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Community Connection



Dear friends, neighbors and community members,

Here we are in September and the semester has gotten off to a great start! This year we welcomed our newest class of Tritons, one of the largest to date. The class includes about 1,200 students from the St. Louis region and Missouri, and the rest of our newest Tritons come from 25 other states and 26 countries. We also welcomed new faculty and staff and celebrated an array of accomplishments with our [Transform UMSL](#) initiative during my State of the University address.

Now is the time to get out those running shoes and prepare to join us for the annual UMSL 5K run/walk on our beautiful campus taking place on October 5th. You are always welcome at UMSL—whether it be attending a class, seeing a great performance at the Touhill, exercising in the Rec & Wellness Center, attending an athletic event, or just taking a stroll to enjoy our outdoor amenities. We are gearing up for a lot of exciting events this fall, so be sure to regularly check out our [campus calendar](#) for upcoming activities.

Gratefully forward,

Kristin Sobolik
Chancellor
University of Missouri–St.
Louis



UMSL Community Connection newsletter

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[Click here](#) to subscribe.

UMSL Community Card

[Register](#) for a community card to receive benefits and discounts at UMSL events and facilities.

UMSL Careers

[Click here](#) to learn about job opportunities at UMSL. Check back regularly for new listings.

UMSL Contracts

Interested in bidding on projects at UMSL?
[Procurement Bids](#)
[Construction Bids](#)

Community Connect

[Click here](#) to learn about UMSL resources, services and programs available to the community.

STL Community LAB

[Click here](#) to learn about community development trainings and programs.



Events & Resources

Chancellor Kristin Sobolik highlights ways UMSL is positioning itself for the future during annual State of the University Address

The University of Missouri–St. Louis turned the page on a yearlong celebration of its 60th anniversary this summer and began looking forward to the new academic year. Chancellor Kristin Sobolik closed out the first week of the fall semester by delivering her annual State of the University Address with a big focus on how UMSL is positioning itself to serve students and the St. Louis region for the next 60 years and more.

During her address Chancellor Sobolik stated, “At UMSL, our vision is clear: campus sustainability and innovation for the future... We are committed to supporting our academic community while uplifting north St. Louis County, the broader St. Louis region, Missouri and the world. To achieve this, we must position our university as the inclusive economic growth engine that our region needs – not just for today, but for generations to come.” [Read more.](#)



SafeHome.org ranks UMSL among nation’s safest campuses

The University of Missouri–St. Louis is dedicated to providing an environment where students can succeed and reach their full academic potential. One part of that equation is peace of mind on campus. The university has worked diligently to maintain an outstanding public safety record through various means, including the [UMSL Police Department’s CALEA accreditation](#) and body-worn cameras and the Rave Guardian mobile app.

Last month, [SafeHome.org](#) recognized UMSL’s efforts in this arena in its “[2024 College Campus Crime Report and Statistics](#).” The organization ranked UMSL as the fifth safest campus in the country with a crime rate of just 0.07 per 1,000 students and a single on-campus crime annually. UMSL Police Department Captain Marisa Smith attributes this success to the department’s connection with students, staff and faculty. [Read more.](#)



Turn Upon Them: Reveal to Heal exhibition

Gallery 201 @FAB
Now thru October 11, 2024
Tuesday – Saturday
11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
7801 Rosedale Drive

“Turn Upon Them: Reveal to Heal,” is inspired by Ida B. Wells’ powerful words: “The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.” The exhibition will explore themes of injustice, healing, and communal outreach. Open to the public. For more information, click [here](#).



Ferguson Concert Series
Friday, September 20, 2024
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Plaza at 501
501 S. Florissant

Free live concert **featuring Polly and the Pocket.** Admission to each concert is FREE! The special activity of the evening is airbrush tattoos. Attendees should bring their own lawn chairs. Coolers are welcome (no glass) and food will be available for purchase.



UMSL Alumni 5K Run and Walk
Saturday, October 5, 2024
9:00 AM
Starts and finishes on UMSL North Campus

Professionally timed event includes race shirt (for registrants prior to September 14). Awards will be presented in various categories. \$30 Registration fee is \$40. To learn more and



New Childcare Facility Unveiled in Dellwood, Mo.

St. Louis Economic Development Partnership (STL Partnership) news

In Dellwood, Mo., a new childcare establishment has officially been unveiled. This summer, the Brilliant Angel Academy, located at 10148-10208 West Florissant Avenue, had its ribbon cutting ceremony. The center is a pillar of Refuge and Restoration (R&R), a nonprofit organization committed to the cultivation of innovation and brilliance on the socioeconomic scale.... The Brilliant Angel Academy occupies a significant niche within the community, as childcare options were previously limited. The Academy will include high-quality programs serving over 100 preschool-aged children and families. Highly trained staff with well-rounded backgrounds will run high-quality programs that focus on promoting inquisitive thinking, innovation and intuitive perception. The focus of the Academy will be to prioritize the unique needs of individuals, while rooting itself in the latest early childhood development research. [Read more.](#)



Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park Projected to Generate Over \$660 Million in Regional Economic Impact Within 10 Years

Saint Louis Zoo website – news

New fly-through rendering video and an economic impact report released

In case you missed it, this summer the Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Park released a new [fly-through rendering video](#) and an [economic impact report](#) projecting that the project will generate over \$660 million in economic activity across the St. Louis region within the next 10 years. “We are creating a place where endangered and threatened animals can thrive,” said Dwight Scott, Dana Brown President & CEO, Saint Louis Zoo. “But this report makes it clear WildCare Park will help the regional economy thrive too.”

WildCare Park, a safari park and conservation center under development in north St. Louis County, is expected to open to the public in 2027. The economic impact report totals WildCare Park’s estimated operational expenditures, visitor spending both on and off site and the project’s larger impact on regional employment and wages, business sales and tax revenue through 2034. [Read more.](#)

register, click [here.](#)



Dan Brown’s Wild Symphony - a Concert for Kids by SLSO

Saturday, October 5, 2024
3:00 PM - Pre-concert activities
4:00 PM - 45 min. concert
UMSL Touhill Performing Arts Center

Embark on a musical adventure as the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra shares this captivating story of Maestro Mouse and his animal friends for a very wild symphony indeed! Travel through the trees and across the seas to meet a wondrous whale and impatient ponies, busy beetles, and an eager elephant—each with a special secret to share. At the end of the concert, a fun game of “Are You Smarter than a Zookeeper” will put attendees’ animal knowledge to the test! Most enjoyed by ages 5+. For information and tickets, click [here.](#)



Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainability Series

October 10 - 12, 2024
Multiple venues

Presentations and dialogue focus on contemporary indigenous knowledge and environmental sustainability with specialists on the Buffalo Treaty, habitat restoration, food security, economics, sovereignty, and culture. The series launches with a Conservation Forum at the Saint Louis Zoo, and includes a Film Festival



featuring *Singing Back the Buffalo* and *Inskim: Return of the Buffalo* at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. For information and registration for the various events, [click here](#).

Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center catering to guests with an array of interests from across the St. Louis region

The center hosted more than 200 events and counted more than 113,000 patrons during the 2024 fiscal year.

New York Times best-selling author [Stassi Schroeder](#) graces the stage of the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall in the [Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center](#) as she discusses her latest book, “You Can’t Have It All!” in an event sponsored by The Novel Neighbor bookstore. The next night classical music-lovers file into the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater to catch the latest performance of the renowned [Arianna String Quartet](#) as it kicks off its 2024-25 season, playing music from Franz Joseph Haydn, Leoš Janáček and Ludwig van Beethoven in a concert titled “Kreutzer.”...

It [these events] will all make for a fairly typical weekend in the busy life of the Touhill, which last year marked 20 years bringing audiences of all types to the North Campus of the University of Missouri–St. Louis. “We have been booking the heck out of this place because we want to increase UMSL’s visibility in the community, in the region and even nationally,” said Jason Stahr, who serves as the director of the Touhill Performing Arts Center. “We want to show our patrons from all around the area that this is a place to be.” [Read more](#).

Share with Us

We’d love to hear your questions and comments about UMSL and stories about great things happening in our communities. Your thoughts will help shape content covered in future newsletters to be pertinent to you and your neighbors. Leave any suggestions, questions, or stories [here](#). Thank you!



Passport Services at UMSL

By appointment
UMSL Social Science
Building- SSB, room 366

UMSL Passport Services is open to any United States citizen. No university affiliation is required. Appointments may be scheduled at [umsl.edu/passport](#). Passport photos are also available for an additional fee. High school and college students applying for their first U.S. passport may be eligible for the [Brenda Brown Passport Scholarship through Expanding Boundaries International](#). (Note: Expanding Boundaries International is not affiliated with the University of Missouri.) To learn more about UMSL Passport Services, [click here](#), send an email to passport@umsl.edu, or stop by SSB 366.
