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The Current

1966

Celebrating 50 Years as

2016

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

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FEB 1, 2016



UM System President Middleton Talks with CCDC

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Usually, systematic change comes from the top down in college institutions. However, the University of Missouri—St. Louis was ahead of change

at the University of Missouri System by creating the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

Interim UM System President Michael Middleton visited the UMSL campus on January 26. Middleton visited several departments and groups

while at UMSL, but with the creation of the new UM System diversity council to oversee the four campuses, he met with the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Council (CCDC), which has been in existence for several years.

President Middleton said, "We have

to get creative. We have to operate in a way that the university can benefit all of us. We are a university, we are supposed to think these things through and find solutions. If we can't do it, who is going to do it?"

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Homecoming Week 2016 to Feature New Events

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The first Homecoming celebration at the University of Missouri—St. Louis took place in February 1963, the same year the campus was founded. The tradition began with just two events—a basketball game and a dance. Fast forward 53 years and some original Homecoming traditions still remain, although a number have been incorporated and improved upon over the years.

Homecoming week 2016 will run February 1 through 6 and feature many of the traditional events, with the addition of two brand new events. "We don't have new rules or regulations for any of the competition pieces, so

the real changes are to the schedule of events," said Jessica Long-Pease, director of the Office of Student Life.

The following is a full schedule of Homecoming week 2016 events:

February 1 through February 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Millennium Student Center Information Desk will be a Homecoming Information Booth. Students can find out more about what is happening during Homecoming week and purchase their tickets to the Homecoming Dinner and Dance.

February 1 through February 5 at various campus locations is the Where's Louie Medallion Hunt. The objective is to find Louie! Each day, students can check social media for clues to find the hidden medallion somewhere on cam-

pus. Clues can be found on Twitter @umslhomecoming and at facebook.com/umslhomecoming.

February 1 through February 5 is voting for Homecoming court.

Students can vote for their preferred candidate at umsl.edu/go/homecomingvote or through the UMSL Mobile App's Campus Life portal.

February 1 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. is the Homecoming Kick Off at the Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC). Hosted by the Homecoming Steering Committee, the kick off will feature Homecoming entertainment,

live music, free food, giveaways, the 2016 Homecoming Royalty introduction, and the Red and Gold Regatta.

February 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Natatorium Room 109 in the RWC is the Red and Gold Regatta cardboard boat races, a brand new event. Check-

in begins at 6 p.m. Before the event, teams and student groups will be given supplies to build their own cardboard boat out of duct tape, corrugated cardboard, and pool noodles. Teams will then race their boat across

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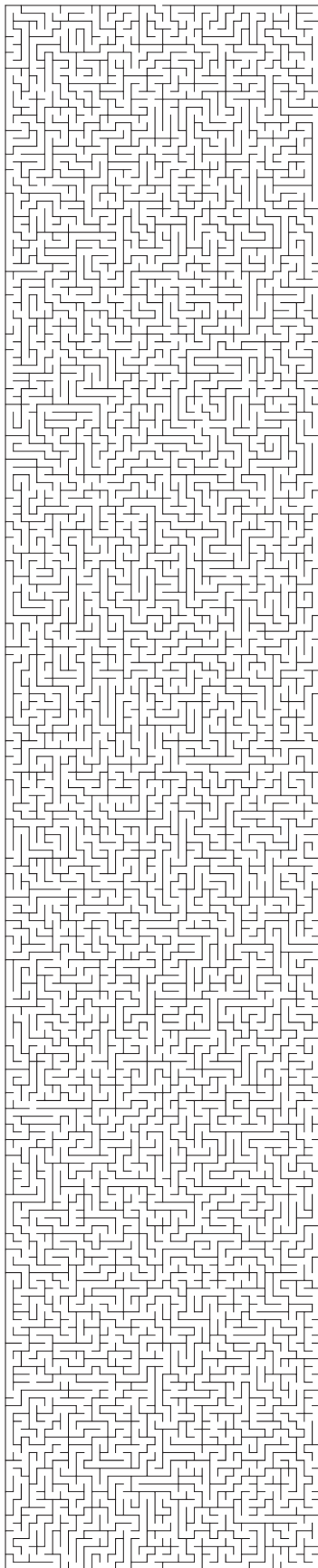
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GAME CORNER

Difficulty: Afternoon Tea and Cookies



The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents: Problem of the Week

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, February 5. Solvers will be eligible for our pi day drawing on March 14. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

There was a roving young scholar from Ghent
 Who feigned learning where e're he went
 But he shook from the blow
 Dealt by the puzzle below
 So sad for this crestfallen gent.

Problem: If you roll a pair of fair dice repeatedly and note the total facing up, what is the probability of rolling a 5 before you roll a 7?

Math Club meeting on Wednesday 2/10 at 1:00pm in ESH304. A 30 minute film, "The Joy of Pi" will be shown. Refreshments too. All are welcome.

CONTEST

YOUR DESIGN AS THE OFFICIAL

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THE UNDERCURRENT

By Shannon Geary

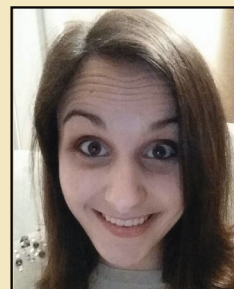
ARE YOU GOING TO ANY HOMECOMING EVENTS?



GARY ARTURO,
 Junior, Criminology
 "... lip sync, pack the stands, and canstruction because Sigma Tau Gamma is sponsoring Matt McCoy who is running for homecoming king."



SAM GENO,
 Senior, English
 "I am not currently planning on attending any Homecoming events."



MEAGAN FITZPATRICK,
 Senior, English
 "No I'm not planning on attending any of the homecoming events."

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SGA Meeting Emphasizes Transparency Amid Ongoing Budget Crisis

JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association meeting was held January 29 at 12:30 p.m. in SGA Chambers. Unlike at typical meetings, SGA had prepared a substantial packet of supplementary materials for the representatives about the University of Missouri—St. Louis' ongoing budget crisis. These materials would set the tone for the meeting, as the budget issue would dominate the President's Report and the meeting as a whole.

After the adoption of the agenda, SGA President Cameron Roark, senior, criminology, began his report with some updates about the search to fill two administrative positions. One of them, the position of Chief Diversity Officer of Inclusion and Equity for the entire UM system, is a new position. Roark announced that the committee in charge of filling that position had narrowed it down to three candidates, and the interviews of these candidates would take place at the beginning of February. Roark also updated the assembly on the search for a new provost. Current provost Glen Cope will be leaving UMSL in June. "The search ... has already combined with different academic units and units around campus as well as a couple of student representatives. I will give more details, as much as I can, when that comes up," said Roark.

Roark then proceeded to discuss extensively the budget problems and the materials in the packets. He explained that the executives of SGA had put together a packet summarizing all the information at the students' disposal. The packet included local news articles about the November 2014 hiring freeze and the recent announcement of possible layoffs, an administration memo from Chancellor Thomas George listing what areas should be cut to alleviate the budget problems, and some charts quantifying state appropriations and expenditures over the last five years.

In his report Roark expressed his frustration at the lack of transparency on the part of the administration. He said, "We really don't hear much besides the news which everyone else hears, which is a problem for us, and that's why we are trying to go at this really heavy right now ... We feel that there are a lot of people that aren't communicating and being held accountable right now for the budget situation." He went over the timeline of the crisis and how the reports went from an \$8 million budget shortfall to a \$15 million budget shortfall. This increase has been due in part to the decreasing enrollment since 2011. According to Roark, the university has also spent \$166 million despite only taking in \$155 million in revenue. Roark told the representatives that they



Robert "Michael" Clark delivering his brief Comptroller's Report

ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

can contribute their input to the budget through the suggestion box on the newly created UMSL Sustainable Budget Realignment website.

Other students chimed in to voice their dissatisfaction when Roark opened up his report to questions. International Business Club SGA Representative Emily Donaldson, senior, accounting, was one of the most vocal about this dissatisfaction. Donaldson asked, "How do we know that these [the deficit] numbers are correct at this point ... They knew for three years, and yet it's taken them this long to cut? Why weren't more cuts made sooner if they could see this coming ... I don't understand why the university would do things that my professors would teach me would put my licensing at risk."

In her report, SGA Vice President Kristin Wyninegar, senior, communications, discussed a new program called Senator of the Month. "Essentially the Senator of the Month is someone who constantly represents UMSL and continuously tries to initiate conversation

and events to make the UMSL experience better," she said. This month's nominees were Kaitlin Henning, senior, psychology, and Cameron Nunn, senior, physics. Wyninegar also went over the Homecoming events that will take place the week of February 1 up until the dance on February 6. A complete list of the Homecoming week events can be found on the Student Organizations page of UMSL's website or on the Student Life calendar, and a Homecoming Information Booth will be set up until February 4 at the Millennium Student Center Info Desk.

The next SGA meeting will be held on February 19 at 12:30 p.m. in the Century Rooms. This meeting, like the one on January 29, will focus heavily on the budget crisis. The SGA executives have invited Chancellor George and Vice-Provost of Student Affairs Curt Coonrod to attend the meeting. Students are encouraged to attend and ask questions regarding the plans to fix the deficit.



David McGraw, President of ASUM at UMSL, inviting students for Lobby Day in Jefferson City

ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

Campus Crime Report

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

The following is a series of daily crime reports issued by the University of Missouri—St. Louis police department since the week of January 18.

January 19: At 11:52 a.m., an UMSL staff member reported damage done to their car parked in Lot E. Later, at 9:16 p.m., a student reportedly hit the fence surrounding the campus tennis court with their car, located at Lot M. Both were formally reported to the police.

January 20: An argument between a student and a non-student at University Meadows was called in around 5:27 p.m. At 7:48 p.m., a non-UMSL student reportedly broke a window at University Meadows before leaving the scene. A suspect was arrested by local police the next day and has been released pending a warrant application.

January 22: Several reports of found property reported at 8:00 a.m. at the Millennium Student Center, including the following items: two driver's licenses; a credit card; a Washington University ID card. All items are being held by the UMSL PD for safe-keeping and can be retrieved from the police station.

January 23: At 1:08 a.m., an elevator call from Oak Hall, which involved the caller calling and then hanging up, was investigated by the PD. A report was filed and no further action was required.

January 24: At 10:52 a.m., the PD was requested by a student at Oak Hall to investigate their room on suspicion of someone having entered. A report was filed and no further action was taken. At 4:02 p.m., the PD and the Northeast Fire Department responded to a small kitchen fire in Mansion Hill. No report of damages or injuries were filed. At 3:46 p.m. in the MSC, PD escorted an allegedly homeless individual off campus after the individual had been reported suspicious.

UM System President Middleton Talks with CCDC

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Continued from Page 1

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force was created for the UM System after the incidents that occurred on the University of Missouri—Columbia campus last semester. There are two phases to the membership process for the task force. On January 15, the UM System announced that Phase I membership, members chosen by the nomination of campuses and system units, had been completed. The Task Force Chair, Dr. David Mitchell, will lead 19 others after Phase I. Phase II will be the inclusion of additional faculty, staff, and student leaders nominated through campus learning and listening sessions that are scheduled in February on each campus.

According to the UM System website, “The two phases of membership selection will enable the task force to be more diverse and inclusive to best reflect campus constituents.”

After Phase I, the representation of the four campuses on the task force are as follows: four UMKC representatives, two UMSL representatives, two

Missouri S&T representatives, six MU representatives, and five UM System representatives.

Deborah Burris, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity at UMSL, is one of 19 total that have been chosen to serve in Phase I. Burris and Larry Davis, associate professor and dean of the College of Optometry, co-chair the CCDC.

Middleton said, “I assumed this role and I named a system-wide task force. I want to say diversity, but I really want to say inclusion. I don’t know how that fits. In Columbia, they’ve done an okay job on diversity. They’ve done very little with inclusion... It sounds to me that what this group is talking about is that. I don’t really think we achieve the educational benefits of diversity unless you use it. And that’s the inclusion piece... I’m hopeful that this system-wide task force, which I hope you guys will be feeding information to, can help us develop some things to take that next step.”

“I’m also a little concerned that there are people who view our traditional diversity efforts as first, only about race. Which it is not. We tend to divide ourselves in terms of friends, allies, and enemies. And we don’t want to hear our

enemies. But that’s a part of the diversity, too. We have to be open to opinions, though they may be repugnant to us, they are legitimate opinions of people in our community. They deserve some level of respect,” Middleton said.

The CCDC was established in 2004 as a task force to inform the chancellor and make recommendations concerning campus diversity issues and concerns. It was comprised of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. The task force became a more permanent body and changed its name to the Chancellor’s Cultural Diversity Council in 2010. The council meets on a monthly basis to discuss problems that underrepresented voices on campus face.

Chancellor Thomas George said, “It’s not just simply a gripe session or dog and pony, we had speakers come in from faculty who were experts in the content area and took on issues. We have made recommendations to my office and to others that we would act on. It’s been a very aggressive, vibrant task force.”

In the spring of 2012, the CCDC worked with the Missouri S&T campus to conduct the first comprehensive campus climate studies. The council met with the consultant about the questions,

marketed the survey, and developed a diversity action plan based on the results of the survey.

The council also helped resolve a problem that students faced when they could not re-enroll because they owed more than the \$200 allowable. Burris said, “It really blew our minds the number of students who could not continue their education for such a minimal amount. Yeah, when you add it up it’s a lot of students who owe \$200 but it just really didn’t seem fair. There were a large number of minority students impacted, but it was really having to do with low income and accessibility... As a result, we ended up tweaking and modifying the campus policy about that.”

The CCDC also conducted the campus community forums that followed the incidents in Ferguson. The CCDC made sure that these forums were an opportunity for the UMSL community to share their thoughts, opinions, feelings, and frustrations in a constructive, meaningful way. The resources of the university were also offered to the community to try to support clean up and counseling efforts. The CCDC hopes to continue the Campus Conversation series this semester.

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Homecoming Week 2016 New Events

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

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the pool against other teams. Their boat must take them back and forth twice, and whoever gets there first will be the winner!

February 2 at 7 p.m. in the MSC Century Rooms is Big Man on Campus. This event is hosted by the UMSL Panhellenic Association. UMSL students will compete in a series of live events to win the title of Big Man on Campus. Contestants must decorate their bucket to collect pennies for the Penny War competition. Students can add to the penny war buckets to help their favorite contestant win. Buckets will be judged on theme and overall presentation. Proceeds will benefit Girls, Inc.

February 2 at 8:30 p.m. in Parking Lot E at the MSC is Ice Skating. Students can lace up their skates and enjoy a night of ice skating under the stars. Warm beverages and snacks will be provided.

February 3 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in MSC Century Rooms A and B is the Chili Feed. For \$5, attendees can sample five chili samples submitted and served by UMSL faculty and administration, and vote for their favorite. The winner will be bestowed with the Golden Ladle Award. Proceeds will benefit the Pagedale Family Support Center. Tickets can be purchased at <https://>

umsl.sodexomyway.com/shop/p/546.

February 3 at 7 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Auditorium is the Lip Sync Competition. This is a performance-based competition for any team or organization wanting to participate. Teams of up to 10 people will choreograph a dance and skit performance of up to eight minutes. Each king and queen candidate is required to create their own performance for the competition.

February 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the MSC Century Rooms is the Homecoming Blood Drive. Participants can donate blood and give back to the community. Blood donations will go to the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood center.

February 4 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC Fireside Lounge is CANstruction for Pagedale. Canned goods and non-perishables will be collected to create a structure that reflects the Homecoming theme. Donated items will benefit the Pagedale Family Support Center.

February 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center is Pack the Stands. The UMSL Tritons will be taking on McKendree. The event is free to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and children under six, with the presentation of a valid UMSL ID or UMSL Alumni Membership card. Attendees can enjoy free food and giveaways.

Continued online at
thecurrent-online.com

Annual Pipeline to Local Office Held at Sue Shear Institute

SHANNON GEARY
FEATURES EDITOR

With 2016 being a presidential election, politics are on the mind of many Americans. On January 28, the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life hosted their annual Pipeline to Local Office event in Woods Hall room 101. In attendance were a myriad of politically inclined people, from campaign workers and managers to the candidates themselves.

Politics is a fast moving environment. The institute's founder and director, Vivian Eveloff, began the night with some words of wisdom: "Eat when you can because the schedule goes out the door."

Eveloff then discussed clothing advice for political aspirants on the campaign trail. The most important piece of clothing according to Eveloff? Anything with pockets. When networking, the attendants were encouraged to always carry their own cards as well as having a pocket free for accepting business cards from others. Eveloff also warned to designate one pocket for your own literature and to save a separate pocket for others, to make sure that they always hand out their own information.

Acknowledging that the question of fashion is much easier for men, Eveloff did not allow the conversation to take a negative tone; instead, she offered a solution she had seen used before—planning out and preparing outfits



L to R: Jacqueline Carter, Valeri Felix, Marika Felix, Sarah Schroeder, Frank Janoski, Lindsey Butler, and Gilda Whittier
SHANNON GEARY/THE CURRENT

in advance. "You've got a lot of other things to think about," she reminded the class.

Lynn Voss, assistant director of the institute, presented on targeting voters and marketing. The most important questions on this subject are how many voters are in your district, who are they, and where are they. Of course, it was a little more complicated than just that. First, Voss said to gather as highly detailed data as is possible, which is available from local election authorities and the Missouri Ethics Commission. Specifically, candidates need the number of registered voters, the turnout percentage, and trends for elections like theirs. However, Voss warned that often between elections there is redistricting, and some incumbents will have reached their term limits while others will be running unopposed.

Voss and Eveloff both stressed that voting is a habit and that the best indication of future votes was past turn out. Of course, even something so simple is more complex in action than theory. For instance, there is a large difference in voter turnout between a race with all incumbents versus one with open seats and all new candidates. One thing is certain: accurate data is extremely important in running a campaign.

One thing aided by such data is canvassing, or campaigning door-to-door. Both Voss and Eveloff agreed that canvassing was most effective in areas where the houses are close together, but be smart: canvassing in areas with low voter turn-out is not efficient. Canvassing, along with any face-to-face meetings, are the most important parts of campaigns. Voss and Eveloff suggested leaving literature behind if people are

not at home but warned to stay away from mailboxes as they are a quick and easy way to pick up legal trouble. They also stressed taking notes on potential voters; what they want and how willing they are to vote for you. They also suggested following up with any voters who had questions or wanted more information but not to spend too much time in any one spot—do not go inside and do not linger.

The last presenter was Dr. Donna Thurman, vice president of the Ferguson-Florissant school board and an alumni of University of Missouri—St. Louis from which she received her doctorate in education in administration in 1998. Speaking from experience, Thurman stressed the importance of time lines, budgets, and in-person meetings. Thurman related one story from her canvassing about "talking to this lady, she had to be about 85 years old and she goes 'take your [sun]glasses off. I want to see your eyes. I want to read you.' And that has stuck with me." One of the students asked about security when canvassing. Thurman said that she never canvassed alone, never at night, and with men when possible.

Thurman ended the night by saying, "Anybody who goes through this [campaigning], bless you." After a long evening of learning the nitty-gritty behind the political process, that final moment of support for the unsung working heroes of the campaigning world was a welcome one.

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Momix's Return to Touhill, 'Alchemia' Dance Fantasy

CATE MARQUIS
STAFF WRITER

Dance St. Louis brought the amazing dancer-illusionists Momix back to the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center for three performances of their fantasy production "Alchemia," on January 29 and 30. Once again, the troupe wowed audiences with a mix of breath-taking dance, hypnotic music, mysterious projections, and magic-inspired staging.

Last year, Momix thrilled audiences with "Botanica," so it was no surprise the Touhill was packed on January 29. As the lights came down, black-and-white dashes were projected on the stage curtain, as a mix of eerie music and ocean sounds played. The curtain rose on a mostly-darkened stage with large, slender columns, and an enormous blue fish seemed to swim in and out of the columns. It was a perfectly mysterious, magical, nature-inspired way to open "Alchemia," in which dancers moved through haunting effects created with combination of amazing lighting effects and video projections, set to equally haunting music.

The two-part dance production was presented without intermission. "Quest for FireWater" had the dancers dressed in bright scarlet—the women in bare-armed dresses with long, flowing skirts and the men bare-chested dressed in long, loose skirts. The costumes were used like props, as dancers created illusions of flowing water, blowing wind and leaping flames. In the second part, "Led into Gold," dancers were in more structured costumes of gold and white that again were incorporated into the dance. "Quest for FireWater" was darker, filled with a primitive energy and images of nature, suffused with a feeling of exotic prehistoric ritual and sexual urges. The second half took a more romantic and formal tone, like humanity after the restraints of culture have been applied. The first part was all about "natural" man, whereas the second half focused on the transformations of human civilization, a transformation by alchemy.

Although alchemy's traditional goal is transforming lead into gold, choreographer Moses Pendleton's "base material" are the four classic elements of water, air, earth, and fire. What that base is transformed into seems to be human culture and technology.

"Quest for FireWater" focused on the women, who leap, spin, slink, and stride around the stage, while the male dancers encircled and seem to worship their Earth Mother power. The dance began with the watery world, progressing through earth and air portions, to end with a spectacle fire sequence that was breathtaking in its beauty and energy. Momix performances usually include sensuality, even sexiness, but often with a humorous spin. This



Momix, "Alchemia," at Touhill PAC, photo by Todd Burnsed COURTESY OF DANCE ST. LOUIS

performance was no exception, including a dance where the women use pads hidden under their skirts to imitate the wide-hipped panniers of the 18th century, strutting around the stage and waving their hips. They transform these

bumps into prominent buttocks, large breasts, and finally into large bellies. The women cap those transformation with an unlikely placement that undercuts the sexuality with humor.

Transitioning to the second part,

dancers performed a black-light illusion sequence. Dressed in black suits decorated with glowing white patterns suggesting arteries and veins, dancers seemed to float or run above the darkened stage, like mysterious beings moving through a subterranean world.

"Led into Gold" was a romantic turn and one of the delights of the evening. In a gorgeous pas-de-deux, a female dancer in a white dress soared above the stage and her male partner while illuminated with dozens of tiny spotlights that seem to cover her in stars. It was followed by a striking piece in which women dressed in double-layered hoop skirts transformed the skirts and themselves into flowers or clams in shells. Adding the evening's comic highlight, the men appear in costumes made of black fabric stretched over wire frames, which they manipulated in series of ways as they marched about the stage. Another pair of illusions featured dancers in front of angled mirrors that multiplied their number, and one where dancers moved back-and-forth across the stage, vanishing and re-appearing from behind screens reflecting projected patterns.

Momix likes to use both stage illusions and large props in their dance pieces, but "Alchemia" leaned more to the former. The major prop piece was the finale; dancers used a pair of large semi-circular forms that they walked inside, rocked back and forth, rotated, or up-ended at various points, transforming them into gateways, caves, and other objects.

"Alchemia" filled the audience with awe of the dancers' skills, while creating a sensation of magic, mystery, and the occult. However, the lack of an intermission may have left some audience members as wrung-out as the dancers must have been by the end.



Birds of Various Media Exhibited at Gallery Visio

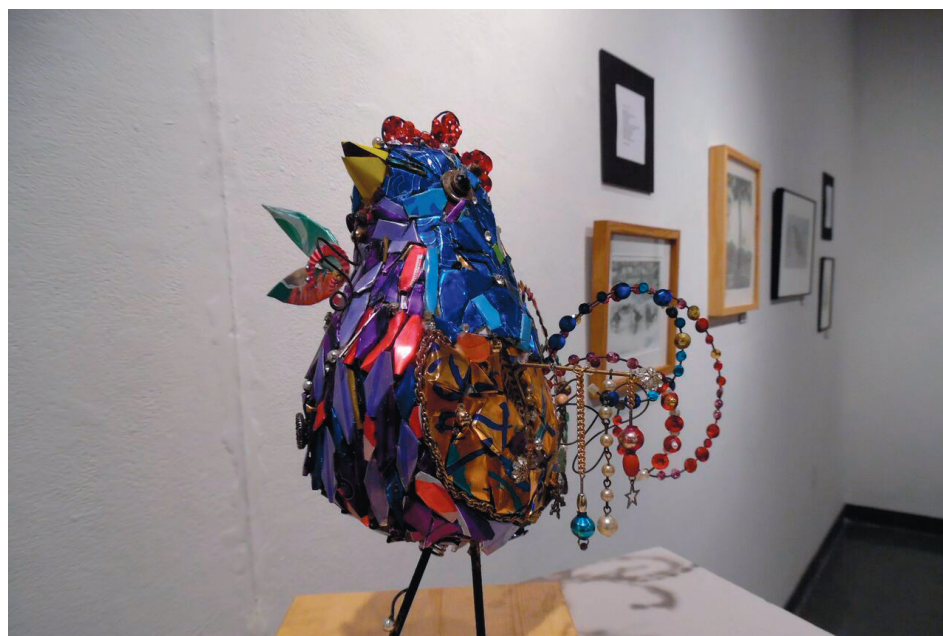
LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

A collection of pieces that immersed the viewer in the colorful and curious world of birds and trees was on display for just under a week at Gallery Visio in the Millennium Student Center. The feathery exhibit, titled “Heading North for the Winter” featured artwork from various St. Louis artists, including University of Missouri—St. Louis student Aimee Kick, senior, studio art, and UMSL lecturer of art and art history Linda Bangert. The exhibit opened January 23 with an artist reception and closed January 29.

Upon an initial sweep of the artwork, it was obvious that a wide assortment of birds and trees of different colors, sizes, shapes, textures, and media were showcased in the exhibit. Birds included owls, geese, chickens, quails, ostriches, chickadees, and grosbeaks—just to name a handful. A few origami birds even made an appearance.

One of the most intriguing pieces in the entire exhibit was titled “You’ve Got That Thing” by Anne Marie Mosher. Immediately, the most noticeable part of the piece is a round mirror centered amid the mosaic design of ceramic tiles. Upon closer inspection, three birds are perched in the trees framing the mirror. Three lyrics also appear in the corners of the piece: “You’ve got that thing ... You’ve got that thing ... that makes all birds forget to sing.” The lyrics come from a 1930 hit called “You’ve Got That Thing,” written by Cole Porter and performed by Bobby Short.

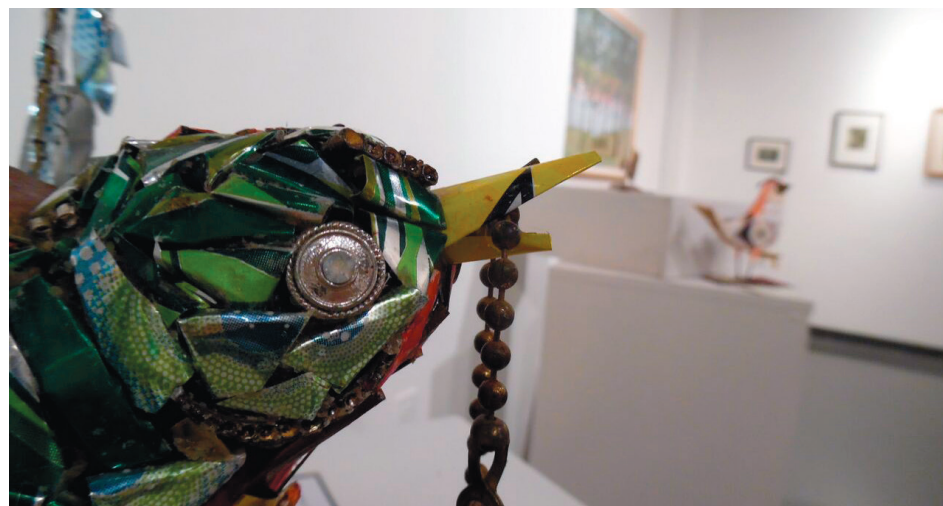
The works of three artist sisters—Julie, Joan, and Christine Bugnitz—were also dispersed throughout the exhibit. A collection of four prints by Julie depict birds in simple scenes, such as a



A wide array of birds were featured in “Heading North for the Winter,” even some made from recycled materials and household items.
JANECE WOODSON/THE CURRENT

crow feasting on berries and a chickadee resting on a pine branch in winter. The specific method Julie used to create the pieces was collagraphy, a process of making prints out of a collage. For

the more minute details, such as the tree branches and birds’ feathers, she used embossing, a technique of creating raised impressions on a surface such as paper or metal. This technique gives the



A wide array of birds were featured in “Heading North for the Winter,” even some made from recycled materials and household items.
JANECE WOODSON/THE CURRENT

piece a three-dimensional style, evident in Julie’s prints.

Although birds were the predominant theme in this exhibit, a few eye-catching pieces of trees could not be ignored. The largest piece in the entire exhibit was titled “Apple Trees,” by Linda Bangert. It depicts a scenic and serene view of several apple trees on an embankment overlooking a lake. Speckled with red flecks, the water appears to reflect a sunset.

Displayed along with some pieces were the artists’ poems or handwritten notes, which provided personal touches about their work. In a poem titled “Farewell,” Christine Bugnitz recalls her sadness at a fallen willow tree: “I remember the sound most of all ... the creaks and squeaks marking the inch by inch ... When it finally eased itself to the ground, splayed in a sorrow spectacle, it was then we wept for our willow.”

In addition to framed artwork, a plethora of other feathery creatures of other various materials were placed on tables throughout the gallery. Joyce Pion’s collection of fiber birds, “The Mourning Dove,” “Barnyard Fowl,” and “The Purple Martin,” consist of a wide array of materials, including fibers, fabric, lace, buttons, and sequins. Some birds were even constructed out of recycled materials, such as soda cans and bottle caps.

If one did not get a chance to stop by and see “Heading North for the Winter,” be sure to visit Gallery Visio’s upcoming exhibit, “Landon Ruan’s New St. Louis.” It will debut on February 3 with an opening reception of food and beverages and run through February 26. Gallery Visio is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

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Thursday, Feb. 4 vs. McKendree

women: 5:30 p.m. | men: 7:30 p.m.

Tritons Lose to Rockhurst, Despite Strong Play



Shea O'Brien

ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT



Jordan Fletcher

ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

ALEX NEUPERT SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri—St. Louis women's basketball team took on Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) opponent Rockhurst University in the second game of a four-game home stand on January 30 at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. The Tritons stumbled into the contest following four consecutive losses to other conference teams that has found them sitting towards the bottom of the GLVC with a record of 7-11 (2-8) heading into the Saturday matchup. UMSL nearly finished the comeback, but despite double-doubles from Kelly Kunkel, senior, marketing, and Jordan Fletcher, redshirt sophomore, finance, the Tritons fell to

the Hawks 63-66.

Both teams got off to a messy start with a couple missed shots and turnovers during the first few possessions. It was not until nearly two minutes passed before Kunkel made the first basket of the game, a fairly open three-point shot that helped jumpstart both teams. From there, Fletcher added a layup for an early five-point lead. After another shot from Kunkel, the Hawks countered with five from their point guard, including a contested three-pointer. Two more minutes passed with blocked shots and steals on both sides keeping the two offenses on their toes. UMSL ended the first quarter leading Rockhurst by eight, their highest lead of the afternoon.

The Hawks made up for their slow start by quickly asserting themselves in

the second quarter off the strength of eight unanswered points to tie the game up at 16 each. UMSL fought back with a midrange jumper from Kunkel and a layup from Sydney Bloch, junior, business and criminology, following a steal from Bloch which led to the fastbreak chance. The two teams continued to contest every point up till the whistle blew for halftime. After a few lead changes, Rockhurst managed to pull away with five points to take the lead as the half expired.

When the players returned to the court, UMSL continued to struggle keeping track of the ball as two early steals set up several points off turnovers for the Hawks to extend their lead 39-31. The main problem for the Tritons seemed to be with the defensive pressure exerted by the away team. Rockhurst constantly changed their strategy, seamlessly transitioning from offense into full-court defense and man-to-man as necessary. During the early going of the third quarter, this proved a challenging obstacle for the UMSL players, as the difference in defensive coverage had the Triton offense confused.

UMSL would not go away, however, and strung together consecutive baskets to get within three. The Hawks started to slowly pull away as three-point shots added up and pushed their lead to nine—their greatest lead of the game—before UMSL battled back to end the quarter trailing 44-51.

With three quarters in the books, the Hawks looked to hold on to their lead for the last segment of the game while the Tritons tried to claw their way back. UMSL started off strong with four straight points from Fletcher in the opening minute and a half before Rockhurst scored their own string of shots to maintain distance. However, Fletcher forced the issue yet again, sinking two free throw shots and another two-point jumper.

Continued on Page 12



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Why Voter ID Laws May Matter for Students

JANECE WOODSON
STAFF WRITER

There is good news and bad news.

The good news is that our ways of judging others has changed in positive ways. When my grandparents were young, people were marked by their dialect, the fabric of their clothing, and their literacy. Although many still jump to conclusions about others based on dialects and accents, changes in our culture have softened the blow. Whether it is due to increased literacy rates or multiculturalism, it is becoming harder to exclude certain groups of people based on mere trivialities.

The bad news is that we will always need a system of weeding people out from processes like voting. This bad news is why that little plastic card in your wallet matters so much.

In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled certain parts of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional. Thereafter, states have remained polarized on how far

to take laws that restrict voting based on government-issued identification. States such as Illinois support the idea that voting should be as accessible and sensibly legislated as possible for every citizen. They have enacted same-day voting registration, which allows busy adults (or procrastinators) a chance to cast a ballot, and others allow online voting to make the process even simpler. Some officials in these states have even advocated for election day to become a federally recognized holiday, so that no one has to take time off work to vote. Long gone are the days when voting required that you pass a rigorous physical exam (i.e. demonstrate white skin and a lack of baby-carrying capabilities) and a written exam that would weed out the majority of the black and Latino population. States implementing these progressive policies are acting quickly to ensure we never revert to those old ways.

But a few policies are holding out. Many states along the Bible Belt—such

as Alabama and Georgia—have made photo identification mandatory to cast a ballot. In such states, voters must bring a valid driver's license, military ID, or state-issued card of some kind. In most states, voter id laws prohibit the use of student ids as valid forms of identification. Even if they are issued by state universities. This seems to only be used to prohibit students from voting. These laws are based on several hundred cases of purported fraud in recent elections. It is true that, in one year, almost a thousand "deceased" individuals cast their votes in a single election. Obviously, voting fraud is a serious issue, but there are ways to combat it that would not leave out certain demographics of people.

It is undeniable that these laws are indeed leaving certain groups out. I have personally come to realize that every time I pull out my driver's license, military dependent card, or university ID, I take its meaning for granted. For some, it is a difficult and strenuous task

to attain these privileges. They may not be able to afford the fees for a driver's license, or they may have lost their ID for various reasons. I do not even need to elaborate on how difficult it can be to get into college and be granted an ID card. If some people do not even have a home address, why would we also expect them to have photo identification?

The ID laws may deter fraudulent voters, but they also limit the demographic of voters which, in my opinion, is unconstitutional. California has created a system in which a person who does not have an easily traceable number attached to them (a driver's license or social security number) can be granted a voting ID number usable only by that person. This policy is fairly recent, so it is too soon to estimate how effective it is in preventing voting fraud. However, it seems a logical step that does not ask too much of citizens, and is thus a step in the right direction.

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What I Learned From My Chinese Best Friend

ABBY N. VIRIO
STAFF WRITER

For a country that prides itself on being a melting pot of ideas and people, I have felt of late that “ideas” are all we as Americans wish to meld—ideas of diversity, acceptance, and liberties—but not the people whom these ideas represent. Politicians call out other ethnicities, claiming they are lazy, illegal, dangerous, or a burden on our economy. Military analysts talk brazenly about the threats certain countries present to the U.S. They make assertions about “Syrians” or “Germans” or “the French.” Talk like this strikes me as so odd, so inconceivable, when I think about my Chinese best friend.

Kejun and I met during our freshman year at UMSL—an American and a Chinese sitting side by side in class, studying the French language. It can be very challenging for international students to make American friends in college. Everyone is so busy and, more often than not, a unique group of people greets you at each different class. Nevertheless, Kejun and I banded together for lunch, and we discovered we had more in common than an interest in French. Kejun was interested in American culture, and I in Chinese. The more we shared stories about our families, pets, favorite foods, and hometowns, the more China became a real place to me.

Before I met Kejun, China was a place on a map, albeit a large and beautiful place on a map. I did not know China or its people. But then, by my great fortune, I was able to meet her, and I knew one Chinese person. As time passed, I met another and another exchange friend, and while the size of the map hanging in my room remained the same, my world grew exponentially. There was color and new music and sounds—visions of pop cultures swirling through my head, visions of the families of my friends and acquaintances, and of their lives back home.

Then one evening at 5:30 p.m., NBC Nightly News came on. The host, Lester Holt, spoke of what was going on in the world that night: “Syria, Russia, Iran—in turmoil,” “Saudi Arabia made a statement today,” “praying for peace

in Paris,” “an economic summit with Asiatic powers to be held.”

“I know none of these places,” I realized.

Iran? Iran is not a “threat to the United States’ interests.” Iran is where my friend Shadi grew up, where her family home was, and where the memories she cherishes in her life, just like the memories I cherish in mine, come from.

Russia—Russia is not a country seeking domination of eastern Europe. Russia is where my friend Sasha was born. It is where she learned to read and write and play tag. It is the place of her ancestors and a rich culture she is a part of.

South Korea is not the buffer between Kim Jong-un and the rest of the world—it is where my pal Sooyeon lives and studies, where she hits up cafes and photo-booths with friends.

Japan is not an island with a nuclear waste problem; Japan is the home of my language tutor and her family and friends. It is where she took her first steps, where she learned to cook and play videogames.

And China—China is not the unstable economic rival of the United States; it is where my best friend gets up and eats breakfast, does her homework at a library, hangs her laundry out to dry, and goes to bed at night. China is not merely “China” on the map. China is where my postcards go. Her China, the living and breathing China.

My favorite thing about the University of Missouri—St. Louis has always been the importance the university places on international friendship and study. The only true way to know a country is by knowing its people.

Amidst the roar of: “Bomb that country!” “Don’t send your money there, we need to focus on the U.S.!” “Don’t get us involved in another conflict,” I wonder—what if everyone knew, as I now know, that a country is not its government, but its people? What would the world be like if instead of treating a country the way we treat their governments, we treated a country by the way we treat their citizens—everyday, in small gestures of kindness, expecting nothing more in return than the love of a friend?

Tiny Tritons Superhero Spectacular Success



Ezra Johnson and Spider-Man as Spider-People

SHANNON GEARY/THE CURRENT

SHANNON GEARY FEATURES EDITOR


"We only fight bad guys," Batman said as he, Spider-Man, and Batgirl taught a group of children to box. The children were Tiny Tritons and the event was the Superhero Spectacular in Century Room C on January 30 from 10 to 11 a.m. The superhero training provided included push-ups, jumping jacks, running in place, and jumping. At the sight of one of the little girls' high jumps Batgirl said, "I think she almost touched the ceiling." Children, heroes, and children dressed as heroes raced around the room practicing their crime fighting skills. When the presence and attention of their heroes became too much, the children ran to smiling parents scattered about the room.

Spider-Man reminded the children that they did not need super powers to fight crime but, like Batman and Batgirl, could use cool gadgets like grappling guns, an equivalent to Spider-Man's webs. The children then practiced using grappling guns and webs to pull themselves along toward either wall. The heroes then taught the kids how to sneak up on a bad guy by crawling on their hands and knees, and then jumping up. They used Spider-Man's webs to wrap the bad guy up. When the children enthusiastically used this technique on Spider-Man himself, he had to ask for help getting free of the many imaginary webs holding him down. The children were happy to oblige.

A race between Spider-Man and Batman ended in a victory for Spidey

while Batgirl gave out high-fives to the girls. Next, the heroes taught the kids how to remove obstructions, like cars, from their way when chasing bad guys. Batgirl explained that while Batman was strong, Spider-Man was actually pretty weak, but that didn't stop him from being a hero. The heroes showed the kids how to use Spider-Man's webs to catch hold of a car, swing it around and throw it away. The kids were eager to throw away their imaginary cars but quieted when Batgirl asked what they would do if they ran into two bad guys. Spider-Man reminded the kids that they have two hands so they can fight two bad guys. He suggested using the left hand web on the right guy and the right hand web on the left guy and then pulling as hard as possible to smack the two bad guys into each other.

Finally, Batman asked his fellow heroes and the assembled parents "Do you think that they're ready to be superheroes?" At the chorus of affirmations, the class lined up for photos with their heroes. Each child was allowed two pictures, one with all smiles and one "super pose." After the pictures the children were ushered to the snacks table and given a craft to work on. The craft was a foam picture frame with little foam stickers that the children could place themselves. Batgirl also passed out magnetic strips and adhesive jewels. While the day was not in danger, there is now a group of Tiny Tritons ready and willing to help any who might need it in the future.




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Tritons Lose to Rockhurst, Despite Strong Play

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

Continued from Page 8

Down by seven going into the final media timeout with 4:50 left to play, Fletcher got by her defender with a well-executed hook shot to get the home team within five. After a few messy exchanges from both teams, Amber Daly, senior, clinical psychology, stole the ball from her Hawk counterpart and took it down the court for an easy layup to get UMSL within striking distance. Nevertheless, Rockhurst held onto their lead through the final minutes, making all four of their final free throw chances from UMSL fouls. Even with a Kunkel three-pointer and another Fletcher layup to get the Tritons within one twice, they could not pull off the comeback.

The tale of the match was Rockhurst's three-point shooting, as their squad combined for 12 on the afternoon. Compared to only two from the Tritons, points from beyond the arc clearly proved to be one of several deciding factors of the matchup. On the flip side, UMSL displayed good control of the paint on offense to the tune of 25 offensive rebounds, leading to 15 second chance points. Kunkel and Fletcher led the team on both sides of the ball, as they made 16 points, 12 rebounds, and 24 points, 13 rebounds respectively.

The Triton's women's basketball team next faces McKendree University in another home game on February 4 at 5:30 p.m.

2016 Homecoming Court

Homecoming has been a tradition at the University of Missouri-St. Louis since its earliest days in the 1960s. In one of the week's most celebrated traditions, the Homecoming Court will reveal the Homecoming King and Queen, each the winner of a student-wide polling process of nine candidates—four candidates for King and five for Queen. The winners will be announced at the

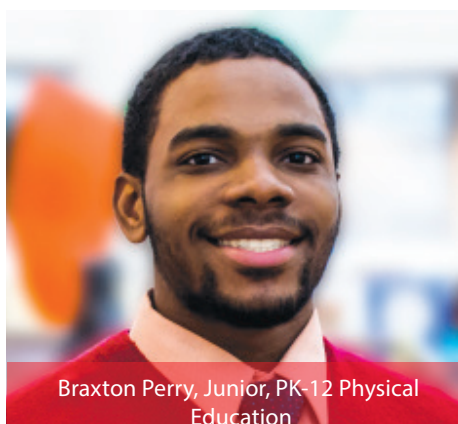
dinner and dance at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel at 6:00 p.m. on February 6.

Voting for Homecoming Court will begin February 1 and continue through February 5. Students can vote by going to <http://umsl.edu/go/homecoming-vote>, using the Campus Life portal on UMSL's Mobile App, or on the Homecoming website homecoming.umsl.edu.

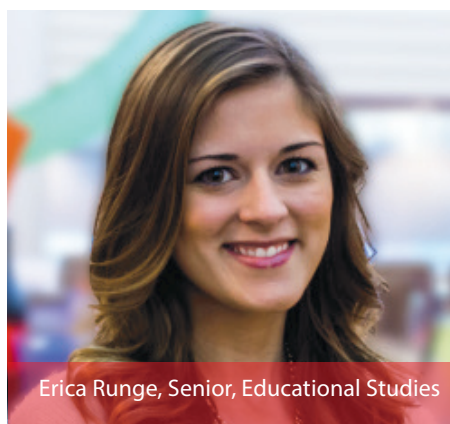
Individual, couple, and student

organization/department tickets to the dinner and dance will be available for purchase at the Office of Student Life, 366 MSC. Tickets cost \$30 per individual, \$55 per couple, and \$275 for a table of 10. For more information on tickets, visit homecoming.umsl.edu/events/.

All photos are courtesy of the Office of Student Life.



Braxton Perry, Junior, PK-12 Physical Education



Erica Runge, Senior, Educational Studies



Geddy Trebus, Senior, Biology



Samantha Risius, Sophomore, Psychology



Andrea Bryant, Senior, Business Administration



Lavell Monger, Senior, Anthropology



Matt McCoy, Senior, Biology



Melissa Roth, Senior, Criminal Justice and Criminology



Riann Rikard, Junior, Nursing

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