

4-20-2015

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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

NOW HIRING FOR FALL 15' SEMESTER. SEE BACK PAGE

SGA Elections: Know Your Candidates

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association (SGA) elections begin April 20 at 12 a.m. The polls will be electronically open from April 20 through April 24 at 11:59 p.m. Students will vote on a SGA President, SGA Vice President, SGA Comptroller, and 13 SGA Senators for the 2015-2016 academic school year. All candidates are running unopposed this year, but they still need your votes to be elected into office. Any currently enrolled University of Missouri—St. Louis student may vote in the election. Cast your vote at <http://umsl.edu/go/votesga>. Know before you go by looking at the office responsibilities and names of the candidates below.

SGA President duties: Presiding Chair of the Executive Committee of the Student Government Association Assembly, interview and hire staff for the Student Government Association Offices, serve as a non-voting member of the Assembly (with the exception of exercising a veto), act as Student Government Association Liaison to the Chancellor and University Assembly, represent the University of Missouri—St. Louis at meetings of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, represent Inter-Campus Student Council (ISC) and Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) when necessary, report matters concerning the office of the President to the Student Government

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Students making laps in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center for Relay for Life

Relay for Life Burns Midnight Oil to Fight Cancer

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

Chancellor Thomas George of the University of Missouri—St. Louis joined other survivors of cancer on the Survivor's Walk at the seventh annual Relay for Life held April 17 at the Mark Twain Health & Fitness Center. In the opening ceremony, he talked about being a cancer survivor and said that he was a member of CEOs Against Cancer. Well over 100 students and community members came out to help raise funds for cancer research and awareness. By the end of the night Relay for Life raised \$12,718.94.

Relay for Life was organized primarily by Colleges Against Cancer. Elle Fitzpatrick, senior, biology, and President of Colleges Against Cancer has been planning this year's relay since the end of last year's. With the help of her committee: Ashlee Roberts, Assistant Director of Student Services Coordinator; Jake Brinkman, senior, elemen-

tary education; Negar Adl-Tabatabai, senior, psychology; Cassidy Kinkead, sophomore, nursing; Scott Lewis, junior, biology; and the American Cancer Society representative Eric Page, Fitzpatrick continued the 80 year long tradition at UMSL.

"It's a great club to get involved in and give back and hopefully, one day find a cure for cancer," Fitzpatrick said.

The Relay for Life kicked off at 6 p.m. and lasted 12 hours to signify that cancer never sleeps. Several teams of 15 people each kept up a continual walking relay through the main gym and side hallway, which had been decorated with sheets of multicolored construction paper for a rainbow road effect.

Participating teams set up "camps" around the gym offering games and entertainment throughout the night. Some of the main competitive and entertainment events of the evening included crab soccer, frozen t-shirt contest, volley pong tournament, life size hungry, hungry

hippos, and duct tape contest. A luminaria ceremony began at 10 p.m. in the name of loved ones who fell victim to cancer or are battling the disease. Primarily, the evening was about hope and the cancer survivors' walk brought families and students together to show their solidarity to beat the disease. "Statistically, one out of three Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at least once in their life," said Savanna Rayner, Senior Community Manager at American Cancer Society.

One of the main events featured was a hair cutting event. Carly Vogel, freshman, psychology, was one of the first to donate hair of at least six inches to American Cancer Society's Pantene Beautiful Lengths. Two professional hairdressers were on hand to take the donations of hair, which go to make wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy. Students applauded and took photos as each volunteer made their donation of hair.

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Crawl for Cannabis

BRI EHSAN
STAFF WRITER

4/20, or "National Weed Day," is observed across the nation as an unofficial holiday in the cannabis community. This year, to celebrate this non-holiday, prominent businesses on Cherokee Street in St. Louis are coming together to participate in an event called "Crawl for Cannabis." Businesses such as retail shops, restaurants, and bars are participating in order to show support for Show-Me Cannabis—an association of organizations that is dedicated to bringing cannabis law reform in Missouri. "Crawl for Cannabis," a two-day long celebration that starts April 19 and ends on the 20, is filled with fun activities including a crawl kickoff brunch buffet, Drink/Shop/Dine specials at participating crawl stops, dinner specials, raffle prizes, 50/50 drawings, and after parties. Tickets start at \$15 and include crawl discounts and a free Show-Me Cannabis bottle opener. Purchase of a VIP ticket for the price of \$35 grants party-goers a Crawl for Cannabis 2015 t-shirt, one raffle ticket, and admission to the concert and after party at 2720 Cherokee free of charge.

While "Crawl for Cannabis" may sound like a fun-filled second Mardi Gras in April, the main focus of this does not stop at the celebration of 4/20. This event is hosted by the organizations and individuals behind Show-Me Cannabis, who believe that the prohibition on marijuana in Missouri is a failed policy. These individuals are dedicated to advocating for the regulation and taxation of marijuana in Missouri in an effort to decriminalize the use of cannabis for medical, industrial, and recreational purposes. All

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THE CURRENT ONLINE

SGA Elections: Know Your Candidates

**KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR**

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Association Assembly, work a minimum of 10 hours per week on the duties of the office, and shall call and preside over the first meeting of the Assembly.

SGA President Candidate:
 Cameron Roark, junior, criminology:



"I am currently a junior studying criminology and criminal justice. My hometown is Jefferson City, Missouri where I attended Jefferson City High School. My future plan is to attend law school and work as an attorney for awhile. My ultimate goal is to end up working for the federal government.

I love politics and the ability to help those that feel like they have no voice. This past year I have served in the role as Student Government President where I learned from great experiences."

SGA Vice President duties: Assume the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence, coordinator of all Student Government Association and Assembly committees and special boards, serve as a member of the Inter-Campus Student Council (ISC) and Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) when necessary, serve as a non-voting member of the Assembly (with the exception of exercising a veto), serve as a member of the Student Government Association Assembly Ex-

ecutive Committee, and work a minimum of 10 hours per week on the duties of the office.

SGA Vice President Candidate:

Kristin Wyninegar, junior, communications:



"I am a junior communications major with two certificates in public relations and advertising. I am the Students of Service President, a First year Experience Mentor, Emerging Leaders Mentor, a Weeks of Welcome Student Coordinator, and I sit on various committees around campus.

I am running for Vice President of Student Government because I am passionate about increasing student engagement on campus and building a voice for students to be heard."

SGA Comptroller duties: Administer the funds of the office of the Student Government Association, and when a Treasurer's signature is required for SGA business, the comptroller shall sign as Treasurer of the SGA, draft (with the SGA Executive Committee) the SGA budget request for the succeeding fiscal year, serve as Chair of the Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC), represent the SABC when required, present concerns of misuse of student allocated funds to the Student Affairs Committee of the University Assembly, serve as a non-voting member of the Assembly, with the exception of exercising a veto, and work a minimum of 10 hours per week on the duties of the office.

SGA Comptroller Candidate:

Michael Clark, sophomore, accounting:

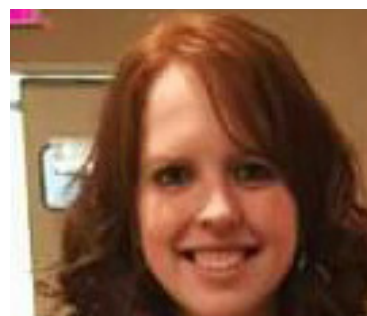


Clark did not provide a bio or quote by deadline.

SGA Senator duties: Serve as a voting member of the Student Government Association Assembly Executive Committee, serve as a non-voting member of the Student Government Association Assembly, discuss and nominate their recommendations to the Assembly for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Sergeant-at-Arms in conjunction with the President, and serve as representatives to campus committees as deemed necessary by the SGA Chair

SGA Vice-President to provide a cohesive platform from which to advocate the interests and concerns of the students in the activities and affairs of the university.

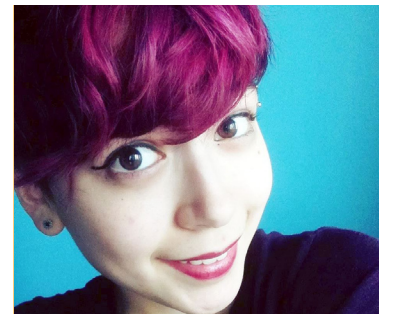
SGA Senator Candidates:
 Rachel Dougherty, junior, political science:



"My major is political science and I want to be in SGA so that I have a positive impact on necessary changes for our school."

Annisa Kumerow, junior, political science:

"My name is Annisa Kumerow. I am a transfer junior from Lincoln Land Community



College, where I served as the President of the LLCC Honors Program. I am currently majoring in Political Science.

I am running for a Senator position because I believe it is instrumental that students have fair representation on campus, and I believe that I can be a key resource to any student with concerns about their education and their time at UMSL."

Belkisa Dautovic, junior, public policy and administration:



"I am running for a senate position because not only will I be able to talk with students about issues we can change on campus, but also gaining knowledge and skills for what I hope to do later in life."

Nicholas Garvin, junior, political science:



"I am born and raised in St. Louis; I am a junior pursuing my Bachelors in political science and history. I have over 500 of volunteer hours at De La Salle

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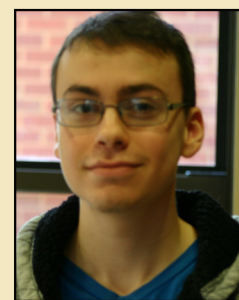
THE UNDERCURRENT *By Anna Glushko & Jessie Eikmann* **HOW DO YOU DE-STRESS FROM SCHOOL PRESSURES?**



MARITZA FUENTES,
 Senior, Nursing
"I usually watch a funny YouTube video."



STEPHANY LAKEY,
 Senior, Elementary Education
"I go to events on campus or I hang out with friends. I also like to listen to music or watch TV. Talking to my professors also helps."



DENIS XHIXHI,
 Freshman, Biology
"Take a break from all academics for about a day and just relax with friends, TV, or games."

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Relay for Life Burns Midnight Oil to Fight Cancer

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

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Trims and buzz cuts were made available to all attendees in order to encourage donations. One of those who accepted this challenge was John Hood, fresh-

man, SUCCEED, who opted for a buzz cut.

“I have never been to a university Relay for Life. I wanted to get out and involved and broaden my horizons,” Hood said. Hood is also part of UMSL Dance Concert and Triton Ties on campus.

Despite the long hours, teams of walkers kept up a steady pace around the circuit. At least one member of the team had to be walking at all times. Some could be seen walking three abreast, all intently on their phones, while others were throwing Frisbees or dribbling

soccer balls around the track.

Organizers of the event sold t-shirts to raise money. Those teams of 15 who raised \$500 were provided two cheese pizzas at midnight. Other volunteers distributed cookies, brownies, and cupcakes to help walkers keep up their energy levels.

Donations are still accepted after Relay for Life. All are encouraged to donate until June at www.relayforlife.org/umslmo. To learn more about Colleges Against Cancer check out their OrgSync portal.

SABC Allocations for the Fall 2015 Semester

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC) has submitted their recommendations for student organization funding for the Fall Semester of 2015. These recommendations will then be submitted to the Chancellor and Vice Provost, who have the authority to make any changes they see fit. This year's budgeting process is a

departure from the past practice of making one allocation decision for an entire Fiscal Year. This year, SABC is making separate fall and spring semester budget recommendations. The Spring 2016 budget submission period will take place in September. SABC funds are derived from student activity fees and currently help to provide money for over 70 student organizations at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.

The largest recommended allocation this year is for the Student Government Association with \$21,525. The second highest is for the Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association with \$11,100. All the organizations requesting budget allocations received something, though many requested amounts were short of their recommended amounts for the fall. For example, the American Optometric Student

Association requested \$17,730 and were recommended for only \$1,205. The Catholic Newman Center requested \$18,850.39 and were recommended for just \$3,865. The Panhellenic Council, representing sorority life on campus, requested \$14,330 and SABC recommended they receive \$5,190.

According to the documents given to “The Current” by the SGA Comptroller, there was \$228,085 given to student

organizations during the entire 2014-2015 school year. Total requests for the fall semester alone from student organizations were \$403,790.90. SABC recommended that these groups receive a total of \$127,197 for the Fall 2015 semester. The allocations this year, so far, represent roughly 56% of the total distributed in last year's budget.

STUDENT ACTIVITY BUDGETING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FALL SEMESTER 2015

Accounting Club 14-15: \$500 REQ: \$3,105 REC: \$625	Missouri Optometric Student Association 14-15: \$2,725 REQ: \$4,225 REC: \$1,475
Ad Core 14-15: \$2,150 REQ: \$1,100 REC: \$450	Multi-Greek Council 14-15: \$- REQ: \$750 REC: \$650
Alpha Phi Omega 14-15: \$- REQ: \$3,635 REC: \$650	Muslim Student Association 14-15: \$1,830 REQ: \$3,680 REC: \$2,100
Alpha Xi Delta 14-15: \$4,505 REQ: \$3,706 REC: \$1,940	National Optometric Student Association 14-15: \$2,825 REQ: \$4,607 REC: \$1,345
American Institute of Graphic Arts 14-15: \$1,100 REQ: \$11,276 REC: \$1,068	Opera Theatre Ensemble 14-15: \$3,975 REQ: \$9,325 REC: \$877
American Optometric Student Association 14-15: \$4,510 REQ: \$17,730 REC: \$1,205	Order of Omega 14-15: \$265 REQ: \$450 REC: \$230
Associated Black Collegians 14-15: \$5,000 REQ: \$9,660 REC: \$1,940	Panhellenic Council 14-15: \$4,526 REQ: \$14,330 REC: \$5,190
Association of Student Anthropologists 14-15: \$669 REQ: \$149 REC: \$149	Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia 14-15: \$734 REQ: \$12,310 REC: \$1,140
Beta Alpha Psi 14-15: \$5,412 REQ: \$18,740 REC: \$2,930	Philosopher's Forum 14-15: \$2,310 REQ: \$1,381 REC: \$1,135
Biological Society 14-15: \$1,650 REQ: \$1,082 REC: \$800	Physics & Astronomy Club 14-15: \$225 REQ: \$700 REC: \$375
Biology Graduate Student Association 14-15: \$2,565 REQ: \$6,700 REC: \$1,850	PLHCSA 14-15: \$3,640 REQ: \$3,695 REC: \$2,415
Catholic Newman Center 14-15: \$7,359 REQ: \$18,851 REC: \$3,865	Political Science Academy 14-15: \$- REQ: \$250 REC: \$200
Chemistry Club 14-15: \$800 REQ: \$4,980 REC: \$850	Political Science Graduate Student Association 14-15: \$9,795 REQ: \$7,860 REC: \$4,700
Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship 14-15: \$1,155 REQ: \$5,000 REC: \$675	Pre-Dental Society 14-15: \$800 REQ: \$1,447 REC: \$515
Chi Sigma Iota 14-15: \$1,715 REQ: \$3,850 REC: \$750	Pre-Med Society 14-15: \$1,855 REQ: \$2,430 REC: \$1,120
China-America Corner 14-15: \$1,840 REQ: \$1,250 REC: \$600	Pre-Vet & Zoological Society 14-15: \$1,570 REQ: \$2,892 REC: \$950
Colleges Against Cancer 14-15: \$4,040 REQ: \$4,321 REC: \$2,840	PRIZM 14-15: \$6,887 REQ: \$8,760 REC: \$4,480
Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association 14-15: \$13,100 REQ: \$24,281 REC: \$11,100	Psi Chi 14-15: \$1,500 REQ: \$4,300 REC: \$950
Criminology and Criminal Justice Undergraduate Student Association 14-15: \$- REQ: \$5,160 REC: \$750	Psychology Graduate Student Association 14-15: \$4,600 REQ: \$4,450 REC: \$1,875
Delta Sigma Pi 14-15: \$2,125 REQ: \$2,385 REC: \$565	Residence Hall Association 14-15: \$5,950 REQ: \$11,949 REC: \$1,000
Delta Zeta 14-15: \$3,270 REQ: \$2,530 REC: \$1,240	SEMPA - The U 14-15: \$1,100 REQ: \$19,249 REC: \$1,715
Environmental Adventurer Organization 14-15: \$- REQ: \$750 REC: \$440	Sigma Pi 14-15: \$4,310 REQ: \$2,596 REC: \$360
Golden Key Honor Society 14-15: \$4,750 REQ: \$13,328 REC: \$1,380	Sigma Tau Gamma 14-15: \$2,037 REQ: \$460 REC: \$200
Gospel Choir 14-15: \$2,950 REQ: \$4,375 REC: \$1,925	Society of Future Engineers 14-15: \$350 REQ: \$610 REC: \$2,225
Graduate Association of School Psychologists 14-15: \$469 REQ: \$3,511 REC: \$750	Student Government Association 14-15: \$44,500 REQ: \$25,269 REC: \$21,525
Graduate Writer's Association 14-15: \$3,520 REQ: \$4,230 REC: \$1,745	Student Investment Trust 14-15: \$5,000 REQ: \$7,050 REC: \$3,550
Higher Education Student Association 14-15: \$- REQ: \$575 REC: \$475	Student Nurses Association 14-15: \$1,980 REQ: \$3,300 REC: \$600
Hispanic Latino Association 14-15: \$1,884 REQ: \$3,754 REC: \$800	Student Social Work Association 14-15: \$4,500 REQ: \$9,182 REC: \$1,205
Interfraternity Council 14-15: \$5,198 REQ: \$5,330 REC: \$1,990	Student Veterans Association 14-15: \$- REQ: \$1,850 REC: \$663
International Business Club 14-15: \$2,150 REQ: \$5,050 REC: \$1,500	Students Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) 14-15: \$4,075 REQ: \$4,730 REC: \$1,900
International Business Honor Society 14-15: \$1,500 REQ: \$2,000 REC: \$600	Tau Sigma 14-15: \$1,000 REQ: \$3,058 REC: \$1,250
Japan-America Student Association 14-15: \$1,180 REQ: \$3,120 REC: \$555	UMSL Gaming Society 14-15: \$- REQ: \$949 REC: \$750
Kappa Delta Pi 14-15: \$400 REQ: \$2,194 REC: \$620	UMSL Instrumental Ensembles 14-15: \$1,460 REQ: \$3,300 REC: \$670
Midwest Model United Nations 14-15: \$- REQ: \$1,500 REC: \$450	UMSL Students for Life 14-15: \$- REQ: \$750 REC: \$550
Minority Student Nurses Association 14-15: \$2,005 REQ: \$4,000 REC: \$480	University Singers 14-15: \$5,510 REQ: \$9,600 REC: \$3,500
	Vietnamese Student Association 14-15: \$1,950 REQ: \$3,620 REC: \$1,010
	Zeta Tau Alpha 14-15: \$4,830 REQ: \$5,214 REC: \$2,250
	Totals: 14-15: \$228,085 REQ: \$403,790 REC: \$127,197

REQ = requested fall 2015
REC = recommended fall 2015
14-15 = full academic year 2014-2015

* Student organizations that did not have a budget last year or were not allocated any funds are marked with a ‘-’

** The final allocation that the committee decided upon for each organization. This allocation is what is recommended to the Vice Provost and the Chancellor. All decisions by the committee are subject to change by the Vice Provost and Chancellor, so the term ‘recommended’ is used to say that those are the allocations recommended for approval to both of those individuals.

† 14-15 denotes the amount of funds an organization received for the full academic year, where as the REQ and REC only apply to one semester of the academic year 2015-2016.

‡ There is a discrepancy between the total budget for academic year 2014-2015 reported in this issue and last year (issue 1440) to the tune of \$270,000. This is because several organizations listed last year are not listed this year, and their funding is now excluded from the total. The excluded organizations are: Black Business Student Association, The Current, Gallery Visio, Indian Student Association, Jewish Student Association, Math Club, National Art Education Association, Pan-African Student Association, Pi Kappa Alpha, Public Policy Administration Student Association, University Program Board, and Young Activists United.

Honors College Hosts Freshmen Reception

LORI DRESNER
STAFF WRITER

First-year Honors College students had the opportunity to meet and speak with Honors College alumni, faculty, and upperclassmen at the Freshman Professional Development Reception. The Pierre Laclède Honors College held the reception in the Millennium Student Center's Century Room A on April 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Students heard the wisdom of alumni, professors, faculty, juniors, seniors, and graduate students who gave them advice about internships, independent studies, and their fields of interest. Representatives from Career Services and the Study Abroad Office also gave a few pointers about resources and opportunities available on campus.

Honors College Professor Ann Torrusio explained that "this event was created so that Honors College freshmen understand the internship, study abroad, and independent study opportunities available to

them."

Students began with the usual meet-and-greet procedure of signing in and making a name tag. They were then free to sample the dinner and dessert buffet, which had refreshments ranging from pizza to nachos and salsa to coconut chicken and fresh fruit. Afterward, they milled about from table to table, speaking with the different representatives.

There were about 35 current and graduate students from many different majors available for first-year students to chat with. Biology, biochemistry, psychology, English, business administration, criminology, criminal justice, political science, education, theater and dance, and engineering were some of the majors represented. Students could speak with representatives of their specific major or any other majors and minors of interest. Representatives gave the first-year students tips on locating internships, building a strong resume, and anything else they wanted to



Honors freshmen spoke with alumni, faculty, and upperclassmen

know about that representative's field. Representatives also shared stories of their own internship experiences.

Representative Ellie Vehige, a junior in the University of Missouri—St. Louis and Washington University's Joint Engineering program, said, "I think it was a great event for students. It sounds like they were very motivated to advance their careers with internship experience."

Students also used the event to become more acquaint-

ed with the full-time Honors faculty. Several of the full-time Honors College faculty members were in attendance, including Professor Ann Torrusio, Professor Gerianne Friedline, Dr. Kimberly Baldus, Dr. Christoph Schiessl, Associate Dean Nancy Gleason, Assistant Dean Dan Gerth, and Dean Robert Bliss.

Students were encouraged to stay for at least an hour to talk with everyone they wished. At some tables, groups of five or more students crowded around

to talk with the representatives. "I found talking to people in the field interesting," said Lauren Becker, freshman, criminal justice.

"It was very helpful to talk to other students and faculty about their experiences they have had with the opportunities I wish to have as well," said Carly Vogel, freshman, psychology. "It was great to have that resource to talk to and get their advice on

Continued online at
thecurrent-online.com

Walls of Intolerance Leave UMSL Students Silent

JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

Despite the stifling temperature, a large cluster of student volunteers gathered in the bridge of the University of Missouri—Saint Louis' Millennium Student Center on the afternoon of April 16. The volunteers were eager, but they were also quiet. They were participants in UMSL's Day of Silence, an annual day of silent protest honoring the victims of discrimination, bias, and harassment based on any aspect of their identity.

On the window behind them were hundreds of paper bricks they and their fellow students had written over the course of the week. The bricks, which had been collected as part of PRIZM's and the Student Government Association (SGA)'s Walls of Intolerance project from April 13 through 16, told of instances of bias seen and heard on a daily basis. Participants were asked to write on the bricks a time they felt or witnessed discrimination and add the bricks to the wall. The wall was designed to facilitate a discussion about such discrimination leading up to the Day of Silence. Interim Vice President of PRIZM, Lena Ezell, junior, psychology, said, "I think [Walls of Intolerance] went really well. We had a great turn-out, and a lot of people wrote on the bricks. One great thing was that we got a lot of people that thanked us for doing this, which

was great because the whole reason why we were doing it was to make people included and feel like they are not alone."

At 3:30 p.m., after some brief instructions from PRIZM's President Natalie Smith, the volunteers began dismantling the wall. One by one the bricks were removed from the window and ripped in half. What started as a silent ceremony became progressively more animated. Some of the volunteers were crying and embracing, while others were visibly triumphant as they tore the bricks. Clarissa Reel, junior, sociology, said "Taking the bricks down was incredibly moving. It's sobering to think that what unites us all is the fact that we have each heard something that breaks us apart."

Zach Whalen, junior, international business, said, "[The Day of Silence] was a really intriguing experience. Something really special happens when a group of like-minded people come together, and I'm glad I was able to participate. I am proud to be someone that stands for equality for all people."

Once all the bricks were collected, the pieces were put into a box. They will be turned into an art project over the summer.

The volunteers then headed over to the Fireside Lounge for the "Break the Silence" Open Mic Night to celebrate the conclusion of the event. The celebration was hosted by the band



Walls of Intolerance volunteers wait for signal to remove bricks

TwoTwentySeven. TwoTwentySeven was an excellent musical act for the occasion. Their songs elaborated on themes such as overcoming stereotypes, the idea of recycling love, and the limitless potential of the human spirit, all with a sound that was a cross between gospel and acid rap. "It's great to be around a lot of like-minded individuals. Our music is focused on love, and it's great that we can support an organization that does the same," said Louis Conphliction, TwoTwentySeven's master of ceremonies.

In between the band's performances, some of the Day of Silence participants got up to speak or read poems. Even when they did not have writing prepared, each of the speakers

invigorated the audience by bravely addressing their vulnerabilities and claiming power over their abusers. A particularly moving moment was an improvised speech made by Natalie Smith, who had the audience clear 19 chairs to represent the 19 transgender and gender non-conforming persons that have lost their lives to suicide or homicide since January 1.

For those who stuck around until 5:30 p.m., TwoTwentySeven had an amusing ending number: an improvised piece called "Sex, Spaceships, and Unicorns," a riff on three themes randomly chosen by the audience. Still, despite the humor, the end of the Day of Silence events could only be described as bittersweet. The

participants enjoyed the ceremonies, but they all agree that there will be much more to celebrate when such events are no longer necessary, and when the grip of silence that discrimination has on its victims is made obsolete.

PRIZM's next major project will be to try and get an LGBT support center on UMSL's campus. To learn more about this or any of PRIZM's upcoming events, join their TritonSync page, find them on Facebook at Prizm @ UMSL, or e-mail them at prizm@umsl.edu. To learn more about TwoTwentySeven and download their music, visit their website, www.227inc.com.

Kendrick Lamar's Second Album Takes New Direction

HAYLEY ALEXANDER
STAFF WRITER

Two years have passed since his first album, and this rap/hip-hop artist has completely gone off the radar. He has not tweeted, been photographed, or attended any award shows. So where has Kendrick Lamar been?

"To Pimp a Butterfly" was released as a surprise album on March 16 at midnight, and the social media world went crazy. Many are already asking: how will it match up to his first album "Good Kid M.A.A.D City?" Will it match its lyrical content? Will his sound change?

Two years have passed, and in the music industry, people forget about an artist in a month, but not Kendrick Lamar. His rhymes, like Tupac's, make listeners truly picture the events he is talking about.

This album can be described as an album we need, not exactly what we want. It is completely different from Lamar's first album. It has more of a jazz feel with lyrics that you can picture in your mind.

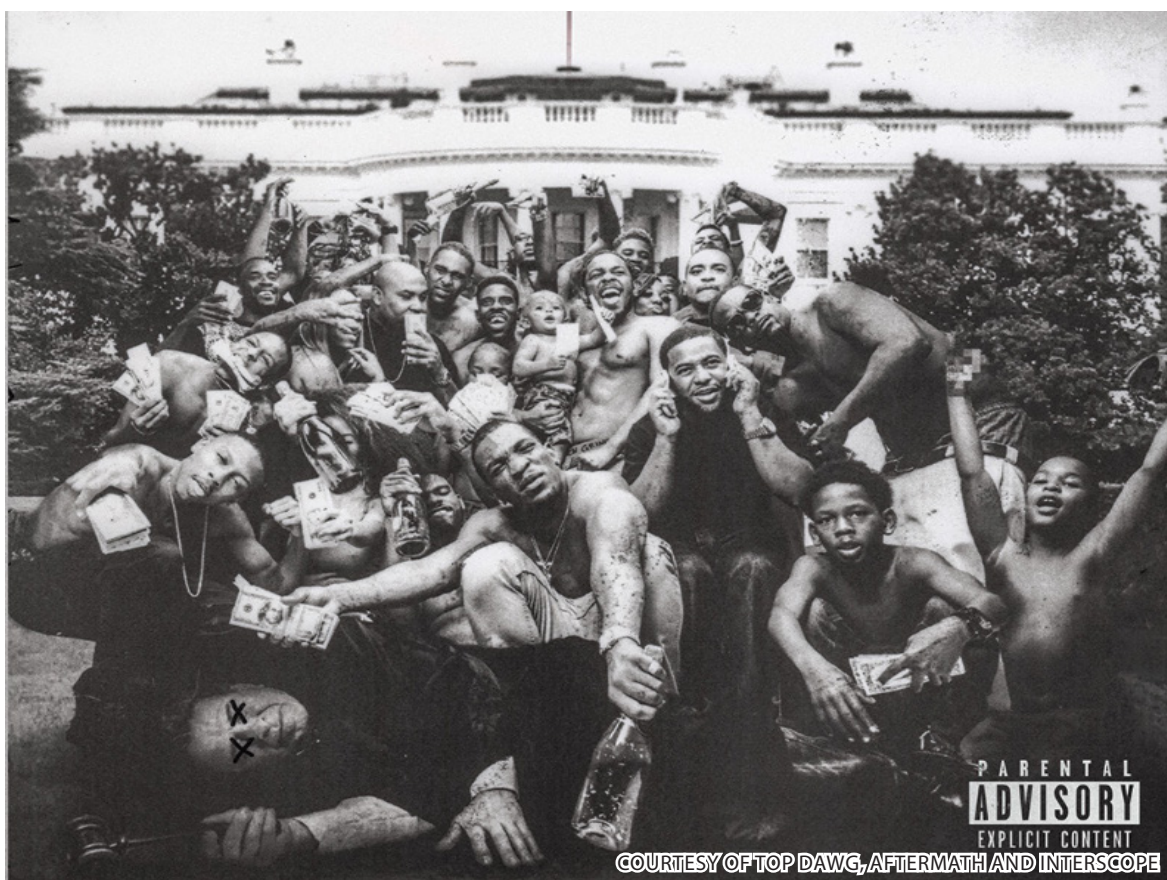
"To Pimp A Butterfly" is

a darker and more conflicted album than "Good Kid M.A.A.D City." It is a disembodied outpouring of rage, dread, and irreverence. He discusses depression, racism, sexism, and recent events in society that have put us in a dark time.

The album cover features Kendrick holding a child, surrounded by bunch of unapologetically expressive and shirtless black men holding bands of cash and bottles of champagne in front of the White House. Stretched out below them is someone dressed as a judge and holding a gavel, who appears to be dead, drunk, or passed out.

Lamar opens the album with the track "Wesley's Theory," in which he speaks about not wanting to be another Wesley Snipes who was snatched up by critical acclaim and fame at an early age. Lamar is alienated by fame and the sort of distance created by a world tour, which causes him to become extremely introverted and depressed.

The bouncy and energetic



"To Pimp A Butterfly" album cover art

song "i" and the dark and angry "The Blacker the Berry" show different sides of a young man's internal search for meaning. The track "u" is based on the theme: "Loving you is complicated." He raps this theme on repeat, mostly talking to himself and struggling with his own inner demons.

On "These Walls," he

is talking about sex and existence. It is a metaphor about the power of peace, with sugar walls being an escape and real walls being obstacles.

"To Pimp a Butterfly" is not the easiest listen, but it is deeply rewarding. This album has an old-school feel with more saxophone sounds than the usual 808s

and beats. Similar to his first album, it makes greater sense as a whole and requires full engagement all the way through.

Kendrick's head and heart are heavy, but his darkest hours are brilliant and eye opening.

'Pokemon Rumble World' is Simple and Fun

JEN BOYER
STAFF WRITER

"Pokemon Rumble World" is an action role-playing game for the Nintendo 3DS. It was released on April 8 and is free for download through the Nintendo eShop. It was developed by Ambrella and published by The Pokemon Company. This game is the fourth in the "Pokemon Rumble" series.

The player starts by confirming which Nintendo-created avatar, known as a Mii, with which he or she wants to start the game. The story begins with the King of the Kingdom of Toys. The king asks the player to collect other Pokemon in order to have more than a magician who brought ten Pokemon with him. The

player's Mii runs off, and it is up to the King's Pikachu to save the Mii from the wild Pokemon. After saving the Mii and returning to the Kingdom, the King explains that catching more Pokemon opens up more worlds to explore. He gives the player ten Poke Diamonds, the currency of the game, to start the adventure.

The game play is simple but fun. The game runs on real-time combat. The player must make their way through a stage by defeating the hordes of Pokemon that the player comes across. Any Pokemon that is defeated has a chance of being part of the team. The player can only have one Pokemon out at a time, and if the

active Pokemon is defeated, then it is considered a loss. However, the player can pay two Poke Diamonds to keep playing. At the end of the stage there is a boss fight. The player must win the fight to complete the stage.

After the stage is completed, all the Pokemon that were collected are viewed. Any new Pokemon will add a point to the player's rank. The higher ranks will unlock special items and clothing that the player can purchase with Poke Diamonds. There are also challenge quests where the player can take on and earn Poke Diamonds. However, the player cannot collect any Pokemon on the challenges. There is a time

limit on how quickly a player can enter each area and the player must wait to enter the area again. Some stages take a minute or two, while others go as long as five hours.

All 719 Pokemon are in this game. Most are obtainable by playing the game, but some can be captured through passwords that are released by the Pokemon Company.

The visuals of the game are great most of the time. All of the Pokemon are turned into toy versions of themselves. While most of them look great, there are some Pokemon who just do not have a good toy version. Pokemon with a round shape in their design, such as a round body or head, can look

blocky. Otherwise the design and color look great.

The music works well too. The tracks are simple and fit the moods well. When it is calm, the music reflects that. The combat music is very upbeat and playful. It makes the game feel like it is a simple and playful toy fight. The boss music is not that intense, but it still feels like a boss battle.

"Pokemon Rumble World" is a simple and easy game to play. It should be played for small amounts of times since there are wait times for area revisits. Pokemon fans will enjoy this game, and any fan of the "Rumble" series will like it even more.

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Softball Takes Three out of Four at GLVC

NICHOLAS PEREZ
SPORTS EDITOR

With the season and semester winding down, the University of Missouri—St. Louis Tritons are feeling the pressure, but they still dominating their games. On April 17 the Tritons softball team played a doubleheader against Saint Joseph's and took home the win in both matches. In the first game UMSL swept the competition with an 8 to 0 win.

Before we get into the recap of the games, some attention should be paid to the Tritons Left-handed pitcher Hannah Perryman, junior, criminology. Throughout the season Perryman has shattered UMSL records, but now she is setting NCAA records. Pitching her fourth perfect game of the season and the fifth of her career on Friday against St. Joseph, Perryman set a new NCAA division II single-season career record for perfect games. Perryman struck out 15 players,

including the first seven of the game. This shutout was the 10 this season and 30 of her softball career.

The Tritons had won 19 straight games including this win, which improves their GLVC ranking to 22-2. The first game of the doubleheader was a brutal beat down for Saint Joseph's, because UMSL scored 8 unanswered runs. The offense made 11 hits including 4 for 4 from Sara Kern, sophomore, business administration, and adding in the three-run home run from Hannah Wessels, senior, psychology. The Tritons also brought in three doubles from Brianna Butler, senior, elementary education, Madison Zbaraschuk, senior, communications, and Kern, also finishing with four RBI's.

The second game on Friday was not as easy as the first, but UMSL still came out on top with a final score of 6 to 4. The game was action packed. Although UMSL led 5 to 1 in the fifth, Saint

Joseph's answered with a few more runs. Brittini Chapman, senior, interdisciplinary studies, brought in the win, going almost 6 innings and delivering a spectacular performance. Perryman picked up the save playing one and two-thirds innings, striking out all five batters that came to the plate.

April 18 the Tritons faced another double header against the Indianapolis Greyhounds, splitting the games with one win and one loss. The Tritons did not go down without a fight in the first game, but the loss unfortunately snapped their 19-game winning streak.

The second game the Tritons came back with a vengeance, scoring 6 runs to 1 against the Greyhounds. Pitcher Kelsey Bailey, sophomore, nursing, performed flawlessly with seven scoreless innings, only scattering six hits and striking out seven, a career high for her. Katie Wood, senior, criminology, knocked in a solo home run in the fourth and Wessels

recorded two hits and two RBI's in this matchup.

The Tritons have an impressive 94 home runs record this season, the 10th most in a single season in the NCAA Division II. With only a few short weeks to go, you need to catch one of these spectacular displays of sportsmanship and watch as our softball team continues to outplay and outperform some of the best teams in the league. Make your way to UMSL's softball diamond this coming Saturday and watch the Tritons take on Southern Indiana.



LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT
Hannah Perryman breaking records

UMSL TRITONS

MONDAY <u>April 20th</u>	TUESDAY <u>April 21st</u>	WEDNESDAY <u>April 22nd</u>	FRIDAY <u>April 24th</u>	SATURDAY <u>April 25th</u>
Men's Golf at GLVC Championship In Prairie View Golf Course, Carmel, Ind. @TBA	Men's Golf at GLVC Championship In Prairie View Golf Course, Carmel, Ind. @TBA	Baseball vs. Illinois Springfield (Away Game) @ 3:00 p.m.	Women's Golf at GLVC Championship In Annbriar Golf Course, Waterloo, Ill. @TBA	Women's Golf at GLVC Championship In Annbriar Golf Course, Waterloo, Ill. @TBA
				Softball vs. Southern Indiana (Home Game) @ 12:00 & 2:00 p.m.
				Baseball vs. Truman State (Home Game) @ 12:00 & 3:00 p.m.

The Current
UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS
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SGA Elections: Know Your Candidates

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

Continued from Page 2

middle school; I mentor students in mathematics, history, and reading. I am also a part of Missouri Model United Nations (MMUN) and I am a volunteer for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

I decided to run because there is a lack of student representation at the administrative level. SGA Senate is not reflective of student population."

Kaitlin Henning, junior, psychology: "Hello, I'm Kaitlin the fun-loving Triton from South County! I'm a psychology major and aspire to be a practicing clinical psychologist (which basically means I want to be in school forever). I was drawn to student government because I love being a part of something bigger than me, and I have the chance

to do that on the senate. I'm involved in Greek life at UMSL and the University Program Board, as well as just generally bumming around in the Student Life Office. When I'm not doing school things, I enjoy reading and crafting.

I loved being a part of an organization dedicated to representing the students to the powers that be of the university system. I feel that together the senate can be the voice of UMSL students."

The following senatorial candidates did not meet the deadline to provide a bio or photograph for "The Current:" Aaron Kravish, senior, history; Kathryn Loucks, sophomore, biology; Briana Robertson, junior, modern language; David Serati, senior, engineering; Daniel Mueller, freshman, criminology; Samuel Schaffer, freshman, pre-engineering; Hassan Hossayrami, sophomore, history.

UMSL Builds Adult-Sized Playground

ABBY NAUMANN
OPINIONS EDITOR

In the midst of all the construction, University of Missouri—St. Louis students have probably failed to notice a smaller but much more important building project. The asphalt parking lot beside the West Drive Garage has been reclaimed and repurposed by the students. Most of these students had abandoned the concept of parking on campus long ago, opting instead to leave their vehicles in the rough to the right of the eighth hole at Normandie Golf Course, where—apart from the occasional shanked ball to the windshield—parking has been more reliable. The parking lot, which started being demolished five years ago, regurgitated its final pothole this February before being redesigned as an adult-sized playground.

“The new playground is the university’s answer to concerns raised about the stress of student

life at UMSL. We wanted to create a place where students could unwind, bond with classmates, and go ‘yippee’ down a slide,” said Jimminy Playskool, building designer for the university. “The idea came as a result of a note slipped in our suggestion box that we placed in Oak Hall at 3 a.m. several Saturdays ago.”

Chad Brockson, super-senior in gym education, was the student who gave the suggestion. “The Current” caught Brockson on his way to a strip poker game last night.

“I have no idea what they are talking about, and I really wish people would stop associating my name with this dumb playground,” said Chad Brockson, pronouncing ‘playground’ as two separate words. “I asked for an adult-themed playground, not an adult-sized playground.”

The playground, which is

scheduled for completion in the spring of 2016, will feature two plastic slides—one normal, one wavy—a moderately tall rock wall with hollow plastic rocks, five adult-sized seesaws in the shapes of farm animals, a 10-ft tower which students will fight to be king of, and a jungle-gym that the especially athletic students will use to show off. A swing set was originally featured in the design, but university officials are questioning the decision to install it, concerned that some students may attempt dangerous ‘under-dogs’ and fall off into the moldy, splinter-riddled woodchips which, for some inexplicable reason, have been considered safer than grass for the last twenty years.

University officials hope that the playground will deter students from using the campus bike path, which has caused a 25% increase of boobos since its installation.

Weekly Chuckle

†Parody Article®

Earth Day at UMSL

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Earth Day is an annual event that is observed in 192 nations worldwide to show support for the environment. It was first commemorated on March 21, 1970 by a United Nations conference. Earth Day as it is observed in the United States was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson as a hands-on environmental community educational event in 1970, and April 22 (the day Senator Nelson conducted his teach-in) is the date that it is held today. Dennis Hayes, an environmental activist and an advisor to presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, took Earth Day to the international stage by 1990. The general objectives of Earth Day across communities in the United States swells into Earth Week, which is an entire week of happenings focused on both the concepts of peace, and environmental issues.

It is fair to say that the environment is the source of vitriol among authorities and activists alike. Climate change is cited as the most controversial and political of ecological issues according to the Planet Earth Herald. Climate change is number two of the top ten environmental issues cited by planetearthherald.com. The number one environmental issue in Planet Herald’s survey is the population. With that said, as calamitous as the above issues

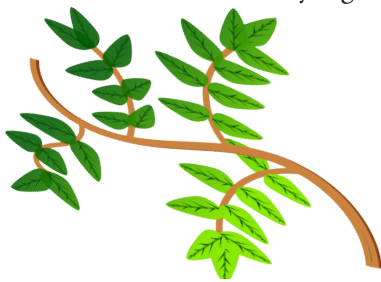
sound to many University of Missouri—St. Louis students, concerns about the atmosphere are simply a matter of how it is framed. What is overlooked is our role on Earth Day.

The seminars that inspired Earth Day are the main distinction regarding complicated social issues that run much deeper than just social action at UMSL. Whether it be a controversial war or the crisis in Ferguson, many forums raise awareness. Teach-ins take it to the next level, a call to participatory action by one and all. Ultimately, the aim behind Earth Day activities may have begun with student protests of the Vietnam War, but look around you, and the quest for social justice continues by making a better environment that interlocks with diversity awareness in St. Louis.

Earth Day is represented around college campuses in the United States in a way that merges cultural awareness with environmental concerns. Students at Baylor University in Waco, Texas are leading the quest for promoting religion, spirituality, and the degree to which faith and inspiration can positively impact major environmental issues such as organic farming, water conservation, and recycling. This is an important endeavor because many experts believe that in the near future, water will become a commodity like gold for which the wars of the future will be

fought over.

Since 2000, Bellevue College in Washington has had a week of events leading up to Earth Day that includes a farmer’s market lecture, and a fashion show with outfits that are made of used and second-hand materials. In Illinois, residents do not dispose of electronics with the ordinary trash, a practice which is barred by state law. In response to the law, Elmhurst College hosts the Recycling Extravaganza, where students can donate unneeded electronic items to organizations that can deliver them to those in need. Finally, Earth Day at the University of Missouri—St. Louis can begin with you! Plan to attend the “Make Every Day Earth Day” event on Wednesday April 22, 11 a.m. in the Nosh Patio at the Millennium Student Center. The event is sponsored by the University Program Board at UMSL. For details about that event, contact the UPB at (314) 516-5531, or at upb@umsl.edu. In addition, there is an Earth Day, Every Day for everyone on Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Forest Park. For more details, click www.stlouisearthday.org/.



Tech

How My iPhone Changed My Life

SARAH HAYES
STAFF WRITER

I have become one of those people who are glued to the screens of their smartphones. My poison of choice is a lime green iPhone 5C with a specially ordered Dharma Initiative issued phone case. I have had it for less than a month, and yet I cannot imagine ever living without it.

Since my community college years, I had been forced to use an ancient Nokia flip phone, a hand-me-down from my mother. I have spent years watching with envy, as my friends and colleagues use their fancy smartphones for texting and tweeting and taking photos. My fifty-something-year-old best friend got an Android smartphone while I was still struggling with my nearly seven-year-old dinosaur. I felt like I was never going to catch up with the rest of the world. The struggle, as they say, was real.

Several weeks ago, my Nokia started circling the drain, so I upgraded to the iPhone 5C, a small, slippery, and smart little number that sits in my hand as if it were molded to fit my grip. I was barely out of the AT&T store before I was scrolling through the available apps and messing with the settings and accounts. My tech-loving heart had found a new toy, and I could not help but play with it straight out of the box.

Having an iPhone has changed my life. It sounds like hyperbole, and maybe it is, but it’s a truthful hyperbole. It is an outlandish claim - how can a phone change a person’s life? But I am ready to defend it.

Here are all the things I can now do with my iPhone that I couldn’t do with my crummy flip phone: take high quality photos and videos; check my email and social media while away from my computer; control more of my phone functions with a higher attention to the particulars; practice my Spanish with foreign language apps; back up my data on the cloud without having to worry about my phone crashing; look up important documents for class, while in class; and write important emails and notes before I forget them.

With the smartphone in my hand, everything becomes possible. If I want to download a free app that I see on TV, I don’t have to grumble about not having a device that can do

that. I can do that now! I want to listen to radio on my phone? Sure thing! I need to look up a Spanish word that is not in the textbook, there is no computer around, and my professor is not holding office hours? Google Translate is right there.

I have started taking photos, lots of photos. I post regular pics of our campus on Twitter, especially the beautifully flowering trees in front of Lucas and Clark Halls. I took a photo of our latest Current newspaper meeting, simply because I could and because it was fun. I do not think that an iPhone will ever replace my desire to own a fancy DSLR camera, but right now, it is the closest thing in my repertoire of toys to a professional quality camera.

I will admit, I noticed some negative side effects of carrying around a smartphone. In our honeymoon phase, which lasted the first week, I was one of those typical rude millennials. I texted people while waiting in line for my large frozen mocha and became distracted because of it. I would check my email while walking down the Millennium Student Center Bridge, as long as I had wi-fi access, occasionally having to dodge things when my attention was not on what was in front of me. I quit these uncool habits once I realized I was doing them. Well, for the most part.

But there is a kind of awesome, amazing power in being able to look something up as soon as someone asks. You have a pinnacle of technology in your pocket, ready to be booted up at a second’s notice. It is similar to what our friendly neighborhood Spider-Man learned when he started out: with great power comes great responsibility. I vow to use this iPhone of mine responsibly, although that won’t stop me from playing Cartoon Network games and looking at cat videos on YouTube.

This morning, I had my iPhone in hand while working on an annotated bibliography assignment, open to the Purdue University online writing lab. Later, I was showing my friend some outrageous photos and having a good laugh about them. There are so many articles about how millennials are phone-obsessed and how technology is driving people apart and ‘blah, blah, blah.’ For me, my iPhone has actually brought me closer to the people I care about. I hope it will continue to do so.

Crawl for Cannabis

BRI EHSAN
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1

Kenny Murdock, a consultant for Show-Me Cannabis, said, “Nearly 20,000 Missourians are incarcerated every year on marijuana related charges, and it costs Missouri \$33,000 a year to keep one person in prison. Not only will legalizing marijuana have great economic benefits to the state, but it will also help people who desperately need cannabis for medical purposes.” When asked to elaborate on the health benefits of marijuana, Murdock explained that he personally knows many war veterans, “[who] suffer from mental health conditions such as Gulf War Syndrome and severe PTSD.” Some of these men and women are dependent on prescription medications that are detrimental to their well-being. “PTSD is very real,” Murdock said, “and it breaks my heart that we have

veterans leaving their home in Missouri to fight for the lives and freedoms of other Missourians, but they come back home to a state that refuses to provide them with the medication that will help them lead a comfortable and healthy life.” Murdock is an advocate for cannabis reform in Missouri and he is a key player of the Show-Me Cannabis organization and the “Crawl for Cannabis” event. All proceeds from “Crawl for Cannabis” and any contributions made to the organization go toward pushing for legislation that will alter the ban on cannabis in Missouri. Show-Me Cannabis was founded in 2010 by Leah Maurer and her husband Travis after the couple experienced a home invasion in 2009 by law enforcement officials of Columbia, MO for growing marijuana in their home.

Though nearly half of the country now has adopted some variation of a medical marijuana policy, Missouri does not seem too eager to jump on the bandwagon.

Since the creation of Show-Me Cannabis, the success of this organization in driving marijuana reform has been minimal and slow. Only two events are currently working in favor of this organization. The first event occurred in Branson on April 3, when Senator Claire McCaskill publicly spoke about the benefits of medical marijuana in a town hall event for senior citizens. The second noteworthy event was the passing of the House Bill 800 from the executive committee on April. The House Bill 800 establishes the Compassionate Care Act, which will allow licensed dispensaries in Missouri to provide cannabis to patients who meet the requirements to purchase and use marijuana for medical purposes. If passed by the House, the HB 800 will be effective starting August 28 of this

year. This may sound promising, but so far, no hearings have been scheduled and no further actions have been taken in favor of the bill.

The odds may be against it, but Show-Me Cannabis has made a commitment to charge ahead and keep pushing for cannabis reform in Missouri. This organization currently has four lawsuits pending against Missouri Narcotic Officers’ Association, St. Louis Metro Multi-Jurisdictional Under-Drug Program, East Central Drug Task Force, and Kansas City Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force for violation of Missouri’s Sunshine Law.

Community Garden Breaks Ground

NATHAN WATSON
STAFF WRITER



While some students level off the planters, others heft the soil into and out of the wheelbarrels

The University of Missouri—St. Louis community garden, one of the first of only a handful of projects to find success through the UMSL crowdfunding website, broke ground on April 19. The groundbreaking took place at 8:30 a.m. near the South Campus parking garage. Members of the Environmental Adventure Organization (EAO), faculty, students, and members of the community worked all day building six concrete flowerbeds and filling them with soil. At the end of the day, participants admired their work: six concrete flowerbeds filled with rich compost soil, all made possible by equipment and monetary donations made during the crowdfunding campaign.

The EAO is a student organization that plans events such as camping, float trips, and picnics. Recently, they decided

to make an even bigger impact on campus by starting a community garden. The garden, which includes six flowerbeds, offers members of the UMSL community opportunities to participate in sustainable gardening, and to otherwise form valuable connections with nature.

Although the garden only raised slightly over a third of their \$5,500 goal, what they did receive was put to good use. “We were able to make what money we did make into something tangible,” said Katy Mike Smaistrila, coordinator of the UMSL Sustainability Office and Staff Advisor to the EAO.

The UMSL Sustainability Office has worked closely with the EAO on the community garden project.

“We want students to realize that this garden is not just for any particular student,” said Aliou Sanneh, gradu-

ate student, political science, and 3R Specialist with UMSL’s Sustainability Office. “It’s for anyone passionate about sustainability—just come by; we need your participation, no matter what your experience level.”

“This is a pretty visible sign of sustainability on campus,” Smaistrila said. “I would love to see more of these beds, and smaller community gardens in other sites on campus. There are little pockets around campus that we could be gardening, too. It would get people outside, together, talking to different people . . . it brings everybody together, for sure.”

Even the groundbreaking event brought members from the community interested in getting involved. Richard Straub, junior, criminal justice, decided to stop by after hearing about the event from his writing professor. “I thought it

would be a good chance to help out on campus and have fun with the different kinds of plants,” said Straub.

Smaistrila would like to see various departments on campus taking an interest in adopting garden beds around campus and becoming caretakers.

If you would like to stop by and visit the community garden, it is located on South Campus immediately south of the parking garage. Those interested in the community garden or the EAO in general should email the EAO president, Abdul-Kariem Matteuzi, at amcpb@mail.umsu.edu.

To stay informed on the activities of the Sustainability Office, you can like them on Facebook or subscribe to their newsletter, available at www.umsu.edu/~sustainability.

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