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THE CURRENT ONLINE

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Editor-in-Chief ($1000+)

Robert and Kelly Samples, Bob Samples is the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ Associate Vice Chancellor for communications and university spokesman. Responsible for media and marketing relations at UMSL, Samples works for “UMSL Daily” and is the writer of many publications and materials that are sent out to the UMSL community. An award-winning writer and editor with recognition from various associations for his work, many of his publications and photos can be viewed on “UMSL Daily”’s website http://blog.umsl.edu/news/. He and his wife Kelly made a generous donation to “The Current’s” crowdfunding campaign.

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THE UNDERCURRENT

By Anna Glushko & Jessie Eikmann

WHAT ARE YOUR SUMMER PLANS?

RONALD HEARNS, Jr., Studio Art
“Work for Residential Life and ... in extracurricular and career skills.”

PORCHIA WHITE, Freshman, Biology
“To travel with family and friends and work at a day care.”

MARCUS LEACH, Freshman, Engineering
“Playing basketball with friends and doing some traveling.”

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CONTACT US
388 MSC, 1 University Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63121-4400
thecurrent@umsl.edu
Newsroom 314-516-5316
thecurrent@umsl.edu
Business/Advertising 314-516-5174
thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Fax 314-516-6811
Editor-in-Chief thecurrenteic@umsl.edu
Internships and Volunteer Positions thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
Letters to the Editor thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Twitter @UMSLTheCurrent
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Rory Riddler attended UMSL in the mid 70s where he majored in political science and was a writer for “The Current.” He was the youngest City Councilman ever elected in the City of St. Charles while still a student at UMSL. He served a total of 27 years on the council, making him the longest seniority in the City’s history. During this time he helped instigate several major projects, including Hawk’s Nest Overpass, The Mel Wetter Parkway (5th street extension), the riverfront development, The Foundry Arts Centre, the Daniel Boon and Saint Philippe Duchesne historic statues, and many more accomplishments. Riddler began his own public relations, advertising, and political consulting business in 1982, Media Magic. Prior to this, he operated the St. Charles License Bureau for five years. Riddler is also a writer, historian, and author. His most recent book, The Bitter Divide: A Civil War History of St. Charles, Missouri, was just published by the City of St. Charles.

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Continued on Page 9
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On April 28, the focus on Sexual Assault Awareness Month at the University of Missouri—St. Louis continued with a lecture entitled “Responding to Sexual Assault on College Campuses: Changing Climate and Helping Survivors.” The event took place at the J.C. Penney Conference Center between 7 and 9 p.m. The event was part of the Helen & Will Carpenter Series on Contemporary Issues in American Society for the spring of 2015 and was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences. Several tables of refreshments were set up for the 150 people in attendance prior to the event. The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Ron Yasbin opened with a brief commentary introducing the concept of Sexual Assault Awareness on college campuses.

The keynote speaker and moderator for the event was Daniel Isom, endowed professor of Policing and the Community. Isom gave a narrative about the first time he dealt with sexual assault as a young police officer. “I remember when I just graduated from the police academy, one of the first calls that I received was from a victim of a rape. I was not necessarily prepared to deal with the trauma and the grief that a person is exposed to after being victimized. Coming to that call, the victim had difficulty in looking up to us as police officers. It was uncomfortable for us to ask her personal questions about the attack. Still, the victim came forward with the answers that helped us in our investigation,” Isom said.

Isom then turned the podium over to Zoe Peterson, associate professor of psychological sciences. Peterson gave an overview of sexual assault on college campuses. “The definitions of sexual assault vary from state to state. The common definition (whether it is penetrative sex or fondling) is an act that one person does not consent to or agree with, that threatens the safety of the victim. Included in the definition is a victim who is too incapacitated to give consent from exposure to drugs or alcohol. Nothing a woman does justifies her being raped, regardless of whether she was drinking or flirting with the guys. This is still a crime that qualifies as rape,” Peterson said.

Tara Galovski, associate professor of psychological sciences, followed Peterson. Galovski addressed post-traumatic stress disorder, which is among the many health consequences incurred by victims of sexual assault. “Post-traumatic stress disorder does not occur in isolation. You have to experience the trauma to develop the disorder. An event occurs that triggers the disorder. The victim develops symptoms that make the trauma appear like it is happening over and over again. The worst thing that happened to you keeps popping up, and won’t go away,” Galovski said.

The final speaker was Forrest Van Ness, director of institutional safety and chief of police. Van Ness spoke on The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. This legislation, which was passed by Congress in 1990, is commonly known as the Clery Act. “The Clery Act came about because of a sexual assault that occurred in a college dorm in 1986 that terminated the life of the victim. The campus failed to disclose a criminal activity that occurred on campus … The Clery Act sets guidelines for mandated reporting by those required to report crimes on campus, and this is included in the job descriptions of those who have direct interaction with students. At its core, the Clery Act compels universities to communicate to the campus and the community, crimes that occur on campus, and holding colleges to a level of transparency on this. If this is not reported, there is not the actions that are needed for sexual assault recovery,” Van Ness said.

After the speakers addressed the audience, the lecture was open to questions from the audience. A common chord that resonated was the challenge of increasing education and awareness, as well as supporting the survivors of sexual assault on college campuses.

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**The Current Trivia Night Caps Crowdfunding Campaign**

**KAT RIDDLE NEWS EDITOR**

Do You Know What’s Current? That was the theme of the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ “The Current” Student Newspaper’s first annual trivia night held May 1 from 6 to 10 p.m. Approximately 50 UMSL students, faculty, staff, family, and friends competed for 10 rounds of trivia with 10 questions per round. The winning team scored 74 points out of 100. Among the special guests were Chancellor Thomas George and State Representative Joshua Peters of the 76th District, Deputy Whip of the Minority Caucus.

State Representative Peters said, “I was happy to support the effort to continue funding this great student newspaper. We need to continue to make sure that student voices are heard.”

The trivia night capped off “The Current’s” crowdfunding campaign of the last 30 days. The fundraising effort has succeeded in raising over $8,000 towards their initial goal of $10,000. They will also be receiving a $1,250 matching donation from Monsanto to match a donation from Bob and Kelly Samples. The crowdfunding website went down Friday due to scheduled maintenance and will be back up on Monday after 4 p.m. Because this maintenance coincided with the final push of “The Current’s” campaign, the crowdfunding site will remain up until midnight on Thursday for those wishing to make last minute donations to put the effort over the top.

Nick Perez, sophomore, business administration, was the master of ceremonies for the evening; however, his identity was not revealed until the end of the evening. He was in full costume and character portraying the comic icon Deadpool. In the Deadpool persona, he joked and quipped with members of the audience throughout the night.

Former city councilwoman and former State Representative Eileen McGeehegan of St. Ann said, “I was particularly impressed with the questions, which I understand were all composed by students, and with the hilarious master of ceremonies.”

Unlike the traditional cash prizes offered at most trivia nights, organizers of the Do You Know What’s Current? Trivia Night solicited a wide variety of prize donations for the winning teams and individuals. The winning table of each round for the first six rounds received a $25 gift card to AMC Theaters, a $25 iTunes gift card, and other souvenir prizes. The second place winning table received a 12 piece beverage glass set, a pack of Mio, and other souvenirs.

There was also a silent auction held at the front of the room where attendees could bid on baskets and individual items. Some of these included a collectible variant copy of a Flash Comic book, a signed poster of famous cosplayer Abby Darkstar, a Fast and Furious movie basket of the first four movies and popcorn, a doodle basket with a wide array of drawing materials, a basketball and candy basket, and many others.

“I enjoyed the trivia night, especially the host, Deadpool. He made it a fun and eventful night. I liked the extra side games and silent auction,” Juliana Knaup, junior, criminology and criminal justice, said.
The Mirth Week Carnival Entertains UMSL Crowd

University of Missouri—St. Louis’ (UMSL) annual Mirth Day Carnival opened on April 29 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in parking lot E of the Millennium Student Center. The University Program Board, from the Office of Student Life, planned, sponsored, and hosted the event.

There was a great variety of activities in the carnival, including large amusement rides, and some interesting experimental activities, such as palm reading, the reptile petting, cartoon portrait drawing, and dancing. Many fun little games like mini golf, shooting games, and “pie your professor” were also provided by UMSL various organizations. Most of the less-complicated games came with small prizes for winners. Students were allowed to grab candy or a pencil as long as they played the game.

Among all the activities, some were so popular that there was a perpetual, long line snaking from their gates throughout the parking lot. One such activity was the reptile petting. The experience allowed students to be up close with some cold-blooded animals including a caiman, tarantula, a baby anaconda, a lizard, and more.

Serengeti Steve, the owner of the reptiles said that any animals that he brings out had been accustomed to people, so they will not fear human contact anymore. Even though they were surrounded by the crowd, reptiles did not seem to care or be bothered by it. They were fine with people holding or petting them, because their brain capacity is very limited. “As I go different shows, I provide different sets of animals so not every animal comes out every day; otherwise they can get stressed,” said Serengeti. Serengeti was happy to be at Mirth Day because he loved to see the reaction from people who had not seen such reptiles before. It was fun for him because people were not ready for anacondas, alligators, and spiders to come out, so he played on the shock factor.

Another popular activity was the caricature drawings. There are not many chances for people to get a free self-portrait of them drawn on the regular basis, so the line was lengthy from the beginning to the end. Jill Parrish, one of the artists who worked non-stop for the whole afternoon shared his experience. “There was a long line so I had to draw as much as I can. That was just what I did. It was fun being here today; it’s a beautiful day, and the students here are very nice,” said Parrish.

Attendants were pleased with the entertainers’ hard work. “I was so happy about the free prizes that I earned by playing games. ‘The Cliff Hanger’ [was] so much fun; I only wish that it could be bigger. I was inspired by the children’s recreation facilities there; I saw them playing, dancing, and smiling. It was a great experience,” said Wonho Ryu, sophomore, accounting. Judging by the sight of the students in attendance, the carnival was very fun and successful. As UMSL’s annual celebration, Mirth Week definitely gave students and all the employees on campus a fresh experience, a relaxing week, and a great way to start summer.

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New Student Orientation – Jun 3 - Aug 1
Ferguson shooting – Aug 9
New Student Move-in Day – Aug 22
Bookstore renovation – Aug 25

Welcome Picnic – Sept 6
Natural Bridge Rd. construction – ongoing
Students attend Paintapalooza – Aug 30
Rec center construction – ongoing

Associated Black Collegians host Welcome Week – Sept 7 - Sept 12
I-70 shutdown protest – Sept 10
UMSL celebrates Constitution Day – Sept 17
UMSL hosts National Program on Ferguson – Sept 21

I-70 shutdown protest – Sept 10
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Claire McCaskill comes to UMSL to discuss sexual assault – Oct 6
UMSL hosts STL county executive debate – Oct 14
“The Biennial” faculty art exhibit – Oct 25 - Dec 6

MO same-sex marriage ban voided, appeals pending – Nov 7
Schaefer alleged attack at Ferguson protest – Nov 7
Miguel Melts UMSL Crowd at Mirth Week Concert

CATE MARQUIS  A & E EDITOR

“Me and Earl and the Dying Girl” is a surprising departure from the “teen with cancer” romance genre that seems so common now. In fact, this winner of both the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Choice Awards at Sundance is one of the most excellent movies, one that mixes comedy and tragedy and a bunch of film references, in its adaptation of the novel of the same name. Last week, the film’s director Alfonso Gomez-Rejon, whose works include directing episodes of “American Horror Story” and work on several episodes of “American Horror Story,” and several other college newspapers, as he was just finishing up participating in the San Francisco Film Festival. Here is part of that interview — the full interview will appear online. The film is scheduled to be released on June 26.

The Current (TC): “There are so many things I liked about this film, including all the classic films referenced, but one of the things I liked in particular was the way you presented the city where the story takes place, Pittsburgh. Instead of opening with the Statue of Liberty or the Eiffel Tower, you gradually discover where the story is set after seeing an old-fashioned red brick Main Street, leafy residential streets with Victorian houses, streets lined with mature trees. It was so refreshing. Please talk about that choice.”

Alfonso Gomez-Rejon (AGR): “I scouted Pittsburgh. There had been talk to shoot near in New York City... But when I visited Pittsburgh, I fell in love with it - the architecture, the texture that was so different, depending on what neighborhood you went to, the veracity of it. That just started to pop up the movie more and more and make it more and more visual... Pittsburgh gave me so many options that became characters on their own and really helped flesh out our actors working within their parameters... But RJ had this — although he was the last person to come in.

TC: “At the end of the movie, the audience has a series of realizations about Rachel. The scissors, the squirrels, intricate paper art, all prove [teacher] Mr. McCarthy’s assertion that you keep on learning about people after they’re gone, and this was a powerful moment for me. So how does learning help you accept difficult situations?”

AGR: “Well, it’s a great question. Because I was processing my own loss (his father, who had recently died) with this movie, it’s about letting go, and it’s about not having regrets. You know there are some times when you lose someone that’s close to you, you regret not having said certain things or embrace the moment. It’s that feeling of regret...the things you should have said, and I think this in some way is about moving on from those... It’s not necessarily a bad thing that should destroy you, but it’s a continuation of that person’s life...[W]hen Greg is in the room discovering this side of [Rachel] that she kept private and only now is revealing herself to him... he gets her on a whole new level. But it wasn’t a regret. It’s about letting go and accepting that her story is unfolding, and that’s okay.”

TC: “How hard is it when there’s a novel that accompanies the movie? Does it give you more creative freedom, less creative freedom? How’s the process going into that?”

AGR: “Well, I think it has to do a lot with the writer, and that’s Jesse Andrews. And he is the least ‘precious’ writer I’ve ever met. He’s hysterical. He would be the first person to let something go if it’s not working.”

TC: “I thought the cast was terrific. Can you talk about what it was like working with young, mostly unknown talent, along with talent that’s been around, like Nick Offerman, Connie Britton, and just the balance between those two groups of talent?”

AGR: “I have nothing but beautiful things to say... Obviously, first of all, Greg and Rachel. [played by Thom Mann and Olivia Cooke] auditioned for this movie over and over again over the course of almost a year when the movie was about to get off the ground and it didn’t. So, we got to know each other through that process. By the end, they were auditioning with...20-page auditions...because I had to make sure that they can handle the humor of it in a way that was effortful, that it felt like they weren’t selling a joke, you know, and the drama without being melodramatic, and still the voice of a 17-year-old... RJ [Clyer] was the last person to come in. I was struggling to find Earl, and then I saw his audition tape, and he had this — although he’s very raw and doesn’t have any experience before this. Certainly Olivia and Thomas have made films... But RJ had this unique and very beautiful raw talent. He embodied Earl, and more importantly, together they complemented each other in the way they needed to, and it was so fun to see... And for the adults, they knew into it that there wasn’t going to be a green room or a trailer, they may have to do some of their makeup themselves... All of them had an incredible sense of humor. And most of all, they all found the truth in their roles. Even if Greg’s dad, this woolly eccentric, he found the truth in his portrayal, and he found the truth and the comedy. Everyone was in the same movie, and that was something that I had to look out for to make sure that it was all well-balanced and calibrated so that every humor came from a real place, and the drama didn’t feel over the top either.”

‘Me and Earl and the Dying Girl’ Director Speaks

THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM  May 4, 2015

HAYLEY ALEXANDER  STAFF WRITER

Mirth Week is a spring tradition at University of Missouri-St. Louis, where students leave campus for a whole week. It consists of a carnival, a banquet, and a concert for the students. It is a week that takes students’ minds off of school and finals and allows them to enjoy being a college student.

The biggest event of the week may be the Mirth Week concert. Last year, B.O.B took over the historic Anheuser-Busch Performance Center and performed to beat the crowd of students. This year, Miguel, an R&B singer, is performing. The concert is set for May 1, 7 p.m. It was not only the talk of the day, but people had been excited for over a month. Because Miguel had a new record-breaking album, “Kaleidoscope Dream,” and hits singles, students were extremely excited about this concert.

At 7 p.m., Miguel walked to the center of the Touhill stage with his signature slicked back hairstyle and dressed in all white: ripped jeans, a baggy shirt, and sneakers. Right away, he introduced himself and started serenading the crowd with a hit song from his newest album, ‘Adorn.’

The song ‘Adorn’ talks about loving everything about a woman. Not just her perfections, but also her flaws. He learns to adore everything about her. The crowd sang along with him while waving their hands back and forth to the rhythm. All eyes were on Miguel when the whole atmosphere changed. He hit a split in the middle of the stage and started singing pop songs from his newest album, “Kaleidoscope Dream.”

The crowd’s whole mood changed and everyone began to dance while singing. The audience began to truly connect with Miguel during his performance. Whether he was discussing love, fame, or life, students felt as if he was talking directly to them. They were able to relate to his lyrics. Students in the pit knew every word, and when Miguel leaned over the stage to grab hands, students went wild, grabbing his hand while singing and taking pictures.

Towards the end of his performance, Miguel began to speak on the issues in modern society. He talked about Ferguson and the recent events in Baltimore. He felt he needed to address these issues and how he felt. He preached peace, but also reminded students that our generation is the future. In order to make change, we have to be the change,” he stated. Students were hanging on to every word and realized how society is dependent on our generation. Miguel closed his performance with his first hit single and sentimental track, “All I Want is You.” This was the first song that put Miguel on an R&B pedestal and honored him with the Prince reference. While Miguel performed and the audience sang along, one could feel how emotions changed the mood.

Another year at UMSL is coming to an end, but there was no better way to end the year than with an unbelievable performance by R&B singer Miguel.
April 27 marked the final intramural sporting event held at the Mark Twain Athletic and Fitness Center. The event was a co-ed wallyball Tournament held in the Mark Twain building. Wallyball is a fun, fast-paced game of 3-on-3 or 4-on-4 volleyball played off the walls in a racquetball court.

The wallyball event was a round robin tournament with around 6 teams that played each other and were ranked 1-6 with the winners taking first and second places.

As of the Fall 2015 semester, when the new recreation and wellness center opens, the Mark Twain building will no longer be used for intramural-sport activities. According to Pam Steinmetz, outgoing assistant director of campus recreation, “Students, faculty, and staff can use the Mark Twain building with ID until the new building opens. Then the Mark Twain building will be used only for student athletic teams, athletic events, and graduations. Four staff members and two custodians will lose their jobs in the Mark Twain. The letters of termination came from the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. However, these employees are eligible to put in applications for positions with the new management company. The new management company, Centers, will be running the new recreation and wellness center under director York Hell. This company has a five-year contract to set up and run the new Recreation and Wellness Center. The University of Missouri-St. Louis is the eighth university to use this management company for setting up its recreation and wellness center. “Centers is dedicated to the management of collegiate recreation and the development of community on campus. As career campus recreation professionals, we integrate with our clients to express their mission and to promote student development,” Steinmetz said. Centers is at Cleveland State, DePaul University, Jackson State, Marshall University, Moraine Valley Community College, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of New Haven.

Tours have been set up for viewing the new recreation center on campus at the end of the semester. The new facility is dedicated to the students of the university. New equipment and features of the recreation and wellness center facility include state of the art weight and fitness equipment, three lane indoor track, gymnasium with two wood courts and one multipurpose court, natatorium with whirlpool, vortex, three lap lanes, zip line and bouldering wall. There will also be a climbing wall, sauna, fitness classes and equipment rental. However, there will be no racquetball courts in the new recreation and wellness center. The Intramural programs will be determined by the management company.

Payroll deduction is available for all full-time, benefit eligible UMSL employees, starting at $37 monthly for an individual. As for students, membership fees will be included in student activity fees. Membership information for UMSL students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members and more information on the project can be found at checktherec.umsl.edu.

Mary Troy
Mary Neal
Kim Kroll
Elizabth Eckelkamp
Teresa McGee
Mary Troy
Jim Craig
Lauren Obermark
Teresa McGee
Catherine Marquis
Ryan Krull

As of the fall 2015 semester, the Tritons will lose their jobs in the Mark Twain. The letters of termination came from the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. However, these employees are eligible to put in applications for positions with the new management company. The new management company, Centers, will be running the new recreation and wellness center under director York Hell. This company has a five-year contract to set up and run the new Recreation and Wellness Center. The University of Missouri-St. Louis is the eighth university to use this management company for setting up its recreation and wellness center. “Centers is dedicated to the management of collegiate recreation and the development of community on campus. As career campus recreation professionals, we integrate with our clients to express their mission and to promote student development,” Steinmetz said. Centers is at Cleveland State, DePaul University, Jackson State, Marshall University, Moraine Valley Community College, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of New Haven.

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The Triton Store at the University of Missouri—Saint Louis' Millennium Student Center held a grand re-opening ceremony on April 27 to celebrate the end of its construction. The construction began last year on April 14. The construction was to create a brighter and more open floor plan. There was also a marketing effort involved to change the name—and therefore the image—of the store. Stephanie Eaton, Triton Store manager, said, "The UMSL bookstore underwent a renovation and rebranding over the last year. We also decided that the store needed a new name that more accurately described what we do on campus. We are more than just books. We are a store that all Tritons can utilize for a wide variety of needs, everything from snacks to computers."

Key features of the renovation include a more open floor plan which seems larger, although the total space is actually 350 square feet smaller than before the renovation. The textbook space is larger and it is easier to navigate through the rows of shelves. The Triton Tech part of the store now has more demo space. In addition, more modern LED lights have been installed, so the store is much brighter.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony began at 2 p.m. with a crowd of about 30 students and Triton Store employees in attendance. Eaton gave a brief introduction, saying that while the construction project was lengthy and extensive, it was well worth the wait. The crowd responded with applause. Chancellor Thomas George cut the ribbon, assisted by Curt Coonrod, Vice Provost of Student Affairs, and Miriam Rocca, Assistant Dean of Students. "We are very honored that they could be with us to help celebrate the new space with us," Eaton said.

To check out the improvements, stop by the Triton Store. It is open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

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From YouTube to Touhill, Pentatonix music amazes

YouTube sensation and a cappella group, Pentatonix, perform at Touhill Performing Arts Center.

KAT RIDDLER

Golf from 1959 to 1962 before he served as chair of the Department of History at UMSL. He was inducted to the Missouri Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998 and was named a Distinguished Scholar of the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2000.

The information is available in the directory, in which any website that meets the requirements is added. The information is available in the directory, in which any website that meets the requirements is added.