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# THE CUTTENT ISSUE 1477 SEPT 21, 2015



### Gallery 210 **Honors Late Professor Callner**

**ALBERT NALL** STAFF WRITER

On September 12, Gallery 210 opened a retrospective exhibit titled "Drawing for Two Hands" by Sharon Callner, who was an associate professor of the studio art program before she died on September 26, 2014 of leukemia. Philip Robinson, Callner's husband and an associate professor of the studio art program at the University

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### Milestones and Impasses at State of the University

KAT RIDDLER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **LORI DRESNER NEWS EDITOR** 

The 2015 State of the University Address spotlighted the University of Missouri—St. Louis' strong points and challenges of the past year, projections for the future. They also honored many of UMSL's accomplished and new faculty and staff members. The address was held in the J.C. Penney Conference Center's auditorium from 3 to 4 p.m. on September 16.

The University's Chancellor Thomas George opened the address by speaking about what UMSL has accomplished over the past year, and by presenting some Continued on Page 2 campus statistics. UMSL granted 3,146 degrees the



## **Better Family Life Speaker Addresses Urban Crime**

**LORI DRESNER NEWS EDITOR** 

James Clark, vice president of community outreach at Better Family Life (BFL), was a guest speaker in a lecture hall of students in an Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice class on September 15 at 9:30 a.m. The class is taught by Daniel Isom, Endowed Professor of Policing and the Community at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and retired St. Louis Police Chief. Clark was invited to speak in Isom's class about crime and violence in St. Louis' urban core.

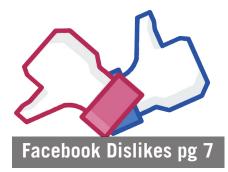
Clark stressed that the solution to preventing crime and violence in the urban core is to build and maintain strong families and stronger and safer neighborhoods. He said that addressing the crime problem is no longer about variables, but about mentality. "We must begin to deal with urban affairs with a new perspective. St. Louis is on a very dangerous trajectory," said Clark.

Clark told a story about an adolescent boy in a high crime neighborhood who joined other adolescents in playing the 'dope game,' which involved some of the children playing police officers and others playing the role of crack dealers. The game eventually conditioned the boy to become a crack dealer in real life and end up in the juvenile detention center (JDC).

> Clark explained that in this type Continued on Page 3









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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor:

Re:The Iranian Nuclear Deal: Promise of Peace Or Throttling Towards War

On 14 September 2015 your newspaper published an article about the recently concluded Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as The Iran Deal, the most consequential foreign policy issue post-WWII. In it you offered few facts, a pro argument and a con argument. I would like to opine that the Iranian Nuclear Deal is more likely to yield a promise of peace.

Under the JCPOA, Iran has agreed to limit its stockpile of enriched-uranium by 98% (from 12,000 kg to 300 kg). Iran has also agreed to reduce its number of centrifuges from 20,000 to 5,000. And, most importantly, Iran will be allowed to use the oldest and least capable model of centrifuges; thus reducing its breakout time by a year in lieu of the three months that it currently enjoys.

As you rightly pointed out in your article, under the JCPOA, Iran will convert its underground nuclear facility at Fordow to a nuclear technology center and its heavy water facility at Arak will be redesigned to a heavy water reactor. As for sanctions relief, most (not all) sanctions will be terminated upon an intrusive inspection, verification and certification regime by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN agency responsible for nuclear related matters. In sum, the JCPOA is not based on trust; it's based on monitoring, inspection and verification, key virtues of any arms regime treaty.

Like most opponents of the JCPOA, I, too, wish that it would have dismantled Iran's entire nuclear program. But, as a student of International Affairs, I am cognizant of something called the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (an international arms regime treaty that seeks to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament), which promotes the peaceful uses of nuclear energy among its member states. A proviso Iran has repeatedly alluded to, and, to its credit, it has not, despite the crushing U.S., EU, and UN sanctions, raced to the bomb.

Iran's infamous talk of "wiping Israel off the map" is as much a rhetoric as it is unattainable. After all, Israel has been a nuclear power since 1968 as such it is more than capable of annihilating Iran in a matter of minutes should it choose to.

But the good news is that, the JCPOA is a promise of peace that a) extends Iran's breakout time by a year; b) cuts off Iran's pathways to the bomb; and c) gives the U.S., EU, and the United Nations an enormous latitude of power and legitimacy to place some stringent measures on Iran's nuclear program. All signs of a promise of peace, not war.

Respectfully,

Robert O. Davis

Senior, Economics and Political Science

## **State of the University Address**

KAT RIDDLER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF LORI DRESNER **NEWS EDITOR** 

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past year, which is a campus record. UMSL's total enrollment projection is 16,900, which is the second highest total on record. UMSL was ranked 10th among public universities, and 15th nationally. The number of new international students is up. Degrees awarded to minorities are up by 18%. Currently the number of on-campus undergraduates is down, while on-campus graduates are up. There is currently a strong demand for campus housing, which is past capacity.

Over the past five years, UMSL has raised \$130 million from donors. In fiscal year 2015 alone, UMSL raised \$25.9 million. The money raised goes to scholarships, academic programs, endowed positions, public services, buildings, and research.

Construction projects on campus were another subject of the address. The Science Learning Building is halfway complete, although it is coming along slower than anticipated. It is expected to open in Summer 2016. It will include advanced teaching laboratories and a solarium/town center. The Optometry Patient Care Center on Natural Bridge Road is one fourth of the way completed and is expected to open in Fall 2016. The Business Administration Building along West Drive is set to break ground in October. Benton Hall will be undergoing renovations from recent funding. Construction is in the works on Natural Bridge Road, with the goal of it being a roundabout-community plaza. UMSL is hoping to attract higher end retail along Natural Bridge, and it has already attracted some interest.

The UMSL business program was another highlight. The UMSL International Business Program moved from being ranked 16th to 12th among universities nationally. UMSL College of Business Administration is the only college in the St. Louis area to have dual accreditation in business and accounting from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Chancellor George also spoke on the University's shortcomings and what needs improvement. State funding has been a challenge, and it has dropped significantly in the past five years. In FY 2010, UMSL received \$63.6 million, and it will drop to \$59 million in FY 2016. There is a \$300 million backlog for campus maintenance and repairs. The University's market share position of St. Louis-area undergraduate students is under pressure, with competition from other colleges in the St. Louis and Missouri area. Academic restructuring was necessary over the past year, and resulted in the elimination of two colleges. In the future, UMSL plans to expand its outreach to international students, out-of-state

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### THE UNDERCURRENT By Alex Neupert

#### DID YOU ATTEND THE JOB FAIR? WHY, WHY NOT?



#### SWATHIKA BASKARAN,

Graduate, Computer Science

"Yes, it was very informative. I went for an internship."



**ZHANG LINGYU,** 

Freshman, Accounting "No. I didn't know about



MATTHEW CLARK,

Senior, Music Education "No. I saw signs, but I was

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## The Current State of the University Address

KAT RIDDLER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **LORI DRESNER NEWS EDITOR** 

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students, and out-of-region Missourians, as well as its marketing support.

The ceremony ended with awards. Glen Cope, vice provost of academic affairs, read aloud the awards as recipients shook hands with Chancellor George and UM System President Tim Wolfe. The awards were The Chancellor's Awards for Excellence, Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award, Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence, and 25 year service awards.

Six faculty members were awarded the Chancellor's Awards for Excellence: Kim Baldus, teaching professor in the Pierre Laclede Honors College; Sanjiy Bhatia, professor of computer science; Susan Brownell, professor of anthropology; Brian Lawton, senior lecturer

## **Pikes 'n Pups Event Benefits Local Adoption Agency**



#### **LORI DRESNER NEWS EDITOR**

The Zeta Phi Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity (Pike) at the University of Missouri—St. Louis hosted an event that benefited both canines and students at the Millennium Student Center (MSC) lawn outside the Nosh, on September 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For a minimum donation of \$5 to Gateway Pet Guardians (GPG), a local animal adoption and pet rescue shelter, students could play with three available-for-adoption puppies from the shelter. The purpose of the event was to make students aware of the puppies that are available for adoption and give students a fun way to relax between classes. Alec, Michelangelo, and Tabasco were the three puppies present for the event, and all three can be adopted through GPG. Many students showed up between their classes to make donations and enjoy the presence of the puppies.

"It's something we've wanted to do for a little while now and we actually got it approved by school, so it worked out," said Robert Kinsinger, junior, business administration, and member

of Pi Kappa Alpha. "Everyone seems to love puppies, and it's a great way to just help out with school, relaxation between classes, and everything like that. We just thought it would be a good idea to offer something for people to enjoy."

The Pikes raised over \$450 from the event to benefit GPG. This is the first time this event was hosted on campus, but the Pikes hope to continue it. "We hope to do it in the future here as well. We're going to try to do it each semester," said Kinsinger.

The GPG shelter is a nonprofit animal shelter that operates solely on fundraisers and donations from the St. Louis and surrounding community. Shelter volunteers rescue strays out of East St. Louis, Illinois, and surrounding areas. GPG has more than 50 adoptable dogs and cats at any given time. The adoption fee is \$195 for puppies, \$150 for adult dogs, and \$100 for cats and kittens. The shelter is located at 5321 Manchester Avenue. For more information about GPG and their upcoming events, call 314-664-7398 or visit gatewaypets.com. Donations to the shelter can be made at gatewaypets. com/donate-now.

in information systems; W. Howard McAlister, associate professor of optometry; Christopher Spilling, professor of chemistry and biochemistry. Lauren Obermark, assistant professor of English, received the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award. This award is only available to teachers in their first or second year of teaching at UMSL.

These faculty awardees were given a plaque and honorarium for their outstanding work for the university. Recipients of the awards were nominated and some had to collect letters from students they taught and collect evaluations for their application process.

"My favorite part of the whole awards ceremony was definitely listening to the nice things that other people have said about you, which is the best part of the whole process," Obermark

Baldus said, "It really is such a gift to hear all the feedback from everybody. It is way more than the award itself, it's the chance to find out all these people that are supporting you that you didn't really realize were supporting you."

There were three recipients for the 2015 Chancellor's Award for Staff Excellence: Mary Brown, coordinator of technical training in ITS administrative services; Debra Black, administrative assistant in campus police; Samuel Darko, custodian in custodial services.

There were a number of faculty and staff that were honored with awards. There were 10 awards given to faculty who had served 25 years at UMSL: Priscilla Anne Dowden-White, associate professor of history; Michael T. Elliott, associate professor of marketing; Ricardo A. Flores, professor of physics and astronomy; Aaron Stephen Franzel, assistant clinical professor in the College of Optometry; Margo Lea Hurwicz, associate professor of anthropology and archeology; Janet Lynn Lauritsen, curators' professor of criminology and criminal justice; Thomas L. McPhail, professor of media studies; Keith J. Stine, professor of chemistry; Cathy Vatterott, professor of educator preparation, innovation, and research; Gayle A. Wilkinson, professor of educator preparation, innovation, and research.

Chancellor George also noted the accomplishments of UMSL's student athletes. UMSL athletics had a 163-92-3 overall record. There were 72 academic All-Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) awards. Softball pitcher Hannah Perryman, senior, criminology, was the GLVC Pitcher of the Year and has had seven career perfect games.

The State of the University closed with a reception and refreshments in

### **Better Family Life Speaker** Addresses Urban Crime

**LORI DRESNER NEWS EDITOR** 

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Clark explained that in this type of subculture, the JDC is a "badge of honor." The more times an individual ends up there, the more street credibility they receive from their peers. Clark said, "Destiny is nearly pre-determined in certain communities."

Clark spoke on what BFL and the Community Outreach Department does to help these at-risk individuals and improve high crime neighborhoods and communities. The department provides education and employment opportunities to individuals, grassroots efforts, and community action. Home ownership is strongly encouraged by the department in an attempt to help individuals stabilize their lifestyles.

Community Outreach also has two programs that are working to build stronger families and neighborhoods to improve the crime and violence epidemic in St. Louis. One of these programs is the Neighborhood Alliance model, which deploys outreach workers to assess individual families in high-crime areas. The second program is Pulpits to Porches, which encourages commitment from churches to help provide resources to neighborhoods. It also encourages individuals in these neighborhoods to become a part of

churches. However, while many churches are on board with the program, some are holding out. Clark said that another challenge has been getting sufficient funding for outreach programs like these.

After Clark's lecture, students in the class had the opportunity to ask questions. One student asked about BFL's mentoring program. Clark said that BFL looks specifically for mentors that can speak to youth who are under certain social conditions and to those who have committed crimes such as armed criminal action or possession with intent to distribute. "You have to be able to mentor at the speed of [life]," said Clark. The Outreach Department also speaks to students in schools throughout the metropolitan St. Louis area.

BFL is located at 5415 Page Boulevard. To find out more about BFL's mission, community outreach program, or how to get involved or to contribute, visit betterfamilylife.org/ and betterfamilylife.org/community-outreach.html, or call 314-367-3440.



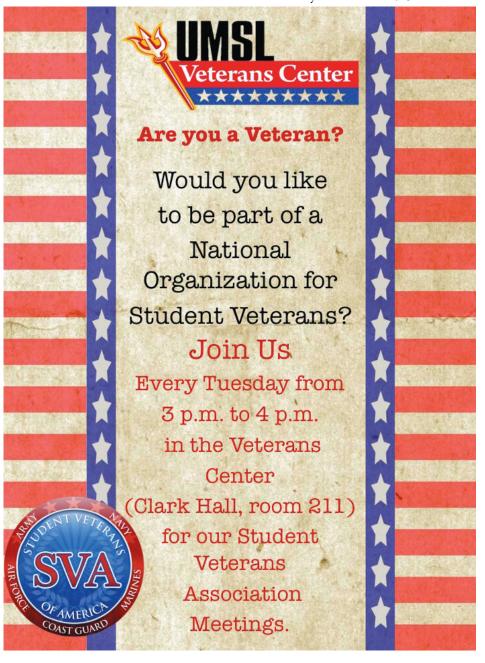
## **UMSL Commemorates Constitution Day**

ZYRA DE LOS REYES STAFF WRITER

September 17 marked the anniversary of signing of the Constitution of the United States and University of Missouri - St. Louis celebrated it

throughout the day. Constitution Day is an annual opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to renew and broaden their understanding of the Constitution as they commemorate its 1787 signing.

The day started off at 9:30 a.m.



with a panel discussion entitled "God and Government: Religious Freedom and the Constitution" through 10:45 a.m. The panelists were Dr. David Robertson and Dr. Mary Rochester, professors of political science, and Rev. Amy Bertschausen, Executive Director of Care and Counseling in St. Louis. The Nosh food court had BBO beef brisket with sides on the Daily Dish all day, along with red, white and blue cupcakes in Triton Treats. At 11:30 a.m., "Reflections on the Constitution" was held at the Nosh and the program began with the greetings of Chancellor Tom George.

In conjunction with the annual Constitution Day commemoration, the Constitution Day planning committee, headed by Community Outreach and Engagement Manager Patricia Zahn, held their first essay contest for the University of Missouri – St. Louis students based on the question "What Does Freedom Mean to You?" Artwork and statements about that question called "Bridge Expressions" were also posted on the Millenium Student Center bridge windows throughout the month.

"The committee is part of a nationwide initiative of the American Democracy Project which is a great organization that promotes citizenship and leadership across the country and has been working for several years to get students more engaged with the Constitution by connecting it to their lives and perceptions of the world. We have never held an essay contest before, but were really excited to get so many great entries our first time out," said Dr. Lynn Staley, assistant teaching professor Coordinator and Chair of the essay contest.

There were 19 students who submitted their entries. The top four writers were invited to read their essays and also given awards at the Nosh as part of the "Reflections on the Constitution" program. The first prize, an iPad mini, went to Myra Dotzel, freshman.

"A person is born with freedom and will die with it as well. In the direst of circumstances, people neither have the ability nor do they have the right to confiscate freedom from another. Furthermore, no one reserves the right to offend or diminish the freedom and liberty of others. In this way, freedom in itself is a symbol of equality amongst individuals, races, groups, and other communities. Freedom is about individual expression; it is color in a bleak world; it is what transforms a loud, violent world into a tolerable one. In these ways, freedom must be encouraged as it is part of the human spirit," said Dotzel in her prize-winning piece, "In Honor of the Human Spirit."

Steve Pan, graduate, information systems, won the second prize and received a \$50 Triton Store gift card for his essay, "Towards a Substantive Freedom." Essays by Layne Paubel, senior, communications, and Munachukwudi Okoye, sophomore, psychology, respectively entitled "A Picture of Freedom" and "Freedom," were the two honorable mentions. Each received a \$20 gift card to Barnes and Noble. The essay reading was part of the Reflection on the Constitution program for that day and the prizes were donated by The Center for Ethics in Public Life, The Associated Students of the University of Missouri, and Dr. Staley.

"It was very difficult to decide on the prize winners, because we could clearly see that each writer had great energy and enthusiasm for their topics. The focus of each was so unique to that person. I have judged a fair number of writing contests, but this was by far the most enjoyable one. The writers were all amazing. We hope that recognition of all the essays, which we hope to post on the MSC bridge the week after Constitution day, will be away of rewarding all our writers" said Dr. Staley.

The Triton Toastmasters made some impromptu speeches focused on the theme "Freedom and the Constitution" right after the essay reading. All the efforts for this event were made possible, Office of Equal Opportunity Director Deborah Burris, the Center for Teaching and Learning's Andy Goodman, Student Activities Coordinator Tegan Klevorn, Association Students of the University of Missouri Chapter President David McGraw, Clinical Educator Margaret Peeno, Cameron Roark and Robert Clark of Student Government Association, Wally Siewert of the Center for Ethics in Public Life, Dr. Staley, Lynn Voss of the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, and Patricia



## The Current A&E 5 Retrospective of Late Professor Sharon Callner

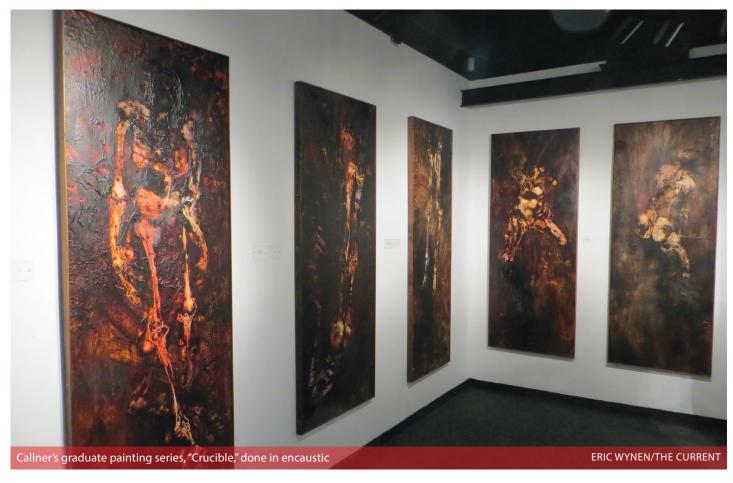
STAFF WRITER

#### Continued from Page 1

of Missouri—St. Louis, introduced patrons to Callner's work.. Robinson was accompanied by the artist's daughter and his daughter-in-law, Amy Callner. Robinson and his daughter-in-law were the stand-ins for Sharon Callner herself.

According to Robinson, Sharon Callner was influenced by Austrian painter Egon Schile, widely known for his nude self-portraits. As Robinson said in a leaflet, both Schile and Callner's drawings "offended polite sexual sensitivities in society, while at the same time [challenged] veiled taboos." Schile was a pioneer of Expressionism, a movement that challenged traditional perspectives on gender, race, and religion. Callner's work is meant to evoke the viewpoints of her naked subjects. For example "The American Hang-ups of Rubin Stacy" (2004) is rooted in sharecropping and the working poor. A companion piece from 2004, "The American Hang-ups of Joseph Richardson," projected the stirring legacy of lynching as a theme.

"Callner was interested in exploring the human condition, which she inter-



preted with great wit," said Robinson. "At the same time, Callner reacted with great anger to social injustice, which was a component of her works. In many

ways, Callner was more biting in the face of the trying experiences depicted in her works than those who lived them."

Callner's daughter commented on "Hail Mary" (2004), which portrays a voluptuous figure like

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## **Tritons Outlast Pumas' Dirty Tricks**

**DAVID TOCCO**STAFF WRITER

Despite the threat of storms, Friday evening was a beautiful one for a soccer match with mild temperatures and no precipitation. The University of Missouri-St. Louis' men's soccer team outplayed and showed much more integrity than their opponents, the Pumas of St. Joseph's College (SJC). The game began at 6:30 p.m., an hour earlier than originally scheduled as a precautionary measure, since rain was predicted later in the evening. However, while storms would not come from the sky, they would certainly be seen on the field as a disgruntled Puma team reacted disgracefully to UMSL's field domination.

The first 15 minutes of play were relatively even, with both teams exercising good ball control and defenders from each side preventing any scoring chances. About 27 minutes in, the Tritons narrowly escaped going down a goal as SJC had its only real scoring opportunity of the game. The Tritons reacted, narrowly missing a header goal at 25:50 following an indirect kick deep in Puma territory. The teams started to feel each other out, and the Pumas began to play more aggressively, committing many fouls. With just under 20 minutes to play in the first half, UMSL nearly scored again, but the shot went wide of the goal.

The tide began to turn in UMSL's favor, as their passes were more effec-



tive in creating good scoring chances. The Pumas were clearly outmatched and became frantic. With two minutes remaining in the first half, referee Mark Rutherford decided he had seen enough of SJC's dirty antics and pulled a red card on Puma freshman Midfielder Gage Jensen, ejecting him from the game and forcing his team into a one man disadvantage for the remainder of the match. The first half ended scoreless, but it was clear that for the Pumas to avoid defeat, they would need a miracle—especially since they would play the remainder of the game short-handed.

Lightning could be seen in the distance just prior to the beginning of the second half, reminding the spectators of the looming storms. The Tritons started

out very strong with a scoring chance just two minutes in and again 10 minutes later. Dan King, UMSL's head coach of 15 years, could be heard on the sidelines expressing frustration that his team had failed to net a goal even with the many golden opportunities.

Finally, with about 16 minutes to play, teammate Clay Stocker, junior, accounting, assisted UMSL midfielder DJ Bednar, junior, electrical engineering, in netting his second goal of the season, beating SJC's vocal keeper as he came out to challenge him. The crowd erupted with joy. Shortly thereafter, the Pumas decided to take revenge with a hard foul, which resulted in a yellow card. As time ticked down, the Tritons retained possession and complete control of the game, not allowing the Pu-

mas any scoring opportunities. The SJC frustration continued, as Puma players used especially unsportsmanlike tactics, spiking the unprotected back of Triton players' legs when the referees were not looking. But if the Pumas were trying to start a fight, they failed, and the Tritons went on to win their second home game in a row, improving their record to 3-2 (2-1 GLVC).

Afterwards, game winning goal scorer DJ Bednar commented on the hostile play of his team's opponents, saying, "I feel like we did well to keep our heads and not pick up any yellow cards at home." In reference to a particularly aggressive incident near the end of the match, Coach King said, "It should have been a red card. I thought our guys did a good job of not taking retaliation on it." Asked about Bednar's goal, King said, "That goal comes right from practice. I thought it was a terrific goal."

After another home match on Sunday vs. the University of Indianapolis, the Tritons take to the road against Wisconsin Parkside in Kenosha, Wisconsin, next Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Triton notables and statistics:

-Jon Huelsman, Junior, Physical Education, and Richie Hoffman, Senior, Accounting, each took two shots on goal.

-Goalkeeper Jack Filla, Junior, History, made two saves and played the entirety of the match.

-UMSL outshot SJC 9-5.



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## Ready, Set, Pokémon Go!

KRISTEN BROWN STAFF WRITER

Like many 10 year-olds, I sat in my room waiting for my Hogwarts letter, hoping for a wardrobe to take me to Narnia, and wishing Professor Oak would let me be a Pokémon master. Now one of our 10-year-old dreams can come true with the new ability to catch Pokémon in real life. Wait, what? Yes, one of our childhood dreams is becoming a reality: Nintendo is bringing Pokémon to the real world. Nintendo and the Pokémon Company have teamed up with Niantic for their new project, "Pokémon Go."

"Pokémon Go" is an augmented reality mobile game that uses GPS to help players locate Pokémon in the real world. The player can catch, trade, and battle Pokémon using the Pokémon Go app available for both Apple and Android. This Pokémon game gives players a reason to get up and out of the house to explore. Pokémon trainers will be able to find Pokémon at specific landmarks all over the world, in their neighborhoods, and with or against other trainers. A snippet from the new "Pokémon Go" trailer shows that special events around the world will unite local trainers in an attempt to capture legendary Pokémon.

Along with the app, a small wristband will be released called the Pokemon Go Plus. This device will allow players to play without looking at their phones. The wristband connects via Bluetooth to mobile devices and has a button on the top that can capture Pokemon when pressed. The cost of the Pokémon Go Plus has not been the released yet. The app will be free but there is no word on the cost of expanded gameplay.

As exciting as this is, I am a little leery. This game could quickly become a pay-to-play or a battle of the social classes. Since travel is needed to catch Pokémon, it can be assumed that many people will be stuck with only the Pokémon available in their area. That area really can scale down the play available to all users. Since the project is still in creation, it is too soon to say if online trading will be available. However, online trading could be one way to make the new "Pokémon Go" an "E for everyone" game.

With Niantic's successful creation of Ingress, Pokémon Company's history of excellent games, and Nintendo as the backbone, this game has the potential to be the very best—so long as the possibility to "catch them all" is still available.

## Finally, You Can Dislike Everything

SARAH HAYES A&E EDITOR

Think about all the horrible Facebook posts that have crossed your feed over the past year: the political screeds; the vague personal cries for attention; that one guy who hates women yet wonders why he is still single. Thanks to Facebook's own CEO Mark Zuckerberg, however, you may now have a companion to the 'like' button that will adequately sum up your feelings for these kinds of posts. Welcome to the dislike button.

Zuckerberg recently announced during a Q&A session at Facebook headquarters that the upcoming feature will be a more genuine one-click emotional reaction to things that are not 'like' appropriate. It could be an announcement of a family illness or death, for example, or a news post about a major natural disaster that kills thousands and devastates an entire infrastructure. Do you really want to be that jerk who presses the like button on someone posting about their impending divorce? Most people would rather just scroll past and wish them the best.

The new button will

not be a "like" by any other name, and it will not be a "dislike" as some critics have been requesting for years, but it will be a better way to quickly respond to someone else's problems than a callous "I liked reading your misery" in button form. In actuality, it will be more like an "I understand what this means" button, or even a "this is very interesting but not in a morbid way" button. As you can imagine, that is a lot of nuance to stuff into one thumb, which is why Zuckerberg and his team are working on fine-tuning it.

The sudden need to add this feature to Facebook, which has survived plenty long without it, begs the question: is Facebook aiding in the shortening and dumbing down of our reactions as a society to other people's lives? Is your emotional investment in something actually measured by whether or not you click one thumb or another online? It is clear that the button-pressing, instantaneous method to responding is a feature inherent in social media, from Facebook's thumbs to Twitter's stars to Tumble's hearts, each gauging how users interact with posts (and sounding like a tech version of 'Lucky Charms' in the

process).

Those are actually valid, but ultimately useless questions.
The truth is, we can never truly measure a Facebook user's engagement with a story or issue via clicks. Just because you do not like it does not mean you did

not see it. The little thumb at the end of every post is a modern shorthand for affection and interest, but it has not replaced actual dialogue between people, or else we would not have private messaging or statuses.

So, what if Facebook gives us this 'not-like' feature? Inevitably, people will abuse it. It will be turned into a tool of silent, negative judgment for a percentage of users. There will be the backlash against it, followed by the backlash for it, until Facebook swallows its own tail or comes out with the next big PR event in a series of desperate grabs at its fleeting user base.

The problem is not that Facebook is going to give us yet another way to respond to another human being's life in less than a second; the problem is that in the over 11 years since its launch, Facebook is only now addressing user issues that have been around since back when it was only college students and you needed an .edu email address to sign up. Meanwhile, Facebook has a horrible track record on user abuse, has yet to fully address the issue of forcing transgender and First Nation users to change their display names due to their ridiculous "real name" policy, and still cannot get their 'share to Facebook' feature to work most of the time.

It has been 10 years and basic issues are still unsolved, but we can buy shiny things from our timeline and use our Facebook AI assistant to check the weather. Maybe we all need a change. Where is the button to switch my Facebook account to Snapchat?

## **Compassion Is Welcome and Needed**

**DAVID TOCCO**STAFF WRITER

How many times have you seen a classmate struggle to find a pen or blank piece of paper and waited for them to have to ask you or someone else for help? How often have you scrolled past a post on your Facebook feed that you truly appreciated without taking the millisecond necessary to click or tap the 'like' button? Have you looked back when passing through a door to see someone advancing a short distance away but decided against waiting a moment to hold the door open for them? These are things you can do to brighten someone's day and are relatively effortless, yet so many of us shy away from taking the initiative to act.

You might worry that going out of your way to express kindness towards a friend or stranger will be seen as weird or creepy. Possibly you fail to do something nice because the recipient would be either unable or unwilling to thank you. Let me make something clear: performing a kind act with any expectation of personal gain is not a 'good deed,' but false altruism, and others will

often see this as such. Sadly, performing any act of kindness with selfish ambitions voids any potential positive energy transference. However, genuinely and selflessly showing true love towards another brings warmth and joy to the giver just as much, if not more, than it brings to the recipient. When you go out of your way to help someone without any hope of recognition, that love tends to find its way back to you.

Imagine how our college atmosphere could be affected if every student, instructor, and campus employee made the effort to do even one intentional nice thing for someone else every day. A smile and "good morning" while passing a stranger on the Millenium Student Center bridge could really enhance their day. Walking up to a custodian and sincerely thanking them for their service could lift their spirits dramatically. Sending a text message to someone you have not spoken with in a while just to ask them how they are doing will surely bring warmth to their soul. If people decide to act, I am confident that a positive impact on our campus will be made and in turn, will lead to a more humble, joyful, and

vibrant learning community.

Following are examples of simple, beautiful ways in which you can make someone's day better:

- 1. When you see that person walking around at lunchtime, desperately searching for an empty table to sit at, get their attention and invite them to sit at your table.
- 2. If you receive good customer service over the phone or in a store, ask to speak with their supervisor and share how much you appreciated the hard work and caring attitude their employee displayed.
- 3. Slot a few quarters in the laundry machine for the next person. Leave a couple extra fabric softener sheets also.
- 4. Be quick to reply to a missed call, text, or email responding quickly can say a lot to a person about their importance.
- 5. Write a letter (yes, an old-fashioned, hand written letter) to a friend or family member. Give them an update on your life and ask about theirs. Unfortunately pen-to-paper correspondence has become a thing of the past, but it is a powerful medium of expression.

## Retrospective of Late Professor Sharon Callner

**ALBERT NALL** STAFF WRITER

#### Continued from Page 5

Marilyn Monroe, with red and white stripes as a back-

drop. "In this work, "Things happen in how bodies change, and your life that are bethe social idealization of how things were yond your control, and in varied shapes and supposed to be in the late be in the late 1950s versus yet the human spirit is very strong. "a series of pieces in the exhibit called "Crucible" reality," she

said. "What one sees in the attractive

Detail of "American Hang-Ups Joseph

as they were viewed: as an element of the male fantasy. The reality (of "Hail Mary") is that of a housewife crouched over a stove cooking a meal. This work is reflective of change, and how women are beautiful

young woman is not reality, but women

sizes." She also spoke about

(1994). The peeling of the subject's body is done in a mix of paint and wax with a heat gun. The succession of works explores the effects of a body that is in literal shards. the "Crucible" series is a graduate thesis exhibition that rose out of the experience of one of Callner's sons being burned in a fire," according to Amy Callner.

What is enlightening about Callner's "Drawing for Two Hands" is the style of her work. The structure of the human body is on display in its many forms, with its marks, teeth, and bones



as symbols of splendor. Callner's figure drawings convey the essences of gestures and movements, along with the vitality of a pose, and speaks to a narrative about the fringe demographics of people whom she saw falling through the cracks. Around the corner of the main room, Gallery C's entrance, is a video playing an interview with Callner, in

media (bottom)

which she says, "Things hapen in your life that are beyond your control, and yet the human spirit is very strong."

ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

"Drawing for Two Hands" by Sharon Callner will be on display at Gallery 210 until October 10. For more information about other exhibits at Gallery 210, call 314-516-5976.

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