

2025-2026

# CREATIVE MINDS



## WELCOME!

### What is a living-learning community?

A living-learning community (LLC) is a group of students who share a common academic or theme interest and live together in a residence hall. Residence Life partners with faculty and staff across campus to implement special programming related to the LLC focus. Students living in the LLC also have the opportunity to get to know these partners outside of the classroom.



### What should I expect as part of the LLC?

Your RA will have information about a variety of activities and resources related to the topic of your LLC and academic support. Plan on being involved in various events and share your ideas for future programming! The more involved you are with the community, the more benefits you'll gain.

# MEET YOUR RAS!



## Alyssa Graves

### **Majors: Psychology and Communications**

Hello! My name is Alyssa, and this will be my second year as a Resident Assistant. I am so excited to meet everyone (and to see some familiar faces again) this fall. I am a psychology and communications double major and scheduled to graduate this spring (2026). I love to draw and paint, share music, sing, dance (poorly), and try new things. I will try just about anything once. My favorite thing about being an RA last year was getting to see my community and residents come together. This year, I focused my theme on Minecraft to reflect the sandbox world that we live in, and to encourage students in the Creative Minds LLC to find new ways to create. If you love Minecraft, you are going to love the events I have planned for you this year. I look forward to seeing you all during move-in and creating some amazing memories this year! See you soon! <3 Alyssa

## Emilee Dees

### **Major: Chemistry**

[Take this survey](#)  
to tell Alyssa & Emilee  
what events you want!  
\*you could win a \$50 gift  
card!

Hello! I'm Emilee Dees and I'm from Kimberling City, Missouri. I am a Chemistry major and a Criminology minor. Don't let my major fool you, I'm a creative mind and love all things crafty and fun. Whenever I'm free from classes, I mostly crochet or bake. Besides that, I will probably be re-arranging my room a million times! In the future, I would like to work in drug chemistry. I'm a huge fan of keeping up with the next mystery or watching Dateline, so it only makes sense to make that my career! Let's make this upcoming year one full of creativity and fun! We're going to have an awesome year together. GO BEARS!



# MEET YOUR PARTNERS



## Dr. Paula Patterson

Department Head: Music Department

I am Dr. Paula Patterson. I have worked at MSU and have been an active member of the performing arts community of Springfield for many years, including over 10 years as a Living-Learning Community partner. After working in Education Abroad for over 10 years, I joined the Music Department in 2007 and currently serve as the Department Head.

## Kathleen Hains

Artist-in-Residence-Stage Management  
and Production Management

Kathleen Hains holds a BFA and MFA in Theatre Arts from Stephens College and The University of Iowa. Kathleen is an Artist-In-Residence for The Department of Theatre and Dance, where she is Production Manager during the Academic year. She received the MSU Board of Governors award for Excellence in Public Affairs in 2022. In addition, she is Past-Chair of MSU's Staff Senate, Past-President of the Associate Board for Springfield Little Theatre, Secretary for the Executive Board at Springfield Contemporary Theatre, and a member of Actor's Equity Association as a Stage Manager.



# LLC PARTNERS

## Josh Young

Coordinator, BFA Musical Theatre

Tony-nominated actor Josh Young is the Coordinator of Musical Theatre at Missouri State University. Josh has considerable experience in the arts, having toured both domestically and abroad, and he's won awards for performing and teaching. As an accomplished actor, singer, and instructor, Josh Young is an excellent resource for Creative Minds students!



### CONCERT ON THE GREEN

Plaster Stadium

Sunday Aug. 17

7:00 PM



### THEATRE AND DANCE MEET AND GREET

**SUNDAY 8/17**

Emails with details sent  
closer to event date





# THE ARTS IN SPRINGFIELD

Within the Creative Minds LLC, you'll have plenty of opportunities to learn more about ways to engage with the arts in Springfield, MO! Check out this list below to start learning about a few of the amazing arts organizations that Springfield has to offer:

- First Friday Art Walk: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Art Museum: [HERE](#)
- Calendar of Upcoming Performances in Springfield: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Contemporary Theatre: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Little Theater at the Historic Landers: [HERE](#)
- Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Symphony Orchestra: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Regional Arts Council: [HERE](#)
- The Creamery Arts Center: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Ballet: [HERE](#)
- Ozarks Lyric Opera Theatre: [HERE](#)
- Men's Chorus of the Ozarks: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Metro Chorus: [HERE](#)
- Springfield Chamber Chorus: [HERE](#)

**This isn't an exhaustive list, ask your RAs and LLC partners about other arts organizations they love in Springfield as well!**



Want to learn more about Woods House? Check out this video!

Your LLC Social will be on:

**Saturday, August 16, at  
2:00 pm in Monroe**

Meet with your RA on your floor

You won't want to miss this  
chance to meet your floor and  
your LLC partners!

**Help create a piece of  
art that represents your  
floor, and enjoy some  
favorite MSU snacks**



Our campus **Bear Line** service can help you get around once you get to campus! Check out the routes offered by our shuttles so you can figure out the best ways to get to class and around town. There is even an app you can download to track each Bear Line and see current wait times! To learn more, click [HERE.](#)



Want to check out where your classes are and where to park on campus? Visit the campus map [HERE.](#)





## ***Thursday, August 14***

### **Button Making 3-5pm**

Magers Health and Wellness Center  
Room 100

### **Movie on the Mall 8:30pm**

North Mall (Rain location: PSU Theater)  
Follow @mostatesac for the movie announcement!



## ***Friday, August 15***

### **Snow Glad to See You**

11am-2pm (rain or shine)  
Plaster Student Union Patio

### **Playfair/Maroon Madness 6-9pm**

Plaster Sport Complex (Rain location:  
Hammons Student Center)



## ***Saturday, August 16***

### **Yoga 2-3pm**

Magers Health and Wellness Center  
Room 100

### **Bear Bash 7-10pm**

North Mall and Plaster Student Union



## ***Sunday, August 17***

### **New Student Convocation 2-3pm**

Great Southern Bank Arena

### **Student Organization Festival 3-5pm**

Great Southern Bank Arena Concourse

### **Belong-B-Que 5-7pm**

North Mall (Rain location: Foster Rec)

**For the full list of events, click [HERE!](#)**

**DOWNLOAD THE BEARLINK APP!**



**check in at events find organizations  
and save events to your calendar**

**ANDROID**



**iOS**

**Missouri  
State**

OFFICE of  
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT