

# The Newsletter for Donors and Friends of UMSL

## NOW MORE THAN EVER, a college degree is critical in helping students fulfill their goals and realize their dreams.

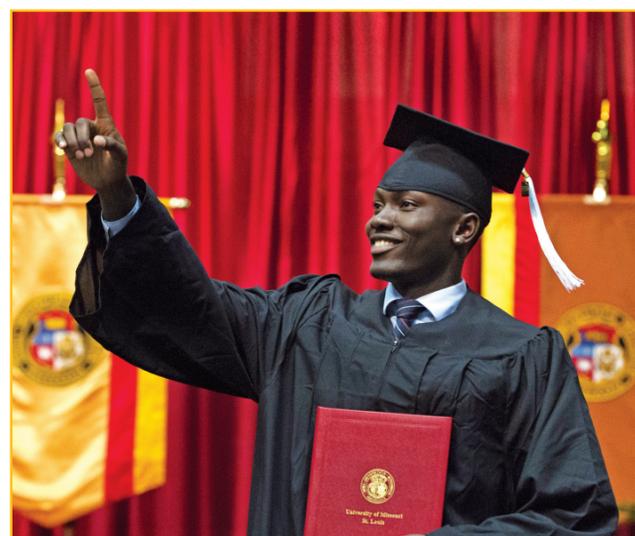
*An UMSL degree prepares them to take on the world, prepared for whatever opportunities they may face.*

Your incredibly generous support **encourages** incoming students by making sure scholarships are available for those who fear their college dreams are financially out of reach.



You **empower** students, helping them stay in school and focused on their studies, knowing that an investment in education is not just on that one student, but in our larger community. Educated, prepared, confident UMSL alumni entering the workforce and taking on tomorrow's leadership roles mean a stronger, more vibrant community for all of us.

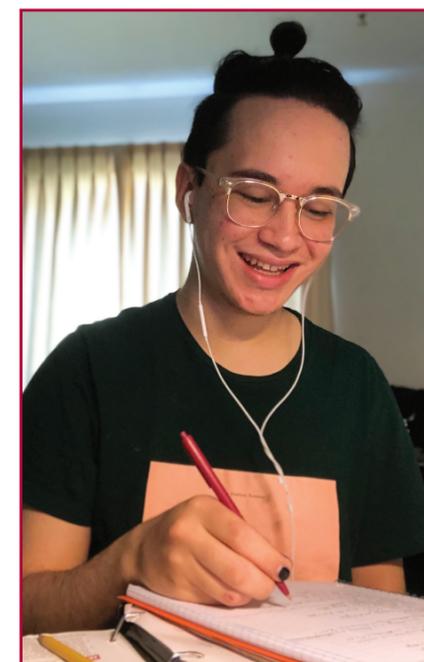
You **educate** current students, making cutting-edge, real-world studies available to them – giving faculty the resources to adjust and adapt, responsive to an ever-changing landscape.



**YES!** I believe in the importance of an excellent college education for everyone who needs it, and educate, encourage, and empower students through my gift.

- \$40 could provide one day of class for a deserving student
- \$80 could provide two days of class, including needed books and supplies
- \$125 would cover a month's utilities for a student in financial distress
- I am pleased to make my most generous 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](https://giving.umsl.edu/transformlives)**



## From worry and fear to confidence in the classroom – you brought Brandon to UMSL!

*Without a scholarship, Brandon's hopes for college and his future were dim. But you knew better. With your generous gift and his hard work, just look where Brandon is now . . .*

Just a few months ago, Brandon's future looked so uncertain. A recent high school graduate with a thirst for knowledge and a big dream to pursue, there was no way his family could afford to send him to college without help. His dad had quit working to care for his mom; Brandon worked and went to school to help the family make ends meet. No matter the challenge, though, his parents had encouraged him from his earliest school days to get his college degree.

*(Read more of how your kindness is making Brandon's education possible on page 3)*

## Critical care during the pandemic; you're giving nursing students real-world skills.

*Getting the clinical hours needed to graduate and helping with hands-on work, all part of the Nursing School's adjustment to virtual learning.*

How do you get experience working with patients in a clinical setting during pandemic? On the phone! Assistant Teaching Professor Beth Dudley got the idea that nursing students could still learn how to take health histories by phone calls to local nursing home residents. The students are learning to talk to patients and bringing some much-needed company to seniors who haven't been able to visit loved ones.

Nursing students have also been learning – and helping – by screening Amazon delivery workers for coronavirus and contact tracking with the St. Charles County Public Health Department.

Your gift in action is bringing irreplaceable educational experiences for nursing students and needed help to the community. **Thank you!**



*Your gift teaches nursing students needed skills during the pandemic.*



### UMSL in the Top 100, Thanks to You!

Your philanthropy empowers social mobility, making the prospects for UMSL students after graduation higher

In a recent U.S. News & World Report ranking, UMSL landed in the top 100 universities for social mobility – meaning that more students have access to an UMSL education because scholarships are available, there are fewer obstacles to attending college, and there’s more support while they’re here in school.

A college degree is more important than ever in building financial and employment security after graduation. UMSL students are not only able to attend college but have a greater chance for success because of the services, programs, and support available to them.



Honors College students – empowered by your scholarship support – learn in small-group, seminar-style sessions

#### The Pierre Laclède Society honors and recognizes the generosity of those who share in Laclède’s enterprising spirit by supporting others’ pursuit of knowledge and opportunity.

Society members empower tomorrow’s leaders by encouraging today’s students with philanthropic contributions of \$1,000 or more annually. Gifts are often made in multiple installments, monthly or quarterly.

For more information, or to join the Pierre Laclède Society, please contact us at pls@umsl.edu.

### Brandon’s Story Continued . . .

Brandon remembers, so well, sitting on his mother’s lap, listening to her read to him – stories like Yellow Raft, Blue Water and To Kill A Mockingbird. She taught him to love language and words. She inspired him to crave learning and reading, encouraged his studies and taught him to believe he could be and do anything.

When she fell ill, his dad stepped in as her caretaker, nearly full-time. Brandon helped and balanced his high school studies while working after school and on the weekends to help keep the family going.

That dream of a college education – the dream his mother taught him and his father encouraged – started to seem impossible.

“I know I have something important to do – something important to contribute to the world, but without a scholarship there was just no way my family could have afforded to send me to college.”

Brandon found his way to UMSL. He is now a sophomore studying Communication and plans to use what he’s learning here, along with that love of stories, to work in the nonprofit sector, helping others and working to make the world a better place.

He attends classes during the day, works in the afternoon and evenings, and then returns home to help his dad take care of his mom. For him, it’s all worth it . . .

“I’m where I’m supposed to be. There are so many opportunities open to me here – things I never would have found if it weren’t for the scholarship I received. Thank you.”

“I know I have something important to do – something important to contribute to the world, but without a scholarship there was just no way my family could have afforded to send me to college.” —Brandon



Robin Kimberlin bringing a donation of food to the UMSL Triton Pantry.

### In their time of greatest need you were there.

#### Triton Emergency Fund

Since April 1, 2020 you’ve fed, housed, and taken care of over 100 students through the Triton Emergency Fund.

Director of Student Social Services, Robin Kimberlin, says it best:

“These students are STRUGGLING. Most of the financial assistance helped students stay housed, plain and simple. When the Stay At Home Order started, lots of our students were impacted with complete loss of income. Donors’ contributions helped with rent and keeping utilities on while they waited for unemployment. This was VERY critical timing and allowed students to stay safe and stable – and continue with classes. Now we’re seeing a lot of students in financial crisis due to loss of income because they’re home with their children who are also studying from home. They’re literally unable to work because they’re home with their kids.”

### UMSL COOKS! Join in on the paella challenge

Dean Ed Munn Sanchez of the Honors College recently held an online, virtual cooking demonstration along with alumnus Brian Owens, a soul singer and Music Artist in Residence. Why? To bring the UMSL community together as part of the “Crafts In Your Kitchen” online events sharing great food and community with UMSL alumni and friends.

Join the fun with this classic Spanish dish. You can watch the recording and download the recipe at blogs.umsl.edu/news and search for “Paella.” Post your success and share with everyone how yours turned out by tagging your picture #UMSLPaella!

