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UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

Tritons Triumph at GLVC Opener

Guest Speaker Lobbies UMSL for KXL Pipeline

KAT RIDDLER **NEWS EDITOR**

LORI DRESNER STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri—St. Louis Tritons braved the snow to battle in the first round of the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) tournament at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center on March 1. GLVC is an athletic conference, which is a part of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division II level. There are several universities participating from Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and

Women's basketball team faced Bellarmine from Kentucky in the first round at 1 p.m. The game looked promising as the Tritons pulled ahead with a 13-6 lead in the beginning, but the competition was tough. Tritons brawled to a tie of 27-27 at half time. Tritons were in a point dry spell, but did not give up. Tierra Snow, senior, social work, was able to break through Bellarmine's defense. Kelly McGovern, senior, special education, scored four points in the last 30 seconds of the game, ensuring victory. Kelly Kunkel, junior, public relations, was the highest scorer of the game with 20 points. The second highest scorer was Alexis Lawrence, senior, business finance, with 13 points. Tritons beat Bellarmine 66-61, pushing UMSL into the quarterfinals Friday

Dr. Roy Norton, Consul General of Canada in Chicago, spoke about the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline, KXL, as part of Canada Week, on February 24 in room 331 of the Social Sciences and Business Building. The presentation was titled "The Changing Political and Economic Environment and the KXL Pipeline." Norton discussed the recent political, environmental, and economic factors, as well as the changes surrounding the much talked about Keystone XL Pipeline.

The proposed Keystone XL Pipeline would be a 1179-mile pipe that would carry oil from the oil sands in Alberta, Canada to Steele City, Nebraska. From there, it would connect to other pipelines. KXL would import about 830,000 barrels of oil per day, and would be the 71st pipeline that crossed the U.S. and Canada border.

Norton began by talking about the political factors surrounding KXL. There was a change in control of the U.S. Senate in the November 2014

election, with legislation encouraging President Barack Obama to authorize the pipeline. With the change, the KXL construction bill stood a chance in passing, whereas it had not previously. President Obama, however, had pledged to veto the bill. He was set to receive the KXL construction bill from Congress the same day Norton's presentation took place. During the presentation, Obama vetoed the bill.

Controversy over KXL began in Nebraska November 2011 because a court case about the President putting a halt on consideration by the state department of the application to approve or reject KXL. In January 2015, the Nebraska Supreme Court upheld the Nebraska law, authorizing KXL.

The southern leg of KXL has been constructed and now runs from Oklahoma to Texas, but it did not require presidential permit. Therefore, it did not attract as much attention as the northern part that crosses the U.S. and Canada border and requires presidential permit.

Norton spoke on environmental factors surrounding KXL. If built, the KXL Pipeline would begin at the oil sands in Alberta, Canada. Concerns have been raised that oil mining for KXL could be detrimental to the environment. Norton said that Alberta is about 6.6% of Canadian geography, and in context, half the size the state of Delaware. The mineable oil area of Alberta is 1/10th of 1% of Canada's boreal forest, which is about 1/3 of the country.

"I do not wish to diminish or minimize the magnitude of

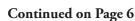
the operation," said Norton. "But it is important to have context, because there are some people who are detractors of the oil sands who would portray the oil sands as being this monolithic area of geography that is going to result in a huge portion of the continent being desecrated."

Canada's oil sands contain the third largest oil reserve in the world. Canada is the largest supplier of oil to the U.S., with 2.5 to 3 million barrels of oil being imported from Canada to the U.S. per day. The U.S. imports about 7 million barrels of oil total per day. After Canada, the three biggest oil suppliers to the U.S. are Saudi Arabia, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Norton went on to discuss why he believes it is an advantage for the U.S. to buy Canadian oil, and why construction of KXL is valuable to the U.S.

"The reality is, your country is growing," said Norton. "When it grows, it tends to consume more energy, and it is projected that it will continue to grow in the next 25 years... [The U.S.] is not at the level of production that equates with current consumption."

Continued on Page 3





Villa Construction pg 3







Tre Ogles

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THE CURRENT ONLINE

Game Corner

Difficulty: Venus Fly Trap

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Last Week's Solution

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Difficulty: Rafflesia

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News Briefs State Auditor Dies of Gunshot Wound

KAT RIDDLER NEWS EDITOR

Missouri State Auditor Tom Schweich died February 26 after being taken to the Barnes-Jewish Hospital's Trauma Center for an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound sustained earlier that morning. Schweich was a leading Republican contender for the Missouri Governor seat next year. Clayton Police Chief Kevin Murphy held a press conference Thursday at 4 p.m. to discuss the "apparent suicide." Several news

sources are stating that the suicide could be because the head of the Missouri Republican party did a whisper campaign stating Schweich was Jewish in order to hurt his chances to win the governor campaign. The autopsy and investigation are pending. Current Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed John Watson as Interim State Auditor until Nixon appoints a permanent appointment.

FCC Adopts Net Neutrality

KAT RIDDLER NEWS EDITOR

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted on February 26 by a 3-2 vote to adopt Net Neutrality. Net Neutrality is the concept that the internet provider should be a neutral gateway for all content on the internet, not a gatekeeper making some sites load faster than others based on the fees the sites pay for the service. Without Net Neutrality, websites like Amazon and Netflix would have to pay a fee to have a faster

internet connection to its customers. The new ruling will also prohibit broadband providers from blocking access to legal content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices. The ruling prohibits broadband providers from impairing or degrading lawful internet traffic based on content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices.

Roy Norton Lobbies UMSL on KXL Pipeline

LORI DRESNER

STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1

A concern surrounding KXL is that the pipeline could rupture, and the oil could permeate the Ogallala aquifer, which underpins Nebraska, making the water inconsumable and unfit for use.

"It is not a zero percent risk," said Norton.He said, however, that all other pipelines that run through Nebraska are older, but do not attract the same degree of attention as KXL.

"The subject matter is probably more controversial than it should be, in my view," said Norton, of KXL.

"I went to the pipeline seminar because I work in the Sustainability Office and we were interested to hear what it was about," said Jamie Mitts, senior, liberal studies. "I did not have much expectation; I wasn't sure if it would be for or against the pipeline. I found it interesting that he made no mention of the Amerindians' land that would be taken. He made no mention of the Lakota Tribe declaring this an act of war if it proceeds.

He talked about jobs, oil consumption, and money, just like any big corporation would!"

Norton said that the alternative to KXL is transporting oil by train. He elaborated on two major railroad accidents that occurred with trains transporting oil, a day apart. On February 15, a train derailed in Ontario and incinerated, burning for six days. On February 16, another train derailed and incinerated in West Virginia.

Norton's presentation at the University of Missouri—St Louis was one of many he made for Canada Week in Missouri. He also spoke at the University of Missouri—Columbia, as well as locations in Jefferson City, Kansas City, and Springfield throughout the week.

Norton has headed the Canadian Consulate General since March 2014, and represents Canada in Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin, where he promotes Canadian interests in trade, investment, environment, culture, and academics.

Upcoming Villa North Construction

EDWINA COOPER



An example of a room in Villa North Residential Hall

The University of Missouri St. Louis is putting its gears in motion as it plans to open an additional residential hall in Fall 2015 located near Villa Hall on South Campus. Villa North promises to provide new, comfortable space for UMSL's growing student body. This new building will offer housing to all Pierre Laclede Honors College students 21 and over or who have already completed 60 credit hours. The idea behind these restrictions is to provide a more traditional, independent, but still economical decision for upperclassmen. The new hall will be coed and feature the amenities of 24 hour laundry room, furnished rooms, and communal bathrooms as well as the requisite Wi-Fi and rec room. Additionally, converting Villa North into a residential building for Honors Learning and Living Community students has made 28 more rooms available at Villa Hall where the Honors College students are currently living.

While UMSL is known for being a commuter school, a small yet growing percentage of the student population chooses to live on campus. For Honors College students, they will have the advantage of being yards away from their classrooms. But in general, living on campus has some unexpected perks. Ryan Brooks, senior, economics, marketing and communications assistant of Residential Life and Housing, said, "I'm able to stay more connected with classmates,

do more with the campus community, and I'm better prepared to do well in my classes" by living on campus.

Compared to current housing and meal fees at Villa Hall and Oak Hall, Villa North will also have a cheaper plan. Living on campus, surprisingly, might turn out to be cheaper than commuting, too. Including meal plans, living at Villa North will cost between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per semester. For a student living over half an hour away, the cost of gas plus the fees of room and board elsewhere might add up to more. For students looking to tighten their budget or stay connected on campus Villa North is a promising housing option.

The staff of the Honors College are very excited about the developments at Villa North too. Daniel Gerth, assistant dean of the Honors College, fully supports the new Villa North. "I think renovating Villa North to reopen as residential space next year is wonderful!" said Gerth. He assures that the construction will not inconvenience classes or students because Villa North is not currently in use as it prepares for its debut. The timeline for construction is not yet finalized, but Villa North is expected to open next fall.

on campus has some unexpected perks.

Ryan Brooks, senior, economics, marketing and communications assistant of Residential Life and Housing, said, "I'm able to stay more connected with classmates,

Applications for Villa North are currently open at the Residential Life website and qualifying students are welcome to enjoy the traditionally collegiate style of housing at Villa North.



UMSL Offers Many Study Abroad Opportunities

MARY CHICKOS STAFF WRITER

There are many reasons to study abroad. However planning and applying for studying abroad can be confusing and overwhelming. Nevertheless, once the students are abroad, many will have the time of their life. But in order to make the most of the program, students must invest the time and make an effort to research and plan ahead. On February 10 the Office of Multicultural Student Services held a workshop that featured a panel of four students sharing their experiences.

Maureen McCarthy, senior, anthropology, talked about how incredible her experience in Galway, Ireland was and how she traveled through Europe, meeting people from all over the world. Joan Hines, a library assistant at the St. Louis Coun-

ty library, spoke about her experience studying abroad in Italy where she visited Rome and Pompeii for several weeks. "Venice was an amazing city with many museums, including the statue of David," said Hines. She talked about Botticelli's birth of Venus in Florence as well as the Leaning Tower of Pisa. In the Vatican City, she also saw the Sistine Chapel. She had a travel guide as well as some free time for sightseeing. Her package included hotels that were booked for her ahead of time.

Alonda Anderson, senior, psychology, took a semester abroad program that was led by faculty to Ghana in West Africa. "UMSL tuition was about the same and the people were friendly and most spoke

English," said Anderson. She brought back different African fabrics. She talked about her visit to Cape Coast Castle, boating, and taking a traditional African dance class. She said that she spent no more than \$5 per day in living expenses in this country.

Kevin Gomez, senior, political science, visited Uraguay, south of Brazil. "Uraguay is like the Switzerland of Latin America and its culture is very European," said Gomez. Though it is in Argentina, Buenos Aires is the largest city nearby and is easy to travel to. He took a plane to Panama City and then backpacked through South America to Montevideo, Uraguay, where his program was being held, along with other study abroad students, stopping

in youth hostels along the way. He was in Brazil for the World Cup which he said was an amazing experience in itself.

Steps for applying for a study abroad program include:

- 1. Familiarize yourself with the website www.study-abroad.umsl.edu and clicking the "Getting Started" tab.
- 2. Meet with a peer advisor Monday through Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for an introduction to the study abroad process in 261 MSC.
- 3. Meet with a Study Abroad Coordinator. Discuss goals and reasons for studying abroad. Have an idea of what type of program you are interested in. There are over 80 countries for student exchange.
- 4. Apply for a program. Complete an application with a

deposit. Fill out a scholarship application and write an essay.

5. Upon acceptance there are additional steps to consider. Passports are mandatory and some countries may require a visa.

What is best for each student is different. Think about responsibilities, a job, and family that may influence when is best to study abroad. Although some students choose to go their last semester, it is recommended to go earlier. Application deadlines are in early September for spring and early February for fall academic year programs. Summer programs take place in May and over the summer term, and application deadlines are typically in early February.

WHAT'S CURRENT WEDNESDAYS

Minimum Wages & Living Wages The Debates Over Jobs, Work & Compensation

When: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.

Where: MSC Century Room C

What: Discussion with Free Pizza Lunch*

Join *The Current* and discussion leader Robert Russell, Labor Education Specialist and Labor Studies Coordinator, for a lively, student-centered discussion. Should the minimum wage in the United States be higher? What would happen to jobs if we raised the minimum wage? And what is a living wage? These questions and others will be discussed as we talk about wages in the United States and the campaigns to raise them.

* Free pizza and beverages provided to the first 25 students.

"What's Current Wednesdays" is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussions about current events, cosponsored by The Current student newspaper and the New York Times, with support from Student Life and Community Outreach & Engagement at UMSL.

The Current A&E 'House of Stories' Brings Eerie Lights to Gallery 210

ALBERT NALL STAFF WRITER

ART REVIEW

Meghan Grubb opened her "House of Stories" art exhibit on February 21 in Gallery 210, which is located adjacent to the North Campus MetroLink station at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. The exhibit is open through April 11.

A reception for the gallery opening and a panel discussion with Grubb and artist Joe Chesla, was held on February 21. Joe Chesla's exhibit, "Moments of Illumination: Drawn from the Liminal," opened January 31 and will run until March 28. The panel discussion drew a packed crowd to the Gallery 210 Auditorium and was followed by a reception with an open bar and music. The artists were introduced by Terry Shure, the director of Gallery 210. Katherine Rodway-Vega, a member of the Gallery 210 Advisory Committee was the moderator for the event.

Grubb's work is exhibited internationally, running the gamut from group and solo shows to collaborations, and site specific installations. Grubb has traveled worldwide, to Norway Finland, Spain, and Thailand. Grubb earned an M.F.A. degree in art and design from the University of Michigan in 2012, and a B.A. in history and studio art from Wellesley College in

Utilizing analog and digital technologies, Grubb assembles compositions of sculpture, installation, photography, and video in a way that delve into how powerful nonphysical answers to culturally perplexing questions may be, produced by the experiences of physical abstractions.

The many themes of Grubb's work include wonders of intuition and the instinctual facets of the present and future. These marvels engage with scientific investigation into perceptual psychology, optics, and the natural environment with the objective of addressing unease in the affairs between humans and the physical spaces in which we occupy.

The works in "House of Stories" include a series of wells and tunnels that are submerged by beams of light, which is protruding, physical, and surreal. The walls of the gallery have been painted black and the space is lighted by the exhibited installations, creating a mysterious, eerie effect. Part of the exhibit includes an uneven, creaky wooden floor, from which viewers gaze down on the lighted installations embedded in the floor. The projections of beams form a great depth of shadows that are cast behind it. The installations leave a viewer with a feeling of being engaged with the object itself, while at the same time, being overwhelmed

with an immersive effect.

The exhibit also includes two framed pieces of seemingly living material. Yarn and sting emulate grass and moss that emulate a hedgerow maze, which are hung on the wall like paintings. These pieces are located in the first part of the gallery, where light from the lobby falls into the space, and are the only parts with conventional spotlights on the art.

There are circumstances and moments in a person's life, where one is compelled to pause and reflect, and that is brought on by the wells and the lights. In entering the wells, you are emerging into the subliminal, a threshold of something oblique, which you cannot quite understand. There are moments of disbelief—that creepy, greasy residue in your psyche that you just cannot seem to grasp. Grubb's work is just as natural as it is scenic, which contributes to the greater intrigue. The exhibit is primitive and has layers that are stripped away to convey a simplicity in the essence of the object that is being exhibited.

There is a serendipity that creates the moments of being there. This is at the essence of Grubb's sublime "House of Stories," a moment of time and space that is in a midst of change, a state of becoming.

This sense of mystery seems to be a theme in Grubb's work. Among the works Grubb discussed during the lecture, which



"Long Fall" is one series exhibited by Meghan Grubb in "House of Stories"

included PowerPoint slides, was a work called "Apparition." This 2011 work was done in a 5,000 square foot basement that was abandoned and dark, and included an isolated hut also constructed on the campus of the University of Michigan. An isolated hut was also constructed on the campus of the University of Michigan. Grubb

described the work as being very rough and gritty, leaving her with a feeling of being in an isolated, vast, illusionist landscape. Grubb's intention seemed to be making the viewer feel claustrophobic about the site

Gallery 210 is free and open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

'Guide to Free Speech on Campus' Educates Students

SARAH HAYES STAFF WRITER

BOOK REVIEW

Grade: A-

Whether it is a newspaper publishing an inflammatory political cartoon, an activist group clashing with protestors on private property, or one person debating with another person over a particular ideology, the issue of free speech has rarely been so hotly contested or spotlighted by the media as in recent history. One major stage for protecting free speech and the freedoms made explicit in the First Amendment has always been college campuses.

Unfortunately, a lot of new students are not familiar with their school's code of conduct or speech code or any of the campus rules that govern speech and expression of ideas on campus. They may not know what is legally considered protected speech and what is not, leaving them in a quandary over when to speak up and risk backlash from the college.

In the "Guide To Free

Speech On Campus," these questions on what defines free speech in a college setting and what college students can say with the protection of the law are answered in detail. The book is the newest release from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), which works with the students of public and private colleges across the United States to defend civil liberties on campus," regardless of the student's personal orientation. The second edition of

FIRE's "Guide To Free Speech On Campus" does not waste time on vague statements about how great civil liberties are, or the morality of free speech. This guide fully spells out what, according to current United States law, is exactly free speech and what kinds of speech are protected. It also provides details on the various court cases that have gone through the Supreme Court and related higher courts (e.g. the Hustler Magazine, Inc. versus Falwell case of 1988, which defined parody as protected by law) and how their decisions have shaped free speech for all citizens.

Readers need to keep in mind, however, that this guide is geared specifically towards college students and those who work with students on campus. It is not a catch-all guide for free speech, and the examples in this book, while numerous, are too specific to be applied on a broader basis. However, for University of Missouri—St. Louis students who are concerned or curious about speech and the average U.S. college, this guide might be a perfect addition to their bookshelf for future reference.

The "Guide To Free Speech On Campus" might shock and confuse a lot of people due to their assumptions on what free speech is. There is a lot of talk on how supposedly offensive and inflammatory speech is often protected by the First Amendment and subsequent court rulings. They hammer home in every section that all students, regardless of religious orientation, race, gender, sexuality, or class are all given

equal protections by the law. It definitely makes the mainstream idea of protected speech and socalled "acceptable" speech seem narrow by comparison. But FIRE's writers keep in mind this cognitive dissonance between the average reader and the legal facts in play, and are able to back up these statements with unshakeable facts.

Not only is this book a valuable resource for students, it should be read by college instructors and administrators alike. Anyone who has a hand in the crafting of speech and conduct codes on any college campus, UMSL or otherwise, should consider picking up FIRE's newest book. As the volume demonstrates in numerous examples in its "From Law Books and Theories to Practice" section – a long list of clashes between college students and administration over freedom of speech, expression, and assembly - sometimes a college's ignorance of the legal details of what a "speech code" should and should not be makes the difference between being a place

of open ideas in theory and being one in practice.

The only flaw in this book is that it can be dry reading. There is a lot of technical and legal wordplay that might require readers to go down the hall of their dorm and find the nearest law student to explain. Luckily, through context and explanation, a majority of these phrases can be understood by anyone from the freshman undergrad uate to the grad-level senior law student. Also, FIRE will drop references to its previous releases on related college issues. They are meant to function as a reason to purchase their other books but in the context of this book create more distractions than anything else.

For students who wish to remain vigilant on protecting free speech on their own campus and are looking for a compact, collected resource of legal references and real world scenarios that can create a defense, they might want to put FIRE's "Free Speech" guide in their backpack with all of their other textbooks, just in case.

Spotlight: Leanne Cantalupo

NICHOLAS PEREZ SPORTS EDITOR



Leanne Cantalupo

This week's spotlight is going to a very talented and ambitious woman named Leanne Cantalupo, a senior majoring in Civil Engineering in the joint engineering program with Washington University. She plans to go into the field of transportation engineering once she graduates. In her spare time, Cantalupo likes to do DIY (do it yourself) projects, crafts, watch Netflix, and explore Saint Louis. She is also the Captain on the UMSL Women's Tennis Team. Originally from Austin, Texas, Cantalupo has been playing tennis since preschool. Her parents encouraged her to try a variety of sports, including soccer and basketball, but when it came time for high school, she decided to dedicate her time to tennis. "My favorite part about tennis is that it's such a mental game. Every match challenges you to have a strong and positive mindset," Cantalupo states. She went on to discuss how tennis is a great metaphor for life. "Sometimes you're winning easily and everything

is going great, and sometimes you're getting your butt kicked. But either way, you have to not let it faze you," she said. Cantalupo said that having fun and staying positive is something she is grateful her parents have engrained in her since childhood. Her favorite moment in her tennis career so far has been earning a spot in the NCAA National Tournament her junior year. She also enjoys the fact that she gets to see her sister, Holly, a tennis player at Truman State once in a while when they cross paths at conference matches. As this year's captain, her mindset is trying to work on and with the team. "Our goal for this year is to stay mentally tough while playing each point, and have absolutely no doubt in our belief that we can win," she said. "Our coach, Richard Gyllenborg, always tells us that "We never lose; we either win or we learn."" Cantalupo believes this means that each match is a learning experience that they can take something positive from.



Tritons Triumph at GLVC Opener

KAT RIDDLER **NEWS EDITOR**

Continued from Page 1

against Southern Indiana at 12 p.m. at the Family Arena in St. Charles, Missouri.

The men's basketball team faced William Jewell in their first round of GLVC at 3 p.m., following the women's success. UMSL Tritons started strong, scoring first in the first 30 seconds. Jewell Cardinals would not be defeated so easily, there was a constant back and forth

between the teams, and it was one score after another. Tritons scored the last point before half time, but Cardinals were in the lead 41-40. Tritons started the second half just as strong, scoring instantly. The Cardinals could not keep up with the Tritons as Aareon Smith, senior, business, scored a total of 26 points and Tylor Wimbash, senior, business management, scored a total of 19 points.

Tritons built up momentum, passing quickly between the Cardinal's defense. In the second half of the game, Triton's defense was able to stop the Cardinals from scoring for four minutes as UMSL continued to score. Tritons were able to beat the Cardinals 80-68, pushing ahead on to quarterfinals against Drury on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Family Arena in St. Charles, Missouri.



Tritons defend home turf

UMSL TRITONS

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
March 1st	March 2nd	March 5th	March 6th	March 7th
		WHI.		
Men & Women's	Men's GOLF vs.	Men's Basketball	Women's Basketball	Women's Basketball
GOLF vs. Las	Las Vegas Desert	GLVC Tournament	GLVC Tournament	GLVC Tournament
Vegas Desert	Classic	Quarterfinals in St.	Quarterfinals in St.	Semifinals in St.
Classic		Charles, MO	Charles, MO	Charles, MO
	Women's GOLF v.s.	@TBA	@TBA	@TBA
Men & Women's	Las Vegas Desert			MAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A
Basketball at	Classic	Baseball vs. Findlay	Baseball vs. Findlay in	Men's Basketball
GLVC Tournament	X	in Cocoa Beach,	Cocoa Beach, FL	GLVC Tournament
First Round		FL	@TBA	Semifinals in St.
INFO TBA		@TBA		Charles, MO
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Men's Tennis vs.	The state of the s	Men & Women's	Tennis at Emporia State	444
Bellarmine in		Tennis at Newman	@ 12:00 p.m.	Baseball vs. TBA
Elsah, IL.		University		in Cocoa Beach, FL
@ 8:30 a.m.	A THE SAME	@ 12:00 p.m.	Softball vs. Walsh	@TBA
7 30000 E #			@ 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Baseball vs. Saint	Married Williams			Men & Women's
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MEN & WOMEN BASKETBALL GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES MARCH 1st & 5th - 8th

Islam 101: Practicing Acceptance

JANE LAKAYIL STAFF WRITER

From the Charlie Hebdo Massacre in France, to the beheadings by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, to the Chapel Hill shooting in North Carolina, a great deal of our exposure to Islam comes in the form of violence and terrorism. This is especially dangerous when we do not know enough about Islam or do not have any friends who are Muslims to provide us with a more accurate representation of what Islam really stands for. Furthermore, because many people have such little exposure to Islam, their perceptions become skewed, despite the statistics. As of 2012, Muslims made up 23 percent of the world's population, translating to about 1.6 billion people; since 2012, that number has only continued to grow.

When analyzing acts of terrorism that have occurred in the United States from 1980 to 2005, the FBI reported that only six percent were committed by Muslims. Similarly, Europol reported that in the past five years, less than two percent of all the terrorist attacks were Islam-related. While these numbers prove that not all Muslims are terrorists and few terrorists are even Muslim, it is unfortunately not enough to alleviate the doubts and discomforts of many people in America and around the world.

While I could provide a list

of the fundamentals of Islam and explain how it is a religion that does not promote violence and terrorism, I do not think it would resonate with readers. It is simple to explain a religion or a culture or a concept as a list of facts, but as humans, it is not facts but feelings that affect us. Because of this, I am illustrating examples of the beauty that I associate with Islam.

I see Muslims greet each other and the first thing they say is "Salaam", which roughly translates to peace, though it carries much more meaning in the Arabic. When Muslims refer to the prophet Muhammad, the phrase "peace be upon him" always follows, just as "Allah" is followed by "subhana wa ta'ala," translating roughly to "the most glorified." While nearly none of the Muslims I know speak Arabic, they read the Quran in the original Arabic. When my friends observe the month of Ramadan, they fast by refraining from food, drink, and sin, while focusing on forgiveness and repentance.

I have observed these actions—small and large—as a non-Muslim for years, and it is breathtaking to me each time. A few of the most influential people in my life are Muslims, and I consider it a blessing to be able to learn from them. They have taught me some of the most valuable lessons I have learned

about kindness, dignity, respect, and love.

Because of my relationship with Islam, it is hard to understand the bigotry and stereotypes that some people have about Islam. It saddens me to see people joke about Islam by dressing up in terrorist and Muslim Halloween costumes. It saddens me when my friend feels nervous to sit on the bus because people are staring at her more after recent terrorist attacks. It saddens me that people can live out a beautiful religion in beautiful ways and it is not enough to convince others.

While it is true that there are Muslims who warp their religious beliefs to justify acts of terrorism, we must remember that the stereotypes we create and that we subscribe to are unfair portrayals of a large group of human beings. As Nigerian-American author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie said, "The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story." There are almost two billion Muslims in the world, with two billion stories. Do not allow a handful of bad Muslims to taint the other two billions' stories or your understanding.

UMSL Shuttles Accidentally Arrrive On-Time

ABBY NAUMANN
OPINIONS EDITOR

Weekly Chuckl®

While the University of Missouri—St. Louis begins expansion projects such as the new Optometry Building and puts the finishing touches on the fitness center, certain University departments are scrambling to adjust. The UMSL Transportation and Shuttle Department met this week to discuss a daunting new issue— how they will maintain their reputation of absolutely never being on time.

Director of shuttles, the White Rabbit from Alice in Wonderland, told The Current, "With so many new buildings in UMSL's future, and new routes as a result, we are faced with the possibility that our shuttles might accidentally arrive at a stop on time."

"Currently," Mr. Rabbit continued, "UMSL shuttles do a superb job of always picking up and dropping off students a good five to twenty minutes after the scheduled time. Despite 90% of students needing to go directly from Provincial House to the main circle, we make sure to regularly stop for an average of ten minutes at University Meadows."

Recently, the UMSL

shuttles have established new policies, such as getting shuttles stuck in the cramped Bellerive parking lot to waste time, failing to correctly mark shuttles, and randomly switching drivers at high-traffic times. In the past, the shuttle system has guaranteed creating shuttle schedules which do not at all correlate with class times as part of the University's promise that it will cause students to miss five to twenty minutes of the classes students work so hard to pay for.

"If we cause students to be excessively tardy, affecting their financial aid and scholarship eligibility or grades, we know we are staying true to our mission," Rabbit stated. "If, by some Act of God, we do get students where they need to go, we will make up for it by decreasing the already measly number of shuttles we have. This would mean that instead of picking up students once an hour after 3:00 p.m., even though many classes run until 5 or 6 p.m., we will probably not show up at all."

In related news, the makeshift tunnel Honors students have been digging with plastic spoons and shivs from the ProHo basement to the Benton-Stadler building in a desperate attempt to get to their valuable and costly science classes, is three years from completion.

Technology Column

Facebook Legacy is Not for Everyone, for Now

SARAH HAYES STAFF WRITER

Have you thought about what will happen to your online presence after you die – youi Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr, Snapchat, or that embarrassing MySpace profile you have had since 1998? You could give your password to a trusted person, but giving away your password and allowing someone else to take control of your account is actually against many sites' terms of service. Unfortunately, a lot of these websites also do not have any systems in place to inform other users when a friend has died.

For those who get major heart palpitations just thinking about someone looking at your information, even just your Facebook profile, there is an even easier answer: have your laptop dropped into an active volcano. For everyone else, you may consider putting your online life into someone else's hands.

Enter Facebook, intent on fully controlling every aspect of life. With Facebook 'Legacy,' a program introduced in early February, users can set up their accounts so that in the case of their death, another user can take control of their profiles. That user, the 'legacy contact', will be able to update your profile and cover photos, write a post about your life or upcoming funeral services that will be pinned to the top of your feed, and respond to incoming friend requests-hopefully, not accepting any of them.

What your legacy contact

cannot do is actually log in as you, edit old posts, delete your friends, or read your private messages. So at least you know that your late night messages will be kept strictly between you, your messages' recipients, Facebook moderators, the NSA, Anonymous, and North Korea.

In a way, it is a smart move on Facebook's part. Previously, deceased users' profiles were locked from their loved ones' control. This meant that families had no effective online method of letting people know someone had died or where the services would be. It also meant that users could not make an effective tribute to those who had passed through Facebook's 'Year in Review' function. Now, with Facebook Legacy, those

problems can be overcome.

On the other hand, there is a definite weird factor to this. If you pick a legacy contact and you do not send them a message ahead of time, they do not know they have been picked until you have already died, when Facebook sends an impersonal automated message on your behalf. And if you pick a beloved family member or significant other, that may not be what they want to see when they are mourning a loss.

Speaking of picking a legacy contact, how do you know your legacy contact is going to outlive you? It is not like you can tell when a person is going to die. A more ideal system would be picking at least three legacy contacts, in order of priority, so

in case your first choice is not around when you shuffle off the mortal coil, you still have two other chances to keep your legacy alive – on Facebook, that is.

Ultimately, Facebook Legacy is proof that society is too obsessed with its digital footprint. We are afraid, perhaps, that our lives will have counted for squat, if no one will see our selfies fifty years later.

Above all, live your life boldly and loudly and get involved in as many things as possible. Do not be afraid to make new things and love new people. A Facebook Legacy is fine, but it does not have to be your only legacy.



An UMSL Career Week event

Thursday, March 12, 2015

J.C. Penney Conference Center in the Summit Lounge

3:30pm-5:30pm Introduction by Dean Charles Hoffman

followed by Roundtables with experts

5:30pm Reception and Networking

Roundtable Topics Include:

- 1. Time Management
- 2. Building Your Personal Brand
- 3. Embracing your Work Environment/Culture
- 4. Building Relationships (Internal and External)
- 5. Effective Communication Skills

UMSL Business

Please Register for this program online through the UMSL Career Week event page.

For Questions please contact Career Services, 278 MSC, at careerservices@umsl.edu or 314-516-5111.

Each event you attend will enter you to win a \$200 visa gift card

