

You Belong

CLASS NOTES

ONE OF US

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

1970s

Michael Corry, BSBA 1970, was recently named chair of the Special Education Foundation.

Bob Bone, BSEd 1977, was inducted into the Collinsville Community Unit School District No. 10 Kahok Athletic Hall of Fame.

1980s

DeAnn Brunts, BSBA 1985, joined the board of directors of Heritage Grocers.

Michele Dunaway, BSEd 1987, received special recognition for 25 books published with Harlequin Enterprises.

1990s

Laura Burkemper, BSBA 1990, co-authored the book "Empathy and Understanding in Business" with Chris Voss.

Mark Deadwyler, MBA 1993, began a new position as chief financial officer with Elemental Enzymes.

Mark Dolitsky, BSBA 1993, began a new position as a design consultant with CTI.

Amy Hunter, BA 1993, PhD 2023, was honored at the 2023 Urban League Salute to Women in Leadership awards.

Jan Lott, MA 1994, began a new position as executive director of human resources with Maryville University.

Stacey Scheinkman, BSBA 1994, began a new position as a project manager/senior analyst in business integration with Mastercard.

Dawn Gerard, BA 1995, was ordained as an elder in full connection within the United Methodist Church.

Rebecca Boyer, BSAcc 1997, began a new position as chief financial officer with ACME Constructors, Inc.

2000s

Opal M. Jones, BSBA 2000, MBA 2017, was honored at the 2023 Urban League Salute to Women in Leadership awards.

James E. Jordan Jr., BSAcc 2001, DBA 2020, began a new position as acting deputy administrator with the USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service.



Beth GOETZ, MEd 2001, was named the Henry B. and Patricia B. Tippie Director of Athletics Chair at the University of Iowa. Goetz, who was inducted into the UMSL Sports Hall of Fame in 2014, is the first woman to hold the role and the only female athletic director in the Big Ten, one of the nation's premier NCAA Division I conferences. A native of Florissant, Missouri,

Goetz played collegiate soccer at Clemson University and started coaching women's soccer while pursuing her master's in family therapy from the UMSL College of Education before ascending to assistant athletic director.

Gareth Smith, BSBA 2002, began a new position as vice president of business development with Firstsource.

Christopher Lehmutz, BSIS 2003, began a new position as partner in data strategy and intelligence with Turnberry Solutions.

► **Steven HARRIS, BSBA 2000**, has been named the St. Louis American Charitable Foundation 2024 Corporate Executive of the Year. He was honored at the foundation's 22nd Annual Salute to Business Networking and Awards Luncheon in February. Harris, CPA, CGMA, is managing partner with RubinBrown, one of the nation's top 50 accounting and business consulting firms.



Jackie HAMILTON, BSBA 1993, was named the 2023 Outstanding Fundraising Executive by the Association of Fundraising Professionals' St. Louis Regional Chapter. In her role as the assistant director of advancement for the St. Louis County Library, Hamilton helps ensure funding for important programs and resources is available to help members of the community thrive. "St. Louis County Library reaches millions of people in so many different ways," she says. "The library is so much more than books. From diapers and literacy tools to adult high school education and entrepreneurial launch pads, to healthy meals, digital equity and social workers, SLCL is making a genuine impact in our region." Hamilton found her career path after a mission dear to her heart – medical research for multiple myeloma – sparked her interest in philanthropy. She has played a vital role in raising over \$100 million to empower the St. Louis region through community involvement and professional opportunities.

Kevin Meyer, BSIS 2003, began a new position as area director of PMO Strategic Initiatives with World Wide Technology.

Tim Winters, BA 2003, began a new position as an ATC Lab services manager with World Wide Technology.

Andrea Jackson-Jennings, BGS 2004, MEd 2007, EdD 2022, was appointed to the Bi-State Development Agency of the Missouri-Illinois Metropolitan District by Gov. Mike Parson.

Lauren Updike, BSN 2004, began a new position as an RN assessment counselor with CenterPointe Hospital.

Jonathan Lidgus, MEd 2005, was awarded the 2023 State Level Leadership Award by the State of the Art Conference.

Andrew Bohler, BSBA 2008, began a new position as a program manager with ICF.

Shannon Jennings, BSAcc 2009, began a new position as an analyst II in insurance operations with Safety National.

Keith Zoromski, MA 2009, began a new position as provost and vice president of academic affairs of Mineral Area College.

2010s

Christina Dancy, BSPPA 2010, began a new position as an assistant vice president and community impact manager for mortgages with U.S. Bank.

Dr. Iesha Draper, BS 2010, began a new position as staff pediatrician with Affinia Healthcare.



Christopher Oppy, BA 2010, MAcc 2021, began a new position as a senior staff accountant with Enterprise Mobility.

Shawnette Thebeau, BA 2010, began a new position as St. Louis site staffing integrator with Boeing.

Emily Geest, BLS 2011, was awarded the 2023 Conservation Hero of the Year award at Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Gardens for her work with monarch butterflies, community science and launching a plant head start program.



“
QUOTABLE
 STEVEN HARRIS, BSBA 2000
 I HAVE THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN A "BE OUR BEST FOR OTHERS" CULTURE. "OTHERS" INCLUDES EVERYONE WE COME IN CONTACT WITH: CLIENTS, COLLEAGUES AND ANYONE IN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES. HOW WILL WE BE OUR BEST FOR OTHERS TODAY?" ”

STAY CONNECTED     

We want to hear from you! Share your news, photos and follow us at @UMSL.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!

Send class notes and life updates to:

alumni@umsl.edu umslalumni.org 314-516-5833

ONE OF US

Laura Burkemper, BSBA 1990

HOMETOWN: St. Louis

CURRENT LOCATION:
St. Louis

OCCUPATION: Chief Executive
Officer at Scaleblazer

Two years ago, Laura Burkemper entered a global negotiations contest for fun and self-improvement. It was an area that she perceived as one of her weaknesses, one that she wanted to improve in both personally and professionally. To Burkemper's surprise, she placed in the top 10 out of 100 contestants. Encouraged by that unexpected outcome, she enrolled in a program at Harvard Business School Online and earned a certification in Negotiation Mastery in May 2023. A week later, she signed on to co-author a book, "Empathy and Understanding in Business," with expert negotiator Chris Voss. She has spent her career working in strategy, brand, business development and innovation, holding key leadership roles at some of the world's most recognizable companies, including Coca-Cola and McDonald's. Today, as CEO of Scaleblazer, Burkemper uses her expertise to actively guide CEOs, entrepreneurs and corporate innovators in building their brands and scaling their businesses. And as an UMSL donor and volunteer, she's helped ensure students and alumni have access to resources that can impact their experience.

TELL US MORE ABOUT THE BOOK AND WHAT YOU HOPE READERS TAKE FROM IT.

The book is a definitive guide to achieving massive success through helping others. In business times of the past, many questioned the compatibility of empathy and understanding with sound business decisions. However, today's entrepreneurs recognize that successful and long-lasting relationships depend upon both qualities to build a solid foundation. Voss reminds us that entrepreneurs want lasting relationships that build trust and clientele. He challenges the perception that empathy is unrelated to entrepreneurship, asserting that trust and relationships stem from mutual understanding. This book unveils the insights, accomplishments and the do's and don'ts of several celebrity experts, serving as valuable mentorship. Each of the 30 co-authors shares practical lessons on successful negotiation and business strategies, offering a shortcut for others to save time and resources on their journey to success.

WHAT LESSONS FROM UMSL HAVE HELPED YOU ALONG THE WAY?

Business programs at UMSL helped to emphasize analytical thinking and problem-solving skills, enabling me to approach complex issues with a strategic mindset. Being a part of the Alumni Association offered me a chance to build a professional network through alumni events. Lastly, I've learned that cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset is not just for those who want to start a new business, but also for those wanting to help their current organizations identify opportunities and become market leaders.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO YOU TO SUPPORT UMSL?

It's been an honor to serve on the UMSL Alumni Governing Board since 2015. UMSL represents the past, the present and the future. Therefore, it's important for me to remember to "hold the door open" for others - be courteous, be supportive and create opportunities. Build upon your education and experiences, take the world as you found it and make it better. Hold the door open.

Chris Hammond, BS 2011, began a new position as a consulting solutions architect with World Wide Technology.

Sarah Lofink, BA 2011, began a new position as manager of organizational change management with Energizer Holdings.

David Becker, BS 2012, began a new position as a product manager with World Wide Technology.

Justin Cano, MBA 2012, began a new position as a senior director of finance with Kindeva Drug Delivery.

Alex Doubek, BSBA 2012, began a new position as a demand planning manager with 8th Avenue Food & Provisions.

Chelsey Ercoli, BSBA 2012, began a new position as an associate director of business human resources with AbbVie.

Chelsea Holden, BS 2012, BSW 2017, began a new position as an adjunct professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Annie Hyde, MA 2012, began a new position as an assistant director of Undergraduate Global Programs at Washington University in St. Louis.

Tiffany IZard Magee, MEd 2012, began a new position as the director of College Preparation Station Inc.

Karan Pujji, BSBA 2012, began a new position as a territory sales representative with Thuasne USA.

Jason Steimel, BSBA 2012, began a new position as an F-22 estimating and pricing team lead with Boeing.

Sarah Gamblin, BA 2013, MEd 2018, began a new position as director of community information exchange partnerships with the United Way of Greater St. Louis.

Warren Lambert, BA 2013, began a new position as a digitization specialist with the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Denis Mehmedspahic, BSACC 2013, MBA 2016, began a new position as a digital product owner with Edward Jones.

Matt Mize, BSACC 2013, began a new position as a tax manager with Voyager Space.

Jill Rogers, MBA 2013, began a new position as an executive assistant operations manager with John Ward Economics.

Natalie Ellis, MA 2014, began a new position as an associate attorney with Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila, LLP.

Shelby Sharp, BSBA 2014, began a new position as an associate project manager with Sage Research Consulting.

Marc Champlain, BSME 2015, started a new position as a market manager with Nidec Motor Corporation.

Kristin Effan, MEd 2015, began a new position as a supervisor of clinical services with BJC HealthCare.

Johnita Gladney, BA 2015, BSN 2021, began a new position as a labor and delivery nurse with Progress West Hospital.

Katie Hearst, BSBA 2015, MBA 2018, began a new position as senior manager of marketing planning and strategy with Walmart.

Déjà Miles, BA 2015, began a new position in U.S. market access marketing, immunology at AbbVie.

Rodney Strong, BA 2015, began a new position as the director of business development with Valley Hope.

Amanda Tran, BSEd 2015, began a new position as a junior kindergarten teacher with Rohan Woods School.

JoAnn Weaver, BA 2015, began a new position as a content strategist with BJC HealthCare.

Amber Bell-Christian, BS 2016, EDD 2021, began a new position as a drug court case manager with the Columbus Consolidated Government.

Marissa Boedy, BSACC 2016, began a new position as a senior business integrator in weapons with Boeing.

Jaymi Brooks, BIS 2016, began a new position as an associate with T. Dallas Smith & Company.

Haris Ceranic, BSBA 2016, began a new position as a business systems analyst II with Edward Jones.

Jennifer Clemente, MBA 2016, began a new position as a senior IT operations manager with the City of Los Angeles.

Emily Colmo, BA 2016, began a new position as the curator of exhibitions and programming with the National Blues Museum.

Paige Dubman, BLS 2016, began a new position as manager of the Scenic Shore 150 with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Frank Johnson, MPPA 2016, was appointed by the Glendale Board of Aldermen to serve as city administrator.

Rosester Morrow, BSBA 2016, began a new position as a manager of technology integration project management M&A with Mastercard.

Patricia Sims, BS 2016, began a new position as a behavioral health coach with SSM Health.

Shar Smith, MEd 2016, began a new position as manager of staff development and engagement and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives with Washington University in St. Louis.

Sara Asega, BSBA 2017, began a new position as a brand marketing associate with Nestle Purina North America.

Pim Boonstra, MBA 2017, began a new position as a senior director of customer success with PX Inc.

Barry Kammer, BSBA 2017, began a new position as a director of client relations with Northwestern Mutual.

Anna Lalumondier, BSBA 2017, began a new position as a senior financial analyst with Ascension.

Alex Majewski, BSACC 2017, began a new position as a commodities solutions specialist with Kapeco Futures, Inc.

Mirzet Mandzic, BA 2017, began a new position as a regional sales manager with Code 3, Inc.

Ellen Prinster, BSCiE 2017, began a new position as a manager in project management with Ameren.

Madeline Wiperman, BSN 2017, began a new position as a therapy specialist in critical care with NxStage Medical, Inc.

Chris Zuver, BLS 2017, began a new position as an account specialist with R3 Dynamics.

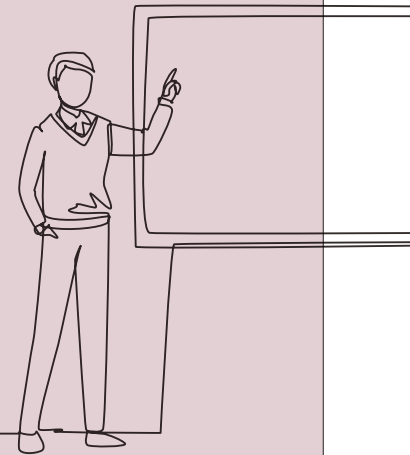
Samantha Brainerd, BS 2018, is Mrs. Missouri for Petite USA and is using her platform to fight food insecurity. She will compete in the national pageant for the title of Mrs. USA this summer.

Jordan Fletcher, BSBA 2018, began a new position as a marketing manager with Hedy & Hopp.

Daysha Juergens, BA 2018, began a new position as a recruiter with Trade Management.

Rebecca Kehe, MA 2018, began a new position as director of International Student Services at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.

faculty
member
who
inspires
me



PAULETTE ISAAC-SAVAGE, A PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SCIENCES AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, INSPIRES ME. OVER THE YEARS, I'VE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE FROM NEAR AND AFAR THE PASSION SHE EXUDES AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE FIELD OF ADULT EDUCATION.

Andrea Jackson-Jennings, BGS 2004, MEd 2007, EdD 2022

ALUMNI NEWS

Fatema MEDHAT, BA, BS

2018, began a new position as a state refugee health coordinator with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Her journey to the role has been a full-circle one. Medhat was born in Iraq and lived in Lebanon and Syria before coming to the United States at 14. After earning her BA in philosophy and BS in criminal justice and criminology from UMSL, she went on to earn her MSW from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. She began her career as a volunteer at AmeriCorp VISTA before joining the Missouri Office of Refugee Administration as a program manager. In her current role as a state refugee health coordinator, she oversees field operations and helps allocate funds to federally qualified health centers and local resettlement agencies to provide health services. Her deep connection to her work makes a difference in every life she touches. "I find it meaningful and humbling to be serving the individuals who have experienced similar events as my family and me," she says. "I hope that one day I can look back and say that I have been able to touch lives in a profound way."



Kristina Medvedeva, PhD, MBA **2018**, began a new position as a visiting assistant professor of marketing at Eckerd College.

Nicholas O'Hanlon, BSPPA 2018, began a new position as a senior associate with the American Red Cross.

Pablo Romero, BSIS 2018, began a new position as a cloud engineer with SSM Health.

Amanda Vanderheyden, MEd 2018, began a new position as an experience design strategist with The Cigna Group.

Ahmed Alzanbaqi, BSBA 2019, began a new position as a sales planning specialist with Mölnlycke Health Care.

Jonice Langford, BA 2019, began a new position as a salesforce associate consultant with Omniskope, Inc.

Lauren Lottmann, BSBA 2019, began a new position as a travel director with Maritz.

Winston Luo, BSIS 2019, began a new position as a senior key account manager with AB InBev.

Abby Naumann, BA 2019, secured funding as a consultant for The Carter Center to design and implement a first-of-its-kind mental health outreach program for communities affected by displacement and violence in Mali.

Brendan Riesmeyer, BSBA 2019, began a new position as an area sales manager with Pinnacle Climate Technologies.

Cathryn Scoopmire, BS 2019, began a new position as an insurance defense paralegal with Fudge Broadwater.

Rachael Wylie, BSBA 2019, began a new position as a quality assurance supervisor with Harry & David.

2020s

Nathan Ackerson, BA 2020, began a new position as an interpreter and UC TFC teacher with Bethany Christian Services.

Allison Belew, BSBA 2020, began a new position as an executive assistant at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Matthias Dunville, BSBA 2020, began a new position as a portfolio administration manager with Cushman & Wakefield.

Jackson Dvorak, BSBA 2020, began a new position as a field sales and marketing representative with Techtronic Industries.

McKenzie Roark, BA 2020, began a new position as a paraeducator with the Bremerton School District.

Grace Roberts, BSAcc 2020, began a new position as a financial analysis advisor with Express Scripts.

Melvyn Rollins II, BSBA 2020, MBA 2022, began a new position as an associate banker with JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Bailey Barry, BA 2021, began a new position as a commercial lines processor with DeWitt Insurance.

Joshua Blumm, BSIS 2021, began a new position as a data analyst at Centene Corporation.

Alexis Bradley, BSW 2021, began a new position as a social services coordinator with Silver Tree Residential.

Amber Brown, BLS 2021, began a new position as a program coordinator with Washington University in St. Louis.

Kendra Clark, BS 2021, began a new position as a talent and OD program analyst with Constellation.

Ginger Edwards, BM 2021, began a new position as a house parent with Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Gabrielle Forchee, BS 2021, began a new position as a data analyst with Premium Retail Services.

Kendall Goodwin, BS 2021, began a new position as a parts specialist with AAA Trailer Services.

Paige Hulahan, BS 2021, began a new position as a category capabilities analyst with Anheuser-Busch.

Justin Humphrey, BSIS 2021, began a new position as an information technology support analyst with Hager Companies.

Jade Johnson, BA 2021, began a new position as a senior manager of recruitment and admissions with Per Scholas.

Olivia Klank, BSBA 2021, began a new position as a growth account executive with G2.

Samantha McClure, BSN 2021, began a new position as a registered nurse with Mercy.

movie that changed my life



THE MOVIE "FORD V FERRARI" PROVIDED A QUOTE THAT DIDN'T CHANGE MY LIFE, BUT IT HIT ME HARD. "IT'S A TRULY LUCKY MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS TO DO IN THIS WORLD 'CAUSE THAT MAN WILL NEVER WORK A DAY IN HIS LIFE."

Lalith Reddy, MS 2023

Bryan McCreary, BA 2021, began a new position as a partner channel manager with Linxup.

Symone Moore, BES 2021, began a new position as a pain access representative with Mercy Hospital St. Louis.

Thomas Moore, BSAcc 2021, began a new position as a senior auditor with Holt and Patterson.

Ryan Rawlings, BSIS 2021, began a new position as a test engineer with Charter Communications.

Charlotte Richards, BSBA 2021, was named one of nine finalists for NCAA Woman of the Year.

Nicholas Schechter, BLS 2021, began a new position as an account manager with The PetCot Company.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

JAPAN

with Erikah Taylor-Allen, BA 2021



Although she loves St. Louis, Erikah Taylor-Allen can't deny she feels at home in Tokyo. She's long been intrigued by the culture of Japan, from the fashion to the history. She studied the language in high school and continued to do so at UMSL, where she earned a bachelor's in Japanese and a certificate in East Asian studies. She studied abroad in 2018 and again in 2019 and went on to work as a global ambassador for UMSL Global from 2020 through 2021, where she hoped to inspire UMSL students to experience all that study abroad has to offer. As a scholarship recipient, Taylor-Allen wanted students to know they didn't have to be wealthy to participate, that there were scholarships and financial aid options available. After living in Tokyo for more than a year while working as an English language teacher with Berlitz Japan, she offers these insights and recommendations.

WHERE TO STAY

Where you want to stay depends on your interests. If you like the fast-paced city life, love technology or fashion and want to buy anime merch, the city center of Tokyo is a great place to stay. You'll have easy access to all the major neighborhoods if you stay at a hotel near the Yamanote line. If you would like to see nature or go hiking, Yamanashi and Shizuoka are great places, as you can enjoy the views of Mount Fuji. As for tradition and history, Kyoto and Nara will be your go-to.

MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

Well-known locations like Tokyo Skytree, Tokyo Tower, Sensō-ji in Asakusa and Meiji Jingu in Harajuku are hard to beat but can be quite crowded. For a view of the city, the Bunkyo Civic Center Observation Lounge is free and is only a short walk from Tokyo Dome City. For tradition, the

Tomioka Hachimangu shrine and Fukagawa Fudō-dō temple, both in Monzen-Nakacho, will give you a glimpse into the past without the massive crowds. Kawagoe in Saitama and Kamakura in Kanagawa are perfect locations to take a day trip from Tokyo for a traditional tour.

FOOD TO TRY

My favorite food is soba, especially zaru soba (cold buckwheat noodles that are dipped into cold, soy-based broth). I also recommend trying yakiniku (barbecued meat) or going anywhere with fresh fish. Famichiki (boneless fried chicken sold at the convenience store Family Mart) is a quick, juicy and tasty snack when you're in a hurry. The viral souffle pancakes are fluffy and yummy. Traditional sweets like mochi and dango are also great. For vegetarians, salad bars and vegan spots are becoming more popular as well!

BIGGEST SURPRISE ABOUT LIVING AND WORKING IN JAPAN

One of my biggest shocks was the attitude toward AI technology here is very different. In many parts of the world, people worry that AI will threaten many people's positions in creative industries. However, in Japan, where the birth rate is low and the population is declining, technology like this is not only widely embraced but necessary. Many of those who work in corporate positions feel burnt out after working long hours, so many people believe that working with AI can ease their workload. Maybe this is to be expected in a country known for its advancements in robotics and technology, but it is still interesting to hear the difference in attitudes regarding this controversial topic.

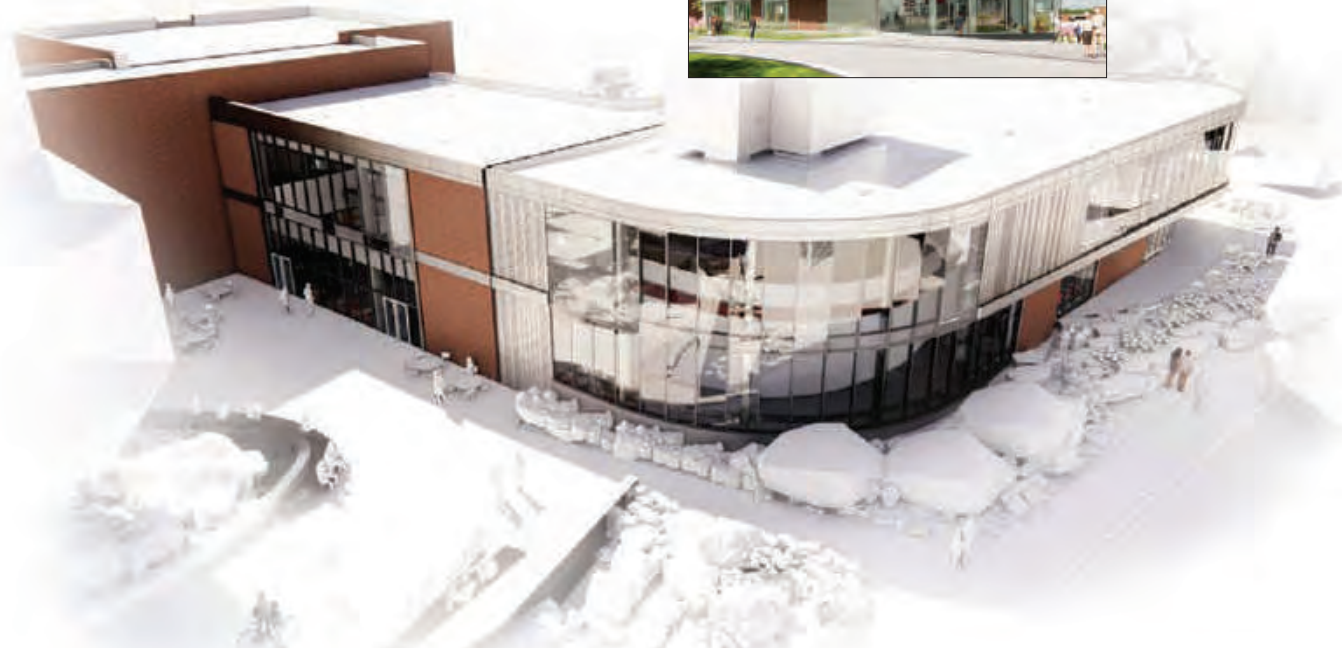
Donors making a difference

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is elevating its mission to transform lives by reimagining the campus experience. Central to this is the creation of a new “front door” to the university: the Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center. Donors have been inspired to make this dream a reality for students and alumni. Hear from donors why they chose to support UMSL.

“I still want to be a part of UMSL in some way because there’s so much good that’s happening. **UMSL has done so much for me**, so for me to contribute to the Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center, that’s the least I can do.” — **Brenda Stith Loftin, BS 1980**

“Our financial support of the new Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center speaks to our gratitude to UMSL. UMSL provided us and so many others with a premium education and a wraparound college experience that was truly transformational.” — **Terry Freerks, BA 1977, MEd 1979 and Stan Freerks, MBA 1992**

“It is a privilege to be able to give back to UMSL. The Richter Family Welcome and Alumni Center will be a true marquee for all alumni to find a home on campus.” — **Dave Reifschneider, BSBA 1988, UMSL Alumni Association president**



To learn more about how you can make an impact, visit giving.umsl.edu or contact giving@umsl.edu.

Connor Schultz, BS 2021, began a new position as an application developer with onPeak.

Armin Sehovic, BSBA 2021, began a new position as a client relationship consultant with U.S. Bank.

Marissa Smithinsky, MEd 2021, began a new position as a content creator with Hummingbirds.

Mary Alice Swann, BS 2021, began a new position as an assistant facility manager with Cushman & Wakefield.

Erikah Taylor-Allen, BA 2021, began a new position as an English language teacher with Berlitz Japan.

Jennie Tran, BSBA 2021, began a new position on the tax staff with Ernst & Young.

Sean Truesdale, BS 2021, began a new position as a federal loan officer with the USDA.

Nick Tzianos, BSBA 2021, began a new position as a talent acquisition specialist with Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Dyiamond Bradford, BS 2022, began a new position as a junior paralegal with Stone, Leyton & Gershman.

Gabriel Brown, BSBA 2022, began a new position as a senior financial analyst with Amazon.

Jonathan Cochrum, BSBA 2022, began a new position as a senior marketing coordinator of brand ambassador partnerships with Perficient.

Sara Hamer, BSBA 2022, began a new position as a marketing coordinator with Citizens Bank.

Stefaniya Ivanova, BSBA 2022, began a new position as a technical business analyst with Macquarie Group.

Berke Kacar, BSAcc 2022, began a new position as a senior staff tax accountant with UHY.

Clara Lopez Bueno, BSBA 2022, began a new position as an associate project manager in supply chain with World Wide Technology.

Anusha Podupuganti, MS 2022, began a new position as a software engineer 2 with Intuit.

Annie Ray, BS 2022, began a new position as a clinical research coordinator with Washington University in St. Louis.

Rachael Rice, MEd 2022, began a new position as an intake specialist with Mercy.

Rebecca Taylor, BSW 2022, began a new position as an association and program manager with Terry Humphrey Public Affairs Group, Inc.

Matthew Argent, BA 2023, began a new position as an assistant store manager with GameStop.

Jordan Fortner, BSBA 2023, began a new position as an associate product manager with TAG, Inc.

Maisoon Hamed, BSBA 2023, began a new position as a marketer operational specialist with Abstrakts.

Dana Lynn Kerns, BS 2023, began a new position as an employment specialist with the Independence Center.

Shelby Long, BS 2023, began a new position as a trauma registrar with SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital.

Katie Loomis, BSBA 2023, began a new position as a buyer with Bunzl Distribution North America.

Renee Patrick, BS 2023, began a new position as an IT support technician with Orbital Engineering, Inc.

Bri Petty, BS 2023, began a new position as a quality control scientist I with Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Lalith Reddy, MS 2023, began a new position as a data analyst with CarShield.

Jenna Teeter, BSBA 2023, began a new position as a nursing assistant with Webb City Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Jackson Zamora, BSBA 2023, began a new position as a logistic analyst with Anheuser-Busch.

Michael WATSON JR., BES 2021, began a new position as youth services director with YMCA of Greater Charlotte. Driven by a passion for making a positive impact on young lives, Watson spends his days assisting children, forging meaningful bonds to help guide them toward a path of success. He feels UMSL played a pivotal role in his career by helping him focus on personal development and thinking beyond oneself while planning for the future. He also credits the university with providing a stepping stone into the professional world with access to experiences and internships that helped begin his career journey. “I’m thrilled about the distinct perspective I bring to my role, coupled with ambitious goals that set a high standard,” he says. “The prospect of forming meaningful connections with the children I engage with, as well as guiding and supporting the staff in advancing their careers, is particularly exciting.”



Arielle Wynn, BSW 2021, began a new position as a foster care specialist with Saint Louis Public Schools.

Andrew Ziggas, BS 2021, began a new position as an Artiva developer with State Collection Service, Inc.

Sanel Zulic, BSBA 2021, began a new position as a client care advocate/Tier 1 technical support specialist with Facilisgroup.

In Memoriam

— **1960s** Dennis McCarthy, BA 1968, on Oct. 9, 2023 — **1970s** John Getz, BSBA 1974, on July 24, 2023; Bob Franklin, BSBA 1978, on Jan. 23 — **1980s** Kenneth Francis Thomas, BA 1980, on Sept. 22, 2023; Kathleen Baragiola, BSBA 1983, on June 26, 2023; Gordon Bardos, BA 1988, on Jan. 8; Barbara Christine Bentrup, BSBA 1989, on June 7, 2023

favorite UMSL memory



THE RELATIONSHIPS. THOSE WITH MY PROFESSORS WHO HELPED SHAPE MY CAREER AND SUCCESS IN BUSINESS. THOSE WITH MY PEERS WHO IMPACTED HOW I SEE THE WORLD AND THE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS THAT WERE FOSTERED. THOSE IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY WHO INTRODUCED ME TO THE BEAUTIES OF DIVERSITY AND CIVIC PRIDE.

Billy D. Dickens III, BSBA 2003