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Recreation and Wellness Center Opens



The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) is now open to students after nearly two years of construction. LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

ERIC HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

Once again the face of North Campus is under improvement. For over a year now, the University of Missouri–St. Louis community could only watch in anticipation as the new Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) was under construction. Over the summer the final touches were added and everyone now has the opportunity to find out for themselves that the wait was worth it.

Upon entering visitors are welcomed with an open air view of the 14,000 square foot complex, which includes a gymnasium consisting of two wood basketball courts and one multipurpose sport court, aerobics area on the entrance floor, and juice bar.

The upper floor houses a three lane track that circles the entire facility and weight equipment specially designed for handicapped use.

The downstairs portion holds the weight area, swimming pool, zip line, sauna, and group fitness classrooms including a room for spinning classes and a room with several heavy bags. One major upside to having this pool separate from the one in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center is that students who choose to stay in shape by way of swimming will not have to schedule their workouts around the swim team's practices. Also on the base floor are locker rooms and equipment check out.

One of the more interesting things to see are the bouldering and rock

climbing walls, located on the base floor, which are not common to college recreation centers. Students can take a quick two hour course to learn general knowledge about the sport of rock climbing such as climbing safety, standard climbing communication, climbing rope knot tying, and how to use the belay device. Once this course is taken students can take a small test to be certified to belay other climbers at the RWC.

Besides just having the equipment available for use, students can also pay a small fee to get help from one of the on staff personal trainers, who will guide their workout and make recommendations to help them achieve their goals.

If independent exercise is not one's preference, a variety of group fitness

Continued on Page 2

Chemistry 1021 Explores Beer Brewing

AMY BEAMAN
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri—St. Louis Chemistry department is out to make science more approachable for students outside the hard sciences. This fall, non-science majors will be able to learn hands on, applied principles of chemistry in light of one of human-

kind's oldest fascinations: brewing beer.

Chemistry 1021: Beer Brewing will be offered for the second time since its initial offering in the Fall 2014 semester. The course instructor Dr. Bruce Hamper said, "We felt that an introductory class based on applied science would be the best vehicle for expanding our academic offerings in a useful and

fun manner." Course material is "explained in clear, non-technical language so that [students] don't feel as if [they] need to be an expert to understand the principles," which is intended to make this course optimally inviting for non-science majors seeking elective or general education credit.

Continued on Page 3

Battle for Books: Campus Bookstore Vs Online

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Buying books for class is a necessary evil that students have to face when they enroll in any college or university. Because books can break the budget very easily for college students, more and more students are comparing prices for the best deal. So how does a campus bookstore compete with Amazon and other national online sellers in today's digital age?

In a recent survey conducted by the National Association of College Stores, the average annual spending by students on required course materials has dropped from \$701 in 2007/2008 to \$563 in 2014/2015. Elizabeth Riddle, director of OnCampus Research, said, "Many cost estimates are based on purchases of new materials, but the reality is that because of the options students have today – rentals, digital, used and print-on-demand – what students are actually spending is much less than what is generally reported."

The Triton Store (the University of Missouri—St. Louis campus bookstore) recently underwent an impressive renovation of its space, products, and even its name. "Campus Bookstore" is not in the name anymore. Its focus has expanded to provide a variety of products for college students, besides books. The selections of spirit wear have exploded. No longer do shoppers just find the ubiquitous grey sweatshirts, but a rainbow of colors and styles of shirts and other fashion gear, as well as food and electronics.

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Recreation and Wellness Center Now Open

ERIC HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

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classes are also hosted in the complex. Trainer led, the base level classes come free with the membership (which is free to all UMSL students). These classes include spinning classes, Zumba, PiYo, Pilates, yoga, Total Body Blast, dance, and many more. To find a list of classes and times, just check out the RWC's website at umsl.edu/campusrecreation/ or download their app, UMSL Rec Account.

Another interesting asset of the new RWC are intramural sports, organized, recreation sports. The center has several

leagues taking on new members in sports such as wiffleball, arena football, 3v3 basketball, dodgeball, and volleyball. Entry dates are fast approaching so make sure to sign up soon.

Students are making their appreciation for the RWC known. Dr. Valerie H. Grimes, graduate, ThD, elementary education, said, "I love the new recreation center here at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. I'm a student who lives on campus, so it's very beneficial to me that I can come here to work out and relax." Stephen Day, sophomore, business administration said, "I love working out and there are many things I didn't expect to be here. This is definitely some-

thing we all needed. There is something here for everyone."

The RWC is not just a resource for the student body, but it will also be a central point for the communities surrounding UMSL. While they do not get the free memberships that only students receive, community residents can purchase a membership so that they too can access this grand structure of wellness. Community members can obtain membership passes starting at \$51 per month. Alumni are not excluded from using the new RWC as they can obtain a special alumni membership for \$42 a month.

Not only is this a place for UMSL students to stay in

shape, but the RWC provides new employment opportunities that have not existed in years past. Employment opportunities come in a variety of positions such as personal trainers, lifeguards, group fitness instructors, climbing wall attendants, building management, and work in the intramural offices.

The new RWC is a much needed asset for the University of Missouri—St. Louis and the communities that surround the campus. The anticipation was well worth the wait and now everyone can enjoy this next chapter in UMSL history together. Make sure to swing by and take advantage of all it has to offer.



Ground breaking ceremony November 2013 THE CURRENT ARCHIVES



Early construction process March 2014 THE CURRENT ARCHIVES



August 2014 THE CURRENT ARCHIVES



Nearly complete May 2015 LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

We want your opinion...

How often do you intend to use the Recreation & Wellness Center?

Take the survey at https://goo.gl/o7ChNW (requires login)



THE UNDERCURRENT By Jessie Eikmann WHAT ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR?



ABBY GORDON,
Freshman, Education
"Having my own room."



CARLY VOGEL,
Sophomore,
Psychology
"Getting to know the people I mentor and just growing as a person."



MARITZA FUENTES,
Senior, Nursing
"Setting up new programs for my residents."

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Kristen Wilke, Jill A. Baldwin, and Daren Curry of Gateway for Online & Adult Learning (GOAL), office located in SSB 306

COURTESY OF GOAL

NEWS BRIEFS

Jay Nixon Signs Bill Banning 'Free Speech Zones'

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

In July, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon signed a bill called the Missouri Campus Free Expression Act (CAFE Act) that will stop colleges and universities from restricting student protests to "free speech zones" and will become effective August 28. The CAFE Act "designates the outdoor areas of campuses of public institutions of higher education to be traditional public forums." Under the law, administrators will be extremely limited when it comes to restricting the places and times in which students

can protest. Missouri is the second state to allow students more space for protests and expressions of free speech. If the law is violated, it gives students the right to sue the school and recover damages of \$500 initially, and \$50 a day if the violation continues. The law, however, does allow for reasonable circumstances when protest sites can be limited, such as if the protest occurs in the proximity of a university hospital. According to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), "one in six public colleges in the United States uses free speech zones to restrict student speech."

New ITS System Status Notification Service

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The University of Missouri—St. Louis Information Technology Services (ITS) has a new system for notifying the campus community of technological system interruptions, maintenance downtime, and other informational announcements. Active events and

notifications will now be posted at status.umsl.edu/. From there, both active and resolved events and notifications from all dates can be viewed. Email will be sent for all notifications posted on the website, and posted on Twitter and Facebook. To opt in or out of email notifications, visit status.umsl.edu/?page_id=111.

College of Nursing Receives \$2 Million Grant

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

In late July, the College of Nursing at the University of Missouri—St. Louis received a three-year \$2 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant will go specifically to UMSL's Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and will help train students to work in low-income,

underserved, and rural areas and populations. The goal is for more students to seek employment within those areas upon graduation, and for more community health partnerships to be formed with the university over the three years of funding. The grant money will also go towards technology and training tools, such as simulation technology, for students and educators.

New Dept GOAL to Help Adult Learners

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The Gateway for Online and Adult Learners (GOAL) is a department that is brand new to the University of Missouri—St. Louis this semester. GOAL was created to offer personalized support and direction to both online learners and adults returning to college and seeking degree completion at UMSL. "GOAL is a new unit that supports and connects online and adult learners to the campus community and online learning environment," said Daren Curry, director of GOAL. The department was built and established in the spring of 2015.

The GOAL office is located in 306 Social Sciences and Business Building Tower where various resources and support is available to students. The GOAL office provides a collaborative meeting space on campus. In the office, students have access to four Windows and Apple

laptops to use in the meeting space, a private workroom, space for workshops and training, and in-office equipment for presentations and virtual collaboration. The staff at GOAL also provide guidance, tutorials, and workshops for students. For students who take classes online, course mentors are available, as well as online class technology support for tools like VoiceThread, Panopto, and Kaltura. Students who need assistance with online coursework or have individual needs can also schedule appointments with GOAL's Specialist for Academic Success. "[GOAL] is a 'concierge' to the adult who has been away from education for a while," said Curry.

GOAL's hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with additional morning hours on Tuesday and evening hours on Thursday. For more information about GOAL, visit umsl.edu/goal/ or call 314-516-4210.

Chemistry 1021 Explores Science of Beer Brewing

AMY BEAMAN
STAFF WRITER

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There is much more to the syllabus than sipping suds, though. Students can expect to begin the course by spending time learning about the ingredients of various styles of beer. Dr. Hamper explains that the class will also cover aspects of biochemistry and physics that are crucial to brewing. "CHEM 1021 is not about 'how to brew beer'; it's all about the chemical and biochemical principles behind the beer brewing process," said Hamper. Both experienced beer nerds and generally curious undergraduates will find something new to learn about the finite details behind the brewing process. "By exploring chemistry basics such as atoms, molecular compounds and properties of water, we can discuss brewing in more detail. We'll introduce organic and biochemistry to evaluate the components of hops, carbohydrates and proteins," Hamper said of the course topics covered.

While this course is intended for students with any level of chemistry or brewing knowledge, those who have previous interest or experience in homebrewing or craft brewing will have plenty of opportunities to learn

more. By exploring the science behind each stage and ingredient involved in brewing, students who are already involved in homebrewing may take this knowledge home to refine their craft. Dr. Hamper explains, "It is a wonderful opportunity to share experiences in craft brewing and to discuss the finer points of the science. This is a class where we can learn from each other!"

To provide out of class experiences, Dr. Hamper says there are several field trips planned over the course of the semester. Visits to some of the St. Louis area's many local breweries will give students a chance to witness the brewing process in a different light than the casual observer. Dr. Hamper said that by touring a brewery as part of Chemistry 1021, "we are able to view aspects of production that are not typically included in commercial tours."

As for applying new knowledge? Dr. Hamper assures that beer will be brewed in small quantities in class. While the majority of class time is spent on learning details of each stage of the process, students will eventually apply their cumulative knowledge to brew a small batch of a select style. Students 21 and older will conduct a taste-testing lab while being interviewed by their underage classmates.

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WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

UMSL Research Program of Sexual Assault Prevention

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Many colleges are developing new programs to deal with sexual assault through a holistic approach, and for good reason. Reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 1 in 20 college students experience sexual violence at some point in their school careers. The University of Missouri—St. Louis is among the legion of college campuses setting up a holistic program to deal with sexual assault. According to the program's founding director Zoe Peterson, the major objective is to facilitate research on the UMSL campus and its role in

preventing sexual assault. According to Peterson, stopping sexual assaults by identifying offenders and providing treatment for both offenders and victims could be an eventual development for the program. Peterson took the time to talk to "The Current" about the new program, which is facilitated by the Psychological Sciences Department in conjunction with the Colleges of Arts & Sciences.

The Current (TC): Describe this new program, and what is your role?

Zoe Peterson (ZP): One of the first things I will be doing as the director of this new program is reaching out to faculty members across disciplines and across schools, not just in the College

of Arts & Sciences (CAS), but to many groups and networks who do work on sexual assault.

TC: How are you coming along in establishing your board of directors, and how will they will be tracking the program's objectives?

ZP: The way that I am imagining it is that I will identify other faculty members who do related work on sexual assault, and they will be identified as affiliate members. My progress will be monitored and tracked, so there will be committees assigned by the CAS to make sure that I am being productive and achieving my goals in conducting research and education on sexual assault on the campus and in the community.

TC: Were there any discussions of an alternative program for sexual assault prior to the new program?

ZP: Our campus has been doing things [about] sexual assault, so this is not the first time the subject has been addressed. There are a lot of people doing prevention, training, and intervention on campus. Also we have a Title IX coordinator who handles reports of sexual assault on campus. All of these things have been in place for a long time, and these procedures remain in place. My role will be to advise them and provide research that will enable them to revise and test their intervention efforts.

TC: How is the program getting its funding?

ZP: Ron Yasbin, the Dean of the

CAS (who asked me to head up this new program) is providing some support to get the program off the ground. Right now it does not take much because it's just me. In the long run, the goal is to finance it with grant funding which is challenging with cuts in funding across the university. However, with many people recognizing sexual assault as a serious problem, our hope is that we can create collaborative and interdisciplinary networks within the university so that as a team, we can secure the funding for our research to do this kind of work.

TC: How will students be involved with this research program?

ZP: Our goal is to incorporate undergraduate and graduate students in this initiative. I know there are a lot of graduate students in my own laboratory doing investigation on sexual assault. And so part of it is to identify those students already doing the research; to bring them together and connect them with each other, so that they can share their findings. And there are opportunities for undergraduates to help as research assistants on projects. So I hope that one thing I will do as part of this process is to identify the people on campus who are doing the sexual assault research, talk with all of them, and identify what an undergraduate assistant needs to have, so we can promote options around the campus for this research.

The Current
UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

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I am Patrilie Hernandez. I graduated with a BA in Anthropology in 2012. Today I am using my degree to develop policies, promote food justice, and advocate for a hunger-free community while improving the nutrition, health, economic security, and well-being of low-income families in our nation's capitol. Upon graduating from UMSL with my BA in Anthropology, I completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Bay Area Food Bank in Alabama, where I embraced the opportunity to see feeding programs at work and became even more passionate about eradicating hunger in underserved communities. Then I become the Child Nutrition Program Associate at DC Hunger Solutions. Currently, I am pursuing a Masters of Science in Nutrition Education at American University and anticipates the completion of my degree in 2016. My background in anthropology gives me a unique understanding of food not only as nutrition, but also as a key part of culture and human connection.

My name is Jason N. Vasser and I earned a degree in anthropology in the spring of 2012. My field is cultural anthropology and my area of interest is African Diaspora Studies. I have an immense sense of pride and as an alumni, I have given time, resources, and energy to current students and the members of the Association of Student Anthropologists, of which I served as president. *College days swiftly pass imbued with memories fond*, and since graduating I have earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing. My work has appeared in *Blast Furnace*, *The Sphinx*, and *Prairie Gold: An anthology of America's Heartland*, UMSL's *Bellerive* and others. Currently, I teach English at Harris-Stowe State University, write poetry, and am committed to service within the community.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Student Open House: Tuesday, Sept 15, 10am-2pm, 306 SSB Tower

Workshops in partnership w/ Student Retention Service:

- ◆ Returning Students: Polish Your Rusty Tools for Online Success ~Sept 2, 2pm, MSC 225
- ◆ Online Classes: The People Behind the Screens ~Sept 8, 430pm, MSC 225

The College of Arts and Sciences and The College of Fine Arts and Communication

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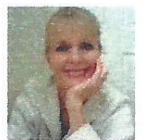


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HIST/ANTHRO 1037

The Wonders of Greece: Introduction to Greek History & Culture

HIST 2116/ANTHRO 2192 (Online)

History of Greece & the Balkans

MODGRK 1001

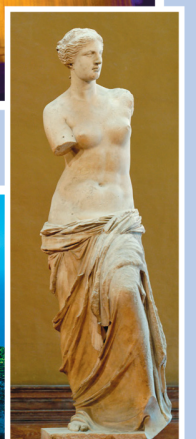
Introduction to Modern Greek Language & Culture

HIST 2117

Greek History & Culture

SPRING:

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Battle for Books: Campus Bookstore Versus Online

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Continued from Page 1

The Triton Store still offers used books, digital books, and rental books for students as well. This saved UMSL students about \$1.5 million in course materials when compared to new books just last year, according to Stephanie Eaton, manager of the Triton Store.

So are students only saving money by going to the bookstore or can they go online?

Looking in the store, it is easy to see the vast array of spirit wear and concession items offered versus the books in the back corner. But despite the new layout, books and course materials are still a major portion of sales. Eaton said, "Over half of what we sell is course materials, so students are definitely buying from our store. We've noticed a 30 percent increase in online sales, so students are actually ordering online for in-store pick-up."

Students are able to visit the store on campus and order online to keep up with the growing desire to make web purchases. Online shopping offers a great way to compare prices of an item easily. Shannon Geary, senior, English, said, "I use the bookstore when I need a book within a very short period of time. Otherwise, I like to use websites because they tend to have better deals. There are also some books that don't need to be in perfect condition and those are much easier to find online for a lower price."

The Triton Store offers a comparison tool that students can use when looking at the course required textbooks. The Triton Store uses a company that compares prices of books from online sellers. The company's formula compares the price and quality of the book. The information gathered is used to keep the bookstore's price of used and new books competitive compared to online sellers.

Some students prefer digital books to save money and can even rent digital books from places like Amazon for Amazon Student Prime prices. How is the bookstore competing with options like that?

According to Eaton, digital books are growing slowly on the UMSL campus, and the Triton Store offers digital books in some form for its students. "Almost 37 percent of our course materials have some kind of digital element, ranging from an access code to an e-book. We recently implemented a pilot called AutoAccess, where we partner with publishers and faculty to offer course materials via the campus LMS (Blackboard) at a reduced cost for students. We started with a few classes in FY [Fiscal Year] 15 and have grown to 10 classes with 35 sections for Fall 2015 semester," Eaton said.

Unlike Amazon and other online book sellers, however, buying books online through the Triton Store can



KAT RIDDLER/THE CURRENT

become a monetary issue with the substitution of new for used books. There is a prominent disclaimer on the Triton Store website that says, "If used copies of your books are not available, we will automatically substitute new copies to ensure no delay in acquiring your course materials. The total amount charged to your card will reflect the

changes." As of yet, the bookstore has no other way to tell students of the change from used to new textbook availability except at the register. This can be quite a surprise if someone is used to buying books online and receiving a notice of availability and stating the price difference before you buy it.

But the bookstore offers something

that online retailers cannot compete with as easily as an actual store: convenience.

Triton Store offers a textbook guarantee that allows students to return unwanted books during the first two weeks of school when compared to mailing back unwanted books. Eaton said, "Using an online store can sometimes result in the wrong book, due to new editions, different ISBN numbers, etc. We offer convenience and easy returns."

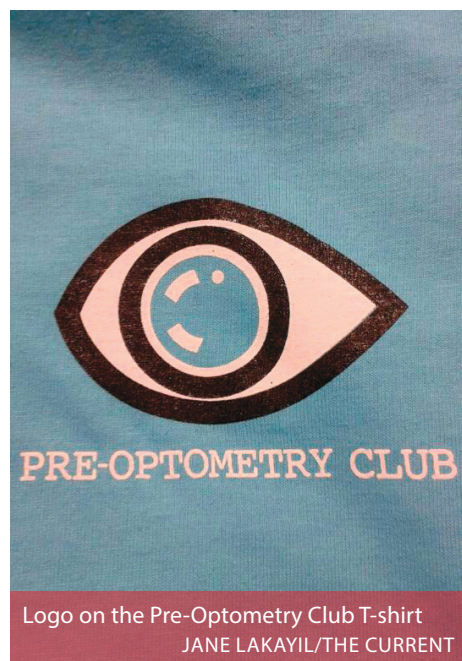
Another factor which sets the Triton Store apart from other online competitors is its commitment to the campus community. The Triton Store employs 25 to 30 UMSL students, providing financial support by way of wages and textbook scholarships. They also help by sponsoring and co-sponsoring events on campus.

While students are living in a digital age of one-click shop and pay pal, the campus bookstore seems to be keeping up with trends. The recent National Association of College Stores survey found that "At least 20 percent more students purchased and rented their course materials from a campus store than students [who] obtained their course materials from other retailers."

An Eye on the Pre-Optometry Club

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri—St. Louis is home to a nationally recognized optometry program. UMSL's College of Optometry is one of only 21 institutions in North America that belongs to the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). Graduates from the program receive their degree as Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) and have the opportunity to specialize in Cornea and Contact Lenses or Pediatrics and Binocular Vision. As with most doctoral degree programs, obtaining an O.D. requires commitment, time, and hard work. Students are required to take the Optometry Admissions Test (OAT), a five-hour, six-section standardized test, before applying



to optometry schools. UMSL's College of Optometry recommends a score of 300 out of a possible 400.

So how does an undergraduate student begin a career in optometry, and how can they plan and prepare for the rigorous testing? One way that students can explore and see into the field of optometry is through the Pre-Optometry Club.

The Pre-Optometry Club holds several workshops throughout the year to give students the chance to learn about diverse topics within the field of optometry. At the beginning of the year, students get to tour the Optometry School and have the opportunity to ask questions of current optometry students. Students visit the vision therapy room in the optometry clinic and the pre-testing classroom, where they can learn how to use the testing equipment. The tour is an eye-opening experience for Pre-Optometry Club members.

Club President Sydni K. Davis, junior, biology, said, "Demonstrating these places to prospective students helps them get a glimpse into life in optometry school, but also see the interesting tools they will have access to using in their career. The vision therapy room is often a surprise because many students are not aware of the resources available to help people, especially children, with eye movement issues that can actually be solved with therapy at a young age."

During the monthly meetings, students are given the opportunity to listen to various speakers, gain hands-on

experience with optometric equipment, and get advice from doctoral students. One of the speakers that students had the opportunity to hear from was Dr. Jacqueline Ladd, who presented on 3 major sub-fields of optometry: pediatrics, visions therapy, and ocular diseases. At another meeting, students learned about lensometry, or reading glasses prescriptions. The club also provides students with resources to prepare for the OAT, such as prep-books and prep-course representatives. "The OAT is a rigorous exam that requires a great deal of preparation and is a regular topic of conversation at Pre-Optometry Club meetings," said Vice President Jane Lakayil, senior, biology.

In addition to helping students, the Pre-Optometry Club also helps with several community service projects. For the past 2 years, the club has worked closely with the Eye Care Charity of Mid-America, a non-profit organization based in Chesterfield. Using a mobile lab, ECCOMA gives eye examinations and glasses to children and families who may not otherwise have access to eye-care. Pre-Optometry Club members have helped the Mobile Care Clinic with testing, done office and technical work on the bus, and even gone out ECCOMA's main office.

The Pre-Optometry Club will hold their first meeting on September 25 on the lower level of Marillac Hall in the Optometry Student Center at 5:30 p.m. To become involved in the Pre-Optometry Club, email umslpreoptometry@umsl.edu.

Chmakova's 'Awkward' Has Lessons for All Ages

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

Although it takes place in a middle school, "Awkward", the newest graphic novel from author Svetlana Chmakova, is a universal story of acceptance, friendship, and waving one's nerd flag. Penelope 'Peppi' Torres, has transferred to a new school and is aware of the unspoken rules of passing through life without causing a scene. However, on the first day, Peppi's hallway collision with Jaime Thompson sends her carefully laid plans askew, especially when the boy she pushes away in a panic ends up being her science tutor. Peppi is also a member of the art club while Jaime is a member of the science club, two clubs currently in the middle of a juvenile rivalry that threatens to shut them down.

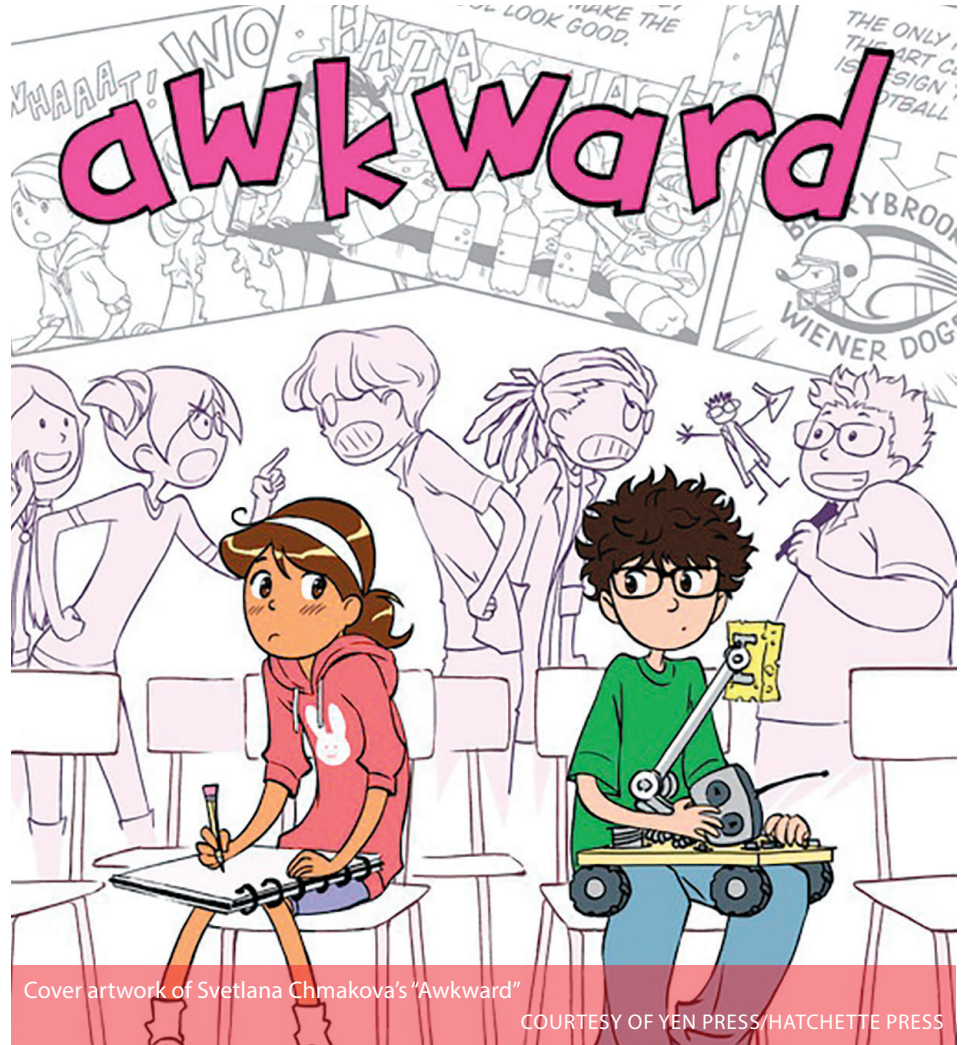
Chmakova's "Awkward" is an effortless read as everything flows perfectly from scene to scene. There are a lot of story arcs in 240 pages, from the art club's race to meet the newspaper's deadline to the all-out campus battle between the artists and the science nerds, but it never feels like it is crammed. Chmakova's familiarity with both American and Japanese style comic is evident in not only her artistic style but also her use of paneling and page effects to convey tone and emotion in a scene.

Manga fans will be amused by how Chmakova uses the standard manga tropes in her story and subverts them at every chance. Since "Awkward" is published by Yen Press, a mainly manga publisher, Chmakova is fully aware that her main audience reads Japanese comics and openly plays to their preferences while still maintaining her own aesthetic. The character designs are clearly products of someone who grew up on manga but they would never be confused for manga.

The real draw of "Awkward" is its characters, from the dynamic members of the art club, the energetic editors of the newspaper, and the adventurous nerds of the science club. At the center is Peppi and Jaime, whose hallway crash makes the foundation for an unusual but interesting friendship. Peppi is a girl who wants to see what life has to offer, while Jaime prefers being wrapped up in his own interests. It is through their natural interactions (and a bit of forced circumstance) that Peppi and Jaime start to see each other's true selves, and they realize that the only way to survive school is to be authentic, even if people think their authentic way is weird.

The "Awkward" cast is also wonderfully, organically diverse: Peppi is non-white, Jaime can be read as non-white, there are a lot of girls in the science team, the awesome science teacher who takes no nonsense is black, one of the newspaper editors is a Muslim girl with a headscarf, and there are many characters of color in both clubs. In a time when we talk about representation in media, "Awkward" takes the gold star. I can only imagine how someone in middle school who is used to the 'all white everything' media commonly found in books will take to a fictional school in which the student body is anything but all white.

It stands to reason that some of the issues facing Peppi still plague college students: the need to feel accepted; floundering in a new surrounding; having to find a place among people who share interests. The kids of "Awkward" remind us that, no matter what age we are, we should not have to hide our true selves to be welcome. "Awkward" is a hilarious and thoughtful sorta-coming-of-age graphic novel I would recommend to anyone entering into a new school at any stage.



Cover artwork of Svetlana Chmakova's "Awkward"

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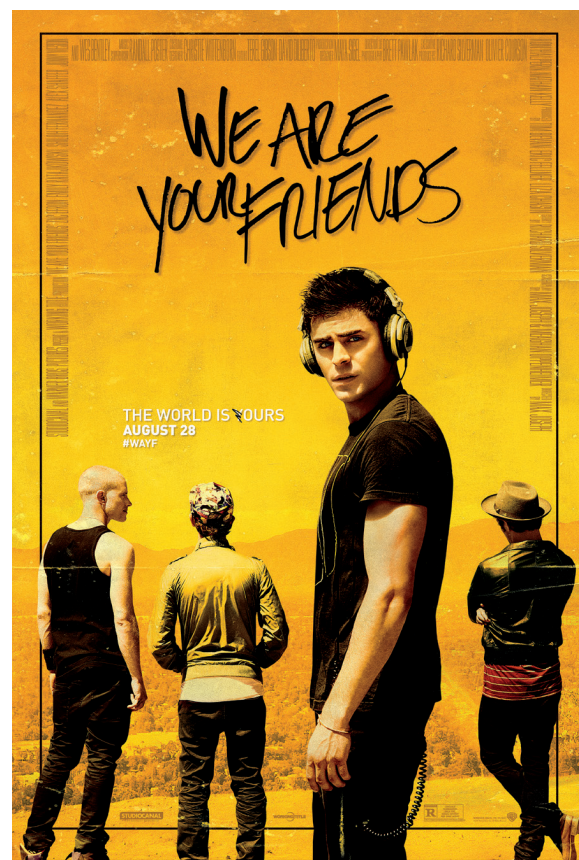
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St. Louis Surge, Women's Basketball at Mark Twain

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

It was a hot night on July 11, and the air was filled with the sound of sneakers squeaking across freshly cleaned linoleum and the thump of air-pumped plastic passing from one set of sweaty hands to another. Last month, the basketball court at the University of Missouri—St. Louis' Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center was thrumming



COURTESY OF ST. LOUIS SURGE

with the energy of live sports, but the bodies in motion did not belong to the campus student body. Instead, the Mark Twain building was the stage for the latest home game of the Saint Louis Surge women's basketball team as they faced off against the Springfield Grizzlies. The game ended that night with a victory for the Surge women with a score of 105-39, a thorough and unquestionable trouncing by the local ball crew.

Since earlier this year, the Saint Louis Surge have been playing all of their home games at the campus' Mark Twain building, bringing the championship-winning energy to the court on a regular basis during the 2015 season. During the 2016 season, the Surge will continue to play their home games at UMSL, with season tickets already available for purchase through the team's website.

Now that the Recreation and Wellness Center has been built and has hosted its grand opening on campus,

the Mark Twain building has shifted its focus to catering to athletic teams as well as renting out space to local athletic events. Since 1971, the Mark Twain's mission has been to serve as home base for college athletics, activities, and recreation, and even though its focus has been diverted due to the Rec Center, groups like the Surge have been keeping the stands packed with sports fans during the breaks between college athletic seasons.

The Saint Louis Surge recently wrapped up their 2015 basketball season with thirteen wins and two losses, as well as coming home from a series of road games as Women's Blue Chip Basketball League (WBCBL) Midwest Champions for the third season in three years. Under the leadership of head coach Tony Condra and team owner/general manager Khalia Collier, the Surge's mission on the court has been to serve as role models for the Saint Louis community while "set[ting] the stan-

dard for women's basketball" through their performance on the court.

Even out of the stadiums and away from the hoops, the members of the Surge are making names for themselves. Last month, Collier was given the 30 Under 30 award by the Saint Louis Business Journal, a locally run award for young business professionals who have proven themselves to be advancing their respective fields and making strides in business for their age bracket.

This year, the Saint Louis Surge played host to the 2015 regional Midwest tournament at Missouri Baptist University. If the women of the Surge can extend their winning streak in 2016, UMSL may see next year's WBCBL Midwest Championship being played out on the Mark Twain building linoleum, with a captive audience of red and gold Tritons supporting the home team.

Volleyball: Gearing Up for Battle

ERIC HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

A familiar thunder returns to the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Building this fall. It is the sound of the University of Missouri – St. Louis volleyball team on the rise. Triton volleyball has done nothing but improve over the past three seasons, and this summer they have been putting in the work to continue that progress in the right direction.

After graduating three key seniors, the team still has plenty of experienced guidance stemming from the six seniors Erin Walker, elementary education; Jessica Ploss, criminal justice; Hannah Miller, graphic design; Lindsay Meyer, economics; Shelby Bishop, business administration; and Carly Ochs, accounting. It is very unique for any college program to have so many seniors on the squad in one season. Coach Ryan Young is curious to see how this changes the

team's dynamic. "Having six seniors this fall is great, any of them could step up on any given day to be a great leader. We will have a lot of depth and a lot of battles for positions," said Young. Based off of last year's statistics, the team has over one thousand points from kills alone returning. The majority of points come from seniors Ochs and Miller.

These seniors are more ready than ever to get this season underway so they can prove themselves on the court one

last time. Ploss said, "I feel that this season is going to be different not only because it is my last season as a collegiate volleyball player, but it is also my turn to help the new girls start their careers off with a great season as well. With five other seniors on the team besides myself, we are hungry for a chance to compete at the highest level that we can to finish out our careers and so I believe that if we get the rest of the team on

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Celebrating 15 Years of Law Practice

5 Essentials for any Young Woman's Closet

EMILY KIGHT
STAFF WRITER

After reading this guide to achieving closet perfection, I encourage you to purchase these five essential items. These items are the perfect basis for beginning a collection in your closet that will never fail you in times of need. Just reach in your closet, grab a couple of your must-haves, and start your day knowing that you are dressed for success in your new clothing items that scream, "I look pretty darn good." You will not regret these five purchases.

1. A Little Black Dress (LBD): In a little black dress, you can conquer the world. The perfect LBD is so versatile. It can be worn for school, work, a night out, or any other event you can think of. For the daytime you can accessorize with minimalistic jewelry and neutral-toned flats or gladiator sandals. To change the LBD into the perfect dress for night, all you need to do is switch out your simple jewelry with a statement necklace or chunky bracelets and ditch the flats or sandals for wedges or pumps. You can never go wrong in a little black dress. Never.

2. A Fitted Black Blazer: Since we are all young women in college, we will encounter many times when we need to



look professional. A fitted black blazer adds that finishing touch to your perfect interview outfit. It lends definition to your upper body through fitted seams. Unlike popular boyfriend blazers, this bit of tailoring will not make you look like you are drowning in fabric. As stated in number 1, your accessories determine whether the outfit belongs in the daytime or night. You can dress the blazer up or dress it down. So, take on your next interview or meeting with a go-to black blazer.

3. Skinny Jeans or Jeggings: Every woman's clothing store sells skinny jeans

or jeggings because they are popular and look great on everyone. Finding the perfect pair is groundbreaking. You can wear these jeans anytime and anywhere. We all want to hide or bring attention to different areas of our bodies. Whether you are the tall athletic build or the petite curvy build, these jeans will do the trick of accenting your best features. They do not have a distinct formula on how they work their magic. No matter what body type you are, you should

definitely own these pants.

4. A 'Go-To' Basic White Tee: A basic white T-shirt is essential to your closet no matter who you are or what style of clothing you prefer. A common theme so far with these must-haves is that they can transition from day to night. Wear the T-shirt with athletic shorts and cute tennis shoes, or pair with an adorable skater skirt and ballet flats. You can add a statement piece of jewelry, a scarf, a baseball cap, a flower crown headband, or virtually any other accessory with this tee, which acts as the perfect foundation to build upon.

5. Nude ballet flats: The best shoe to go with virtually any outfit is a pair of nude ballet flats. I promise, spending \$20-\$25 on a pair of simple nude flats will save you countless trips to the mall searching for a pair of shoes to go with that multi-colored skirt you bought that just does not seem to go well with anything else you have picked up. The nude ballet flats are already tucked in their special place in your closet and can solve this problem in a flash. Trust me, you will thank me for this special buy later.

Sideline Showdown

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"You're in the wrong section. Your section is over there," a visiting mother said, staring at me after seeing her daughter's gaze shift from the basketball court to the free Triton foam trident I received at the door.

I had been to games before as a freshman at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, but after moving out of the dorms I saw myself lose the motivation to drive back to campus after class to support my school's athletes. I found myself on campus on the weekend despite the snow, so I decided it would be a perfect opportunity to attend a game and show my support.

The snow had driven most of the crowd away, leaving only one section of stands with people in it. I did not really know where to sit in the gymnasium and I had never attended a game where I knew no one and went with no one. As I entered the gym, I noticed I had not worn red or gold that day, so I graciously took the free foam trident. I then became aware that I was in the way of people watching the teams warm up so I quickly took a seat on the edge.

I noticed the little girl, no more than six, looking at my free trident. That is when the mother turned around and uttered those abrasive words.

I know there is game etiquette where home and away sit on opposite sides of the court. But the circumstances of being alone, not knowing anyone, and the game attendance suffering heavily because of the storm, led me to believe those etiquettes were less than

meaningful. She, however, felt that those should be upheld, even if it meant ostracizing a student to sit alone.

I have been to games where there are rivalries and the crowd becomes obnoxious for one team or the other. This leads to the two camps fighting on the sidelines. I have never been to a game in which the divided crowd is hostile during warm up.

I was taken aback by her remarks and her stare as she waited for me to move. I grabbed my stuff and moved across the gym to the empty section of bleachers and sat by myself.

As I walked to my new seat, I went over why I was moving. There was no real reason. I could sit where I wanted; it was my home school, there were not that many people there (mostly parents), and I had done nothing wrong. I then came to the realization that the mother had made me move because of one trident in my hand in front of her young daughter.

That was it.

That is what had caused me to be dazed at the whole situation. She showed her daughter it was okay to segregate the crowd based on appearance instead of being tolerant and inclusive.

I was taught that sports brought people together. You battle it out on the court, then you are friends afterward. This idea was not being taught.

I think I cheered louder than I ever had that night despite the incident.

I want to tell you that this story has a happy ending besides that the Tritons won, but to tell you the truth, I doubt the mother ever thought of that

Continued on Page 11

UMSL Postal Services



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Tech Tips for New Students

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

Another semester is unfolding, and as eager freshmen mingle with jaded graduate students, excited international students, and bewildered transfer students through the wide wonderful world that is the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus, they are probably all wondering the same questions: how the heck do I connect to the Internet? Where are the printers? Where can I charge my iPhone?

Technically, New Student Orientation should answer all the questions you will ever have about UMSL life, however, there are some things you will not get to learn until you are knee-deep in assignments, your laptop is about to die, and all the outlets in your dorm lounge are spoken for. I cannot say I am any expert, but even if one new student is saved a bit of frustration from this advice, that would be a plus.

First, memorize your MyGateway sign-in and password. You will need it for logging onto any UMSL campus computer, for printing from the computer lab in the Thomas Jefferson library, and for installing the UMSL Internet device onto your mobile phone, laptop, and various devices that rely on Wi-Fi to survive.

Yes, you have to download an entirely new application so that your device can connect to TritonNet—the campus Internet connection. You really have no other choice unless you want to go 4G, but I am not made of data and I will not assume the average college student is, either. The first time you attempt to connect to TritonNet on a new device, you will be prompted to sign a term of use you will not read and download the app that will send you to TritonNet nirvana.

It is a tedious process and many people have had to do it several times before it actually sticks, so cut the nonsense from the start and let the people at the Information Technology Services help desk do it for you. They are in room 211 of Lucas Hall, which is right next to the Millennium Student Center Bridge.

Next: you are going to need printers for all your teachers who have not gone green and fully embraced the power of Blackboard/MyGateway (often, I upload my assignments directly to Blackboard and have teachers return it with notes the same way, why everyone does not follow suit already, the world may never know). Pretty much every computer lab on campus has printers, but your best bet on North Campus will be the Thomas Jefferson Library's computer lab, which has additional printers during scheduled student service times in the adjacent classroom. For South Campus, there is only one computer lab in the top floors of Provincial House. This Honors lab may have only one printer and a 20-page limit, but there is often little or no wait.

As for your favorite tweet-and-selfie device, there are mobile charging stations in both the TJ Library and the Millennium Student Center. In the library, they will be in the computer lab by the staircase. In the student center, they are in front of the radio station. Be wary—the student center charger gets moved around at the whim of invisible forces, so you may have to hunt it down through the building in case it goes missing. It is worth looking for; each charging station can put power any mobile device you have, from your new Android to your classic iPod. Just do not stray far from the station while it charges.

Need to charge your laptop? Outlets are literally in every building and classroom. I am pretty sure I have seen them in the higher quality bathrooms. The best place to charge up your laptop while you are charging between classes is the TV lounge in—you guessed it—the student center. Sit at one of the

many tables, plug in, and enjoy some widescreen CNN action while your Chromebook energizes.

For those who need specific computer programs and devices for their courses, you would be a fool not to take advantage of your student status and buy them via the TritonStore, which offers discounts to UMSL folks through the TritonTech program. Plus, they are still selling copies of Windows 7, so grab one in case Windows 10 conks your computer out.

Final word of advice: college is legitimately frightening at first. Your entire future can possibly rest on what happens in the next four years. You do not have to do it alone, and you should not have to. When it doubt, ask for help. Ask your professors, your classmates, your dorm friends, your friendly neighborhood campus staff, anyone willing to listen. Get those thirsty devices charged and ready to tackle your future.

Sideline Showdown

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Continued from Page 10

instance again. She probably went home thinking that she helped a confused student sit on the right side of the bleachers. I, on the other hand, remember this instance vividly.

This is how children are taught it is okay to discriminate based on appearance, whether the parent is aware of it or not. We should all make a conscious effort to avoid this kind of behavior so it is not passed on to the next generation.

I encouraged people to go to Triton games all the time before this event. After this happened, I encourage even more people to go to be better role models for the crowd, young and old.

The Current

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'True Detective' Season Two Disappoints

NATHAN WATSON
STAFF WRITER

Among the many excellent aspects of the first season of HBO's drama "True Detective," surely the most indispensable was the lead character, Rustin "Rust" Cohle, played by Matthew McConaughey. Even with the breathtaking cinematography, obscure literary allusions, and intriguing plot, the season would have amounted to little more than a glorified procedural drama without the philosophical depth which can almost solely be attributed to this phenomenal character.

Season Two's equivalent to Rust Cohle is the jaded detective Antigone "Ani" Bezzerides, portrayed by Rachel McAdams. Unfortunately for the fate of the season, the opportunity to develop Ani into the show's primary focus is neglected in favor of a number of seemingly pointless diversions and less than stellar acting performances.

In addition to Bezzerides, "True Detective"'s second season introduced three entirely new protagonists: detectives Ray Velcoro (Collin Farrell) and Paul Woodrugh (Taylor Kitsch), and

career criminal Frank Semyon (Vince Vaughn).

Each of these characters brings to the forefront their own personal dramas. Frank Semyon must frantically try to recover his stolen money, all the while figuring out whether he and his wife have the "bandwidth" (his own characteristically awkward words) to support a child; Ray Velcoro spends a large amount of his screen time negotiating custody of a boy he claims to be his biological son; Paul Woodrugh's worries revolve around either convincing himself and his same-sex partners that he is not a homosexual or making sure he gets to keep riding his motorcycle; Ani's hang-ups are related to her ambivalent attitudes towards sexuality—partially fueled by an apparent instance of childhood abuse—and the consequences these have on her relationships.

Much of the season's first half is devoted to these often mind-numbingly boring and tangential plotlines. The audience is forced to follow mob-boss Frank Semyon (Vince Vaughn) and his wife, Jordan (Kelly Reilly), through their terribly acted, soap-operatic quest

to procreate. If the first season's focus on the marital infidelities of Woody Harrelson's character showed that such personal problems can be confronted in a compelling manner, the second season showed that they could just as easily be reduced to the merely trivial and cliché. Rather than contributing to the development of Frank as a character, these scenes usually dwindle into a series of uncomfortable staring contests and awkward dialogue.

Perhaps the season's most hilariously ridiculous subplot comes from the hysteria that follows a largely unmentioned and inconsequential minor character, Stan. Despite Frank's vocal lamentations and a heartfelt visit to Stan's widow and her son, his importance remains a mystery and the audience is left wondering how they missed even the slightest reference to this man prior to the revelation of his death. Only Jordan's unintentionally meta-referential accusation that Frank Semyon (Vince Vaughn) "can't act for shit" rivals this mishandling of plot for accidental hilarity.

Having waded through the ridiculousness that is these melodramas,

the viewer is rewarded with two decent focuses of interest: the actual crime investigation and the detectives who investigate it.

The few outstanding scenes almost exclusively belong to Ani and her part in investigating high-level governmental and law enforcement corruption. Most memorable among these is a heart-pounding sequence in which she infiltrates a drug and booze fueled sex-party, whose guests include a number of local politicians and law enforcement officials directly involved in the case, all while undercover as a trafficked European prostitute.

Admittedly, there are also sparse moments of charming or witty dialogue, as well as genuine character development. And, although much of the plot is fairly predictable, there are a few exceptions. Overall, however, the amount of atrociously written one-liners, cartoonish drug-lord face-offs, and pseudo-Bergmanesque close-ups makes it difficult to recommend this season to anybody but the most patient of fans.

Grade: C -

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