SGA Forum Has Tough Questions for Chancellor

JESSIE EIKMANN STAFF WRITER

The Student Government Association (SGA) meeting held on February 19 at 12:30 p.m. looked vastly different than usual meetings. The University of Missouri—St. Louis’ Chancellor, Thomas George, and Vice Provost of Student Affairs, Curtis Coonrod, sat at a panel in front with the SGA officers, and various administrators were clustered in the audience, all prepared to discuss the current state of the ongoing budget deficit problem and its potential long-term repercussions. Rather than being held in its usual location, the Millennium Student Center’s SGA Chambers, the venue was moved to the MSC Century Rooms to accommodate all the students, faculty, and administrators present.

With election season in full swing, a new political student group at the University of Missouri—St. Louis has sprung up. The new organization is called UMSL College Democrats and they held their first ever meet and greet in the Fireside Lounge on February 17 from 3:45 to 5 p.m.

UMSL College Democrats’ Interim President Zachary Smith, junior, public policy and administration, and Interim Vice President Nicholas Adams, sophomore, political science, spearheaded the meeting and spoke in front of attendees about the vision and goals of the organization.

The two of them distributed a list of UMSL College Democrats’ five goals to people in attendance: increase voter participation by 1000, increase political awareness in the United States, the top 18 teams will be divided. Out of four divisions in the competition’s selection process, the top two teams will be streamed on the Redbull TV app.

“Turn off your cellphones, turn off your TV’s, grab your backpack … that’s ideal,” said Davis. His interest in adventure has been a long-term engagement, as he has been backpacking, surfing, and rock-climbing for years. He bonded with Burcea initially through their passion for soccer, and he met their third teammate, Newton, through auditions for MTV’s “Real World.” Burcea has an aptitude for traveling, as he came from Romania to study politics at UMSL.

“I’m a gypsy, so what’s more natural thing for me to do than go wander somewhere?” he said.

Redbull: Can You Make It? UMSL’s Extreme Team

JANEECE WOODSON STAFF WRITER

Extreme is what these two University of Missouri—St. Louis students and buddies live for, and they have found the perfect opportunity to prove it. They just need some help from the community of students they have long shared their passions with. Nicolae Burcea, senior, international relations, and Denzel Davis, junior, anthropology, have teamed up with student Blake Newton of the University of Iowa to win a trip to Europe and, while there, finish in a wild race. The three have formed the adventure group Ozaki Wolfpack. Currently, they are campaigning to be a part of Redbull’s “Can You Make It?” competition, a selective struggle that will end in 165 teams racing across Europe to Paris, France, the City of Lights.

The competition’s selection process is based on who can accumulate the most votes within their designated division. Out of four divisions in the United States, the top 18 teams will be flown to Europe; the race will begin on April 12. All 165 teams will begin at various unknown locations. Their goal is to reach Paris in seven days, stopping at various cultural checkpoints along the way. Although it may sound like a fun European vacation, there is a catch, and it has stirred up Ozaki Wolfpack’s interests. Each team must surrender their phones and their money; only 24 cans of Redbull energy drinks can be used to survive. The groups’ progress will be streamed on the Redbull TV app.

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GAME CORNER

The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents Problem of The Week
Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, February 26. Solvers will be eligible for our pi day drawing on March 14. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

An angle, acute, is nine
More than another whose sine
Which when added to four
Gives three halves and six more
Pray, tell us this angle divine.

Problem: What is the angle?

Club Math Film Series “The Joy of Infinite Series” Wednesday 2/24 at 1:00pm in 304 ESH. A white knuckles half-hour thriller of high stakes “serie-ous” fun. Refreshments too. All are welcome. A short meeting to follow.

DIFFICULTY:
Where’s My Money

What did you do with the nice weather over the weekend?

By Lori Dresner

CATHARINE LAUK,
Junior, German
“I’m going to Chicago, so I’m suffering the cold.”

KAT MIEREK,
Senior, Information Systems
“Yes. Go for a walk outdoors.”

EMILY KNAPP,
Junior, Logistics
“I miss the cold weather. I’ll sit outside and enjoy it but miss the cold.”

THE UNDERRCURRENT

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THE UNDERCURRENT
### SGA Forum Has Tough Questions for Chancellor

**JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER**

**Continued from Page 1**

The meeting began with a three-slide presentation by Chancellor George explaining the breakdown of how the university’s budget is spent and the extent of the problem. He addressed the discrepancy of the deficit’s magnitude as reported by newspapers and media outlets, saying, “Right now on a go-forward basis we are overspending that by $11 million more per year than we’re taking in...So what we have is an $11 million problem. Now, you saw in the newspapers a month or two ago an $8 million problem. Well, what we did to get that eight million dollar figure to the [St. Louis] Post-Dispatch is we looked at things we can do centrally right off the top that would help reduce that $11 million...Now we’ve been saying it’s a $15 million problem. The reason it’s $15 million is largely that we’re self-imposing on ourselves. We’re adding another $3 million figure to it. We need a buffer...So the actual hard-dollar problem right now going into next fiscal year is $11 million, but we’re adding some contingency and saying we should try to find $15 million.”

The Chancellor’s contingency plan is in part based on the projections for student enrollment in the upcoming fiscal year. “If enrollment goes down another three percent, then we’ll have to come up with another $3 million. Now, of course, if enrollment doesn’t go down, if it stays flat or goes up, all the better for us, but at this point we’re being conservative,” George said.

The remainder of the almost two-hour meeting was a question-and-answer session moderated by SGA Senator Cameron Nunn, senior, physics. People came to one of three microphones to ask questions of Chancellor George and the other administrators. Those who were uncomfortable asking questions in person could submit index cards to designated SGA members, who would read the questions to the panel.

Almost right away, the questioning got intense. One of the first questions was from a student concerned about the rumors that certain graduate assistantships would no longer be offered tuition-free. Interim Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Dean Christopher Spilling answered, “We have a problem. We get on the order of $1.86 million dollars in grants and tuition remission for students employed on campus. We are overspending that by $600,000...Obviously, with a $15 million deficit

Continued online at [thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)
We all have a great mane of hair, but we don't know what to do with it,” said Lana Coleman, lead stylist and co-owner of Cultivate: The Premier Natural Hair Salon in St. Louis. On February 17 in the Millennium Student Center Century Room C the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ University Program Board (UPB) partnered with the Black History Month Committee to plan a culturally sensitive Black Hairitage Luncheon. Coleman led the conversation, giving professional consultation to Caucasians, Asians, and African-Americans in attendance. However, the main emphasis for the luncheon was to inform the attendees of the structure and specific care needed for natural black hair.

Coleman stressed that knowing and understanding the natural structure of African American hair will help prevent possible future hair damage. She also said “the most common ways to damage African American hair are tight braids, neglect of weaves or braids, or never trimming your ends.” If you are planning to go natural then you have to identify the type and subtype of the texture of the hair that you are dealing with. These types include straight, wavy, curly, and kinky. The subtypes are fine, medium, and coarse. So, whether you are a wavy coarse or curly fine type texture you will know what products complement your type of hair. Coleman says “the key to healthy natural hair for African Americans is keeping the moisture in the hair and trimming the ends of your hair as needed.” You should also avoid using products with sulfate and silicon which dries out the hair. She suggested washing the hair one to two times a week or every three to four days with a scheduled trimming every six to eight weeks. According to Coleman, trimming is mandatory because of the constant stress needed to manipulate black hair. If you are looking to keep the moisture in the hair, then use oils and not grease. Coleman has been a hair stylist for close to 15 years and she says grease coats the hair preventing penetration of water, shampoo, or other products to help maintain moisture in natural hair. She recommends using extra virgin olive oil, coconut oil, avocado oil, and almond oil for moisturizing. This will keep hair from breaking especially with the various changes in hair styling.

In addition, a healthy diet can also improve the health of your hair. Coleman gave away a list of foods that you can eat to stimulate hair growth and the production of natural hair oils in the scalp. Dark chocolate was close to the top of the list with a serving size of one ounce or 150 calories per day which improves blood flow and circulation to the scalp, delivering nutrients to hair and preventing it from getting dry and brittle. Spinach was also on the list. This vegetable contains iron which gives hair more fullness and body with a serving size of one cup per week you could be on your way to significant hair growth.

Attendee, Sierra McAlister, junior, biology, recently got her hair dyed and asked “how can I change my hair routine?” McAlister shampoos, rinses, conditions, deep conditions, and oils her scalp. One suggestion of change that Coleman made to her hair routine was to oil the hair and not the scalp. Coleman says “you should avoid oiling the scalp when getting a weave or braids because you want your hair to stay moist and what goes in the hair is absorbed in the scalp.” Chair of UPB, Kaitleen Henning, senior, psychology, says they hope to continue to represent the heritage of all students on UMSL’s campus. She expressed that they have sponsored a Women’s History Month and now they are representing the African American population through the conversation of black hair.

University of Missouri—St. Louis’ Friends Without Borders Club is an opportunity for international students to practice speaking English and make American friends. It is also for American students to learn about different cultures and make international friends. Their club meeting is being held every Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Nosh, located in the Millennium Student Center.

Last week, the club hosted an open group discussion about love and relationships in different cultures. Sarah Bell, junior, biology, started the meeting by explaining the club’s purpose and her involvement.

“Friends Without Borders was started by teachers of the English for Academic Purposes Department as they wanted to find a way for their international students to improve their English while feeling more included at UMSL. I’ve participated in the club for the past year and a half, and have also been working as a tutor for the languages department. This is a great way for me to connect with students and hear their stories. I think that one of the best ways to break stereotypes is learning more about different cultures and Friends Without Borders gives a safe place where people can talk about this without being afraid of critics,” said Bell. She then asked her fellow students what the norm for a specific gender is in their culture when it comes to intimate relationships and what is expected of them.

“In Taiwan, men treat their significant others respectfully and they show a lot of effort in order to be on good terms with their partner. For example, if a woman is carrying a bag, her man must carry it for her. Men in Taiwan are expected to be the provider,” said Abby Peng, graduate, international business.

“When it comes to dating in American culture, men and women equally treat each other. Most females like their independence, but still appreciate their partner’s kind gestures. Dating couples usually talk about their relationship before taking it to the next level,” Emily Dorn, senior, modern language, added.

From cultural wedding traditions and customs, they talked about marriage. Based on his observations, Jiang Chang, junior, marketing and communications, mentioned that the duty of a wife in Chinese culture is to take care of their household which includes the cooking and cleaning. Even if they work, they are still responsible for...
The Pulitzer Prize-winning play “Disgraced” focuses on being Muslim in America, but perhaps not in the way one might expect. The drama, written by playwright Ayad Akhtar and directed by Seth Gordon, is currently playing at the Repertory Theater of St. Louis’ main stage until March 6.

Intelligent and provocative, “Disgraced” raises many questions about identity and faith but provides no answers. The drama is surprisingly short—a mere 90 minutes—and is presented without an intermission.

Amir Kapoor (John Pasha) is an attorney on track to make partner at his New York City law firm. Although his Pakistani immigrant parents raised him in the Muslim faith, American-born Amir no longer considers himself a Muslim, and in fact has serious disagreements with the religion. Amir has even changed his last name to one that sounds more generally South Asian.

Amir and his white American wife, an artist named Emily (Leigh Williams), are living a modern and diverse big city life, numbering among their close friends Jory (Rachel Christopher), an African American attorney at the same firm, and her husband Isaac (Jonathan C. Kaplan), a Jewish man who is a curator at the Whitney Museum.

The set represents the couple’s lovely New York apartment, which includes a balcony with a skyline view and a fireplace, above which hangs one of Emily’s paintings. In the opening scene, Emily sketches her husband Amir in their living room as they discuss art, culture, and the meaning of a painting that Emily’s portrait will reference: Diego Velázquez’s portrait of an elegantly-dressed Moorish man.

Their comfortable life is upset by events stemming from two seemingly inconsequential events: a nephew who asks for help for an imam accused of supporting terrorism, and Emily’s new interest in Islamic art. These events reveal hidden toxic attitudes, including Amir’s, leading to his disgrace.

In the play’s second act, simmering issues surface at a dinner party for Jory and Isaac at Amir’s and Emily’s apartment. What starts out as a pleasant evening descends into a discussion that reveals hidden feelings and thoughts on faith, art, race, culture, and identity.

The play raises uncomfortable issues and presents some incendiary views. This bluntness has drawn shocked reactions from some audiences and, in at least one city, people have shouted at the stage or left the theater. No such reaction happened on February 12, but it seemed that many found the play unsettling.

Playwright Akhtar is himself a Muslim American, with Pakistani immigrant parents. Amir’s choice in how he presents himself mirrors that of other second-generation American immigrants, but his elusiveness about his background suggests he feels uneasy about prejudice, even though Amir no longer considers himself a Muslim.

All the cast are excellent, particularly Pasha; he creates a strong-willed character whose tendency to speak or act in the heat of the moment sometimes makes him his own worst enemy. Christopher also shines as Jory, the other fiery character who also provides little touches of dark comic relief. Kaplan is spot-on as Isaac, who likes to comment on Islam although he has never read the Koran. Williams does well in the difficult job of playing peacemaker Emily, who sometimes inadvertently makes things complicated.

The drama ends in a very dark place, making one wish for a third act to restore some sense of hope. “Disgraced” is not a happy play but an intelligent and questioning one that is sure to spark discussion.
Despite being down by 22 points at one point, the University of Missouri—St. Louis men's basketball team gave maximum effort in fighting back to a comeback opportunity against Drury University on February 20. The women's team also maintained poise and refused to go down easily against the National Collegiate Athletic Association—Division II #12 Drury women's team. While coming within six points twice in the fourth quarter, the Triton women ultimately fell short in their upset bout.

UMSL's women's team faced their Panther counterparts first on the afternoon, coming into the contest having won only one of their last three games against all Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) opponents. On the reverse, Drury has been on a tear all season, amassing 22 wins (including the Saturday result) and only three losses. Their last defeat was at the hands of Wisconsin-Parkside on January 9, a startling representation of their domination of both the GLVC and D-II basketball at large.

The Tritons came out of the gates prepared to make Drury earn the win and maintained a small lead for much of the first quarter, only trailing by two at its conclusion. However, a slew of turnovers in the second quarter coupled with many missed shots on the Tritons' side saw them falling apart as the clock neared zero. UMSL managed only nine points in that portion of the game with only one field goal amongst the entire team.

Drury, on the other hand, maintained their confidence and zeroed in as they turned the corner, starting the second half with a very comfortable 13-point lead over the visiting Tritons. While the women's team gave it every effort, the deficit proved to be too much of an uphill battle for the outmatched Tritons, and even after getting within six points of the lead twice in the fourth quarter, the Panthers' calm control over the game granted them the victory 73-59.

While no starters touched double digits in scoring, Shea O'Brian, junior, elementary education, was tremendous off the bench for the Tritons with 16 points in only 17 minutes on the court.

The men's team for UMSL fared a little better against the Drury men but were still handed the loss in a near comeback. Like the women's team, the men came into the matchup in a bit of a rut but were looking to turn it around after a strong offensive showing against Missouri S&T on February 18.

Three minutes into the first half, the Tritons quickly found themselves trailing 2-10 to the Panthers. For a period of six minutes, UMSL failed to net a single point before Brandon Marquardt, senior, business administration, finally sank a three-pointer with a little over 10 minutes to go. However, continual poor shooting from the Tritons, who only attained a 39.1 field goal percent in the first half, led to them heading to the locker rooms down by 17.

Kameron Bundy, the starting guard for Drury, kept up the tempo his team established in the first half and helped push their lead to a game high of 22. He shot terrifically throughout the afternoon, hitting three three-pointers along with his 24 total points. His counterpart, UMSL's Marquardt, nearly kept up with his 20 points and four three-pointers, leading his team on the comeback try during the latter part of the second half.

Down by 20 with 16 minutes to go, the Tritons went on a 9-0 run to catch back up and were within one point twice in the closing minutes. But just like their female counterparts, the UMSL men's team could not come up with the victory despite terrific effort on all sides.

Both the men and women's teams play on the road in their next matchup against Maryville University on February 25. The games are the last of the regular season for the Tritons, so be sure to head over to their campus to show your support.

Weekly Sports Calendar

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<td>Softball vs. West Virginia Wesleyan 5 p.m. (EST) Away</td>
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<td>Men's and Women's Basketball vs. GLVC TBA &amp; TBD</td>
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AD REP POSITIONS AVAILABLE SPRING ’16 SEMESTER

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UMSL’S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS
School libraries—the biggest waste of time since the arrival of the smartphone. I am a junior and, having never had a need to, I have not once stepped foot in our library. As a communications major who has to do a fair share of reading and writing, it would seem that the library would be a necessity. In reality, it is a facility of the Internet as the plethora of free knowledge waiting at our fingertips.

It no longer makes sense to go to the library, check out a book, find the information we are looking for, and then return it by the due date. However, it seems there is a stigma attached to those who find all their information online; to many, this is a sign that we are technology-obsessed and lacking in knowledge.

This stigma, just like libraries, is seriously outdated. People are accessing information at rates higher than ever before and, as a result, overall awareness is increasing. If I wanted to read the autobiography of Ben Carson, I could easily Google it and then advise you against doing the same because it is unbearably boring and will probably put you to sleep. On the other hand, I could go to the library, search for the book by walking up and down the aisles until I find it, check it out, and then go home to read it—only to realize much too late that it is terrible. Today’s college students spend less time in libraries than any other generation, yet we also expose ourselves to the most knowledge, and that is no coincidence. The Internet has an unfathomable amount of information, and most of it can be accessed without a login, without paying, and without hassle.

For the first time in what seems like an eternity, I am with Apple CEO Tim Cook, and I have read his book. Cook raised the issue of a higher court’s ruling on encrypted iPhone that is no piece of evidence in the deadly 2015 shooting in San Bernardino, California. Apple has refused to comply and will most likely have to defend their actions in a court of law; it would not be surprising if Apple should raise the issue of a higher court, possibly even the Supreme Court, by the time both sides’ lawyers are done wrangling with it.

I have given Apple grief for many things: the price of their devices; their so-called “Apple Pencil;” the annoying, reverent worship of their fans; the fact that they are really awful at handling PR issues when their technology goes south. I never thought encryption protection would be something I would give them kudos for, especially in an era where it seems like no one’s data is truly safe; but here I am, doing just that.

Apple has finally figured out what their users want most: security. And not just security, but security from the government. This is the most significant and visible move by a tech company to stop the overreach of government entities into the sphere of private data since the squashing of the anti-net neutrality bills Congress tried to pass several years ago. Fortunately, Apple seems to have learned a lot from that debacle.

Here is a refresher course for the uninstructed: in 2012 Congress tried to pass two major anti-net neutrality bills, the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protec IP Act (PIPA). Despite their cute acronyms, SOPA and PIPA, although designed to protect American property, in reality, they have destroyed original creative efforts, shut down niche content creators, and threatened the security of users across the globe. Companies like Google, Mozilla, and Wikipedia led the way in protests and appeals to Congress until the bills were shelved.

At one point, Apple supported SOPA’s passage, but then flipped to the anti-SOPA side after being pressured by its customers. This time Apple is not walking the correct line and putting user needs first, without having to be forced into it. And once again, the big baddie is the government, trying to make Apple play by different rules than anybody else. It makes sense that the FBI would want Apple, arguably the largest smartphone provider in America, to create an easier way for the agency to get into a suspect’s information. But, as Cook’s letter points out, it is one hell of a slippery slope from one iOS with a backdoor to demanding everyone’s phone come with an “FBI Allowed” disclaimer attached at purchase.

Apple is doing the right thing by putting customer privacy first. Even if the FBI squashes them in court, Cook has officially put every other smartphone device company on notice: protect your data or wait for someone to demand it from you. This is especially coming in with a search warrant and a squad of government lawyers. Send that to Microsoft and Samsung, and see what happens.

Nearly every college student will inevitably take classes with both good and bad professors. Some seem downright evil—willing to do anything in their power to ruin your academic careers—and then there are those who pour their heart and soul into educating their students in both the subjects they teach and life in general.

Usually, however, professors are not exclusively good or bad. Like everything else in life, professors fall somewhere along a broad spectrum. Every professor has the right to teach his or her class in a way that he or she finds most fitting. But at what point does the idea of granting “professor’s discretion” just become a way for the professor to say “I’ll do whatever I want, even if it is not in my students’ best interest?”

I once had an advisor tell me that every class is essentially a dictatorship and that it simply depends on whether or not the professor wants everyone to know it. It took me a while to really understand what she meant by that, but now I can confidently say that my advisor hit the nail on the head: students are bound by the syllabus that a professor writes and anything that is written in that syllabus is fair game. While this seems to make intuitive sense, the role that a syllabus plays between a professor and their department is much different from that played between a professor and students.

When a professor submits a syllabus to the head of a department, that professor is then contractually bound to follow that syllabus and can only be at fault when he or she explicitly goes against it.

Interestingly, there is almost always a small print addendum that essentially qualifies the syllabus. It usually goes along the following line: “this syllabus is subject to change at the professor’s discretion.” Thanks to this disclaimer, a professor can change any part of the syllabus at any time and it will remain entirely acceptable in the eyes of the department for him or her to do so. However, what this means for students is that professors can go back on their initial word at any point and there is nothing a student can do about it. These changes can be to the grading scale, the number of tests, whether the final is cumulative, the absence policy, whether makeup exams will be provided, and more.

Thankfully, problems usually do not arise; on occasion, however, a problem does arise and a professor can say something along the lines of, “refer to my syllabus” as a response to a student’s attempt to talk out the problem. To me, that is what makes a professor “bad;” when a professor no longer considers the needs of their students as a priority, it creates a poor learning environment. The same holds true when a professor makes students
The lineage and artistry of early Japanese photographs was the centerpiece of discussion in room 531 of the Social Sciences & Business Building on February 16. The program, titled "From Artistry to Ethnography in Early Japanese Photographs," was hosted by Dr. David Odo, director of student programs and research curator of university collections initiatives at Harvard Art Museums.

The discussion drew about 35 students and community members, with many more filing in as the program went on. Dr. Laura Miller, Eiichi Shibusawa Arai endowed professor of Japanese studies and professor of anthropology at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, began by introducing Odo and calling attention to his recent book "The Journey of a Good Type." Odo gathered most of his research in the process of writing the book, which began in the Peabody Museum’s archives.

“It was only because I was able to spend so much time physically with the photographs themselves that I was ultimately able to come to understand the photographs in the way that I have,” said Odo. “And this freedom to look closely and ponder and take my time made all the difference in my work.”

Odo brought with him a slide-show of photographs from the Peabody Museum's collection of early hand-colored photos of Japan. The collection of photos dated back to the 1870s, although he approximated that others exist from as early as the 1840s.

Framing the collection of photos that would be the topic of discussion, Odo gave context to the audience by classifying them into three separate categories: souvenir, art, and anthropology.

In spite of this, Odo made it clear he did not want to spend time arguing that there is a hot meal on the table. On the other hand, a husband’s responsibility is to show his dedication by working hard for his family.

"It is very important for Chinese men to honor their women and make them happy," said Chang. At the end of the meeting, the group concluded that there are many set notions on how different cultures view love and relationships. Different cultures have their own ideas about the proper way to look for a partner and how they should be treated. Some cultures are more passionate, showering their partners with affection and showering them with material things. Some cultures require more effort from their lovers and expect them to be more compliant. Then there are cultures that do not have any expectations from their partner because they simply enjoy being in a relationship. Chang also mentioned that he is learning a lot from this conversation and he finds that this is an effective way to learn and practice speaking in English.

Friends Without Borders is a great way to increase friendship and cultural awareness. The club is open for all students and every week there will be a student who will prepare a topic and lead the conversation. For more information, contact Bell at sbdm2@mail.umsl.edu.