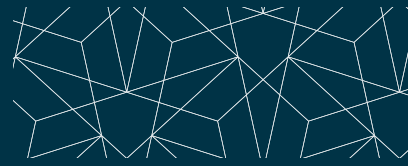


Spring 2025

Shillelagh



For members of the Missouri S&T Order of the Golden Shillelagh

newsletter

A large, high-quality portrait of an older man with a friendly expression. He is wearing a brown cowboy hat with a woven band, a light blue dress shirt, and a dark blue suit jacket. A patterned tie is visible at the bottom. The background is a warm, out-of-focus orange-brown color.

**A LEGACY OF GIVING
EXPANDS WITH
THE HAVENER
ARRIVAL COMPLEX**

PHILANTHROPY WEEK 2025

Save the date and time

1,870 Minutes of Giving

10 a.m. Thursday, April 10–
5:10 p.m. Friday, April 11

AREAS OF GIVING

- Athletics
- College of Arts, Sciences, and Education
- College of Engineering and Computing
- Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development
- Miner Alumni Association
- Performing Arts
- Staff Council
- Student Design and Experiential Learning Center
- Student Success
- University Libraries



1870 MINUTES
FOR MINERS

Giving Days: 1,870 Minutes for Miners spotlights the founding year of our legendary university by engaging the entire Miner community — from students and staff, new graduates and seasoned alumni, to faculty and friends.

With a minimum gift of \$18.70, Giving Days brings us all together to make an immediate and collective impact on initiatives that are important across the Missouri S&T community. Contributions may be made to more than 70 funds within 10 areas of giving. Please help us reach our goal of 500 donors!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Giving Days is a great opportunity for you to put your passion for S&T into action and to inspire your friends and others in the university community to support the parts of Missouri S&T they love most.

- Become a Campaign Ambassador and reach out to your friends with your personalized giving URL.
- Become a Challenge Donor by committing to a gift that will inspire others to support S&T.

For more information or to sign up, contact **Angie Stephens**, director of annual giving, at stephensa@mst.edu or **573-341-4147**.



Use the QR
code to give early.



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the spring 2025 edition of the *Shillelagh* newsletter. I am thrilled that this edition prominently features **Gary Havener**, Math'62, whose impact has been felt across our campus for more than four decades. His scholarship endowment has provided financial support to math majors since 1985, and he furthered his support of his home department by establishing an endowed chair in mathematics and statistics four years ago. In addition to being the lead donor to the Havener Center, the campus hub for student life dedicated in 2005, Gary contributed to building Toomey Hall, Bertelsmeyer Hall and the Kummer Student Design Center. Last year, his transformational \$25 million gift named the Havener Arrival Complex, a major component of the Campus Master Plan that will connect the university's entry off Interstate 44 to campus. We are incredibly grateful to Gary for his visionary investment in the future of Missouri S&T.

Please also join me in welcoming **Vicki Johnson**, AE'82, to OGS. As you will read, Johnson, whose love of both flight and learning inspired her career in aviation and higher education, recently designated a significant portion of her estate to Missouri S&T. Hoping to make a difference in the lives of students, Vicki decided to give to organizations that made a difference in her own.

This issue of the *Shillelagh* includes several highlights from Homecoming Weekend. If you were in Rolla for MinerFest, I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as we enjoyed having you here. And if you weren't, the stories and photos on the pages that follow do a great job of conveying what makes our gatherings so special.

One of my favorite events is the annual Miner Alumni Association Legends Luncheon, which took place Oct. 25. Congratulations to OGS

members **Peter Heerboth**, CSci'03, who received an Alumni Achievement Award, and **Thomas Sieckhaus**, CE'88, who received the Jerry R. Bayless Alumni Merit Award. They were among the eight Missouri S&T alumni and one current faculty member honored for their professional achievements and service contributions.

Between the Legends Luncheon and the Silver and Gold Gathering, we held a beam-signing-and-raising ceremony for the Welcome Center. While emceeding the thoroughly enjoyable gathering, I had the opportunity to thank a number of OGS members making this project possible, including the late **Fred**, CE'55, and **June Kummer**; **Robert Pletzt**, ME'47; **Michael Schaeffer**, EMgt'70, and his wife, **Brenda**; and **Philip Wade**, PetE'71, and his wife, **Diane**. Special thanks to our incredible construction team for "raising the roof" on this construction site during a particularly windy day! If you haven't attended a Homecoming Weekend at Missouri S&T, or haven't attended in a while, I hope you'll consider joining us this fall, Oct. 3–4.

Finally, special thanks to OGS members Dr. **Harold "Skip" Garner**, NucE'76, and **William "Bill" Kennedy** for sending Missouri S&T graduates out into the world with commencement addresses delivered at our December ceremonies. These two OGS members, along with everyone else you'll read about in this edition of the *Shillelagh*, are creating opportunities for our students to go out into the world and make a meaningful impact.

With gratitude,

Tory Verkamp
Vice Chancellor for
University Advancement

A LEGACY OF GIVING EXPANDS WITH THE HAVENER ARRIVAL COMPLEX

When **Gary Havener**, Math'62, became a founding member of the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board in 2020, he brought to this new leadership role a half-century of experience as an entrepreneur — and a legacy of giving that reaches back to his first gift to the Miner Alumni Association in 1980.

He has been making a difference ever since. The scholarship endowment he established has provided financial support to math majors since 1985. As the lead donor to the Havener Center, his \$5 million gift named the new campus hub for student life dedicated in 2005. His support helped to raise the roof on Toomey Hall, Bertelsmeyer Hall and the expansion of the Kummer Student Design Center. His investment in faculty excellence established an endowed chair in mathematics and statistics in 2021.

Now Havener has stepped up again, this time with a \$25 million gift naming the Havener Arrival Complex, the university's new main entrance.



Photo by Locations Photography

“...Gary has served S&T with one goal: to make a difference.”

“Gary Havener’s impact has been felt across our university for four decades,” says S&T Chancellor and OGS member Mo Dehghani. “From the student center that bears his name to the academic facilities his generosity helped to build, from the lives of students transformed by his scholarships to his longstanding leadership as a trusted adviser, Gary has served S&T with one goal: to make a difference. Now he has chosen to invest in one of the most important campus projects in our history.”

The Havener Arrival Complex will encompass a grand plaza and landscaped commons area anchored by two flagship facilities: the Innovation Lab and the Welcome Center.

“The Arrival Complex is a powerful symbol of the change underway at

Missouri S&T,” Havener says. “This major reconfiguration of the campus entrance sends a strong message that the university is on the move. As an alumnus, what a source of pride it is to see the Campus Master Plan come to life — and what a thrill to be part of this achievement.”

As a high school student in Mexico, Missouri, Havener excelled at math and science. In addition to helping on his family’s dairy farm, he worked for the city engineer on drafting projects — and spent two summers with the Missouri Department of Transportation building bridges and plotting survey data for the interstate highway system.

Havener came to Rolla to study civil engineering but switched to physics as a sophomore. His senior year, he changed his major again when mathematics became a degree program. In 1962 Havener was named the Army ROTC’s Distinguished Military Graduate, and he went to work for General Motors’ Packard Electric subsidiary in Warren, Ohio, before serving in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Karlsruhe, Germany.

1. The 105,000-square-foot Havener Center hosts over 5,000 events annually.

2. Gary Havener was recognized in the 2011 inaugural Missouri S&T Alumni of Influence class.



“As an alumnus, what a source of pride it is to see the Campus Master Plan come to life — and what a thrill to be part of this achievement.”

“While I was in the Army, I realized that I was best suited to go into business for myself,” says Havener, who put down his early entrepreneurial roots at the Antenna Products Corp. in Mineral Wells, Texas. He joined the company as a junior engineer, moved into marketing and bought the company with two colleagues when the founder left to run for Congress. After becoming sole owner, Havener eventually sold the company, only to buy it back out of bankruptcy and revitalize it. This led to a series of entrepreneurial acquisitions as he bought companies in diverse industries like electronics manufacturing, textbook warehousing, aircraft refurbishment and commercial real estate.

For the past three decades, as president of Havener Companies based in Fort Worth, Texas, he has led a commercial real estate investment and management firm. He has also served in many leadership roles at S&T, from college advisory committees and capital campaign steering committees to 16 years on the S&T Board of Trustees.

Havener received the university’s highest honor in 2011 when he was named to the inaugural class of Alumni of Influence. His other awards include an honorary doctor of engineering degree in 2013 and the Miner Alumni Association’s Robert V. Wolf Alumni Service Award in 2012.

In every leadership position he held, Havener earned respect for his entrepreneurial perspective, straightforward manner and willingness to get involved. He credits his upbringing with instilling his

work ethic — and teaching him that success may be about seizing the moment, but discipline wins the day.

“When you grow up on a dairy farm, there are no excuses,” he said in an alumni magazine article published in 2002. “You’ve got to milk the cows in the morning, and you’ve got to milk the cows in the evening. If you don’t, you go out of business.” ▣





Campus 2020

Guided by the Campus Master Plan, Missouri S&T has undergone a dramatic transformation. In just a few years, several longstanding structures have been removed to make way for S&T's new physical footprint.

Campus Today



HAVENER ARRIVAL COMPLEX

1. Innovation Lab
2. Future home of the Welcome Center
3. Entry Plaza
4. Subsurface parking garage
5. Future home of the Bioplex
6. Roundabout and entry to campus
7. Tim Bradley Way

The campus community gathered to celebrate a milestone moment for the new Welcome Center.

BEAMING WITH PRIDE

During Homecoming Weekend, Missouri S&T celebrated a milestone in the construction of the Welcome Center with a beam-signing ceremony, and attendees left their personal mark on the building. The Welcome Center figures prominently in the Havener Arrival Complex. It will serve as an all-inclusive destination for future students and their families to gain a comprehensive understanding of the exceptional educational experience and career opportunities Missouri S&T provides.

The ceremony brought together campus project leaders, donors, contractors, faculty, students, staff and community members, whose signatures on the beam will carry into perpetuity their contribution to the success of the project.

Emcee **Tory Verkamp**, vice chancellor for University Advancement, expressed gratitude to the generous donors who have made this project possible, including **Fred**, CE'55, and **June Kummer**; **Robert Pletz**, ME'47; **Michael**, EMgt'70, and **Brenda Schaeffer**; and **Philip**, PetE'71, and **Diane Wade**.

Scheduled for completion in summer 2025, the 32,000-square-foot Welcome Center will house S&T's recruitment, admissions and enrollment management departments, along with interactive exhibits and activities that offer everything families need to help make their final enrollment decision.



1. Tory Verkamp, vice chancellor for University Advancement, served as the event's emcee.
2. **Jim Bertelsmeyer**, ChE'66, added his signature to the beam.



Artist rendering of the Bioplex.

BIOPLEX APPROVAL ADVANCES BIOINNOVATION

Missouri S&T's bioinnovation initiative took a significant step forward in late November when the University of Missouri Board of Curators approved construction of the Bioplex. The state-of-the-art facility for scientific research was introduced by Chancellor Mo Deghani at the 2024 OGS Weekend in St. Louis.

The project was launched thanks to a significant contribution from the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board, which oversees the transformational \$300 million gift from OGS founding members **Fred**, CE'55, and **June Kummer**. Construction officially begins in October and is expected to be completed by June 2028.

The Bioplex is critical to meet a growing demand for life science research programs, and will support advanced research and education in those disciplines as well as biomedicine

and biomedical engineering. At an estimated cost of \$151.8 million, the Bioplex is Missouri S&T's largest capital project to date. It features space for more than 20 research teams, including wet bench research laboratories, a vivarium that meets criteria for critical life science research, a psychology research suite, teaching labs and classrooms. Missouri S&T's Center for Biomedical Research will be housed in the Bioplex, with advanced labs for imaging, genomics and histology. In keeping with Missouri S&T tradition, a geothermal energy plant will power the building.

A central part of the Havener Arrival Complex, the Bioplex plays an important role in S&T's strategy to leverage the powerful combination of engineering and life sciences acumen to address complex health care challenges. Guided by its bioinnovation initiative, S&T plans to expand degree programs in bio-related fields, further

increase its growing portfolio of federal research and development funding, and significantly grow and diversify the S&T student body. Consistent with national trends, demand for bio-related programs at S&T has skyrocketed, with over 1,000 applications in 2023 alone.

The bioinnovation initiative will also help S&T increase revenue generated from proprietary knowledge and patent licensure and sustain its Carnegie R1 status. Benefits of R1 status, the highest level of research and innovation, include an ability to attract top faculty, secure significant research funding and provide students access to cutting-edge research opportunities.

An abundance of student interest and research opportunities, combined with S&T's unique engineering expertise, puts the university in a strong position to introduce new programs, attract faculty and build a facility that firmly establishes Missouri S&T as a leader in this increasingly important space.

VICKI JOHNSON

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO FOCUS ON LEARNING

Vicki Johnson, AE'82, says her lifelong passion for flying was nurtured by her father, a builder in northwest Missouri.

"We learned in planes that were old and beat up, but they were reliable," recalls Johnson.

She took to the skies under the tutelage of the local Civil Air Patrol, a rescue organization whose mission included instilling an interest in flying and teaching leadership skills. On her 16th birthday, Johnson failed her learner's permit driving test with an illegal right turn at a red light. Later that day, she took her first solo flight, and a year and a half later, she earned her private pilot's license. Johnson recognizes the danger of flying, but she cherishes many airborne memories, including taking off from Chillicothe, Missouri, with her grandfather so he could get a better look at his roof.

"I'm afraid of heights, but not when I'm in a cabin with my feet on the floor," she says. "There's such a sense of freedom in the sky."

Johnson says her decision to contribute a significant portion of her estate through a bequest was guided by the desire to create a sense of freedom that will allow current Missouri S&T students to focus on learning engineering without worrying about financial burdens.

When the members of the squadron that taught her to fly retired, they presented Johnson with a college scholarship. That, combined with the Curators' Scholarship, made it possible to concentrate on what drew her to Rolla in the first place: aerospace engineering.



Years later, as an associate professor of aeronautical engineering and the director of student success programs at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Johnson encountered students with financial obligations that competed directly with their education and required them to work while trying to graduate as quickly as possible.

"Earning a college degree is incompatible with having to earn a living," Johnson says. "I decided I wanted to give students the same opportunity I was given to focus on school."



Vicki Johnson, shown here in 1975, contributed a significant portion of her estate to allow current Missouri S&T students to focus on learning engineering without worrying about financial burdens. Photo courtesy of Vicki Johnson.

At college, Johnson alternated semesters between taking classes on campus in Rolla and working at the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, as a co-op employee. She spent her senior year in Rolla working on her capstone project, then joined NASA as a full-time employee. After earning a master's degree from George Washington University in 1985, Johnson went on to become the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Kansas.

Beyond NASA and Embry-Riddle, Johnson's career took her to the National Research Council, the National Institute of Aviation Research, The Boeing Co., Cessna, Textron Aviation and Spirit AeroSystems. She retired from Spirit in 2020. After a short break, she became captain of the *Queen Bee*, her 40-foot Mountain Aire Diesel Pusher RV.

Johnson remains involved in the Society of Women Engineers, particularly its late career and retiree affinity group, editing its newsletter and co-authoring a book about the society's first 25 achievement award recipients that will be published this year in celebration of the organization's 75th anniversary. An associate fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Johnson received the organization's sustained service award.

Johnson's gift to Missouri S&T supports scholarships, technology, lab equipment and professional development

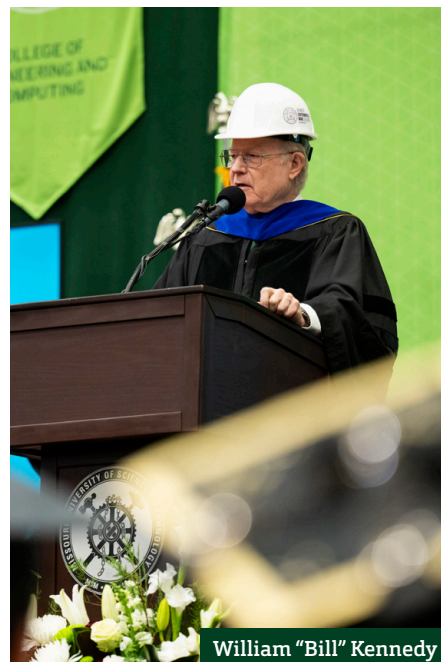
"I decided I wanted to give students the same opportunity I was given to focus on school."

opportunities for students. Honoring her belief in the power of hands-on experience to prepare students for industry, one third of the gift is allocated to the Student Design and Experiential Learning Center.

"It was time I decided what to do with the assets I've accumulated over my lifetime," Johnson says. "Hoping to make a difference in the lives of students, I decided to give to organizations that have made a difference in my own." ■



Dr. Harold "Skip" Garner



William "Bill" Kennedy

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS SHARE UNIQUE EXPERIENCES, ADVICE

It is always a point of pride when OGS members are selected to guide and inspire Missouri S&T's newest graduates. Last December more than 600 graduates benefited from the inspiring speeches of Dr. **Harold "Skip" Garner**, NucE'76, and **William "Bill" Kennedy**.

Garner, the chief scientific officer for Orbit Genomics, told Ph.D. graduates how his most important decisions caused him to remake himself multiple times.

"I am now giving back to Missouri S&T, with a focus on advising the university on efforts to expand its presence in biological and medical research and instruction," Garner said.

After earning a Ph.D. in plasma physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Garner spent 12 years at General Atomics before transitioning to medicine.

Garner held faculty positions at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute at Virginia Tech and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, and has supervised over 75 students pursuing their Ph.D., M.D. or D.O. degrees.

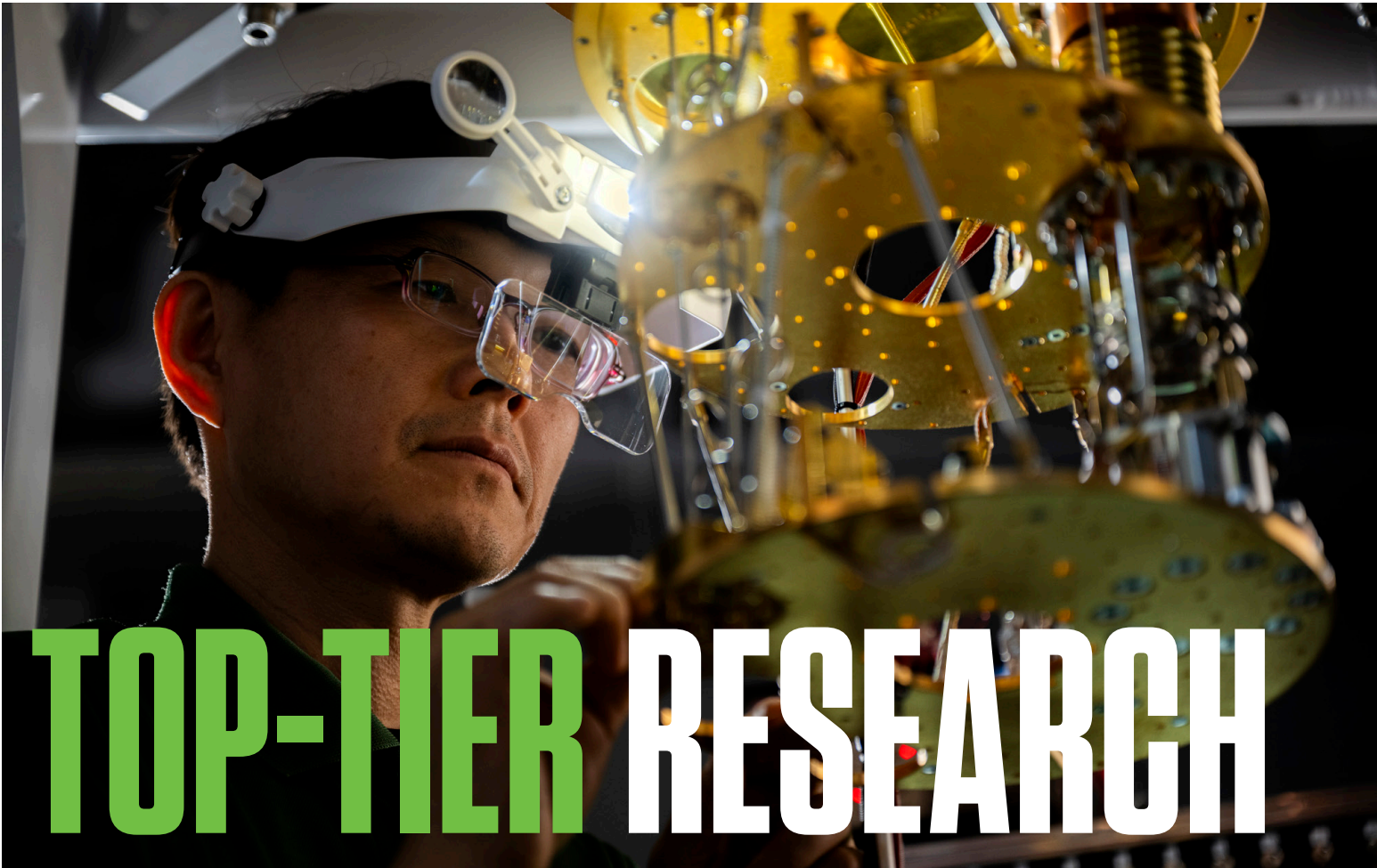
A member of Missouri S&T's Board of Trustees, Garner was honored in 1994 with S&T's Award of Professional Distinction in nuclear engineering and, along with his wife, medical anthropologist **Kim Menier**, has consistently supported the department for nearly 40 years.

Kennedy is CEO of Jack Kennedy Metal Products and Buildings Inc., based in Taylorville, Illinois, the world's largest mining ventilation firm. He told bachelor's and master's degree recipients why thinking outside of the box matters, and how not rushing into partnerships can pay off in the future.

"I thought outside of the box, not because I set out to, but because I didn't know any other way. I think that's a common trait among inventors," he said.

Kennedy has over 40 years of experience in mine ventilation and manufacturing of related equipment. He has been a frequent guest lecturer to undergraduate students, mining engineers and mining company officials at mineral engineering colleges and universities and at major mining company facilities.

Kennedy, the named inventor on 91 U.S. and foreign patents with others pending, authored the textbook *Practical Mine Ventilation*. A 1994 recipient of S&T's Award of Professional Distinction in mining engineering, Kennedy has generously supported mining engineering at S&T for nearly 25 years.



Missouri S&T has been classified with a Research 1 (R1) designation, according to the 2025 Carnegie Foundation classifications.

S&T is one of 187 institutions out of more than 4,300 nationwide to receive this distinction.

"Earning R1 status affirms Missouri S&T's excellence across disciplines and its high-impact research," says S&T Chancellor **Mo Dehghani**. "S&T researchers are committed to driving innovation and addressing the world's most critical challenges."

To qualify for R1 status for this year's Carnegie Foundation designations, institutions needed at least 70 conferred

research doctoral degrees and research expenditures of at least \$50 million.

S&T's research spending in fiscal year 2023 was almost \$61.5 million, and an average of 107 Ph.D. degrees were conferred over the three-year timeframe.

One of S&T's state-of-the-art research infrastructure projects is the Missouri Protoplex, a manufacturing research and development hub set to open in 2026. The university is also on track to celebrate the expansion and renovation of its Applied Research Center by the end of next year.

Other facilities in the works include a new test bed facility for research related to processing critical minerals and materials for our nation's economic and national security and the \$151.8 million Bioplex research and education facility.

"With our new status, Missouri S&T will continue to attract top researchers, secure more funding and drive economic growth," says **Kamal Khayat**, vice chancellor for research and innovation and the Vernon and Maralee Jones Professor of Civil Engineering. "Our faculty, staff and students have worked hard to achieve this milestone, and with our ongoing and future infrastructure projects to support our research and student learning initiatives, it will be incredible to see what we achieve in the coming years."



OGS MEMBERS RECEIVE ALUMNI AWARDS

Two OGS members were among the eight Missouri S&T alumni and one current faculty member to be honored for professional achievement and service contributions during the Miner Alumni Association Legends Luncheon on Oct. 25. The awards banquet is held annually in conjunction with S&T Homecoming festivities.

Peter Heerboth, CSci'03, received an Alumni Achievement Award. While at S&T, Heerboth belonged to Phi Kappa Phi, minored in math and history, and served as a teaching assistant in computer science. A native of St. Louis, Heerboth has worked on Wi-Fi-related software and wired networking and iPhone and iPad accessories since

joining Apple in 2003. He holds 15 patents for his work, including AirDrop, a proprietary wireless ad hoc service he co-invented. He credits a great deal of his professional success to his time at S&T. He and his wife, **Amanda**, a pediatric nurse practitioner in San Jose, California, have been staunch supporters of the university for more

than two decades. Heerboth served on the Miner Alumni Association board of directors, and they both organized and participated in events and supported the annual fund for many years. In 2018, they established the Peter and Amanda Heerboth Computer Science Scholarship Endowment with the Miner Alumni Association, which provides scholarship support to St. Louis-area students majoring in computer science.

Thomas Sieckhaus, CE'88, received the Jerry R. Bayless Alumni Merit Award. Sieckhaus is executive vice president, corporate business unit leader and shareholder at Clayco, one of the nation's largest privately owned real estate and design build firms, where his transparent leadership style has become ingrained in the corporate culture. Following the events in Ferguson, Missouri in 2014, Sieckhaus launched the Construction Career Development





Peter Heerboth



Thomas Sieckhaus

Initiative (CCDI) to connect youth in underserved communities with career opportunities in construction, from joining professional trades to entering degree programs. In addition to other milestones, CCDI has helped 175 students secure full-time employment and awarded 74 Build Our Future scholarships to students pursuing secondary or technical education, including eight current S&T students. He also collaborated with S&T alumni committed to improving industry retention and mentoring high school students. The CCDI program recently expanded to Chicago and Phoenix, where he continues to encourage Miner alumni to get involved. Sieckhaus, who was inducted into the Missouri S&T Academy of Civil Engineers in 2013, regularly returns to Rolla to engage with students. ■



MISSOURI S&T CHANCELLOR'S APPOINTMENT EXTENDED

Mun Y. Choi, president of the University of Missouri, recently announced the five-year extension of Missouri S&T Chancellor and OGS member **Mo Dehghani**.

The extension, approved by the University of Missouri Board of Curators, is based in part on a survey of faculty, staff and student leaders, members of the Missouri S&T Board of Trustees, the Kummer Missouri S&T Foundation Board and the Miner Alumni Association, and local civic leaders, who conveyed strong support for Dehghani's leadership and vision for the future.

"Chancellor Dehghani has been a transformational leader for Missouri S&T," Choi says. "His many accomplishments since becoming chancellor in 2019 include establishing the Kummer Institute for Student Success, Research and Economic Development and related centers of excellence, securing significant federal research grants from the Department of Defense, Department of Energy

and National Science Foundation, leading Missouri S&T to becoming classified as a Carnegie R1 institution, and implementing new policies and practices to ensure high performance by students, faculty and staff."

Dehghani is the 22nd leader in the institution's more than 150-year history. He joined Missouri S&T from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, where he served as vice provost for research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Chancellor Dehghani was also featured in the January issue of CEO Magazine. Read the full interview to learn about his passion for technology, leadership and shaping the next generation of innovators.

Scan the QR code to read the feature, or visit bit.ly/ceomag-dehghani



A CREATIVE APPROACH TO PHILANTHROPY

Two OGS members are getting creative in the way they engage with other Missouri S&T alumni on behalf of their department.

Last year, **Phil Ling**, ChE'92, and **Bipin Doshi**, ChE'62, MS ChE'63, began brainstorming ideas to help the Linda and Bipin Doshi Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering address the need to recruit and retain outstanding students and faculty.

Both Ling and Doshi made personal gifts of \$50,000 toward a recruitment and retention fund to be managed by the department and dean. They hope to inspire others to donate, with a goal of raising an additional \$100,000. The second step, following up on a virtual meeting in October, was to reach out directly to members of the Academy of Chemical and Biochemical Engineers, which Ling serves as president.

“Meeting this goal ensures we remain competitive and continue to drive meaningful impact in chemical and biochemical engineering and beyond.”

The message: Please help us sustain the tremendous value of a chemical and biochemical engineering degree from Missouri S&T into the future. The funds will be used to recruit and retain expert faculty, support S&T's North Star Goal for enrollment and prepare students to meet the demands of a highly competitive global market. As of February the challenge had raised more than \$177,000.

“I see firsthand how vital it is to attract and retain top talent among our faculty and students,” says **Hu Yang**,

the Linda and Bipin Doshi Endowed Department Chair of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering. “Meeting this challenge to raise \$200,000 empowers our department to invest in innovative teaching, cutting-edge research and support for our students that makes Missouri S&T a destination for the brightest minds. Meeting this goal ensures we remain competitive and continue to drive meaningful impact in chemical and biochemical engineering and beyond.”



Bipin Doshi



Phil Ling



Connect with people who care about Missouri S&T as much as you do

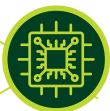
Each of our biennial OGS weekends are memorable gatherings thanks to the dedication and hard work of the OGS executive committee. To each and every member — past, present and future — our sincerest thanks.

Executive committee members serve three-year terms, with opportunities for OGS leadership roles for those who are interested. Members attend two virtual meetings per year. The committee's top priority is to help ensure the organization continues to serve its members for generations to come.

To be considered for service on the executive committee and to participate in organizing upcoming OGS weekends, please contact Sarah Jones at jonesarah@mst.edu or 573-341-6359.

EVOLVING TO MEET FUTURE JOB NEEDS

Missouri S&T is staying ahead of the job market with three new degree programs designed to prepare graduates for the imminent needs of industry and society. All are anticipated to be approved for student enrollment in fall 2025.



B.S., SEMICONDUCTOR ENGINEERING

The semiconductor engineering degree, with emphasis areas offered in device and process engineering, addresses a workforce gap that employment projections predict will widen over the next several years.

"Microelectronic chips and semiconductor devices have changed our modern society and will continue to shape the future to meet human needs, and our semiconductor graduates will be at the forefront of this progress," says **David Borrok**, GGph'95, vice provost and dean of S&T's College of Engineering and Computing.

Missouri S&T is deeply grateful for private investments totaling \$20 million to date that have made this leading-edge program possible. The investment will also fund a new 2,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art "cleanroom" (a controlled environment for scientific research) to be located in the S&T Applied Research Center, which is being expanded. Borrok says the cleanroom will be a huge advantage for the program, and will enhance S&T's research capabilities in nanotechnology, microelectronics and general materials science.



M.S., ECONOMICS AND INNOVATION (MEI)

This degree will address the need for a technically trained workforce of strategic decision-makers who can generate sustainable economic growth through applying innovative technologies. Graduates will be prepared to fill leadership roles such as innovation strategist, research and development manager, technology economist, economic or business development manager, and policy analyst.

Melody Lo, John and Ruth Steinmeyer Memorial Endowed Chair of Economics, developed the program and had extensive discussions with industry leaders including S&T Trustee **John Wagner**, NucE'92, who leads the Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory, and S&T Trustee, Alumni of Influence honoree and OGS member **John Lovitt**, MS CSci'70, a retired Silicon Valley senior executive. Wagner and Lovitt helped Lo develop the program. In addition to the core courses, students can select one of two industry-focused areas for further study: value-driven innovation or energy economics and global sustainability.



PH.D., APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

With more companies, communities, government, military and businesses relying on psychologists to enhance their workplaces, Missouri S&T is addressing the need for experts in the field of applied psychology. U.S. labor data supports this need, including the Bureau of Labor Statistics' prediction of a 7% growth in employment for psychologists from 2023–33, with an average of 13,000 openings per year.

The program will be housed in the psychological science department and will offer two academic tracks: applied social/industrial-organizational psychology and applied cognitive psychology.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

PROVOST COLIN POTTS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

OGS member **Colin Potts**, who has served Missouri S&T as provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs since 2021, will retire at the end of the 2024–25 academic year. Potts has led the university's Division of Academic Affairs, overseeing faculty affairs, undergraduate education, graduate education, University Libraries, online education, enrollment management and the three colleges. Potts also oversaw the establishment of the Kummer College, the introduction of two new undergraduate and two graduate degrees and the first increase in faculty ranks in a decade. A committee to conduct a national search for his replacement has been formed.

RICHARD BROW AND ROBIN GORE JOIN CHANCELLOR'S CABINET

Richard Brow, executive director of operations for the Kummer Institute, and **Robin Gore**, vice chancellor for Student Success, recently joined Missouri S&T's leadership team.

Brow, a Curators' Distinguished Professor of materials science and engineering, joined S&T in 1998, and has since held several leadership roles, including department chair, interim vice provost and dean of the College of Engineering and Computing, director of the Center for Biomedical Research and interim deputy provost for academic excellence. He was appointed executive director of operations for the Kummer Institute in March 2024.

Gore joins S&T from Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, Pennsylvania, where she served as vice president for student affairs. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, a master's degree in education and student affairs administration from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, and a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Gore and her team will focus on establishing a retention taskforce, creating a unified approach to academic advising and enhancing the student care team (UCARE) by incorporating a more holistic approach.



IN MEMORIAM

Robert E. Stevens

Robert E. "Bob" Stevens, ChE'81, a loyal advocate and supporter of chemical engineering at Missouri S&T, passed away in September. He will be remembered as a passionate alumnus whose enduring interest and generosity positively affected S&T's work in chemical engineering, the Academy of Chemical Engineers and many other university initiatives.

Stevens retired from executive management at Bechtel Corp. in 2016 after 26 years with the company. His work in oil, gas, chemical, power and environmental cleanup included projects on every continent except Antarctica. Stevens was an engineering manager at one of the largest nuclear waste facilities in the world where vitrified waste was turned into glass for safe, long-term storage. His last project was an \$11 billion liquefied natural gas facility in Queensland, Australia, that was selected as the 2016 Worldwide Industrial Project of the Year by ENR (*Engineering News-Record*).

Stevens joined OGS in 1998 and was inducted into the Academy of Chemical Engineers in 2004, serving as president from 2020–21. He was also a member of the Chemical Engineering Industrial Advisory Council. In 2017 Stevens received the S&T Award of Professional Distinction in Chemical Engineering.

He loyally supported Missouri S&T for 43 years.



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SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars and plan to join us June 4–6, 2026, for what's already shaping up to be an unforgettable weekend of celebrating the shillelagh spirit. Stay tuned for more details — including the announcement of the location — later this year.

Questions? Contact
Sarah Jones at
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573-341-6359.

June 4–6, 2026