

University of Missouri–St. Louis,  
College of Business Administration  
May 2024



## Message from the Dean

Graduation is my favorite time of the year. When we gather and celebrate student achievements, we are also reinforcing something more important—their future success. This weekend, UMSL will graduate more than 1,700 students during our spring commencement ceremonies. Among those are 366 graduates of the College of Business Administration. I'm also excited to share that Business alum and retired Ameren executive chairman Warner Baxter will take center stage Friday night and receive an honorary doctorate degree!

The College of Business Administration at UMSL is so proud of the achievements of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. We are thankful for the business community and great partnerships. I hope you enjoy reading the stories of our amazing people and their impact.

Greetings, everyone. I'm the new Dean and can't wait to meet you!



Shu Schiller, Ph.D.  
Dean, Professor of Information Systems  
College of Business Administration

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW GRADUATES

We celebrate the success of our new alumni.



### **UMSL to honor alum Warner Baxter as it celebrates more than 1,700 new graduates during spring commencement ceremonies**

The former Ameren Corp. chairman will deliver the commencement address and receive an honorary doctorate during a ceremony for 366 graduates of the College of Business Administration on Friday.

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## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

We would like to celebrate the remarkable success of our students. Read their stories below on our university news website "UMSL Daily".



### **MBA student Leo Sowa has made the most of his UMSL experience, on the pitch and in the classroom**

Sowa, who is from Berlin, served as team captain his final two seasons on the Tritons soccer team.

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## Senior business administration major Jesse Frey places second at St. Louis Regional Entrepreneurship Educator pitch competition

Frey's hat retention invention, Headlok, solves a big problem for motorcycle riders.

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## Former BJC HealthCare Group President Sandra Van Trease touts value of ethics in business

Van Trease was the featured speaker in the latest installment of “Ethics: A Foundation for Success,” the six-part alumni conversations series.

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## UMSL Alumni Association recognizes 4 leaders at annual Salute to Business Achievement Awards

UMSL alumni Jeanne Dee, Bill Dickens, Morgan Koenig and Janelle Stowers were honored for their leadership in the business world.

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## UMSL alum Laura Burkemper helps others build their brands and scale their businesses

She also recently co-authored a book, “Empathy and Understanding in Business,” with expert negotiator Chris Voss.

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## COLLEGE SUCCESS

We are highlighting the excellence of our college.



## Fourth EIC Demo Day showcases five entrepreneurs who have grown businesses with Anchor Accelerator program

UMSL's Anchor Accelerator program helps local entrepreneurs scale up their successful businesses with help from local companies.

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## CEO Magazine recognizes UMSL's DBA program among world's best for seventh straight year

UMSL was one of only 110 schools worldwide to make the publication's list, which considered factors such as accreditation and international standing.

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## A collaborative partnership between FinLocker and UMSL enriches research and provides students with real-world experience

Assistant Professor Vivek Singh has been part of ongoing collaboration with FinLocker Chief Technology Officer Bryan Garcia, a longtime member of UMSL's IST Advisory Board.

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## **Assistant Professor Lei Xu's research explores the conditions that can foster entrepreneurship and innovation in entrepreneurial ecosystems**

Xu and his collaborators examined a longitudinal sample of regional data from the United States between 1994 and 2016 and published their findings in the Academy of Management Journal.

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## **New College of Business Administration Dean Shu Schiller honored by her alma mater, Temple University**

Schiller received the 2024 PhD Alumni Leadership Award from the Fox School of Business, where she earned her PhD in information systems in 2007.

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