



# Fall 2011 Accomplishments

## STUDENTS REACH FOR SUCCESS

**Hundreds of Forest Park students** pledged to complete their college educations by signing their names to a “Commit to Complete” banner during a



candle lighting ceremony in the cafeteria Sept. 21. Forest Park’s PTK and SGA officers hosted the “Lighting the Flame of Promise” event. The initiative is in response to a White House Summit on Higher Education, where President



Barack Obama and other leaders pledged to boost college completion by 50 percent by 2020.

**Nursing student Cindy Bakalar** was a third district winner of a Student Nurses Association Presidential Scholarship to the Missouri Nurses Association Biennial Convention, Oct. 7-8 at Tan-Tara in Osage Beach. Her winning essay, “The Future, Nursing and Informatics,” was submitted to the Missouri State Board of Nursing newsletter for publication. She was honored by the STLCC Board of Trustees on Oct. 20.



**Auto Tech students Ben Swallow and Zachary Poggemoeller** have been awarded \$2,000 scholarships by Grainger Industrial Supply, a local distributor of facilities maintenance supplies. They are two of 200 students nationwide to win the Grainger



Tools for Tomorrow Scholarship this year. When they graduate in May, they also will receive a customized Westward toolkit from Grainger, valued at more than \$1,000. They were honored by the STLCC Board of Trustees on Oct. 20.

**Upward Bound students** returned from the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel Student Leadership Conference in St. Charles in October with the top two awards: leadership awards for Tishawn Jackson and Kevairis Henry. Two Forest Park students also won awards in the Oratory Contest: LaTrice Houston and Amber Watson; a quartet made the finals in the TRIO’s Got Talent competition; and 10 students moderated workshops.

**Hospitality and Art students** in the Clay Club teamed up Nov. 3 for an “Empty Bowls” benefit, offering homemade soup and ceramic bowls to benefit Operation Food Search. For a \$10 donation, participants selected a handmade bowl, had a choice of three soups, a small baguette and sample of mousse.

## Student Government Association

**President Derrick Varner** won the Missouri Community College Association’s 2011 Student Leadership Award at the annual convention in Branson, Mo., Nov. 4. Varner was instrumental in developing a smoke free student campaign which won a “Make a Difference Award” from MCCA during 2010-11.



**Forest Park nursing students** were featured in an instructional video produced by Elsevier, a publisher of medical and scientific materials. The video, shot on campus, was featured on YouTube over the summer, and gave tips on how to be a successful nursing student.

## Digital photography student

**Sandra Abberton** won \$100 for her photos of Honduras, which adorn this year’s International Education Festival poster. Abberton, a respiratory therapist at Barnes Hospital, traveled to Honduras for several years with the Washington Overseas Mission, which built houses and an orphanage. She is pursuing photography as a serious hobby and is enrolled in Jamie Kreher’s class. The International Education Festival runs Nov. 7-21 and features 12 events, including a food and fashion festival on Nov. 16.



## WE’RE GLAD YOU STOPPED BY

**Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon** stopped by the William J. Harrison Education Center Sept. 29 to announce a \$20 million, statewide grant dubbed “MoHealthWINS,” to train 4,600 unemployed workers in growing health care fields. At STLCC, \$3.7 million of that grant will fund programs to train 1,111 unemployed workers. Gov. Nixon also toured the Patient Care Technician class.

**Dr. Brenda Dann-Messier**, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Vocational and Adult Education, met with nursing students, employers and educators, including MCCA Executive Director Zora Mulligan, in a roundtable discussion at Forest Park Oct. 25.

**U.S. Congressman Russ Carnahan** sponsored a Veterans Resource Jobs Fair in the Forest Park Cafeteria Nov. 14.

### PARDON OUR DUST

**Summer cafeteria renovations** may have extended into the fall for a few weeks, but the inconvenience was well worth the wait. An elegant cafeteria has emerged from the dust with a raised stage in place of the south bay, and two new conference rooms replacing the east and west bays. A new elevator has been installed on the southeast end of the cafeteria, and the Hospitality Studies program is reclaiming the old staff lounge and kitchen space behind it to expand its culinary offerings. Upstairs, newly renovated bathrooms were opened off the Student Center lobby in early October. Further renovations in the Student Center this year will result in the consolidation and streamlining of some student services.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD



**Dr. Thomas Walker** came on board on August as the new vice president for student affairs. Walker had been the chief executive of KIPP schools in St. Louis, and previously worked as the dean of administrative services at Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley, Kansas City, Mo.

**Elizabeth Wilcoxson**, retired assistant dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Northern Essex Community College, Mass., agreed to step in as interim dean of Humanities and Social Sciences this academic year. A search is under way for a permanent dean.

**Kimberly Porter** was hired as the new manager of the William J. Harrison Education Center. Porter previously worked for the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension.

**Cynthia Jenkins** is heading the newly-revamped Academic Support Center as manager. The new center, in the former CTL space in L-024, combines the labs for math, reading, writing and English as a Second Language. Jenkins previously worked as a learning specialist in the Title III department at Southwestern Illinois College.

### GOOD JOB EVERYONE

**Teacher of the Year Andrea Nichols** was honored Nov. 13 with the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award at a ceremony at The Sheldon. Nichols, Sociology, was one of about 100 area educators who received an engraved Tiffany crystal apple in recognition of their contributions to education.

**The African-American Male Initiative**, which is based at both Forest Park and Florissant Valley, was funded by the U.S. Department of Education for approximately \$1.9 million for continuation over the next four years. Forest Park Alum Keith Sayles is the director of the AAMI. Sayles was honored at the Missouri Community College Association's fall conference in November as the "Alumni

of the Year." Ten years ago he was Forest Park's first student to win the MCCA Student Leadership Award.

**Super Chef Casey Shiller**, Forest Park's coordinator of Baking and Pastry Arts, was the \$10,000 winner of the Food Network's "Cupcake Wars" on June 28. Shiller and partner Dana Holland of Jilly's Cupcake Bar & Café competed on the third episode and illustrated an outer space theme of "The Final Frontier." Media star Shiller was then invited to throw out the first pitch at the Cardinals vs. Diamondbacks game on July 7.



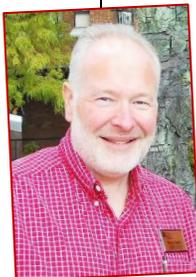
**History professor Deborah Henry** received the Thomas J. Finans Jr. Humanitarian Award from the *St. Louis Construction News and Review* at their Regional Excellence Awards Luncheon Sept. 21.



Henry was recognized earlier this year by the St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers for more than two decades as a champion of diversity in construction. In a past career, Henry served as one of the first female construction project managers in St. Louis.

**Dianne Lee, chair, Information Systems**, had a busy fall securing grants for her programs: \$53,000 in September from the University of Tulsa, a partner in the Cyber Security Education Consortium through the National Science Foundation; and another \$89,269 in October from the same source. Dianne's IS faculty are developing curricula for secure coding and mobile communications devices. She also contributed to the development of the MoHealthWINS grant.

**Steve Smith, Funeral Directing**, was the Incident Commander for the Oct. 18 Fire and Armed Intruder Drills on campus during Professional Development Day. Steve is known around the nation as an emergency procedures trainer, usually dealing with the "fatality" end of the emergency. At Forest Park, he worked closely with Chief Richard Banahan and the Campus Police, and the St. Louis City Police and Fire departments in coordinating a fire drill, armed intruder scenarios and a lockdown drill.



**Three Forest Park faculty** are leading Study Abroad trips during 2012:

- Deborah Henry, History, will serve as the faculty mentor during the Canterbury Semester Abroad, January through April.
- Mary Hurley, Communications, will lead a nine-day trip to Sicily, Italy, March 8-18.
- Angelic Cole, Business Administration, will lead a 14-day trip to Brazil, May 27 to June 9.

**Music professor Tom Zirkle**, aka Dr. Z, and former Music prof Jim Hegarty were among several avant-garde composers and performers from New Music Circle who were featured in a profile by KETC producer Ruth Ezell on Channel 9 in October. The show featured several clips from the campus, as well as concerts by the St. Louis Laptop Ensemble and the Princeton and Milwaukee Laptop Orchestras.

