

2-9-2015

## Current, February 09, 2015

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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## UMSL Directory Reveals Personal Data

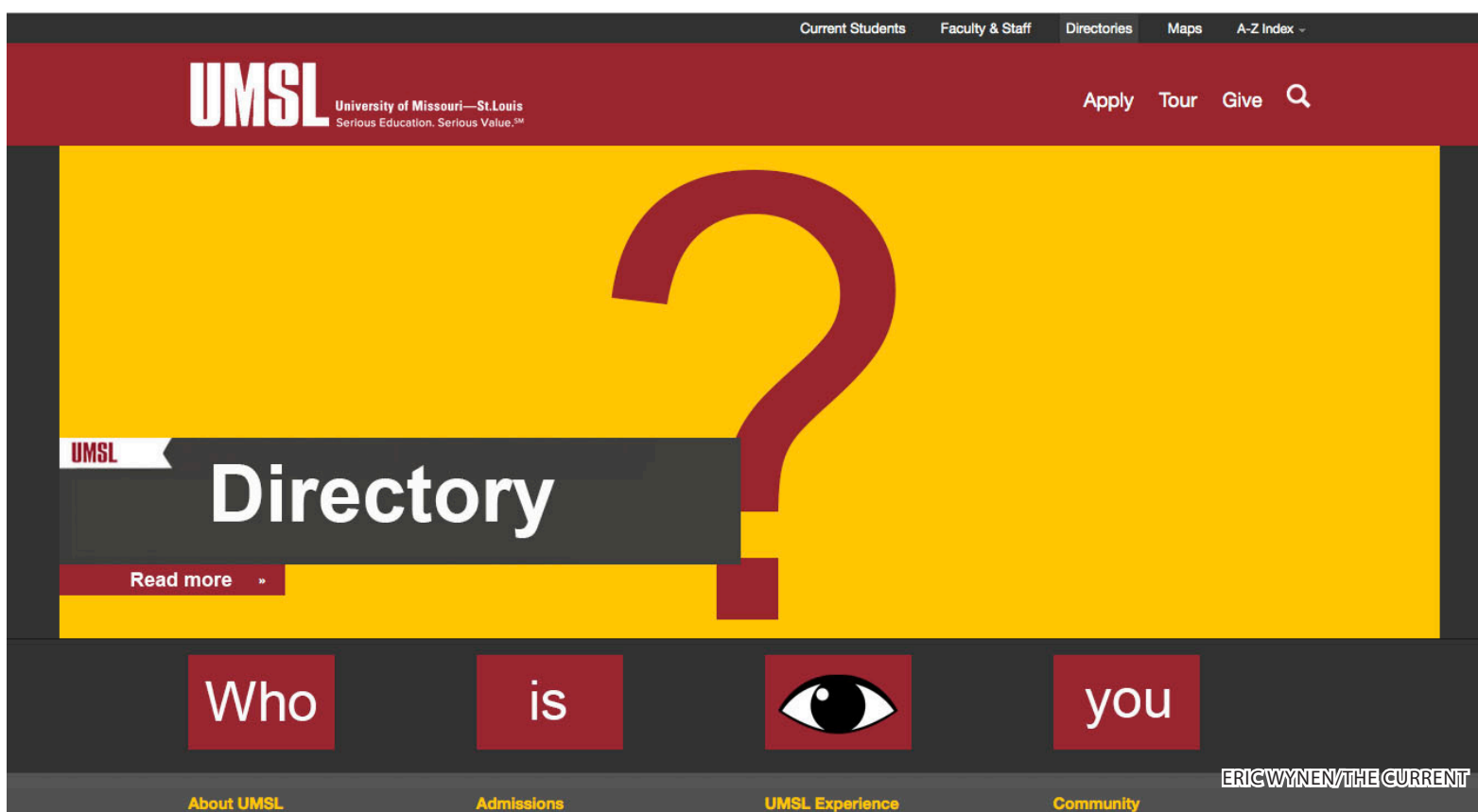
SARAH HAYES & JENNIFER BOYER  
STAFF WRITERS

University of Missouri—St. Louis students may be surprised to learn that their personal information, including their home address, is now available for all to see on the university's website. The information is available through UMSL's online search directory, in which any web user can search for a student's or employee's details.

The information that can be found by searching a student's name includes their full name, university affiliated email, class, phone number, and the home address they have on file. For faculty and staff, the information available is limited to name, University email, and where they work, along with their office phone number.

There are no restrictions on who can see this information. As long as the information is online and follows the guidelines of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly known as FERPA, anyone who has Internet access can look up the name of a student and immediately access where they live and how to contact them via email and phone.

The full confidentiality policy for students can be found in the UMSL official Triton Manual, which is available in print or



through the university website. The policy guidelines fully spell out how FERPA works, going into detail on what qualifies as "Educational Records" and therefore can be made available to the public. The University is obligated to "annually inform its eligible students" of these guidelines through the course schedule and student planners.

Students who are concerned about their personal privacy

and wish to opt-out of being included in UMSL's online database have a window of time when they can opt out of being in the directory in the beginning of the fall semester. An application for being removed can be accessed by logging into MyView and going to the FERPA Restriction section in the self-service menu. There are three options: remove phone number, remove address, or

remove all information.

According to MyView, changing the FERPA restrictions take up to a day to register in the UMSL database. However, the process itself is as simple as checking a box. The opportunity to opt-out of the directory lasts until the second week of the fall 2015 semester, according to information provided by Curtis C. Coonrod, Vice Provost of Student Affairs. According to an email from Coonrod, students are notified of their "right to restrict this information" through the campus Registrar's Office. This information is scheduled to be sent to all students this spring.

Despite being an online service, UMSL's Technology Support Center does not have any control over the directory and what information is kept on it. The center "does not mandate the process," said ITS system support analyst Garrett Jones in an email to The Current. Jones also said that the amount of

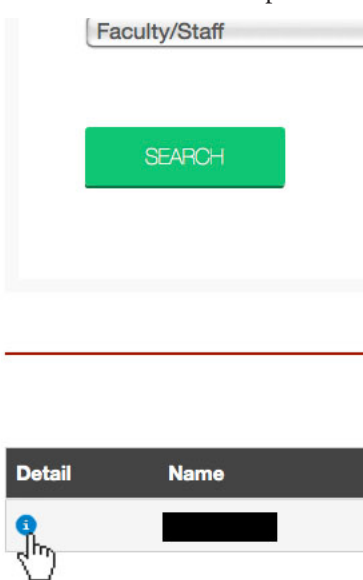
faculty information made available online is decided by what is submitted to Human Resources, not ITS.

The existence of the student and staff directory has elicited a skeptical response from some students, one having called it "a little creepy." According to Benjamin Geigle, junior, civil engineering. "This should only be authorized by the Registrar's Office, academic advisers, and the campus police."

Some students were unaware of what the registry actually did. "I didn't know that the directory does that," said Colin Beard-Baker, junior, electrical engineering.

Schools are legally required under FERPA to inform students and parents that their personal information, including their home address and telephone number, has been made available in an open directory.

Continued on Page 3



### Search Student Directory

Name: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]@umsl.edu  
Class: Senior

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Co-Distribution Manager Jessica Korhammer
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CONTACT US

388 MSC, 1 University Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

Newsroom
314-516-5174
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

Business/Advertising
314-516-5316
thecurrentads@umsl.edu

Fax
314-516-6811

Editor-in-Chief
thecurrenteic@umsl.edu

Internships and Volunteer Positions
thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu

Letters to the Editor
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

Twitter
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THE CURRENT ONLINE

Game Corner

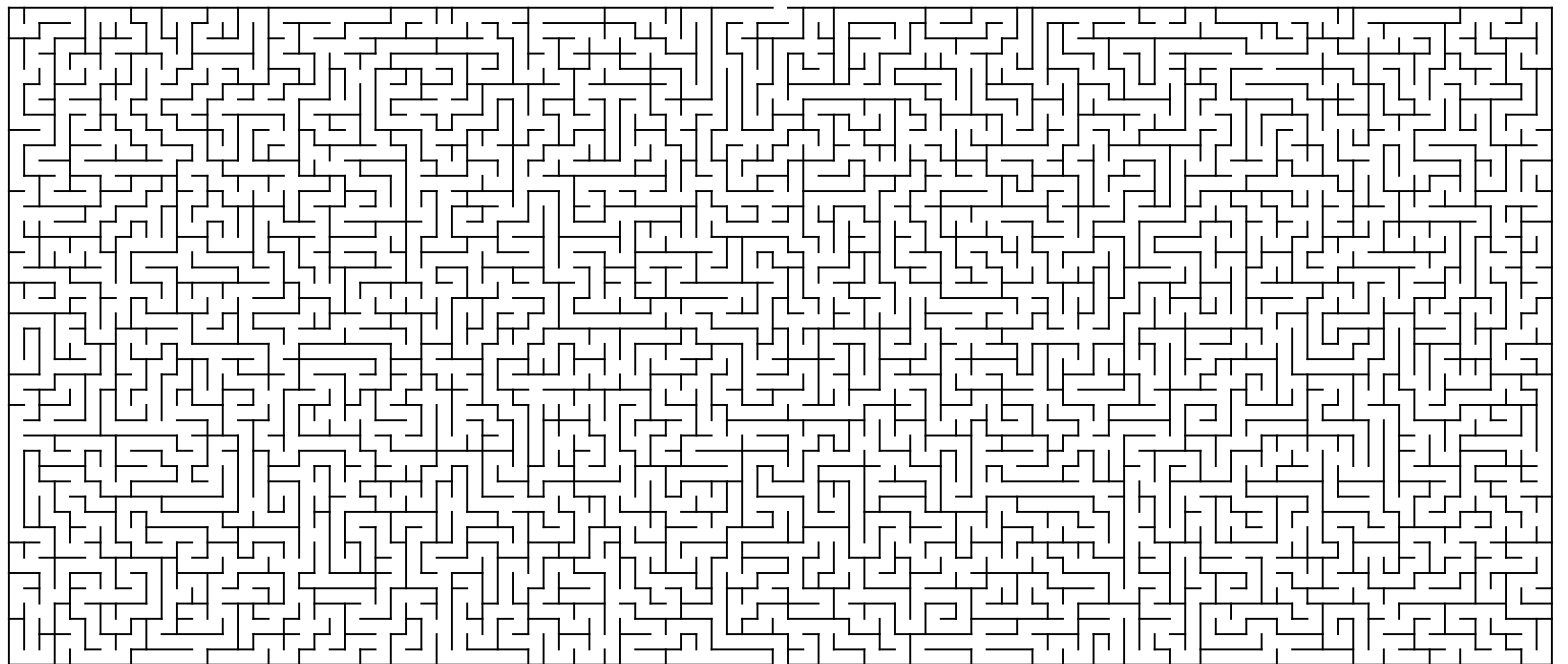
Difficulty: piece of pi

Last Week's Solution

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions for a logic puzzle.

9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions for a logic puzzle.

Difficulty: über challenge



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent, or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

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Do you have a tip regarding a story? Have a correction to report? Do you have a question or comment for our staff? Contact us at thecurrenttips@umsl.edu. We look forward to hearing from you. The Current values feedback from the campus community. What do you think of our campus coverage? Let us know your thoughts at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

THE UNDERCURRENT By Ashlee Carlstrom

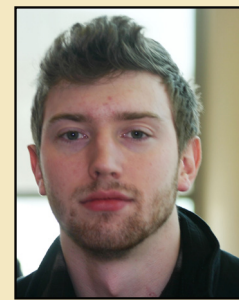
WHAT IS YOUR GO-TO MEANS OF RELAXATION?



VIKTORIYA IVANTSOVA, Freshman, Nursing "Exercising, working, and running."



ALISON GARTNER, Senior, Criminal Justice "My go-to is working out, listening to music, and getting in the zone."



CODY BARTON, Freshman, Business Administration "I read to relax."

MON 40 26

TUE 46 34

WED 49 26

THU 30 19

FRI 39 27

SAT 39 23

SUN 34 24

# WCW: "Learning to Teach in a Changing System"

ALBERT NALL  
STAFF WRITER

Dr. James V. Shuls, an assistant professor of policy studies in the College of Education, led a discussion on state legislation to evaluate teaching candidates and the growing role of technology in the classroom. Dr. Shuls' lecture, "Learning to Teach in a Changing System," took place in Century Room C on February 4, from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. with approximately 20 people in attendance. Pizza and beverages were served, and a reprint of a New York Times article by Rich Motoko from November 25, 2014 was distributed at the event. The dialogue was part of the monthly "What's Current Wednesdays" discussion series that is co-sponsored by "The Current" and "The New York Times." The discussion was opened with an introduction by Current News Editor Kat Riddler, graduate, English, and Lynn Staley, associate teaching professor of English. "What's Current Wednesdays" is coordinated by Staley with support from Student Life and Community Outreach & Engagement at UMSL.

According to Shuls, the system of education appears to be under attack, more so than other academic departments on college campuses. "Education

has a disease in terms of costs. We are spending 40% more than in 1992. This is a condition that has resulted in Education becoming expensive, less efficient; and we are not seeing principal gains," Shuls said.

"Education is a very labor intensive industry. The country is trying to get better outcomes with the focus on achievement; and that is the objective for public services. Still, we want outstanding performances by students, but we do not want to pay the teachers what they are worth," Joe Martinich, professor of logistics in the College of Business Administration, said.

One significant topic discussed at the lecture included preliminary rules established by the Department of Education that will require states to develop rating systems for teaching candidates. This program, according to "The New York Times" article would track teacher training programs based on a number of measures, including the retention rates of graduates and job placement, along with the academic performance of students. Grants for teaching students could be affected by the new eligibility requirements.

One of the most debated



UMSL community members gather to listen to Dr. Shuls' lecture "Learning to Teach in a Changing System"

topics at the lecture was on the emerging role of technology in the classroom. For many, there appears to be a stigma towards the use of laptops and cellphones in class by students. Thus, the recurring theme at the lecture was, should technology be allowed in classroom?

"It would depend on how teachers use it in the classroom. For students, being able to get on a computer for an English class, for example saves time from having to type the paper at home. Still, many students may get distracted, so you couldn't do it in every class. If a student does not want to do the work, that person will just get on-line and look at email," Alexis Younger, junior, accounting,

said.

Julia Njau, senior, marketing, said that students are paying for school, and "We are not going to fool around and not get the education we are paying for." When we are in college, instructors should allow us to use that technology. There are some words that the instructor is using, and we do not understand what they are saying. I would like to look up the word really quick. If you do not allow me to use my laptop or phone, then I am going to sit here and not understand what you are saying; and to me, that is a waste of class," Njau said.

Kathleen Fink, Director of Continuing Education Outreach, described technology as a

tool, not a teacher. "Real learning is a result of human interaction, and getting the best expert in the classroom. If we could replicate the experts by way of technology, that's good. Still, we need to keep that interaction in a classroom setting, because learning is based on that and language," Fink said.

The purpose of "What's Current Wednesdays" is to encourage the campus community to become engaged with the national and global topics in the news. For more information on future topics at the lectures, visit "The Current" website at [www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com).

## News Brief Clery Warning Issued

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

A Clery Warning was issued by The University of Missouri—St. Louis' Police Department on February 5 urging caution with potential email scams targeting university students. Emails are sent to student accounts promoting an opportunity where students can earn money. The email asks for a reply with personal information. Later in correspondence, the student is notified that they will get a check to deposit, buy goods, and send the goods to another person in-turn for a pre-paid money card or cashier's check. The initial check is fraudulent causing students to lose money on buying supplies and shipping. The scam also asks for wire transfers of cash after the student deposits the check. All outgoing expenses come from the students account since the check is fraudulent.

UMSL Police Department urge recipients of an email like this to not respond to it, delete it, and-or contact the Missouri Attorney General for guidance at [www.ago.mo.gov](http://www.ago.mo.gov) or 573-

751-3321. Also, do not hesitate to contact the UMSL Police Department at 314-516-5155 with questions or concerns.

The UMSL Police Department also provided tips to avoid scams:

1) Be skeptical of unsolicited phone calls, emails, or personal visits from strangers about investments;

2) Avoid business with faceless persons over the phone or internet;

3) Work with companies that are known or recommended by someone you trust;

4) Check out the company with the Securities Division of the Secretary of State's Office at 800-721-7996.

5) Ask the salesperson to send literature about the firm. Ask for a written proposal describing conditions of the contract and a form outlining the investment risks. Also, get a second opinion on the purchase, opportunity or investment from your lawyer, stockbroker, accountant, or other qualified expert.

## UMSL Directory Reveals Personal Data

SARAH HAYES & JENNIFER BOYER  
STAFF WRITERS

Continued from Page 1

They also must allow students a suitable time period to opt out of inclusion in the directory.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, "Schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record." However, certain conditions, such as the filing of a legal subpoena or a request from a financial aid office, can allow schools to release this information to select parties without tangible consent.

The Campus Police was contacted for comment on the existence of the UMSL student directory and the possible concerns over student privacy. They did not give any official statement on the issue.

Steps to remove information from the directory:

- 1) Go to [www.umsl.edu](http://www.umsl.edu), click on the 'Current Students' tab, and log into MyView;
  - 2) Click 'Self Service,' select 'Campus Personal Information,' then go to 'FERPA Restrictions';
  - 3) Check 'FERPA-Restrict Release of Personal Information.'
- You could also restrict the information that appears under your Outlook account on the same page.

**MyView@UMSL**

favorites | Main Menu > Self Service > Campus Personal Information > FERPA Restrictions

go to ...

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**FERPA Restrictions**

**List FERPA/Directory Restrictions**

You have not restricted the release of your directory information. To exercise your right to privacy by restricting the release of information, click the FERPA checkbox. \*\*\*Note: Changes to FERPA restriction may take up to 24 hours to go into effect.

FERPA-Restrict Release of Personal Information

Student Information Disclosure for Reporting. For further details click [FERPA Release](#)

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Outlook Directory Options

You may choose not to display your address or phone number in the Outlook directory by selecting the appropriate option at right.

Do Not Display Phone Number

Do Not Display Address

Save

# Greek Councils at UMSL

MARY CHICKOS  
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, February 4, in the Center for Multicultural Student Services, Simone Cunningham, counselor and member of Delta Sigma Theta, conducted a panel discussion about Greek recruitment and activities on campus. The panel featured three active members of the Panhellenic Council here on campus. Allison Mills, Delta Zeta, junior, nursing; Zack Littrell, Sigma Pi, senior, biology; and Demetrius Reynolds, Alpha Phi Alpha, graduate, higher education, were featured on the panel. They spoke about their membership in these fraternities and sororities and what it is like to be an active member.

Mills started off the discussion talking about her sorority, Delta Zeta, which started in Ohio and has many chapters throughout the country. She said, "They are involved in speech and hearing therapies for children, providing hearing aids for kids and helping with a camp for terminally ill children. They also do many other events and activities on campus." Delta Zeta is a nonprofit organization with a pledge, intake, and initiation fee.

Mills, specifically, is involved in

fundraising for the chapter and hosting various fundraising events.

Recruitment starts informally at the beginning of the school year during September and October. In order to seek membership, students can interact with members of the different groups to find a good match. On Bid Day, invitations are extended to candidates to join the organization.

Sigma Pi started in 1897 and has yearly dues, according to Littrell. This fraternity is part of an Interfraternity council comprised of seventy-four male fraternities, all governed by an executive board. Three fraternities at UMSL are affiliated.

Students are invited to go to their events, as well as other fraternities', in order to find the organization that is the best fit for them. There is no formal recruitment; however, there is a minimum grade point average for membership and an offer can be extended at any time throughout the year.

Reynolds said, "Alpha Phi Alpha [Fraternity Incorporated] is part of the National Panhellenic Council of historically black fraternal organizations. It was

started at Cornell University in 1906 and requires membership, materials, and books." Alpha Phi Alpha was traditionally open to intercollegiate African-American students. It is a literary society, support system, and brotherhood involved in addressing the needs of the community through community service projects, such as voter registration, working with middle school students, providing safe, friendly entertainment for collegiate, and other events.

He said, "This was a great way to meet new people and that the benefits of membership are numerous, including developing leadership, networking, and other professional skills that are very beneficial in the business world." The people that one gets to know in these organizations can influence the course of their career.

Reynolds has met many alumni from the St. Louis chapter and other chapters nationwide. The brotherhood offers a unique exposure to professionalism and a lifelong commitment to service.

All panelists noted that they have to do a certain amount of service activities throughout the year and become in-

involved in many events that they normally would not have ever participated in. There is a certain time commitment, and they all agreed that they have gotten more out of college than just a degree. Also, they have gained more skills than they have ever gotten in the classroom.

A major issue that makes some people pause when considering participating in Greek life is hazing. According to the panelists, and their national websites, hazing is prohibited in all forms due to potential lawsuits. Hazing has been outlawed in order for these organizations to keep their good standing.

Potential members need to have a substantial personal commitment to the organization that they developed for genuine reasons. Members must represent the organization well. They need someone who embodies their values. Good academic standing is required as well as routine community service. While each chapter has slightly different requirements for membership, these organizations are always looking for new brothers and sisters.

## Soul'd Out: The African-American Arts Experience

KARLYNE KILLEBREW  
FEATURES EDITOR

Thursday evening, February 5, 2015, was the date of Soul'd Out, a showcase where students came to present their talents and works of art in reverence to the African-American community's contribution to the arts. There were singers, dancers, painters, and poets. Not all performers were students (or audience members). However, the diversity of performance types and performers spoke to the reach of UMSL's efforts to engage the St. Louis community at large.

Over 100 people packed into the Pilot House. There was hardly anywhere to sit. People were standing, lining up on the fringes, to witness Soul'd Out. From

all appearances, spectators were pleased with their time at the show.

Contributing both to the performance line-up and providing background music for other performers, UMSL's resident band "227" contributed to the show in a major way. At least three UMSL students, past and present, are on 227's roster. Graduate Assistant and higher education scholar, Demetrius Reynolds, provided some vocals and keyboarding, while Jamarius Jelks, senior, psychology, held down another mic along with his guitar. UMSL alumna Jewel Ballinger served as the lead female vocalist for the band.

Fall 2014 graduate and President Emeritus of the Associated Black Collegians, Tiara Brown hosted the event. She is known across St. Louis as a radio personality and a dynamic host with a packed resume of parties, step-shows, and ABC events, acting for stage, and even a bit of modelling. Tiara kept the audience engaged with quirky quips and trivia history facts about classic, famous black entertainers who contributed to the widely diverse repertoire of American culture.

A surprise treat in the line was the return of UMSL student Jason Vasser, M.F.A, who is now an adjunct faculty member at Harris Stowe State University. He shared his poetic talents with the crowd: intimating his experiences as an African-American man, member of Alpha Phi Alpha, and husband. Jason's reading leaned heavily on a steady rhythm, yet maintained a sense of composure, no matter how passionate the words were intended to be.

The mood of his deep reflections were relieved by Caitlin Phillips, senior, criminology & criminal justice, singing India Arie's "Brown Skin"—a tribute to the beauty of the brown.

Bringing the crowd out of what seemed like a sedative, contemplative state was Beyond Measure Dance Company, led by artistic director Alicia "Sunshine" Depry-Gbaho. They pumped up the atmosphere with a fusion of traditional African movement and American pop-moves over a distinctly African pop track. The piece was a bubbly mix of hair, hips, and happiness. The crowd cheered vocally although they stayed

glued to their seats.

After providing a feast for both the eyes and ears, Christian Cohill brought viewers back to the realm of the mind. He showcased four of his drawings, three portraits, and an original work, and disclosed his motivations and his processes. Among the quartet was a life-like sketch of J. Cole, which continued to linger in mind well after the performance was finished.

The show continued much in this fashion alternating between singers, artists, and poets giving the audience food for thought, as well as stimulation for the five senses. Saint Louis photographer and Saint Louis University Alum, Cory Lampkin, presented his photography, showing some of his iconic images of the Ferguson unrest. UMSL Gospel Choir sang a popular, traditional hymn and Phi Mu Alpha sang an original from one of their brother chapters. Anthony Robinson did a history presentation and Raven McNeil gave an original poem.

As the night wore on, Soul'd Out transitioned from potentially being just another black history month exhibition into a night of true expression, freedom, and communal support. According to audience member Heather Macon, graduate, media studies, and self-professed poet, "It's amazing that people have courage to express themselves. I think that it's also nice, that you have young people that have work that they do: poetry, they explain their photography. I just think it's a nice event."



**SUBMIT TO LITMAG**

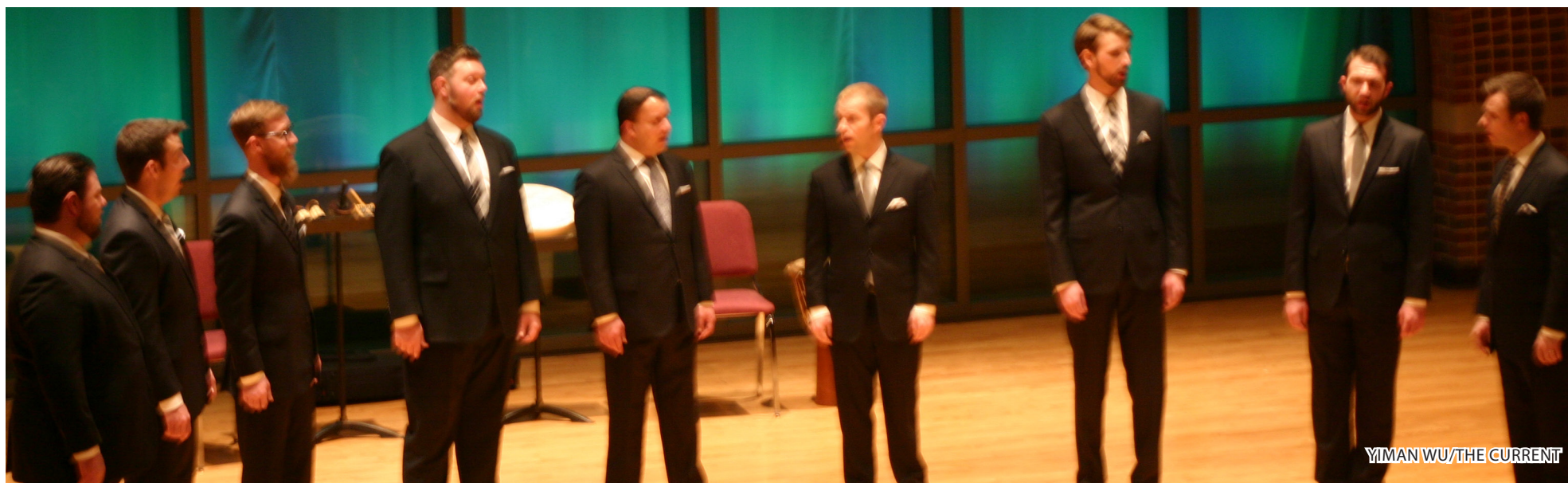
**UMSL'S UNDERGRADUATE LITERARY MAGAZINE**

Currently accepting submissions for the Spring 2015 issue

Contact Kate Dwiggins [dwigginsk@umsl.edu](mailto:dwigginsk@umsl.edu)

# Choral Group Cantus Concert Delights Touhill Audience

EDWINA COOPER  
STAFF WRITER



The acapella singing group, Cantus performs their "Anthems" concert at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center

## CONCERT REVIEW

The performance on February 6 at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center by the acapella singing group Cantus was flawless.

Their touring performance, "Anthem," included a wide variety of acappella songs under that banner. Their anthems spanned 12 languages: from English to Irish, Gaelic to Croatian, and Japanese. Some of these anthems were familiar, such as Australia's "Waltzing Matilda" arranged differently. Some were completely unknown to most of the audience, like the Hungarian "Esti Dal," though it

is as much beloved by its people as our "America the Beautiful."

The evening began with a question; Why do we sing, especially together? With this question in mind, Cantus put together 20 anthems broken into five sections, each addressing a high note of human emotion. There were anthems of love, joy, grief, separation, war, and national identity. There were also work and praise anthems. Even an English football anthem was lovingly stolen from an American musical.

No two songs had the same tone or purpose. It is not easy to bring together such diverse music into a coherent performance,

but all nine members of Cantus brought their collective experiences to arrange the concert. The shifts from theme to theme were briefly introduced, and a summary or cultural history of each song was included.

Without these helpful summaries to contextualize the songs, the concert may not have flowed so smoothly. Also, the listeners may have never known that some of the songs listed in the program were incorrect, unfortunately. Of the 20 songs Cantus performed during this two-hour concert, only 17 were listed correctly in the program. There are sometimes last minute substitutions at a concert, but

the erroneous programs were not the fault of Cantus.

In contrast, the highlight of the evening was a rather tricky Indian song from the Ramayana called "Tjak!" The Ramayana is a literary treasure in India, much like Homer is in Western literature. It shapes India's cultural context and the patterns in which stories and characters are built. This song is a pre-battle story, where monkey warriors come to the aid of Prince Ram. Humorously, all of the members of Cantus are required to chatter like monkeys throughout the song and take on the posture of monkeys. But the funniness of it belies its difficulty - the

chattering is, in fact, in harmony with the music and singing. Although it is not obvious, this piece stuck out as the most musically and technically complex that the group performed.

In closing, Cantus' performance brings to mind that song is for all of humanity. People sing together because we share these emotions and experiences. Singing together produces something stronger and more vivid than what any of us can achieve alone.

## 'The Loft': Five Rich, Married Guys' Rent a Cheating Crib

D.B. FIELDS  
STAFF WRITER

## FILM REVIEW

What we have in Erick Van Looy's "The Loft" is just a small taste of how our wealthier citizens are (mis)behaving these days. There are the requisite galas, the adulterous affairs, and, oh yes, a murder mystery to keep them occupied. Ah, what it must be like to be wealthy.

The story circles around five well-to-do married men who, instead of a man cave, have the loft. The loft is where they each bring their loose flings and fantastical one night stands, without any hassles or frets about consequences. That is, except for one morning, when they discover a slight inconvenience: there is a stranger, a woman, lying in the loft - dead. And since they are the only ones with keys, well, you can guess who the usual suspects are.

If the viewer is expecting anything new from this film, they will be disappointed. The story at times is more concerned with the grandiose lifestyles of these men and their illustrious passions, rather than solving

the mundane question of "who done it." To be frank, the audience may not even care who done it either. Had this film followed that narrative, there would have been some satisfying clichés at least. Alas, the movie could not even fall back on that.

Visually, the film is wanting. It is shot in almost perfunctory manner, with minimal to no excitement. There is nothing to recall with amusement or amazement, and one wonders if anyone involved cared about this project at all. There is not much to say for the direction, but if one searched for a word to describe it, the immediate adjective is bland.

And speaking of bland, how about the actors? Although there are five principal male characters, you could say Vincent Stevens, played by Karl Urban, is the protagonist of the group. After all, the idea of the loft is his and he is the literal architect of the building where the loft is located. One gets a sense that Stevens is supposed to be a suave, attractive, and cunning, yet charming individ-



Karl Urban as Vincent, Eric Stonestreet as Marty, and Wentworth Miller as Luke in THE LOFT

ual. Urban is trying, which is about the best that can be said for his performance. He comes across as a cardboard copy of a cliché and is entirely dull to watch. The other players in this film, such as James Marden, playing Chris Vanowen, and Eric Stonestreet, as Marty Landry, all

seemingly just go through the motions, disengaged from the film, never eliciting any interest.

This film ends on a satisfying note, yet with an ending that is possible, but not probable. Van Looy does provide a twist that, honestly, this reviewer did not think to look for.

Unfortunately, the resolution to it all felt tired and recycled, and left one feeling short changed. Yes, once again, the ending is a satisfying conclusion: possible, but not probable.

# Tritons Put on Strong Road Performances

NICHOLAS PEREZ & CHRISTIAN DEVERGER  
SPORTS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

It is softball time at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, which means summer is getting closer by the second. The Tritons were on the road again, both men and women's basketball teams had games this past week. Softball also had games this past week, having a double header to start the season. The UMSL Triton's softball team started the season strong with two wins on the road at the NFCA Division II Lead off Classic. In the first game of the double header, the team came back from three runs behind to trump from Texas women's with a final score of 6-5. Jennah Perryman, freshman, criminology, brought home the win with a fantastic play in the seventh inning. Perryman also locked in a homerun in the fifth. Brianna Butler, senior, elementary education, tied it up at 5-5 in the bottom of the seventh, which brings her to an astonishing 33 career homeruns. UMSL came out with the win, with eight hits to Texas' seven.

In the second game of the day, the team shut out opponent Regis 4-0. The Tritons came out strong with a 3-0 lead in the first inning and secured the shutout with great defense and an extra run in the third. Hannah Perryman, junior, psychology, pitched a full game shutout racking up seven strikeouts along the way. The team is currently ranked 13th, but if these first few games have any indication on how their season is going to go, their ranking will change sooner than later.

The Triton's women's basketball team also put on a strong road performance, winning three games in a row, and most recently beating Indianapolis 71-58. Excellent free throw shooting by Amber Daly, junior, psychology, helped the Tritons maintain a solid lead throughout the game. Daly put up a total of 19 points, with 14 of them coming from the free-throw line. Kelly McGovern, senior, special education, also scored 17 points and shot 6-6 from line. Tierra Snow, senior, pre-social work, and Kelly Kunkel, junior, clinical psychology, also put up double-digit scoring performances as well. The former putting away 13 with two blocks and the latter dropping 14 with 12 rebounds netting her a double-double. With this win, the Tritons record is now 11-9 for the season and 7-5 in the GLVC division.

While the women's basketball team faired well against Indiana, the men's team sadly fell short of the victory losing 87-71. The Tritons battled the number 9-ranked Indianapolis fiercely, as lead changed 7 times and was tied twice. However, toward the end of the second half Indianapolis pulled away and held onto their lead for the win. Kevin Swanson, junior, fine arts, led the Tritons' scoring effort, putting up 16 points. The Tritons had trouble holding onto the ball, committing 22 turnovers, which lead to 28 points from Indianapolis. With the loss, the Tritons dropped to 15-7 on the season and 7-5 in



Kelly Kunkel, senior, business administration, bringing it forward



Brandon Marquardt, junior, business administration, prepping the dunk

the GLVC conference.

The Tritons basketball teams return home for the last run of their seasons. We need to show them the support they deserve. We, as the UMSL community, need to "Pack the

Stands." So make your way to the Mark Twain and see some very exciting, action packed, and free basketball games. Let's all go watch our teams make it into the playoffs. The Tritons softball team is still going to

be on the road until March, so make sure you check back and read The Current to get all the updates on them as they dominate on the road.

## UMSL TRITONS

THURSDAY February 12th	FRIDAY February 13th	SATURDAY February 14th
Women's Basketball at UMSL vs. Sothern Indiana @ 5:30 p.m. Men's Basketball at UMSL vs. Sothern Indiana @ 7:30 p.m.	Softball vs. Fort Hayes State Monticello, Arkansas @ 3:30 p.m.	Women's Basketball at UMSL vs. Bellarmine @ 1:00 p.m. Men's Basketball at UMSL vs. Bellarmine @ 3:00 p.m.
		Softball vs. Minnesota-Mankato Monticello, Arkansas @ 9:00 a.m. Softball vs. East Central Monticello, Arkansas @ 3:00 p.m.
February 19th	February 20th	February 21st
Women's Basketball at UMSL vs. Quincy @ 5:30 p.m. Men's Basketball at Indianapolis @ 7:30 p.m.	Softball vs. Kentucky Wesleyan Rosemont, Illinois @ 9:00 a.m. Softball vs. Upper Iowa Rosemont, Illinois @ 3:30 p.m.	Women's Basketball at Truman State 1:00 p.m. Softball vs. Wayne State Rosemont, Illinois @ 11:00 a.m. Softball vs. Grand Valley State Rosemont, Illinois @ 6:00 p.m.

# Weekly\* Chuckle

## Congress Approves New Bill Adding 50 More Lobbies to Accommodate Corporate Interests

ABBY NAUMANN  
OPINIONS EDITOR

In the midst of the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, you could have easily missed the barely-advertised passing of a smaller, less poisonous-to-democracy bill—The Spacious, Well-Furnished Lobbies Construction Bill. Right out of the gate, the GOP hit the books hard, writing and passing their first piece of legislature for the improvement of the country despite a devastatingly divided Congress, unlike the social-loafing Democrats who failed to do much apart from musing over public works projects and ordering pizza for hearings. Good, God-fearing pepperoni on the right half, suspicious hippy-dippy mushrooms on the left, and we got the Green Party cheesy bread. But they had to chip-in, because it costs almost as much as a pizza and it is really half the size. Honestly, that is just not in the budget.

Speaker of the House, Boehner, addressed a small, lethargic group of reporters—mostly high schoolers who took the field trip to cut gym—last Tuesday, stating that the new bill will undoubtedly be an indispensable asset for the newly-elected Congress. The bill allocates the construction of fifty spacious lobbies to be erected in the green space around the Washington Monument. Congressman Fitzwilliamson of Texistown, New York, who personally oversaw the drafting of the bill, explained that the construction project is necessary to house the increasing number of attendees visiting the Capi-

tol to represent their respective corporate interests.

“Before, they were lined up around the Capitol Building for a mile, and often had to bring their own umbrellas and lawn-chairs,” continued Fitzwilliamson. “To make matters worse, Black Friday shoppers would sometimes meander into the line, disrupting the process.”

In addition to fully-stocked mini-bars, each lobby will be equipped with its own private office, approximately the size of the average middle class family’s master bedroom, complete with a plush leather chair for senators and congressmen to spin ominously around in, as well as a heavy wooden table with a classy mahogany finish for slipping envelopes under.

Despite fierce debate over seemingly every other issue, the Lobby Bill was almost unanimously passed by both parties. In fact, Justices Kennedy, Scalia, Roberts, Thomas, and Alito called during the vote to see if the Supreme Court could also cast votes in favor. When asked if the President intended to veto the bill, the White House responded, “We are having a difficult time coaxing the Commander-in-Chief out of his personal panic room after an inexperienced aid slipped him a copy of his approval rating. We’ll get back to you.”

\* Disclaimer: this fictional column is a writer’s satire and does not reflect the views of The Current

## Rebuttal: Iggy Azalea Controversy

WILL PATTERSON  
CRIME REPORTER

Many in the African American community, particularly within Hip hop culture, take issue not with Iggy Azalea being a white rapper, but the fact that a white woman from Australia, who speaks with an Australian accent, uses a stereotypical “ghetto” or “sassy” tone in her music. In other words, Azalea utilizes a ‘black woman’ stereotype. Some even feel that Iggy Azalea is comparable to the legacy blackface and perpetuates what is known as the ‘Jezebel’ stereotype.

Jezebel was an Old Testament biblical character who allegedly lured men into sin with her sexually. The Jezebel stereotype started around the time of the Atlantic Slave Trade when Europeans started coming in contact with more African cultures. They viewed the natives as primitives, partly because of the lack of clothing they wore and the fact that they were not Christians. The fact that African slaves were considered less than human (3/5 a person in the US Constitution) contributed to their sexual abuse. Many Africans had no choice but to comply with sexual favors of white men on plantations or risk being punished. This easy access to black women fueled the stereotype that they were inherently promiscuous.

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, minstrel plays were performed in which white men—or occasionally some blacks due the lack of dignified roles available to them—would paint their faces black and their lips white or red, parading around in a manner that they felt was indicative of African Americans. They would proceed to dance and sing with exaggerated “negro” dialects, as well to exhibit other popular stereotypes, such as obsessing over watermelon, like in the 1915 film Birth of a Nation.

Another problem some have with Iggy Azalea is perhaps an even larger issue—that attributes previously associated with African Americans and frowned upon for this association are praised and marketed when used by white women. For example, other than her music, Iggy Azalea is also known for having a curvy buttocks, a feature previously associated with women of color, particularly black women (see Sir Mix A Lot). For women, having large buttocks was previously something to be ashamed of. That is, until people like Jennifer Lopez and Kim Kardashian made it popular in mainstream culture. Black women with large bottoms, scientifically known as Steatopygia, were seen as more sexual and even something to be paraded around in circuses, like Sara Baartman.

Sara Baartman, a woman from South Africa during the early 1800s, garnered attention from European men for her large buttocks. She was later paraded around Europe as a freakshow attraction. When she died, her genitalia was cut off and shown on display at museums.

This innate ‘enhanced sexuality’ of black women’s bodies was used as justification for their rape throughout the seventeenth century and well into the twentieth. To some people, those like Kim Kardashian or Iggy Azalea, being praised for their large bottoms, or Angelina Jolie getting praise for her full lips—also a feature subject to caricatures and ridicule—can be quite insulting given the history. Even Miley Cyrus bringing the twerking phenomenon to the mainstream may rub some the wrong way. Twerking is a form of dancing that been performed in African American subcultures for decades but was seen as lewd. When Miley Cyrus did

the dance at the MTV awards a few years ago, it gained so much mainstream notoriety that now her name and twerking are almost synonymous.

It is one thing to be influenced by black music; it’s another thing to make a caricature of it. I do understand that Iggy came to the U.S. in her late teens, which accounts for the American influence in her music. And while it is also true that the Rolling Stones have said on many occasions they were influenced by African American blues singers such as “Muddy Waters,” they still put their own unique spin on it. Eminem is also accepted within the Hip hop community. This is because he has a certain level of authenticity, which is part of what Hip hop is all about. Eminem uses his experiences as a white guy with humble beginnings in Detroit. Growing up battling in the Detroit rap scene makes Eminem seem more authentic. People like Macklemore are also accepted because what they do does not seem “forced.” Some African Americans are afraid that the legacy of Jazz and Rock n’ Roll maybe repeating itself with Hip hop or Rap music, where the “inventors” of the art-form become marginalized. Nowadays it is rare to see an African American rockstar. Many people do not even know rock n’ roll started as a “black” art form, spawning from rhythm and blues, or that many white parents did not want their children listening to it. I think some people feel that if an individual like Iggy Azalea is going to make Hip hop or Rap, she should try to be more genuine. How cool would it be to hear an Australian who rapped with an exotic accent giving you a piece of life “down under?”

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# UMSL Students Face Tuition Increase

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR



Students of the University of Missouri System will see a 0.8 percent tuition increase starting the summer 2015 semester. The near-one-percent tuition increase will be on top of the 5.4 percent increase that goes into effect fall 2015 for the new recreation center that was voted on by the 2011-2012 UMSL student body.

The University Board of Curators voted February 5 to raise the tuition cost 0.8 percent to reflect inflation. UMSL will experience one of the two largest tuition cost increases per academic year in the UM System, Missouri S&T being the other. This is because of the \$19.25 per credit hour increase for the recreation center. The projected opening date for the new recreation center is the fall 2015 semester. The total undergraduate tuition for a Missouri resident at UMSL will be about \$9,500 per year. According to St. Louis Public Radio, the other undergraduate tuition Missouri resident costs are: University of Missouri—Kansas City's (UMKC) is \$9,165; the University of Missouri—Columbia's (MU) is \$9,437; and Missouri

S&T's (Rolla) is \$9,544.

Compared to other UM System schools, UMSL will have the highest increase for undergraduate tuition for non-resident students of 2.9 percent. UMKC will see a 0.8 percent increase for non-resident students, while MU and Rolla will see a 3 percent increase for non-residents. The UM System schools are still below average in tuition costs nationwide, compared to other institutions who offer the same level of education.

Tuition prices per semester in our local area include Harris Stowe's resident tuition which is about \$2,388; St. Louis University's resident tuition is approximately \$18,675; Missouri Baptist runs about \$10,810 for residents, Lindenwood University which is approximately \$7,615, and Washington University is about \$11,425 for residents. This is compared to UMSL's per semester which will be approximately \$4,750. According the National Center for Education Statistics, in the 2011-2012 academic year the national average cost of a four-year public university was over

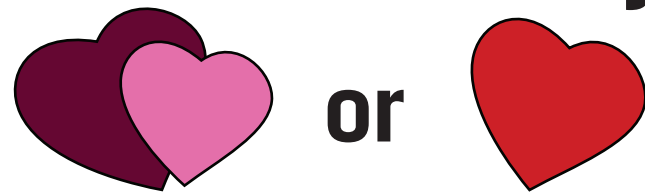
\$16,000.

"Our tuition isn't bad in comparison to other universities, but people still leave here with a decent amount of debt. Especially if they change majors," said Aaron Clemons, graduate, communications.

Last year, the Board of Curators voted unanimously to have a tuition freeze for 2014-2015 year with the help of Governor Jay Nixon's donation of \$100 million dollars to increase Missouri University funds. "On average, the UM System has raised tuition and required fees the past five years 2.4 percent annually, compared to 5.4 percent by comparable institutions in surrounding states," the press release stated. By keeping the tuition increases low, the UM System has seen its student body surpass 77,000 which is their highest enrollment yet.

"I want to reinforce the statement of curators chairman Don Cupps. We've worked very hard to provide high-quality, affordable education at UMSL. It's an effort that will continue as a strategic priority," Chancellor Thomas George said.

## Valentine's Day or



ALBERT NALL  
STAFF WRITER

St. Valentine's Day, which originated in early Christianity along with other theological tales from the Roman Empire, would eventually become associated with romantic love by the Middle Ages as identified by the poetry of such greats as Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, and John Donne. Over generations, Valentine's Day eventually progressed into an event where people expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, exchanging confectionary treats, and sending valentines. This folk tradition still continues by way of worldwide celebration and mass commercialism.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, I would like to offer some suggestions of how you can celebrate and validate your love for another. Let's start with a Pickle Pucker Jar. Just get a big glass pickle jar, scrub it clean, and then paint it with flowers, hearts, and sunshine. Then, with a bunch of doodle pads, write down the reasons why you love that special someone, whether it be a spouse or a friend. Place these within the jar for a meaningful gift.

Valentine's Day would not be Valentine's Day without that kiss. Attend a party or gathering, where you can steal away to a stairwell and passionately kiss each other. How about Breakfast in Bed, complete with some eggs benedict, toast, and some OJ? Along with kisses between bites, of course. If you are really feeling adventurous, you could try a kiss where you place an ice cube in your mouth until your entire mouth becomes chilled. Then remove the cube and plant a surprise kiss on someone! In the spirit of a romantic comedy, you can also kiss in the rain until the both of you are soggy ([www.theromantic.com](http://www.theromantic.com)).

Getting serious? Go shopping, and do like Beyoncé: "Put a ring on it!" Valentine's Day is about appreciation and empowerment, and not just for women. Men can take this opportunity to seal their future with the love of their life.

Those who are not in a current romance can celebrate Singles Awareness Day, on February 15. The objective of this day is for singles to have gatherings and festivities, as well as to exchange gifts with other singles. Singles Awareness Day (SAD) was once rather melancholic and depressing, but changing the day has made a new statement about single life. Singles do not always have to be defined by a significant other. Singles Awareness Day sends the message that there is no shame in being without a date on Valentine's Day. You are defined by your being, not always by being in love ([singlesawareness.com](http://singlesawareness.com)).

They say that "when you are in Rome, do as the Romans do." With that said, why not take your cues from the Latinos and the Latinas, and do what they do? They celebrate Valentine's Day among singles, and you can do it too. Celebrate by making yourself the most extraordinary and distinctive person of the holiday. Below are some of the top ways to celebrate Valentine's Day as a single according to [www.latinpost.com](http://www.latinpost.com):

Laugh out loud by going to a comedy club, a night with friends, or even with a hilarious romantic DVD.

Animal lover? Make a date with your pet by taking your furry friend out to an activity where animal companions are welcomed (or mandatory!)

Not feeling romantic? Go platonic. You do not have to have a lover to celebrate Valentine's Day. Take a best friend of the opposite sex out, and bring along plenty of Hersey kisses to pass out to everyone you meet.

And the number one way to celebrate Valentine's Day when you are single? Ladies, set a date with your other female friends. Guys, reunite your high school band for a special Valentine's Day block party nobody will ever forget, or be men of the streets and hang out for a night-on-the-town. Whatever you do, enjoy yourself, consider it your civic duty on V-Day. Happy Valentine's Day!

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