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For Immediate Release

Contact: Bob Samples – 314-516-5665 o
314-265-0779 c

Celebrating 1,500 success stories

UMSL taps Schlafly for honorary degree

Local attorney and beer baron Thomas Schlafly heads an impressive list of St. Louisans speaking or receiving honorary degrees during commencement ceremonies May 11, 12 and 13 at the University of Missouri–St. Louis

Schlafly is the chairman of The Saint Louis Brewery – the largest American-owned brewery in Missouri – which sells the well-known Schlafly line of beers. He also serves as senior counsel at Thompson Coburn and is one of the owners of the St. Louis Blues. He will speak and receive an honorary degree during the College of Business Administration commencement ceremony May 13.

“Tom Schlafly is a St. Louis success story – an intellectual with the soul of an entrepreneur,” UMSL Business Dean Charles Hoffman said. “He’s well-deserving of this honor from UMSL, and I’m certain his message will inspire our graduates and guests.”

UMSL looks to confer more than 1,500 degrees during its six commencement ceremonies, according to Chancellor Tom George, who pointed out a majority of graduates are from St. Louis as well.

“More than 85 percent of the people walking across the UMSL stage will be St. Louis-area residents,” George said. “They’re the next generation of St. Louis leaders and a lifeline to a better future for us all.”

Other speakers/honorees include:

- Speaker: Arol Augsburger – president of the Illinois College of Optometry
- Speaker & honorary degree: Robert “Bobby” Norfolk – storyteller and teaching artist
- Speaker: Susan Feigenbaum – professor of economics at UMSL
- Honorary degree: Vincent Schoemehl – former mayor of St. Louis and retired president of Grand Center Inc.
- Speaker: Anthony “Tony” Thompson – chairman and CEO of Kwame Building Group
- Speaker: Sharonica Hardin-Bartley – superintendent of University City Schools

Complete UMSL commencement schedule – including speakers and honorary degree recipients

College of Optometry

- Friday, May 11, 2 p.m.
- Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center
- Speaker: Arol Augsburg, president of Illinois College of Optometry

College of Arts and Sciences [sciences, humanities, arts]

- Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.
- Mark Twain Athletic Center
- Speaker/honorary degree: Robert “Bobby” Norfolk, storyteller and teaching artist

College of Arts and Sciences [social sciences]

- Saturday, May 12, 2 p.m.
- Mark Twain Athletic Center
- Speaker: Susan Feigenbaum, professor of economics
- Honorary degree: Vincent Schoemehl, former mayor of St. Louis and retired president of Grand Center

College of Nursing

School of Social Work

UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program

- Saturday, May 12, 6 p.m.
- Mark Twain Athletic Center
- Speaker: Anthony “Tony” Thompson, chairman and CEO of Kwame Building Group

College of Education

Succeed Program

- Sunday, May 13, 2 p.m.
- Mark Twain Athletic Center
- Speaker: Sharonica Hardin-Bartley, superintendent of University City Schools

College of Business Administration

Master of Public Policy Administration Program

- Sunday, May 13, 6 p.m.
- Mark Twain Athletic Center
- Speaker and honorary degree: Thomas Schlafly, chairman of The St. Louis Brewery and senior counsel at Thompson Coburn LLP

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