Insider’s Guide

to Washington University in St. Louis
and our community
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
Walla Wallas float in the Central Axis Reflecting Pool
Dale Chihuly Installation

DID YOU KNOW? Founded in 1859, the Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the oldest botanical institutions in the United States and a National Historic Landmark.
“Our faculty and staff give you a peek into their lives, sharing their favorite neighborhoods, events, and bistro's. You will find everything from a sheep farm to food trucks. Enjoy!”

ADRIENNE DAVIS
Vice Provost & William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law, School of Law
Welcome to the Insider’s Guide — a personal introduction to some of the unique, intriguing, useful, and fun features of the St. Louis region. The guide also highlights a number of resources that help create a welcoming and supportive environment.

WashU is located in a region with historic charm, global presence, and competitive spirit. We are fortunate to live and work in an area that offers both urban amenities and a high quality of life that is still affordable.

The Danforth Campus sits at the convergence of the dynamic City of St. Louis; Clayton, a thriving business district; and University City, a charming residential enclave with a bustling arts, music, and restaurant scene.

Our Medical Campus lies two miles — two MetroLink stops — from the Danforth Campus. Its Central West End neighborhood is a vibrant, eclectic community where sidewalk patios are shared by book lovers, foodies, hookah smokers, art gallery aficionados, and dog lovers.

Between the two campuses lies Forest Park — at just under 1,400 acres, it is one of the nation’s largest urban parks. Ringed with jogging and biking trails, the park draws visitors from the entire region to its world-class zoo, museums, golf and tennis facilities, and restaurants.

We are a city of historic walking neighborhoods, and each one has its own architectural and cultural flavor — an energetic mix of parks, farmers markets, restaurants, music clubs, and locally owned shops. The metropolitan area offers a wonderful array of communities, shopping, arts institutions, and schools within reasonable driving distance.


**SPORTS**  P. 32  “We’re all pretty passionate about the Cardinals. I’m now a Cards convert. I don’t think there is anything like watching a comeback rally live, during Game 6, to win the World Series!”  — Joseph K. Goodman

**MUSIC**  P. 13  “I love the symphony. Anika and I have season tickets, and the symphony never fails to awe us.”  — Trevor Sangrey

**FOOD**  P. 4  “Having moved to St. Louis from Washington, D.C., I was a tad skeptical about the food scene. It is pretty spectacular!”  — Michael Hayes

**RECREATION**  P. 53  “I love that St. Louis is such a green city, with so many trees, gardens, parks, and beautiful Forest Park.”  — Virginia Braxs

**CULTURE**  P. 19  “St. Louis is a wonderful community filled with a wide array of affordable entertainment options, cultural attractions, unique neighborhoods, and local ‘staycation’ options.”  — Brian Phillips

Our community of faculty and staff is eager to share with you their favorite neighborhoods, events, and bistros if you ask. St. Louis will surprise you. Let it.
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
St. Louis has the best of all worlds. It's a vibrant and diverse city. It's accessible and very livable. It offers the amenities of a large metropolitan area, but it is a more manageable size so you can be nearly anywhere in 20 minutes. It offers great dining, shopping, cultural opportunities, and friendly people.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
As an administrator working daily with students, I like that Washington University is one of the most student-centered institutions in the country. While many other institutions may also make that claim, Washington University walks that talk every single day. In the classroom, in its residential and cultural programming, as well as in its vibrant student organizations, the university offers an incredible array of growth opportunities for its students and the faculty and staff with whom they work.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO YOU?
Two things come to mind. One is the relationships with colleagues across campus who are always willing to offer support and guidance. This place is built on relationships! Second, my involvement with PLAN (Professional Leadership Academy Network) enabled me to see the institution in its entirety and to better understand how my role is important and valued, along with demonstrating the university’s commitment to my professional development.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
There are so many things to connect and engage with in this city. I support local and national social justice organizations such as PROMO and the Human Rights Campaign. If you care about something specific, there is probably an opportunity to connect with a local organization that is also passionate about that.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
I love food! There are so many restaurants that offer great cuisine (and cocktails). My two favorites are Water Street in Maplewood and I Fratellini in Clayton. Having moved to St. Louis from Washington, D.C., I was a tad skeptical about the food scene. It is pretty spectacular!
“St. Louis has the best of all worlds. It’s a vibrant and diverse city.”
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
My partner and I live in the University Park area of University City. It is walkable to campus and the Loop.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Spend the time, early on, just meeting as many faculty and staff across campus as you can. While you may not see the immediate link between your role and that person, it will become very apparent that at some point, you may need to call upon that person to assist you through a sticky situation, to become a committee member, or most importantly, to partner with you to help students reach their full potential. This will be time well spent!
DID YOU KNOW? Most of St. Louis’ arts and cultural institutions are free, including the Saint Louis Zoo, the Saint Louis Art Museum, Missouri History Museum, and the Saint Louis Science Center.
“Attend as many events around campus as possible in your first six months here, and find the people who share your interests.”

MARION CRAIN
Vice Provost, Wiley B. Rutledge Professor of Law, School of Law

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
St. Louis is a very livable city, offering an array of diverse opportunities without being overwhelming. On any given weekend, one can find a wealth of activities and cultural events, and it is possible to take advantage of them without having to battle large crowds or traffic jams.
Marion and one of her dogs, at her farm, a short drive from the university
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
Washington University has both a strong international and national reputation as a top-flight research university and a strong local/regional identity that makes it easy to attract students, faculty, and administrators. The law school, where I teach, has a well-deserved reputation as a top-20 institution that is very ambitious. The university’s campus is gorgeous, and its various schools and departments are within easy reach, making interdisciplinary interchange accessible. Overall, the feel of the university is relatively intimate.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL?
Washington University’s schools and centers offer an incredibly rich array of intellectual programs, events, and speakers whose expertise crosses disciplinary boundaries. In particular, the Law School’s Public Interest Law and Policy Speaker Series, the Brown School’s Center for Social Development, the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, the Institute for Public Health, and the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement sponsor some wonderful interdisciplinary programs.
WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I train and show dogs in obedience and herding, and I raise sheep. I belong to the St. Louis Herding Club, which offers many events and dog training opportunities around the area.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Attend as many events around campus as possible in your first six months here, and find the people who share your interests.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | A farm in Jefferson County

DID YOU KNOW? Spanning 16 counties in Missouri and Illinois, the average commute time in the St. Louis region is only 27 minutes.
“It might take a while to meet and get to know local people, but once you do, you’ll find yourself embraced by a fast-growing community.”

Anika and Trevor at Urban Chestnut, a small brewery
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
Anika: We were surprised by the generally open and welcoming atmosphere, which contradicted both expectations and personal experiences as a queer couple in the Midwest.

After the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson and protests against police brutality and racism, I am heartened to see that many St. Louisans are engaged in conversations about how to address these issues. I value the opportunity to participate in this difficult but very important debate.

Trevor: I love the architecture; St. Louis is a beautiful city. I am also very impressed with all of the fun, free activities in St. Louis. From the concerts at the Missouri Botanical Garden, the balloon festival in Forest Park, or the free museums — St. Louis always has something fun and free to keep you busy.

The music scene is great, too. I love the symphony. Anika and I have season tickets, and the symphony never fails to awe us. We also support the local radio station 88.1 KDHX. The volunteer-run station keeps us up-to-date with concerts and events in the area.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL?
Anika: As an international scholar and non-citizen, the Office for International Students and Scholars plays an important role in my personal and professional life. Once I embarked on a tenure-track position, OISS has been diligent and extraordinarily supportive in ensuring my continued ability to work and live in St. Louis.

Trevor: Washington University helped us buy our house. It was great to have some help with the down payment to buy in a neighborhood that we are committed to in St. Louis. Moving from San Francisco, we were really excited about the options for home ownership in the area. WashU’s assistance for housing in our neighborhood was such a boon.

DID YOU KNOW? The Washington University Employer Assisted Housing Program offers forgivable loans to qualified university employees for the purchase of housing in eligible neighborhoods. eahp.wustl.edu
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?

Anika: WashU is a mid-size university where faculty can develop relationships with students that go beyond a single term. I enjoy following students’ development over several semesters. At the same time, the university is big enough to encounter a variety of personalities and to have experiences that I value about academic life: stimulation in the form of lectures and conferences, or the debate and exchange of, at times, contradictory ideas.

Trevor: I really like Washington University’s commitment to undergraduate students. I have enjoyed working with undergraduates to pursue passions in research, extracurricular activities, and community impact.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?

Anika: I have been volunteering with St. Louis Homeless Winter Outreach for two years. Supporting people who, for various reasons, live on the street gives me an important perspective on social inequality and injustice.

In my free time, I enjoy exercising with the St. Louis Frontrunners or by myself; getting up early in the morning and running, preferably in Forest Park, gives me time to decompress or process ideas.

Trevor: I’ve been really impressed with the continuing conversations in our neighborhood about gentrification and race. Being a part of urban change and development is always interesting.

I also love to dance and St. Louis has many great opportunities for same-sex dancing. From ballroom to country to swing — the dancing scene is vibrant and really fun, a great way to get exercise and meet new people.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”? 

Anika: I really enjoy Forest Park, as a site of exploration, relaxation, or exercise and as a site of (often free) public cultural events. Also, the St. Louis Symphony has brought many memorable moments of carefully selected works and excellent performances.

Trevor: With St Louis’ long history of beer, one should not be surprised that there are also great smaller breweries. Checking out the newest brew house has been a lot of fun!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?

Anika: It might take a while to meet and get to know local people, but once you do, you’ll find yourself embraced by a fast-growing community.

Trevor: Try all of the neighborhoods! There are great little restaurants and hangouts in the most out-of-the-way places in the city. Most of the parks have free concerts or movies, and so many people are out in the evenings!
BALLOON GLOW
The Great Forest Park Balloon Race, Forest Park
“The Grove...is a great, hip area for all types of entertainment.”

Brian in The Grove neighborhood
BRIAN PHILLIPS
Executive Director, Washington University Medical Center, Redevelopment Corporation

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
St. Louis is a wonderful community filled with a wide array of affordable entertainment options, cultural attractions, unique neighborhoods, and local “staycation” options.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
Washington University is a great place to work. There are so many areas to explore. University College offers a wide array of interesting courses to help you meet your professional development needs. I also have had the opportunity to work and learn from my colleagues across the university community.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL?
University College

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I like working with teenage youth and college-aged students. It really doesn’t matter what organization.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
The Grove neighborhood is a great, hip area for all types of entertainment.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Don’t fall into the St. Louis trap of sticking only to areas with people that look like yourself. Explore the diversity of the entire region. Don’t fall prey to real estate agents bent on maintaining the status quo and the “where did you go to high school” crowd. Get out and explore.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | Barrington Downs in unincorporated Florissant

DID YOU KNOW? St. Louis was ranked 7th on Forbes magazine’s list of America’s Most Affordable Cities.
BOB HANSMAN  
Associate Professor of Architecture,  
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts  
Community Engagement Fellow, Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?  
Its difficulties and working to address them.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?  
Getting to know and work with students and faculty and staff across disciplines.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL?  
The students who put on Mr. Wash U and volunteer in the projects, Kinloch, etc.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?  
Social/racial justice; taking off the blinders people don’t know they have.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?  
Billy Burks burgers in the Ville, Mom’s Soul Food Kitchen on Goodfellow, Ferguson Burger Bar & More, and Roper’s Ribs on West Florissant.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?  
Don’t listen to the fear-mongering nonsense; look for the real causes of things, and realize your own role in both the problems and the solutions. Get off campus and get to know people.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | Downtown

DID YOU KNOW? St. Louis is ranked 8th in the nation when it comes to volunteering according to a study by the Corporation for National & Community Service.
“Get off campus and get to know people.”

Bob guiding a tour in north St. Louis
“St. Louis is close-knit enough for you to make a real impact in the lives of community members.”
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
As a native of St. Louis, one of the most important things to me is having my family nearby. St. Louis has the feel of a smaller community while having the amenities of a large metropolitan area. It is also a great place to raise a family, with venues like the world-class Saint Louis Zoo and the Magic House, affordable housing, and several high-quality public and private school options. For individuals who are community-minded, St. Louis is also close-knit enough for you to make a real impact in the lives of community members. That is an exciting prospect that one might not find in a larger city.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
Washington University is an exciting place for someone like me with an entrepreneurial spirit. There are unmatched resources for carrying out research, but there is also a great openness to exploring new ideas. My ideas have been supported not only in my academic work, but also in my service to the university and the community. If you are willing to work to see a vision brought to fruition, there are resources to help you.

I also enjoy learning from my colleagues and students. We attract some of the finest minds in the country and the world to Washington University, and the intellectual environment is very stimulating.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL?
I have been fortunate to enjoy support at multiple levels of the university, from the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of the Provost to the Institute for Public Health, Alumni & Development, and the Office of Public Affairs, among others. It would be hard to overstate the importance of the rich set of resources available through the Brown School, starting with the ever-present support and encouragement of Dean Edward Lawlor, as well as the Center for Social Development, led by professor Michael Sherraden, and a host of collaborators and colleagues.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of my favorite places, and admission is free to residents on certain days. It has special importance to me as the place where my wife and I were married, but it’s also just one of the most beautiful places in St. Louis. Within the Botanical Garden, I’d recommend definitely checking out the Japanese Garden, the Climatron, and the statue and small garden dedicated to George Washington Carver.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
I live in unincorporated St. Louis County. We’re sandwiched between Maryland Heights, Creve Coeur, and Olivette, northwest of Washington University’s Danforth Campus.
WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?

My advice about St. Louis is simply to get involved. There is plenty going on, and you are bound to find a niche somewhere in the community. Some people say that St. Louis can be a bit insular, and I’d agree with that, but there are opportunities to connect with like-minded people who care about the things you do — whether that has to do with community improvement, the arts, recreation and physical activity, or a host of other interests. My advice would be the same for the university. Learn about what is going on outside your school, department, or office. You will be amazed at the breadth and quality of activities.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?

I am most passionate about having a tangible impact on the life chances of people in St. Louis and communities like it around the country. We know more than ever about how experiences of poverty and stress impact brain development and later life outcomes, including health. What we need now are policies that match our knowledge, and that will require us to be thoughtful about putting choices in front of decision-makers and mobilizing communities. There is a rich opportunity to contribute to the literature on how these choices are communicated, what it takes to make policy change, and ultimately, what impact interventions have on the health and well-being of populations. I’m excited to be a part of figuring these things out, not just as an academic exercise, but as a set of activities that can have real impact for the St. Louis community and beyond. I explore this passion through my work on a project called For the Sake of All, educating and mobilizing St. Louis around the social determinants of health that drive health disparities. I also actively participate in community organizations and efforts like Beyond Housing, Inc.; the Maternal, Child and Family Health Coalition; Ready by 21 St. Louis; and the Peace and Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.
“Don’t limit your exploring only to what’s nearby.”

The Inazu family at Forest Park
JOHN INAZU
Associate Professor of Law, School of Law

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
I like having the variety of a medium-sized city without the hassle of traffic or overcrowding. I can get almost anywhere in under 15 minutes, and most of the time I don’t even have to get in a car. Forest Park is another highlight — great paths for running and biking, free museums and zoo, cheap golf, and lots more.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
I like the close proximity of so many colleagues and opportunities on the Danforth Campus. I can walk next door for a political science workshop, across the Quad to meet a friend in economics, or take a quick stroll across campus to meet a colleague in the English Department.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL?
Our students push me to be a better teacher, scholar, and member of the WashU community. They are smart, for sure, but many of them care about a great deal more than just academic success. They give time, energy, and talent to make our campus and our city a better place.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I have been privileged to partner in a number of different initiatives with the faculty, staff, and volunteers who work in our local public schools. St. Louis has some incredible challenges confronting its public educational system; it also has some incredible people working and living sacrificially to overcome those challenges.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
My kids would say the free cookies at Schnucks. I’ve found a lot of surprisingly good (if not entirely healthy) lunch spots off the beaten path, usually under the influence of my colleagues, Greg Magarian and Neil Richards.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Don’t underestimate the value of having so much so close to campus. But don’t limit your exploring only to what’s nearby.
JOSEPH K. GOODMAN
Associate Professor of Marketing, Olin Business School

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
What I like about St. Louis is that there is something for everyone. If you’re the suburban type, we have some of the most affordable housing in the country with great public schools, all with a reasonable commute. If you’re the urban type, like my wife and I are, there are several great neighborhoods with different character and nightlife. My family lives in St. Louis City, and we just love it. Our neighborhood is full of kids (our kids, ages 4 and 9 months, are two of 20 on a single block!), singles, retirees, and several faculty. And a car isn’t really necessary because we can walk to everything — grocery stores (a new Whole Foods is opening this fall), 40-plus restaurants, bars, parks, movie theaters, museums, a top zoo, coffee shops, art galleries, wine shops, public transport — all with a really grueling eight-minute commute through beautiful Forest Park (20 minutes if I take my bike or the bus). I could go on and on about the city.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
The research atmosphere and reputation were the biggest draws. Everyone in our area is interested in learning about new research and bringing in speakers. I also like the fact that our undergrads are so talented. It not only makes teaching more enjoyable, but it makes for the best research assistants I’ve ever had. We kept three of them, and now they’re in our PhD program! I also love the atmosphere and the architecture. I know it’s a little cheesy, or perhaps cliché, but WashU is just what a college should look like.

WHICH WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL OR MEANINGFUL TO YOU?
The most helpful resource to me has been the school doing whatever it takes to help me in my research. There are always roadblocks to research, especially in my field where we need human participants to conduct research. Without people and resources to recruit them, nothing would get done. I’ve found at WashU that there are resources — from people, such as administrative support, to financial support — to find ways through those roadblocks. WashU also provides the resources and encouragement to present this research and collaborate with other great researchers around the world.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
City Museum. No question. And that’s not because I’m into the city. The City Museum shouldn’t even be called a museum. It defies everything you know about a museum. I can’t describe it. You just have to go and see it (and bring the kids — this is one museum that they will enjoy even more than you).


Joseph in the Central West End
“There are many sides and neighborhoods to St. Louis.”
WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I’m passionate about the city, its history, the architecture, and its future. It’s full of amazing resources, culture, diversity, festivals, theaters, beautiful homes, and local businesses. It is home to the best hospitals, the best parks, the best beers, and the best baseball team in the world. It’s not without its issues, of course, but I think the future of the city is bright. Recently, the city has been growing, and I think we’ve really reached a tipping point toward urban environments.

Of course, we’re all pretty passionate about the Cardinals. I’m now a Cards convert. I don’t think there is anything like watching a comeback rally live, during Game 6, to win the World Series!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
1. Take your time deciding on where you want to live and finding your own St. Louis. You’ll get lots of opinions and perspectives, from the natives that have been here for generations to the recent implants. There are many sides and neighborhoods to St. Louis.

2. St. Louis is a pizza town. Imo’s Pizza will grow on you. Then go to Pi (for deep dish) or A Pizza Story (for Napolitano) for the real deal. Everyone has their favorite pizza place.

3. Provel (a special cheese only found in St. Louis) is an acquired taste, so to speak.

4. They have great Italian food here, but it’s not that Italian food from Italy. Once you accept that fact, you’ll love the toasted ravioli!

5. Don’t go to the Arch until someone comes and visits you. It’s the first place they’ll want to go!

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | Central West End, in the great City of St. Louis.

DID YOU KNOW? The St. Louis Cardinals are consistently ranked as having the best fans and one of the best ballparks in the country.
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
I love that St. Louis provides big city amenities — like sports, the arts, parks, and a convenient airport — with convenience and affordability. Housing is not overly expensive and getting yourself from one place to the next does not require hours in a car. I also love the people here — they let their Midwestern values shine through in their daily interactions. You can’t find this same combination in many other places.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
Washington University is special because people here take pride and ownership in their work and the way that work contributes to the institution. Many people here — WashU students, faculty, and staff — have options to go other places. Yet for reasons personal to each of us, we have made decisions to be here. That changes the institution’s dynamic in a profound way. People here are invested in continually making WashU better. That is powerful.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO YOU?
The people! WashU’s people are its greatest resource. From the first day I stepped foot on campus, the people at this university have been nothing but warm, helpful, and collaborative. I knew I was home because my new colleagues made me feel that way. People here want to see others succeed, and their pride in WashU is palpable.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I love exploring the city. By St. Louis standards, I am still a newbie, and I enjoy visiting new neighborhoods, sampling new restaurants, and experiencing new civic traditions. There is so much that St. Louis has to offer, and people will miss it if they confine themselves to a single area. Read what is happening around you, and get out there to experience it!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
I have quickly become a connoisseur of St. Louis barbeque. I love finding new barbeque joints and tasting what they have to offer. All of it is so good, but if you haven’t already, try Salt + Smoke in the Loop! It’s my favorite.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Come to Bears sporting events! It is a great way to relax with your family, network with your new colleagues, and see some of the nation’s finest student-athletes competing at an incredibly high level.
“I love exploring the city.”
DID YOU KNOW? A short walk from the Danforth Campus, the Delmar Loop was designated as one of America’s 10 Greatest Streets by the American Planning Association (APA).
“The City Museum is a creative, fun place for young and old alike.”

Mario on the campus of the Washington University School of Medicine
MARIO CASTRO
Alan A. and Edith L. Wolff Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, School of Medicine

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
St. Louis offers a diverse community with access to a variety of cultural, social, and sporting events within an affordable lifestyle.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
Washington University offers a stimulating academic environment that strives for excellence in teaching and research and, at the medical school, provision of the best medical care.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO YOU?
My colleagues — it seems like every week I’m meeting someone new who is doing amazing, creative things here.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
Cardinals baseball — truly a sport lover’s paradise!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
The City Museum — a creative, fun place for young and old alike.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Take advantage of the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) cores and training opportunities — shared resources that can help you advance your career — and the Office of Faculty Affairs (Medical School) and Office of Faculty Development (Department of Medicine) for additional career and family resources.

facultyaffairs.wusm.wustl.edu | ofd.wustl.edu
“Go discover things and get to know people outside of your school.”

Michelle at I Fratellini in Clayton
MICHELLE DUGUID
Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior,
Olin Business School

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
My favorite thing about Washington University is the people. The students are amazing; they are smart, driven, and, in general, socially responsible. My colleagues in and out of the business school do incredibly interesting work, and they’re truly wonderful human beings. The staff are knowledgeable and helpful, and they always go above and beyond.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I’m passionate about food, so I love discovering new restaurants.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
I love to eat, so my hidden gem would be a restaurant. There are so many, but I love I Fratellini. The food is amazing, the service is wonderful, and it’s surprisingly inexpensive for what you get.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Go discover things and get to know people outside of your school. It is really easy to sit in your building without ever venturing out. But, there are such amazing people to meet and things to see, that it’s just a waste not to take advantage of it.
“Students are the most meaningful resource.”
MOLLY TOVAR
Director, Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies and Professor of Practice, Brown School

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
St. Louis offers so many options to explore the out-of-doors, and they are all within a short drive of the city and the university. The best option is even within walking distance — Forest Park. The different walking paths and trails always lead me to a unique “find” — the zoo, the Boathouse, or one of the museums. I also love exploring the neighborhoods in this city. Each area has an individual identity and culture all its own. Walking is one of the best ways to get to know an area, and strolling has been a good way for me to get the flavor of the city and these areas in particular.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
One of the biggest strengths of this university is the strong collaboration between centers, departments, schools, and student organizations. These various groups — some with vastly different purposes — work together to strengthen programs and services all across the campus. The beauty of this is that we all have the same goal: To better the lives of our students and the community.

WHAT RESOURCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL?
Students are the most meaningful resource. Visiting with students and learning about their interests, goals, and challenges provides insight into factors that drive the curriculum, programs, and services at Washington University. I also find the libraries at Washington University invaluable. There is such a diverse array of collections, and I’m very pleased that the library carries American Indian books and magazines. Also, the librarians are most helpful!

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I like to stay connected to the American Indian communities and attend the Hispanic events and organizations. Additionally, as a member of the Missouri International Women’s Forum, I am able to meet and network with prominent women in Missouri who have made a significant impact on the state. I like to support the Diversity Awareness Partnership program and Focus St. Louis, as well. Reaching out to all of these organizations helps me to build relationships and create a sense of belonging.
MOLLY TOVAR Continued

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?  
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Collinsville, Illinois, seems to be a well-kept secret near St. Louis. I hear so many native St. Louisans say, “Yes, I’ve heard of it, but I’ve never been there!” I frequently attend special cultural activities, such as the annual American Indian Art show and various lectures. I enjoy the walking trails in that area as well. Just seeing the mounds themselves and learning about the rich history of the indigenous peoples right here in our area is worth the drive across the river.

IN WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD DO YOU LIVE?  
I live in the University City/Clayton area. I find this area to be convenient to the university, social and cultural events, and eclectic eating establishments.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?  
It took me a while to find out about the availability and locations of ethnic foods and fresh foods in the area. Because there is diversity at Washington University, locating these places early can help a person retain his or her cultural eating preferences and thus feel at home more quickly. Some of my preferred shopping locations are Jay’s International Food Center, Tower Grove Park Farmers’ Market, and Seafood City Grocery. A colleague was kind enough to introduce me to Everest Café on Manchester when I first arrived in St. Louis, and it is still one of my favorite restaurants for Nepalese, Korean, and Indian cuisine. Also, I would recommend that newcomers be prepared for the standard St. Louis question, “Where did you go to high school?” and references to the “Delmar Divide.”
“All that is said about Midwestern hospitality and politeness is true.”
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
The people! All that is said about Midwestern hospitality and politeness is true. Less known is that there’s a great group of civic-minded people who are working to make lives of people in St. Louis better and more equitable. We saw this civic engagement clearly emerge around racialized policing practices after the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson. On a lighter side, additional benefits are the many free museums and activities; the lovely city parks for outdoor exercise or relaxation; the quality of restaurants; the various neighborhoods with unique architectural flavor; and the affordability!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
The intellectual energy on campus is invigorating. Interesting and smart people, a beautiful campus, and lots of opportunities for innovation are a winning combination.

WHICH WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL OR MEANINGFUL TO YOU?
There are many resources and opportunities that allow me to pursue research and that enable me to help students refine their intellectual interests and skills for doing independent research.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I’ve received much satisfaction from being involved with organizations that relate to my research interests — including Planned Parenthood, St. Louis Effort for AIDS, the Deaconess Foundation, and St. Louis Public Radio, as well as service organizations such as The Links, Inc. and Jack & Jill, Inc. Having two kids under the age of 8, I am also passionate about the many things in the city that allow my family to combine fun with learning while keeping my very active and busy boys out of trouble!
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?  
Cliché, but the Arch is fabulous and a must-see. The City Museum downtown is a very unique place for hours of fun. Forest Park contains something for everyone — from golf to row boats or a picnic near the fountains at the bottom of Art Hill. I am still amazed that the zoo is free and world-class! The Missouri Botanical Garden has magnificent seasonal exhibitions and events. On evenings during the warmer seasons, sitting outdoors at one of the restaurants or bars in the Central West End is still the place to be.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?  
The South 40! I have the pleasure of living among our students as a faculty fellow.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?  
Don’t believe the hype about the “dangerous” places in St. Louis. Unfortunately, many people — from real estate agents to one-time visitors to students who haven’t ventured far beyond campus — will inform visitors about places in St. Louis (often north of Delmar) not to go. This class- and race-based fear limits or delays people’s willingness to explore the wonders of the city. Get a map and learn the unique history of the various neighborhoods.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | The South 40

DID YOU KNOW? At 630 feet, the Gateway Arch is the tallest man-made national monument in the United States and offers astounding views of St. Louis — up to 30 miles on a clear day.
GATEWAY ARCH
Designed by architect Eero Saarinen
My advice to someone new to the city is to explore.
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
I love that St. Louis is such a green city, with so many trees, gardens, parks, and beautiful Forest Park. St. Louis is a very friendly city; people are courteous and welcoming. Neighborhoods throughout the city offer restaurants with diverse cuisines from all over the world, not to mention the many festivals and cultural activities year round in the city and surrounding areas. There are three neighborhoods in particular I like to go to for nice restaurants, great bookstores, farmers markets, and unusual specialty shops: the Delmar Loop, the Central West End, and downtown Clayton.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
WashU is my home away from home. I am keen on the people with whom I work. I was welcomed from the first day I arrived at the university 27 years ago. Even though it is an urban campus, it doesn’t feel like it. Our students are gems. It is a delight to work with them because they are always engaged, motivated, highly intelligent, and creative. The WashU environment constantly nourishes my intellect and spirit.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO YOU?
Simply put, WashU people!

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
As a die-hard Classical music lover, I love my St. Louis Symphony annual subscription. I attend between 10 and 12 concerts per season. I am fond of my walks at the Missouri Botanical Garden, especially in spring when everything is in bloom. One of my favorite organizations is the Sheldon Concert Hall & Art Galleries, a nonprofit organization that offers an array of musical genres and fine art shows. I also enjoy special exhibits at the Saint Louis Art Museum. I am very passionate about the weekly community service work I do with Latino kids in south St. Louis alongside our wonderful WashU students.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
The Sheldon Concert Hall, the Jewel Box in the middle of Forest Park, Tower Grove Park, and the Missouri Wine Country (not in the city, but just one hour away).
WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?

One of the biggest misconceptions of people who don’t live here is that St. Louis doesn’t offer cultural activities, like Chicago, New York, or Boston. My advice to someone new to the city is to explore. St. Louis offers symphony, opera, art exhibits, high profile speakers, our International Film Festival and theaters, a wide variety of international music concerts, and dance company shows. Besides going to the usual tourist sights — such as the Arch, the Mississippi River, Union Station, Kiener Plaza, etc. — visit different neighborhoods, taste international cuisine at small ethnic restaurants, stroll through one of the many parks, shop at one of the farmers’ markets, visit the Missouri History Museum, talk to locals, listen to live jazz at the many clubs. Then you will have a real taste of the city, and you will not want to leave.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | University City

DID YOU KNOW? The 1,300-acre Forest Park — which is within walking distance of the Washington University Danforth and Medical campuses — contains the Saint Louis Zoo, the Saint Louis Art Museum, the Missouri History Museum, and the Saint Louis Science Center, as well as two public golf courses, and walking and biking trails.
JEWEL BOX
Forest Park
Welcome to a wonderful place!

The Carter family at Cafe Osage
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
We like that St. Louis has all of the amenities of a major city with all of the conveniences of a small town. Housing is affordable and commutes are easy, which is a huge benefit after moving here from Boston. At the same time, Forest Park has a large collection of social offerings (such as the art museum, history museum, Muny, zoo — most of which are free). This is a nice complement to the larger St. Louis arts scene, which includes the St. Louis Symphony, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Jazz St. Louis, and COCA (Center of Creative Arts).

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
As a family, we’ve found a wonderful community at WashU. The students are second to none — bright, engaged, eager to learn, and interesting. We’ve made wonderful friends among staff and faculty, and truly feel privileged to be part of this community.

Ebony: This is an exciting time to be at WashU — I’m looking forward to the opening of the new Women’s Hospital in 2017.

Dedric: And I’m looking forward to the build out of the eastern part of the Danforth Campus and the continued rapid growth of the Cortex Innovation District just past the medical school.

WHICH RESOURCES HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO YOU?
Ebony: The research infrastructure in the medical school is absolutely amazing and has been invaluable throughout my fellowship training. I’ve found the Institute of Clinical and Translational Research to be particularly helpful in as an umbrella organization as I’ve pursued additional course work and funding opportunities.

Dedric: I have found the growing regional alumni infrastructure to be a great asset as I’ve traveled the country working to increase awareness of our plans and connectedness to our strategy for innovation and entrepreneurship on campus. The WashU network is truly amazing.
WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
We are members of Union Tabernacle Baptist Church, where we’ve found a wonderful church family that has embraced our young, growing family.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
We enjoy going to Café Osage in the Central West End, especially after church on Sundays — great farm-to-table restaurant in a pretty, unique setting. We also enjoy dim sum at Lulu’s Seafood on the weekend (given the official “thumbs up” by students from China as the best Chinese restaurant in the area).

We also like to find festivals during weekends in the summer—there seems to be at least one every weekend, and we’ve made some great memories.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
We just moved to the South 40 to be the faculty family for the Wayman Crow Residential College. We previously lived in the Central West End, which was a nice way to transition from our favorite attributes of the East Coast (walkable neighborhoods with interesting shops and restaurants in the middle of the city) to Midwest living.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
Welcome to a wonderful place!

Ebony: I have found a wonderful community of senior investigators who are more than willing to mentor me and share resources and junior investigators who are very collegial and happy to collaborate. At times, I’ve literally been tempted to say, “Why are you being so nice to me?!” This is a special place, and I feel grateful to have landed here at this point in my career.

Dedric: The longer you engage with this community, the more you will like it. Every institution has its warts, but WashU is teeming with latent potential to truly impact the world. I often think of a concept that we had at MIT for an integrated live, eat, work, learn space. When I walked into the Lopata Gallery in the School of Engineering & Applied Science, my vision of “the hive” forever changed. WashU is full of potential. And increasingly, there is a willingness to unlock it.

DID YOU KNOW? St. Louis was named the No. 1 city in America for startup businesses by Popular Mechanics.
“There is so much to do in St. Louis for people of all abilities and interests.”

DENISE MCCARTNEY
Associate Vice Chancellor, Research Administration

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
There is so much to do in St. Louis for people of all abilities and interests. We have arts, community activities, and a wide variety of sports, wonderful parks, and interesting and exciting special events. In addition, it is a great place to make friends and raise a family.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
Washington University is an exciting, challenging place to work that provides opportunities every day to learn new things and participate in work that contributes to the advancement of our missions of teaching, research, service, and clinical care. I feel that I really make a difference. In addition, I feel that the colleagues I work with are intelligent, interested, and dedicated. It makes for a wonderful work environment.
WHAT RESOURCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL?
Human Resources have been a big help to me personally. I work closely with so many resources that it is really hard to name one that has had a more significant impact than another on my professional needs. It really is an organization willing to help resolve professional and personal issues.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I am a huge Cardinals baseball fan and love to attend the games. Forest Park is truly a treasure for St. Louis and I love the History Museum and the Art Museum. The Missouri Botanical Garden should not be missed. And I am regular Fox Theatre attendee. The Saint Louis Zoo is one of my favorite places to visit. These are just a few of the places I love to frequent.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
The Butterfly House in St. Louis County is a hidden treasure that is a true delight to visit. Laumeier Sculpture Park offers a wonderful location filled with interesting sculptures.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
I would advise getting involved in the WashU community activities and to volunteer in any one of a number of St. Louis organizations that need your help and support. It is a great way to meet new people.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | West St. Louis County, a location chosen to be close to my family.
LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK
DENISE WARD-BROWN  
Associate Professor of Art, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
St. Louis is an easy town to navigate because of its size. It’s also one of the cleanest cities I’ve lived in, with impressive landscaping. The all-brick architecture is very affordable. In the last 10 years, the museums and their collections have grown. There is a lively poetry community.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
The students are a great challenge because they are smart, dedicated students with a drive that keeps me motivated.

WHAT RESOURCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL?
Being connected to the arts has led me to many groups that are generous with their information and resources in industry as well as on other college campuses.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
I appreciate the Griot Museum of Black History. It’s only the second wax museum in the United States that features African-American history. Lois Conley, the founder and director, has become a good friend because she is always there and loves to talk about all the new things that she is doing there.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
I love taking out-of-town guests to the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Illinois and to Meramec Caverns.

IN WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD DO YOU LIVE?
I live in Reservoir Park, which is composed of only five blocks, situated between Compton Heights and Shaw. I lived in Tower Grove Park before that. The parks in St Louis are well kept and hold lots of community-related events.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU SHARE WITH SOMEONE NEW?
In the last several years I have found it very easy to contact my alderman or local school officials to find volunteers for my projects. The people in St. Louis are very friendly in all areas of public life and opportunities are just one request away.
“St. Louis is an easy town to navigate because of its size.”

Denise in North St. Louis at the Griot Museum of Black History
“I enjoy being able to take advantage of events and activities, both in and out of the city, without excessive driving or traffic.”
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ST. LOUIS?
I like having four seasons. I love the variety in neighborhoods with their unique character, style, and cuisine. I enjoy being able to take advantage of events and activities, both in and out of the city, without excessive driving or traffic.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY?
I enjoy being part of such a dynamic medical center, as well as being part of the larger university.

WHAT RESOURCES HAVE BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL?
Executive Education programs at the Olin Business School

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT IN ST. LOUIS?
The symphony and musical theater are two of my favorite activities. My family is on a mission to try every ice cream shop in the area.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ST. LOUIS “HIDDEN GEM”?
Forest Park — I can always find new trails, and I find it very relaxing.

MY NEIGHBORHOOD | Clayton

DID YOU KNOW? WashU provides faculty, staff, and students with a U-Pass, which offers free access to the region’s Metro bus and MetroLink light rail system.
Want to know more about the St. Louis locations shown?

HERE ARE A FEW LINKS TO THESE LOCATIONS.

Blueberry Hill
BLUEBERRYHILL.COM
Café Osage at Bowood Farms
BOWOODFARMS.COM/CAFÉ_OSAGE
Cahokia Mounds
CAHOKIAMOUNDS.ORG
The Central West End
THECWE.COM
Creve Couer Park
STLOUISCO.COM/PARKSANDRECREATION
City Garden
CITYGARDENSTL.ORG
City Museum
CITYMUSEUM.ORG
Everest Café & Bar
EVERESTCAFEANDBAR.COM
Forest Park
FORESTPARKFOREVER.ORG
The Fox Theatre
FABULOUSFOX.COM
Gateway Arch & Old Courthouse
GATEWAYARCH.COM
The Great Forest Park Balloon Race
GREATFORESTPARKBALLOONRACE.COM
Griot Museum
THEGRIOTMUSEUM.COM
The Grove
THEGROVESTL.COM
I Fratellini
IFRATELLINI.COM
Jazz at the Bistro
JAZZSTL.ORG
Laumeier Sculpture Park
LAUMEIERSCULPTUREPARK.ORG
LouFest
LOUFEST.COM
MetroLink
METROSTLOUIS.ORG
Missouri Botanical Garden
MISSOURIBOTANICALGARDEN.ORG
Old North St. Louis
ONSL.ORG
Northwest Coffee Roasting Company
NORTHWESTCOFFEE.COM
Saint Louis Art Museum
SLAM.ORG
St. Louis Cardinals & Busch Stadium
STLSTLSPORTS.COM
St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission
EXPLORESTLOUIS.COM
St. Louis Symphony
STLSYMPHONY.ORG
The Saint Louis Zoo
STLZOO.ORG
Sheldon Concert Hall
THESHELDON.ORG
Ted Drewes Frozen Custard
TEDDREWES.COM
Tower Grove Park
TOWERGROVEPARK.ORG
Urban Chestnut Brewery
URBANCHESTNUT.COM
Washington University in St. Louis
WUSTL.EDU
Water Street Café and Cocktail Bar
WATERSTREETSTL.COM
World Chess Hall of Fame
WORLDCHESSHOF.ORG