Due to the ongoing budget concerns at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, schools and departments have been forced to cut faculty, dissolve programs, and otherwise get creative with courses to make them more financially efficient. The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program students found this out the hard way when they met with the College of Nursing Dean Dr. Susan Dean-Baar and Associate Dean Dr. Roberta Lavin on April 27 at 1 p.m. to discuss the changes occurring in their program.

Dr. Dean-Baar and Dr. Lavin started the meeting by confirming what the MSN students had previously only heard through hearsay and rumors: the MSN program is being phased out and its students are going to be placed in mixed classes with Bachelor of Science MA Nursing Classes Being Restructured

JESSIE EIKMANN
STAFF WRITER

When a fellow single mother asked University of Missouri—St. Louis student Laura Miller, senior, philosophy, if she knew of a place that she could use her Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card to buy food on campus, she did not know, but she became determined to find out. That search started over a year and a half ago, but it would prove to be a question that, according to Miller, “led me down this path that led me to all of these discoveries”—discoveries that would shock and frustrate her into tackling issues of state benefits and student hunger.

Miller began her search by asking faculty, her honors societies, and even Chancellor Thomas George, all of whom did not know how or where to use state food assistance on campus. Over the next few months, Miller attended meetings with Assistant Dean of Students Miriam Roccia, UMSL social services office...
College of Nursing to Restructure MA Classes

JESSIE EIKMANN  STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1

in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN to DNP) program students.

The switch from the MSN to the BSN to DNP program has been anticipated for some time. Nursing programs across the country have been encouraged to switch over to doctorate programs for over 10 years. The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) has supported this switch since 2002, and in 2004 the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) issued a statement calling for all colleges of nursing to make this transition by 2015. UMSL has lagged behind the AACN’s recommendations. Dr. Dean-Baar put this timeline in perspective with other nursing colleges, saying, “Mizzou has already done it…UMKC is very close...we are not at the front of the train on this one. We’re in about the middle of the train.”

Dr. Lavin said, “Our goal was to do what the consensus of the nursing community and the accrediting body and the national organization of nurse practitioner faculty said we should do and make the move…In the meantime, we were committed to closing out our master’s degree program and…[having] people finish their programs of study. In the process of doing this, there’s always this period of time of a year or two where there’s going to be some overlap between the two programs.”

Unfortunately for the MSN students, this blending of the programs involves some unexpected changes in the structure of the classes. Some of the classes that the MSN students expected to be in-person are now going to be taught online. Dr. Dean-Baar said, “We are having to look at efficiency of classes, and in some cases, we are not offering two sections of a face-to-face [but] offering one section of a face-to-face and one section of an online [course], and in some cases we may have to go entirely online.”

The nursing students were frustrated by this announcement. They were particularly upset with the proposal that diagnosis and management classes would be moved online. Dr. Dean-Baar indicated that some of the nursing students had quietly expressed to the deans that they would not mind making the switch to online. This opinion was clearly unpopular among the students at the April 27 meeting, however. One of the students said, “I think our concern is, we don’t care where we’re at on the train, it’s how it was all gone about...When we signed...
KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Sally Ebest Receives President’s Award for Service

Chancellor Thomas George presented Sally Ebest, professor of English and Director of Gender Studies, with a University of Missouri System award on April 28. The President’s Award for Service is the seventh of the eight awards presented to faculty in 2016. The $5,000 award recognizes a faculty member for their service and contributions to the university’s goals. “I was surprised—dumbfounded, really—to receive the award. I have always loved working with grad students, so this award was particularly meaningful, especially given the level of competition at the system level,” said Ebest.

Dr. Ebest came to the University of Missouri—St. Louis in 1987 and became the Director of Gender Studies in 2010. She has also been the author of many books. One book’s royalties, “Writing from A to Z,” provides funding for students to attend national conferences.

Ebest is engaged with committees nationally and at UMSL. She serves on the Mentoring Committee of the National Women’s Studies Association and as an advisory board member to the Center for Teaching and Learning. Ebest also created the Certificate in University Teaching for graduate students in all disciplines to develop teaching skills they can apply in their classrooms.

Leadership Awards Honor UMSL Community

The 2016 Leadership Awards on April 25 honored the exemplary efforts of University of Missouri—St. Louis individuals and organizations. The awards were divided up into two separate categories: individual awards and organization and program awards. The following is the list of award recipients:

Vice Provost Award
Dr. Benda McPhail

Newman Civic Fellows Award
Daniel Mueller

SGA Student Choice Award
Alan Byrd

Triton Athletic Leadership Awards
Kevin Smith & Alex Stupek

Best Organizational Program
Walls of Intolerance, PRIZM

Outstanding Contribution to Leadership Programming Award
Laura Holt

Participants enjoyed music, food, and friends before the awards.

Best Community Building Program
Study Break Weekend, Associated Black Collegians

Most Innovative Program
Walls of Inolerance, PRIZM

Best Sustained Program
Undergraduate Research Symposium, Golden Key International Honour Society

The University of Missouri—St. Louis in 1987 and became the Director of Gender Studies in 2010. She has also been the author of many books. One book’s royalties, “Writing from A to Z,” provides funding for students to attend national conferences.

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Continued from Page 3

LEAH JONES STAFF WRITER

JESSIE EIKMANN STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 3

leave UMSL’s campus before it can be distributed; doing otherwise would be a violation of Sodexo’s contract. Miller found this inability to actually see the contract frustrating, saying, “If you prevent somebody from seeing a contract that they’re governed by, you can tell them any rules are in it and they’ll never know the difference.”

Miller then broadened her research to investigate exactly how large the student hunger problem on campus really was. Her research found that 50 percent of all UMSL students said they need a need-based federal Pell Grant. She also found that 52 percent of students who did not re-enroll in classes during the 2015 school year did not do so due to financial issues. Based on this, she concluded that it is likely that at least half of UMSL’s campus may face food insecurity.

Miller believes that UMSL’s response to such an overwhelming problem has largely been ineffectual. Milhwick’s Add-A-Dollar campaign, in which students could add one dollar to their meal plan, did not help to alleviate the food needs of the students facing food insecurity, sounded like a good idea. However, Miller finds the program unsettling. She discovered that the money raised by the campaign will be converted to Sodexo dining dollars, and that to obtain some of that fund, students would have to go to the social worker and essentially beg for an unspecified amount from the fund. Miller believes that the program is ethically problematic because, she said, “[UMSL] has now made the poor an income stream for Sodexo on campus knowing that they’re one of the hindrances to state benefits and we gave it to them. And we ask students, half of which are struggling, to fund it. So the very students that are hurt by the lack of EBT are the ones funding the program for the company that’s preventing EBT.”

While Miller continues to fight for EBT/SNAP use on campus, she is in the process of opening MOSAIC, a food access point where UMSL students facing food insecurity can pick up a snack between classes or food to bring home. Because of the rules governing food drives on campus, she approached the Normandy United Methodist Church across the street from campus. They agreed that Miller could use a space in the basement for MOSAIC, a food access point where UMSL students facing food insecurity can pick up a snack between classes or food to bring home. Because of the rules governing food drives on campus, she approached the Normandy United Methodist Church across the street from campus. They agreed that Miller could use a space in the basement for MOSAIC, a food access point where UMSL students facing food insecurity can pick up a snack between classes or food to bring home. Because of the rules governing food drives on campus, she approached the Normandy United Methodist Church across the street from campus. They agreed that Miller could use a space in the basement for MOSAIC, a food access point where UMSL students facing food insecurity can pick up a snack between classes or food to bring home.
Mirthweek Celebrates End of the Academic Year

SHANNON GEARY
FEATURES EDITOR

If April showers bring May flowers, then the University of Missouri—St. Louis can look forward to a lot of May flowers given the rainy week the region has had. Fortunately, the rain could not stop the annual Mirthday Carnival, held to ease the stress of finals and celebrate the end of the semester.

This year, due to the rain, the carnival games were moved to the Century Rooms in the Millennium Student Center on April 27. The grey day could not dampen students’ spirits. "It shows that LGBT life mirrors straight counterparts in ways that are more similar than different."

Several student organizations, such as Lambda Upsilon Lambda, the University Program Board, and the University Student Government Association, were covered in cream pie during the Leadership Awards Banquet on Monday. Last Lecture featuring Dr. Anthony Mannino on Tuesday, a volunteer fair on Wednesday and Thursday, the carnival on Wednesday, Roller Skating Night on Thursday, a Parks & Recreation marathon on Friday, the Goose Chase Mirthweek 5K and a comedy show featuring Bo Burnham and Nick Offerman on Saturday, and finally, the Mirth Barbecue at University Meadows on May 1. Although there was some trouble in communicating the changes to students, Mirthweek was a success.

UML Alumnus Speaks about Service, LGBT History, and His Time at UMSL

SHANNON GEARY
FEATURES EDITOR

Despite the many jokes that University of Missouri — St. Louis students are fond of making, an UMSL degree can actually help you accomplish many things. Just ask Steven Louis Brawley, author, activist, and alum of The Current and of UMSL. His long list of accomplishments includes founder of the St. Louis LGBT History Project, winner of the Pride St. Louis Jim Hoefer Community Leadership Award, author of a new book from Arcadia Publishing entitled "Images of America: Gay and Lesbian St. Louis," and editor-in-chief of The Current Student Newspaper from 1986-1987. We caught up with him this week and asked this successful alum some of our burning questions.

The Current (TC): You're a founder of the St. Louis LGBT History Project. What interested you about St. Louis history in particular?

Steven L. Brawley (SB): I have been a history buff since childhood, I was torn between becoming a history or communications major at UMSL. I have always felt St. Louis has gotten the short end of history by very often being perceived as a "fly over/rust belt" city that has seen better days. St. Louis often has been written about the region's LGBT past. Immediately after I sent off the manuscript in progress. New information is added every day. The most fun part about putting the book together was that it celebrated people's lives. The images in the book not only marked LGBT milestones, it celebrated everyday events - baby christenings, barbecues, picnics, floats, weddings, dances, sports teams. It shows that LGBT life mirrors straight counterparts in ways that are more similar than different. I have worked in the not-for-profit community in St. Louis since 1987 and have run into fellow UMSL alumni who share my passion and conviction for UMSL and the foundation it has given thousands of St. Louisans.

TC: What was the hardest part about writing your book? Which part was the most fun?

SB: The hardest part about the book was it was the first to fully address the topic. There are numerous news articles and sources, but I was starting from scratch. Having to cull down and edit the thousands of images I had to work with was tough. Some really great images did not make the cut, so that was sad. But in the end, the book gives a broad overview of St. Louis' vibrant LGBT past. Immediately after I sent the book to the publisher, new information and pictures came to light that I thought would have been great to add. So, watch for more books and articles in the future. History is always a work in progress. New information is added every day.

Overall, despite the inclement weather and delayed rides, students enjoyed the 2016 Birthday Carnival. Delores Eddington, senior, studio art, said, "I liked all the booths, like usual, but I think everybody comes out for the funnel cake." Charlene Johnson, senior, theater and dance, said, "It was fun. This is my senior year. This is the last one I’ll be at." Irith Wilkerson, senior, business administration, said, "I just threw up…on my first ride, so I’m out like a little kid" but she made it clear that she was having fun anyway. Mirthweek in its entirety included the Leadership Awards Banquet on Monday, Last Lecture featuring Dr. Anthony Mannino on Tuesday, a volunteer fair on Wednesday and Thursday, the carnival on Wednesday, Roller Skating Night on Thursday, a Parks & Recreation marathon on Friday, the Goose Chase Mirthweek 5K and a comedy show featuring Bo Burnham and Nick Offerman on Saturday, and finally, the Mirth Barbecue at University Meadows on May 1. Although there was some trouble in communicating the changes to students, Mirthweek was a success.
2015

August 29
“Nervous Laughter” Opens at Gallery 210

October 1
Benard Diggs Honored for 42 years at UMSL.

November 6, 7
Transgender Spectrum Conference at J. C. Penny

November 13
Students Bridge Racial Divisions

November 13
Prof Eamonn Wall Recounts Paris Attacks

February 12
’Soul’d Out’ Features African-American Artists

October 2, 3
Triton women’s tennis wins three out of four tournaments

September 11
Arianna String Quartet Performs “Essential Arianna”

October 29
Anheuser-Busch Hall Breaks Ground

November
Gallery Visio Opens “From the Spectrum”

November 13
Women’s soccer ends season with an 8 game win streak

February 19
SGA Open Forum on UMSL Budget Deficit

March 14
Dr. Brenda Brueggemann Discuss Disability Studies

April 18
UMSL’s Dance Program to be Eliminated

April 13
The Current Celebrates 1500 Issues and 50 Years

April 22, 23
UMSL Jazz Ensemble, STL Jazz Festival at Touhill

April 24
Men’s Golf Wins Two Years in a Row at GLVC Championship

2016

UMSL men’s roller hockey ranked 5th in the nation in 2016
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UMSL Dance Department’s ‘Last Farewell’ at Touhill

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri—St. Louis Dance Department held their final performance at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 30. The performance, titled “The Last Farewell,” was a free show that commemorated the achievements of UMSL’s dance department, which will be eliminated next year due to budget cuts. As Ronderrick Mitchell, dance program coordinator, expressed later in an interview, “It is hard not to recognize the simplicity of the concept of a final performance.”

‘Gay and Lesbian St. Louis’ Explores Local Queer History

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

It is hard not to recognize the sepia-soaked covers of the “Images of America” book series published by Arcadia Publishing, whether at the library or at the local bookstore. St. Louis, with its rich regional history, is a favorite of the popular long-running series, and many books have been written that focus on part of Mound City’s long, eclectic past, either by looking at a specific region, sub-group, or major event. In the case of the newest entry in the “Images” series, it is the LGBT community that is getting the specialized treatment, this time by an author who is well known to long graduated readers of The Current.

“Gay and Lesbian St. Louis” is written, curated, and created by Steven Louis Brawley and the St. Louis LGBT History Project. Brawley, who is a local historian who specializes in LGBT-related subjects, is also an alumnus of the University of Missouri—St. Louis; from 1986 to 1987, he served as editor in chief of The Current Student Newspaper.

The thin volume of LGBT history in St. Louis—its page count clock in at barely over one hundred pages—is a queer ethnography of an entire city, told through photographs. The book is divided into five distinct sections: pioneers; places; milestones; groups; everyday life. The pioneers are the pioneering local figures of LGBT St. Louis, from the 1800s to the 2010s. The places are the locations in St. Louis which have been important culturally for LGBT folks, such as queer-friendly clubs and bars and neighborhoods such as Lafayette Square which were renovated by a large number of LGBT citizens.

Milestones are just those, from the celebrated (the first St. Louis Pride event) to the infamous (the passing of the 1816 anti-sodomy laws). Groups range from leather men biker groups to feminist small presses. Lastly, everyday life celebrates the small, average events of St. Louis’ LGBT population, and the gathering of marginalized peoples in safe places without being political.

“Gay and Lesbian St. Louis” shows the LGBT world of St. Louis in all of its aspects. There are the good things—the political progress, the cultural celebrations, the city-wide pride—and the bad things—the sodomy laws, the AIDS/HIV deaths, the murder at the Southern Hotel. It presents a fuller, truer image of local history, and avoids any semblance of whitewashing history in order to blindly celebrate queer history.

The bulk of the book is photographs, but the combination of photography and the researched deep captions for each one creates a vivid and deep panorama of a marginalized group that has become an essential part of St. Louis, culturally and politically. What is seen through the work of Brawley and his colleagues are the people who have made St. Louis as queer-friendly and accepting as it is. Readers can trace how the narratives of their lives have moved from the margins of life into the center, gaining acceptance from the mainstream and giving younger LGBT people an easier time of being open with their sexual/gender orientation. It is thrilling in a way to see how many notable LGBT people have hailed from St. Louis, as well as how many landmark locations in St. Louis have played a role in local LGBT history, good and bad.

In a time when LGBT rights are accelerating and LGBT folks are taking more places on the national stage, “Gay and Lesbian St. Louis” seems like required reading to understand how the fight for acceptance has been a local affair for over two hundred years.
Litmag Launch Showcases Literary and Artistic Talent

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The rainbow-splashed cover and the multitude of student works inside Litmag 2016 graced the hands of many at the magazine’s annual launch party on April 29. The party was held in the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center from 5 to 7 p.m. About 50 people attended and were able to get their hands on a copy of the latest magazine, which is run by students and accepts creative works from University of Missouri—St. Louis students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Litmag’s launch party featured live readings from several authors and artists. Best Poetry and prose Submission contest winners and Wednesday Club winners were honored and recited some of their works. Ron Austin, an UMSL alumnus of the MFA program and professional writer, was the keynote speaker and recited one of his newer stories called “From the Dirt.”

Zachary J. Lee, junior, English, was the recipient of the Best Poetry award for his poem “The Storm.” The Best Prose award went to Litmag production staff member amber Scholl, senior, English, for her story “Secrets of Eden.” Each received a certificate and $100 award from the English Department.

Kate Watt, lecturer in the English Department, has been the faculty advisor for Litmag since 2013. She gave remarks about the magazine production process of Litmag, the work the staff put into producing the magazine, and the generosity of the student organizations and faculty members who made this year’s Litmag possible. She thanked, in particular, the English Department, the MFA program, the Pratt of the English Department, Steve Schreiner, MFA Program Director, the Graduate Writers Association, which co-sponsored the magazine’s production this year, and the UMSL Writers Group, who specifically co-sponsored the launch party.

Noting that they received more than 200 submissions across campus, Watt said, “And so it made our job very difficult because unfortunately we received more submissions than we ultimately had pages to print. And though it was sad for us to have to pass on some of the pieces that we wanted to publish really were of high quality, it only shows that the talent here on campus is alive and well.”

Watt also called the Litmag staff committee on stage to be recognized for their work in the publication process. Chairpersons and members of the advertising, public relations, publishing, and production committees gave remarks about their individual committees and what it was like to be part of the staff.

“We got to really get to know all of the pieces,” said Megg Roth, senior, English, who was on the publishing committee. “We went through word by word just to make sure that the voice was able to be established and make the pieces just the best pieces they could possibly be. We loved every minute of it... It was a really rewarding task to get to see these pieces published after all their hard work between us and the authors...”

The 2016 edition of Litmag contains the works of 20 different authors. The cover art was designed by this year’s Best Art Submission contest winner Grace Gogarty, senior, educational studies. Titled “Burger of Life,” it shows a rainbow hamburger that is chockfull of colorful fruit, bubbles, flowers, sea shells, and more.

“Getting primarily receives submissions from undergraduate students, although works are welcomed from graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Poetry, prose of all genres, and artwork are accepted. There is a limit of five submissions for each one of those categories, but students can submit in all categories. The submission period is open from October 15 to around the end of February, so there is a six-month stretch where students can submit works. Guidelines for submitting to the magazine are posted on the English Department website.

“It’s great for students who are in the English Department or who are taking creative writing classes, but by no means is it restricted to those students,” said Watt.

As submissions are collected, the Litmag staff comes together in the spring for the English Department’s course offering, Editing Litmag. The course essentially works as an internship where students receive three credit hours to publicize the magazine, solicit students to submit, and raise funds. Litmag is in part funded by the English Department and the MFA Program, but the staff raises additional funds by selling advertisements in the magazine and taking donations.

Watt said, “We’re really pleased with the pieces that were submitted this year. There’s some really top notch, high quality writing going on on this campus, so we were really thrilled to get the stuff we did.”

Copies of Litmag will be available for free on the MSC bridge on May 2 from 10 to 4 p.m. There will then be available for pickup in the English office on the 4th floor of Lucas Hall.

URS Showcases Undergraduate Research

SARAH MYERS
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to selecting colleges, the availability of undergraduate research opportunities is often an important factor for those with graduate school in their future plans. The University of Missouri—St. Louis not only supports opportunities for undergraduate students to pursue their own research, but also has an annual conference for these students to present their research to professionals and students across the region.

The Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS), sponsored by the Golden Key International Honour Society, took place from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 29. According to Golden Key’s mission statement, the conference is an opportunity for undergraduates of the Midwest to “present their research, scholarship, and creative works as they would at a professional conference.”

The URS featured students from the fields of anthropology, biochemistry and biotechnology, biology, English, history, the humanities, music, physics, and psychology. Oral presentations were from 12 to 3 p.m. and poster presentations from 1 to 3 p.m.

The topics presented were diverse, ranging from aggressive behavior in chimpanzees, bee reactions to floral complexity, to gender identity and female representation in STEM fields, to the effects of love on attention, to the elements found in comets.

Sage Rohrer, junior, biology, presented on “Age and Sex Affect Infant Transfer in Captive colobus guereza,” compared her experiences at the URS this year to last year: “I think it’s a great opportunity. I actually did it last year and did an oral presentation, so it was nice to see the difference. I think, because of the audience, I like the poster presentation, it’s good to get experience speaking on the oral presentation. It’s good preparation for graduate school.”

Fellow student attendees came to support their friends or just to see their peers’ work. “I think it’s a great thing that UMSL provides. It allows people to show their aspirations and research,” said Clevon Holmes, senior, psychology. “I hope that UMSL continues to put on the research symposium and that more students will take part in future research.”

D医治ne Hardway, junior, psychology was also an attendee. “I wasn’t all the way sure what it was,” she said. “I think it’s pretty cool and it’s interesting that it’s all student research, I did not know this many undergraduates were doing research. It kind of makes me want to do research.”

Nathan Jones, senior, biology, was also surprised to learn about the prevalence of undergraduate research at UMSL. “It’s really interesting; I’m surprised I didn’t come before. I think the level to the research has been done has surprised me.” Jones presented the paper “Apes, Monkeys, Prosimians: What’s It’s Like to Be a One-Year-Old.”

Tascheia Floyd, graduate, behavioral neuroscience, said “I was really nervous at first, but I’m really excited to be here. I’m really learning to explain and ‘talk’ research, which I’ve never done before. Next year I get to be here to help others at the URS and I will get to mentor others too.” Floyd presented on the association of rumination in people with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Afterward, a ceremony was held to award four first place prizes and four honorable mentions to students based on their content and presentation.

Continued online at thecurrent-online.com
Coach Andy Meade Reflects on Roller Hockey Season

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Ranked fifth in the nation, the University of Missouri—St. Louis roller hockey team had their season come to an end on April 8 when they lost in the Elite 8 in overtime to Michigan State with a final score of 5-6. Open tryouts for next year’s roller hockey team will begin a few weeks after the start of the fall 2016 semester.

In the meantime, The Current reached out to UMSL roller hockey coach Andy Meade to find out his thoughts on how the team fared this season, what he and the players accomplished, and what his vision is for the team next year.

The Current (TC): How did it feel for the team to be ranked fifth in the nation?
Meade: Coach Holzum and I have had our ups and downs, but regardless we stuck through it and this is by far the most talented team we’ve coached. [The team is] awesome [and has] been the most tight-knit, and I truly believe that helps on the rink as well.

TC: What were your biggest personal accomplishments this season as a coach and what do you hope to accomplish next year?
Meade: We beat Lindenwood early in the season; LU is a school who recruits kids from all over the country so for our team to pull together and upset a school like that is a major accomplishment. Next year, as with any year, I’d like to win a Division 1 title; I never strive for anything other than that.

TC: What was the most important lesson you learned this season?
Meade: Nothing specific, but one thing I can say I’ve learned through the years is the patience we as coaches have to have with the guys; it’s easier said than done sometimes.

TC: I know you previously said you’re an UMSL alumnus. What made you decide to stay and keep coaching roller hockey?
Meade: Both Coach Jason Holzum and I picked UMSL based on their hockey club, which at one point was very large hosting two teams. We have since graduated but we still had the hunger to keep the club alive and growing. As mentioned earlier, we’ve definitely had our down years, and I contribute some of that to the lack of exposure as well as the funding. We receive $0 in support from UMSL, so it’s hard to not only find kids to participate but then tell those kids they must pay to play. We offer it a lot by fundraising. But for kids paying fees to a school strictly for club activities and then not getting anything in return once they participate in those said activities is mind-boggling.

TC: Do you have any particularly memorable or funny stories that happened this season or in past seasons?
Meade: This year, like I said, we had a very tight-knit team; everyone seemed to be friends at and off the rink, which isn’t always the case. But Coach Holzum hosted an end of the year BBQ for the entire team, and that was a first in our six years of coaching and definitely something I won’t forget.

TC: I heard that the team was trying to raise enough money to go to nationals. Were you able to meet that goal?
Meade: We did indeed—for the past two years we’ve been throwing a trivia night which has grown in the two short years we’ve done it, but this year we hope to make it the biggest one yet!

TC: What’s one thing that most people don’t know about roller hockey that you think they should know?
Meade: Just give it a try; in the past six years we’ve coached we haven’t cut a single player, we have a wide range of talent from beginner to some of the best in the sport at the collegiate level, we host an open tryout where it’s FREE for all UMSL undergrads as well as graduate students, and if anyone has any questions I’m more than happy to answer them. You can contact me via email at awmgf4@mail.umsl.edu.

UML Sports Have Stepped It Up a Notch

ALEX NEUPERT
SPORTS EDITOR

For the University of Missouri—St. Louis, the 2015-2016 year has been one crazy ride for Triton athletes, with so many of the various teams doing better than ever before. While championship caliber teams are nothing new to the school, the athletics programs have certainly gone above and beyond this year, performing on a collective level not seen at UMSL in a long time. From golf, tennis, soccer, and even roller hockey, to all the other sports, our Triton athletes have been nothing short of impressive and have represented our university well.

It started in the fall season with the women’s soccer team, who had one of their best showings in several decades. After finishing the regular season with a 12-5-4 record, they headed into the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) postseason tournament hungry for more. The Triton women would take down Drury and Bellarmine en route to the conference tournament. They would then do something women’s soccer had not done for UMSL since 1983—take place in the NCAA Division II Women’s National Championship. Though they exited the tournament with an early first-round loss to Quincy, the accomplishment of even getting to that point was something the women were extremely proud of and happy about.

UMSL swimming would also be present at the 2016 NCAA Division II Championships in March, sending Diogo Dias, sophomore, undeclared, to Indianapolis for the competition. He placed 26th out of 34 finishers in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 49.62. He also placed 19th in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 49.55, just missing his chance in the consolation finals.

Both the men and women’s golf teams also played extremely well throughout the 2015-2016 season. The men’s team won its fifth tournament of the season with its back-to-back first place showing at the GLVC postseason tournament, defeating Indianapolis in the championship finals.

Continued online at thecurrent-online.com
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The Current

Opinions

Travel Report: “I’m never going back to America!” and Other Things You Shout After the Kakehashi Program

ABBY N. VIRIO STAFF WRITER

On March 14 at 8 a.m., 25 strangers and acquaintances wheeled baggage up to counter in Lambert International Airport and checked bags for O’Hare International Airport. It was to be an hour from St. Louis to Chicago, and a minimum of twelve hours from Chicago to Narita Airport in Chiba, Japan—an hour bus ride from downtown Tokyo. For those who had never flown or left the country, this was the maiden voyage of the Santa Maria—maps and strategically organized necessities tucked away in multi-pocketed carry-ongs, fresh with department store smell. For the more weathered travelers, the flight was a sweaty, stinkly nuisance made bearable by thoughts of the delicious food and adventure awaiting them in Japan.

For all gathered around the gate, it was about to be a nine-day journey into a faraway land famous for its beauty, cuisines and know-how, little to know for sure and much to imagine.

The Kakehashi Program is the American branch of an international friendship program developed by the Japanese International Cooperation Center (JICE) with the goal of fostering mutual understanding and interest between our two nations.

The University of Missouri—St. Louis began its selection process for a team of student delegates for the Kakehashi Program in the fall of 2015. After a highly competitive essay and interview process, 23 students and 2 faculty members were invited to represent both the university and the United States as a team of student delegates. This group of students of varying majors and minors set out to explore Japan and answer questions as urgent as “how do I use this toilet?” and as complex as “how do the U.S. and Japan influence each other politically and economically?”

The result was a dynamic team of students with diverse academic and cultural backgrounds who were able to ask thought-provoking questions and make powerful observations to share in Japan and bring back home.

By the time we arrived in the land of the rising sun, it was nearly sun-set. We had crossed the international dateline and lost not only more than thirteen hours, but also an entire day. Jet-lagged and confused staring at our calendars, we hit the hay at the East 21 Hotel in Tokyo. Our gracious hosts met us with room keys and bento boxes.

Bento, an icon of Japanese cuisine, was to be our first meal. A box with many elaborately prepared morsels, our bento featured fish tempura, cooked seaweed, rice balls, pickled mushrooms and vegetables, a thick wedge of omelet, and tiny, brightly colored fishesakes.

Throughout the trip, my motto—put it in your mouth and ask questions later—served me well. I was welcomed with tonkotsu, a battered, crispy pork served on raw cabbage; sukiyaki, thinly sliced meat and vegetables cooked in a bubbling soy sauce mixture on the table and dipped in raw egg; shabu shabu, similar to sukiyaki but served with a boiling pot of seaweed water; Ham-burg steak, tender, juicy hamburger prepared in steak sauce and served with an egg instead of a bun; takoyaki, squid balls fried in a crisp pancake batter and served with Japanese mayonnaise; okonomiyaki, a Japanese pancake filled with vegetables; and curry, mild Japa-nese curry sauce with vegetables served over rice. Sticky white rice and tofu miso soup were a staple, as well as udon noodles, matcha tea, and fishesakes, such as naruto. Some students were able to try conveyor belt sushi, Japanese Krispy Kreme, and traditional drinks such as hot sake. Most memorably, I was able to experience famous Hakata tonkotsu ramen, a pork and green onion ramen served in the Fukuoka area.

After orientation, we attended informative lectures. Hideki Yamaji of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spoke to us about the history of international relations between the United States and Japan, specifically Japan’s attitudes towards the American military, which exerts a palpable presence to this day. We also heard from Akira Nakamura, PhD, of Continued online at thecurrent-online.com

Campus Politics: Why Students Suppress Discourse

SARAH MYERS STAFF WRITER

When conservative journalist Milo Yiannopoulos visited The University of Massachusetts and American University in Washington D.C., it made for a national sensation. Yiannopoulos, a frequent commentator on conservative media outlets, visited both the American military, which exerts a palpable presence to this day. We also heard from Akira Nakamura, PhD, of Continued online at thecurrent-online.com

Set against a backdrop of hearings and trials, Yiannopoulos’ visits were met with both cheers and jeers. At American University in Washington D.C. in late April, the ensuing protests and general outcry struck a familiar chord. Mobs of students chanted, shouted, cursed, and vandalized their way into the spotlight, attempting to shut down Yiannopoulos’ events, or at least to assure his voice was not heard. These behaviors are not new, and no longer surprising. Anyone following the news at all this past year has most likely noticed a recurring theme among the headlines about today’s college campuses. News and debate surrounding political correctness, free speech, and student protests have polarized the liberal and conservative populations, and—in some extreme cases—even led to violent confrontation.

Especially surprising are the parties involved and the spaces in which they occur. In most (if not all) recent cases, aggressive or violent displays of contempt for political ideologies, opinions, or parties has come from the political left—a left that has, historically, been vocal in its support of free speech and its condemnation of forceful suppression of dissenting opinion. Further, universities have been a hotbed of such clashes, despite the fact that this challenges the duty of the university in the first place—to foster the critique of intellectual ideas in a civil, nonviolent manner and realize disagreements and differences.

Unfortunately, an effort to make sense of these trends, we too often resort to name-calling and blame placing, ignoring the fact that social behavior follows discernable, structural patterns. While it makes for fun insult, calling our college activists “cry-babies” or the like fails to shed any light on how to address the issues. Further, by attack-
UMSL Dance Department’s ‘Last Farewell’ at Touhill

LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER

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“Imagine you, imagine me, imagine we, intertwining colors into a masterpiece.”

The next piece was titled “Be Grateful” and featured a music score of the same title. Michelle Hughes, sophomore, theatre and dance, Lalitha Jilaka-ra, Elizabeth Moushey, senior, theatre and dance, Railey, and Wade performed in blue and white dresses.

“Rhyme” was the next piece, set to classical dance music. Both the choreographer and dancer was Qianling Ye, senior, theatre and dance, who floated around the stage with quick, flexible movements in pink silk.

“In the Midst of It All” was next, set to “They Fought as Legends” and featured an exciting performance by dancers Hughes, Moushey, and Wade, all clad in orange, yellow, and blue costumes.

During a brief intermission, Mitchell, who moved to St. Louis in July from Miami, mourned the elimination of the dance program. He reacted to an article for which he was interviewed that appeared in the Riverfront Times, which he said claimed that most people only do dance as a hobby; Mitchell refuted the idea that dance was merely a hobby. He concluded by thanking all of the people who supported the dance department.

The final piece, “The Last Farewell,” began with a video which showed the dancers practicing, and then featured the dancers in a wildly varying, yet emotive, performance. When asked about the piece, Wade said, “Basically it was talking about the journey that Mr. Mitchell had from when he came into the department until now ... The one focal point was Charis. She was basically representing him and how we were there for him ... It was basically an emotional roller coaster.”

The piece did seem to strike a chord with the audience. “I liked the last piece the best. It was the most fun,” said Abby Friodel, freshman, math.