

# ADVANCEMENTS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION | FALL 2020



*A new name for a college.  
The largest scholarship gift in university history.  
A game-changing elevation of the arts on campus.  
All because of a Missouri State University love story.*



## *Welcome to the* **JUDITH ENYEART REYNOLDS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS**



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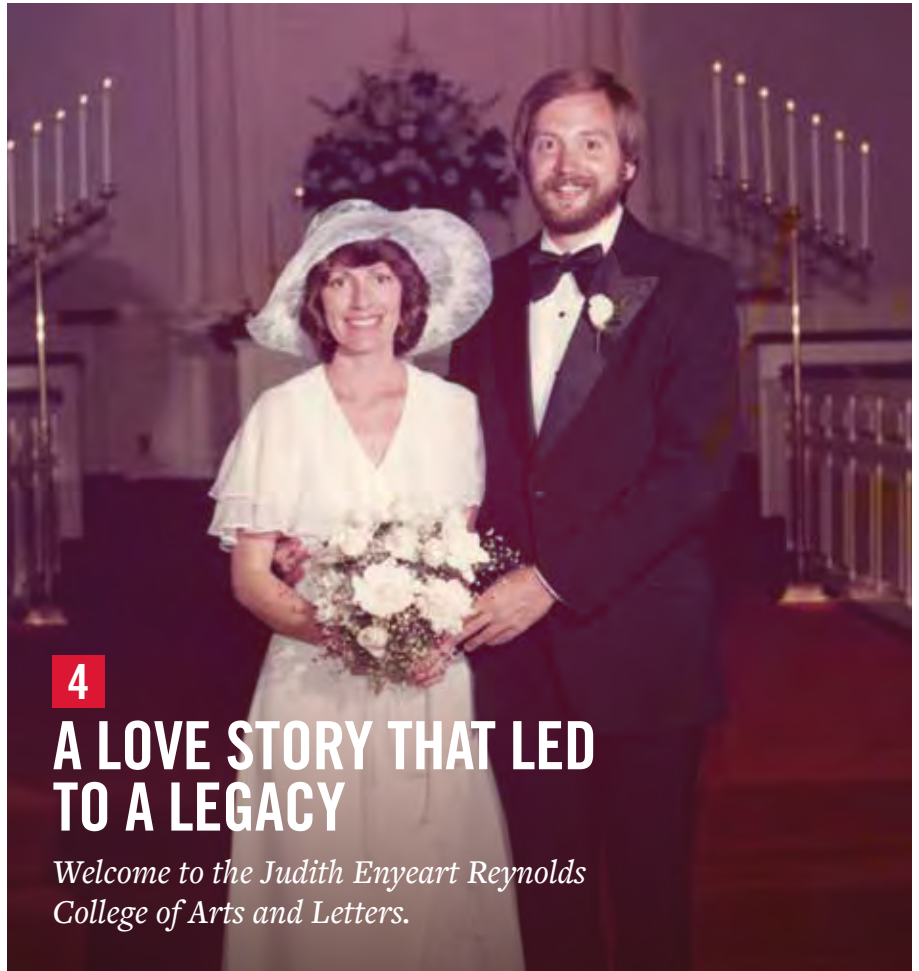
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4

## A LOVE STORY THAT LED TO A LEGACY

*Welcome to the Judith Enyeart Reynolds  
College of Arts and Letters.*

### 14 SEEING CAMPUS THROUGH THE CRISIS

When COVID-19 struck, the Missouri State University Foundation found ways to help. Students share how this support mattered, in their own words.

### 18 THREE DONORS SHARE WHY THEY CREATED SCHOLARSHIPS

When you establish a scholarship, you can designate it to benefit any area that matters to you. These donors tell you why they gave to areas close to their hearts.

### 24 MEET A FOUNDATION TRUSTEE: NITA JANE AYRES

Nita Jane Ayres established an endowed scholarship for future teachers in honor of her beloved grandmother Fern Ayres, a Missouri State graduate.

### 28 5 QUESTIONS WITH A CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER

Tim Foote transferred to Missouri State, and was a first-generation student. Now, he's a successful businessman who gives back to his alma mater in many ways.

### 30 FACES OF THE FOUNDATION MEET KELSEY MENELEE

### 32 IN MEMORIAM REMEMBERING TWO SUPPORTERS WE LOST

### 35 CONTACT US THE STAFF MEMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW



## BRENT'S CORNER

# WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH

*Bears help Bears: That has never been more true than it is now.*

### YOU HAVE TRULY HUMBLLED US.

How is it, that during a pandemic, you have helped us have a record year in the history of the Missouri State University Foundation?

Let me say that again: During a terrible crisis, your support has helped us have a record-breaking year of private fundraising support. In Fiscal Year 2020, alumni and friends of the university donated \$22,663,988 in gifts.

That means crucial support for Missouri State University, and for students, faculty and staff, during this time of uncertainty.

It means support for the physical campus as we continue to build a destination campus with the best facilities and resources.

And it means a lot more support for students in the form of scholarships.

Scholarships are one of our main campaign goals because they have the power to transform lives.

In this issue of Advancements, we'll give you a deeper look at scholarships. We will show you the impact they have on our students, introduce you to members of our Bear family who have chosen to establish these gifts and explore why they felt called to do so.

You empower Bears by supporting scholarships. These gifts help us enroll the most talented and promising students, regardless of their ability to pay. Your gift is an investment in a student's success.

I know many of us will remember 2020 as a challenging year. But because of you, we have never been more sure that Bears band together. Because of you, Bears don't have to put their dreams on hold in times of disaster.

Your impact on the lives of Missouri State students will forever be appreciated and celebrated.

Go Bears!

**W. Brent Dunn**

*Vice president for university advancement and executive director of the Missouri State University Foundation*

## THE TOP 5 THINGS I'VE LEARNED SO FAR DURING THE PANDEMIC

### I'M A PEOPLE PERSON. ACTUALLY, I'M AN "IN-PERSON" PERSON.

Let's talk Zoom meetings. In the beginning, I liked the novelty, the convenience and the ability to work from home this platform provides us. You can even see some images from meetings we held with donors on page 23.

But I learned something: Nothing replaces the feeling of being in a room with you.

I have appreciated the opportunities created by virtual visits. I have been part of connecting donors and scholarship recipients via Zoom, and it is refreshing to watch those interactions of gratitude and be present as experiences are shared.

I know virtual connections are a necessity during the pandemic. I am grateful they give us the chance to visit our Bear family near and far. They are here to stay for now — and likely into the future, as a more personal way to connect with people from around the country and globe.

But when we're all healthy and it's safe to be in a room with you, that will always be my preference.

### I MISSED THE HUSTLE OF MY PRE-PANDEMIC SCHEDULE.

Just refer back to number one. I went from a sunup to sundown schedule, with work in the day and events almost every night, to ... working from home and not a whole lot of places to go.

I missed the lunches, dinners, talks, the hustle and the bustle.

Slowly my schedule is getting back to pre-COVID levels. That's OK, because I enjoy engagement and social interaction. For me, sitting across a table, chatting casually, is fun and meaningful.

I get my energy and best ideas from being with other people.

### BEARS OF ALL AGES ARE PAYING IT FORWARD.

A lot of new, young graduates have given to the university for the first time during this crisis. Many supported the emergency funds for current students, because they feel so keenly what the Bears of today are going through. A short time ago they were students themselves, so they can relate.

I appreciate all gifts, but these have a special meaning. I feel a great sense of pride that these young graduates, who are just starting their careers, think enough of their fellow Bears to support them.

It gives me a sense of purpose, and peace of mind that the university's future is in safe hands.

### WHEN I GET READY, I FEEL READY.

If you know me, you know I generally wear traditional business clothes. I am a suit-and-tie type of guy.

When we first started working from home, it was kind of nice. No tie, a golf shirt every day. I could have even worn shorts, and no one would have been the wiser.

But, just like I started to miss people, I actually started to miss wearing the full work attire.

It's a routine, and I like routine. I have figured out that dressing for the day helps me be more focused. It makes me feel better about myself, what I am doing and what I need to accomplish.

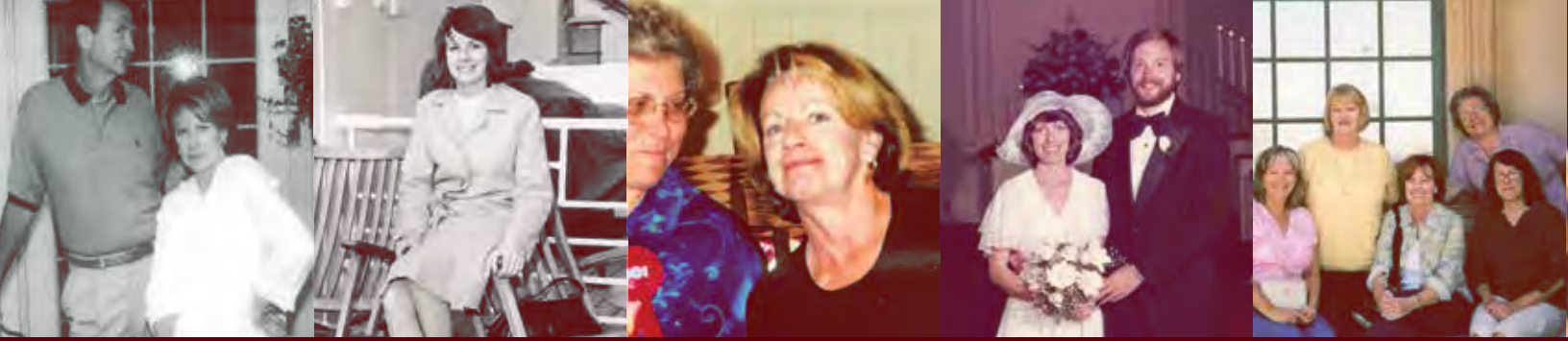
### EVERYONE HAS TO FIND THEIR "GOLF."

Everyone has their method for coping, and golf is mine. What better way of getting through this than to get outdoors?

I can play by myself, or socially distanced outside with others. Even when I don't score well and get frustrated, it's rejuvenating for me.

What refreshes you? What do you appreciate now, more than ever?

I wish you the best with your "golf," whatever that may be.





*A love story leads to a legacy.*

*Welcome to the*  
**JUDITH ENYEART  
REYNOLDS  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND LETTERS**

BY MICHELLE S. ROSE AND MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS  
VIDEO INTERVIEWS BY CHRIS NAGLE



## *The first time Tim Reynolds ever saw Judith Enyeart, he said to himself: “Who is that?!”*

He was attracted to her right away.

He was a senior at Missouri State, then SMS, and he was eating at Enyeart’s Charcoal House on Campbell Avenue.

“I knew she knew the people who owned the restaurant, because she was back behind the counter talking to them.”

Turns out it was the Enyeart family restaurant. Tim ate there a few more times that year, and sometimes he would see Judith.

“But there was never the opportunity to start a conversation,” he said. He tucked it away as a missed opportunity.

He graduated in 1965 with a bachelor’s in education with an emphasis in theatre. He then went into the Navy.

After his military service ended, he got a job. He also started working on a graduate degree at Missouri State.

“I had finished my master’s degree, with the exception of publishing the thesis.”

At that time, a thesis had to be professionally and perfectly typed, and there had to be three clean copies of it.

He paid an administrative assistant to type it for him — and she gave him a tip that would change his life.

“She said, ‘If you will take this down to the English department, they have one of the new copiers. They’ll copy it for you for a fee.’”

When he arrived at the English department office, “Guess who’s sitting there? That good-looking woman from Enyeart’s Charcoal House. We had a nice conversation. She copied my thesis. I asked her for a date and she said yes.”

## **SHE LOVED WORKING ON CAMPUS**

That was around 1972, the year Tim earned a Master of Arts degree in theatre.

But Judith, or Judy, as her friends call her, had been at Missouri State for a few years at that time. She attended the university, and in 1966 was hired by Dr. George Gleason, then the head of the English department, as a secretary.

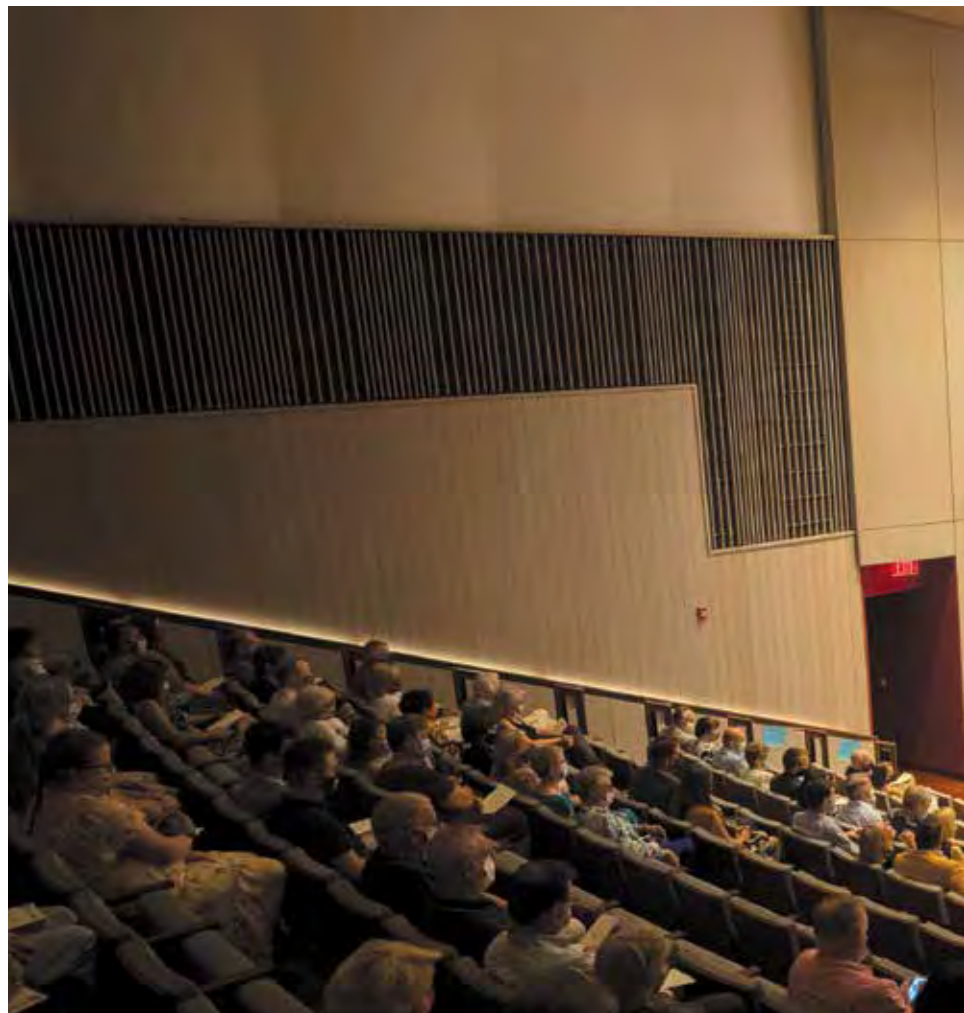
“It was just like a family,” Tim Reynolds said. The department and campus were full of gatherings, food and camaraderie. “She loved the people here. She loved working on the campus, and it’s great being around young people because they have energy and

*Continued on page 9*



*“Not only did I get an education at Missouri State, I got a wife, a companion, a lover, a best friend. I owe Missouri State. Go Bears.”*

— TIM REYNOLDS, '65 & '72





Tim Reynolds reacts to videos about Judith



A ceremony to mark the new college name was held July 28

# MEET SOME OF THE FIRST REYNOLDS SCHOLARS

*Here are edited excerpts of letters written by the recipients.*



Tim Reynolds and some of the first scholarship recipients

**When I received the call informing me about the scholarship, I was ecstatic and immediately called my mother.** I come from a small town in Nebraska and knew that college was my way to seek new and better opportunities.

I am a first-generation student and my mom's second child to attend a university.

I began dancing at 5 years old. With this scholarship, I will be able to continue dancing and working in theatre. College is helping me find who I want to be.

Once again, I would like to thank you for letting me be a Judith Enyeart Reynolds Scholar.

**BIRIRIANA BALAND**  
DANCE MAJOR

**My dream is to pursue a career in teaching music so that I can instill the same kind of love and appreciation in my future students that my music educators have instilled in me.** I plan to graduate in 2024 and immediately start my career. Thanks to your scholarship, I will be able to see my dreams come true.

**ROBERT OFFUTT**  
MUSIC EDUCATION MAJOR

**Back home in Jefferson City, my family consists of my single mother and my two siblings who are toddlers.** My family has always struggled financially, barely making ends meet. My mother did not have the ability to help me pay for school. I work a full-time job and also had to use student loans to help me pay for my tuition. My family and I were overwhelmed with joy when we received the news. I cannot explain how grateful and honored I am that you chose me as a recipient of this amazing scholarship.

I am a fine arts major with an emphasis in painting. I plan to pursue a career in teaching. I would also love to own my own studio where I can commission pieces. My last very important goal for myself is to potentially have my work displayed in an exhibit in a museum. Thanks to your generous scholarship I will be able to work less, allowing me to focus more on my school and goals for the future.

**MADISON SPARKS**  
FINE ARTS MAJOR

**I have been raised by my single mom for the last several years and we are excited that I will be the first in our family to go**

**away to college.** Receiving this scholarship will lessen the financial burden and stress that comes with college cost and loans. Upon graduation, I plan to teach in either Illinois or Missouri. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to receive this scholarship.

**HANNAH CASON**  
ENGLISH EDUCATION MAJOR

**I am so proud to say that I am the first in my generation in progress to receive a bachelor's degree!** On my father's side, he and my grandfather were able to acquire some sort of formal education. On my mother's side, however, I am the first to obtain a degree of any kind. My grandmother is from Brazil, and she moved here around her late teens. She wasn't able to obtain a formal education, but she's always stressed to me and my brother how important it is.

From a young age, I always knew I wanted to pursue some career in the arts. When I got the call that I received the Judith Enyeart Reynolds Scholarship, I freaked out! The financial security it will allow me to have is so comforting, and I don't think I will ever live this down! I am so appreciative!

**TAYLOR HAHNER**  
DANCE MAJOR

**I'm a 19 year-old sophomore who resides in Springfield with her mother.** I commute back and forth from school to my home, but my heart doesn't feel at home until I step back into New York City, where the majority of my family resides. I come from a large Italian family, consisting of hard-working mothers, daughters, aunts and cousins.

I'm very proud to be able to tell my aunts and cousins in New York that I attend college and I've been blessed with the opportunity for a scholarship funding my dreams further, especially since I am the first of my family. The Judith Enyeart Reynolds



Scholarship has taken a very large weight off of my shoulders, humbled me and made me even more excited than I already am for my education!

**NYAH KARSTEN**  
ELECTRONIC ARTS/COMPUTER  
ANIMATION MAJOR

**My hobbies are dance, filming and lifting people up in a positive way.** On campus, I am involved in the Association of Black Collegians, Bears L.E.A.D., TRIO and the African Student Association. During my time at Missouri State University I plan on joining many different organizations, building my network and making more films.

By awarding me the Judith Enyeart Reynolds Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden. This allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school: learning. I hope one day I will also be able to help struggling students reach their goals in higher education by assisting them in the same way you have helped me.

**TIA LATIMER**  
DIGITAL FILM AND TELEVISION  
PRODUCTION MAJOR

**I am a sophomore at Missouri State this fall. I am also a first-generation college student.** I plan to pursue a career as a graphic designer at a design firm, as well as working as a freelance designer on the side. My dream is to be able to make a living by doing what I love, which is art. I've always been passionate about it and couldn't imagine pursuing a career that doesn't allow me to express my creativity.

Growing up, my family experienced poverty and many hardships, which is why I chose to attend college and pursue a better life for myself. Words

cannot express how relieving it feels to know I won't have to worry about paying for school. I want to say thank you for investing in my education and I will forever be grateful for this scholarship.

**JESSICA MABRY**  
GRAPHIC DESIGN MAJOR

**I come from a single-parent household, and I will be the first in my family to further my education at Missouri State University.** I plan to acquire an English degree and pursue my passion for the written word.

Your scholarship has relieved a lot of the stress weighing down on me, allowing me to focus more on my college education. I deeply appreciate what you have done for me and look forward to starting the next chapter of my life at Missouri State.

**ASHLYNN PIKE**  
ENGLISH MAJOR

**I come from a rather messy childhood home.** Neither of my biological parents went to college. We were poor. So, to say the least, I feel like no one really had very high hopes for me in the beginning. However, in early elementary school, people started to notice my intelligence in school. I have gained a passion for learning.

I firmly believe that communication is the very foundation of education, and that is why I chose to focus on the subject. This scholarship will aid me in paying for my education. I am honored. I hope to make you proud, and I promise I will use this aid to follow my dreams. I will repay you by doing my very best to represent Missouri State University and the College of Art and Letters with pride.

**GEORGIA GRACE WRIGHT**  
COMMUNICATION STUDIES MAJOR  
WITH A MINOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY

*Continued from page 6*

they're enthusiastic, and they know no limitations."

During his career, Tim taught English and dramatics at Glendale High School.

Judy retired in the mid-1990s, and they were able to travel and enjoy each other's company. She is now experiencing some health issues that kept her from attending the celebration of the college's name.

## **"THIS GIFT WILL CHANGE LIVES"**

In addition to being a retired teacher, Tim is the trustee of the C.W. Titus Foundation, a philanthropic trust.

The C.W. Titus Foundation has supported many projects at Missouri State and around Springfield.

"I got a call in the middle of April from Tim to talk about how to honor Judy," said President Clif Smart.

That chat led to a transformational gift.

The College of Arts and Letters will now be known forever as the Judith Enyeart Reynolds College of Arts and Letters.

"This is only the third college that has been named in the whole 115 year history of Missouri State," said Brent Dunn, vice president for university advancement. "This gift will change lives."

The naming support has several parts:

- **It is the largest scholarship gift in the history of the university.**

Each year, more than 15 students will become Reynolds Scholars. They will receive \$10,000 a year toward their education — essentially a full scholarship.

That number will grow so that eventually there will be more than 50 Reynolds Scholars on campus at a time.

"This gift fulfills both personal dreams and structural dreams," said Dr. Shawn Wahl, dean of the Reynolds College of Arts and Letters. "When I talk about personal dreams, I mean that it takes away economic barriers. If I have a potential student who dreams of being an English major, or a band director, or any major in the college, who has fears related to paying for college, this allows us to offer a very substantial scholarship. That will help them move past those economic barriers so we can say yes, join us at Missouri State University."

Students interested in any department, program or major in the college may apply for these scholarships.

*Continued on page 12*

*A sharp, shining wit.  
A love for pranks and laughter.  
A passion for the arts and helping students.  
One half of a true love story.*

# WHO IS JUDITH ENYEART REYNOLDS?

*Her MSU friends share stories about her time on campus and beyond.*

## ANN FUHRMAN

—  
Staff emeritus/former United Nations librarian at Meyer Library, worked at Missouri State from 1997-2015

### How do you know Judith?

When I started here as staff in the English department, I'd never worked on a college campus before. In the beginning, it was a little overwhelming.

Someone thought it would be helpful for me to get to know Judy Reynolds. By that time Judy had retired, but she helped me settle in. I owe a lot of my happiness working here to my friendship with Judy.

She said you've got to remember, we're here for the students first and foremost. She was so good with students. A lot

of times, the people who are in those administrative positions, like her, are the first point of contact. I just talked to a former student worker who said, "You have no idea the impact she had on me." I know students who say she was an enormous influence on their lives.

### How would you describe her?

The first thing that comes to mind is, of course, funny. She sees the humor in almost any situation. I remember her laughing with Dr. David Belcher (former dean of the College of Arts and Letters). If you knew him, you'll know he just cackled. Their senses of humor were remarkably alike.

We also share a love of mysteries. She was a great public



*"Judy would make you feel that you counted. You mattered."*

library supporter and a great shopper — she always had great shopping advice!

And she is Missouri State through and through. She is devoted to Missouri State.

### What does this gift mean to Missouri State?

What the C.W. Titus Foundation has done to support the arts and education in this community is just wonderful.

Tim and Judith are very understated and quiet about their giving. But this is the start

of something quite remarkable.

The students who have the scholarships, including those first-generation ones, are going to go out and affect so many

other lives. It is truly a gift that will keep on giving. There will be exponential good from this.

### What does this gift mean to you as her friend?

It moves me to tears, frankly.

I don't think in her wildest dreams, she would ever have imagined such a marvelous tribute. And it's perfect in so many ways. She really is one of the College of Arts and Letters' biggest fans.

## DR. KRIS SUTLIFF, '72

—  
Professor emeritus in the English department; worked at Missouri State from 1979-2016

### How do you know Judith?

Judy Reynolds was my first friend at MSU, or SMS, when I came here and she was the secretary to the English department head. She became the one through whose eyes I first saw the department — a "here's where the bodies are buried" type of friend.

Judy and I just thought alike.

Now, I would put Judy in my top five friends forever.

### What does the Missouri State College of Arts and Letters mean to Tim and Judy?

They were always immersed in the college.

Dr. George Gleason (then head of the English department) hired Judy when she really needed a job. She became head secretary of what was then probably the largest department on campus. She was fiercely loyal to him and our faculty.

Tim and Judy held season

tickets to Tent Theatre. They supported bringing the public television station here.

When Dr. David Belcher was the dean, they would have fundraising dinners at their house. He was a masterful pianist, and Judy has a grand piano. David Belcher would go to their house to practice. And she'd be the only one home, going about her business, cooking dinner and listening to David play the piano. I remember how much she enjoyed that.

They have always been the ultimate fans of arts.

### How would you describe Tim and Judy?

They are a good couple. Tim told me he's glad they were able to retire early enough that they've been able to travel and just enjoy each other's company.

They love cats. They are crazy about their cats. They are crazy about their kids, Mike and Megan, of course — but they are really, really crazy about cats.

Judy also loves bunnies and pumpkins, so Easter and Halloween are her favorite holidays and she always decorates to the hilt.



## CHYREL LOVE MILLER

—  
Professor emeritus of choreography; worked at Missouri State from 1972-2000

### How do you know Judith?

I got to know Judy because she was the English department secretary, and I was an instructor in theatre and dance.

We spent the beginning of our careers getting acquainted over students who needed to be in an English class or needed to be in a theatre class. And as you know, if you want anything done, you go to the secretary of the department!

Judy would laugh and say, "OK, what do you need?" And by the time we would leave, Judy had that student enrolled in a class. I was eternally grateful and knew she would always have my back.

She ruled the English department with ease and humor and a steel hand.

I also was privileged to have a personal relationship with Judy and Tim through their love of the arts, and from them attending my Pilates studio.

My husband and I would have dinner at their house. We would laugh and joke about their travels. I got to watch their children grow up. And Tim would fix us dinner. I will never forget the homemade fettuccine he used to do. Judy and I would sit and drink wine and watch Tim cook.

I have a daughter that Judy and Tim both know, and so we would swap stories as our children grew up.

Judy now has a grandson who is the delight of her life, and is her heart and soul.



*"Her spirit and laughter are like a ray of sunshine."*

### How would you describe Tim and Judith?

Anytime she came into my studio, or anytime I entered the English office, she was laughing and had a joke. She has a sharp wit. You had to keep up with her rapidly or she would be all over you and then die laughing about it.

Judy and Tim have a relationship like no other; the two of them are polar opposite. When the two of them are together, you never know what's going to come out. She jokes.

She is the comedian. He is the straight man.

And yet you can see the love in his eyes. He always makes sure that she is taken care of. He is the gentleman who opens the door for her and has her coat.

### What does this gift mean to you as her friend?

It makes me warm inside because I know it's done for love.

She cherished her time at the university, and now all students who come through will benefit from the fact that she was here.

It's really exciting, because everybody down the road will ask "Who is Judy Enyeart Reynolds?" and she will have her story told over and over again.



*"British philosopher and writer G.K. Chesterton wrote that the reason angels can fly is because they take themselves lightly. And that is Judy Reynolds."*

Judy also loves Peeps. She's eaten so many, it's a wonder she has a tooth in her head.

I would list her love for bunnies and pumpkins and Peeps right up there with her love for Missouri State and the arts.

### What are some of your favorite stories about Judy?

Most of my Judy stories are funny stories, and some I can't tell on the record.

She and I enjoyed pulling pranks, including feeding jalapeno slices to one faculty member but telling him it was

pickled okra. We've probably spent hours laughing about that.

One time we kidnapped a fancy, special wooden camel that a department head had brought back from traveling. We got in his office with the help of his secretary. We would cut letters out of The Standard to write ransom notes. We kept the camel for about a month and then we let it go home.

When I was a new faculty member here, I took a graduate

course. The teacher and Judy cooked up a plan that they would retype my first big paper and introduce all kinds of errors into it.

They had great fun. You could imagine, here I am, the only teacher in the class, and I'm sitting there with the students when he hands the papers back. Mine has red ink all over it. It's just bleeding.

There are students on both sides who are probably thinking, "And she's a teacher?!"

Judy went to a lot of trouble to do that typing. She got me!

Continued from page 9

One criteria meant a lot to Reynolds as he was establishing the gift.

“I thought it was important to give some preference to first-generation students.”

Judy herself was a first-generation student when she attended.

“A lot of these young people out there need a break, and some of them are very deserving of that break,” Reynolds said. “They’re good scholars and they will make a difference in the world.”

Reynolds Scholars will have the chance to get to know Tim, and each other.

“I was fortunate enough to be part of a Zoom meeting and meet the first recipients of the scholarship,” Reynolds said. “I’m impressed that a lot of them are first-generation, and a lot of them want to continue with a career in education. There’s a diversity in terms of majors within the college, like art, music, dance, journalism and communication. I think that’s great.”

■ **The gift allows Missouri State to construct an arts park and a permanent structure for Tent Theatre.**

“That will essentially transform an entire part of campus,” Wahl said.

It helps Missouri State make great strides toward being a top-tier destination campus for the arts.

“Overall, this a game changer,” Wahl said. “This is probably the most positive thing that I’ve witnessed in my career. I cannot tell you how proud I am to serve as the dean of the Judith Enyeart Reynolds College of Arts and Letters.”

**“IT’S GREAT FOR JUDY”**

For Tim, this is simply ensuring a legacy for his wife at a place she cherished.

“We’re very lucky that we have the ability to do this, and give something back, because for a lot of years, Missouri State gave us a lot. And it’s great for Judy because this was her life for 28 years.”

Their generosity was celebrated July 28 with a naming ceremony at C. Minor Hall on campus.

University singers and musicians performed, and Tim Reynolds met with some of the first-ever Reynolds Scholars.

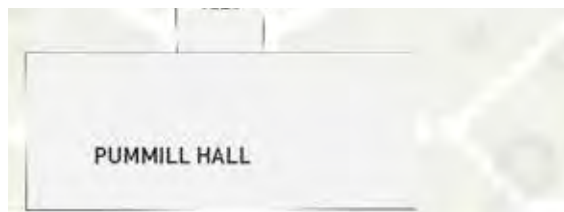
For the students, faculty and staff, it’s a gift that can make dreams come true.

For Tim Reynolds, it is a gift of love.

“Judy’s my life, and I just want to do something so that she won’t be forgotten.” ▼



Tim Reynolds meets students via Zoom





This gift will help MSU construct a permanent structure for Tent Theatre



Rendering of the planned new arts park on campus

## About the Judith Enyeart Reynolds College of Arts and Letters

### The college has seven academic departments:

- Art and design.
- Communication.
- English.
- Media, journalism and film.
- Modern and classical languages.
- Music.
- Theatre and dance.

### The college has two interdisciplinary programs in:

- Electronic arts.
- Musical theatre.

The college supports

**45+**  
**UNDERGRADUATE**

and

**10**  
**GRADUATE**  
**PROGRAMS**

**3 OF 7**

Missouri State academic colleges now have names:

- Judith Enyeart Reynolds College of Arts and Letters
- McQueary College of Health and Human Services
- William H. Darr College of Agriculture

# Seeing campus through the crisis

When COVID-19 struck, the Missouri State University Foundation took the lead in finding ways to help. With your help, we're assisting students and the campus community.





***Missouri State University  
is more than a place to get  
an education.***

Some students rely on us for housing, internet connectivity, mental health services — and, sometimes, even food.

As COVID-19 became a concern, the Missouri State University Foundation thought about a response.

We knew the pandemic could cause unexpected financial barriers that could keep some of our students from continuing their education.

The foundation put a focus on emergency assistance programs to help students and others meet their needs. The areas of focus:

**The Student Emergency Fund**

This fund provides relief for immediate hardships encountered by students.

These include the costs of technology that students may need so they can access virtual learning. It also includes other unforeseen financial challenges.

**Magers Health and Wellness Center**

The center serves Missouri State students and all MSU employees, and, in many cases, their families.

Our medical personnel have a continued need for screening equipment and personal protection equipment such as masks, gowns and gloves.

Additionally, we expect that mental health and counseling support services provided through Magers will be relied upon more heavily during the pandemic.

*Continued on page 17*

*“It has sent a strong message across my heart that there is always hope even in the darkest of times.”*

# Your gift really matters:

Students share their gratitude



**Students who received help from these emergency assistance programs were able to give anonymous comments. Here is why these funds and your gifts matter, in their words.**

**“I am more than grateful for this financial aid. It definitely takes a lot of stress off my mind and now I can better focus on my studies. I am greatly appreciative of everyone who has made emergency funding available to the students, especially the donors. It has sent a strong message across my heart that there is always hope even in the darkest of times.”**

**“Receiving this fund will allow me to finish my junior year as a political science major. I am a first-generation college student, so completing my degree is more than just a career progression. It is the start of a tradition that I hope continues. I couldn’t be more appreciative to those who contributed to this fund so students like me can continue an education, especially through the current stressful atmosphere.”**

“Honestly, I am just so grateful to be a Bear. I wish there were some way I could explain the extreme weight that was lifted off my shoulders this morning. Just knowing I will be able to pay my rent this month brings me to tears, but there still just aren’t enough words. ... There have been times I didn’t think that I could do it, but I know that I will be a Missouri State graduate. Please let anyone and everyone who donated know that my children and I say thank you from the bottom of our hearts (they are a little too young to quite understand what’s been going on, but they are observant enough to know that something has been wrong). I hope to be a donor someday in return.”



*“I am so appreciative of everything MSU is doing to help students during this uncertain time. This money will help me pay for my apartment in Springfield and my utility bills. It will also help me pay for a research class I am planning to take this summer for my major. I am a speech pathology major and I am taking the summer course to help me to gain more experience in the field.”*

**“WHEN COVID-19 HIT, I WAS UNPREPARED FOR THE FINANCIAL STRAIN IT WOULD CAUSE. THIS \$500 WILL ASSIST ME WITH MY RENT, GROCERY MONEY, STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS AND COUNTLESS OTHER EXPENSES. I CANNOT EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE ENOUGH TO HAVE RECEIVED THIS SCHOLARSHIP.”**

**“I am very fortunate to be attending a university like Missouri State that cares deeply about student success, and has kind donors like you to help us reach our goals and complete our degrees. By being awarded this scholarship, it will enable me to finish out my senior year, obtain my degree and begin my career as a construction project engineer. I am very grateful for this award and hope to be able to give back to the university myself as I progress throughout my career and life.”**

Continued from page 15

#### **Scholarship support**

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting many families' budgets and creating new financial burdens for many students.

Scholarship support is critical right now to help students realize their educational dreams and goals.

#### **The Bear Pantry**

The food pantry has been offering online orders and pickup for members of the campus community who are facing food insecurity.

Increased support for the Bear Pantry is imperative so it may continue its mission. No Bear should go hungry!

#### **The Missouri State Fund for Excellence**

Unprecedented times come with unexpected expenses.

The Missouri State Fund for Excellence is used to meet the areas of greatest need at Missouri State.

During this time of uncertainty, the support this fund provided was vital. ▼



Thank you to everyone who helps Bears, now more than ever!

Give to any of these funds:  
**MissouriState.edu/  
BearsCare**



# MY UNIQUE SCH♥LARSHIP

## Donors tell the stories behind their gifts

When you establish a scholarship, you can designate it to benefit the area that matters to you: a specific college, a major or even an experience, such as study away. These donors tell you why they have given to a cause close to their hearts.

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN



*Private scholarships  
make an enormous  
difference in the lives  
of students.*

People establish scholarships for a variety of reasons. Some do it to honor a loved one. Others want to share a passion. Some want to provide students with educational opportunities.

Whatever the reason, we thank you for establishing these life-changing gifts.

Here are three scholarships and the stories behind them.





## ENSURING GEOLOGY STUDENTS CAN EXPERIENCE FIELD WORK

*Jim Bass unearthed his passion at Missouri State.*

The Springfield native enrolled as a wildlife conservation and management major with a biology minor.

His sophomore year, he took a physical geology course.

“Everything became clear,” Bass said. “I absolutely loved it. It all made sense to me. It touched upon all of my interests in physics, chemistry and biology. They meld together to form the geology foundation.”

He changed his major and graduated in 1980.

Bass landed a job in the oil and gas industry in Tulsa.

During his career, he had many wonderful opportunities.

He joined Apache Corporation as a staff geologist, and eventually wound up as vice president of exploration and production, or E&P.

In 2006, he co-founded a private E&P company.

He retired as the CEO in 2016.



Jim Bass

He lived in Australia from 2000-2005, and then in Houston, Texas, until returning to Tulsa upon retirement.

He said at Missouri State, he was an average student. But he thrived in the real world.

So, in 2010, when Bass started thinking about establishing a scholarship for geology field work, he wanted it to go to someone like him.

Many scholarships have a high GPA requirement, but Bass wanted his financial aid to be accessible to an average student. That’s because in his professional career, he found that in many instances drive, passion and enthusiasm mattered more than good grades.

In 2013, he established the James K. Bass Endowed Scholarship for Geology Field Studies.

“I didn’t appreciate field work enough as a geology student. Being on the rocks and studying surface outcrops is where you experience and learn about structural and depositional systems that stay with you throughout your career. Technology is

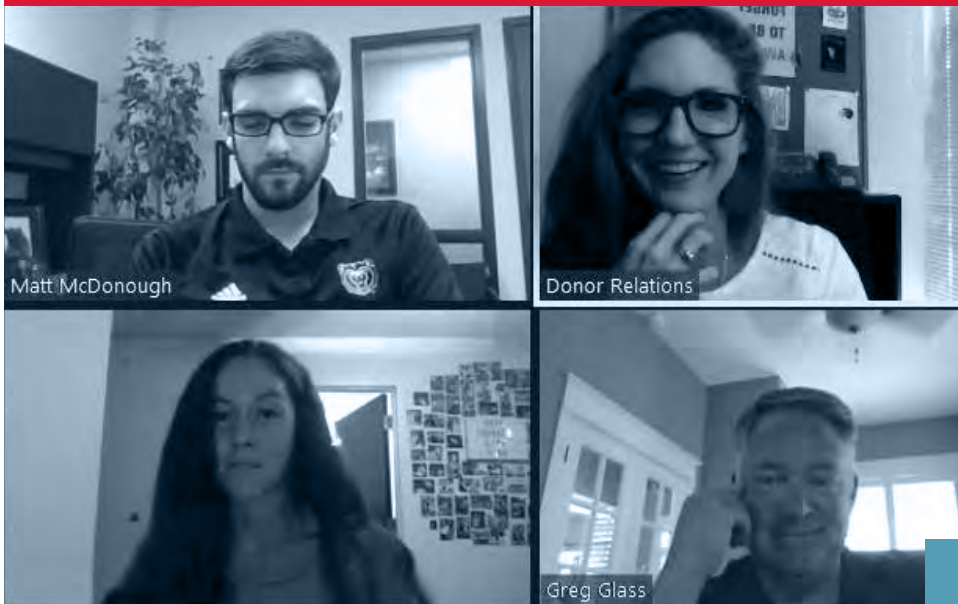
### ABOUT THE JAMES K. BASS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR GEOLOGY FIELD STUDIES

At least two scholarships are awarded annually. These are awarded to undergraduate students who are majoring in geology and enrolled in a field studies course. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need. Students must be enrolled in at least one summer credit.

wonderful for sorting and evaluating huge amounts of data, but technology is worthless if you don’t understand the surface and subsurface you are dealing with.”

Since establishing the scholarship, Bass has had a chance to interact with scholarship recipients, and he has found that to be rewarding.

“My wife Debbie and I have the opportunity to give because I was given the opportunity in business to prove myself,” Bass said. “Employers gave me a chance, and I wanted to hopefully provide that for somebody else, to show what they could do.”



## REMEMBERING A MOTHER WHO ESTEEMED EDUCATION

*Judith Allene Glass wanted to be a teacher.*

While she didn't fulfill her wish to be in the classroom, she left her mark:

- On the world.
- On her sons and grandchildren.
- And now, on Missouri State University students.



Greg Glass

Her oldest son, Greg Glass, established a memorial scholarship in her honor.

"One of the reasons we wanted to set it up was that when my brother Andy Glass, also a Missouri State graduate, and I were growing up, education was a huge part of our life. My dad was a principal. My mom did not get a college degree and regretted it. Regardless, she was one of the smartest people I have ever known. My mom pushed us to read from a very young age, to study, to be the best that we could. She knew how important education was for us," he said.

Judy Glass grew up in Kansas City. She was studying education at Central Missouri

State College when she met her future husband, Dwayne.

Dwayne started his career as a chemistry and math teacher and eventually became a principal. Judy was a homemaker and took great care of her family.

Greg Glass earned a finance degree from Missouri State in 1994.

When his mom passed away in 2012, Greg started

thinking about establishing a scholarship in her honor.

He had donated to the university before, but felt like this could be a special way to remember her generous spirit and love of learning.

"I was fortunate enough to be a Presidential Scholar at Missouri State and also fortunate to be in a position to give back. I wanted to share the great opportunities I had been given with other students, and honor my mom in the process," he said.

Since establishing the scholarship in 2015, Greg and Dwayne Glass have both been able to meet some of the award

### ABOUT THE JUDITH A. GLASS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship is awarded annually to students enrolled at Missouri State University seeking degrees in the finance and general business department in the College of Business. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Preference is given to students from the Kansas City metro area.

recipients at the College of Business' annual scholarship banquet.

"That has been a very rewarding experience for us," he said.

This gift would mean a lot to his mother because she valued education so highly.

Family and friends were incredibly important to Judy. She loved to read, travel and spend time with Dwayne during their marriage of 50-plus years. She was also an avid bridge player.

But her five grandchildren were the apple of her eye. They brought her unbridled joy.

While she is dearly missed by her family, her legacy lives on thanks to the generosity of her family.

▲ (Top left) Greg Glass chatted with scholarship recipient Jenna Zackert and Missouri State development officers at an online gathering this spring.

▲ (Top right) Judith A. Glass



## OFFERING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY THROUGH STUDY AWAY

*Before her senior year in college, Toni Riccardi, class of '70, and Dicky Dryden Hamilton, class of '69, took a three-week trip across Europe.*

"We were so impressed by the people and the customs that were so different from ours. It was eye-opening and we learned so much about ourselves. I began to develop more of a world view," Riccardi said, speaking from her home in Chicago.

That journey would expand her horizons.

Riccardi graduated with a degree in art.

"I wanted to be a fashion illustrator but I wasn't that good, and I needed to find something else to do," she said.

The Kansas City native landed her first job at Northwestern University, opening the first student center.

Then she went to Cornell University as director of activities.

Next, Riccardi became director of alumnae affairs at Simmons College. At Simmons, she earned an MBA.

Her next job was for Coopers & Lybrand in New York City, as director of campus recruitment. She became a partner in 1998, the year the company merged with Price



Toni Riccardi

Waterhouse to become PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Riccardi was the firm's first chief diversity officer.

Promoting diversity and inclusion continues to be her passion.

After retiring from PwC, Riccardi spent three weeks in China. She was a consultant in diversity and inclusion, then returned to work as the senior vice president of human resources and chief

diversity officer for The Conference Board, known as TCB.

Headquartered in New York City, TCB is a global, independent business membership and research association working in the public interest. She retired from TCB in 2014 but remains a senior fellow.

Riccardi has always given back to Missouri State. She's a donor, a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees and was previously on the advisory board for the Reynolds College of Arts and Letters.

In 2019, Riccardi established an endowed scholarship for study away.

"I want it to go to people who could not otherwise afford to go. I think study abroad is a great thing. It's not just about learning about the other cultures, it's about learning

### ABOUT THE RICCARDI STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP

The award is for a full-time undergraduate or graduate student majoring in the Judith Enyeart Reynolds College of Arts and Letters with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, who will be studying abroad. Preference is given to those seeking a degree in the art and design department. The recipient must demonstrate an interest in, and commitment to, promoting an educational environment that is diverse and inclusive of all individuals.

about your culture and who you are or who you are becoming. I hope that they will get a deeper understanding that 'different' doesn't mean wrong. There are always other ways to do things," she said.

Throughout her life, she has been fortunate to travel for work and pleasure, from the Netherlands to Japan and South Africa. And her favorite — India.

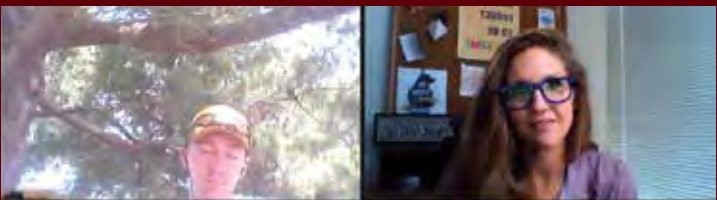
It's an experience she wants to give to a Missouri State student.

"When we encounter something different, our first response is to back away," Riccardi said. "The only way to reverse that is to take a step forward and have a conversation or new experience. Travel helps you do that." ▼

# MAKING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS:

*Nothing can stop a Bear!*

In difficult times, we find comfort in being part of the Missouri State family. Recently, we have found new ways to bring Bears together. Using online platforms, we have connected scholarship supporters to the students who benefit from their generosity. From coast to coast, near and far, we're all in this together!



# MEET A MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

**Members of the Foundation Board of Trustees are some of the most exceptional supporters of Missouri State University.**

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**Who:** Nita Jane Ayres

**Career:** Realtor; also serves as the secretary/treasurer for Yocum Silver Mine, Inc. real-estate company

**Service to the community and MSU:** She is a former state representative in the Missouri House of Representatives for District 62.

Ayres has served on a number of boards, including the Table Rock Lake Community Foundation Board, finance and legislative committees for the Tri-Lakes Board of Realtors, the Stone County TIF Commission, the Branson West Board of Aldermen, Planning and Zoning Commission, Stone County Economic Development Board and much more.

Ayres joined the Missouri State University Foundation Board of Trustees in 2018.

A portrait of Nita Jane Ayres, a woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue Adidas polo shirt. She is holding a framed picture of a house. The background shows several other framed pictures on a wall.

*“MSU is serving a great purpose in terms of empowering young people to make a difference with the education they receive. I believe in investing in students and our future with scholarships.”*

— NITA JANE AYRES





▲ Nita Jane Ayres keeps a watercolor painting of a one-room schoolhouse that reminds her of her grandmother.

PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITE

## *Scholarship honors beloved grandmother who was a teacher and an alumna*

Nita Jane Ayres established an endowed scholarship for future teachers in honor of her paternal grandmother, Fern Ayres. Fern graduated from Missouri State and became a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse.

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

*Former Lady Bears Coach Cheryl Burnett stood in Nita Jane Ayres' office and admired a painting on the wall.*

It was a watercolor of a teacher standing in front of a one-room schoolhouse.

Students, with their backs to the audience, lined up beneath the American flag and recited the pledge of allegiance.

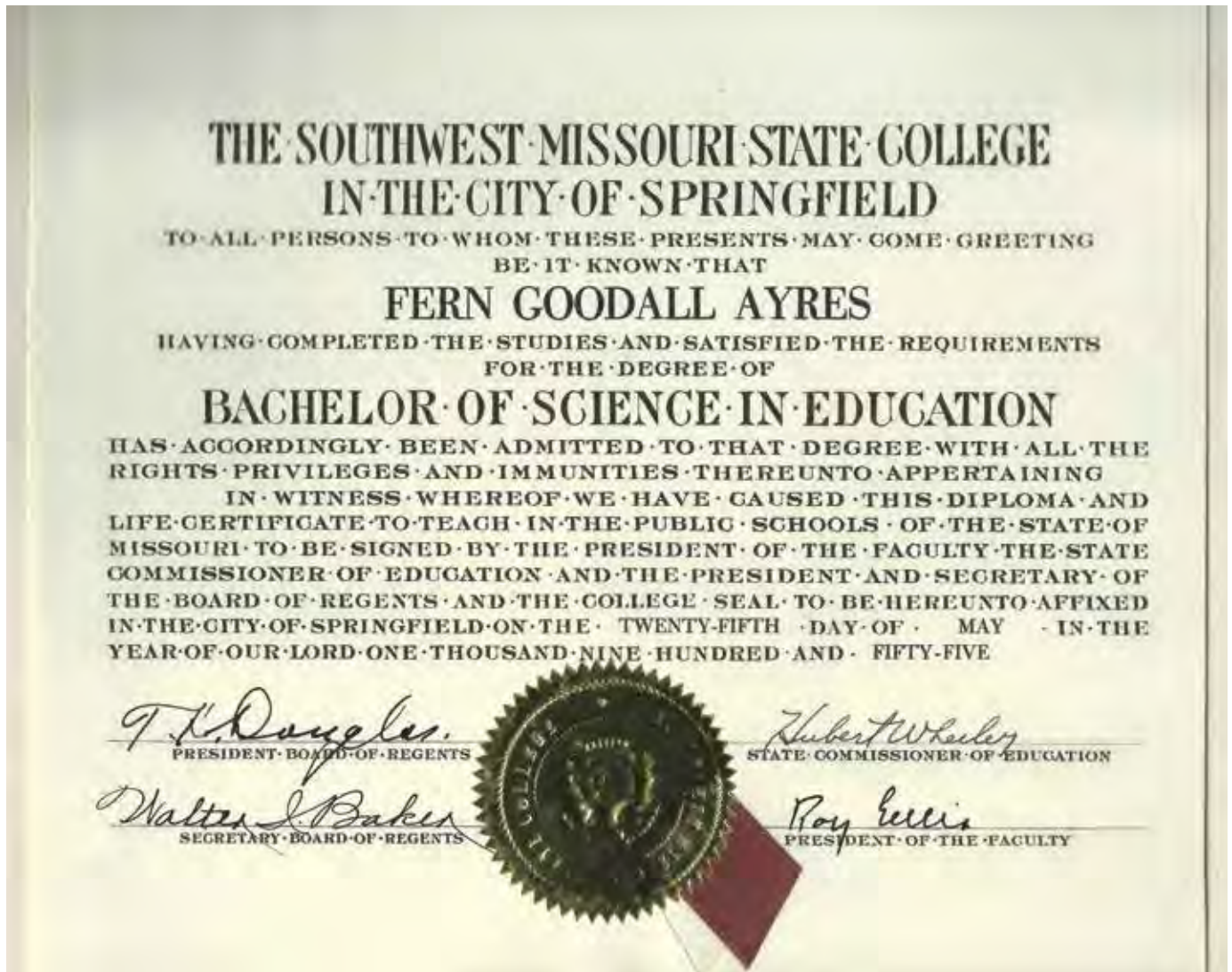
"She was looking carefully at that, and I said, 'For me, that is my grandmother. I always thought we ought to establish a scholarship in her memory.' She quietly said, 'I can help you with that.' It took me a week for that comment to sink into my head, 'Yes, she can help me with that,'" said Ayres.

Nita Jane Ayres did not attend Missouri State, but she has been a supporter for years.

Ayres is a realtor in Branson West. She was previously an accountant in Springfield and an avid Lady Bears fan, which is how she became acquainted with Burnett.

### **INSPIRED BY GRANDMOTHER, WHO WAS A NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT**

Some of Ayres' earliest memories of her grandmother include Fern helping a young Nita Jane with her schoolwork.



▲ Fern G. Ayres earned her bachelor's in education from Missouri State in 1955.



## MEET A RECIPIENT

### *Nontraditional student says Ayres scholarship helped her “better my life”*

**At 46, Bobbi Hardin was a nontraditional student.**

After high school, the El Dorado Springs, Missouri, native went to cosmetology school.

Soon after, she married, moved to Nevada, Missouri, had four sons and stayed home.

Over the years, she worked as a substitute teacher and a paraprofessional.

Then her marriage of 20 years ended.

“I had to support myself and my kids,” Hardin said. “I was at the age where it was now or never. Do it now or regret it the rest of your life. I quit my job and went back to school. I was scared to death. I didn’t have to be the breadwinner prior to my divorce. I had a job that paid the bills but I didn’t want to be

poor. I couldn’t buy a car. I couldn’t do anything on my own.”

Her senior year, she received the Fern G. Ayres Education Scholarship.

“I am grateful, super thankful I received the scholarship. It helped a tremendous amount,” she said.

Hardin graduated with a bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 2019. She teaches



▲ Fern Ayres earned certification to teach in 1923. The scholarship in her name goes to nontraditional students who plan to teach.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY AYRES FAMILY

“She would sit down with me and listen while I was reading books and help to make sure I was getting the words,” Ayres said. “My grandmother was widowed when she was young. Never remarried. She had beef cattle, acreage, she took care of. That supplemented her teaching income. Some of my earliest memories include getting in the pickup to check the cows.”

In 1923, through correspondence work, Fern Ayres received her first certification to teach. She had to renew it every few years.

Fern earned her bachelor’s in education from Missouri State in 1955.

The Fern G. Ayres Education Scholarship is for a nontraditional student who is pursuing a degree in elementary or secondary education.

“She was a nontraditional student, so that is why we want to gear the scholarship towards a nontraditional student. Not someone who has graduated from high school who has a lot of scholarship opportunities, but someone who has been away from school and is coming back. In some cases, that scholarship helps them during the year they student-teach.”

Grandma Fern encouraged Nita Jane to study hard and go to college.

Nita Jane played basketball in college. She graduated in 1979 from Southwest Baptist University with a degree in accounting and business administration. It was a bittersweet moment, as grandma Fern had passed away the year before.

“I was disappointed she couldn’t physically be there in the audience.”

### FULFILLING A LONG-TIME WISH TO HONOR A LOVED ONE

After college, Nita Jane enjoyed several successful careers.

She was an accountant for a while, but the company wanted to promote her and move her to a larger city, which she didn’t want. When the Branson real-estate market exploded, she shifted gears to real estate.

“Our family has always been involved in real estate, so it was natural for me to be

involved in the family real-estate holding company, Yocum Silver Mine, Inc. Of course, that grew into residential. I help people find second homes in the lakes area,” she said.

The company name comes from their personal ties to the region. In the late 1800s, her grandfather came to the Ozarks in search of silver that was used to make the Yocum silver dollars (a form of currency at the time).

The family homestead was located where Chateau on the Lake now resides.

When Cheryl Burnett moved to Stone County, she and Ayres became friends.

They were both involved in the Table Rock Lake Community Foundation Board. And they had already been acquainted through Lady Bears games, because Ayres was a season-pass holder.

For years, the Ayres family had talked about establishing a scholarship in honor of Fern.

They finally did in 2013.

It will benefit their area, because preference for the award is given to a student who is from, or currently resides in, Stone or Taney counties.

“You blend my Lady Bears basketball appreciation with my grandmother and former Lady Bears coach, and that is what you get,” Ayres said with a chuckle.

Her father, who is 94, loves to receive letters from recipients of the scholarship.

“If his eyes get a little misty, it’s just one of those things where you know, ‘Yeah, we are doing the right thing.’” ▼

third grade in Sheldon, Missouri.

“I am so excited and grateful for the opportunity to better my life,” she said.

“Going back to school has been life-changing for me. It has been a huge struggle financially, but God always seems to make a way. The first day I walked into class was honestly the first day to the rest of my life! Thank you so much for believing in me!” ▼



▲ Bobbi Hardin (center), an Ayres scholarship recipient, went back to school to help support her family.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BOBBI HARDIN.

# 5 QUESTIONS *with a* CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

## Tim Foote

Tim Foote was a first-generation student and a transfer student who chose Missouri State because of its affordability.

The Osceola, Missouri, native found a home on campus. During college, Foote was a member of Sigma Pi fraternity and the Interfraternity Council.

He graduated in 1972 with a business degree.

Foote is actively involved with his alma mater. He's on the Missouri State University Foundation Board of Trustees as well as being a cabinet member for the Onward, Upward campaign.

He lives in Littleton, Colorado, and is president of Global Sourcing Solutions, a sourcing and sales company.

### HOW HAS BEING A FIRST-GENERATION GRADUATE CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

It certainly opened doors for business opportunities. I probably would have never had my own company, which I have had since I was 31.

I learned to be an entrepreneur. Without a degree, I probably would have been working for somebody else.

I learned a lot being in the fraternity, in the Interfraternity Council and at school.

All those combined gave me a foundation to be a good businessperson. You have to learn how to work with all kinds of people. I learned to give and take. And I think that's a big part of being an entrepreneur.

### YOU AND FELLOW ALUMNUS MIKE OLDHAM TEAMED UP TO FUND THE PEAK PERFORMANCE SALES LAB IN GLASS HALL. WERE YOU FRIENDS BEFORE THAT COLLABORATION?

No, we got together through Sophie Pierpoint (an MSU director of development) during her visits to Colorado. We've taken similar paths during the course of our careers.

It came up that they needed somebody to support that part of Glass Hall. I asked Mike, "Hey, Mike, would you like to do this?" And he said, "Yeah!" because we're both in sales, and it's the sales lab.

### TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CONNECTION WITH SIGMA PI, AND HOW IT CONNECTS YOU TO MSU.

I've bought a home in Florida because I kept visiting my fraternity brothers down there! There's four of us.

When you get older, you realize you can do other things besides just work and raise a family. I had that realization 10 years ago. I got really involved with the fraternity and with Missouri State.

We had a fraternity homecoming, and we had 170 to 180 members from all eras show up. It sparked us to renew our friendships. We hadn't seen each other in 20 or 30 years, and we all just started getting together.

And at the same time, I've always liked the university, so I also got more involved with it.

### YOU HAVE GIVEN BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY IN MANY WAYS. WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE?

I supported an outdoor terrace in Glass Hall in honor of my mom, Jimmie Jean Foote. I did it while she was still alive, and she got to come and be part of the ceremony with her 90-year-old boyfriend. That was such a wonderful thing, for her to be there.

I also support the MarooNation Ball in Kansas City. A lot of my fraternity brothers go to that, and it's a lot of fun.

To be honest, I'm not a big donor in the big scheme of things. I like helping where they don't necessarily have many donors, like the men's and women's golf teams. I love golf. And, you know, what little I give, they seem to really appreciate.

### WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS A CAMPAIGN CABINET MEMBER?

Basically, to help Missouri State reach the ultimate monetary goal as a team.

From a personal standpoint, to see if I can get some people interested in participating who maybe would not have ordinarily participated.

I'm excited about it. I think John Goodman is going to do a good job helping the campaign. I also think there are a lot of people in my age group who are thinking of things they want to do that they didn't think about in the earlier parts of their lives.

Hopefully, that results in support coming to the school. Everybody can get involved.



# FACES *of the* FOUNDATION



## ALUMNA MAKES DONORS' INTENTIONS BECOME PERSONAL CONNECTIONS

*Kelsey Menefee oversees donor-funded scholarships, from training selection committees to telling recipients they have earned life-changing financial aid.*

WRITTEN BY JULIANA GOODWIN

### *Kelsey Menefee juggles big responsibilities for a young woman.*

The 24-year-old is assistant director of donor relations and special events for the Missouri State University Foundation.

She oversees donor-funded scholarships. She also helps plan events for supporters and friends of the university. It's the perfect marriage of her passions.

"I like that I get to work with both because it lets me have variety in my days. It allows me to engage both sides of my brain: analytical and creative."

### **SHE'S AN ALUMNA WITH TWO MISSOURI STATE DEGREES**

From the time she was young, the St. Louis native was always involved in organizations and planning, from youth groups to Girl Scouts.

She came to Missouri State to study entertainment management in the College of Business.

"A lot of other schools with comparable programs were either too expensive, or they were more heavily focused on the arts. I knew I wanted to have more of a business focus," Menefee said. "I wanted to manage, not only be involved in creative side. MSU allowed me to do that."

She earned her bachelor's in 2017.

But at 21, she felt her college journey wasn't finished. She enrolled in the MBA program and landed a graduate assistantship in donor relations at the Missouri State University Foundation.

"When my predecessor moved on, it was fortuitous timing because it was only a few months before I was going

to graduate. I was in the middle of searching for opportunities," Menefee said.

She joined the foundation in November 2018 and received her MBA that December.

### **SHE COORDINATES MANY ASPECTS OF PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Stephanie Smith, senior director of donor relations and special events, knew Menefee was the right person for the job.

Menefee was kind, funny, dependable and empathetic. But she is also driven. Menefee wanted to learn every aspect of the foundation.

"She is incredibly detail-oriented, which is critical to her role in foundation scholarships. She analyzes processes remarkably well. She researches her ideas and is always willing to share fresh ideas and ways of doing or creating things. She takes ideas and runs with them," said Smith.

When the office receives scholarship agreements with donors, Menefee ensures the scholarships are put in the selection software correctly.

She also manages the scholarship application students fill out. It's set up so that students fill it out just one time, yet it lets them apply to all donor-funded scholarships at Missouri State.

Communicating with students and making them aware of private aid opportunities is also part of her job.

The foundation has more than 80 different scholarship selection committees. The members of these committees help select recipients. Menefee trains and facilitates committee members.

## *A look at donor-funded scholarships at MSU*

### **For the 2019-20 academic year:**

- **1,296** Missouri State students were offered **\$1,918,280** in private scholarships.
- There were **1,662** individual/unique awards (because students can receive more than one scholarship).
- **1 out of 3** of students who applied for scholarships were selected for an award.
- The average scholarship amount was **\$1,154**.

Once a student has been chosen for a scholarship, Menefee runs the selection through financial aid.

Then she gets to notify students of the life-changing opportunity.

That is a wonderful part of her job.

### **SHE HELPS CREATE EVENTS THAT LIVE ON IN PEOPLE'S MEMORIES**

Another part of her job she loves: organizing the Endowed Scholarship Appreciation Dinner.

"The dinner is an amazing event. Scholarship recipients and scholarship donors get to meet each other. While students do write 'thank you' letters to their donors, this event allows for that gratitude to be expressed in a more personal way. It's really special to be able to create a space where students realize that their scholarships were made possible by Citizen Bears who care about them and their ability to go to school," Menefee said.

The donors love it because they get to put a face to the student's name.

"They're able to see very clearly how their generous gift is directly helping students. I'm just grateful to be a part of the event where personal connections are made between fellow Bears."

Menefee also helps organize other foundation events. A few close to her heart are the Founders Club medallion reception, the holiday party and the MarooNation Ball events.

"One of my favorite things is that an event never really ends — it lives on in people's memories. Creative thinking and careful planning are necessary to making that memory the best that it can be." ▾



◀ MarooNation Ball galas, which raise money for scholarships, are important foundation events. Kelsey Menefee helps organize these events.

PHOTO BY KEVIN WHITE

## IN MEMORIAM

# Missouri State University mourns the loss of two supporters and friends



## David D. Glass helped College of Business reach incredible new heights

*Alumnus, donor and friend David D. Glass passed away in January.*

“David Glass was the kind of leader I aspire to be — gentle, humble, generous and kind,” said Missouri State President Clif Smart. “The moment I met him eight years ago, he treated me like a long-lost friend. He loved the university and attributed much of his success to the education he received here. We will all miss him, and we offer our deepest sympathies to Mr. Glass’s family. His legacy will forever be a part of Missouri State University.”

Glass earned a bachelor’s degree in business accounting from Missouri State in 1960.

He made lead gifts that funded the construction of Glass Hall, a \$14.2 million project dedicated in October 1987.

More than 30 years later, Glass made a gift to MSU’s Onward, Upward campaign that finished renovations to the building.

Glass was one of the most successful alumni to graduate from Missouri State’s College of Business. He went on to serve as the president and CEO of Walmart (from 1988-2000) and owner of the Kansas City Royals (from 2000-2019).

He received several awards and launched significant programs for the university in the past 35 years:

- Named university’s Outstanding Alumnus.
- Received MSU Foundation Founders Medallion.
- Established David D. Glass Distinguished Leadership Chair, an endowed faculty position.





## Ed Pinegar gave his time and made significant contributions

*Long-time supporter and friend T. Edward Pinegar passed away in May.*

Pinegar, a graduate of Missouri State, gave his time, expertise and resources to the university.

He served on the MSU Board of Governors from 1985-1991.

He had also been on the MSU Foundation Board of Directors since 1999.

“I will miss Ed tremendously,” Missouri State President Clif Smart said. “He always supported the university in everything he did and was encouraging to me in challenging times.”

Thanks to a major donation from Pinegar and his wife, Carol, in the mid-2000s, the university was able to begin phase two of renovating the main horse arena at the 100-acre William H. Darr Agricultural Center.

The project added arena seating, office space, bovine and equine handling facilities, a research laboratory, a classroom, stalling for horses and a two-bedroom apartment for graduate student housing.

In honor of the couple’s gift, the arena was renamed Pinegar Arena.

“He not only supported Missouri State financially, but he gave of his time,” said Brent Dunn, executive director of the Missouri State University Foundation. “He was very passionate about the educational mission and he encouraged others to be involved as well.”

Pinegar opened the doors to Pinegar Chevrolet in Republic in 1979. The business, which is family-owned and operated, is still thriving today. It also includes Pinegar Chevrolet Buick GMC of Branson.

In 2004, Pinegar received Missouri State’s Outstanding Alumni Award for his personal and career success, and contributions to his alma mater. ▼

- Started the David D. Glass Lecture Series, which helps MSU bring world-class speakers to campus.
- Received the Bronze Bear Award in recognition of extraordinary support.

Thanks in part to Glass’s support, the College of Business is one of the country’s top business schools. Enrollment in the college grew nearly 70 percent since Glass Hall opened in 1987.

“David Glass is the perfect example of a Citizen Bear,” said Brent Dunn, executive director of the Missouri State University Foundation.

“He believed in his alma mater. And when he became a successful businessman, he gave back to the university with his time, talents and gifts. We’ll always remember his friendship and dedication.” ▼



## THE FOUNDERS CLUB

The Founders Club recognizes the university's most generous donors. Their financial support provides and encourages higher education at Missouri State. Members have distinguished benefits, and are recognized for their loyal commitment to the future of Missouri State.

FIND A LIST OF MEMBERS:  
**MissouriStateFoundation.org/  
FoundersClub**



## THE FOUNDERS CLUB MEDALLION HONOREES

Each year, Founders Club medallions are presented to alumni, friends, business and organizations who support Missouri State at generous levels.

FIND A LIST OF ALL MEDALLION RECIPIENTS:  
**MissouriStateFoundation.org/  
FoundersClub**

# FIND CLUB INFORMATION ONLINE

We have clubs, membership organizations and special honors for Missouri State supporters. Here's more about these clubs, including where to find rosters for some of them.



## FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the Foundation Board of Trustees are some of the most exceptional supporters of Missouri State. They advise us as we seek private gifts and invest private funds for the benefit of university projects and programs.

MORE ABOUT THE TRUSTEES:  
**MissouriStateFoundation.org/Trustees**



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Missouri State University Alumni Association is governed by a 23-member board, with five officers. The board represents the interests of the alumni population, helps the university make strategic plans and provides leadership in many other ways.

MORE ABOUT THE BOARD:  
**MissouriState.edu/AlumniBoard**



## THE BEARS FUND

The Bears Fund is the fundraising program for men's and women's intercollegiate athletics. The Bears Fund is an opportunity for you to support our hard-working student-athletes while receiving gratitude, recognition and exclusive benefits in return.

MORE ABOUT THE BEARS FUND:  
**MissouriState.edu/TheBearsFund**

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Juilliard-trained Dr. Minju Choi Witte,  
assistant professor of piano