



# UMSL Alumni Student Connection

## UPDATE

The UMSL Alumni Association launched a new and improved mentoring program this year. The UMSL Alumni Student Connection kicked off on October 7. Mentors and students were offered training, and many were able to meet their match. The absence of eating utensils did not stop participants from enjoying snacks and engaging in conversation. Hopefully everyone walked away with a clear vision of program expectations.

We apologize to anyone who attended the event and expected to meet their student or mentor but were unable to do so. This concern was echoed in the feedback we received and we plan to adjust our plans to combat this for next year.

Pairs were asked to meet at least once during Session 1, which ended on November 30th. Almost all of the mentoring pairs met prior to November 30th. Some were unable to meet but have plans to do so in the spring. Some pairs met upwards of 4 times! The quantity of meetings largely depends on the busy schedules of both mentors and students.

Session 2 ends on February 28. Be creative with what your meetings entail. Several mentors have shared industry news with their student. Others have attended industry association meetings together. Another idea has been to set up meetings for the student with other professionals in the student's field of interest.

At the end of each session, the Alumni Office contacts mentors and students who we have not heard from just to check in on the pairs. To facilitate this process, please fax us your meeting tool or email us after you've met with your counterpart so that we can have record that you met.

Our end-of-the-year Mentor Appreciation Event will be on April 23. Please save the date for this celebration! More details to follow.

Thank you for your participation. We hope it proves to be beneficial to you!

## UPCOMING DATES

Session 2 Ends February 28

Session 3 Ends April 22

Appreciation Event April 23

## **We're here to help!**

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## OVERHEARD...

"I so enjoyed my first meeting with Suzanne! I think we're a great match -- not just because we're both writers, but our personalities as well. I am really looking forward to working with her and so glad you paired us up."

-Jennifer Green, Mentor

"My student and I have talked/met on several occasions. Things have gone very well. Jason has been very proactive in sending emails/calls to my office and is an excellent business student."

-John Beaudoin, Mentor

"I really enjoy meeting with Laura. She always informs me of events and opportunities that apply to my future field of work. Laura is always interested in what more she can do to help better my experience during the program, and I feel very fortunate to have such a great mentor."

-Brittney Lange, Student

"My mentoring experience has been great! I have learned a lot about a potential career in Law Enforcement. My mentor really has taken me under his wing and taught me the ins and outs of exactly what I want to do."

-Ethan Chou, Student

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### CAREER SERVICES

Enrich your Mentoring Program experience: take advantage of the resources offered through Career Services! We can help you polish your resume, develop interviewing skills, connect with job and internship opportunities, and explore major/career options. Career Services offers career assessments, on-line resources, individual appointments, workshops, and other special events to guide you in your career decision making. It is never too early—or too late—to start working with our office. In today's competitive job market, preparation is your key to success! Visit <http://careers.umsml.edu> for more information or stop by Career Services in 278 MSC.

*Photo: Rhonda (far left) and Morgan (2nd from left) attended a Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge - Dress for Success Drive & Reception at Monsanto. Rhonda is a 2005 alumna of the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge.*



### SPOTLIGHT ON: RHONDA TYLYER & MORGAN TERRELL

#### 1. What is the most important thing you have learned so far?

Rhonda: I am amazed how much Morgan and I have in common - and how good the UMSL tools are for matching profiles of mentors/mentees. For example, her hometown is not that far from the summer visits I used to take to my Grandma's house in the country. I have learned that my breadth of education and life experience can bring benefit to those just beginning their career choices and pursuits.

Morgan: The most important concept that I have learned thus far in the mentoring program, is to be open-minded to all ideas and concepts. I have learned how to improve on my resume, interview, and daily interactions with people. My mentor, Rhonda, taught me how to be more organized in making difficult decisions such as choosing a job.

#### 2. What do you usually talk about/do during your meetings?

Rhonda: Morgan and I use the meeting tools and planner so each meeting is productive. We talk about possible career paths, resumes, networking, community service, employment, sports, family, recreation, and spiritual topics. Our meeting places are varied. Many times we meet for dinner. Morgan played volleyball with my Boeing league when we were short handed (she is quite a good volleyball player)!!! We also attended the Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge - Reception and Dress for Success drive at Monsanto.

Morgan: The meetings are held at our favorite restaurant, TGI Fridays. We discuss many career opportunities as well volunteer opportunities around and in our community over supper. We both believe that it is important to be well educated as well as being friendly and helping those around you.

#### 3. What do you hope to accomplish this Spring?

Rhonda: That is really up to Morgan. Morgan is making the decisions and planning her future. I am just a resource to help show her the way to get to where she wants to be. If Morgan chooses, I hope to set up a visit for Morgan to Boeing this Spring and a job shadow experience.

Morgan: I hope to gain a firm understanding of the working environment. Rhonda as given me helpful tips on how to interact with each and every coworker to ensure success for you as well as the company. I hope to gain a better insight of the job that I will be seeking in two years.

#### 4. What is your favorite thing about your student/mentor?

Rhonda: I find many favorite things about Morgan. She is a kind and giving person who contributes to society with community service. She is a dedicated student with a bright future. She has a great sense of humor. She is reliable in making our meeting times. She has great family values.

Morgan: My favorite quality of Rhonda is that she is more than a mentor to me, she is my friend. We share many common goals, beliefs, and interests. For example, we both enjoy playing volleyball, are family-orientated, and try to be the best person we can be.