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The Current

1966

Celebrating 50 Years as

2016

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

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Enrollment Challenges at UMSL Effecting Budget

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

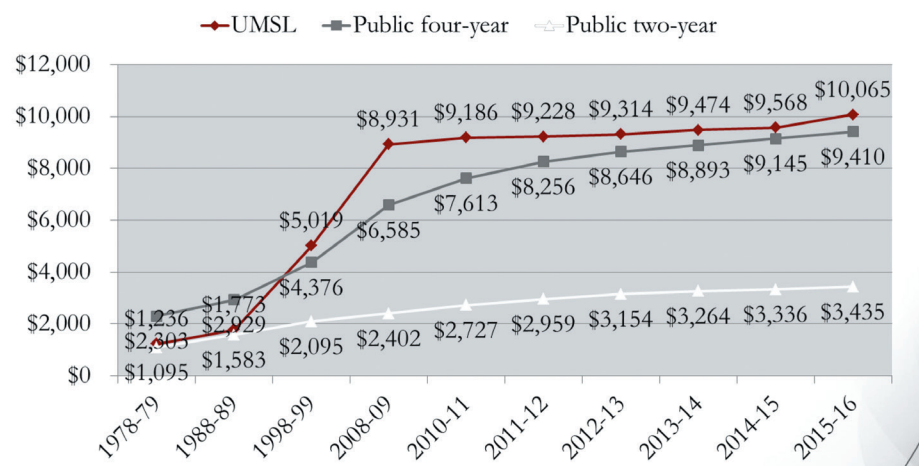
As the University of Missouri—St. Louis faces the challenge of implementing budget cuts, students, staff, and faculty have continued to ask questions about what brought UMSL to this point. One of the major reasons cited for the budget deficit has been student enrollment declining. The total direct cost of one student at UMSL is about \$20,674 and includes tuition, fees, books, and room & board.

Total undergraduates in 2011 peaked at 12,156 students and total enrollment at 16,792. In 2015, total undergraduate enrollment stood at 11,602 and total enrollment at 15,618. This represents a decline in total enrollment of 1,174 students in four years.

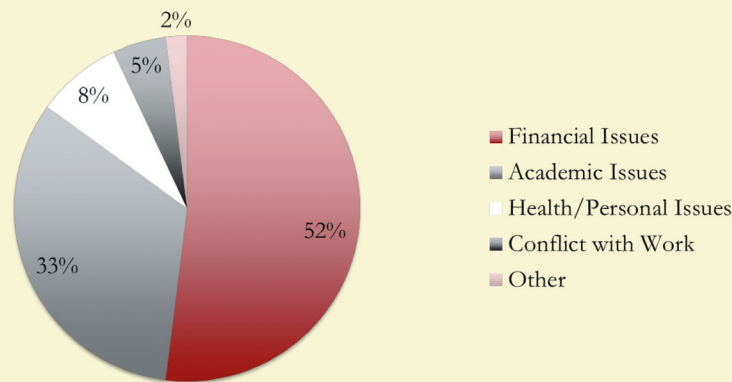
Alan Byrd, dean of enrollment services, explained the reasons for the decline. Byrd said, "UMSL's enrollment is driven primarily by two factors: the number of high school graduates in the region and the local economy. Our enrollment was very strong during the recession and definitely benefited from Missouri producing a record number of high school graduates in 2009-2010. However, we face major challenges at the moment to maintain our enrollment now that the high school graduates in our region are declining and the local economy has improved. The only institutions in our state that are growing at this point are those that have the ability to attract students from out-of-state and overseas."

However, according to the Missouri Department of Education, UMSL is the only public educational institution of higher education in Missouri which

Average Tuition and Fee Charges for Public Institutions, 1978-79 to 2015-16



Why do students leave UMSL?



*1,552 students were eligible to return in fall 2015 but did not enroll

COURTESY OF ALAN BYRD

has experienced a decline over the past five years. According to these statistics, UMSL has experienced a 1.9 percent loss in student enrollment from 2014-2015, but when factored over all five years, it amounted to a 0.3 percent loss. This is in contrast to other non-flagship campuses in the UM system which experienced growth over the same five years. University of Missouri—Kansas City, for example, experienced a

one-year increase of 3.3 percent and a five-year increase of 9.3 percent.

Some of the decline can be attributed to the decline of high school graduation numbers. According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, high school graduation rates are at a low point nationally. This is primarily tied to the age of the population. The projected number of high school

Continued on Page 3

ASUM Hosts Lobby Day March 8 in Jefferson City

JANECE WOODSON
STAFF WRITER

Seeking a more formal approach that works for all sides for more than 50 years, a small community of University of Missouri—St. Louis students have lobbied at the capitol in Jefferson City. These students, the officers and interns of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM), present solutions to problems that specifically affect the St. Louis campus. They are nonpartisan, and they are equally passionate and informed about issues of racism and classism, inflation of tuition, and more. On one day this March, they will focus their efforts on introducing the art of lobbying to their fellow students.

Lobby Day, which will be held on March 8 in Jefferson City, is an event that will allow any UM college student to both observe the process of lobbying and participate in voicing student concerns. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., participating students can be guided through the process by ASUM. Any student can sign up, and transportation to the capitol is free. If a student must miss class to be a part of this event, ASUM officers can provide attendance notes. The RSVP page can be found at the "ASUM at UMSL" Facebook page or on TritonSync.

"We want to see students come out to support the interns in the four platforms we are working on," said Rachel Dougherty, senior, political science. Dougherty is one of two interns for the St. Louis campus, and has dedicated

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GAME CORNER

**The UMSL MATH CLUB
 Presents Problem of The Week**

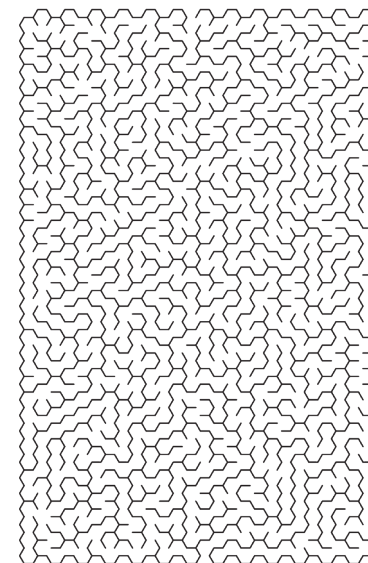
**Difficulty:
 EZPZ**

Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, March 4. Solvers will be eligible for our pi day drawing on March 14. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel 329 ESH (dotzelr@umsl.edu)

Five times a number you add to four
 From that is subtracted exactly one score.
 Then multiply the whole by only seven
 Subtracting eight and divide by eleven.
 The result is the number, not one bit more.

Problem: What is the number?

Club Math Film Series "The Joy of Infinite Series" Wednesday 3/2 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.



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UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

THE UNDERCURRENT *By Kat Riddler* IS THERE ANYTHING THAT SHOULD BE MORE AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS?



ALEX NEUPERT,
 Senior, English
 "The library should be open at later times during the weekend."



JASMINE WALKER,
 Graduate, MBA
 "I would like to see food options available over the weekend and later during the week."



ERIC WYNEN,
 Senior, Studio Art
 "Senior Sem students need swipe access to The Fine Arts Building. It is never open enough hours, and we need access to our studios at wonky hours."

MON 66
 45

TUE 52
 26

WED 47
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THU 43
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FRI 46
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SAT 56
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SUN 65
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UMSL Faces Enrollment Challenges

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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graduates is expected to go up over the next several years for Missouri. It is not a continual incline; it dips, but then it increases again.

The strategic plan for UMSL includes goals for increasing enrollment. The recruitment goal is to reach a student population of 17,500 by Fall 2018. Of this, the undergraduate enrollment goal is 9,500 students. Other goals include enrolling 2,400 new

undergraduates every fall and 950 each spring semester, and 800 new graduate or professional students each fall and 200 each spring semester.

The undergraduate enrollment yield has declined 10 percent since 2010. This is the difference between those who apply to attend UMSL, those who are admitted, and those who are enrolled. The difference between applications and admission can include such things as not meeting application standards, while the difference between admitted and enrolled can include financial assistance problems or decisions on the part of those admitted to attend another college or university. For those who were admitted and enrolled at UMSL and had to stop their schooling the following fall, according to a survey, 52 percent left because of financial reasons.

The number of new freshmen coming to UMSL has remained nearly constant. The decline has come in those students who transfer from other institutions. Of the transfer students who were admitted to UMSL but did not enroll, according to clearinghouse for Fall 2015, they are primarily choosing to attend the community college districts. The St. Louis Community

College district received 60 students and the St. Charles Community College district received 35 students.

According to the 2015 UMSL Enrollment Summary, the recruitment challenges UMSL faces are being attributed to several factors. Among these are the declining population of local prospective students, the cost of attendance versus the financial assistance available, the subpar campus facilities and amenities, poor retention and graduation rates, and the negative public perceptions of UMSL as a commuter campus with no social life that is not student centered or customer-service oriented and is located in an unsafe area of St. Louis.

There are steps focused on increasing student enrollment in the summary. These include expanding UMSL's marketing and recruitment efforts beyond the St. Louis Metro area, upgrading campus facilities and amenities to be on par with local competitors, increasing investments in merit scholarships and need-based financial aid, modifying degree programs to cater to working adults and 100 percent online students, and increasing course offerings and campus activities on Fridays and weekends.

ASUM Lobby Day, March 8

JANECE WOODSON
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1

much of her academic career to lobbying for student interests. "The legislators will see our students and realize that we are the 77,000 students that care deeply about these platforms," she said.

These platforms are based on yearly student surveys. Questionnaires are sent out to every University of Missouri student, and are then used to determine the most relevant and urgent issues for each campus. Currently, the St. Louis chapter's platform involves landlord-tenant escrow accounts and relations in Missouri, state budget decreases involving the St. Louis campus, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program funding for students, and obtaining a vote for the student representative on the Board of Curators, the governor-appointed council that guides the UM system.

"The budget we are working on is to get \$434.5 million dollars from the state in core funding. That money would go to all four campuses," said Dougherty. "This is crucial because if we don't get the money we are asking for, unfortunately tuition will most likely increase."

At the beginning of the event in Jefferson City, students from all four campuses will have a chance to meet and talk about the political issues that interest them. "With a large group of students in the Representatives' and

Senators' presence, they can see how active our system is and know how serious we are about the bills in this current legislative session," said Dougherty. This portion of the day is when students are encouraged to meet their state representatives and share their concerns. Next, all students will be able to observe a legislative session and see the direct process of altering and passing bills. After a free lunch, students will return to UMSL via bus before 3 p.m. Overall, the day will be a brief look into what the ASUM interns do regularly. "We want to see students come out to support the interns in the four platforms we are working on," Dougherty said.

Officers of ASUM indicated that along the way to the event, they would provide tips on approaching representatives and discussing civil issues. One such issue that has concerned ASUM for years is the lack of a student vote on the Board of Curators. "There are nine members on the board, and that includes the student," said Dougherty. "However, the student currently only gets to voice their opinion, but not actually vote."

ASUM encourages all participating students to voice their opinions on issues in which they would like to see change. Lobby Day is an opportunity for any student to meet their representatives face to face and discuss solutions for the University of Missouri system. Dougherty said, "There is a new adventure every day in the Capitol."

NEWS BRIEFS

SGA Positions Available

Student Government Association (SGA) executive positions and senate seats are currently open to students. The deadline to apply is March 4 at 5 p.m. The form to apply for the positions of president, vice president, and comptroller is located at orgsync.com/59727/forms. The form for senator candidates is located at orgsync.com/59727/forms/134300. All candidates will be required to attend a rules meeting on March 9.

The campaigning period will begin March 21 at 12 a.m. and will end April 22 at 11:59 p.m. Student voting for candidates will be open for five days beginning at 12 a.m. on April 18 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on April 22. More information can be obtained by emailing sga@umsl.edu or calling 314-516-5105.

Campus Closure

The University of Missouri—St. Louis cancelled classes and activities on February 24 due to inclement weather. The community was notified of the cancellation via phone and email with a message around 4:30 a.m. that said, "The University of Missouri—St. Louis is closed today, Feb. 24, due to inclement weather. Day and evening classes, including clinics, conferences, workshops and all other on- and off-campus activities, are canceled."

CFO Appointed

University of Missouri—St. Louis alumnus Robert Baniak will be UMSL's new chief financial officer (CFO) beginning May 1. Baniak received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from UMSL.

Baniak is retiring from his position as CFO of the Phantom Works Air and Space unit of Boeing Defense, Space & Security. In his new position as Vice Chancellor for Administration—CFO, Baniak will oversee accounting, budgeting, business and cashier services, facilities management, human resources, information technology services, institutional research, and institutional safety.

"UMSL has always been important to me," Baniak told UMSL Daily. "I grew up in St. Louis and received my degrees from UMSL. The quality of the education that I received enabled me to succeed in my career—from my first job at McDonnell Douglas to this current opportunity to come back to UMSL."

Baniak will make \$215,000 a year in his new position. He will be succeeding James Krueger, retiring Vice Chancellor of Managerial and Technological Services and assistant professor of accounting and public policy.



SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

The following is a series of daily crime reports issued by the University of Missouri—St. Louis Police Department (UMSL PD) since February 18.

February 18: At 2:13 a.m., a purse was found in the Nursing Administration Building. The owner was notified and the police have held onto the purse for safekeeping.

February 19: At 2:30 a.m. in Oak Hall, a student reported having been assaulted by her boyfriend. A report was taken. At 8:40 p.m. in Villa Hall, a verbal dispute between three students was reported.

February 20: UMSL PD responded to a burglary alarm at 12:27 a.m. in the Normandie Golf Course. They found a broken window and the absence of a small amount of money. At 3:36 p.m., damage was reported at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The damage was a shattered window and was possibly related to the weather.

February 21: At 8:05 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a check the welfare call at Villa North concerning an intoxicated student. A report was taken.

February 22: In the Millennium Student Center, a staff member was taken to the hospital via ambulance at 11:19 a.m. over a shortness of breath. Two reports of property damage: at 1:02 p.m., a report was taken of a damaged wall in the Arts & Administration Building; at 3:56 p.m., the windshield of a car parked in Parking Lot U was damaged by a softball.

Continued online at
thecurrent-online.com



UMSL's Sig Tau's plunge into Creve Coeur Lake for Philanthropy Week

COURTESY OF SIGMA TAU GAMMA

Sigma Tau Gamma Philanthropy Week

SHANNON GEARY
FEATURES EDITOR

What do you think of when you hear “fraternity?” Most people will answer with drinking, brotherhood, and parties. But philanthropy? Not usually, but the University of Missouri—St. Louis chapter of the Sigma Tau Gamma (Sig Tau) fraternity is working to change that.

February 22 was the beginning of Sig Tau's second annual Philanthropy Week with all donations going to the Special Olympics of Missouri. February 22 and 23 was spent collecting donations at a table in the Nosh while February 25 called for a Dine and Donate event at a local Chevy's where 15

percent of every bill was donated. On February 26 there was a dodgeball tournament in the Recreation and Wellness Center and on February 27 the Sig Tau's took part in the annual Polar Plunge.

We sat down with fraternity president Gary Arturo II, junior, criminology and criminal justice, to talk about philanthropy and Sig Tau.

The Current (TC): Why Special Olympics?

Gary Arturo (GA): As a national organization the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity incorporated throughout the country they chose, whenever they were founded, their philanthropy to be Special Olympics...Sig Tau's, no matter where you go, no matter what chapter they do, they always are devoting some

sort of fund raisers or time to Special Olympics.

TC: Why is philanthropy important to Sig Tau's?

GA: Well I think this speaks on behalf of any fraternity but one of the biggest things is service. Whenever we're going to recruit new guys we make sure that they know everything that we're about. So obviously, you'll hear brotherhood, you'll hear a good way to get involved on campus, get your name out there, [and] meet a lot of people if you're new to the campus. But what we pride ourselves on is giving back to the community and giving back to different organizations that need help...It's just important for us specifically, just because we like to get our name out there, doing good in the community and giving back to the community that [has] us.

TC: Do you have any particular plans as president?

GA: I came into it with a few set goals. One being, first and foremost, [is] raise the chapter cumulative GPA to a two point eight. We've already raised it from what was a two four, two five, to a two seven so we're on track to...reach my goal by next semester. Also, we're sitting at a 35 man roster right now and

the goal for by the end of fall 2016 is at a 55 man roster. So we're on track for that. One of my big goals when I was first running for president was raise \$3,000 for Philanthropy Week so we've surpassed that. I want to log a lot more community service hours as a fraternity, as a chapter. I just want to get our name out there on campus and do more on campus events. Maybe co-sponsorships with [other] organizations, different things than just...obviously people know Sig Tau for frat parties and stuff but realize that just because we like to have fun and stuff on Friday nights we also like to get up early Saturday mornings and go do community service... we'll do it all.

TC: You guys had fun?

GA: Yeah, had a lot of fun, had a lot of support from, obviously students and different organizations...we're appreciative and hopefully this just keeps growing and we can raise more and more money for valuable organizations.

The second annual Sigma Tau Gamma Philanthropy Week ended with the Polar Plunge in Maryland Heights with 15 Sig Tau's jumping into Creve Coeur Lake for Special Olympics. The Sig Tau's raised a total of \$4,625 for Special Olympics of Missouri.



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Network across disciplines | Meet other UMSL Alumni
Attempt to outsmart your friends

Featuring:

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- 50-50 Drawing
- 1st Place Cash Prize
- Mulligans For Sale
- Bring Your Own Food & Snacks
- Complimentary Beer & Soda Provided
- Prize for best decorated table

DETAILS

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Doors open 6:30 p.m. First question called at 7:00 p.m.

Location: St. Ann of Normandy Catholic Church
7530 Natural Bridge Road
Normandy, MO 63121

Cost: \$250 Per Table of 10
or \$25 Per Person

Host: Phil Donato, "The Trivia Guy"
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Net proceeds will benefit the Pierre LaCledde Honors College Scholarship Fund at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.



UMSL's Sig Tau's at the Polar Plunge in Maryland Heights COURTESY OF SIGMA TAU GAMMA

Arthouse Film or Blockbuster Horror?

JANECE WOODSON
STAFF WRITER

'The Witch' is Confused

As a horror fanatic, I believe niche fears are challenging to evoke through horror movies because they must be awoken by certain circumstances in order to truly frighten. A fear of powerful women is what director Robert Eggers attempts to elicit in his film "The Witch," but he narrowly misses the opportunity to conjure true horror in his audience. "The Witch" feels like a beautiful arthouse film; it has all the elements of a timeless movie. However, much like the blockbuster horror movies that have saturated theaters for the past decade, the film instills neither dread nor terror.

"The Witch" follows the religious and relational movements of a single Puritan family in colonial America. Thomasin (Anya Taylor-Joy), a teenage girl, her tense parents (Ralph Ineson and Kate Dickie), and her younger siblings battle the darkness of the forest near their isolated homestead, not realizing that its evil has already infested their lives. The viewer is immersed in the stark yet passionate lives of Eggers' characters, and his talent as a costume and set designer drastically enhances the plot. As he wrote the screenplay, viewers should give him much consideration for creating a dynamic and energetic script despite the dense language of the period. Still, Eggers' contributions to the film cannot overcome the two scenes



Ralph Ineson as William leads his family in prayer before dinner, in *THE WITCH*
COURTESY OF A24

which ruined the possibility of "The Witch" being a true horror film.

The first scene is the reveal of the primary villainess herself. At the screening I attended, people laughed when she stepped onto the screen. I assume that the casting director found a random sorority girl and asked her to put on a 'sexy witch' Halloween costume from Amazon. In no way did she fit the atmosphere Eggers had successfully set up prior to this scene. Her impression felt so cheap in comparison to her first killing in the film, a death so brutal and insane I would venture to compare it to the famed one in "Cannibal Holocaust."

"The crone and the seductress are

both threatening to the patriarchy, for different reasons," Eggers told me in a phone interview. By his comments about the witch herself, I knew he had a feeling for the monster he wanted to create, but I do not believe she appeared as he intended on screen.

All of the subtle peaks of the slow burn following that scene with the witch restored my interest in the film. Eggers successfully establishes an atmosphere of dread, even if he does not allow his film to puncture the audience's minds with it. One of the most redeeming elements of the film is the goat called Black Phillip. Throughout the story, I wondered if this massive

beast was just a red herring or a harbinger of some later terror. Either would have been wonderful for the plot; when the answer was revealed, I was not disappointed, as the energy was in the ambiguity. Eggers knows how to create a monster. That is, perhaps, why the film's ending was such a bitter letdown. It unraveled the beautiful delicacy of a psychological horror in one minute, and my fellow movie-goers groaned quite loudly as the screen went black one last time.

In the end, I have great respect for Eggers' work. His cast was refreshing and accomplished, his set and costumes (with the exception of the witch) were gorgeous, and the score was near perfection. In every way it was an arthouse film. Its atmosphere, characters, and imagery left questions of feminism, power, and religion in my mind. The artistic decisions of Eggers and his crew are something worth witnessing, and the years of research Eggers put into the film are worth recognizing.

I recommend "The Witch" with some caution. It could be a fringe film but it falls into the territory of the conventional. Still, there is hope that "The Witch" will stir a movement for more arthouse films to make appearances in mainstream theaters. Robert Eggers said, "It's extremely gratifying to get emails from teenagers [for whom] this is the first arthouse film they've seen, and it's something special to them."

New Dance Horizons Honors Black History Month

CATE MARQUIS
STAFF WRITER

For the past four years, Dance St. Louis has brought an innovative dance concept to the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. New Dance Horizons commissions new works from renowned choreographers, which are then performed by local dance troupes. Usually, New Dance Horizons takes place in the fall, but this year Dance St. Louis moved the showcase to February. They have commissioned works from three African-American choreographers to honor famous black St. Louisans for Black History Month.

On February 26 and 27, MADCO, Big Muddy Dance Company, and a new group, Dance St. Louis Dance Ensemble, premiered works by choreographers Bebe Miller, Robert Moses, and Dianne McIntyre on the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall stage. The theater was nearly packed the evening of February 26, as Dance St. Louis' artistic director Michael Uthoff introduced the program. The performance was followed by a brief question and answer session with the three choreographers.

The first piece was "Line Up Low Down," Miller's homage to Miles Davis, followed by "Gunshots/Daffodils/Moans/Still," Moses' nod to a variety



w dancers in Bebe Miller's "Line Up Low Down." COURTESY OF DANCE ST. LOUIS

of St. Louis individuals, including Rev. Cleophus Robinson, Dick Gregory, and bluesmen Henry Townsend, Albert King, Roosevelt Sykes, and Walter Davis. McIntyre chose to honor poet Maya Angelou with her dance "When We Come To It."

The dancers of MADCO performed "Line Up Low Down" alongside selections of Davis' jazz compositions. A group of musicians played on stage behind the dancers, who were dressed in non-matching costumes, as if at rehearsal. Their casual style perfectly suited the cool jazz music, and dancers matched the pace of their jazz-style dancing to the sounds. Overall, the dance was loose, even sometimes random. Improvisation is a big part of jazz, and the piece included dancers'

improv in its choreography. Generally, dance is performed to music but this piece included several sections where the dancers performed without music, where the only sounds were the dancers' feet hitting the stage, panting, and grunts of exertion. Dancing without music is a bit like "breaking the fourth wall" in theater—something that can be effective if used sparingly—but this piece had four of them, which seemed a bit excessive.

After a short intermission, the Big Muddy Dance Company performed "Gunshots/Daffodils/Moans/Still" to a blues score. In sync with the blues music, the dancers mixed jazz moves with pop dance ones, ranging from energetic to playful. The dance's title suggests contrasts—restlessness and stillness,

peacefulness and violence—which was reflected in the choreography. In a nice creative touch, strips of bubble wrap were placed on stage, which popped as the dancers tread on them. Near the dance's end, stacks of bubble wrap were placed at one end of the stage. As the dancers stepped on to them one-by-one, random pops were heard, at which the dancer flinched as if shot. As they were assisted to the opposite side of the stage, they laid down side-by-side. It was a powerful visual metaphor for victims of random gun violence.

In the final, most elaborately staged and polished piece, the Dance St. Louis Dance ensemble danced in "When We Come To It." The mostly African-American troupe was specially created for the performance and was led by three dancers: Alicia Graf Mack and Antonio and Kirven Douthit-Boyd, all veterans of the Alvin Ailey dance troupe. The trio were clad in white and backed by dancers in beige. They all danced before a woman in a long dress, who was perched on a high ladder and recited selection of Angelou's poetry set to music. The dance was fluid, graceful, and beautiful, matching the dramatic reading of the poems. The effect was hypnotic and inspiring. Overall, the program was a fitting way to honor Black History Month in St. Louis.

UMSL On Top After Thrilling Wins at Maryville

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

While the two games on February 25 saw both the University of Missouri—St. Louis men and women's basketball teams emerge triumphant against their Maryville University opponents,

qualifying both squads for the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) postseason tournament, the stories behind them are vastly different. For the men, who came into the matchup sporting a 5-12 conference record, they greatly outmatched the home-team Saints, maintaining a sizeable lead for much of the contest. The Tritons led by as much as 31 points at one point en route to the 81-66 victory and their 11th seed placing in the tournament, which begins on February 28.

The women's team, on the other hand, found themselves fighting for their postseason life in a game that found them scoring the final points for the lead with seconds on the clock. Despite trailing Maryville 29-34 at the half, the Triton women persevered, limiting the Saints to a 28 field goal percentage in the second half while shooting 50 percent from the field themselves. With three seconds left in the game, Sydney Bloch, junior, business and criminology, fed the game-winning layup to Jordan Fletcher, redshirt sophomore, finance. The 62-60 win for UMSL inched them by Maryville for the final seed (12) in the tournament.

The game started off much how it began, with both teams trading blows throughout the first two quarters, but the Saints kept some small distance between themselves and the Tritons off the

strength of strong shooting; Maryville had an astonishing 70 percent field goal (FG) percentage through the first half. Immediately following halftime, they attained their greatest lead over UMSL with a seven-point margin, but by the end of the third quarter, both teams were all tied up.

Keeping to the same tune as the first half, the final quarter saw both teams exchanging baskets as time wound down. The Tritons ultimately came out on top, however, as the team outscored the Saints 7-2 in the final minute. Along with Fletcher, who accounted for 16 points and nine rebounds, Shea O'Brien, junior, elementary education, was amazing off the bench once again with a team-high 19 points with four three-pointers. The guard is becoming quite a strong player for UMSL, scoring 56 total points over the last three games with a 53 FG percentage; an average of 18.7 a game.

The men's matchup followed, and while not as excitingly close as the women's game, it still provided a showcase as to what the squad can do when the whole team is in sync. The scoring was fairly spread out, with four players hitting double digits, including two off the bench. Additionally, the Tritons kept the ball moving with 23 assists overall, the most they have had since December 20. Clearly, keeping the opposing defenders moving and

off-balance proved to be a key point in this decisive game as, the last time they played, the Saints were the victors when the Tritons only managed 12 assists.

UMSL maintained control throughout the game, and after the 10-minute mark in the first half, Maryville never got within single digits. It was hard to pinpoint what went wrong for the home team, as their shooting percentage was far from abysmal and they did not have a high amount of turnovers. The Tritons were simply a force to be reckoned with as they shot their way to the finish line.

Hunter Reine, junior, criminal justice, and Brandon Marquardt, senior, business administration, led the team with 18 and 17 points, respectively. Marquardt also broke the single season three-point record for UMSL with 86 on the year thus far, surpassing previous record-holder Troy Long's 84 in the 2011-2012 season. He had five from behind the arc on the evening.

Both the men and women's teams will play their first-round game in the GLVC postseason tournament on February 28 against Truman State, the number 6 (men's) and 5 (women's) seed. While not in next week's issue of *The Current*, you can read a recap online after the games at thecurrent-online.com. The women start at 1 p.m. and the men at 3 p.m.

Weekly Sports Calendar

Tuesday 1

Softball vs. Notre Dame
9 a.m. (EST) & vs. Wheeling Jesuit
1 p.m. (EST), Away

Wednesday 2

Men's & Women's Tennis vs. Brevard
10 a.m. (EST), Away
Softball vs. Findlay
9 a.m. (EST) & vs. Point Park
7 p.m. (EST), Away

Thursday 3

Men's & Women's Tennis vs. Tiffin
8:30 a.m. (EST), Away
Men's & Women's Basketball vs. GLVC Quarterfinals
TBA & TBD

Friday 4

Men's & Women's Tennis vs. Michigan Tech
12:30 p.m. (EST), Away

Saturday 5

Men's & Women's Basketball vs. GLVC Quarterfinals
TBA & TBD
Baseball vs. Illinois Springfield
1 p.m. (EST) & 3 p.m. (EST), Away

Sunday 6

Men's & Women's Basketball vs. GLVC Quarterfinals
TBA & TBD
Baseball vs. Illinois Springfield
10:30 p.m. (EST) & 12 p.m. (EST), Away



ADREP POSITIONS AVAILABLE SPRING '16 SEMESTER

The Current is now seeking communicative students to fill four positions for the 2016 spring semester.

Applications are available in our office, 388 Millennium Student Center, as well as our website, thecurrent-online.com. Bring your completed app to our office or email it to thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu.

For more information, contact us at thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu.

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

No Way To Run A University System

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Last November, University of Missouri assistant professor of communications Melissa Click made national headlines when video showed her confronting a student journalist, calling for “muscle” to forcibly remove him from a public assembly of protesters. In response to her actions, the university’s Board of Curators voted 4-2 last Wednesday to fire Click. Perhaps next week they can take up interviewing applicants for her replacement—after all, if they are going to start inserting themselves into the daily operations of the campuses, they might as well go all in.

Or perhaps the board just interferes when they get pressure from members of the Missouri General Assembly. A House Committee voted to deny the University of Missouri System a share of increased funding for higher education, directly citing not only the actions of Click, but student protesters themselves. This decision to punish over

77,000 students, faculty, and staff across all four campuses in part came from the Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education, State Representative Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson. Later, the House Budget Chairman, Representative Tom Flanigan, R-Carthage, released his plan to cut \$8 million from the UM System budget—including the salary of Melissa Click—and funds from the budget of the President of the UM System and the Board of Curators.

One would think that Representative Flanigan, a man who ran his own insurance agency, would be aware of the tremendous liability his pressure on the Board of Curators may cause the university. One further wonders how a majority of the Board of Curators would not be wary of the potential consequences of succumbing to political pressure and making politically motivated decisions. Then again, they did issue a statement saying that the dismissal had nothing to do with the financial threat they were under at the time by key members of the Missouri General Assembly. They also took the unusual

step of hiring a law firm to investigate Click rather than going through normal disciplinary steps. We are sure a jury someday will give that due consideration.

We do not condone the individual actions of assistant professor Click, nor do we even disagree with her dismissal. That said, the decision to hire and fire an assistant professor should be made—with due process—by their immediate supervisors, a dean, the chancellor of the university, or the president of the UM System (though even that is far beneath his or her official duties and job description). The last place such decisions should be made is in the hall of the Board of Curators or by their puppet masters in the Missouri General Assembly.

Not only does this set a bad precedent, bad management model, and possibly a future liability, but it also returns us to the bad old days of patronage and political interference that undermines the credibility and reputation of the UM System.

As a troubling footnote to the

sordid handling of this matter, Representative Robert Ross, R-West Plains, recently introduced a bill that would allow members of the Missouri General Assembly to practice law and serve as judges after serving just two years in the House. Why would members with such inflated opinions of themselves even bother going to law school for three or four years, taking out crushing student loans, or passing a bar exam when they know they can do anything, even run a college or university?

After news of his bill went viral, Representative Ross, a self-employed land surveyor and owner of a shooting range, said it was all a joke. Nice to know they still have time to joke around in Jefferson City. You know what is not a joke, though? The education of 77,000 students at the University of Missouri campuses. Funding for higher education is not a joke. The budget cuts here at UMSL are not a joke, either. The reputation of the UM System is not a joke, despite how hard some people are trying to make it into one.

Libraries and The Closing of the Millennial Mind

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

The following article is a response to “Libraries Are Out, Efficiency Is In,” published last week.

If you have never once stepped into a library, I feel sorry for you. If you labor under the misconception that libraries are merely mausoleums of dead letters, where stuffy middle-aged librarians go to die after shushing patrons and slipping into obscurity, then I pity you. Yes, as a regular patron and employee at the Thomas Jefferson Library (TJ), I clearly have a dog in this fight. Libraries are my literal livelihood and I have spent a good portion of my working career either employed in one or employed in an office below one.

Libraries are more than just physical books: they also have current periodicals, ebooks, computers, scanners, printers, microfilm and microfiche, newspapers, DVDs and CDs, primary documents in special collections, historical artifacts, framed art, statues, Wi-Fi, meeting places, study rooms, et cetera—some of them even have a freaking Starbucks. If you cannot find something, ask a librarian or whoever is at the front desk and they will gladly search for whatever you need and even get it for you. You get all the perks of a concierge service without the price.

Libraries also expand beyond their physical boundaries. They form a community of educators, scholars, and students working together to share information and promote academic excellence. This work extends from every lev-

el, from the historians in the Mercantile Library to the reference and circulation staff that work the front desk in the TJ Library. Library employees have a gift: they are awfully good at finding things, are very particular about details, and are usually huge nerds about the topics in which they specialize. Add that together and you have the perfect resource for anyone in a college setting who needs help doing research or pinning down a thesis idea.

Libraries also have tools like MOBIUS and Summon, both of which are worth their weight in gold, far more than any standard online search engine. Yes, you can Google search for academic articles online. But colleges like UMSL pay money for access to an awfully large number of academic databases whose articles you will never find on Google or Bing because they are behind a paywall and only accessible via services like LexisNexis and EBSCO. Yes, the Internet is beautiful. But even the strongest of Google-Fu will not break the barrier that separates users from database-only articles.

Speaking of books—yes, those dusty old things we are apparently doing away with since there is no ease in them anymore—through the MOBIUS system, students can request books from most colleges in the state of Missouri, as well as several in Illinois and some states even farther out. I currently have a half dozen books from various locales, including Tulsa, Oklahoma, thanks to MOBIUS. There is no book I can think of that MOBIUS will not have in its catalog, and most take only a few business days to get from one campus to another. If the idea of holding in your

hands a book from Tulsa or Chicago or Columbia does not thrill you, your nerd levels might not be high enough to appreciate MOBIUS; but you will still find a treasure trove of books at your disposal.

Finally, I am technically a millennial and I rebuke the idea that young people are not visiting libraries like they used to. I often work at the library in the morning, and the people I see waiting outside the front doors before opening time appear to be my age. I have seen people—young people, a good number of them, all with their laptops and smartphones and Jamba Juice cups—sit outside the TJ Library half an hour before it opens, rushing the doors as soon as they are unlocked.

Young people come in and out of

the library on a regular basis, checking out books, meeting upstairs for study sessions, doing homework on the computers, engaging in research with the reference librarians, drinking coffee before browsing the stacks, finding a good book to read for pleasure from our bestselling fiction section, and constantly asking when the library will close and the next time it will be open with a look in their eyes that tells me they will definitely be back the next day. The library is an essential part of their lives, a nexus point where things happen for patrons that rarely happen anywhere else. It is a hub of information that is always changing and expanding. If you still think libraries are a waste of time, consider that it is not the library that is the problem.

The Compass Advice Column

Wondering what direction to go? What path to take? College is a confusing venture, and The Compass is here to guide you. Consult with The Compass and find the advice you need in the next issue of The Current!

Send your questions to
thecurrentscompass@gmail.com

UMSL Law School Symposium

March 2, 2016 from 2 to 4 p.m. at J C Penney in Room 202

RSVP at <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/artscience/rsvp.html>
(RSVP is encouraged but not required)

Learn about Law School and Legal Careers

For questions, please contact Grace Derda, 314-516-5007, derda@umsl.edu



Left to Right: Curt Bouril ("Don Kirshner"), Liam Tobin ("Gerry Goffin"), Abby Mueller ("Carole King"), Ben Fankhauser ("Barry Mann"), Becky Gulsvig ("Cynthia Weil") and the company of "Beautiful."

COURTESY OF PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FABULOUS FOX THEATER

'Beautiful' Takes Carole King Fans on Nostalgic Trip

CATE MARQUIS
STAFF WRITER

"Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" made its St. Louis debut on February 23, for a run through March 6. The Broadway musical tells the story of singer/songwriter Carole King's early years, starting as a 16-year-old songwriter cranking out hit tunes in the 1960s.

Carole King fans turned out in force opening night to hear the musical, featuring 25 hit songs including "Beautiful" and "You've Got A Friend," as well as earlier hits such as "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," "Chains," and "Pleasant Valley Sunday," songs made hits by The Shirelles, The Beatles, and The Monkees. Carole wrote the music but some might not know that her songwriting partner/husband Gerry Goffin wrote the lyrics, even to women's

songs "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman."

The musical tells the story of her early days, ending when she becomes a star performing her own work in the early 1970s. It opens with Carole King (Abby Mueller) playing her hit "So Far Away" and remembering the past. The scene shifts, with Carole and her piano sliding off stage and a new set rolling in, representing her Brooklyn girlhood home. There, 16-year-old Carole Klein lives with her divorced mother Genie (Suzanne Grodner), attending college and studying to become a teacher despite her young age. But all she really wants to do is write pop songs.

Carole gets her break when she has the chance to pitch a song under the name Carole King to New York music producer Don Kirshner (Curt Bouril).

At that time, singers did not write their own songs but got them from music producers. Songwriters played their songs for producers, who bought them for a variety of musicians.

Kirchner buys her song, but then he wants more. At college, Carole meets Gerry Goffin (Liam Tobin on February 23 to 28, and Andrew Brewer on March 1 to 6). Gerry is studying to be a chemist but what he really wants is to be a writer. He and Carole make a deal—she will write the tunes and he will write the lyrics. The songwriting partnership clicks, and soon Carole and Gerry are also clicking romantically.

The musical follows their personal life and career, with their careers on a steadier upward path than their rocky personal lives. Along the way, we get performances of their hits, as well as hits by their friends: rival songwriting

team Cynthia Weil (Becky Gulsvig) and Barry Mann (Ben Fankhauser).

Fans will know all these hits but if the songs of "Beautiful" are unfamiliar to you, this might not be the show for you. "Jersey Boys" started this biographical musical trend, and "Beautiful" owes a debt to that show, particularly for its innovative staging of televised concerts. However, "Beautiful" lacks the dramatic edge of "Jersey Boys," where the Four Seasons' bouncy songs contrasted with the tale of gangsters, gambling, and prison. "Beautiful" has a much tamer story behind the songs, where a girl from Brooklyn writes pop hits and marries her songwriting partner, who works as a chemist as they live with her mother until they hit it big. It culminates in suburbia, kids, infidelity, and a career crisis over writing for a band created for a TV sitcom ("The Monkees"). It is personally tragic stuff for Carole and Gerry, but hardly the fiery material that drove "Jersey Boys."

For Carole King fans, none of that matters. It is all about Mueller's winning, affecting performance as the singer/songwriter, the snappy zinger-filled dialog, and the songs. All the cast is terrific and the songs are wonderfully performed in little theatrical productions with glittery costumes, shimmering backdrops, and all the hot dance moves. The large, multi-level, movable set serves as theater, concert club, characters' offices or homes, and other locations, in appealing fashion. The audience is transported back in time to the heyday of dressed-to-kill Motown singing groups.

"Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" is a must-see for her fans, and a good bet for fans of Motown. It is a warm-hearted stroll down that memory lane, with all the romance and heart-break found in Carole King's early hit songs.



**MARCH 15TH
TO 18TH, 2016**

TAKE PART IN A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE EVENTS DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY TO CHALLENGE "NORMAL" AND RE-THINK DISABILITY.

LED BY COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES VISITING SCHOLAR DR. BRENDA BRUEGGEMANN.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

5-6:30
ART & DISABILITY: FILM SCREENING/DISCUSSION
MSC 313



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

11:30-12:45
WORKSHOP: DISABILITY & IN YOUR SYLLABUS
ED COLLABITAT (SOUTH CAMPUS)



5:30-7
PRESENTATION: A TRIANGULATION OF DISABILITY, LITERACY, AND RHETORIC-A JOURNEY TO HARTHEIM AND THE CENTER OF THE NAZI'S T-4 PROGRAM
MSC CENTURY ROOM C

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

12-1:15
WORKSHOP: DISABILITY & IN YOUR SYLLABUS
MSC 315



FRIDAY, MARCH 18

2-3:15
DISABILITY DIALOGUE: ACCESS IN HIGHER EDUCATION
ED COLLABITAT (SOUTH CAMPUS)



5:30-7
RE-THINKING HUMAN: MINI-TOUR AT THE CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM
3750 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD



EVENTS CO-SPONSORED BY THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES, THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, & SIGMA TAU DELTA