DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION GRAD AND PRESIDENT OF ENDEAVORS OF ST. LOUIS STEVEN STOUT STUDIES HOW MISSOURI UTILIZES MEDICARE

By Timothy Wombles

What are the main differences between Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage?

Traditional Medicare allows patients to select most any eligible medical service they wish to receive from authorized Medicare providers and pays about 80 percent of cost. Those who purchase a supplemental insurance policy to cover the remaining 20 percent of costs may find the policy to be prohibitively expensive, especially as they grow older.

Under Medicare Advantage, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services collaborates with private companies to enroll patients into commercial insurance plans. Many Medicare Advantage plans are available at little or no monthly premium costs for patients and shift financial risk and administrative burden to the private sector. The plans often enrich the benefits beyond the mandatory levels to entice patients.

What drove you to focus in this area?

My research interest in Medicare stems from my careers as a hospital system executive and an entrepreneur who has worked closely with Medicare Advantage companies for 25 years. There are many nuances in the operation of the Medicare program, and I want to understand and report what is working well and not working well.

Why did you pursue a DBA at UMSL, and what’s next?

I came across the UMSL DBA website, and it was very compelling. After meeting Dr. Ekin Pellegrini and some of the faculty, I knew the program would be a very good fit for me, and it was. Having graduated, I hope to continue my research in partnership with UMSL faculty and students, and I may seek an adjunct faculty position while continuing with my consulting business.

What recreational activities or hobbies do you like to do to stay healthy?

My bucket list includes hiking on every continent. My wife Terri and I have had the privilege and pleasure of some amazing adventures together, such as climbing to the eighth tower on the Great Wall of China, attempting to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro and backpacking across the Grand Canyon. Today, only Australia and Antarctica remain, so we hope to schedule those trips soon after the pandemic subsides. Meanwhile, I golf.

Cornell Thomas, BA 1978, was appointed chief diversity officer and director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. Cornell also serves as an assistant dean for admissions and student services.

James Torti, BSBA 1979, retired from Schnucks & Labouliére, PC after 44 years. Jim began his career at Skl as an intern while attending UMSL, and became an integral part of the firm.

Do not hallucinate.
The University of Missouri–St. Louis Alumni Association celebrated Valentine’s Day, love and the enduring power of UMSL couples on Feb. 11 with an evening of song performed by the barbershop quartet Double Date. The Pierre Laclede Society and members Dennis and Maggie McCarthy presented the event as part of its Community Confluence Series.

Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies Jim Henry hosted, interviewing quartet members and couple Michaela Slama, BM 2015, and Nathan Johnston, BM 2015; and Blair Brown, BA 2013; and Ravi Raghuram, BM 2013, over Zoom. Interspersed among the quartet’s songs, Henry and the married couples talked about falling in love while in school, forming the quartet, winning the Barbershop in Germany’s world mixed quartet competition twice and their lives since school.

“We feel very fortunate to be together and able to actually sing in person,” Blair says. “It’s pretty special right now.”

DeAnn Brunts, BSBA 1985, joined Agtech firm Benson Hill as CFO and a member of its board of directors. Richard Banask, BS 1990, MA 1997, was named vice president of fiscal affairs and chief financial officer at Lindenwood University. Ella Jones, BA 1986, made history as the first woman and Black resident elected mayor of Ferguson. Previously, Ella served as Ferguson city councilor and had a successful career as a chemist and Mary Kay consultant and sales director.

Scott Ream, OD 1987, was elected president of the Missouri State Board of Optometry. Gov. Mike Parson appointed Scott to the board in 2019.

Ann Sutter, BSBA 1989, was promoted to president of Congruence Talent Solutions, Inc. Karen Rosewell, MBA 1992, was honored with Emerson’s 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Julie is a teacher at St. Mary’s Elementary School.

Kathy Torrington, BSEd 1998, was named superintendent of the Jennings School District, a position she’d held since 2016.

McMichael Edwards, BA 1994, was named to the Missouri House of Representatives. Representing District 95 in the Missouri House of Representatives.

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In Memoriam

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2000s

Opal Jones, BSIBA 2000, MBA 2005, was named an Emeritus Professor in 2021 at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Opal is the founder of the Missouri Women's Foundation, a nonprofit that provides affordable, accessible, and comprehensive services to women living with HIV/AIDS.

Wendy Mickle, PhD 2000, was one of the best teachers at the University of Missouri. She was awarded the 2020 Glasgow Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program Award.

Kimberly Vroom, BA 2000, was named executive director of the Belleville Area Human Society.

Wendell Covington, Jr., MEd 2001, joined Pfizer Missouri as executive director.

Cheryl Eschman, BSED 2001, was honored with Emerson's 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award. Cheryl is a teacher at Hancock Elementary School.

Orin Kimbrough, MBA 2002, was elected to the Cave & Mann LP Board of Directors. Orin serves as chairman and chief executive officer of Midwest BankCentre.

Amanda Shields, BA 2002, was named director of diversity and inclusion at the Missouri Botanical Garden.

2010s

Andrea Vent, BS IB 2002, was named executive director of the Child Care National, a nonprofit serving victims of child abuse.

Botha Farrar, BSED 2003, MEd 2006, PhD 2012, was honored with Emerson's 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award. Botha is a science teacher at Marquette High School.

John Hartmann, BSED 2003, MEd 2006, was elected to the Small School District Leadership Council. John is a fourth-grade teacher at Ellisville Elementary.

Jomo Schadewin, BA 2005, was named executive director of the Clean Carpet Company.


Samantha Williams and Missouri American Water pay it forward

Samantha Williams isn't sure if you can be too involved at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, but she likes to joke that she might have been getting close.

“I was really engaged in school because it gave me so much to do, and I just wanted to pass that along,” Williams says. “Being a part of student government made me realize that, despite my young age, I have a platform.”

Though Williams is now graduated and is the external affairs manager at Missouri American Water, she’s still giving back.

Recently, she has helped facilitate a $10,000 donation from Missouri American Water and company President Debbie Dewey to the Peter and Helen Goode Scholarship. The scholarship was established by Wayne Goode, the longtime Missouri state senator and father of UMSL. Goode also served on the company’s board for more than a decade. After his passing in October, Williams says the company was looking for a way to honor his legacy at Missouri American Water, and UMSL seemed like a perfect fit.

Williams supported the idea of a scholarship donation, having benefited greatly from various scholarships at UMSL as a first-generation student. Now, she wants to pay it forward and hopefully bring more Tritons to Missouri American Water.

“Volunteerism is a huge part of our culture,” she says. “That’s why I was excited and wanting us to get more involved with UMSL. UMSL has always been at the center of the community.”

ALUMNI QUESTION

I am an attorney and people seem surprised when I tell them I have a BA in philosophy from UMSL. I usually explain that the intellectual rigor required to study philosophy is perfect preparation for law school and that I declared my major after deciding that law school – University of Missouri–Columbia, JD – would be my goal. Honestly, I think I would encounter surprise regardless of my present career because there aren’t many of us floating around, and the discipline is misunderstood by the general public as esoteric and impractical. The lodestar of undergraduate philosophy education is learning how to think and write clearly and with purpose. It provides a skeleton key to whatever endeavor life presents you with next. I am profoundly grateful to UMSL’s excellent philosophy program.

— Mark Lyons, RA 2003

From the fall 2020 issue:

Do you have a career that surprises people based on your degree?

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Socioeconomic studies continue to look at the impact of wealth and power on health outcomes. The University of Michigan is one of the few institutions that has a full-time black community health program, with an emphasis on raising awareness about the needs of African Americans and other minority groups.

Outside of St. Louis? Interested in advocacy? Want to get more involved? Contact alumni@umsl.edu.