# **DONORS&FRIENDS**

#### NEWSLETTER

# **Our Next Leaders Need Your Help**

As we start to see glimmers of recovery, there are students who need your help to be the leaders we will need in the years to come.

By making a generous, philanthropic gift you not only give a student a gift, but invest in our future community leaders, healthcare workers, engineers – the world we all want to see as we recover from the pandemic and well into the future.

It's a hard truth, but it is, unfortunately, the truth – there are exceptional students who want to enroll for the fall semester but simply cannot afford the first tuition payment.

These students are first in their family to go to college. They are veterans. They are in their midtwenties – the average age of an UMSL student. They have jobs – sometime two or three.

They want a career. They want the chance for a different path in life – a path that requires a college education. That path results in better job prospects once they enter the workforce, which strengthens our economy and our communities!

Students want to come to UMSL for the quality education. And even with an affordable tuition, cost can be an issue.

Will you help one of these students earn a degree by removing the barrier of cost?

Your gift to a scholarship fund not only helps a student today, it arms the leaders of tomorrow with a college education.

Please, make your most meaningful gift today.

With your support, students who never thought they'd be able to afford a college education will have the chance to walk across the graduation stage, diploma in hand.

YES! I want to help a student struggling to afford the next tuition payment by making a gift to a scholarship fund.

Consider what you can do to help a student earn a degree:

- $\square$  \$40 could cover the cost of one day of one class - including books and supplies – for one student.
- $\square$  \$80 could ensure two days of learning for one student.
- $\square$  \$200 could cover an entire week.

☐ I am pleased to make my most meaningful gift

- which I know will be put to use where it's needed most, having the greatest impact on the life of an UMSL student.

To make a gift online, please visit giving.umsl.edu/ transformlives

#### **You Turned Her Doubt** Into "I Can!"

Your thoughtful generosity made sure Samantha had a place at UMSL. Now she is helping build our future.

"Part of me wonders whether I would be an engineering major without this support."

Early last year we told you about Samantha – she'd always been told 'girls don't study science and math' and worried she'd never be able to make the world a little better by doing what she loved.

Well, thanks to you, Samantha is now a junior studying engineering — exactly as she planned. Your kind gift turned that "You can't do that!" into a bold "I will!"

Already taking on the world and ready to make a difference, Samantha's had experiences she couldn't have dreamed of attending the Grace Hopper Conference for women in IT around the world and presenting a summer project on robot programming in Washington, DC.

Of course balancing her studies during the pandemic has been a challenge, but Samantha has grabbed onto every opportunity that's come her way. She's

"If I could say anything to the donor who made my education possible, I'd say, 'Thank you! I promise to pay it forward!""





been active with the Missouri Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation and definitely embraced the learning curve that came with using machining tools for the first time.

Samantha says it's the professors, particularly Dr. Paulette Isaac-Savage, who have challenged her to work towards opportunities, even when she's hesitant to. She's learning to push herself and dream bigger than she did before and is looking forward to putting

Samantha expresses the joy she has for you and other donors who lift her up by telling her "You can do it!"

Inset: UMSL Engineering students gathered outside the Orange County Convention Center during the 2019 Grace Hopper Celebration in Orlando, Florida, Samantha is second from the left.

her newfound skills to work after graduation.

Thanks to you, she's well on her way to building a future we will all be the beneficiary of.

*In this Issue:* 







### You're Helping Take Health Care Where It's Needed Most

When the pandemic first started, Jacquelyn was worried but confident. "This is why I went into health care. I want to make a difference."

Your generous support of scholarship programs made sure that nursing student Jacquelyn Green could follow her passion — a dream that was born in 5th grade when she happened upon a novel about Mercy Ships. This charitable organization sends hospital ships to some of the hardest hit areas in the world, staffed by health care volunteers and aid workers.

"I feel super blessed to get that scholarship... I feel very thankful for that!"

- JACQUELYN GREEN



That book charted the course for her life, but the financial realities of studying what she longed to do nearly cut her goals short. The day before starting at Saint Louis University, she had to withdraw. Because of you, Jacquelyn will bring life-saving medical care to under-resourced communities.

She was devastated – but because of the UMSL Women Scholarship, made possible by donors like you – Jacquelyn is now at UMSL and will graduate with her BSN this summer.

After graduation, Jacquelyn still wants to volunteer for those Mercy Ships – and she plans to work as a travel nurse, going wherever the greatest needs are.

Thanks to your thoughtfulness, Jacquelyn will be turning that scholarship into a lifelong vocation of caring for those who need her the most.



#### You Rank Number One With Us

Because of you, UMSL continues to top the charts!

Any university is as much a community as it is an institution of learning. The UMSL community is a special one, thanks to you and your caring support of students. With you, we celebrate recent recognition in national rankings:

- Business Insider ranked UMSL No. 1 in Missouri for affordability, proving that UMSL students enjoy the best educational value in the state.
- US News ranks UMSL No. 42 nationally for online bachelor's programs - and the second in Missouri!
- Forbes Magazine named UMSL one of "America's Best Colleges" based on the things that matter most to students: quality of teaching, great career prospects, graduation rates and low levels of debt.
- At **No. 52 globally**, UMSL is one of only 12 U.S. universities to be named amongst the Top 100 best universities for reducing inequalities.

"So many of our students have to juggle the responsibilities of working while going to school, and the quality and flexibility of our online programs are vital to helping them achieve their educational goals."

 MARIE MORA, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Thank you for being a valued partner!

## **Homecoming The Triton Way**

Homecoming might have looked a little different, but traditions — like giving — were still at its core!

True to our spirit of always innovating and being ready to meet whatever needs arise, UMSL students weren't going to let the COVID-19 pandemic stop them from celebrating Homecoming!

Dubbed the Triton FAN-demic, some familiar traditions, like the Chili Feed, were still a part of the socially distanced celebrations, and this year featured some new fun ideas like a campuswide scavenger hunt and a Cell Phone Smackdown Game Show.

In the true spirit of giving, which your thoughtfulness inspires in all of us, each

homecoming royalty candidate helped collect canned food donations, masks and hand sanitizer for the Homecoming Service Drive. All proceeds were donated to the Triton Pantry and the Pagedale Family Support Center.

To wrap up the Homecoming celebrations, each candidate raised money from family and friends for an UMSL scholarship that is meaningful to the student. Many of the candidates are scholarship recipients themselves and took on this challenge as a way of paying forward the support they've received! Each of the eight students had a goal of \$800, but they didn't stop there! In total they raised \$7,756 for eight unique scholarship funds.

TRITON

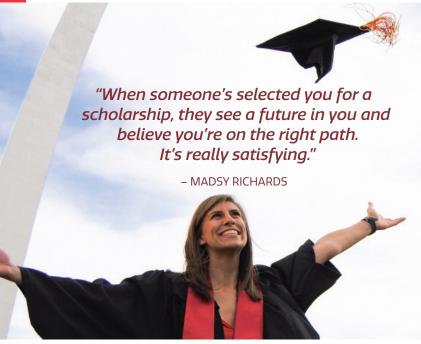


Senior Madison Bruns and Sophomore Tyler Haynes, 2021 Homecoming Royalty Court winners, raised a combined \$3,636 for scholarships.



"The scholarship means a lot to me as I have had to work hard to receive a variety of academic scholarships. I want to help our incredible students in the St. Louis area reach their educational goals!"

- CLAIRE KRUSIE, Elementary Education (2021), '21 Homecoming Court Candidate



When she thought she wouldn't be able to attend college your kindness encouraged Madsy to find her path to graduation by easing her burden of affording it.

#### Scholarships Do More Than Educate

FAN-DEMIC

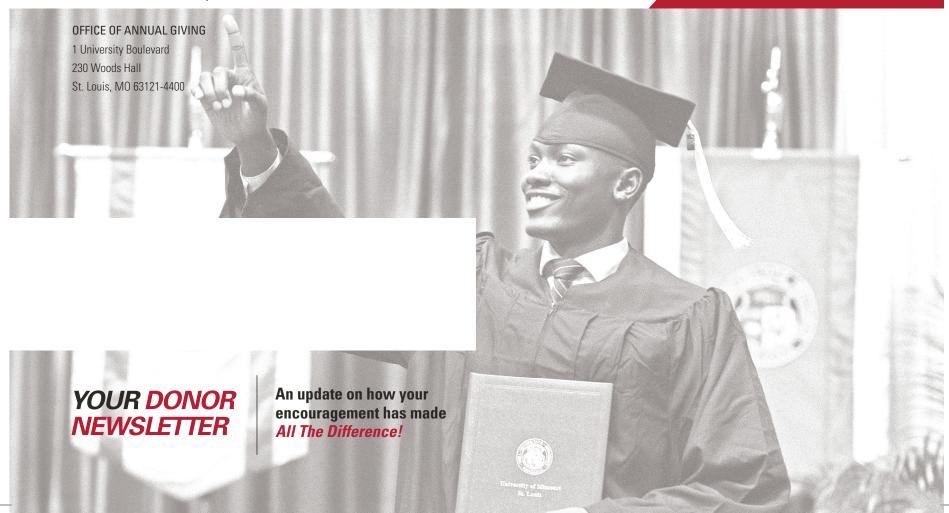
You are preparing tomorrow's leaders to build the world we all want to see.

Recent graduate Madsy Richards knows what it's like to benefit from a scholarship. "It means a lot that people decided to invest back in the university — and in the students — by giving us the opportunity to make education possible."

Your gift to UMSL encourages students like Madsy. It shows them a path forward and opens doors to their future, preparing them to take on the world's biggest challenges, tackling the opportunities we don't even know exist yet.

Madsy is moving to Seattle, Washington to begin her career at Boeing, where she hopes to spend a year at one of Boeing's international offices. Your gift of scholarship is helping her soar to new heights.





I am SO PROUD of what we've accomplished at UMSL! I am happy to continue to encourage and empower students.

Your secure gift online will help a student today. giving.umsl.edu/TransformLives\_TQ



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