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11-16-2015

## Current, November 16, 2015

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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## UMSL Students Bridge Racial Divisions



Prof. Lauren Obermark, among others, speaking with students and passerbys on the MSC bridge

BOBBY MITCHELL/THE CURRENT

**KAT RIDDLER**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Student groups and individuals gathered on the Millennium Student Center bridge in solidarity with Mizzou students to hear and express the issues of race that students face on the University of Missouri—St. Louis campus. The Action Plan UMSL Accountability event was there to inform students of UMSL's student and faculty racial makeup, the timeline of events at Mizzou, and more.

Students from many disciplines and student groups were present and asked for time to talk to others about race. PRIZM, UMSL's Queer Trans Straight Student Alliance, led the initiative of the event and invited students and student organizations to be involved. The Student Government Association (SGA) sent senators and SGA representatives asking for comments on how to make to the school a better, more inclusive space for its students. PRIZM also set up a secluded area on the bridge if students wanted to talk to their SGA representatives in a more private space about their concerns. The anonymous comments to the association were discussed at the November 13 SGA meeting.

Students voiced concerns about what happened at Mizzou, and especially the racial tensions and the racial climate throughout the UM system. Judy Colson, sophomore, social work, said, "We are interested in making a difference. We want people to know we are here and we are not for this. We want to make a stand. We want to show this is not something we agree with. We will go against it at all costs."

One of the concerns voiced at Mizzou by the Concerned Student 1950 group was that they wanted the racial makeup of the faculty to represent the makeup of the student population. Charlotte Kawa, senior, computer science, created pie charts of UMSL's racial breakdown of the UMSL faculty and student populations to visually capture that UMSL has similar demographics

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## Panelists Outline Long Term Goals of Ferguson Commission Findings

**KAT RIDDLER**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Change is hard. Change is hard because it requires a new process and it requires new outcomes," said Dr. Dave Robertson, curators teaching professor and chair of the Political Science Department. Societal change since the formation of the Ferguson Committee was at the heart of the discussion hosted by the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) in Century Room C at 2 p.m. on November 11 at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. The panelists spoke to about 80 students, faculty, staff, and community members.

There were four panelists leading the discussion: Dr. Dan Isom, endowed professor in Criminology and Criminal Justice; Dr. Robertson; State Representative Kimberly Gardner from the 77th District; and Karissa Anderson, Manager of Advocacy and Policy Research for the Scholarship Foundation of St.



Ferguson Commission Report Panel right to left: Dr. Robertson, Dr. Isom, Karissa Anderson, and State Representative Gardner

KAT RIDDLER/THE CURRENT

Louis. Each brought a different aspect to the discussion: Isom served on the Ferguson Commission, was State Director of Public Safety and has an UMSL connection as a teacher; Robertson has been engaged with the commission, wrote editorials about the report, and also has an UMSL connection as a teacher; Representative Gardner's district is in close proximity to the UMSL

community, and she wanted to engage students with politics; Anderson spoke on higher education accessibility and her interest in student advocacy.

David McGraw, graduate, counseling, and president of ASUM, moderated the event. McGraw said, "ASUM intended for this event to stimulate conversations among different members

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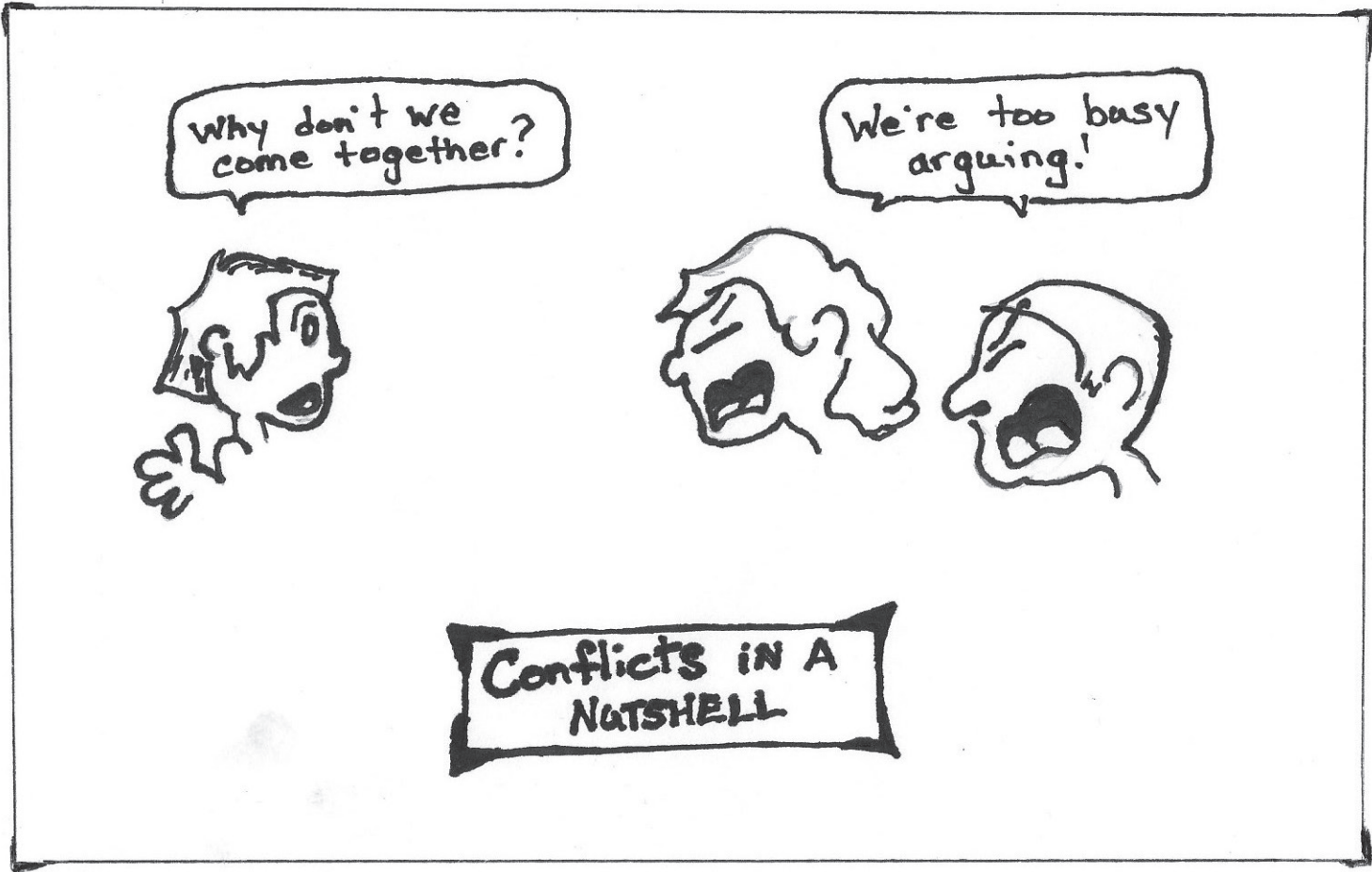
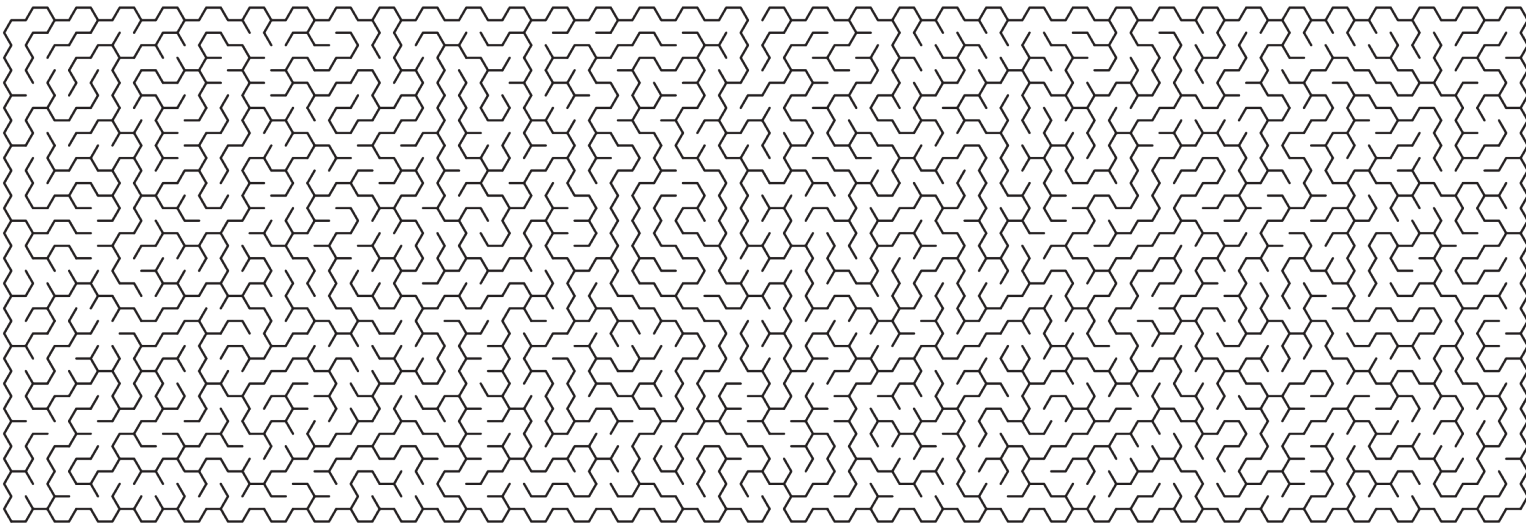
The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents:  
Problem of the Week

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, November 20. Solvers will be eligible for a valuable prize determined by a drawing on Thursday, December 3 at the Fibonacci Day festivities in the MSC (Nosh)  
Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

Young Sally O'Malley was hurried From idea to idea she scurried This problem to solve  
And her anxiety resolve  
But Alas, she remains rather worried

Problem: Assuming you have enough nickels, dimes and quarters, in how many ways can you make change for a dollar?  
Please note: On Thursday December 3 from 12:00-2:00pm we will be celebrating Fibonacci Day. There will be games, prizes and other challenging but fun activities. We will be in the Nosh. Come join us.

Difficulty: Brain Fart



THE UNDERCURRENT

By Kristen Brown

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STARBUCKS CUP CONTROVERSY?



ESMERALDA YEPEZ,  
Prospective Student  
(UMSL Day)  
"The argument is dumb, people are focusing on the wrong thing. People should be allowed to shop neutral."



JANET LEMUS,  
Prospective Student  
(UMSL Day)  
"If schools can go by with "Winter Break" then cups should too."



ABI SIGLTON,  
Prospective Student  
(UMSL Day)  
"It's completely dumb."

MON 54  
50

TUE 67  
51

WED 57  
43

THU 55  
34

FRI 51  
32

SAT 50  
29

SUN 46  
29

# Scott Dikkers Peels Back the Layers of Success

**BOB WHITE**  
STAFF WRITER

Ogres are like onions, onions are like newspapers, and newspapers are like success—they all have layers. It is a valuable lesson that Scott Dikkers,

co-founder and former editor-in-chief of “The Onion,” laid out in his presentation “The Funny Story Behind the Funny Stories” at 7:30 p.m. in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. The Thursday night talk was

sponsored by the University Program Board and the Office of Student Life.

Dikkers opened the talk with an announcement: “I’m pleased to be talking to you, but the real reason I’m here, actually, is that I’ve been hired to be the new president.”

Dikkers referred to the recent controversies at sister-school Mizzou. White and bald, he claimed physical likeness to the infamous character Woody Harrelson played in the film “Natural Born Killers.” “They [Mizzou] figured, ‘That’s a minority, right? A mass-murdering skinhead? That’s diverse, right?’” he teased.

After connecting with the audience, Dikkers dove into the chronicles of his life in relation to the satirical newspaper. His humor derived from a miserable and mundane household.

“I don’t recall a lot of laughter in my childhood home,” Dikkers said.

His lineage consists of farmers and preachers, with his parents being Midwestern Baptists. He himself was small, shy, sluggish, unskilled in sports, and mostly antisocial. “Put all that together, and you can imagine the awesome childhood I had,” said Dikkers sarcastically.

As a third grader, Dikkers made a “faithful” yet “hilarious” decision: suicide by holding his breath. Young Dikkers locked his door, sat down,

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## Goals of Ferguson Commission Findings

**KAT RIDDLER**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Continued from Page 1**

of the UMSL community and discuss ways in which UMSL students can work together to be a part of the next steps of this social movement. Because much of the report is centered on policy reform, helping define the role of students and citizens in that reform is important, and that is also what this event was designed to do.”

Commissions have been formed for controversial topics to encourage change, but have failed several times in the past. They are usually seen as placing a Band-Aid on the situation and not enacting change because they fall victim to funding difficulties, unscheduled planning, and because they only placating the community. The Ferguson Commission’s will end on December 31, but Isom believes it will not fall victim to the previous pitfalls because of the three broad categories that guided their findings: justice for all, youth at the center, and racial equity. Isom said, “Focus St. Louis along with several other partners, including UMSL, put a proposal forward that would work to continue to convene individuals in St. Louis, and provide strategic teams and action teams that would work to move this plan forward. As I said, this is not a one or two year endeavor; it’s a 25 year endeavor.”

The Ferguson Commission met 18 times and held forums all across the community. The Ferguson Commission Report has 189 calls-to-action and about 41 of the key calls-to-action were passed out in a packet for the audience. Specific recommendations of the report can be found at [forwardthroughferguson.org](http://forwardthroughferguson.org).

Representative Gardner said that she had firsthand experience working with the myriad court systems in St. Louis County as a private attorney defending her clients. She explained that seeing the abuses of the system prompted her to introduce legislation to try to reform the municipal court system. She explained that the Democrats are a super minority in the house and Senate. The previous Speaker of the House had said that no Ferguson related reform measures would even get a vote on the floor of the House in the last session. However, with the election of Todd Richardson, she believes now is a good time to move forward on trying to achieve necessary reform. “Young people, you have to stand up and hold people accountable,” Gardner said.

Dr. Robertson also urged greater involvement by students. He said, “Our University is challenged. Challenged to help find leaders. Challenged to build leadership. To build a life with dignity for all... Who is really going to make this work? I’m looking at them.”

Daniel Pogue, junior, mechanical engineering, said, “The real agents of change are us – the students, the youth. We can unite together and we should to cause change.”

Dr. Kathleen Nigro, associate teaching professor of English, said, “I thought the panel was effective and positive, and I liked the shout-out to the students. As a person who participated in student protests and remembers student voices making a difference

in past decades, but I would like us to follow up and give our students some really concrete ways in which they can become involved. I think that is a stumbling point for many students and so they do not go forward with their involvement.”

ASUM was formed in 1975 at the University of Missouri—Columbia. It has grown to have representatives at each of the University of Missouri’s four campuses. Every student enrolled in a University of Missouri campus is a member. ASUM’s mission is to advocate and lobby for student interests while educating students on the importance of involvement in government. For more information check out their portal on TritonSync.

## UMSL Students Bridge Racial Divisions



Student demonstrator, Aladeen Stoll, passing out flyers on the MSC bridge

BOBBY MITCHELL/THE CURRENT

**KAT RIDDLER**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**Continued from Page 1**

to Mizzou. According to the graphs, 63% of UMSL students are white, 17.6% are African American, and the remaining 19.4% are another ethnicity. The total faculty, based off of totals from UMSL’s website called Points of Pride, is 79.16% white, 8.54% African American, and the remaining 12.3% described as other.

Kawa said, “I deal with a lot of instances of oppression through PRIZM. Those experiences of oppression have made me aware and an ally of other oppressed groups.”

Kale Uzzle, a minister of InterVarsity, allied with the student group efforts as well. He held a sign reading: “I feel like UMSL is” with a line from

the words “Openly Hostile” to “Completely Understanding.” He asked everyone who passed by to place a sticky note where they feel it belongs and then explain why after. The survey was completely anonymous, and still captured the campus feeling towards racial oppression. The distribution of the notes on his survey indicated most students felt UMSL falls in the middle of the spectrum he presented.

Serena Blue Herman, junior, anthropology, was demonstrating for herself and not as a part of a student group. Blue Herman said, “One of my main focuses is to talk about the myths. Two of the myths that are said when it comes to MU: that the KKK was there—that was not true, we know that—and that there was a shutdown—that isn’t true. Knowing those things makes me ask, what is true? What we

do know is true is that this conversation has been going on since longer than last week.”

Student activists were vigilant with their message and interaction with walkers on the bridge, even with the heat of the sun baking them. Demonstrators took turns cooling off and returning when needed, in order to keep positive energy. Reactions to the demonstration were mixed but peaceful. There were no reported instances of confrontation between students. However, on social media, there were comments from some voicing annoyance at the location of the demonstration as being an impediment to traffic getting from one side of the campus to others. Other views on the subject of systemic oppression at UMSL and the protests were more heated online than on the bridge.

# From UMSL Stairways to Self Created Albums

**SARAH MYERS**  
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri—St. Louis is full of talent. These self-driven students can be found in the halls, the quad, the library, and even the stairwells. Ben Reger was one of the students who chose to share his musical talent with passersby by playing on the pianos in the Millennium Student Center's stairwell.

A December 2014 graduate with a bachelor of in liberal arts and communications minor, Reger discovered the pianos in the MSC through simple exploration. He liked the sound, and that was what it took to get him started on his music-making journey.

According to Reger, playing piano

in the MSC allowed him to exercise the skills that he had built up since the second grade. Reger said, "I think it's a great stress reliever and I would go to it every time after class." Listeners would even stop to compliment him on his practicing.

A year before he graduated, Reger decided to take music to a professional level and start creating his own. He became inspired to create music from working for a company that worked on a video game with a setting in outer space. This was the foundation for his current music projects. He is working on an album that he calls "Piano 2015." He describes the genre of it as "classical and new age space music." He cites the Greek-American composer Yanni Chrysomallis as one of his influences.

What is different about Reger's album is that it is completely self-made. The artwork and musical composition are all self-produced, and even the accompanying instruments are done by Reger. The songs "Fly," "Black as Night Darkest Day," "Revelations of Our Hearts," and "Music Box" are his favorite songs on the album.

Reger wants to give listeners a pleasant experience through his music so they can "just relax and enjoy the piano." Eventually, Reger plans on hav-

ing his own website where listeners and fans can pick and choose which songs they like best to tailor their experience of Reger's works. He wants to give the listeners at least 50 song choices to choose from.

Reger has about fifty copies made of the first album, and he has plans to start on the next album for next year. Reger said, "I hope that people continue to like my music and give me the chance to keep this up. It is not easy and I love it very much."

## A Review of Canvas

**KRISTEN BROWN**  
STAFF WRITER

Discussion boards, announcements, assignments, and grades are all available on Blackboard. However, Vice President of Student Government Association (SGA) Kristin Wyninegar, senior, communications, announced at the SGA meeting on October 16 that the University of Missouri—St. Louis has made tentative plans to change from Blackboard to Canvas, an open-source learning management system within the next few semesters. Dr. Andy Goodman, associate provost for professional development and director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, is giving students the opportunity to pilot Canvas in his Music Education 3770 course.

Dr. Goodman outlined the benefits of Canvas. He mentioned that Canvas discussion boards are easier to set up than Blackboard and that it is far easier to create small groups or teams within the discussion posts. He also said that he enjoyed "the ability to create group assignments, and to maintain those groups on other assignments."

Dr. Goodman went on to discuss the different communication options that Canvas offers such as audio or video feedback. The verbal communication aspect can make explaining concepts easier than the written email component. This potential move from such a grounded and well known program will take some getting used to. But Dr. Goodman says that both faculty and students will find "some of the features of Canvas to be superior to the same features in Blackboard."

"With that said, I think that there

are other features of Blackboard that, at least to me, make more sense the way they are configured. For faculty, the notifications that assignments are to be graded is less pronounced so if I'm not ready to grade assignments, I don't have to see how many are waiting for me as soon as I log in," said Dr. Goodman. Canvas has a habit of letting students know every small detail of what is due. Having a bunch of notifications can be a little overwhelming for both faculty and students.

Dr. Goodman said, "I think students will like Canvas because it has some features of social media built in to it. While Blackboard does as well, they feel like add-ons in Blackboard and getting to them can sometimes be clunky." Canvas works like many social media accounts because it gives students the opportunity to message anyone in class, similar to messenger.

"My advice to students would be that A) I'm not certain we're making the switch and B) if we do, it will take a number of semesters before more than a handful of courses will be on Canvas," said Dr. Goodman. This can be comforting for those who are still leery of switching to a new internet home. Dr. Goodman also said, "To faculty I would say the same - and I would say we need both student and faculty voices to be part of the decision making process ... A decision like this would ultimately be to benefit the learning process and if students and faculty don't believe Canvas would improve the learning process, then we should either stay with Blackboard or continue to look for something better."



Ben Reger plays piano in his house

THE CURRENT ARCHIVES

## Counseling Services Promotes Body Positivity

**EMILIE LA BREYERE**  
STAFF WRITER

Philosopher and writer Simone de Beauvoir once said, "To lose confidence in one's body is to lose confidence in oneself." This past week, the University of Missouri—St. Louis' Counseling

Services encouraged students to build such confidence and combat unhealthy body images in the Nosh of the Millennium Student Center. Karen Munkel of Counseling Services explained, "What we're doing is trying to promote Love Your Body Week, which is focusing on body positive messages. A lot of times,

people are focusing on only the negatives and we want people to focus just on the positives." The team hoped to assist in combating the negative emotions and shame that so many people feel in regard to their physical appearance.

Laura Holt, Ph.D., a member of Counseling Services, stated that Love

Your Body Week is "a pushback against the pervasive message that you should hate your body." She went on to say that the outreach has been encouraging the campus to be "fat talk free" all week. What she means by "fat talk free" is not saying things like 'I am fat' or anything

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# Sue Shear Hosts Pipeline to Public Office

**BRI EHSAN**  
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri – St. Louis is home to the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. The Sue Shear Institute at UMSL was created in 1996 and named after the Missouri House Representative Sue Shear. Representative Shear was one of only 10 women serving in the General Assembly when she took office in 1972, and she served a record-breaking 26 years in the Missouri House. To honor her integrity and hard work, the Sue Shear Institute at UMSL serves to encourage women's participation in the public policy making process.

The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life is a non-partisan, non-issue organization. It educates, coaches, and helps women develop the necessary skills to participate in government as appointed and elected office holders. Because women make up only 25 percent of Missouri's Legislature, the Women in Public Life Institute provides training programs, fellowships, and workshops to encourage women to integrate themselves into and take on public policy leadership roles. One of these training programs provided by the Sue Shear Institute is called the Pipeline to Public Office program. The Pipeline to Public Office is a two-day campaign training program for those either running for public office or learning how to run a campaign. The Institute hosts two Pipeline programs, each held every other year. This year, the Pipeline program took place on November 6 and 7.

This year's Pipeline program was hosted at the private residence of Betty Van Uum, UMSL's senior officer for Public Affairs and Economic Development. Van Uum was the first woman elected to St. Louis County Council in 1974. She served for two terms and joined UMSL's staff in 1983.

The first night of the program consisted of introductions amongst the attendees and a panel discussion with influential women office holders. On the panel were State Representative Kimberly Gardner, Jefferson County Councilwoman Renee Reuter, and the Director of Sue Shear Institute, Vivian Eveloff. These women each took turns discussing their individual races and the obstacles they endured. They shared stories of their families and how they dealt with the pressure of a family member running for office.

When asked about being a mother and facing the difficulties of running for office, State Representative Kimberly Gardner shared a particular moment from her race against Senator Jamilah Nasheed in 2008. Gardner recalled, "I was driving down Kingshighway with my daughter in the car when we saw a billboard of me with the words 'Sell Out' right across my mouth." She explained to the public-office hopefuls in the audience that these incidences are



Left to right, Vivian Eveloff, Kimberly Gardner, Betty Van Uum, and Renee Reuter make up the panel discussing with current woman office holders

BRI EHSAN/THE CURRENT

common while running for a competitive seat in office.

The Pipeline to Public Office reconvened the next day in the Alumni Room of Woods Hall. The session began with a presentation about basic campaign essentials from Eveloff. Eveloff talked about starting with a set plan to win and preparing an "elevator speech." She says, "an 'elevator speech' consists of a few sentences that define you, is in contrast with your opponent, and can be delivered in 1-2 minutes" when running into a voter or a potential donor in places like the elevator.

The second day of Pipeline included some guest speakers: State Repre-

sentative Tracy McCreery, St. Charles Mayor Sally Faith, Ferguson City Councilwoman Ella Jones, and communications director Rebecca Gorley. These powerful women talked to the audience about how to be successful in running for public office, effective communications strategies, and running an effective campaign. Gorley, a deputy communications director at Progress Missouri stressed that while running for office, "Details matter. People matter. Votes matter." She presented statistics that highlighted the importance of canvassing and communicating with potential voters to garner the most votes. McCreery informed the audience

about holding campaign fundraisers and maintaining campaign finances. She talked about the methods in which one can establish a donor database.

The Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life is an organization that seeks to make government accessible to all Missouri residents. The programs and workshops provided by the institute are educational and are open to all regardless of sex, race, color, and creed. The Pipeline to Public Office training program hosted about 30 participants running for public office for the first time. The organization also provides another program—Pipeline to Local Office—which will take place in January.

## Counseling Service Promotes Positivity

**EMILIE LA BREYERE**  
STAFF WRITER

**Continued from Page 4**

else negative about one's body. She and the other counselors are concerned that people get into the bad habit of saying pessimistic things about themselves and not even realizing that they do so. Love Your Body Week attempted to break that habit and focus on what people like about their bodies.

To physically display body confidence, Counseling Services created a Love Your Body Mural for anyone on campus to add to. The mural, located in The Nosh, consisted of pieces of paper that individuals had written on. Each piece of paper said, "I love my..." and in the blank, people wrote something that they adore about themselves—whether it be their eyes, smile, facial hair, or even their derriere. Holt said, "Even if you want to change your body, even if you want it to be different, you can still love it. It's not like you have

to wait to love your body." The mural showed how many people believe they are wonderful just as they are, an idea that is so rarely promoted.

In addition to the mural, the outreach effort displayed some unique pieces of art. The Love Your Body Week tables were covered with broken bathroom scales. These scales had their weight gauges removed and were covered in pictures, paintings, and written sentiments. Some were encouraging, some were funny, and some were touching, but all of them echoed the same body acceptance message. Munkel explains that the "Scales are for Fish" project comes from women of the St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute "that are dealing with eating disorders and they, as part of their recovery, transform the scales into art and personal messages and part of their healing." The pieces served as an important reminder of the "weight" put on individuals by society's beauty standards. The "Scales are for Fish" project summarized what

Love Your Body Week was all about: the belief that people are unique, beautiful, and searching for acceptance and that acceptance can be found within individuals.

In addition to its art displays, the outreach handed out pamphlets, bracelets, stickers, and other goodies to help spread awareness. They even offered a free Zumba class for students on November 11.

Love Your Body Week will culminate on November 16. Cathy Lander-Goldberg of the St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute's Eating Disorders Program will give a Love Your Body Revolution workshop in MSC 225 from 12 to 1 p.m.

For more information about Counseling Services or to make an appointment, call 314-516-5711 or visit their webpage, <http://www.umsl.edu/services/counselor/>. Counseling Services is located in 131 MSC and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

# 'Spectre' Gives Bond Fans What They Crave

**CATE MARQUIS**  
STAFF WRITER

Daniel Craig, who has reportedly said he is done playing James Bond, would then be wrapping up his run as 007 with style in "Spectre." While packed with eye-popping set pieces and typical globe-trotting action, some might find that "Spectre" is not the same over-the-top entertainment as "Skyfall."

Still, "Spectre" looks very cool, with pretty locations, stylish fashion, and clever gadgets. It has the requisite chases and action, along with the villainous Christoph Waltz and Bond-girls Lea Seydoux and Monica Bellucci. The talented cast breezes through their roles effortlessly, but Bond films are really about the action and style more so than the acting.

The film opens in high style, with a lavish, energetic sequence set during the Day of the Dead street festival in Mexico City. The sequence is filmed in a mix of restless hand-held point-of-view shots as Bond navigates the crowd, combined

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The Day of the Dead parade in the opening action sequence of 007 thriller "Spectre" starring Daniel Craig

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## YOUR GOAL IS OUR GOAL

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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

# 'Spectre' Gives Bond Fans What They Crave

CATE MARQUIS  
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 6

with soaring aerial photography to take in the whole scene. Having drenched the audience in atmosphere and color, it then morphs into a terrific action sequence, with exploding buildings, crumbling walls, and a battle in a helicopter. It is the first of several likewise sensational action sequences sprinkled throughout the film.

With a bit of a new beginning after Bond's longtime boss, played by Dame Judi Dench, having been killed at the end of Bond's 2014 outing, Ralph

Fiennes plays M, while Naomie Harris and Ben Whishaw return to play loyal secretary Money Penny and the supplier of technology and toys, Q, respectfully. With his department being taken over by a bureaucrat (Andrew Scott) set on phasing out the old-school 'licensed' to kill spy program, 007 has to battle adversaries within the organization and without the manpower of MI-6, all to solve the cryptic message he receives in Mexico.

Directed by Sam Mendes, who also helmed the previous film "Skyfall," "Spectre" has plenty to entertain and satisfy Bond fans. Daniel Craig still exudes cool as the current Bond, who has to go deep undercover to unravel the

nefarious web of conspiracy threatening the U.K. and the world. The hunt takes him from Britain to Rome, Austria, and beyond.

While "Spectre" has all the 007 requirements, it also seems to just be running from fabulous location to fabulous location, without enough plot to support all the travel. There are explosions and action but there are also times where the story seems to pause, just so the next step can take place in some other gorgeous or exotic place. At nearly 2 hours and 30 minutes, this is a long film but the determined globe-hopping makes the film drag in spots and the film feels longer than it is.

Where "Spectre" succeeds com-

pletely is in its gorgeous visuals. The locations, actors, and sets all look phenomenal; one can just get lost in that alone.

If Daniel Craig is truly done playing Bond, he is pretty much going out on top with "Spectre." The film's ending opens an exit door for the martini-drinking spy but no one really believes the long-running franchise is done. It is worth remembering that there is the 1983 film titled "Never Say Never Again," starring Sean Connery as James Bond, a role he had reportedly sworn off. So you never know about Bond.

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# IN THEATERS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

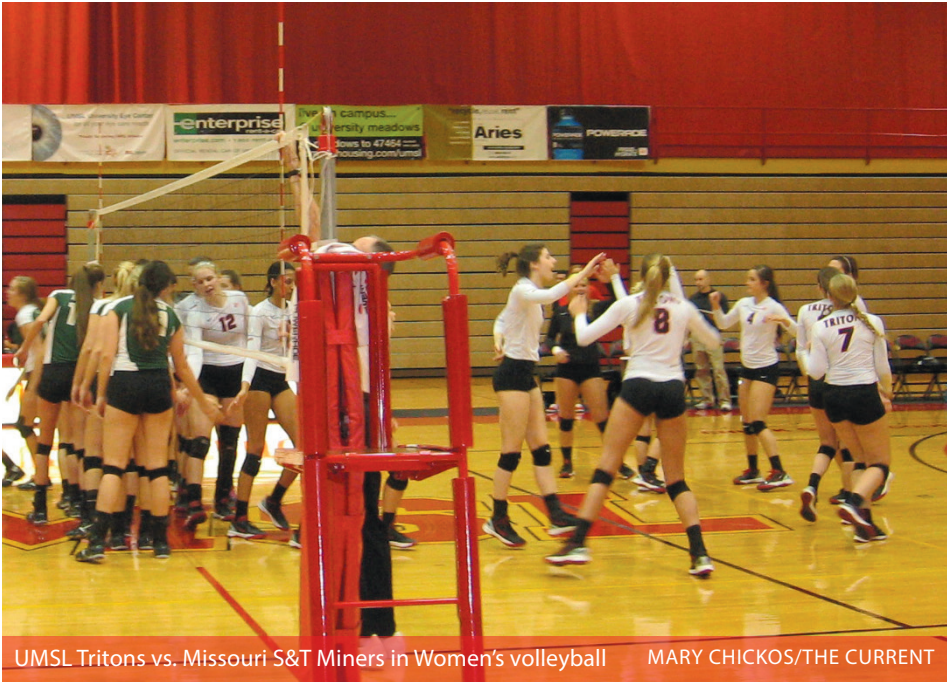
# Volleyball Ends Season with Five-Set Matches, Wins Finale

MARY CHICKOS  
STAFF WRITER  
&  
ALEX NEUPERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

University of Missouri—St. Louis and University of Missouri Science and Technology (S&T) fans packed the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center for a women’s volleyball match on November 14. The atmosphere was enthusiastic as Tritons and Miners fans cheered on their teams. Fans could be heard cheering “Let’s go, feed the beast!” and “Dig it ladies!” throughout the evening, trying to help lift their teams to a victory. It was a close matchup with both teams battling back and forth, but the Miners eventually pulled ahead to take the fifth set and the match.

The Tritons won the first period 25-15, leading some to believe this might be a quick affair. However, the Miners came back strong and fought hard to take the second 30-28, fending off four set points from UMSL to win. After a brief respite, Missouri S&T won the third set with a score of 25-21. With the match on the line UMSL got everything working for them again as they showed their strong play from the first set, winning with an identical score to the first set at 25-15. As both teams had two sets each, they played the final tie-break set to 15 points and the Miners pulled ahead by a narrow margin.

Several UMSL students were in the stands cheering. Hannah Kinney, sophomore, nursing, said, “This is an exciting, fast moving game that is well matched.” Alvaro Carazago, freshman,



UMSL Tritons vs. Missouri S&T Miners in Women’s volleyball MARY CHICKOS/THE CURRENT

marketing, was in the stands supporting Madyson Abeyta, sophomore, mathematics. He said, “I support the volleyball team. My girlfriend is playing.”

One of the key players on the team, Hannah Miller, senior, graphic design, leads the Tritons, playing from the right side as one of the Tritons’ hitters. She entered the 2015 season ranked eighth all time in career hitting percentage for UMSL. As a junior she played in all 28 matches, starting in 27 and led the team with a .291 hitting percentage, which was good for ninth in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC). While she has not been quite as effective as a senior, her career percentage is still an impressive .243.

Carly Ochs, senior, accounting, led the team on the night with 13 kills. Jessica Ploss, senior, criminal justice, added 12 kills and also helped the team

defensively with 10 blocks. Overall, UMSL was outshot 64-54 on kills and even with a higher hitting percentage. The Miners just seemed able to pull out the victory with key points when it mattered and kept their cool when down.

The Tritons played their final match of the season on November 14, once again going the distance with another five-set match against Drury University. It was a great end to the season as the team celebrated senior night, honoring their five seniors: Ploss, Miller, Ochs, Erin Walker, elementary special education, and Lindsay Meyer, business logistics. UMSL won by set scores of 25-20, 25-21, 21-25, 23-25, 15-7 and finished the year with a final record of 16-16 (9-9 GLVC).

# Historic Season Ends

ALEX NEUPERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

One goal. That was all Quincy University needed to end the historic season for the University of Missouri—St. Louis. UMSL’s women’s soccer team played the Hawks on November 13 in the first round of the 2015 NCAA Division II Women’s National Championship, the first time the Tritons had been to the tournament since 1983. While the quick exit is disappointing, ultimately the 2015 season for UMSL will not be known for how it ended, but for how hard the group of women worked to get to this point.

To put everything in perspective, the Tritons finished last year with an 8-8-1 record, managing a lackluster 6-8-1 in Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) play. Head Coach Wendy Dillinger managed to turn it around in only her second year leading the team, coaching the Triton women to an impressive 12-5-4 (8-3-4) record, including an eight-game win streak.

“Once Wendy came to UMSL as our coach, it was a reality check for many of us,” said Jaylon Griffith, senior, business marketing. “We were forced to work harder, compete, and change our attitudes to not only each other but ourselves.”

Despite a late-season slide where UMSL went winless in the final four games—two losses and two ties—they were able to regroup for the GLVC postseason tournament after missing the competition the last three years.

Continued on Page 9

## Weekly Sports Calendar

**Tuesday 17**

Women’s Basketball vs. Lindenwood  
5:30 p.m.  
Home

**Wednesday 18**

Men’s Basketball vs. Fontbonne  
7 p.m.  
Home

**Friday 20**

Men’s Swimming vs. Missouri S&T vs. Ouchita Baptist  
6 p.m.  
at Missouri S&T

Women’s Swimming vs. Missouri S&T vs. Ouchita Baptist  
6 p.m.  
at Missouri S&T

Volleyball vs. TBA  
TBA  
at TBA

Women’s Basketball vs. Upper Iowa  
7 p.m.  
Away

**Saturday 21**

Volleyball vs. TBA  
TBA  
at TBA

Men’s Swimming vs. Missouri S&T vs. Ouchita Baptist  
9 a.m.  
at Missouri S&T

Women’s Swimming vs. Missouri S&T vs. Ouchita Baptist  
9 a.m.  
at Missouri S&T

Men’s Basketball vs. Lindenwood  
3 p.m.  
Home

**Sunday 22**

Volleyball vs. TBA  
TBA  
at TBA

Women’s Basketball vs. Minnesota State-Mankato  
2 p.m.  
Away

**Tuesday 24**

Men’s Basketball vs. Webster  
7 p.m.  
Home

**Wednesday 25**

Women’s Basketball vs. Kentucky Wesleyan  
1 p.m.  
Away

**Saturday 28**

Women’s Basketball vs. Findlay  
1 p.m.  
Home

# The Tritons Women's Soccer Season Comes to an End with Loss to Quincy

ALEX NEUPERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

## Continued from Page 8

"There was a span of time when we started to lose ourselves," explained Cassie McFadden, senior, nursing. "We felt like we had to rediscover the heartbeat of our team, but despite the struggle, we found what we were searching for in time for postseason."

Coming in as the fourth seed, the Tritons were quickly forced to show they belonged while hosting the first round of the tournament. Drury University scored the first goal early in the half before UMSL countered and forced the game into overtime, winning off a shot from Miriam Taylor, junior, accounting. Amidst the home crowd, UMSL was elated and celebrated the hard-fought victory, but also knew that an even greater challenge loomed ahead.

For the semifinals, the women faced top-seeded Bellarmine University on their home field. After tying them in the regular season, the Tritons set their eyes on the prize: getting to the championship. Pressure was the key for the win as they scored first before the Knights tied it up. With only 20 minutes remaining, McFadden blasted the ball from 40 yards out to just get the ball over the opposing goalkeeper. On her game-winner, she said, "There's no better feeling. It's a special kind of high that can't ever be replicated."

In the championship game against

Truman State, UMSL was never really able to get something going. While the Tritons outshot their foes 14-4, the Bulldogs took more advantage of their opportunities, scoring on both shots on goal to win the championship 2-0. The first round of the NCAA tournament was similar in that the women once again put more shots on goal than their opponent but were unable to get the ball by the goalkeeper. Quincy's Megan Swanson was always where she needed to be to stop the attempts, and their first-half goal was enough to advance.

Despite the losses, however, the Tritons were happy on their successes during the 2015 season. "It's truly a dream come true to compete in both tournaments," said McFadden, "something that you dream about doing when entering college."

"It feels great to be able to be a part of the first team that has gotten a bid to the national tournament since 1983," added McKayla Harder, freshman, psychology. "It's an awesome feeling to be a part of making history here and taking the program to a new level that it hasn't seen in a very long time."

The forward is certainly a part of that future, one of the team's top scorers with 10 goals on the season. Collectively, UMSL more than doubled their opponents, scoring 50 goals compared to just 18. The Tritons averaged 2.38 goals a game and also managed 18.8 shots per game. Overall, the women were very aggressive throughout the season with

the ball and enjoyed being the ones on the attack.

The postseason is over for the UMSL Tritons. For 11 seniors, their time as soccer players for our school is over as well. But it hasn't come without many amazing memories for

a historic women's soccer season. "It's been amazing playing with these girls," said Griffith. "They've become my best friends, and I wouldn't trade them for the world."

For UMSL, we would not either.

## Scott Dikkers Peels Back the Layers of Success



Scott Dikkers speaking about his publication, *The Onion*

SYDNI JACKSON/THE CURRENT

BOB WHITE  
STAFF WRITER

## Continued from Page 3

and held his breath. The future looked bleaker than before. Then, he stumbled upon "MAD Magazine."

"Largely as a result of my discovery of 'MAD Magazine,' humor became an outlet for me... Humor became a coping mechanism. I realized this is a way to find meaning in life." There was "meaning in life through humor as opposed to toil." Ironically, the humor inspired Dikkers' toil.

He designed a comic. The comic won a Wisconsin statewide contest. Winning gave Dikkers hope. Dikkers designed comics constantly. When one was rejected, he made a second. He sent them to every publishing office he could. He asked that they be published for free. When one comic—Jim's Journal—was finally accepted, Dikkers was ecstatic. When he was offered five dollars a week for daily running, Dikkers said, "I'm on the moon, now. I'm a professional!" He continued marketing his comic, selling T-shirts, and sending it to other newspapers.

In the young years of *The Onion's* life, when Dikkers was the sole owner, he "hired" locals without pay. According to him, the writers were "bitter, smart" and had "no prospects in life." They had traumatizing backgrounds and rough patches. Together, they used humor to cope. When the paper received enough subscribers, the writers received low pay and the responsibility of staying sober. When the paper received more subscribers, the writers

received higher pay.

The newspaper used to have more variety. It included contests and puzzles. Dikkers, believing the paper was its best when it was only satirical news, decided to head in that direction, picking his crew accordingly.

As *The Onion* developed more layers, it morphed into something more unpleasant than an onion.

"Make no mistake, I don't like going to the office now. It's not a fun place to be. It's very tense. It's very corporate," said Dikkers, shallow sadness creeping into his voice. "Now, it's like an accounting office. It's very sad. I don't like going back there." To him, it was odd how different *The Onion* became. "The last time I was there was 2012—wasn't that long ago. But it's changed. It's definitely changed," he reflected.

In order to find the happy medium between drunken creation and corporate damnation, Dikkers determined his own principles of leadership:

1. Live your mission. Do what you want to do.
2. Invest your passion, not your money. Every project Dikkers invested his money before his passion failed. Heart trumps wages. Follow it.
3. Be prepared to scrap everything. This point carries from the last point. It is easier to move on from a mishap if you are invested in the overall idea over the profits.
4. Trust your people. The less control you have over your group, the more productive they are.
5. Work right, not hard or smart. There's a recipe to follow. Follow it and succeed.

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# A Road Paved in Good Intentions: Reflecting on the Mizzou Protests

**NATHAN WATSON**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Recent events at the University of Missouri in Columbia have introduced the faces and voices of Jonathan Butler and Payton Head to the nation. Butler, a 25-year-old native of Omaha, Nebraska, received his bachelor's degree from Mizzou and is now studying for a master's degree in educational leadership and policy. Head, a senior studying political science and international studies,

has served as student body president of the university since November of 2014.

Both students represent the future of a prosperous black America. Yet they, like many of America's most successful and promising black citizens, have fallen under the spell of a pernicious narrative, spouted by well-intentioned, but woefully misguided whites, and reinforced by blacks themselves who stifle dissenting opinions at the threat of ostracism and hatred. Butler and Head, as well as many of the black students

they represent, have internalized a narrative of victimology. After years of hard work in grade school, middle school, and high school, the students of Mizzou have earned their entrance into one of the nation's most respected academic institutions. They have opened the doors to educational, and consequently economic, success. Despite the promising futures that lie ahead of them, they have bought into the rhetoric that insists systemic racism and personal bigotry stand in their way.

When it comes to determining levels of success in America, socioeconomic status and education are everything. The black students of Mizzou, after graduating, have ahead of them promising careers in business, law, academia, and other fields. They are the future executives, educators, lawyers and lawmakers, doctors, and social workers of America. They are the future mothers and fathers of black middle and upper

Continued on Page 11

## Students Find Their Voice in Fighting Racism

**KAT RIDDLER**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students enroll in college for a variety of reasons. Few would have checked the box "to become an activist," yet that is the role that hundreds of University of Missouri students in Columbia have adopted in response to several incidents of racism. The incidents were ugly, yet even more so was the response of an administration that seemed unable or unwilling to come to grips with the legitimate anger and frustration of the protest movement.

A successful black woman from St. Louis once told me that, while attending a prestigious university in the 60's,

one of her professors told her he did not give As to black students. What has changed? Not much. For students of color at Mizzou, these are still brutal realities.

For those students in Columbia who chose not to remain silent, who raised their collective voices, participated in non-violent demonstrations and led boycotts, the only change has been in themselves. They became activists. They learned that together they were able to make change happen for others. They brought about the resignation of the President of the UM System and the Chancellor of Mizzou. They have also helped others see the importance of being engaged.

Recognizing the direct relationship between money and power, the predominately black football team threatened one of the university's mainstays of fundraising.

Racism exists in many forms. There is that represented by the sophomoric actions of a no doubt heavily inebriated student, whose choice of material for depicting a swastika left no doubt regarding his fitness for college. Then there is the more subtle exclusivity of the ivory towers dotting the academic landscape of the UM campus in Columbia. These resignations are a good first step and obviously not the last.

I wish I could say that education, awareness, and training are all it would

take to change things, but it goes deeper than that. It goes to the heart of who we are as a state and nation. It will take many steps, many small victories, to win in the end.

As for UMSL, our chancellor, to his credit, stays more in-touch with the students. We have an active Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Council (CCDC), and have had for some time, that works to make UMSL a more welcoming and safe environment for everyone. During the tragic events in Ferguson, Chancellor George opened the campus as a place for dialogue and the knowledge base of our professors, interviewed for hundreds of news outlets, and helped frame the national understanding of what was happening. Already, the chancellor has called for meetings to discuss what more UMSL can do in light of the events in Columbia, and has left the format open to evolve from the voices of students.

Credit also goes to dedicated staff members like Deborah Burris, UMSL's chief diversity officer and director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity. Burris is also the vice-chair of the CCDC and has been recognized nationally for her work. She was recently named, for the third straight year, a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Honoree by the publication "INSIGHT into Diversity."

At UMSL, most of our students already come from a more diverse urban area than many at Mizzou who come from outstate areas of Missouri. Racism still exists here but, perhaps, to a lesser degree. Even so, working on better race relations, issues of diversity, and making everyone feel they belong are goals to strive for at all times, not just in the face of a crisis.

We are far from perfect, but there always seems to be an innate sense at UMSL that, since we are all in the same small, but sturdy boat, we had better learn to row together. Right now, the giant flagship of the UM system is listing badly to one side and taking on water. It is time for the UMSL community to row even harder.

## What We Talk about When We Talk about Following Our Dreams

**ABBY N. VIRIO**  
STAFF WRITER

A lot of motivational posters out there tell you to "follow your dreams," "live for today," "don't let anyone tell you that you cannot do something," or "anything can happen." Unless you have never seen a Disney movie, this all seems like a bit of a no-brainer—I am in college, of course I follow my dreams. Call it cliché or call it coddling the youth, but I too thought that I knew the meaning behind the flowery language.

I was not even close.

Perhaps thanks to Disney, when we imagine what resistance to our ambitions looks like, we tend to imagine nefarious characters with wispy goatees and twiddling fingers. Obstacles are placed on the pathways of our lives like Wile E. Coyote's dynamite-laden traps. In reality however, these obstacles are—although perhaps not always easy to overcome—easy to identify and easy to act on. On the other hand, our own selves and our loved ones; these are not so easy to drop an anvil on.

When it comes to making headway on your bucket list, the greatest resistance will come from yourself and those

you love and respect. This is not to say that those who love you do not want the best for you. Quite the contrary—those who love you want to protect you. Unfortunately, protection is not the answer to all of life's dilemmas. Risks are necessary in order to succeed. A day will come when you must decide whether or not to take a risk—and only you can accurately weigh all factors in your life. You will have to put aside the support, or lack thereof, coming from the people whose opinions you value the most, and like Nike says, "just do it."

"Just do it," "just go already." Slogans and motivational slogans act like it is so easy. Risks are not easy; change is not easy. A body at rest stays at rest until another force acts upon it—this is a law of nature. Yet somehow, we must overcome inertia and shake ourselves from rest. There are many excuses we can make, and many of them are quite rational: I cannot afford it. I need to save my money. I just got comfortable here. What if my cat hates me when I come back? What if I cannot handle the stress of what I am about to do? Posters scoff at these thoughts and belittle those who are restrained by them. I argue that these are rational thoughts, and I would not blame someone for taking them

seriously.

Maybe instead of "just do it" or "live for today" motivational posters should read: "do something irrational."

You are worried about spending a couple thousand dollars on an opportunity to study in Italy because you never know when the car might break down, whether you will become hospitalized, or lose your part-time job. This is entirely rational—responsible, even: choice that, especially if you have other obligations, seems logical. But if you consider that you are willing to spend hundreds of hours of hard-earned pay only when life goes wrong, how rational does this train of thought seem?

There is something to be said for a person who is responsible, dependable, and rational. I respect someone who always keeps their head above water. For me, though—and I expect for many others like me—we are not content with getting our feet wet. We are prepared to sink and struggle and pop back up at the surface, gasping for breath, just to run back to the edge and take the plunge again. If that is the way you feel, then by all means: be irrational, dive right in. Carpe the life out of that diem.

# A Road Paved in Good Intentions: Reflecting on the Mizzou Protests

**NATHAN WATSON**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Continued from Page 10

class families, and their children will have positive role models and a bright future to look forward to. If institutional racism is still a problem in America, the success of these students and the generations of successful black Americans to follow represent the surest way to overcome it.

Yet for many of these students, their black leaders and white allies have failed them. According to the logic espoused by both, their success is or will be a mere fluke. Institutional racism, they have been told, defines this country and any black striving for success can only wait patiently and hopefully for them these barriers to be eradicated. Blacks, they have been told, are universally oppressed, and “shame on you” if you think your success is a step in the right direction.

Undoubtedly, a significant portion of this country’s population bears the

burden of poor socioeconomic conditions. Poverty, poor school systems, and violence are all impediments to the flourishing of human life and, unfortunately, many of today’s black communities still struggle against them. And, contrary to what some reductionists will tell you, it is really next to impossible to “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps” and overcome the unfortunate circumstances into which you were born. Science and common sense both tell us that, like any organism, the human being is subject to both internal and environmental factors, for better or for worse. Yet, more importantly, these are all self-perpetuating cycles that can only be ended by addressing the issues that sustain it – not by diversionary narratives of the universal victimhood of blacks at the hands of “privileged” whites. And, without a doubt, “diversionary” is exactly what the racially-motivated protests at Mizzou have proven to be. For, far from promoting systemic racism, the University of Missouri is actually an institution full of the present

and future successes of black Americans. Nonetheless, Concerned Student 1950, Jonathan Butler, and various other groups have, by conflating the plight of the socially disadvantaged with their own experiences of isolated, non-systemic bigotry, squandered their ability to effect genuine change.

It is unfortunate that racists and bigots still exist in 2015. Yet, unlike in years past, those who direct hatred towards others on the basis of their skin color exist only as the uneducated, often ridiculed minority. Prejudice and bigotry always have and always will exist –but, thanks to the advances this country has made – these unfortunate human failings no longer hold the power they once had. “Micro aggressions” and the irrational opinions of others are nothing more than passing annoyances to the man or woman who holds social, economic, and educational power. Obviously, ignoring institutional and systemic racism can only serve to make it worse. Yet as long as personal expressions of racism are not legitimated and

institutionalized by a society, then yes, ignoring it will make it go away – or at least lose its relevancy.

It is common among today’s educated to identify and critique the historical forces underlying the present condition of disadvantaged black Americans. In many cases, their analyses are spot on. Years of slavery and institutionalized racism have left a wake of social ills that cannot just be wished away. Yet the identification of these historical causes is often mistaken as a worthy end in itself. These people become like the stereotypical psychoanalyst who, although adept at identifying the sources of neuroses in childhood trauma, fail to offer practical means of overcoming their effects. Of course, there is an initial exhilaration to discovering originary causes; at the end of the day, however, what people need is a means of moving forward. Blaming the present state of the socially oppressed on the sins of past generations or on the disgusting, yet powerless actions of today’s offers little in the way of genuine progress.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# UMSL Needs to Step Up in Response to Mizzou, Racism

**DR. SARAH A. LACY**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY

The University of Missouri – St. Louis is the most racially and socioeconomically diverse campus community I have ever been a member of. Sadly, however, I have heard mostly silence when it comes to many of the most pressing societal issues of our generation. UMSL said and did nothing of substance after multiple bouts of unrest in Ferguson and St. Louis City, and it is now following roughly the same path in light of the pervasive racial intolerance that has plagued our sister campus in Columbia. Our students are left asking why their professors and administrators have not taken a definitive stand on the issue.

Another panel or “feel-good” email from an administrator will accomplish nothing. When voices have been silenced or ignored for generations, an “open forum” is not the solution. The conversation will be dominated by the same voices. It may even give those in power an excuse to continue ignoring minority communities when those communities choose not to participate in a conversation. We must first show through our actions that we are ready to truly listen.

As a state institution tasked with providing a high quality education to its citizens, we ought to have a student

body that reflects our population. Yet students of color do not feel safe on their very own flagship campus. Do they feel safe here at UMSL? Contrary to the oft-repeated trope, universities are not bastions of liberal thought; they are another institutional system that produces and reinforces racism, classism, sexism, and ableism. Quarantining small spaces for minority studies or feminist literature on campus does little to combat the dominant narrative of white, heterosexual, able-bodied male voices of authority in all disciplines.

I propose some concrete changes for UMSL that would show we truly value equality and justice for all members of our larger community. The first two are inspired by my own experiences at Tulane University, and the last four are elaborations on the demands put forth by Concerned Student 1950:

- We need a completely revamped freshman experience. It should begin with a university orientation that immerses students in St. Louis’ history, food, architecture, and culture (for better or worse). It should emphasize that with education comes a responsibility to repay one’s community and to build community amongst the incoming class.
- We need service learning requirements. Community involvement and volunteer work can be easily worked into a myriad of courses already present at UMSL. Many universities re-

quire students to enroll in similar courses. Our students’ educations need to include direct confrontations with the results of systemic racism and classism. This would also include more internship opportunities for students and more resource allocation to the programs that already exist.

- We need more faculty of color, especially in positions of power on governance committees and in the administration. This is not about “box ticking.” It is about recognizing that faculty of color are given greater service loads, have to be more productive to be viewed as equals, and are less likely to be given leadership opportunities. This makes the achievement of tenure even more difficult. We need to be hiring more faculty of color and re-evaluating the institutional support and recognition given to those already here.

- We need mandatory studies of non-European history and culture. A student should not be able to graduate without learning a foreign language and taking a course in other cultures and histories. The ‘cultural diversity’ general education requirement is insufficient.

- We need bottom up, instead of top-down diversity initiatives. They should be student-led and student-focused, and sufficiently funded. This should be a part of every department and office’s mission, not just for the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

- We need better access to mental health and social work services. Our students overcome many barriers to get to our campus. We need to make it easier for them with greater visibility and access to mental health services and social workers. Students should have easier access to the child development center’s childcare. These services should be further extended to all employees.

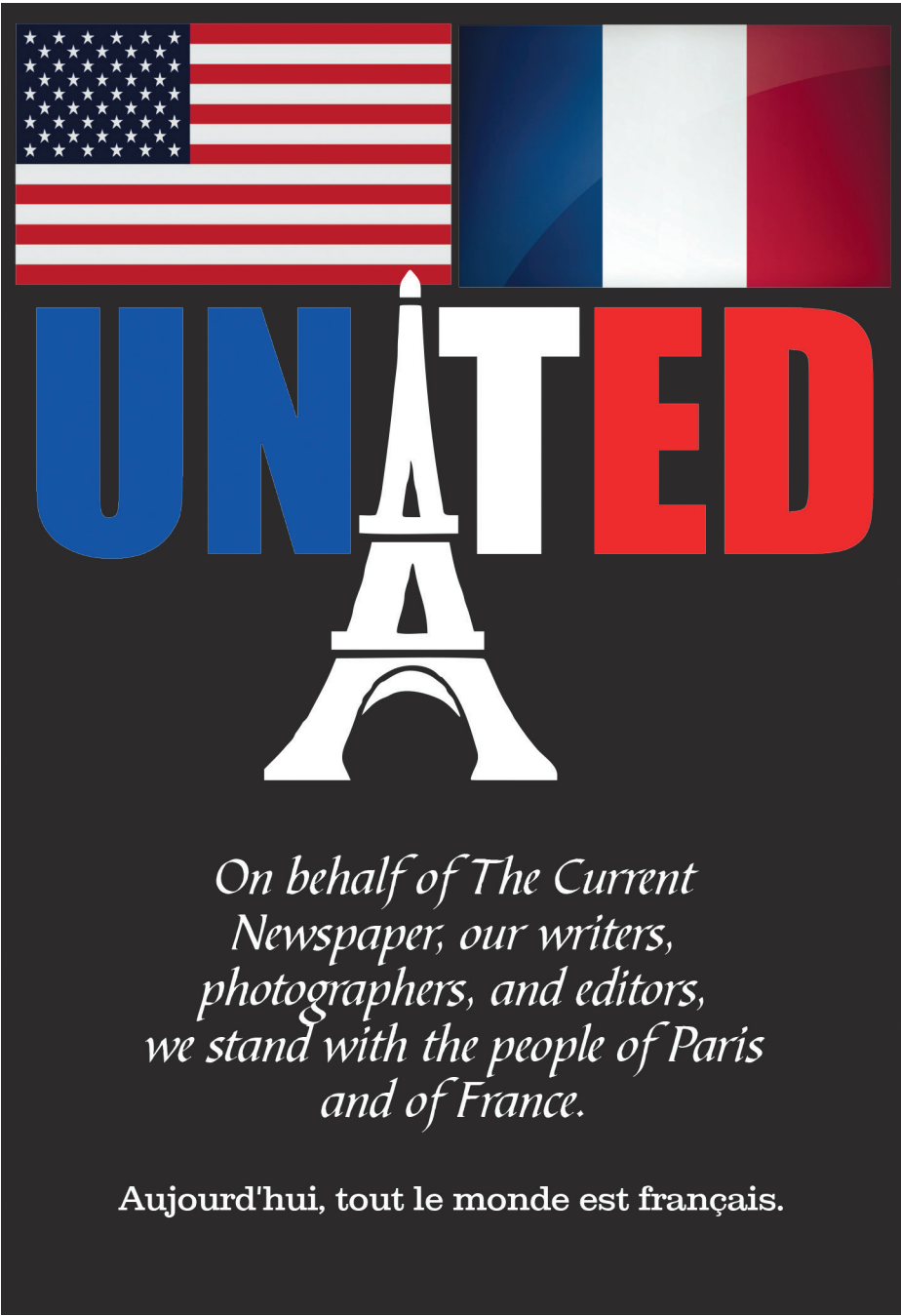
As a university, we must allocate money towards our priorities. Although we are under extreme financial constraints, creating a safe, dynamic space for all inhabitants of the St. Louis area, including its 18% black population, is not only a priority, but a necessity. Exposing all of our students to foreign ideas, places, and people is a necessity. Retention of all students, especially students of color, and minimizing their debt loads is a necessity.

Concerned Student 1950 made a list of demands that should be heeded. Other universities have transformed in light of tragedy—look, for example, to the curriculum changes Tulane University made following Hurricane Katrina. Nothing changed on this campus after Ferguson, yet we could have led by example, and created new ways for our city to address systemic oppression. We are late to this issue, but that is still no excuse to not form a new vision now. And I say to students: change is only won, not given. Continue to speak up.

# Racial Tensions, Controversy Stirs Across UM System

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A storm of controversy and racial tensions has ensued over the past few weeks in regard to events that occurred recently at the University of Missouri—Columbia, better known as Mizzou. Word of the events that have occurred has spread throughout the entire University of Missouri System and nationwide. It has produced a wide array of opinions and raised many questions about racial and ethical issues on the UM campuses and colleges across the country. Below, *The Current* presents a timeline of many of the events that led to the recent boiling over of tensions and widespread attention to the controversy at Mizzou and within the UM System:



Wednesday, November 11: Hunter Park, a 19-year-old University of Missouri Science & Technology student is arrested in connection with the Yik Yak threats.

Monday, November 16: Today, or the publication date of this issue of *The Current*

\*This chart presents the past 95 days since things began to stir up at Mizzou.

Friday, August 14: Two weeks before the start of the semester, Mizzou notifies its graduate teaching and research assistants via email that their health insurance will be cut. The university cites the Affordable Care Act as the reason for the cut.

Thursday, August 20: University of Missouri administrators notify students that they will defer the decision to cut health care insurance for graduate student employees at Mizzou until next year. The decision comes after the threat of the walkout and criticism from U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. UMSL, which has a much smaller subsidy program, does not reverse its decision. However, UMSL stands by its announcement of one-time \$103 credit for all eligible graduate students this semester.

Wednesday, August 19: In response to the health care cut, the Forum on Graduate Rights issues a release, giving UM System administrators six days to address seven demands. These demands for graduate student employees included a fully-subsidized student health care plan, university-provided childcare, the guarantee of living wages for graduate students, full tuition waivers, and the waiver of extra department fees. The release said that if demands were not met that graduate students would have a walkout.

Wednesday, August 26: Mizzou graduate students participate in a walkout and noon rally on campus in response to the university failing to meet some of the proposed demands. Students protest and wear red to show unity.

Saturday, October 10: Protesters wanting to voice their concerns block UM System President Tim Wolfe's car during Mizzou's homecoming parade. Wolfe does not respond to their concerns and his car bumps into a protester.

Tuesday, October 20: Concerned Student 1950, a student group named for the year African-American students were first admitted to Mizzou, issues demands. They include an apology from Wolfe, his removal as president, and better racial awareness and inclusion curriculum on campus.

Monday, November 2: In a letter to the university, Mizzou graduate student Jonathan Butler announces the beginning of his hunger strike in response to Tim Wolfe's inaction to racism and discrimination incidents on campus.

Monday, November 9: Wolfe announces his resignation from his position. UMSL Chancellor Thomas George sends out an announcement to the UMSL community in response to Wolfe's resignation.

Later that day Mizzou Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announces his resignation, effective January 1, after nine deans' call for him to step down. Upon his resignation he will become the director for research facility development at Mizzou.

That same day protesters, including Concerned Student 1950, take to Carnahan Quadrangle on Mizzou's campus. After Wolfe's resignation, protesters want to strategize and ask media to leave the area and attempt to block them. Tim Tai, a photojournalism student with ESPN, and Mark Schierbecker, a Mizzou student and free speech activist, clash with protesters. Melissa Click, an assistant professor of mass media at Mizzou, tells Schierbecker to leave and attempts to grab his camera. Jenna Basler, director of Greek Life at Mizzou, clashes with Tai. The incidents raise First Amendment Rights issues.

Tuesday, November 10: The Mizzou Police Department investigates threats made on a smart-phone social media app called Yik Yak. One message read, "Some of you are alright. Don't go to campus tomorrow."

Thursday, November 12: The UM Board of Curators announces the appointment of former Mizzou Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton as the interim president of the UM System, effective immediately. The UM System announces that Loftin's resignation will come immediately instead of in January. Interim Chancellor Hank Foley assumes Loftin's responsibilities.