MSC Retiring Director
Benard Diggs Honored

ASHLEE CARLSTROM
STAFF WRITER

The Millennium Student Center (MSC) is the heart of UMSL. For 15 years, the MSC has been a place of learning, growth, and transformation for students, faculty, and staff. On October 1, 2015, the MSC opened its doors to the UMSL community for the last time.

MSC Celebrates 15 Year Anniversary

The event was kicked off on Friday, September 25, with a tailgate party in the MSC/Rec Center North Plaza parking lot. Students, faculty, and staff gathered to enjoy food, socialize, and listen to live music provided by a DJ from The U’s radio show.

At the start of the ceremony, many UMSL faculty, staff, and students gathered in the rotunda to enjoy food and conversation. Benard Diggs, who officially retired on September 30, was a speaker at the event.

The week of celebration ended with a farewell to the beloved and longtime director of auxiliary services at UMSL, Benard Diggs. Diggs has served the UMSL community for 42 years.

As the University of Missouri—St. Louis celebrated the 15 year anniversary of the Millennium Student Center (MSC), the university also bid a fond farewell to the beloved and longtime MSC director Benard Diggs. On October 1, 2015, which marked 15 years since the MSC opened, a 4 p.m. reception was held in the MSC third floor rotunda to celebrate the anniversary and honor Diggs, who officially retired a day before the ceremony. In total, Diggs served the UMSL community for 42 years.

At the start of the ceremony, many UMSL faculty, staff, and students gathered in the rotunda to enjoy food and conversation with Diggs and other individuals who made the MSC possible through the years. Guests could also pick up cardboard cutout Benard ‘faces’ in his honor. The 50 cutouts that were printed represented the fact that it will take many people to fill the void after Diggs’ retirement.

About halfway into the ceremony, Diggs and Gloria Schultz, who served as director of auxiliary services at UMSL, spoke in honor of the celebration. Both were responsible for overseeing the design, construction, and opening of the MSC.

Schultz stated how wonderful it was to be a speaker at the event, and spoke on how the MSC has been a positive addition to the UMSL community.

Speaking on the highlight of working as MSC Director, Diggs said, “For me, seeing the students who worked for me in their various capacities graduate—that has to be the most important thing, because that’s what we’re all here for.” Diggs is currently an UMSL student himself, pursuing a Ph.D. in...
There was a sick student in Villa Hall on September 28. The University of Missouri—St. Louis Police Department assisted a Resident Advisor in checking the condition of a student who appeared to be unresponsive. There was not a medical issue.

On September 29, a minor accident occurred on Lot E involving two vehicles. A debit card found in the Thomas Jefferson Library was turned into UMSL PD for safe keeping. A Sodexo employee was transported via ambulance from Provincial House after experiencing dizziness.

On September 30, there was a minor accident between two vehicles on Lot E.

On October 1, there was a cell phone and headphones stolen from a parked car in Lot U. UMSL PD was called to assist Residential Life and Housing with an intoxicated student around 2 a.m.
a radical approach and forward thinking ideas. The ED Collabitat meeting space will be used for continuing education, as a counseling center, and for events put on by the community. It is made possible by a community collaboration with UMSL's College of Education.

Speakers at the event included: Carole Basile, dean of the College of Education, Dr. Kathleen Fink, executive director of Collabitat, Dr. Ralph Córdova, executive creative director and lead researcher of Collabitat, and UMSL Chancellor Thomas George. Each spoke to the audience about ED Collabitat and what it has to offer.

“The Collabitat’s unique function is to nurture professional creativity that revolutionizes education. This is a space and a disposition designed for creative collaboration among educators, innovators, and scholars, and significantly the wider community,” said Fink. In addition, she thanked MasterCard and Sigma Aldrich for being initial donors to Collabitat.

Córdova said, “The ED Collabitat is a way of thinking. This thinking is informed by the best of what we know from the learning sciences, and it’s shaped and really brought to life by the passionate and dedicated educators in our region and beyond. And it harnesses the creative energy from the innovation community.”

Many UMSL educators, faculty, and staff were in attendance for the opening, as well as educators and educational entrepreneurs, also known as “EDpreneurs,” from throughout the St. Louis area. Many UMSL organizations and EDpreneurs were stationed at tables for guests to learn more about their ideas, products, and services.

At one station, Charles Berry, senior, elementary education and special education, demonstrated the Classroom Architect (classroom4teachers.org), a tool is also useful for teachers to design their classroom. The tool is also useful first-time teachers and for classroom management classes.

Representatives from UMSL’s SUCCEED program were also in attendance for the event, informing guests about how the program serves students and their needs. Those who stopped by were asked to tweet their answer to the question, “how do you embrace inclusion in revolutionary ways?” using the hashtag #succeedatUMSL.

“I think that any time that there is an opportunity to collaborate and work with a community of people—whether that’s in education or outside in the community—that it’s a great experience. One of the reasons that we became a part of this was because of our collaboration with the College of Education,” said Amber Grant, a student support specialist for the SUCCEED program.

At another station, EDpreneur Mike McQueen, explained to guests what it means to be an EDpreneur and told them about his educational projects and products. “An EDpreneur is an entrepreneur that focuses in the education department. My passion is helping students and teachers, and I think that’s one thing that really separates an EDpreneur. And it also connects with my love of learning for myself and my love of teaching,” said McQueen. McQueen is also a self-published author and has written books on educational strategies.

Collabitat workshops for Fall 2015 include a robotics workshop October 18th and 25th and November 8th and 15th. For more information about other Collabitat offerings visit collabitat.umsl.edu.

The Ward E. Barnes Library closed on May 17, 2014. The initial decision to cease library operations came after the Provost’s Council and eventually the University Libraries Committee discussed and supported the plan in the Fall 2013 semester. The decision was made in response to UMSL’s fiscal pressures and campus space priorities.

The former library was built in the 1950s and was constructed with mid-century modern glass and metal. It was named in honor of Ward E. Barnes, who helped found UMSL.

The Office of Sexuality and Gender Diversity is undergoing some renovations to better accommodate students and their needs. DAVID TOCCO/THE CURRENT

New Events and Space Upgrades for Gender Studies Program

The Gender Studies Program at the University of Missouri—St. Louis is currently in the process of preparing for the upcoming Transgender Spectrum Conference while the brand new Office of Sexuality and Gender Diversity is making some renovations to their space in 494 Lucas Hall that was once the Gender Studies lounge.

The Gender Studies Program is collaborating with the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education, and other organizations throughout St. Louis to host the second annual Transgender Spectrum Conference at UMSL. The Transgender Spectrum Conference is an interdisciplinary event designed to educate individuals on a wide array of transgender issues. A panel of transgender individuals will be speaking on their experiences. Two of this year’s keynote speakers will be Mara Kieling, the founding executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, and Dr. Maureen Osborne, a psychologist who specializes in gender identity issues. In addition, there will also be workshops for gender-variant adults, youth, families, allies, media, mental health professionals, and educators. The conference will be held November 6 and 7 at the J.C. Penney Conference Center’s auditorium.

Charlotte Kawa, senior, computer science, and treasurer of PRIZM, UMSL’s Queer Trans Straight student alliance, said, “I am very excited for the second [year] of the Transgender Spectrum Conference. It’s definitely not an opportunity we usually get. The conference is a little more liberal than Missouri usually experiences. I’m excited for what I’m going to learn and for everyone to learn about transgender rights issues, and experiences.”

“We’re really proud of the work that we put into the Transgender Conference. This is the largest, and in many ways, the only one in the Midwest. If you look at a map of the United States, there’s nothing right in the Midwest, and so we are providing a service, which a lot of people seem to recognize, because we’ve got speakers coming from all over the country,” said Dr. Sally Ebest, director of the Gender Studies Program.

In addition to the conference, Gender Studies is also hosting more events to get students involved. Aladeen Stoll, teaching assistant in the Gender Studies Department and community outreach coordinator for PRIZM, hosts a program called VOICED at the Office of Sexuality and Diversity in Lucas 494. VOICED is a group-directed book and media club that focuses on the art produced by women of color in the feminist and activist movements. The topic of focus changes each meeting, and meeting times are arranged via Facebook, depending on who can attend.

Continued online at thecurrent-online.com
UMSL Celebrates MSC Retiring Director, Benard Diggs

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

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higher education leadership.

"[Being the director of the MSC] was fun, because I got to work direct-
ly with students, but at times it was challenging because you have to make
decisions that are not always popular for everybody," said Diggs.

After Diggs and Schultz spoke at the ceremony, Darryl Wea, facilities su-
pervisor in the MSC Operations office, came forward in appreciation of Diggs' service.

"Fifteen years ago I started here in this building [the MSC]. It has been
a wonderful experience working with Benard Diggs and the staff here. I
have learned a lot, and I hope we'll be able, as a team, to keep carrying on his
goals," said Wea. From there, he pre-
sented a card from the MSC Operations office
to Diggs.

Diggs began his career at UMSL in 1973 as a night custodian. Over his 42
years at the University, he worked his way up into different positions in cus-
todial services, eventually to operations manager of the University Center in
1998, and ultimately to MSC director when it opened in 2000.

The architecture of the MSC, Michael
Kennedy Sr., chairman and chief execu-
tive officer of KAI Design & Build, and
Sandy MacLean, who was Vice Chan-
celloir during the MSC's construction and
opening, were both in attendance for the
celebration.

Kennedy said, "From the begin-
ing, the administrators—Sandy Ma-
Clean and [then Chancellor] Blanche Touhil—mandated that this building
[the MSC] had to be an icon on this
campus. It had to represent the goals of this campus, to bring computer
students together and create a commu-
nity—a common unity—among the
students because of the interrelationship
that would be developed as they worked
and met in this facility."

Following the speeches, guests were invited to wish Diggs well in his retire-
ment, as well as sign a memory poster
in honor of the 15 year anniversary.

Are you a veteran?

Benard Diggs (left) and Gloria Schultz (right) spoke at the reception for Diggs' retirement
and the MSC's 15 year anniversary on October 1.

The bittersweet celebration allowed the UMSL community to reflect on how
far they have come in the past 15 years while saying goodbye to an individual
who has made so much of it possible.

UMSL Community Fights Against Sexual Assault with Viewing of ‘The Hunting Ground’ Film

JANEECE WOODSON
STAFF WRITER

Approximately 18 percent of
University of Missouri—St. Louis
students, when asked, stated they had
eventually sexual assault or harass-
ment, according to the 2015 UMSL
Student Climate Survey. In an attempt
to promote discussion of this issue, the
Office of Student Life and the Alpha
Omega Citywide Chapter of the Delta
Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated held
a public movie screening on Septem-
ber 30 in Century Rooms A and B of
the Millennium Student Center. More
than one hundred students attended.
The screening was held in conjunction
with the University of Missouri system's
releasing of survey results relating to
sexual assault on September 29.

The September 30 event featured a
movie called “The Hunting Ground”, a
documentary focusing on the reporting
of sexual assault and rape at various
prestigious universities, and those insti-
tutions’ often unsatisfactory reactions.
The students, faculty members, lawyers,
and legislators featured in the film un-
covered the issue of rape allegations that
are ignored, disputed, or even laughed
at, particularly by university administra-
tions. A panel was held after the screen-
ing. There, Lieutenant Marisa Smith of
the UMSL police department said, “We
are not your typical municipality police
department. But we follow the same
criminal justice process as everyone else
in the municipality. We are here for our
students.”

Aliyah Barret, freshman, commu-
nications, said, “I think it [the event]
brings a lot of awareness. Rape is a
taboo topic that people find uncom-
fortable. This lets people know that
[UMSL] cares about their students.”

The documentary reports that 235 cases of sexual assault at Stanford
University had been reported in recent
years, but there had been no expul-
sions as a result. Many students in the
audience voice their disgust and shock.
The film goes on to discuss multiple
rape survivors who were further victim-
ized by their universities’ attempts to
minimize their own federally reported
crime statistics. According to Deborah
Burris, UMSL’s Title IX coordinator, so
far this year five incidents of rape were
reported by students to the University
of Missouri System.

Title IX is an important entity
in this matter. This law bans the use
of gender or sexuality as a basis for
prejudice or unfair treatment in many
academic settings, especially those in
which government funds are used.
Several victims of rape, who were not
given fair reparations, have sought jus-
tice with Title IX as the foundation for
their plea. “No retaliation shall be taken
Continued online at
thecurrent-online.com
New Workshops and Volunteer Opportunities at UMSL Veterans Center

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that for them.”

“I could sit anywhere on campus and do my homework, but I choose the Vet Center because I feel comfortable, get to enjoy interesting conversations and connect with friends with similar experience. Plus the coffee is always hot,” said Molly Jasper, senior, elementary education, and a veteran in the National Guard Reserve.

The Veterans Center offers many events and programs to help veterans. One of the newest programs the Veterans Center is offering this semester is the Veteran to Veteran tutoring program. Tutoring is available in the Veterans Center for math, sciences and writing. This program is funded by the Access to Success grant, which is an internal grant from the University of Missouri – St. Louis. Another program that the Veterans Center offers is the professional workshop series. This series will include guest speakers and assistance with finding a career after graduating from UMSL. Nick Perez, junior, business administration, who has been deployed five times and who is actively serving in the Missouri Air National Guard, said, “This [the professional workshop series] is a way to get more veteran involvement on campus.”

A major event the Veterans Center hosts is an enhanced service-learning program. This semester the Veterans Center will team up with The Mission Continues, a St. Louis-based organization that coordinates volunteer activities for veterans returning to civilian life, and U.S. Vets, an organization that provides transitional housing to homeless veterans. Volunteers will help rake leaves, fortify gardens, and create a horseshoe pit. “There will be pumpkin and face painting. We will also be making cards for veterans. Families are welcome,” said McMenamin. This event is less than two miles from UMSL’s campus, on 8410 Engler Park Court. It will be held at 8 a.m. on October 17.

*Volunteers Needed*

For a Community Service Project to support U.S. Vets, a local provider of housing & employment services for homeless veterans

Brought to you by:

The Student Veterans Association &

The Mission Continues

Where?

8410 Engler Park Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63114
(Off Natural Bridge Rd)

Projects Include: building a 250 foot fence, horse shoe pits, flowerbeds, and raking leaves

Activities for the Family:

Pumpkin & Face Painting

When?

Saturday, October 17th
8AM-3PM
(30 volunteers needed)
On September 30, the Japan American Society of St. Louis at the University of Missouri—St. Louis aired “Detroit Metal City” (“DMC”) in 100 Clark Hall. The 2008 film is a brassy comedy based on a manga, a Japanese comic form with significant roots in Japanese art history, of the same name and produced by the writer Kiminori Wakasugi. “DMC” is adapted from a serialized story in Young Animal, a humor magazine directed at young Japanese males.

In “DMC” Soichi Negishi (Kenichi Matsuyama) is a tranquil and passive musician from Inukai, Ōita, a farming district in Japan. A great fan of Swedish music, synthpop, and jazz, his aspiration is to attend a trendy university, live a trendy life, and become a trendy pop star. As he goes away to carry out his dreams, what his family does not know is that he is conscripted as Johannes (Sir) Krauser II, the emblematic leader of the Visual Kei death metal band, “DMC.” Krauser is soon engaged in a beleaguered battle to emancipate himself from the evil that he has become while he becomes even more unraveled at the sight of Yuri Aikawa (Rosa Katô), an old college friend and romantic interest. She adores Soichi and hates Sir Krauser and is oblivious to the fact that Soichi and Krauser are the same person.

The main conflict of the film is that the band has been lured into a larger-than-life war between Krauser and a rival black metal guitarist from the United States, Jack II Dark (played by KISS lead singer Gene Simmons). As much as Krauser fights to break from his demonic public persona, he cannot get past his vendetta against Jack, who Continued on Page 7

‘Detroit Metal City’ Explores Heavy Metal in Japan

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9
SGA Chambers - MSC 3rd floor

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE
ROGUE NATION

SHOWTIME: 7 p.m.

FREE!!!

Snacks & Drinks provided!
(toasted ravioli, jalapeno poppers, cookies, brownies)
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by:
upstaged Krauser before a Japanese audience. A climatic scene in the film is when Sir Krauser goads Jack II in a showdown that is destined to be even bigger than their previous encounter. The illogicality of all of this is if the members of “DMC” appear entranced by their ominous obsession with Jack, they are mocked by the gorgeous president of their record label, Death Records. The president, played by Yasuko Matsuyuki, is a sadistic, opportunistic woman who is obsessed with sex and holds an iron grip on the members of the band, especially Krauser.

“DMC” is rooted in the Visual Kei movement among Japanese musicians. It can be seen as a play on American and European artists and is characterized by extravagant hair styles and loud, colorful costumes. A debate rages among theorists as to whether this music is a genre akin to glam and punk rock. Some theorists familiar with the art could suggest that “DMC” is, in a subtle way, a form of naïve social satire engrained in grass-roots entertainment documentaries or an indirect mockery of sexism and misogyny. The otaku is a pivotal element of “DMC” as it explores social outcasts and misfits in Japanese culture.

The film strikes a parallel to the American comic strip hero who lives a double life. In “DMC,” the focus appears to be the flawed being, as seen in Soichi Negishi, whose outward shock value is more bemusing than belligerent and too asinine to be a threat. The difference here is how “DMC” takes on classic American heavy metal such as Alice Cooper and KISS. There is a sense of theatrical irony in the back and forth between Krauser and his musical rivals with a usage of slapstick combined with musical carnage that makes American heavy metal appear well-mannered by comparison. This wild contrast of styles appears to be the ultimate intent of “DMC.”

The Japan American Society of St. Louis’ objective is to promote cultural awareness of both the United States and Japan. Backed by the International Studies Program at UMSL, opportunities in the club include foreign exchange programs, teaching programs, and scholarships. For more information, contact the organization at 314-516-5754.
October 2 definitely felt like autumn as the University of Missouri—St. Louis men's soccer team took on the Panthers of Drury University. It was so chilly that the Tritons wore long-sleeved shirts. The game began at 7:30 p.m. Many good scoring chances and missed opportunities would ultimately define the game. Constant shifts of momentum and tense action ensured that the crowd could not go home saying it was a dull match. The two teams were fairly even in talent and effort. As for demeanor, neither team played especially aggressively, though each had its fair share of fouls and three cautionary yellow flags were handed out.

UMSL came out strong with a goal (03:31) from midfielder DJ Bednar, junior, engineering. The Panthers countered a minute later with a strong shot on goal, but Triton keeper Jack Filla, junior, history, made the save—one of many he would make on this night. The play continued with back-and-forth scoring drives and many shots taken. Most shots went wide or high of the goal but when the shots were on target, both goalkeepers were excellent and both teams regrouped at the half.

Twenty minutes in, Drury forward Charles Guelly had a great opportunity but shot wide of the net as UMSL’s goalie dove as a precaution. The Panthers came out strong and had another dangerous Drury play deep in UMSL territory, but the home defense stepped up and shut them down.

Nevertheless, Nick Werner, sophomore, Collico, senior, accounting and business administration, beat the defender but missed it to the left of the goal. The wind really began to pick up and not properly covering their men allowing the Panthers too much leeway and not properly covering their men deep in Triton territory. Back-and-forth action continued with neither team able to claim a clear advantage, though Drury did hold a slight first half possession edge. With all the scoring opportunities, both teams regrouped at the half and glad it was a one goal game.

The Panthers came out strong in the first 10 minutes of the second half and had a very dangerous scoring opportunity but shot wide of the net as UMSL’s goalie dove as a precaution. The Tritons took control and had another golden opportunity as forward Tyler Collico, senior, accounting and business administration, beat the defender but missed it to the left of the goal.

The wind really began to pick up with 20 minutes remaining in regulation and became a serious factor in long passes and shots. The Panthers regained momentum, exercising superior control and connecting passes, which led to their score of the evening (70:49) as midfielder Matt Clarkin netted his first goal of the season following a perfect cross into the box. This was followed by another dangerous Drury play deep in Triton territory, but the home defense stepped up and shut them down.

UMSL saw its best chance to retake the lead following a foul right outside the box. There was a dispute about the place of the incident but the referee ruled that the foul had taken place outside the penalty box, preventing UMSL a penalty kick opportunity. Nevertheless, Nick Werner, sophomore, undeclared, powered a shot, which beat Drury’s keeper but not the crossbar. The ball ricocheted off the iron and the follow up shot missed the goal. UMSL regained momentum but was unable to net a goal before the clock ticked down to end 90 minutes of regulation.

UMSL won the coin toss and started the first 10 minute overtime period going in the preferred direction with the wind, but was unable to capitalize. Both overtime periods were marked by yet more intensity and speed but neither team was able to come away with a win as the match concluded in a draw. When asked about the game, UMSL’s goalkeeper Jack Filla said, “We played a good game defensively, unlucky to get a result.” Triton Coach Dan King said of his team, “We had our chances and [the shots] just didn’t go in tonight but the boys fought very hard.” The Tritons could walk away that chilly evening with confidence after a hard fought match.

Notable statistics:
- UMSL Goalkeeper Jack Filla played all 110 minutes and acquired 5 saves.
- Drury outshot UMSL 17-10.
- 3 cautionary yellow cards were handed out, 2 to UMSL.

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The University of Missouri—Saint Louis women's tennis team continued their season by hosting their yearly fall tournament on October 2 and 3 at the home courts behind the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. The Lindenwood University (LU) Lions, Maryville University (MU) Saints, and Truman State University Bulldogs traveled to take part in the competition, which would prove to be a tough one for many competitors.

The tournament was held in single-elimination bracket style, though there was a consolation bracket for each of four draws: A singles, B singles, A doubles, and B doubles. UMSL looked very strong in their third tourney of the semester, taking first place in A singles, B singles, and B doubles. The women also won the consolation bracket for A singles and A doubles.

While the temperature was not too low, it felt fairly cold as strong winds buffeted the nets, balls, and players. Normally this would have an adverse effect, but the Triton women used it to their advantage. "It was nice having the tournament at home. We're used to the courts and the wind here," said Renee Verboven, senior, civil engineering.

"The ball bounces really high and we have the advantage, because we know what it does."

In the early morning matches, the cold still played its part. Dozens of spectators sat in lawn chairs—as opposed to the chilly aluminum bleachers—covered in blankets, and the players also tried to stave off the chill by donning sweaters and sweat pants during practice. The first round saw quite a few unforced errors from many players as they tried finding their grooves.

Both doubles draws took to the courts first both mornings. Neither of UMSL's two pairings for A doubles—Natalia Carvalhais, senior, business, and Chandler DuChaine, senior, business marketing; Annie Hayes, sophomore, undeclared, and Renee Verboven—did any damage in the bracket, both dropping their first round.

However, the two doubles teams matched up in the consolation finals with Carvalhais and DuChaine taking the match win 9-8 (8-6).

In B doubles, however, the UMSL pairings—Patricia Maya, sophomore, undeclared, and Salome Bleuler, freshman, undeclared; and Selena Smith, senior, civil engineering, and Jennifer Hauer, freshman, finance—won their first two rounds on the way to a meeting in the finals. Maya and Bleuler would go on to take the B doubles championship 8-4.

The Tritons will not know who the winner for the A singles draw is until this Tuesday, but whoever wins will be one of their own, as Verboven and Hauer will face off in the championship. Neither woman faced too much trouble en route to the all-UMSL final. Verboven held fast in her semifinals match, winning 6-4 and 6-1, though LU's Anna Barba-Sheva managed to keep close in the first set before getting run off the court by Verboven's strong baseline shots. "I did better than I expected and barely made mistakes, which was unusual," Verboven said following her match. "And my opponent played really, really well. It was definitely closer than the score showed."

Hauer hit a little speed bump in the quarterfinals, but overall she yielded just seven games over the first three rounds, only one in the semis. After besting her opponent, MU's Sarah Etter, 6-0, 6-1, Hauer commented, "The girl I played hit really hard but Coach and I talked about it yesterday, trying to have a plan. We decided to hit everything in the middle to work on my angles. When it actually worked, I was really happy about it."

Continued on Page 12
UMSL Mobile Overwhelms and Underperforms

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

My precious and beloved alma mater, Saint Louis Community College, never got into the mobile app revolution while I was a student at the Florissant valley campus. To be honest, they did not need one: they have no shuttle service, only one central location for food, and the campus is small enough that a map is not necessary. The sprawling, multi-campus University of Missouri – St. Louis is a completely different beast and requires an entirely new way to interact with it, especially for students.

Unfortunately, the UMSL Mobile app kind of blows.

First, let us just get it out of the way: an app that does not keep you logged in for more than ten minutes is useless. That is not an argument; that is a fact. Yet the MyGateway module on UMSL Mobile makes users constantly re-login during a single session, probably because the company that slapped together the code did not think that it would be a hassle. Well, it is, and so is wasting time during which I could be consulting a syllabus or reading a homework assignment.

Also, not everything available for desktop MyGateway is available on the mobile app. As someone who belongs to multiple organizations, I would like to be able to check what they are doing on my phone, but the UMSL Mobile app does not even bother showing them as an option. God forbid I want to review something for this newspaper when I am out on assignment! That would most certainly not be useful!

Some features are annoying from the get go. The radio function only prompts you to places you can listen to local radio online; it does not play them in-app. The maps do not show you where specific classrooms are, which would be mightily helpful for new students. The library module tells you when it is open, which is something also obtained through calling the front desk, i.e. nothing new.

The worst feature of UMSL Mobile, however, is the shuttle tracking service, also known as Shuttle. On my iPhone, the live map is often slow, buggy, and sometimes unusable. The bips of the buses will scuttle back and forth between locations in the span of ten seconds with a speed that is inhuman, or the landmarks of the map will not load, or the markers will completely disappear during a time that shuttle service should definitely be running.

Plus, the information in the Mobile module is incomplete. Did you know there is a Saturday grocery store shuttle service? Or that it alternates every week between international and non-international stores? Of course not; there is no sign of it on the app. Sorry, students who live on campus! You do not get to buy food on the weekends unless you just happen to know when the shuttles run.

I used the UMSL Mobile app for a while when I first came to school, and I used the shuttle module a lot when it started, but I have been increasingly ignoring both. The module is quite the grand experiment and an obvious kowtow to the mobile phone student user base, but despite all of its bells and whistles, the aesthetic does not trump the lack of functionality. UMSL could have taken the money they put into developing an ultimately useless app and channeled it into building maintenance or scholarships.

Mutual Respect Between Staff and Students Needed

DAVID TOCCO
STAFF WRITER

Students – do not be deceived into thinking that you owe more to the people whom you pay to serve you than vice versa. Just as your waiter at a restaurant reports to you and goes out of their way to make you feel appreciated and comfortable, so should the staff here at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. You pay a lot of money (or your parents do, or the scholarships you have earned do) in order to make it possible for you to attend classes and receive services here. As you know, this cost is not cheap and you should expect at the very least to be treated with respect and dignity.

Based upon personal experiences and conversations I have had with my peers, it is apparent that some UMSL departments do not accommodate students the way they should when students pay the thousands of dollars which become their salaries. Make no mistake – staff members are hired to work for us, to perform their duties and provide services to the students. It is disturbing that some staff members make a habit of treating students as if they are not valuable. It seems that some feel as if they can speak towards us in any way they choose and without consequences. They do so with such freedom and disregard because they know that the majority of students are young and feel intimidated. Most students come to them with a fear of authority or panic, seeking help. We students work hard to receive an education, taking out loans and working part-time jobs to make ends meet. We can expect our hard-earned finances to provide us with quality service.

A few months back, I was given misinformation by staff members, causing something important to be delayed. I went to the appropriate department to get the issue resolved, arrived calmly and spoke respectfully but I was met with sarcasm and hostility from the first staff member I dealt with. I asked to speak with their supervisor and after about five minutes, the supervisor came out to speak with me. They showed no compassion and did not have any sort of patience with me. Things eventually got straightened out as I spoke with higher-ups in the department and I did finally receive the assistance I needed. The fact remains that this was an unnecessary headache I should not have encountered in the first place. I have since been assured by leadership in Woods Hall that corrective action has been taken so that future students are not-disrespected in that office.

Another recent negative experience with a staff member occurred when I asked a simple and reasonable question prior to an event and the staff member responded as though I was stupid for asking. I spoke with some of my peers about this particular person, and they explained that they are known for talking down to students and acting as if they are above the student body because of their campus employee status – this could not be further from the truth. Students and staff must work together and treat one another with mutual respect.

Bottom line: staff members work for us, whether they work for the Office of Financial Aid, Office of Student Life, Residential Life & Housing, or any other department. Do not be intimidated by them. If they mistreat you, you have every right, and I would go so far as to say responsibility (for the sake of students who come after you), to report the occurrence and to go up the chain of command until the matter is resolved. There are many outlets for voicing your opinion. I encourage you not to gloss over emails providing links to surveys and their results. Departments cannot improve themselves without your help. With all that being said, the majority of staff members are friendly and helpful and treat students with respect. If you do your part to provide feedback, UMSL will continue to become a friendlier environment.
For the second week of finding the style that fits you best, here is an example of a good casual look that is comfortable and stylish at the same time. When most people think of casual, they think of athletic shorts or yoga pants but this outfit gives a more feminine twist to dressing casually.

Pictured to the right is a casual, comfortable, and affordable outfit pieced together from various popular stores. The pants are cozy jeggings from American Eagle. I personally own these jeans, and they are unbelievably comfortable. They can be easily paired with just about anything. Just as I mentioned a few weeks ago, jeggings are the best jeans for any body type, so do not be afraid to give them a try. American Eagle usually runs buy one get one half off sales, too!

The long-sleeved maroon shirt is also from American Eagle. This shirt is made of a super comfy fabric that makes it warm but it will not make you sweat profusely either due to excellent breathability. This maroon top can also be paired with many things, such as leggings. This top is so light and airy, it barely feels like it is there. The denim chambray jacket ties the ensemble together. Normally I am very against denim on denim, but the two different tones of denim make this more acceptable. The jacket adds the perfect amount of warmth but it is also light enough to wear when the Missouri weather decides to flip out on us, which happens often.

The featured booties are casual enough to wear everyday. The little bit of a heel they have makes them feminine but the heel is short enough that they are not uncomfortable after being worn for a long period of time. These boots are from Lulu’s, and they are absolutely adorable. The whole point of dressing casually is to be comfortable as well, so it is fitting that these simple boots will not make your feet sore by the end of your day.

The accessories for a casual outfit need to be minimal and comfortable. A floral scarf from Wet Seal and simple earrings from Forever 21 add pops of color while not weighing down the outfit. The scarf will keep your neck warm during the chilly fall days and spices the look up with print. This material is also soft and will not irritate your neck, especially if you have sensitive skin.

This causal outfit example makes you look put together while being completely effortless. Any basic top and pair of great skinny jeans will be the best basis for an outfit like this. This example leaves room for you to go sift through your closet and choose different color schemes to go with your options best. There is nothing better than feeling good because you look great and are comfortable at the same time. I would wear an outfit like this any day of the week. It is versatile and great for any dress-down event.
Civil Disobedience: What’s the Point?

Join The Current and discussion leader Eric Wiland, from the Department of Philosophy, for a lively, student-centered discussion. When we oppose our government, we can try to elect new leaders, lobby, petition, protest, or violently rebel. But we can also disobey civilly and nonviolently. When is civil disobedience appropriate and effective? When does it backfire? When is it justified? Here’s your chance to share ideas.

The New York Times feature that will serve as the jumping off point for the conversation is “Protesters Out to Reclaim King’s Legacy, but in Era That Defies Comparison” which can be found at: www.nytimes.com/2015/01/18/us/protesters-out-to-reclaim-kings-legacy-but-in-era-that-defies-comparison.html

When: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
Where: MSC Century Room C
What: Cookies and conversation*

“What’s Current Wednesdays” is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussions about current events, co-sponsored by The Current and the New York Times, with support from Community Outreach & Engagement at UMSL

* Cookies/dessert and beverages provided to the first 25 students.

OPEN DOORS WITH A DEGREE IN ANTHROPOLOGY

I am Patriline 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 capital. 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 became 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, 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 Bellow and others. Currently, I teach English at Harris-Stowe State University, write poetry, and am committed to service within the community.