

Fall 2024

# Shillelagh



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

newsletter

OGS makes  
**MINER  
MEMORIES**  
in ST. LOUIS





# The Missouri S&T BioPlex

Missouri S&T has been a leader in engineering education and research for over 150 years. Now we are well-positioned to expand this expertise with a biosciences and bioengineering initiative at the forefront of advancing human health and health care delivery.

Our emerging bio-innovation initiative combines our legacy of engineering excellence with expanded life sciences offerings to accelerate a growing focus on bio-related research and education.

The **BioPlex**, the future home to all of S&T's biosciences and bioengineering programs, will be the capstone of this initiative and our largest capital project to date. We look forward to sharing our developing plans with you.

## S&T is poised for “bio-success”

- High demand for educational programs and innovative research in these areas
- Significant potential to diversify S&T students, staff and faculty
- Unparalleled grant funding opportunities, both national and private
- Immense potential for proprietary invention and technology transfer
- Supports S&T's impending Carnegie R1 designation
- Builds on our capital investments of the last decade

## Our new degree programs include:

- B.S. in biomedical engineering
- Ph.D. in bioengineering
- Ph.D. in biological sciences

MISSOURI  
S&T™



## Dear Friends,

In June, OGS members old and new gathered in St. Louis for OGS Weekend 2024 to enjoy the camaraderie we've come to cherish as our university's most ardent supporters. This edition of the Shillelagh highlights the memories we made in a city with powerful ties to Missouri S&T.

I am immensely grateful to my fellow OGS Executive Committee members, **Craig Barnes**, ME'78, chair, **Breck Washam**, ME'90, vice chair, **Sarah Jones**, MBA'22, executive secretary, **Dan Bailey**, GeoE'03, MS EMgt'05, **Lisa Bonnot**, PetE'85, **Mandy Carney**, Al Kaplan, CE'72, and **Cordell Smith**, Hist'88, whose guidance helped make the weekend a momentous success.

The weekend culminated with a dinner program where Chancellor **Mo Deghani** unveiled plans for a biosciences and bioengineering initiative: “Engaging Engineering Minds in Addressing Health Care.” Our team is excited to bring this vision to life with an upcoming campaign for the **BioPlex**, the future home of S&T's biosciences and bioengineering programs and our largest capital project to date.

It is always a weekend highlight to recognize new and advancing OGS members at this dinner. Since our last gathering in 2022, we have welcomed

60 new donors, upping our membership to over 1,700. Over the same period, 73 OGS members have advanced into new giving claghn. I was delighted that our St. Louis weekend brought together 140 members, faculty and staff.

In this issue, I am honored to present our \$94 million record-setting fundraising results for fiscal year 2024, made possible by OGS donors and many more. Our campus community is profoundly grateful for your increasing philanthropic support as we advance the Missouri S&T experience. Please see page 11 for more details.

You'll also learn about two transformative additions to our campus, made possible by the late OGS founding members, **Fred**, CE'55, and **June Kummer**. The **Innovation Lab**, the first completed building in our new Arrival Complex, was dedicated on April 11. This stunning facility is a dynamic space where our students are learning to solve for tomorrow. One week later, we broke ground on the renovation and expansion of S&T's Engineering Research Lab, now named the **Applied Research Center**, which will serve as the designated space for our university's growing research partnerships.

Our donor profiles shine a light on several OGS members who have picked up the shillelagh to make a difference. After four decades of generosity toward electrical and computer engineering and the Miner Alumni Association, **William Hord**, EE'59, MS EE'63, PhD EE'66, is deepening his commitment to S&T with a planned gift. New members **Wayne Siesennop**, ME'61, and his wife, **Joanne**, established a scholarship endowment for mechanical engineering students; **Dan Lumma**, EE'90, and his wife, **Katie**, launched the College of Engineering and Computing's new leadership development program with a lead gift; and **Eric Politte**, ME'82, and his wife, **Sue**, have thoughtfully supported the Kummer Center for STEM Education, which provides life-

changing programs for PK-12 students interested in STEM. We are grateful to these members for investing in Missouri S&T's commitment to excellence.

We also extend our sincere congratulations to these OGS members who were recently recognized for their exemplary life achievements. Dr. **Kim Colter**, ChE'73, was S&T's speaker for the 2024 Ph.D. commencement ceremony. S&T's 2024 Honorary Knights of St. Patrick included **Wayne Beasley**, CSci'85, **Larry Gragg**, **Brad Hornburg**, CE'69, and **Mike McEvilly**, CE'80, MS EMgt'81. And **Dan Hinkle**, EMgt'73, received the Toots Schuman Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the St. Pat's Board. **Steven Moss**, ME'76, and **George Webber**, MinE'71, MS MinE'75, received 2023 Homecoming awards.

And finally, we want to welcome Dr. **James Sterling** to S&T as the new vice provost and founding dean of the **Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development**. His outstanding accomplishments in applied entrepreneurship bring a fresh perspective and focused vision to our campus.

I thank each and every one of you for strengthening our university as members of this extraordinary circle of friends.

With gratitude,

*Tory Verkamp*

**Tory Verkamp**  
Vice Chancellor for  
University Advancement



OGS Weekend

# SHILLELAGH SPIRIT SOARS IN ST. LOUIS

OGS members gathered in June in St. Louis to celebrate our Miner ties and the strong future of our university. Headquartered at The Chase Park Plaza in the city’s historic Central West End, we couldn’t have asked for a better location to experience the best of St. Louis.

The weekend kicked off at Busch Stadium, where we watched the St. Louis Cardinals play the Colorado Rockies from a private suite. On Friday, members visited the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, Gateway Arch or National Blues Museum — and ended the day with a walk on the wild side at the Saint Louis Zoo. Saturday’s lineup offered something for everyone: a golf game in Forest Park, time to explore the historic St. Charles riverfront community, or a tour and performance at the Fabulous Fox Theatre.

Our weekend culminated with an elegant dinner and recognition ceremony in The Chase Starlight Ballroom, where we welcomed new members and honored those whose ongoing support has deepened their legacy. Chancellor **Mo Deghani** highlighted the extraordinary role OGS members have played in advancing the university, shared campus highlights and announced a new bio-innovation initiative. Special thanks to our emcee, **Craig Barnes**, and St. Louis pundits **Breck Washam** and **Amelia Markwell**, a junior in biological sciences, who enlightened us on the remarkable history and high points of the River City.



1. A striking view of Busch Stadium from the OGS private suite.
2. OGS members wait for a train ride to Big Cat Country at the Saint Louis Zoo.
3. From left, **Kathleen** and **Bob Hurst**, MetE’74, MS MetE’77, MS EMgt’84, MS EMch’87, **Bill Engelhardt**, ME’60, **Dick Boyett**, CE’58 and **Jeff Boyett** enjoy an evening of camaraderie and major league baseball.
4. **John Eash**, AE’79, MS EMgt’90, samples a freshly made libation at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery.
5. **Ferda** and **Bill Omurtag**, S&T professor emeritus of engineering management, commemorate their excursion.
6. OGS members are briefed on the VIP brewery tour.
7. **Dennis**, EE’76, MS EE’77, and **Pam**, AMth’75, **Leitterman** pose for a caricature portrait.

**On the cover:** On Saturday morning, a group of OGS members enjoyed a behind-the-scenes VIP tour of the iconic Anheuser-Busch Brewery founded in 1852.





- 1. Breck Washam, ME'90, asks for a show of hands of those with ties to St. Louis at Saturday's dinner and recognition ceremony.
- 2. David Bayless, ME'87, and S&T's chair and professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, shares a laugh with other OGS members.
- 3. From left, Dana, CE'73, and Nancy Reel and George, EE'73, and Cathy Schindler share a cocktail.
- 4. Gail Lueck, EMgt'02, MS EMgt'03, and Todd Kramer take in the skyline from The Chase balcony.
- 5. The evening's program includes an introduction to S&T's new bio-innovation initiative.
- 6. Saturday night's rooftop reception in The Chase Zodiac Ballroom.



Chancellor Mo Dehghani welcomes new members Craig, ChE'67, MS ChE'69, and Delores Johler into the Order of the Golden Shillelagh.

# WITH GRATITUDE

The Order of the Golden Shillelagh recognizes its new and advancing members for their generous support.

## NEW MEMBERS

- |                               |                             |                                  |                              |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vick and Neeta Agarwal        | Franklin Cheng              | Lewis Daniel and Caroline Israel | Michael and Brenda Schaeffer |
| Robert and Laura Agee         | Anne Day                    | Craig and Delores Johler         | William and Diane Shinn      |
| Wayne and Kay Beasley         | David and Denise Denner     | Christine Krieger                | Wayne and Joanne Siesennop   |
| Carolyn Becker                | John and Paula DeRuntz      | Daniel and Kathryn Lumma         | David Sizemore               |
| Carl and Debra Berwick        | Richard and Janet Dubroff   | Donald Packwood                  | Joseph Stahl                 |
| Richard Boyett                | James and Ellen Dycus       | Eric and Sue Politte             | Edwin and Patricia Stuckey   |
| Richard and Barbara Brake     | Michael and Rosie Flannigan | Colin Potts and Karen Head       | Ben and Tory Verkamp         |
| Michael and Rosemary Calandro | Gregory Gelles              | Sean Price                       | George and Helma Webber      |
| Scott and Margaret Carriere   | Roger and Sharron Hoffman   | Henry and Irene Sandhaus         |                              |

## ADVANCING MEMBERS

- |                                |                                      |                                    |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shirley Bauer                  | William Hord                         | Louise Marchello                   | George and Catherine Schindler |
| David and Sally Bayless        | Orville Hunter Jr. and Judy Hunter   | Robert and Mylla Markland          | Jon and Robin Schneider        |
| Russell and Margy Beckmeyer    | Lindell Hurst Jr. and Kathleen Hurst | S. Dale McHenry and Tracy Hagerson | Eugene Sehl Jr. and Joan Sehl  |
| John Berger                    | Kevin and Diana Ijames               | Zeb and Harriet Nash               | Kevin and Jeanie Skibiski      |
| Diane Butrus                   | Dennis and Janet Jaggi               | Mitchell and Katherine Niehoff     | Dale and Patricia Spence       |
| Charles and Laurie Campbell    | Kenneth and Beverly Jinkerson        | Dale and Janet Pitt                | James Stoffer                  |
| Kim Colter and Elaine Menke    | James Knox Jr. and Jane Knox         | Eric and Ingeborg Potts            | Philip and Diane Wade          |
| Raymond Fournelle              | John and Margaret Lauletta           | Doyle and Suzanne Powell           | Breck and Ruth Ann Washam      |
| Wayne and Ilene Garrett        | Dennis and Pamela Leitertman         | Geoffrey and Karen Reedy           | Michael and Linda Woessner     |
| Jon and Amy Gibbs              |                                      | Dana and Nancy Reel                | Daniel and Linda Wright        |
| Edward Haug Jr. and Carol Haug |                                      |                                    |                                |



# Innovation Lab

## now anchors Arrival Complex

The Innovation Lab, the first bricks-and-mortar manifestation of the Arrival Complex, opened its doors on Feb. 15 to become the focal point of a magnificent new entrance to the Missouri S&T campus. This 50,000-square-foot building, made possible in great part through a major gift from the late **Fred and June Kummer**, is the first new building on campus to realize the Kummer Institute’s vision for student innovation and entrepreneurship.

Inspired by our rich history as a school of mines, the Innovation Lab’s clay-colored terra cotta exterior is a symbolic connection to the historic clay brick of the Rolla Building, the university’s first building. On April 11, Missouri S&T dedicated the Innovation Lab in a ceremony attended by state and local dignitaries, project managers and university leaders, faculty, staff and students. In addition to **Fred and June Kummer**, donors **Carl, ChE’49**, and **Dolores Goller** (deceased), **Joseph, MetE’72**, and **Sally Rupp, Min H. Kao, Garmin International Inc.** and **Nucor Corp.** were recognized.

The Innovation Lab includes the Student Success Center, maker spaces, modular classrooms, collaborative labs and a soaring central atrium — a forward-thinking environment where students will learn to become the trailblazers and problem solvers of the future.



### See how far we’ve come

The vision of a welcoming arrival complex emerged in 2017 from Missouri S&T’s partnership with the Move Rolla Transportation Development District Program, Phelps County and Phelps Health. Designed to improve the campus experience for all, house recruitment and enrollment services for future students, and give S&T and the Rolla community a vibrant entryway to campus, the real work began in 2021 when the project became part of S&T’s Campus Master Plan. It is the university’s most important and transformational capital project in decades.

The 10-acre Arrival Complex is nearing completion as a welcoming, cohesive front door to campus compatible with S&T’s academic reputation. A visionary gift from **Tim, PetE’77**, and **Kay Bradley**, jump-started the project by funding the reconfiguration of University Drive. The project has progressed at a consistently rapid pace, thanks to the concerted planning, design and construction efforts of S&T’s finance and operations and facilities departments and the dedicated support of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, Rolla’s city government and the project managers, architects and contractors who are building this dream.



Tim Bradley Way at Exit 185 on I-44 opened in September 2022 to give visitors clear access to campus. The Bishop Avenue roundabout connects to the Arrival Complex.

“We are incredibly grateful to the many donors who have brought the Arrival Complex to life in record time,” says **Tory Verkamp**, vice chancellor for University Advancement. “The leadership, long-term vision and generosity of the OGS members involved in this project have been the bedrock of its success.”



From Illinois to  
California via Rolla:

William Hord  
is a Miner whose  
roots run deep



“I’ve been associated with Rolla for most of my life. Having been a university administrator myself, I understand the importance of alumni giving. I’m happy to support a very fine school that had a big influence on my life.”

**W**illiam Hord, EE’59, MS EE’63, PhD EE’66, remembers the first time he heard of Rolla. He was a Warsaw, Illinois, high school senior in math class. “Our teacher handed everyone in class a booklet about the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy,” he says. “That got me interested in engineering and Rolla.”

He arrived on campus in 1955 as a 16-year-old freshman. “I had two older brothers bringing their books home, so that gave me a head start,” says Hord, who skipped the first grade and was used to being the youngest kid in class. Nothing changed when he found himself in classes with Korean War veterans attending Rolla on the GI Bill.

“I had an early morning English class on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays,” says Hord. “We were seated alphabetically. There was an Air Force veteran on one side of me and a Navy veteran on the other. I remember being a bit daunted when they showed up for class after a Friday night on the town.”

Hord went to work for Sperry Gyroscope Co. on Long Island, New York, in 1959 and returned to Rolla as a graduate student a year later.

“I wasn’t cut out for the East Coast lifestyle,” he says. “Long Island was a crowded place for a kid from the cornfields of Illinois.”

After earning his master’s degree and Ph.D., Hord went to work for Emerson Electric in St. Louis. He left industry for academia in 1969 to join Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where he spent 15 years as a professor and administrator, serving as department chair and School of Engineering acting dean.

In the early 1980s, Hord returned to industry when a friend with a radar technology company in southern California recruited him. The company, Microwave Applications Group (MAG), was manufacturing a critical radar component for the B-1 bomber. Hord joined MAG and retired as vice president of engineering in 2000. He became a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in 1993 and received an Award of Professional Distinction from S&T in 1998.

Although he has lived in southern California for decades, Hord says he will always miss “Missouri’s beautiful spring and fall colors.” His daughter, Lynn Van Breusegen,

founded St. Louis-based engineering consulting firm VBA Compliance Assurance. She holds a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia, an MBA from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a master’s degree in information management from Washington University in St. Louis.

As a member of the Academy of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Hord attended meetings on campus for many years. He is a longtime supporter of electrical and computer engineering and the Miner Alumni Association. Now, through a major planned gift in support of electrical and computer engineering and the university general fund, he has deepened his support.

“I’ve been associated with Rolla for most of my life,” says Hord. “Having been a university administrator myself, I understand the importance of alumni giving. I’m happy to support a very fine school that had a big influence on my life.” ■



ENGINEERING RESEARCH  
LAB EXPANDS WITH  
NEW PURPOSE

The era of innovation continues on the northeast side of campus where the University of Missouri Board of Curators, President **Mun Choi**, and Missouri S&T leaders broke ground April 18 on a major expansion and renovation of the Engineering Research Lab. To highlight the facility’s evolution from a traditional campus lab to a collaborative research hub for industry partnerships, it will now be named the **Applied Research Center (ARC)**.

The ARC will be vital to developing strong research partnerships in every economic sector. Its 33,000-square-foot addition will provide our campus with the latest technologies, equipment and lab spaces to support modern applied research. It will also be the place where our research and innovation office can transfer its findings to market as products, services, startups and intellectual property. Located next to Straumanis-James Hall, which houses S&T’s Materials Research Center, the two buildings combined will provide 100,000 square feet of research space.

We are grateful for the state of Missouri’s appropriations funding for this project and the matching funds provided by the Kummer Institute Foundation.





WAYNE AND JOANNE SIESENNOP

# Inspiring future mechanical engineers

Joanne and Wayne Siesennop on a recent visit to the Campbell House Museum in St. Louis.

Wayne Siesennop, ME'61, came to Rolla to become a mechanical engineer. His grandfather was a pipefitter, and his father, who started architecture school at Washington University in St. Louis before the Depression derailed his dream, worked in the refrigeration business for a meat packing plant. "They both inspired my interest in mechanical engineering," says Siesennop, who played tennis in high school and joined the university tennis team his freshman year. "We played on three concrete courts over by the old Jackling Gym. I was a mediocre tennis player, but I liked being on the team because it was a break from studying." He also joined Beta Sigma Psi fraternity and has never forgotten his first St. Pat's in Rolla — or his first shillelagh. "A fraternity member drove us to the woods with an axe and

shovel. I had to dig up a small tree and carry it around campus all week. I was about 5 foot 7 inches tall and weighed maybe 125 pounds. It was a relief when someone stole it." After graduation, Siesennop earned a master's degree in the field and a Ph.D. in applied mechanics, both from the University of Illinois. That's where he met Joanne Pratt, a Smith College graduate, who was working in the university's theoretical and applied mechanics department after completing her master's degree in physics. "Joanne was using an electron microscope to study strain-cycled copper," says Siesennop. "When I finished my Ph.D., we got married and went to Scotland." He had a post-doctoral fellowship in biomedical engineering at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, and Joanne worked as a researcher at the National Engineering Lab.

"I sold newspapers to pay for college, but I had some scholarship support, so providing opportunity for others was important."

When they returned to the United States, Joanne taught high school math and Wayne spent four years in industry before joining the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A registered professional engineer in Wisconsin, he also worked as an expert witness for the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office and civil lawyers. "I began testifying in cases that involved product design and decided I'd rather ask the questions than answer them," says Wayne, who earned his law degree at Marquette University and co-founded Siesennop & Sullivan law firm, where he specializes in defending architects, engineers and contractors. Wayne has tried more than 100 civil court cases and published 13 appeals, including "Estate of Lyons v. CNA Insurance Companies," which established that government immunity can be extended to independent contractors, such as engineers, who carry out government contracts. He also lectures widely and has published technical and law-related articles. The Siesennops have five children and 11 grandchildren and live in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. They established an S&T scholarship endowment for mechanical engineering in 2022, the year they joined OGS. "I sold newspapers to pay for college, but I had some scholarship support, so providing opportunity for others was important," says Siesennop, who also banked tuition dollars collecting foul balls for the St. Louis Cardinals as a field guard. "For a lifelong Cardinals fan, that was the best job in the world."

## Celebrating a record-setting \$94 million year of philanthropic support

Thanks to the transformative generosity of an extensive community of donors, Missouri S&T has concluded a record-setting year of fundraising. Philanthropic contributions for 2024 totaled over \$94 million, making it one of the most successful fundraising years in the university's history. "We are immensely grateful for the increasing support our donors are providing," says **Tory Verkamp**, vice chancellor for University Advancement. They recognize the difference a Missouri S&T education makes, and by investing in scholarships, faculty, state-of-the-art programs and capital improvements, are not only elevating but also expanding access to the S&T experience. The results for fiscal year 2024, which ended June 30, were only surpassed by S&T's 2021 fundraising year that included a \$300 million gift from the late founding OGS members **Fred and June Kummer**.

Giving of this magnitude is a wonderful endorsement of our commitment to developing leaders equipped to solve for tomorrow. Our donors are stakeholders in Missouri S&T's success."

Chancellor  
Mo Deghani





# Eric Politte

STEM education advocate and entrepreneur

Eric Politte, ME’82, has a personal perspective on the importance of the Kummer Center for STEM Education. He grew up in the small eastern Missouri town of Crystal City and attended school in nearby Festus, where his favorite classes were in math and science.

As a member of the Kummer Institute Foundation Board of Directors, Politte is passionate about the institute’s mission, especially its focus on bringing STEM opportunities to PK-12 students in underserved and rural communities across Missouri.

“We are trying to bring youth into the STEM world as early as we can,” says Politte. “I believe the Kummer program can have a tremendous impact. Wouldn’t it be great if Missouri turned out more engineers per capita than any other state?”

For Politte, thinking big comes naturally. He credits his father, who managed a welding supply company and later went into business for himself, with instilling his entrepreneurial spirit.

“My dad was, and still is at 85, one of the hardest-working guys I know,” says Politte. “He was an inspiration to both my engineering interests and my business aspirations.”



“We are trying to bring youth into the STEM world as early as we can. I believe the Kummer program can have a tremendous impact.”

After graduating from S&T with a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, Politte joined Exxon in Lafayette, Louisiana, as a facilities engineer for a group of offshore oil platforms. He later became a regulatory affairs engineer and led the district’s regulatory reporting and compliance efforts, including a six-month assessment program.

“I assembled a six-man team with a helicopter, and we visited every offshore facility in Exxon’s Gulf of Mexico operations,” says Politte. “The program provided years of improved operations, safety and security for the entire district.”

After deciding to strike out on his own, Politte founded an oil and gas production company with a partner. “We found ourselves selling oil for \$12 a barrel; we had the worst possible timing. So, we started two oil service companies to do our own well work and make ends meet. I also created a new wax diverter bead to reduce our frac costs and began selling it to other companies.”

Politte’s next venture was an engineering consulting firm, Response Management Associates (RMA), focused on regulatory compliance and emergency response.

“After several large oil spills, including Exxon Valdez and a few major inland spills, a new set of regulations impacting the entire oil industry came out,” says Politte. RMA became the nationally recognized expert on several of these compliance requirements and helped publish new industry standards.

Politte sold RMA to a publicly traded company in 2006 and retired as president in 2011. Along the way, he acquired an industrial electrical construction company (now ATI Energy Group) that has built pipelines and plants

nationwide and is expanding into battery energy storage systems and solar farms. He also founded an oil and gas holding company, created a partnership that owns rail-truck transload facilities, developed many commercial real estate projects, and continues to invest in startups.

Politte and his wife, Sue, who became OGS members this year, are long-time contributors to mechanical engineering and the Miner Alumni Association and recent donors to the Kummer Center for STEM Education. They have three children and nine grandchildren. All their children attended S&T’s Jackling Introduction to Engineering summer camp and became engineers. Amanda is a petroleum engineering graduate from University of Texas-Austin, Josh is a mechanical engineering graduate from Texas A&M, and Alyssa is a civil engineering graduate also from Texas A&M. Josh and Alyssa both have their own consulting and engineering firms.

“I’m often asked how all our kids became engineers,” says Politte. “Easy — we made math and science fun from the beginning of their educations. Parental support and involvement are key.”

As an entrepreneur who has established more than 20 companies, Politte is also asked about his secret to entrepreneurial success.

“There are as many unique stories about becoming an entrepreneur as there are entrepreneurs,” he says. “You have to make it happen for yourself; it’s just not going to happen for you. Every decision, every action, every connection, every result is a turn in a long and winding road — sometimes to a dead end and sometimes off a cliff. Perseverance and risk tolerance are definitely prerequisites.”





DAN AND KATIE LUMMA

# Giving life to leadership training

New OGS members **Dan Lumma**, EE'90, and his wife, **Katie**, have stepped up to the plate as the lead donors for Missouri S&T's LIFE (Leadership and Innovation for Futures in Engineering) program. Aimed at preparing students to become the technical leaders of tomorrow, the program is at the heart of the Lummas' vision for making a difference at Missouri S&T. As president of Kiewit Engineering Group Inc., Lumma oversees 3,500 employees and the engineering and design services for Kiewit Corp.'s power, water, oil, gas, chemical and infrastructure businesses. The company is one of North America's top-rated engineering and construction firms — and one that heavily recruits new hires from Missouri S&T's renowned talent pool of engineering graduates.

While Lumma may make effective leadership look easy, he earned his success by integrating his strong technical capabilities with a powerful set of human-centric competencies. Through managing projects with increasing accountability and participating in corporate training programs, Lumma gained leadership development experience early on in his 35-year career with Kiewit. "The ability to communicate, to empathize and to persuade a group of people to engage in any endeavor is crucial to the outcome of any large project, especially in the EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) and design-build industry," says Lumma. "This is where effective leadership drives teamwork and profitability, as well as the achievement of safety and environmental goals."

"My rigorous education at Rolla gave me tremendous technical confidence on the job, but I know that additional leadership development opportunities will provide exponential value to S&T's engineers of the future."

Lumma partnered with **David Borrok**, GGph'95, vice provost and dean of S&T's College of Engineering and Computing, to finalize content of the new LIFE program, which offers a variety of leadership-building activities, networking and mentoring opportunities and funding for conference travel to a selected cohort of students. This spring, the Lummas made the LIFE program a reality with their \$100,000 commitment. And true to form, Lumma kicked off the program in April with an inspiring on-campus speech to the inaugural group of 27 engineering and computing students and the faculty members involved. Lumma was inducted into Missouri S&T's Academy of Electrical and Computer Engineering this year. He holds an MBA from the University of Calgary in Alberta and is a professional engineer in Kansas. In his student years at Missouri S&T, he was president and treasurer of Kappa Sigma fraternity. He and Katie reside in Kansas City, Missouri, where they are actively parenting a blended family of six children. Katie holds a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Both are volunteers at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City and in other community organizations that support the needs of children. "My rigorous education at Rolla gave me tremendous technical confidence on the job," says Lumma, "but I know that additional leadership development opportunities will provide exponential value to S&T's engineers of the future. Katie and I are thrilled to support the LIFE program." ▣



## STERLING NAMED VICE PROVOST AND FOUNDING DEAN OF KUMMER COLLEGE

On June 1, James Sterling began his role as vice provost and founding dean of Missouri S&T's Kummer College of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development. He joined S&T from the Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) in Claremont, California, where he was a professor and director of the school's intellectual property and technology transfer committee and its Ph.D. program. He previously served KGI as vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty and director of the professional sciences master's degree program. He co-founded Claremont BioSolutions, an entrepreneurial KGI spin-off. Sterling earned a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the California Institute of Technology in 1987, where he has taught, as well as at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



# OGS MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## COLTER DELIVERS PH.D. COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. **Kim Colter**, CE'73, a family physician for Mercy Clinic Community Hospitalists in Washington, Missouri, spoke during the Missouri S&T Ph.D. commencement ceremony on May 10.

He emphasized to graduates the importance of serendipity and strong communication skills in scientific discovery.

In closing, Colter paid homage to Rolla: "For me, the word 'Rolla' evokes a warm glow, camaraderie, love, hopes realized and challenges met," he said. "As I reflect on seven decades of life, I increasingly realize the enormous impact that Rolla has had on me. In the coming decades, many of you will say the same thing."

Colter earned a master's degree in chemical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1974 and a medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 1978. He has practiced medicine in Washington, Missouri, for 43 years. Colter and his wife, **Elaine Menke**, CSci'73, joined OGS this year and have supported Missouri S&T for over 40 years.

## ST. PAT'S HONOREES

The Honorary Knights of St. Patrick, a group composed of influential alumni, state and local dignitaries, and S&T faculty and staff, are the greatest patrons and allies of the St. Pat's Celebration. We were thrilled that this year, four of eight knights selected by the St. Pat's Board were OGS members, and another of our own received the Toots Schuman Award recognizing exemplary service to the St. Pat's Board. All were honored on March 15 during a celebratory dinner at Hasselmann Alumni House.

### Honorary Knights



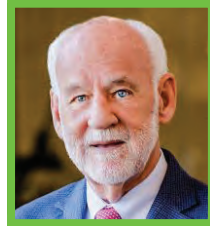
**Wayne Beasley**, CSci'85, of Rolla, is a pilot for American Airlines. He is a member of the Missouri S&T Board of Trustees,

the Chancellor's Greek Advisory Committee, and a chapter advisor to the Sigma Nu fraternity. Beasley earned a master's degree in management from Webster University in 1996 and served as an officer in the United States Air Force from 1985 to 2012. He and his wife, **Kay**, became OGS members this year. The Beasleys established the Patrick Beasley Memorial Scholarship in support of students studying mining and geological engineering.



**Larry Gragg** of Rolla is a Curators' Distinguished Teaching Professor emeritus of history and

university historian at Missouri S&T. Gragg joined the S&T faculty in 1977 and has served as chair of the history and political science department. He was also the founding chair of the Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence. The author of *Forged in Gold: Missouri S&T's First 150 Years*, Gragg has received the Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, the University of Missouri President's Award for Outstanding Teaching, the University of Missouri Curators' Award for Scholarly Excellence and the Miner Alumni Association's Alumni Merit Award. He and his wife, **Doris**, joined OGS in 2022 and have supported a number of university initiatives.



**Brad Hornburg**, CE'69, of St. Louis, is CEO of Brad Hornburg Consulting, formerly Landmark Contract

Management Inc. Hornburg served on the St. Pat's Board in 1966. He is a member of Missouri S&T's Academy of Civil Engineers. He previously received the Robert V. Wolf Alumni Service Award from the Miner Alumni Association and the Distinguished Service Award from Theta Xi. Hornburg and his wife, **Connie**, joined OGS in 2017. They have supported civil engineering initiatives and student design teams for nearly 30 years.



**Mike McEvilly**, CE'80, MS EMgt'81, of Spring, Texas, is vice president of fabrication at Morrison Energy. McEvilly has had

a successful career in the oil and gas sector including working on two award-winning mega-deepwater offshore development projects in Houston. He

is vice president of the Missouri S&T Board of Trustees, a member of the Academy of Engineering Management and a past president of the Miner Alumni Association. McEvilly is the president-elect of Tau Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity. He and his wife, **Mary**, EMgt'81, joined OGS in 2010. They have supported Hasselmann Alumni House, civil engineering and other university initiatives for over 40 years.



Dan Hinkle (right) is presented with the Toots Schuman Award by St. Pat's Board Member, Ollie Fensterman, a senior in electrical engineering.

## TOOTS SCHUMAN AWARD

**Dan Hinkle**, EMgt'73, of Sugar Land, Texas, received the Toots Schuman Award for his outstanding service to the St. Pat's Board. Hinkle earned a juris doctorate from Oklahoma City University in 1977 and established his own lobby firm in Texas. He is an emeritus member of the Alaska, Oklahoma and Texas bar associations. Hinkle became an Honorary Knight in 2004, has been an alumni advisor to the St. Pat's Board and served on the Miner Alumni Association Board of Directors. An OGS member since 2010, Hinkle is a strong supporter of the Kummer Center for STEM Education and has supported S&T for over four decades.

## HOMECOMING LEGENDS

Each Homecoming, the Miner Alumni Association recognizes a select group of alumni for outstanding achievements and service to their community, their professions and the world. The 2023 awardees included two OGS members who were honored at the annual Homecoming Legends Luncheon, themed "Innovation: The Rolla Way."



**Steven Moss**, ME'76, of Chesterfield, Missouri, received the Jerry R. Bayless Alumni Merit Award for outstanding professional achievement and service to the campus. After nearly 40 years with Nooter/Erickson, Moss retired in 2015 as senior vice president of new business development. A past president of the Academy of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineers, Moss served on the Student Design and Experiential Learning Center advisory board. He and his wife, **Julie**, joined OGS in 2008. They established the Steven and Julie Moss Promise and Opportunity Scholarship and have supported mechanical and aerospace engineering for nearly 25 years.



**George Webber**, MinE'71, MS MinE'75, of Redlands, California, received the Alumni Merit Award for outstanding personal achievements in the fields of academia, business, professions or civic endeavors. Webber founded his own company, Webber and Webber Mining Consultants, with his wife, **Helma**, in 1986, and they later developed their own mineral properties. Webber continues to consult with clients and operate their Sigma Clay Mine, which produces asbestos-free clay for landfill use. Committed to the future of mining in green energy development, the Webbers established the George and Helma Webber Scholarship for Mining Engineers. They joined OGS in 2023. ■

# MINERFEST

Please join the Miner Alumni Association in Rolla for a Minerfest Homecoming weekend filled with food, fun and friends.

 **October 25–26, 2024**

You're also invited to honor this year's Homecoming Awardees at our annual Legends Luncheon.

Register for all events at [mineralumni.com/homecoming](https://mineralumni.com/homecoming).





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Nominate a

# MINER

Missouri S&T is seeking nominations for our **2026 Alumni of Influence**, the highest alumni honor bestowed by the university.

Since the tradition began in 2011, S&T has honored 50 distinguished alumni who have helped shape the world and achieved remarkable results.

To nominate, please use the form at [influence.mst.edu/nominate](https://influence.mst.edu/nominate) or send your nominations to **Nancy Hatch**, assistant vice chancellor for University Advancement, at [hatchn@mst.edu](mailto:hatchn@mst.edu).

To learn about our past honorees, visit [influence.mst.edu](https://influence.mst.edu).



**Above:** Alumni of Influence **Bipin Doshi**, ChE'62, MS ChE'63, and **Peggy Montana**, ChE'76, honorees from 2016 and 2021 respectively, shared a toast at the 2021 celebration.

**Right:** **Matt Coco**, CE'66, a 2016 honoree, was escorted by **Elizabeth Bowles**, PhD Chem'16.

