Louis anthropology students to receive Fulbright awards. Prior to this year, 12 UM–St. Louis students had earned awards.

The Institute of International Education, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, administers the Fulbright programs. Visit <http://www.ie.org/> for more information.



UM–St. Louis Associate Professor of Anthropology Susan Brownell (center) and UM–St. Louis anthropology graduates Lana Kerker and James Daugherty are recipients of J. William Fulbright awards.

SLCC, UM–St. Louis dedicate Wildwood campus

The University of Missouri–St. Louis and St. Louis Community College celebrated their latest partnership Sept. 14 with the dedication of a new \$18-million community college building in Wildwood, Mo. It's the first of several buildings planned for Wildwood, SLCC's fourth campus.

"This partnership further signifies our commitment as public institutions to providing citizens with efficient, quality higher education opportunities," said UM–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George. "The partnership allows students to complete a bachelor's degree right here at the Wildwood campus in three disciplines – business administration, liberal studies and elementary education."

In addition to Wildwood, UM–St. Louis offers degree completion programs at four other locations in

Missouri: St. Charles Community College, Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mineral Area College in Park Hills and SLCC's South County Education and University Center in south St. Louis County.

Henry Shannon, who retired as chancellor of SLCC last year, oversaw the creation of the Wildwood campus and was on hand at the dedication. He said the campus represents a commitment "to provide even more of our neighbors with the opportunity to expand their minds and, indeed, to change their lives."

The Wildwood campus, located near Route 109 and Manchester Road in west St. Louis County, opened in August with more than 1,200 students. The 75,000-square-foot building is the first of three phases of construction on the 66-acre campus.

Call (636) 797-3000, extension 244 for more information on UM–St. Louis courses at the Wildwood campus.

Student finds her way to UM–St. Louis through pre-collegiate science program

By Ryan Heinz

A Star

I N T H E M A K I N G



Laura Schoenlaub is a sophomore in biology at UM–St. Louis. She says her decision to attend UM–St. Louis was largely based upon her high-school participation in Students and Teachers as Research Scientists, a pre-collegiate science program at the university.

When Laura Schoenlaub was growing up, she watched a lot of Discovery Channel. Her fascination with biology led to academic success in the sciences during her secondary education. But like many high school students, she was unsure of which career to pursue.

That began to change in 2004 when Kathleen Dwyer, Schoenlaub's science teacher at Maplewood-Richmond Heights (Missouri) High School, encouraged her pupil to participate in Students and Teachers as Research Scientists, a University of Missouri–St. Louis program that presents academically talented high school students with the opportunity to work alongside mentor scientists in a laboratory.

Schoenlaub worked on sleep research. It was her first regular exposure to a lab environment. "I loved it – being in the lab scene," she recalls. "It was hard to stop."

So she didn't. The following summer, Schoenlaub volunteered full time at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center in Creve Coeur, Mo. She researched various compounds to kill nematodes, a parasitic roundworm that can be a major crop pest.

When it came time for Schoenlaub to choose a university, the 2006 high school valedictorian had many options. But she says the choice was easy.

"I did the STARS program, and I really fell in love with the science department [at UM–St. Louis]," she said. "The professors were very helpful and supportive. I did look at some other schools, but they were all so expensive. You know, I think UM–St. Louis is just as good as the private universities in the area, but I knew I wouldn't be in debt here."

Dwyer, who has worked as a STARS teacher, praised Schoenlaub's UM–St. Louis instructors for providing Schoenlaub with information, encouragement, lab resources and opportunity.

"Far too often, Missouri's public universities lose talented students, such as Laura, to offers from private or out-of-state schools," Dwyer said. "And it's a shame, because the science programs at UM–St. Louis are top-notch."

Schoenlaub, now a sophomore in biology at UM–St. Louis, spent the summer again working at the Danforth center. This time, she was a college intern investigating methods for combating bacterial biofilms, which are antibiotic-resistant and the cause of chronic infections.

Earlier this year, she was awarded the J. Frederick Fausz Academic Achievement Award, which recognizes top honors students at UM–St. Louis. A zeal for lab work that Schoenlaub says she first developed when participating in STARS will likely evolve into a science profession as she plans to pursue a graduate degree in microbiology.

"It is exciting to see the level of scientific knowledge demonstrated by students in the STARS program," said Ken Mares, director of STARS. "It's evident that the program is truly making a difference in the lives of some of St. Louis' young scientists."

Pfizer and Solutia sponsor the program, and Saint Louis University, Washington University in St. Louis and Danforth center host the program with UM–St. Louis. Call (314) 516-6155 or visit http://www.umsl.edu/~sep/stars_desc.htm for more information on STARS. 🌟

A CONDUIT FOR ALL THINGS GREEN

**World-renowned environmentalist
Peter Raven discusses conservation,
sustainability and educating
tomorrow's ecologists**

By Maureen Zegel



When Peter Raven talks about caring for the planet, the whole world pays attention.

"Empowering people around the world is the key ingredient in achieving sustainability," said Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. "Such a state can be attained only through the collaboration of nations all over the world, many of which have relatively few scientists and poorly developed institutions."

A brilliant scientist, prolific writer and world leader in botany and ecology, Raven, 71, has worked his entire career to save us from ourselves. Earlier this year, that work earned him the World Ecology Award from the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

In a recent e-mail interview, Raven talked about conservation, sustainability and the role played by the Harris center, an organization he helped establish.

"UM–St. Louis' center is a world-class institution in this field of ecology and biodiversity conservation, attracting students from throughout the world," he said. "When they return home, the contacts they have established remain. They can build on them, with the education they have received, to achieve significant results on a continuing basis."

A good deal of the credit for the center's worldwide network of scientists goes to Raven, the teacher. In the late 1980s, while serving as a member of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators, Raven helped then UM–St. Louis Chancellor Marguerite Ross Barnett establish a doctoral program in biology at the university.

Even during the program's infancy, it was clear to Raven that the Missouri Botanical Garden would become a long-term partner with the university.

"When Chancellor Barnett accepted my suggestion to establish the PhD program, she based it, in part, on the academic resources of the garden, which soon led to the formation and consolidation of the ecology center," Raven said.

The center's inception in 1990 and its partnership with the garden (and Saint Louis Zoo in 1995), has provided unprecedented opportunities for students and faculty at UM–St. Louis. Raven has been a staunch supporter

continued

Opposite page: Peter Raven is at home at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. He's the garden's longtime president and one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation and biodiversity.



“WE NEED, IN OUR OWN INTEREST, TO CONTRIBUTE WHAT WE CAN TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT. THAT’S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN ACHIEVE OVERALL SUSTAINABILITY.”

—PETER RAVEN

of the university and center, promoting collaborative research programs and advising doctoral students.

Early on, Raven introduced Robert R. Hermann, a prominent St. Louis businessman, to the center. Hermann has become a catalyst in the center’s significant growth. The donor list has burgeoned, and the endowment received a big boost last year, when St. Louis philanthropist Whitney R. Harris gifted the center with \$1.5 million to implement and expand its mission. The center’s reputation attracts outstanding faculty and students to the university.

And Raven’s influence is immeasurable, according to Patrick Osborne, executive director of the center. Osborne likens Raven’s impact to a drop of water landing on the surface

of a pond and concentric circles pushing outward in ever-widening bands.

“He’s collaborative and sees tremendous value in linking people together,” said Osborne, who has been with the center for 12 years. “Look at what he’s done at the garden and the neighborhood surrounding it. Then, move out to the larger St. Louis region, the state, nationally and internationally. His impact is indeed global.”

Raven’s greatest gift to UM–St. Louis students, says Osborne, is the garden’s magnificent research facilities and dedicated research faculty.

“The 24-hour access given to our students to the garden’s library, herbarium and its nearly 6 million plant specimens is priceless,” Osborne said.

Raven, too, emphasizes the importance of the herbarium (one of the largest in the world) and its specimens. Housed in two buildings, the collection of dried, pressed plants documents the ranges and characteristics of the world’s plants.

“The pressed plants are literally the plants themselves,” Raven said. “As global warming proceeds, herbarium specimens collected over the past five centuries can be used to document shifting distributions, times of blooming and other features of the plants.”

The World Ecology Award recognized Raven as an eminent individual who has raised public awareness of global ecological issues and made significant contributions to conservation. He also won the National Medal of Science and has been named a “Hero for the Planet” by Time magazine.

Despite his many accolades, Raven’s recipe for saving the world has its critics.

He travels the world painting a bleak picture of the increasing destruction of rainforests, and the extinction of plants – known and unknown – that provide our food and medicine. He calls for unpopular solutions such as limiting affluence and consumption in the developed countries and redirecting resources to the poor nations. He says it’s in the United States’ best interest to help contribute to global development.

“With 4.5 percent of the world’s population, we base our economy on about a quarter of the earth’s resources, which means that we have interests all over the world,” Raven said. “We need, in our own interest, to contribute what we can to global development. That’s the only way we can achieve overall sustainability.”

He ended the interview stressing the importance of education, starting at home.

“The future of the St. Louis area depends, to a very large extent, on scientific literacy and on the ability of our citizens to make informed decisions about the environment,” Raven said. “UM–St. Louis’ Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center contributes significantly to that end.” 🌱

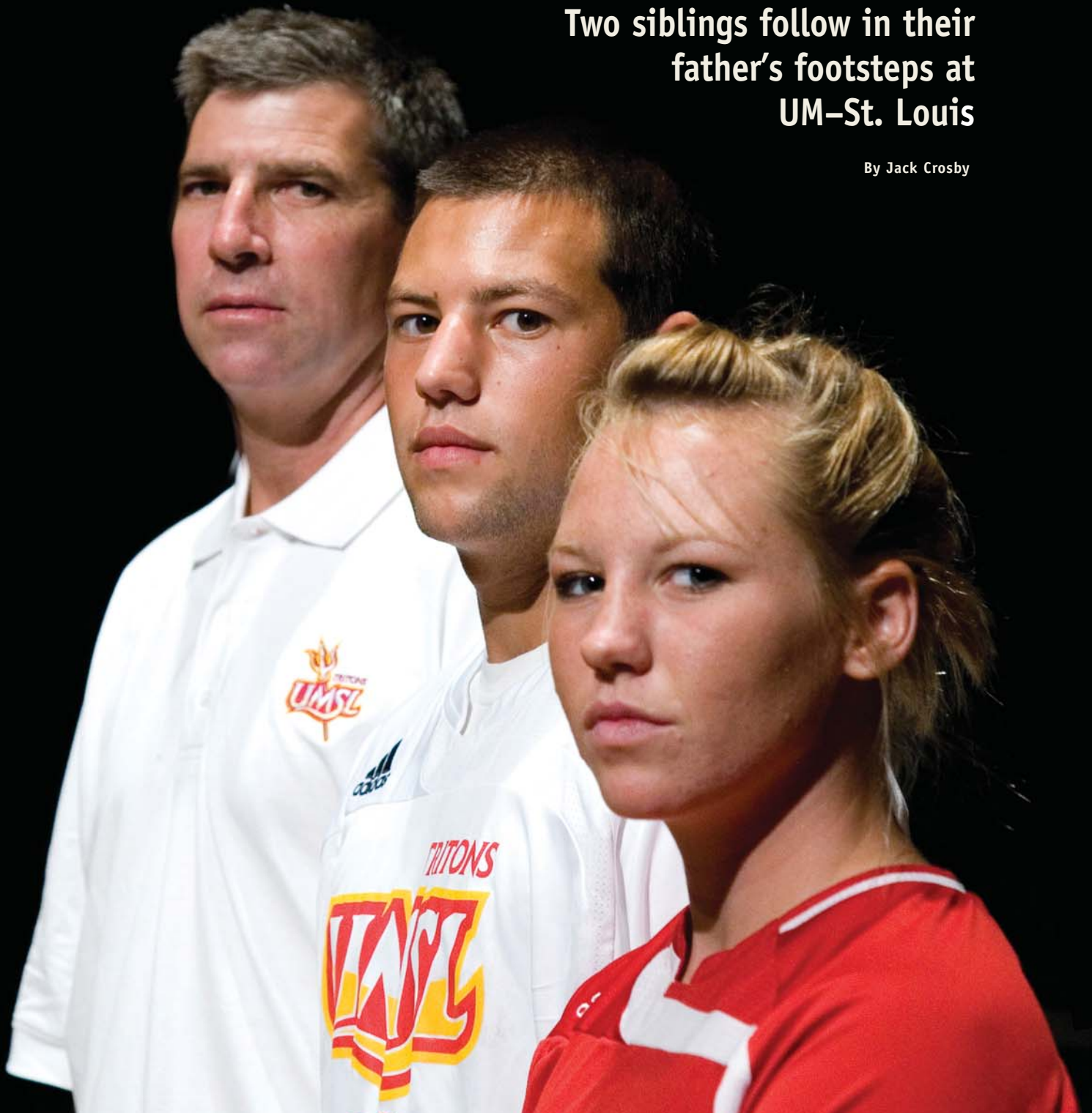


Peter Raven

SoccerSuccession

Two siblings follow in their
father's footsteps at
UM-St. Louis

By Jack Crosby





Top: Triton midfielder Krisie Muesenfechter (in white) heads the ball Sept. 7 in a match against the Hawks of Rockhurst University. The Tritons lost the match 1-2 in overtime at UM-St. Louis' Don Dallas Soccer Field.

At left: Triton forward Danny Muesenfechter (12) competes for a header on Sept. 23 at UM-St. Louis' Don Dallas Soccer Field. The Tritons fell 0-2 to the Norse of Northern Kentucky University.

Preceding page: Dan Muesenfechter (background) was a two-time National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-America selection at UM-St. Louis. His children Danny Muesenfechter and Krisie Muesenfechter (foreground) play soccer for the Tritons.

Photo by Matt Johnson

A special class convenes each spring at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. It's made up of former student-athletes who have been

inducted into the university's Sports Hall of Fame. The 2007 class included Dan Muesenfechter, BS administration of justice 1985. He played soccer here during the 1979 and 1980 seasons and was a National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-America selection both years. Muesenfechter ranks ninth among UM-St. Louis players in career scoring with 52 points, and is 10th in career goals scored with 20.

As significant as those personal accomplishments are, the Muesenfechter name perhaps has begun to resonate in new ways at UM-St. Louis.

Krisie and Danny Muesenfechter, daughter and son of the former All-American, both don the red and gold for the Tritons soccer teams. The siblings were on hand in June when their father was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame. "That was exciting for him," Danny said. "That's a pretty big accomplishment. We were very happy for him."

Krisie added, "It was fun to hear all the stories everyone had. Dad teased us and said we had some big shoes to fill."

So far so good.

Krisie Muesenfechter, a junior majoring in physical education, is a midfielder-defender. A past Great Lakes Valley Conference All-Conference Honorable Mention selection and a Daktronics Second Team All-Region selection, she started all 21 games she played this season and racked up 11 points on her way to helping her team (12-7-1) to a nail-biting GLVC championship game. (The Tritons lost 5-4 on penalty kicks after two overtime periods to Drury University of Springfield, Mo.)

"I really thought we had the better of the play during regulation," Krisie Muesenfechter said. "But their goalie played great and kept them in the game, and we just had a little bad luck on the penalty kicks."

The team's accomplishments this year could be an indication of success to come.

"Next year's going to be exciting," she said. "Although we lost a lot of seniors from this year's team, we'll have some juniors and seniors coming back, so we should have enough experience to have another good year."

Danny Muesenfechter, a sophomore in communication, started all 17 games during his freshman year, and only missed one start this season. The men's team came out strong, opening with three wins, but they finished 10th in the GLVC standings with a record of 8-10-1.

"When conference play started, we lost about seven games in a row," Danny Muesenfechter said. "We were just not playing well, losing games by one goal or in overtime. We just couldn't catch a break.

"Coach changed things up a little, and we started playing better and won four out of our last five games. We think we can build off that for next year."

The Muesenfechter siblings graduated from Fort Zumwalt North High School in O'Fallon, Mo., where they were standout players. Both were drawn to UM-St. Louis by its soccer program. After all, that's what brought their father here.

"Well, when I came along, there were just three soccer programs at the college level – Saint Louis University, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and UM-St. Louis," the elder Muesenfechter said. "UM-St. Louis made me a better offer."

He played for Don Dallas, the most successful coach in university history. Dallas' teams qualified for the NCAA Division II tournament both years Dan Muesenfechter played here, making the tournament final in 1979 and the quarterfinals in 1980.

Following the conclusion of the 1980 season, Dan Muesenfechter was drafted into the Major Indoor Soccer League by the New York franchise. After only three weeks, he was traded to Denver. He lasted the rest of that season, but over the summer was traded to his hometown St. Louis Steamers.

"That was a pretty exciting time," he said. "The old [St. Louis Arena] was always sold out. We made it to the finals my first year with the team."

Soccer is pretty much a way of life for the Muesenfechtors. Debbie, Dan's wife, played softball at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, but also played soccer for a club team there. Kelly Muesenfechter, the youngest child and a senior at Ft. Zumwalt North, is gifted at soccer and basketball. She's considering UM-St. Louis, but is exploring other options too.

Krisie and Danny Muesenfechter say their father was not a pushy stage father when they were growing up, but helped out when needed.

"He coached me when I first started," Danny Muesenfechter said. "As I moved on to play for club teams and high school and such, he would be there for me after the games, teaching me little things I could have done better during the game."

The father was more involved in his children's decision to attend UM-St. Louis.

"Well, they weren't sure where they were going to attend college," he said. "I thought it was a chance for them to go to a school for four years, enjoy that continuity of being in one place."

The siblings say they are happy with their decision to attend UM-St. Louis. "I like it here because of the people on the team," Krisie Muesenfechter said. "I like being close to home, but we have a lot of fun together. I spend a lot of time on campus."

Dan Muesenfechter used "humbling" to describe his induction into the university's Sports Hall of Fame.

"It really means a lot to me, because I played with some good players," he said. "A lot of good talent went through that program. I'm sure more of them also will be honored."

Visit <http://www.umsl-sports.com/> for more information on UM-St. Louis' intercollegiate athletics. 🍀



(from left): Krisie Muesenfechter, Dan Muesenfechter and Danny Muesenfechter

The first time I met George Paz he was delivering the commencement address to the graduates of the College of Business Administration at the University of Missouri–St. Louis in May 2005. I don't recall his exact words, but I have a clear recollection of his message and mannerisms.



2 SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

A commentary by UM–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George



The headquarters of Express Scripts Inc. is located on the UM–St. Louis campus. Express Scripts is the highest-ranking Fortune 500 company with its corporate headquarters on a university campus.

Opposite page (left): Tom George, chancellor of UM–St. Louis

Opposite page (right): George Paz, chairman and chief executive officer of Express Scripts Inc.

Chairman and chief executive officer of Express Scripts Inc., George spoke in a soft, steady voice without the aid of notes. He said later that he speaks better from the heart. And from his heart, he told our graduates that individuals and companies that continue to invest in education would prosper over the long term. Our graduates – and their chancellor – appreciated hearing that they had invested wisely.

A few weeks later, I met George again. This time, I was doing the talking. Earlier in 2005, he and his Express Scripts colleagues had issued a request for proposals to relocate their headquarters from Maryland Heights, Mo. UM–St. Louis responded to the RFP, and it was my turn to make a pitch.

UM–St. Louis had been purchasing properties adjacent to its boundary, along Interstate 70 in north St. Louis County, for more than a decade. The university intended to develop a business park that would attract growing companies whose interests would spur: internships and jobs for students; research and academic partnerships for faculty; and economic activity in north county.

Express Scripts fit that description.

The company received responses from numerous developers and state economic development offices from around the country. I knew going into this process that our financial package was not the most lucrative, nor was our site the most construction friendly. There were elevation and drainage challenges, not to mention there was no access road to the site. Gov. Matt Blunt and St. Louis County Executive Charlie A. Dooley helped us by putting together a competitive financial package, and local developer NorthPark Partners later presented solutions to the construction issues.

In my presentation to George, I talked about the physical layout of our campus and its attractive features, such as highway frontage and MetroLink access. But I gave special focus to what I felt set us apart – the unique opportunity to create an enduring partnership based on education.

I spoke about the connections that could be forged with faculty in information systems, health care, economics, communication and many other disciplines. I spoke about our students and alumni – their work ethic, diversity and love of, and impact on, the St. Louis region.

I had a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, but I found myself rambling off script. I guess that happens when you speak from the heart.

And sometimes the heart wins.

George announced in September 2005 that Express Scripts was building its new headquarters at UM–St. Louis. More than 1,100 employees moved into that 320,000-square-foot facility in June – becoming the largest company in the nation with its headquarters located on a college campus.

Since the collaboration between UM–St. Louis and Express Scripts began, the company has provided internships to our students, conducted joint research studies, supported joint information technology projects and launched employee professional development courses staffed by UM–St. Louis faculty. The partnership also has led to outreach efforts to strengthen academic achievement in St. Louis-area schools.

The community has responded positively to the Express Scripts addition. We’ve received calls from retailers and restaurants interested in locating in the area. The Wall Street Journal reported on our partnership, and George and I have appeared on the CNBC program “On the Money.”

I’m increasingly confident that our cooperative model for economic development is a solid one, and so must Express Scripts. As I was writing this note for UM St. Louis magazine, George announced that Express Scripts was exercising an option to expand its presence at UM–St. Louis.

The second building is under construction. At 180,000 square feet, it will house another 900 employees. They’ll concentrate on information technology, client services and corporate financial services. The building should be complete in December.

What I’ve learned from working with Express Scripts is that corporate America works very quickly and is bottom-line driven. I also have learned that smart people such as George and his colleagues understand that education is a bottom-line issue. It’s a long-term investment in long-term prosperity.

It’s something I once heard in a heart-felt commencement address and was smart enough to repeat. 🍀



Photo by Michael Cosmopoulos

An aerial photograph shows off the coastline in the Pylos region of Greece. UM–St. Louis holds an archaeology field school every summer at a nearby dig site. Pylos, also the name of a town in the region, is located on the west coast of the Peloponnese, a large peninsula in southern Greece.



A TRIP TO ANTIQUITY

**Summer program immerses novice archeologists
in fieldwork, Greek culture**

By Jennifer Hatton

The romantic spirit of Greek mythology, the possibility of unearthing a buried treasure and the opportunity to study a new culture are just a few of the things that attract participants to the University of Missouri–St. Louis’ annual archaeological excavation in Pylos, Greece.

The three-week summer field school is led by Michael Cosmopoulos, the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Endowed Professor in Greek Studies at UM–St. Louis. Participants fly to Athens, Greece. From there, they head southwest to Pylos, a large town on the spectacular bay of Navarino on Greece’s west coast.

Cosmopoulos, who was born and raised in Athens, began the field school in 1999 while teaching at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. When he joined UM–St. Louis in 2001, he brought the field school with him.

“It is an opportunity students and members of the community normally would not have,” Cosmopoulos said. “After participating in the field school, I often hear from people how the experience was life changing and how they become homesick for Greece.”

The Greek government granted Cosmopoulos permission to dig at the site. It was the subject of a brief archaeological excavation in 1954, but hadn’t been touched again until the field school began.

The original dig uncovered artifacts, which led the archaeology community to believe the site was that of a former mansion or palace, Cosmopoulos said.

The site may have a connection to King Nestor. In Greek mythology, Nestor and his 12 sons ruled Pylos, one of the most powerful kingdoms in ancient Greece, around 1300 B.C. During the Trojan War, the dig site and surrounding area are thought to have been one of the kingdom's district capitals.

UM-St. Louis anthropology senior Camme Saulters took part in the field school this summer. She heard about the trip from another anthropology professor at the university and decided to look into it.

"We worked at the site about five days a week, from around 5 a.m. until 2 p.m. and then headed to the beach," Saulters said. "In the evenings, we would take classes to learn about pottery and different types of Greek culture. On the weekends, we visited various museums, monuments and historical sites. The entire experience was just amazing."

Brookline, Mass., resident George Vasios has been interested in Greek archeology for years. He completed an Internet search to see if there were educational trips available.

"Before searching the Web, I had never heard of UM-St. Louis," he said.

Once he learned about the field school, he signed up and began anticipating his summer adventure.

"I really didn't know what to expect," Vasios, who participated this summer, said. "But I was hoping to get wrapped up in the awe and mystery of studying the ancient past of Greece, and I did. There's something wonderful about first-hand knowledge and the experiences of doing an excavation on your hands and knees in 90-plus degree weather, carefully removing layers of soil, with the ever-present hope of finding an artifact of special interest and value."

Lawrence and Amy Perlmutter, of Creve Coeur, Mo., heard about the field school from a friend and participated together in 2002. They said they wanted exposure to archaeological fieldwork methodology.

"The educational value greatly exceeded our expectations," Lawrence Perlmutter said. "We learned a great deal about fieldwork methods, geophysical techniques, pottery reading and chronology assessment, and Greek culture and history. The wonderful leisure-time activities in a beautiful setting further enhanced the overall experience. We'd do it again anytime."

So far, the dig has yielded fascinating artifacts, including pottery and jewelry. In 2006, the excavation uncovered a main wall believed to be part of a mansion or palace. The wall showed signs of fire damage, and pieces of weapons indicated an attack on the building.

"Through our finds, it seems as though the date of this destruction coincides with the time frame in which this area ceased being an independent chiefdom and was integrated into the kingdom of Pylos, probably between 1600 B.C. and 1500 B.C.," Cosmopoulos said.

The summer program is offered as a six-hour credit course, and UM-St. Louis students are guaranteed scholarships through the university's Center for International Studies. The program also is open to the public and students from other universities. Participants pay discounted tuition and fees (between \$4,150 and \$4,380). Fees include hotel accommodations, meals and entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums. The project is funded by Cosmopoulos' professorship, UM-St. Louis' Center for International Studies, grants from a number of foundations and a donation by Greek philanthropist Capt. Vassilis Constantakopoulos.

Since the field school began, more than 300 participants have taken part.

"UM-St. Louis' involvement in the field school is making our university known internationally," Cosmopoulos said. "This unique experience has attracted people from all over, who otherwise might not know anything about our university and what it has to offer."

Visit <http://www.iklaina.org/> for more information about the summer field school. 🍷



Above: George Vasios, of Brookline, Mass., at work this summer at an archaeology excavation site near Pylos, Greece. Vasios is one of more than 300 people that have participated in an annual UM-St. Louis program.

Below: Michael Cosmopoulos, an archaeologist at UM-St. Louis, has excavated at several ancient sites in Greece and Ukraine, including Mycenae, Pylos, Epidauros, Ancient Corinth, Ithaca, Oropos and Olbia.

HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

**UM–St. Louis
plays unique
role in regional
visual-arts scene**

By Ryan Heinz

The University of Missouri–St. Louis campus lies nearly dormant on a stifling August afternoon during the interim between summer and fall classes. The same can't be said of Gallery Visio, a student-run exhibit space within the cool confines of the university's Millennium Student Center.

As a disc jockey alternates between hip-hop and Bob Marley tunes, a crowd gathers for an artist reception. They pick at plump blackberries and other hors d'oeuvres while examining the "Art of War" (an exhibit of mixed media and photography, not Sun Tzu's classic book on warfare). Among the throng is Davide Weaver, the exhibiting artist and co-founder of ArtDimensions, a St. Louis-based non-profit arts organization.



UM–St. Louis Associate Professor of Studio Art Phillip Robinson (left) helps university student Albert Kuo move a painting into position at the university's Gallery FAB.





Following a discussion of his war-inspired work, Weaver waxes enthusiastic on the gallery. "It's great what you guys have here," he says. "[Artists] really appreciate having this space to show our work."

At that moment, gallery goers could view at least three other ongoing exhibits at UM–St. Louis. Those are in addition to the university's many permanent collections and public art, such as "Beppe," a massive steel sculpture created by acclaimed abstract expressionist Mark di Suvero. Within three weeks of the opening of "Art of War," four more exhibits open on campus, including displays of poster prints at Gallery FAB and photography at the St. Louis Mercantile Library.

The early years

The campus was bereft of exhibit space for more than a decade after the university's inception in 1963.

But in 1976, Jean Tucker, who retired from the university in 2003 and was not available for an interview, established a small gallery. It was named "Gallery 210" for its location – 210 Lucas Hall.

"It was only a room, but it was a beginning," recalls Jill McGuire, executive director of the Regional Arts Commission in St. Louis.

The gallery became known for exhibiting work by renowned photographers. Images from Lotte Jacobi, Ansel Adams, Robert Mapplethorpe and many others graced the walls of 210. Tucker created, in 1978, another gallery space in what is now the Public Policy Research Center at UM–St. Louis.

By the early 1990s, Gallery 210 began to emphasize advanced visual art. Now housed in the university's Telecommunity Center, the gallery includes three exhibit spaces and a 50-seat auditorium. Terry Suhre, gallery director, says 210 is part of an important group of St. Louis-area institutions that showcase contemporary art.

continued

Glen Gentele stands on "St. Louie Bones," a wood sculpture by Robert Stackhouse commissioned for Laumeier Sculpture Park. Gentele is the Aronson Endowed Professor in Modern and Contemporary Art at UM–St. Louis and director of the park, an open-air, 100-acre art museum in southwest St. Louis County.



Gallery 210 at UM–St. Louis exhibited "Untitled" by Cameron Fuller in the summer. The piece was part of "Exposure 10," an exhibit featuring works by four St. Louis-area artists.





Renee Williams, a studio art senior at UM–St. Louis, sets up a collection of her work for a faculty critique.



UM–St. Louis senior Korey Estes examines the brush strokes of a large oil painting.

"The Nest" was one of nine sculptures by Chakaia Booker exhibited this fall in Gallery 210 at UM–St. Louis. St. Louis Post-Dispatch Visual Arts Critic David Bonetti recognized the collection, "Chakaia Booker: Sculpture," as one of the St. Louis-area's "outstanding solo exhibitions" in 2007.



"The Contemporary, Saint Louis Art Museum, Kemper and Gallery 210 make up the four legs of a table," he says. "This faction keeps our citizens abreast of current developments in contemporary art, philosophical media and political-topical works of art."

Since the mid-1990s, UM-St. Louis has added galleries FAB and Visio, a student sculpture garden along Florissant Road, the St. Louis Mercantile Library and the Nicholas and Theodora Matsakis Hellenic Culture Center.

Beyond the boundaries

John Hylton, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, says UM-St. Louis, as a land-grant university, has a responsibility to connect with its surrounding communities, and the visual arts are no exception.

Students make one such connection with the public. With support from UM-St. Louis studio art faculty and Gallery Visio Student Association (a university group), students exhibit their work in St. Louis-area galleries.

Doug Crites, a studio art senior, displayed a collection of paintings from his "Not Art" series in September in ArtDimensions' Village at the Taste of St. Louis, an annual celebration of food, art, music and culture.

"It was exciting, because [participating in the exhibit] showed me there were more opportunities available to students," Crites says.

Faculty work makes up another important part of the university's community outreach efforts, according to Hylton.

"In partnership with the city of Ferguson, Mo., we've established faculty studios in conjunction with a gallery run by the Northern Arts Council," he says. "In addition, we have three endowed professors in the college whose focus is collaborations in visual arts."

The professors are E. Louis Lankford, Susan Cahan and Glen Gentele. Lankford is the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in Art Education. Cahan is the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in Contemporary Art.

And Gentele holds the joint appointment of Aronson Endowed Professor in Modern and Contemporary Art at UM-St. Louis and director of the Laumeier Sculpture Park, an open-air, 100-acre art museum in southwest St. Louis County.

"My professorship connects the university directly to an arts organization to provide opportunities for students," Gentele says. "It helps make them aware of the cultural resources that exist in St. Louis and gets them involved."

Sometimes, getting students involved means they work directly with artists. Cahan curated the 2007 exhibit "I Remember Heaven: Jim Hodges and Andy Warhol" at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. UM-St. Louis students helped recreate the Hodges mural "Oh Great Terrain" for the exhibit.

Cahan also established a travel-study program. Students visit galleries and studios in New York every other year and a separate unique destination in alternate years. In the spring, students traveled to Robert Smithson's earthwork "Spiral Jetty" in Utah's Great Salt Lake.

Matt Johnson, a studio art senior, worked on Hodges' mural and took the Utah trip.

"I didn't think UM-St. Louis had any programs like this," he says. "The trip exceeded my expectations, and most people never get the chance to work with a professional artist."

McGuire, RAC executive director, calls the university's programs "invaluable" for both the students and the art community.

"The students get first-hand experience and knowledge by working directly with these professors in professional galleries and museums," she says. "And hopefully they'll stay in St. Louis and feed the arts environment upon graduation." 🍷



Susan Cahan (center) talks with three artists (from left) Dani Kantrowitz, Natalee Layton and Gretchen Richoux at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Cahan is the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in Contemporary Art at UM-St. Louis. The artists set up Maya Lin's sculpture "2x4 Landscape," which the museum exhibited this fall.

Alumni & FRIENDS

Dr. Carol Merritt

promotes diversity, ocular disease awareness

By Ryan Heinz

A copy of the Black Pages, a directory of St. Louis businesses targeting African-American residents, rests on a table in Dr. Carol Merritt's modest office in Florissant, Mo. Three optometrists are listed.

Merritt, the only woman among the trio, later corrects the directory by naming two additional African-American eye doctors in St. Louis. But the University of Missouri-St. Louis alumna and former faculty member says five black optometrists in St. Louis isn't enough, and she just might be the person to bolster that number.

In July, Merritt was named president of the National Optometric Association, a professional organization of black optometrists established in 1969. One of the NOA's primary objectives is to increase awareness of vision-related problems that are prevalent in minority populations (e.g. hypertension, diabetes and glaucoma). Another is to promote greater diversity in optometry schools.

"Less than two percent of the country's optometrists are African-Americans," she said. "Simply put, there needs to be more. So many people are underserved. They need representation."

Merritt has her work cut out for her. The field of optometry traditionally lacks black doctors. According to the U.S. Department of Education's most recent statistics, 1,252 students earned a doctoral degree in optometry during the 2004-05 academic year. Only 36 of those students, or about 2.9 percent, were black. That nationwide percentage represents a slight increase from when Merritt earned a degree at UM-St. Louis in 1989.

She says many young African-Americans tend to pursue more lucrative fields within the medical industry. However, Merritt's career took off almost immediately after completing her doctoral degree. She was offered a faculty position with the College of Optometry at UM-St. Louis. It was the beginning of a nine-year run at the university, during which she was instrumental in the founding of the East St. Louis Eye Center in Illinois, one of four faculty-student-operated clinics making up UM-St. Louis' Center for Eye Care. She served as director of the East St. Louis operation until 1998 when she left the university.



Dr. Carol Merritt, OD 1989, was named president of the National Optometric Association in July.

The same year she joined the UM-St. Louis faculty, Merritt also began a small private practice. It blossomed over the next decade. Despite her love of teaching, she had to make a tough career decision. Merritt said she chose to focus on the practice, because she felt an African-American presence was necessary in meeting the eye-care needs of that community. She cited her own practice as an example of the demand.

"It just kept getting bigger and bigger," she said. "I had a four-to six-week waiting list."

These days, Merritt is still busy.

"Basically, most of my time is optometry, my children and church," she said.

Of the latter, she serves as minister of music and worship at New Cote Brilliance Church of God, where her husband has been pastor for 16 years. The role allows her to direct a choir, play piano and indulge in her favorite diversion – gospel music.

Merritt said, "I tell everybody that my purpose in life is to help people see, both physically and spiritually."

Erwin and Adeline Branahl

The road that led to their generosity

By Kedra Tolson

The importance of higher education is not lost on Erwin and Adeline Branahl, but what got them to college is even more important. The couple says if it hadn't been for the scholarships each of them earned, they might not have met, married and become the generous donors they are today.

It's easy to see that the Branahls are a close couple. Married for 63 years, the Ferguson, Mo., natives finish each other's sentences and share the same thoughts on why they help students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"I had the drive and determination to go to college, I just didn't have the money," Erwin Branahl said. "Back in 1938, tuition for Washington University in St. Louis for four years was \$1,000. That was a lot of money then."

Adeline Branahl says the scholarship money that was invested in them spurred the young couple to do the same for others.

"We agreed early in our marriage that we would always give," she said. "Neither of us could have gotten through college if it hadn't been for those scholarships. College tuition is escalating today, so we realize that students need more help than ever."

Adeline Branahl earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from WU in 1942. She became a homemaker, raising Sandy and Jim, the couple's two children.

Erwin Branahl retired in 1987 as executive vice president at what was then McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1943 at WU.

He attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, in 1944 for naval pre-radar studies and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge in 1945 for airborne radar training. He returned to WU and earned a master's degree in applied mechanics in 1951.

The road to the Branahls' generosity began in 1990 when Erwin Branahl represented

McDonnell Douglas on the Chancellor's Council at UM-St. Louis. During his tenure on the council, he helped initiate a partnership between UM-St. Louis and WU.

The result was the formation, in 1993, of the UM-St. Louis-WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program. The accredited program offers bachelor's degrees in civil, electrical and mechanical engineering. Upper-division engineering courses are taught at WU at UM-St. Louis rates.

Noting the need for diversity within the engineering profession, the Branahls established a scholarship that offered opportunities for minority students to obtain engineering degrees through the joint program.

"The talent and drive was there," Erwin Branahl said. "The students just needed the funding and a flexible way of obtaining an engineering degree."

The Branahls continued their generosity at UM-St. Louis by establishing the Adeline and Erwin Branahl Scholarships in 1996, the Herbert H. Sweeney Memorial Scholarship in engineering in 2005 and the Adeline and Erwin Branahl Honors Engineering Scholarship in 2006.

Bernard Feldman, associate dean of the joint engineering program, says the Branahls play a crucial role in the program.

"Erwin and Adeline Branahl have been most generous," Feldman said. "Over the last 10 years, they have assisted over 25 UM-St. Louis engineering students, including eight this year."



Erwin and Adeline Branahl, of Ferguson, Mo., have been married for 63 years. As friends of UM-St. Louis, they say that the scholarship money they earned as students encouraged them to later help other students.

Peter Schick

Moneta Group chair says he owes his success to UM-St. Louis

By Linda Tracy

Peter Schick represents the prototypical University of Missouri–St. Louis do-good story. From his modest background, he’s gone on to achieve remarkable professional success and become a solid civic leader.

Growing up in south St. Louis, Schick is one of seven children. He described the family’s brick home as “cozy,” and its one bathroom as “even cozier.” Schick attended the city’s public schools and says he had little exposure to the notion of higher education.

“Very few students at my high school had aspirations of going to college,” Schick said. “Plus, no one in my family had ever attended a university, so it was a foreign concept.”

After completing a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Schick pursued his goal of earning a bachelor’s degree in finance from the College of Business Administration at UM–St. Louis. Thanks to a bit of creative financing from the university’s dean of admissions, Schick was able to begin his college career and later repay the school with money from the GI Bill.

“I’ve been forever grateful to UM–St. Louis, and to the dean of admissions, since the day I began my course work,” Schick said. “I’ve never forgotten that favor.”

After graduation, Schick joined Moneta Group, a comprehensive planning and investments firm in Clayton, Mo. In just a few short years, he began the process of acquiring the company. At the time of the acquisition in 1982, the company’s assets under management were about \$100 million. Schick estimates that total now exceeds \$6 billion, and Moneta Group is among the top five largest independent financial planning firms in the country.

In addition to a highly successful career, Schick has a history of donating his time and resources to many organizations. In December 2003, a UM–St. Louis representative asked Schick if he’d like to get involved with the university.

Since that day, Schick has made an endowment to the university and has established three scholarships for finance students. He also joined the Dean’s



Peter Schick, BSBA 1974, is chairman of the Moneta Group in Clayton, Mo. The financial advisory company recently won the 2007 Best-in-Business Award from Schwab Institutional, a division of Charles Schwab & Co. The award includes a \$10,000 grant that the Moneta Group, in turn, gifted to the university.

Advisory Council for the business college and the university’s Chancellor’s Council.

“I’m very committed to UM–St. Louis,” Schick said. “In my case, I’m convinced I wouldn’t be where I am today were it not for UM–St. Louis and the wonderful professors I’ve encountered, along with the quality counseling and education I received.”

Keith Womer, dean of the university’s business college, said Schick sets an example for alumni and anyone working to educate the people of St. Louis.

“Peter’s love for the university is uncondi-

tional,” Womer said. “His willingness to help future generations of university students, just as he was helped, is unsurpassed.”

Schick encourages UM–St. Louis business graduates to get involved with the university.

“I think if our business students would reflect back on the great education they received at UM–St. Louis, they’d want to be every bit as involved as I have become,” he said. “I’m thankful every day for the university. UM–St. Louis was, for me, the only choice, and it turned out to be the best choice.”

Alumni & FRIENDS

By Maureen Zegel

Nearly 40 years ago, Jack Stenner dribbled and shot his way to the top of the basketball heap at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. The university's first All-America athlete, Stenner was drafted into the growing American Basketball Association. Luckily, for millions of K-12 students, Stenner's basketball career was cut short by the ABA's Carolina Cougars.

Today, A. Jackson Stenner is one of the top scholars in the field of psychometrics, the study of the theory and technique of educational and psychological measurement. His groundbreaking reading research, which measures text difficulty and then matches it with a child's reading ability, benefits more than 26 million students in the United States. Used in grades K-12, The Lexile Framework for Reading was born out of more than 15 years of research.

"There's tremendous variability in any grade school class," Stenner said. "Parents don't walk into a shoe store and say 'I'd like a pair of shoes for a fifth grader.' We don't buy shoes that way, and we shouldn't be buying books that way. Kids who are advanced readers aren't going to get what they need with only one fifth-grade book. And the kid who is struggling now has another reason not to read."

The framework is the brainchild of Stenner and two colleagues from Duke University in Durham, N.C., Malbert Smith and Don Burdick III. In 1984, they formed MetaMetrics, a company now headed by Stenner, with a series of small business grants from the National Institutes of Health and worked on their research. Success came slowly.

"The research fed our souls while we put food on our tables with other work," Stenner recalled. "After 20 years, we finally became an overnight success."

Stenner, who majored in psychology and education, credits two UM–St. Louis professors and a basketball coach for



A. Jackson Stenner is the chief executive officer and chairman of MetaMetrics, an educational measurement company based in Durham, N.C. In the background is a photograph of Stenner on the basketball court during his playing days at UM–St. Louis. He was an All-America selection in 1969, becoming the first UM–St. Louis student-athlete to earn that distinction.

Jack Stenner

University's first All-American helps K-12 students improve learning

giving him the chances he needed to succeed. UM–St. Louis was a fledgling organization in 1968, the year Stenner was named an All-American. He scored 560 points that season averaging 24.3 points a game under legendary coach Chuck Smith.

Stenner was a busy guy in those days.

"I was teaching emotionally disturbed kids during the day at the Child Center of Our Lady of Grace across Natural Bridge Road," he said. "We had basketball practice from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and then I'd climb the fence and go to class until 10 p.m. or so."

He kept up the pace throughout his undergraduate years at UM–St. Louis, and his basketball skills impressed the Carolina Cougars, who drafted him after graduation. But he was cut early on.

"I went home very disappointed," he said. "Coach Smith called and offered me a job as assistant coach. It took me 30 seconds to make up my mind."

He enrolled in the psychology master's degree program at UM–St. Louis.

"Professor Sam Marwit in psychology took a particular interest in me," Stenner said. "We collaborated on a paper on hyperkinesis that went into the Journal for Exceptional Children. That paper eventually got me into Duke and the doctoral program."

Larry Burden, another psychology professor, steered Stenner into applying for a Ford Foundation fellowship.

He earned the fellowship and left UM–St. Louis again. He spent three years in Washington, D.C., learning about public policy. While there he met the dean of the graduate school at Duke, William G. Katzen Meyer, who encouraged Stenner to apply to the doctoral program in educational psychology.

"I sailed through that program thanks to UM–St. Louis," Stenner said. "I was well prepared, and I owe a lot to the university."

Visit <http://www.metametricsinc.com/> for more information on Jack Stenner and MetaMetrics.

Alumni

NOTES

1968

Harry Bunn, BSBA, retired from U.S. Customs and Border Protection after more than 35 years of service. He lives in Indianapolis. Bunn and his son recently took a 17-day trip, visiting 16 national parks and monuments.

1970

Justin Berger Jr., MED, is owner of JCBSTX Tax Preparation Service in St. Charles, Mo.

Donna Ross, MED, won the 2006 Mayhew Prize for Fiction. Her mystery, "Jack the Ripper in St. Louis," is scheduled for release this year under her pen name, Fedora Amis.

1971

Frank Megargel, BSBA, is a partner with Brown Smith Wallace LLC. He lives in St. Charles, Mo.

Peter Pello, BSBA, is a financial consultant at AG Edwards in St. Louis.

1972

T. Gaynor Blake, BA chemistry, is president of Nova Energetics in Alton, Ill. The company manufactures rocket propellants for use in hobby rocket motors. The company also works with the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy.

Malaika B. Horne, BA sociology, was honored in April 2006 by The St. Louis American at the newspaper's fifth-annual African-American Women of Distinction ceremony. Horne is the director of the Executive Leadership Institute in the College of Business Administration at UM-St. Louis.

1973

Ron McMullen, BA psychology, was named president of Christian Hospital Northeast in Jennings, Mo. He serves on the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America and Family and Community Services. Ron is married. He has three children and lives in Godfrey, Ill.



Gerald Scott, BSBA, was promoted to chief operations officer at Safety National Casualty, a leading provider of excess workers' compensation insurance in the United States and Canada. He joined Safety National in 1983 and lives in Wildwood, Mo.

1974

Steven P. Gaydos, BS chemistry, is technical fellow in materials and processes at Boeing in St. Louis.

Patricia Keller, BA biology, joined Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP as scientific advisor. She lives in Chesterfield, Mo.

1975

Donald Frischmann, BA Spanish, was promoted to professor of Spanish at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. His three-volume work, "Words of the True Peoples/Palabras de Los Seres Verdaderos, Anthology of Contemporary Mexican Indigenous-Language Writers," was published by the University of Texas Press.

James Jando, BA political science, is a senior vice president at Welsch, Flatness & Lutz Inc. in St. Louis.

1976

Margaret "Peggy" O'Dell, BA history, was appointed superintendent of the National Mall & Memorial Parks in Washington. The appointment was made in August, and she began the new job in October. Prior to assuming her new position, O'Dell served as superintendent of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis.

James Patton, BSBA, is the owner of Patton Professional Painting and Remodeling Inc. in Fenton, Mo.



Mark Wilhelm, BSBA, was promoted to president and chief underwriting officer of Safety National Casualty Corp. Wilhelm has been with the company since 1977. He's an active member and regular speaker for the Self-Insurance Institute of America. Wilhelm is vice chairman of the board at Saint Louis University High School and is active at St. Patrick Center and Boys Hope Girls Hope.

1977



Eric K. Banks, BSBA, was awarded the Rev. Arnold and Mildred Bringwatt Social Justice Award by Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri. The award honors individuals who have made a significant commitment to social justice. Banks is the former city counselor for St. Louis. He recently joined Kutak Rock LLP in Kansas City, Mo., as a counsel attorney, where he focuses on employment law and commercial litigation.

1978

Daniel K. Fetsch, BSBA, is managing member of DKF & Associates LLC, a home-based business in St. Charles, Mo.



Patricia Keller, BA biology, joined Sonnenschein Nash & Rosenthal LLP as scientific advisor. She has more than 20 years of experience as a researcher and scientist in pharmaceutical and life sciences.

Stephen V. Schulte, BA political science, is director of global transportation compliance at Ecolab in St. Paul, Minn.

1979

Dr. G. Robert Kletzker, BA biology, is an ear-care and skull-based physician and surgeon in Chesterfield, Mo.

1980

Brian Goodman, BSBA, has been named the legal affairs and compliance coordinator at the Virginia Retirement System. Prior to the appointment, he served as counsel to the system as an assistant attorney general in the Office of the Attorney General. He earned a juris doctorate in 1993 at the University of Richmond in Virginia.

Wendy Richards, BSBA, was elected president of the Orange County-Long Beach Chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2007-08.

1981



David K. Adam, BSBA, recently joined the St. Louis law firm of Uthoff, Graeber, Bobinette & Blanke. He concentrates on advising individuals and companies on legal and business matters, including incorporation, financing, contracts, estate planning and management of state and local tax issues.

Paul Pitts, BSBA, works for the U.S. Postal Service. He lives in St. Peters, Mo.

Bruce A Schmidt, BGS, is a psychotherapist at St. Louis Cancer Institute. He also is in private practice in Chesterfield, Mo.



Jim Schwartz, BS accounting, joined RubinBrown. He's a partner in the Tax Consulting Group and specializes in real estate.

1982



Richard Feldt, BSBA, has been promoted to partner in the internal audit services group at RubinBrown. Feldt is a member of the Association for Corporate Growth, Missouri Venture Forum and Institute for Independent Business. He lives in O'Fallon, Mo.

Alumni

Keith Weldon, BA political science, recently was selected chairman of the Steering Committee of the Compensation and Benefits Network of Greater St. Louis. Weldon is vice president of compensation at Maritz in Fenton, Mo. Weldon is married with two teenage boys and lives in Des Peres, Mo.

1983

Althea Richardson, BSBA, is a funds control specialist at Monsanto.

Marianne Wilson, BA anthropology, is a medical social worker working with kidney patients in St. Clair and Clinton counties in Illinois. She's taught social-work courses at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and an anthropology course at McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill. Her community volunteer work includes Kairos Outside of Missouri, which provides support to women who have an incarcerated family member, and working with her local historic preservation commission. Wilson lives in Glen Carbon, Ill.

1984

Donald L. Eggleston Jr., MEd, was recently appointed vice president of mission integration with SSM Health Care in Creve Coeur, Mo.

1987

Patrick Chunn, BSBA, is president and chief executive officer of Allied Health Corp. in Pembroke Pines, Fla.



Bryan Meier, BSBA, was appointed vice president and controller of VeraSun Energy Corp. in Brooking, S.D.

Lawrence Pickett, EdD, is proud to announce the birth of his first grandchild in June. Pickett is managing consultant at MasterCard Advisors and lives in St. Louis.

Thomas W. Santel, MBA, was appointed president and chief executive of Anheuser-Busch International Inc.

Michael D. Ward, MEd, was appointed regional director for the America's board of management of the International Society of Radiographers & Radiologic Technologists. Ward is associate dean of the Doisy College of Health Sciences at Saint Louis University.

Zella Williams, MEd, was honored as one of the recipients of the African-American Women of Distinction by The St. Louis American. She is assistant superintendent of accountability for the Hazelwood (Missouri) School District.

1988

Ann Austin, BA speech communication, is an education product specialist with SSM Health Care.

Dr. L. Kent Harrington, OD, was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

1989

Susan Corey, BS chemistry, worked at Monsanto in St. Louis for about four years following graduation from UM-St. Louis. In 1995, she earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Corey went on to work as a district botanist at Bearlodge Ranger District in Sundance, Wyo., and she recently accepted a district botanist position at the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. She began working there in late November.

Mark Laverty, BM, released his debut album, "Music of Bach," in February. The record is available at <http://www.marklaverty.com/>. During the 2006-07 concert season, Laverty performed piano recitals of Bach and Mozart in San Francisco and St. Louis, and he performed concertos by Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Brahms with symphony orchestras in Alton, Ill., University City, Mo., and Town and Country, Mo.



Linda Paradis, MA accounting, was promoted to partner in the Manufacturing and Distribution Industry and SEC Services Group at

RubinBrown in St. Louis.

Dr. Beatrice Reed-Price, OD, was elected president of the Arkansas Optometry Association.

1990

Andrew Theising, BA political science, was named director of the Institute for Urban Research at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where he's an assistant professor of political science.

1992

Paul DeGregorio, BA political science, recently ended his stint on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in Washington. DeGregorio joined Everyone Counts Inc. as its chief operating officer. Everyone Counts is a California-based enterprise that's a world leader in utilizing the Internet and new technology to serve voters.



Craig Hendren, BSBA, was promoted to manager in the internal audit services group of RubinBrown. He focuses on serving clients in the manufacturing, distribution, high technology, food service and hospitality industries. Hendren lives in Dardenne Prairie, Mo.

1993

Elizabeth A. Amin, BS in chemistry, is an assistant professor of medical chemistry at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Amin also earned master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry at UM-St. Louis.

1994

Mary P. Wohler, BA English, is a freelance writer and photographer based in O'Fallon, Mo.

1995

Lynda Liebermann, BSBA, received a 2007 Women Trailblazers Award from UM-St. Louis. She's a manager at UHY Advisors Inc.

Cecilia Marzabadi, PhD chemistry, is associate professor of chemistry at Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. She was featured last year in the magazine *Chemical and Engineering News* for her work on the book "Are Women Achieving Equity in Chemistry?: Dissolving Disparity, Catalyzing Change." Marzabadi is on sabbatical from her position at Seton Hall and is conducting research at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

1996

Cathy Skeeters, BSN, was appointed associate vice president of performance measurement and improvement and patient services QHR Consulting Services, a health-care management consulting firm based in Brentwood, Tenn. Skeeters provides leadership and project management expertise to clinical operations in need of improvement.

1997

Dawn Shelton-Miller, BA communication, became a certified fundraising executive in June. She's a senior consultant with Zielinski Companies, where she's a featured speaker and presenter at fundraising conferences and workshops. She lives in St. Louis with Mark, her husband, and William, her son.

Lawrence L. Thomas, BS criminology and criminal justice, is a guidance counselor in the Hazelwood (Missouri) School District.

Jennie Vlantou, MEd, has written the book "761 Aubert Avenue: My Greek American Sanctuary." It's a memoir of her life growing up in St. Louis. The book is published by iUniverse, and is available at <http://www.amazon.com>. Jennie and her husband live in Kent, Ohio.

Michael Washington, PhD chemistry, is manager of chemistry nuclear medicine, imaging research and development at Mallinckrodt Inc. in St. Louis.

1999

Terry Blastenbenbre, BA psychology, earned a master's degree in management in June at Fontbonne University in St. Louis. He married April Morrison in October.

Lynda K. (Sutterlin) Guion, BS chemistry, works at The Solae Company in St. Louis.

Courtney K. Irwin, BA communication, is special events manager for Spirit of St. Louis Marathon.



Matt Kiehne, BSBA, joined Triad Bank in Frontenac, Mo., as vice president of commercial lending.

2000

Janie B. Palm, BS management information systems, works for Enterprise Rent-A-Car as lead test engineer.

Stacy Meinen, BA psychology, recently opened a law firm in St. Louis. She practices traffic, driving while intoxicated, personal injury and domestic.

Patricia Sparks, BA psychology, earned a master's degree in education from Missouri Baptist University in Creve Coeur, Mo.

Paul B. Webb III, PhD chemistry, is a biochemist at Reliable Biopharmaceutical in St. Louis.

2001

Bradley M. Eimer, BS management information systems, is assistant vice president at Premier Bank in St. Peters, Mo.

Ellen Kucharski, BS biology, joined the staff at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield as a genetic counselor.

Lawrence T. Miskel II, BA political science and German, is a consultant at United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Dzenana Mruckovski, BS civil engineering, is employed as a civil engineer for the City of St. Louis.

Jennifer Ray, BA communication, is owner of the Washington Avenue Post, a coffee shop and restaurant in St. Louis.

Angela Schmitt Powers, BS education, and **Sean Powers**, BS biology 2003, were married in May. They live in Souldard, a St. Louis neighborhood.

2002

Janet A. Burgdorf, BS criminology and criminal justice, is a legal assistant with Kullmann, Klein & Dioneda. She lives in Florissant, Mo.

Brent Daigle, BA history, achieved all-but-dissertation status toward earning a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He earned a master's degree in education in 2004 at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, La.



Jaime Duncan, BS criminology and criminal justice, is a paralegal at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP in Atlanta. She recently announced her engagement to Jeremy Lane.

Matthew C. Harris, BSBA, is a financial advisor at Edward Jones.

2003

Nick Bowman, BA communication, is finishing preliminary research and coursework toward a doctoral degree at Michigan State University in East Lansing. This summer, Bowman taught "Mass Media Effects." Bowman says he hopes to complete his dissertation in the spring.

Billy D. Dickens III, BSBA, works for Moneta Bank in Clayton, Mo.

Donald B. Maisel, BS electrical engineering, is an engineer at Middough Consulting Inc. in St. Louis.

John Shaw, MPPA, was hired as city manager in Ferguson, Mo.

Ann Wilkins, MEd, is a special education teacher with the Special School District of St. Louis County. She teaches at the Hazelwood (Missouri) School District. She lives with Ethan, her son, in Alton, Ill.

2004

Laura Barnes, PhD physiological optics, was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force.

Jonathon Batchelor, MEd, is academy coordinator at Most Holy Trinity School in St. Louis.

Damir Dzubic, BSBA, was named an agent for Country Insurance & Financial Services.

Stephen Gaydos, BS chemistry, was elected chairman of ASTM Committee F07 on Aerospace and Aircraft. He is a material and process engineer at Boeing Integrated Defense Systems.

Elizabeth Grindstaff, BA political science, is proud to announce her engagement to David Dodd.

Carrie A. Kouri, BA art history, is president of the Adaptive Child LLC in St. Louis.

Dr. Kimberly Layfield, OD, is a resident optometrist at the UM-St. Louis Eye Care Center.

Anita Minor, BGS, contributed her story "Lifting Each Other" to the book "Gifts: Mothers Reflect on How Children with Down Syndrome Enrich their Lives." The story chronicles Minor's unplanned pregnancy and delivery of a child with Down Syndrome.

Peter Nicastro, MS biology, was appointed in January by Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt to a seat on the Organ Donation Advisory Committee, which advises the state's Department of Health and Social Services on the operation of the Organ Donor Registry. Nicastro received a lung transplant in 1998 and kidney transplant in 2005.

Teresa M. Quarles, MSW, is taking a break from her social-work career to follow her dream. She opened the home-based business "Mad Eli's Cakes & Pies" in Florissant, Mo. Quarles provides desserts, catering and gift baskets.

Pamela Ramsey, BSBA, is pursuing a master's degree in international business at Webster University in Webster Groves, Mo.

Steven Schaefer, BS computer science, is a computer technician at Warren County (Missouri) R-III School District. He lives in Warrenton, Mo.

2005

Olivia Ayes, BA engineering, received a 2007 Women Trailblazers Award from UM-St. Louis.

May Badra, BSBA, married Sami Abusaad in August.

Debra J. Early, PhD psychology, works as a psychologist at the women's specialty center at Saint Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis.

Emily Fishman, BA communication, is the first operations assistant at Circle of Concern, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency and long-term assistance to low-income families in west St. Louis County.

Danielle Fry, BS criminology and criminal justice, is a counselor at Disability Determination. She lives in Florissant, Mo.

Stephen Grelle, BSBA, is a commercial underwriter with Commerce Bank. He married UM-St. Louis student Lily Nguyen in September.

Kelly Jacobs, BS nursing, is a registered nurse at St. Johns Mercy Medical Center. She recently was engaged and is planning a wedding in 2008.

Carlos Leiva, BS civil engineering, is an associate engineer with Parsons Corp. in St. Louis.

Parveen Morani, BS nursing, is an infectious-disease registered nurse at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

Diana Lewis-Johnson, BSW, is a caseworker for the State of Missouri.

Kristina K. O'Keefe, BS education, is a teacher in the Francis Howell School District in St. Charles, Mo.

Sonia Smith, BSBA, is an accountant for the St. Louis office of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri.

Andrea Turner, BS education, is pursuing a graduate degree in education curriculum and instruction at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind.

Michael Wismann, BSBA, is a universal banker with National Center in Valley Park, Mo.

2006

Faosat Adelani, BGS, is an information-technology coordinator at University City (Missouri) Children's Center.

Matthew Ryan Barker, MPPA, is a policy analyst for the Missouri Foundation for Health.

David "Dauby" Aubuchon, BS criminology and criminal justice, has fulfilled his dream of becoming a commercial helicopter pilot.

Ali Hassan Ayoub, BSBA, is treasurer and driver for Express Airport Club in St. Louis.

Michael Beatty, BA history, will continue to serve as president of Psi Psi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society through the 2007-08 academic year.

Christina Candelario, BSBA, was promoted to franchise banking associate at Bank of America in St. Louis.

Ann Chisolm, BSW, received a 2007 Women Trailblazers Award from UM-St. Louis.

Pechaz Clark, BA communication, was promoted to research patient coordinator for minority outreach and recruitment at Washington University in St. Louis.

Nisar Dayo, MS computer science, works for Express Scripts.

R. Wayne Davis, BA communication, is a teacher assistant in the Fox C-6 School District in Arnold, Mo.

Erin E. Duncan, BSBA, is an office manager at Solutions AEC in St. Louis.

Joe Garavaglia, BS accounting, recently joined the tax and business services department at Stone Carlie & Co.

Matthew Grahn, BSBA, is a financial consultant at AG Edwards in St. Louis.

Sheila Green-Samuels, MEd, is a teacher and chair of the Department of Mathematics at the Riverview Gardens School District in north St. Louis County.

Kate Kimble, BA communication, is a marketing coordinator at IFD Inc., which has headquarters in Ft. Thomas, Ky. Kimble and Justin, her husband, live in West Chester, Ohio.

Margaret Murphy, MSW, is a community support worker at Adapt of Missouri.

Jan Nolte, BS accounting, works at Tax Technologies Inc. in Bradenton, Fla.

Linda T. Raguse, BSBA, works for Executive Financial Group in St. Louis.

Justin R. Sabo, BS electrical engineering, is an electrical engineer at Crawford Murphy & Tilly Inc. He lives in Fairview Heights, Ill.

Steve Schnelle, BA psychology, is a caseworker at Missouri's Division of Family and Children Services.

Jinesh Shah, MBA, is manager of Gateway Hotel Management in Eureka, Mo.

John Waterhouse, BS electrical engineering, is an associate engineer with Ameren. He lives in St. Peters, Mo.

2007

James Daugherty, BA anthropology and Spanish, was awarded a J. William Fulbright Scholarship. In October, he traveled to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and is spending 10 months studying the standards and terminology used in courtroom translation between the K'iche-speaking community and Spanish-speaking community. His goal is to create new procedures to improve the communication process between the two groups. (See Page 6.)

Patrick Johnson, MEd, is a fifth-grade teacher at Walnut Grove Elementary School in the Ferguson-Florissant (Missouri) School District.

Lana Kerker, BA anthropology, was awarded a J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship. In October, she began a 10-month study of the feeding ecology and daily habits of the endangered lesser bamboo lemurs in Madagascar, Africa. (See Page 6.)

Jennifer Hall Staples, BSBA, is enrolled in the online master's degree in business administration program at Columbia College. She married Pfc. Phillip P. Staples, who is stationed at Camp Hovey, South Korea.

2007 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



University of Missouri–St. Louis Chancellor Tom George presented five alumni with the Distinguished Alumni Award Sept. 25 during the university's annual Founders Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton, Mo. Award winners are (left to right): Jerry Evensky (MEd 1973 and MA economics 1979), professor of economics at Syracuse University in New York; Margaret "Peggy" O'Dell (BA history 1976), superintendent of the National Mall & Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C.; Rex Carter (BSBA 1989), director of finance for the St. Louis Cardinals; and Martin Mlynczak (BS physics 1981), senior research scientist at NASA in Hampton, Va. Not pictured is awardee David Balota (BA psychology 1976), professor of psychology and neurology at Washington University in St. Louis.

Share your news

Update your fellow alumni by mailing news and photos to:

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St. Louis, MO 63121

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Photo by Stephanie Zettl

Des and Mary Ann Lee created their own UM–St. Louis legacy

With charitable annuity trusts benefiting
university programs and students

“Philanthropy, on every level, is important, because only through this process can we build a stronger UM–St. Louis and a stronger community.”

E. Desmond “Des” and Mary Ann Lee are passionate about public education and the St. Louis community. In 1996, the Des Lee Collaborative Vision was established to strengthen the ties between the University of Missouri–St. Louis and the community.

The DLCV links educational, cultural and social service institutions in the St. Louis area. With more than 30 endowed professors, 100 community organizations and many government agencies working in partnership, Des and Mary Ann believe their contributions make a difference.

“Philanthropy, on every level, is important, because only through this process can we build a stronger UM–St. Louis and a stronger community,” Des said.

Through their planned gifts, the Lees recognize the importance of quality public higher education. They hope to empower underserved individuals through education by providing access and exposure to new experiences and ideas.

“There are so many doors that open for students who have access to public higher education,” Mary Ann said. “Des and I agree it is of utmost importance.”

Selected Charitable Gift Annuity Rates	
Age	Rate*
60	5.7%
65	6.0%
70	6.5%
75	7.1%
80	8.0%
85	9.5%
90	11.3%

*Rates subject to change and restrictions may apply.



UM–St. Louis offers many planned giving options. Call (314) 516-6503 for more information.

The UM-St. Louis Alumni Association *makes a difference*



TO FELLOW ALUMNI

"With more than 70,000 alumni, it's an honor to serve the largest alumni population in the St. Louis region. Together, we make UM-St. Louis stronger."

Hubert H. Hoosman Jr.
BS criminology and
criminal justice 1979



TO THE COMMUNITY

"UM-St. Louis graduates are highly sought after and continue to positively impact the communities where they live and work. I'm proud of my degree."

Monica Durrwachter
BA political science 2004



TO THE UNIVERSITY

"UM-St. Louis gave me an opportunity to pursue my dreams. Now as an alumnus, it's my chance to give back. Our greatest investment is ensuring the future of today's students. That's why I serve."

Michael Finkes
MS chemistry 1978

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Since 1967, the UM-St. Louis Alumni Association has made a difference in the lives of thousands of alumni and students. This year, you can help the association make a difference in the lives of many more.



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