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The Current

1966

Celebrating 50 Years as

2016

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

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ISSUE 1503

JUNE 27, 2016

UMSL Strides To Go Green With Sustainability

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

It is hard not to notice the amount of wasted paper and recyclable materials across campus. After seeing trash cans overflowing with junk, it is also hard not to feel that nothing is being done to cut down on waste. But the University of Missouri—St. Louis campus has a secret weapon against the rising threat of rubbish: the UMSL Sustainability Office. Formed in 2013 to help the college reduce its impact on the surrounding environment, the office is hidden away in the Millennium Student Center North Parking Garage.

The office is headed by Katy Mike Smaistrle, the coordinator and sustainability's top championing staff member at UMSL. She keeps her office hypervisible on campus by connecting with the community at student orientations, club expos, and commuter-specific meetups.

The Sustainability Office may be lacking in funds, but if Smaistrle is anything to go by, it is not lacking in enthusiasm or innovation. It was a combination of those two things that made Smaistrle the UMSL sustainability coordinator back in 2003, a position created with the department and one that she has stepped into gladly with both feet, despite some drawbacks such as lack of funding and student awareness.

Her previous experience working on similar projects at the Missouri Botanical Gardens made her an obvious choice for UMSL's green department.

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New Diversity Officer Visits UMSL



Dr. Kevin McDonald, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer of the UM System
COURTESY OF UM SYSTEM

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Into just his second week as Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer (CDO) of the University of Missouri System, Dr. Kevin McDonald visited the University of Missouri—St. Louis on June 7. He spoke to about 20 members of the Chancellor's Cultural Diversity Council (CCDC) during a luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 202 of the J.C. Penney Conference Center.

The luncheon began with McDonald introducing himself and telling the CCDC about his background. He was formerly the Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion at Rochester Institute of Technology. He served as Associate Director of Compliance and Conflict Resolution for Johns Hopkins University from 2001 to 2005. From 2005 to 2010, he was the Vice President for Equity and Inclusion at Virginia Tech.

Dr. Malika Horne, senior member of the CCDC and head of the Executive Leadership Consortium, was then called upon to give a briefing of the CCDC's history to McDonald. She ex-

plained that the council was established in 2004 and was previously named the Chancellor's Task Force on Diversity. Horne told McDonald that the CCDC members initially began their diversity initiatives by tackling some of the "low hanging fruit," such as assessing the diverseness of the photos on UMSL's website.

Following Horne's overview of the CCDC's history, each of the CCDC members introduced themselves to McDonald and explained what organization or department they were representing. The members then had the opportunity to ask questions of McDonald about his initiatives and outlook as CDO.

McDonald told the council that, being the system's first ever CDO, he is "coming in with a skeletal vision." When asked what kind of guidance and direction he has been given in this role, McDonald said University of Missouri (UM) System Interim President Michael Middleton emphasized being transparent, having an activist lens, and sustaining collective will. McDonald said he wants to implement changes in ways that are measured, such as by

asking for more funding for diversity initiatives. He stressed the importance of asking, "What is the data telling us? What has been utilized?"

"Most of the diversity work for this campus [UMSL] has come out of this council," said McDonald about the CCDC.

Alice Canavan, a CCDC member and administrative associate in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, shared her thoughts about McDonald's visit. She said, "I have to believe that Dr. McDonald will bring much needed change. I watched him address our meeting [on June 7] with great attentiveness. He did also remind our council that he will be approachable and acceptable."

Canavan continued, "This campus like others has problems with inclusiveness and diversity. That will be the problem to change the atmosphere that bad behavior from anyone; administration, faculty, staff and students are all [to] be held accountable for their behavior and it is [the job of] this campus/system to [educate] all of us on the acceptable behavior. No one should be above the policies and must enforce them consistently. They claim to have all the words but now they/we all need to start walking the talk."

On June 13, University of Missouri—Columbia Interim Chancellor Hank Foley announced that he had also appointed McDonald as Mizzou's Interim Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The appointment was made effective for McDonald to begin serving in the dual roles immediately.

McDonald officially began his position as CDO on June 1. UM System Interim President Middleton announced the appointment of McDonald as the UM System's first ever CDO in March. His appointment met one of the UM Board of Curators' eight initiatives announced last November to address diversity, equity, and inclusion within the UM System.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Office of Student Life Undergoes Name Change

LORI DRESNER
 NEWS EDITOR

The space once known as the Office of Student Life in 366 Millennium Student Center has been renamed the Office of Student Involvement in order to streamline the kind of requests and inquiries that the office received under its former name.

Jessica Long-Pease, Director of the Office of Student Involvement, explained the reason behind the name change

by saying, "With the breadth of involvement experiences that we offer, the staff felt it important that the office name communicate the opportunities for involvement that exist within our specific unit."

"The 'Office of Student Life' name sent mixed messages to the various constituent groups that we work with at UMSL. Potential students and parents saw the department as a one-stop shop for all things related to a student's life on campus, and as a result we often fielded

inquiries about everything from early registration to residential living facilities to academic advising requirements. The new name – 'Office of Student Involvement' – better conveys the diversity of programs, services, and engagement opportunities we offer to students and better reflects the mission of the department."

Once the office staff came to a consensus, they proposed the change to Miriam Roccia, Assistant Dean of Students for Campus Life and Curt Coon-

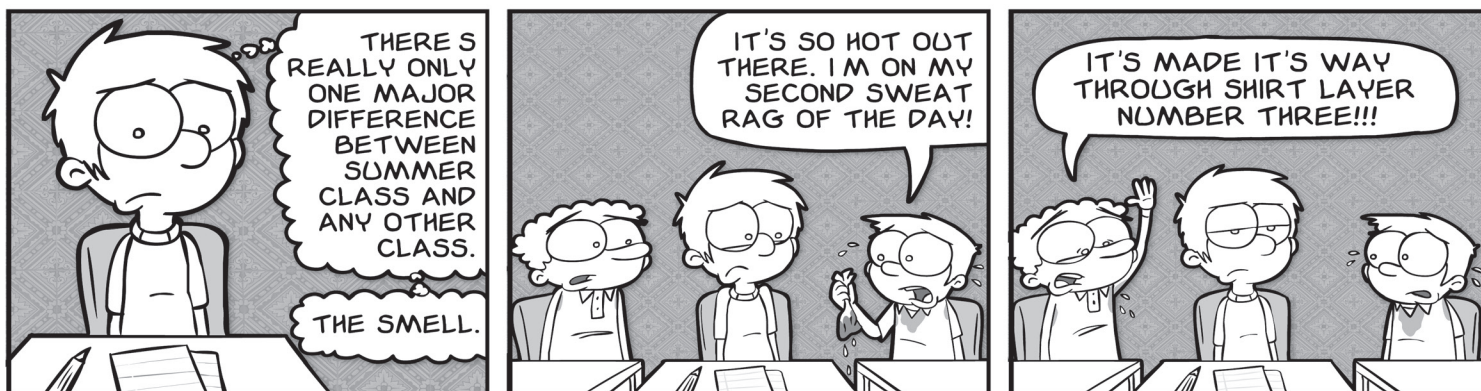
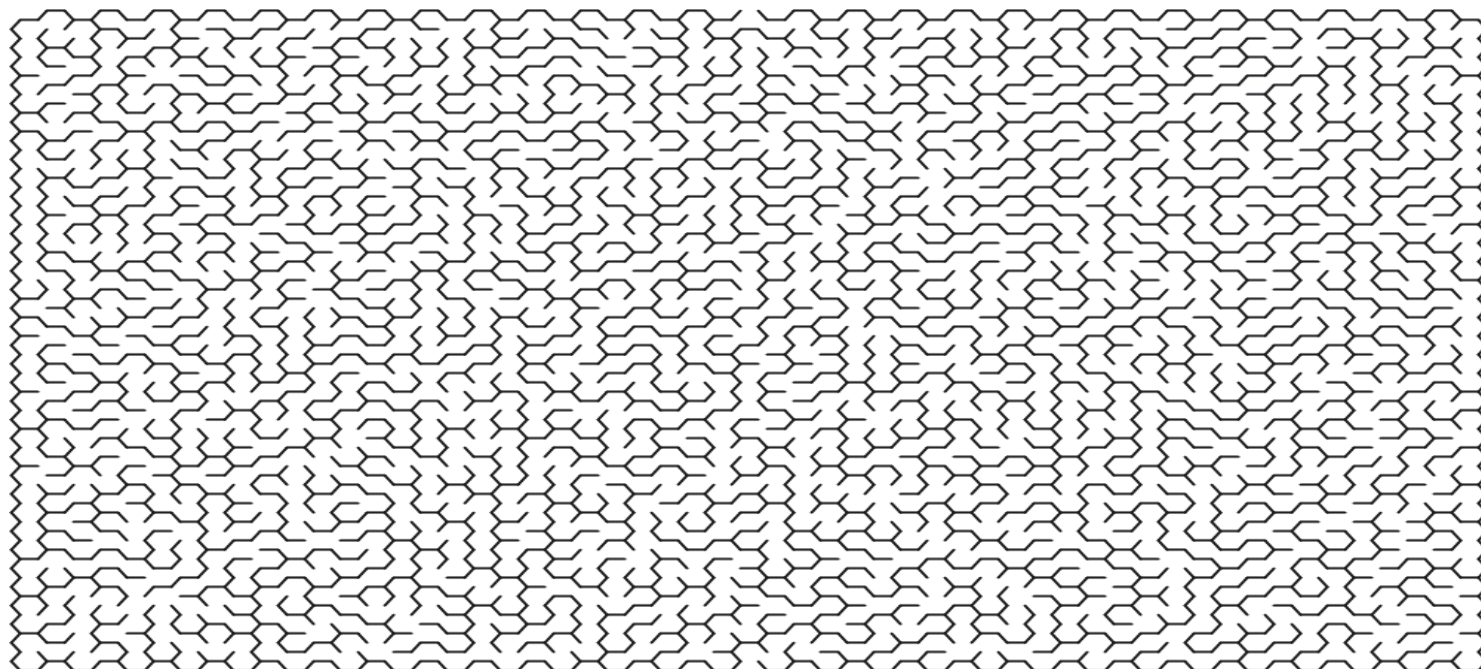
rod, Vice Provost for Student Affairs. The proposal was approved in late May and the name change is being implemented this summer.

Although the office has been renamed, Long-Pease said that there are no changes planned in the Office of Student Involvement's programs or services.

The Office of Student Involvement is open all summer. For more information, visit umsl.edu/studentinvolvement/, email studentlife@umsl.edu, or call 314-516-5291.

GAME CORNER

Difficulty: We Let The A&E Editor Make The Paper This Week



ON THE QUAD BY MIKE DILIBERTO

NOW
 thru
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MONDAY MUNCHIES! Free popcorn and cotton candy
 Every monday outside the Office of Student Involvement (MSC 366)



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Campus Crime Report

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

The following is a series of daily crime reports issued by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department since June 17.

June 17: At 4 p.m., a cell phone was found in the Social Sciences & Business Building (SSB) and turned in to the UMSL PD for safe keeping. At 5:11 p.m., an unknown vehicle struck a light pole in Lot SS; no other damages were reported.

June 18: No incidents were reported on this date.

June 19: An UMSL student reported to the UMSL PD that they had been contacted by an unknown person on several occasions on June 17, asking for gift cards purchases in order to avoid arrest. It was reported as a possible fraud attempt.

June 20: At 11:55 a.m., an employee at the South Campus Classroom Building was transported from campus to the hospital after reporting feeling sick.

At 2 p.m., UMSL PD was alerted to a Craigslist listing that possibly included stolen campus-affiliated property. A student reported damage in the form of scratches to their vehicle parked in West Drive Garage between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on June 15.

June 21: No incidents were reported on this date.

June 22: At 3:11 p.m., a group visiting campus reported the theft of several items from a classroom in SSB. At 4:45 p.m., a phone was found at the North Campus Metrolink stop and turned in to the UMSL PD for safe keeping. At 6:30 p.m., a visitor to the Normandie Golf Course reported that their vehicle had been broken into and several items had been stolen.

June 23: No incidents were reported on this date.

UMSL Campus PD
314-516-5155

GROW Debuts At St Louis Science Center

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

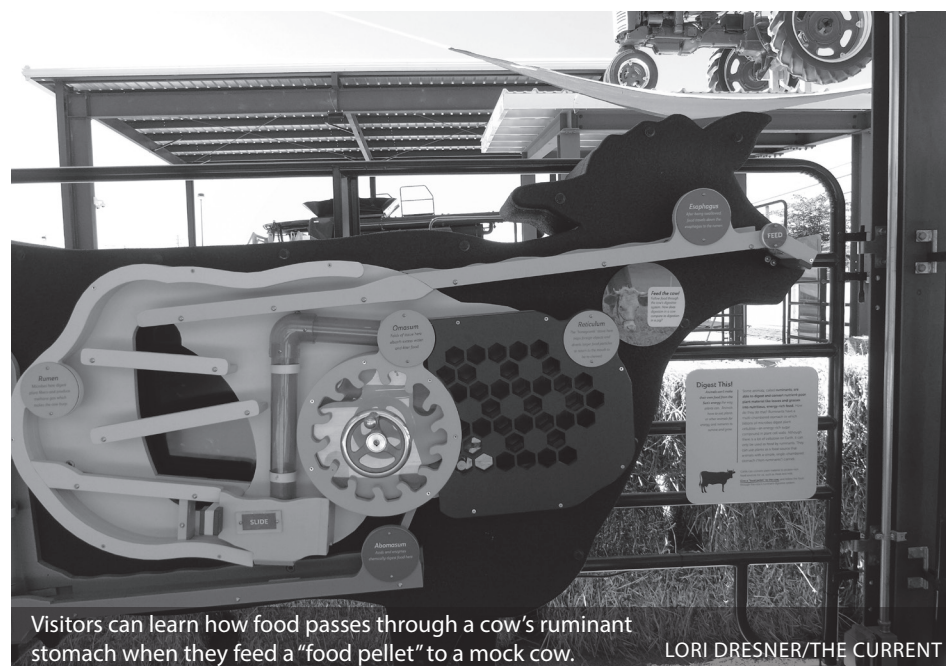
Ever wanted to know where your food comes from before it makes it to your plate? A new permanent exhibit at the Saint Louis Science Center, called GROW, explores the journey from food to fork. The exhibit officially opened to the public on June 18 and is located adjacent to the center's main building in the space previously occupied by the Exploradome.

The grand opening of GROW was marked by festivities and an official ribbon cutting at 10:30 a.m. on June 18. Festivities included food demonstrations, chicken feedings, technology demonstrations, food samples, and hands-on demonstrations.

GROW features over 40 interactive indoor and outdoor exhibits that will evolve and change with the seasons. There are nine specific areas within GROW that contain information and exhibits related to agriculture and the stages of food growth, production, and even consumption: the GROW Pavilion, Bi-State Agriculture Map, Water Works, Botany Basics, Farm Tech Field, Animal Corral, Home GROWn, Fermentation Station, and Greenhouse.

"The Midwest region is filled with people and businesses who are responsible for our food supply. In fact, you don't have to travel very far from the Science Center to see how important food and farming are to this area," said Bert Vescolani, president and CEO of the Saint Louis Science Center, in a press release statement. "Everyone likes to see how things grow, but when it is the food you eat, it is even more interesting. This exhibit helps connect people to the science behind all the of the important elements in producing the food we eat and the challenges we face in sustaining our food supply."

Many of the exhibits simulate the real life processes of food growth and production. In the Animal Corral, one



Visitors can learn how food passes through a cow's ruminant stomach when they feed a "food pellet" to a mock cow.

LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

can try their hand at milking a life-sized cow. They can also give a "food pellet," a green ball, to a wooden cow and follow the pellet through the digestive system while learning how food is broken down. Kids may enjoy certain aspects of GROW, such as the opportunity to sit in the driver's seat of a giant combine, like the ones used on farms.

In-depth informational displays accompany many of the interactive exhibits. Some even contain sensory elements, such as the 'tummy textures' display that explains the difference between the simple stomach that pigs, humans, dogs, and horses have and the ruminant stomach that cows have. This display allows visitors to feel the difference between the two stomachs through materials that mimic the real life textures.

In addition to interactive exhibits, visitors to GROW can experience fully organic ones, too. Twelve chickens housed in the chicken yard in the outdoor HomeGROWn area of the exhibit give visitors an up-close experience with where eggs originate. Inside the GROW Pavilion, live bumblebees are viewable on a flat screen monitor and can be listened to via headphones at The Hive.

To top off learning about food,

visitors can get a taste of the end result at the Fermentation Station. There, they get a glimpse into the science of making craft beer, wine, cheese, and bread, and enjoy local seasonal cuisine with beer and wine crafted in St. Louis.

Over an acre in size, GROW is the Saint Louis Science Center's largest expansion since 1991. It is the first permanent exhibit of its size in the U.S. that focuses solely on agriculture.

"Our mission is to ignite and sustain lifelong science and technology learning, and I cannot think of a better way to inspire our next generation of farmers, scientists, inventors and problem solvers than through food," said Vescolani. "We all have to eat, so this is a good place to start!"

The total cost of the exhibit was \$7 million and construction lasted three years. GROW was funded by private donors, CASE IH Agriculture, Prairie Farms, Monsanto, the Missouri Farm Bureau, the Illinois Farm Bureau, The IAA Foundation, and Missouri Rice Research. It also received support from the National Science Foundation.

Admission to GROW is free, although there will be a cost for some paid programming and activities. Features of the exhibit include hands-on-activities, classes, workshops, guided tours, evening and weekend programs for adults and families, beer and wine demonstrations and tastings, and a mini tractor track. On select days, local farmers will visit GROW and bring their animals, giving visitors the opportunity to watch how farmers care for them.

For more information on upcoming events at GROW, visit slsc.org/GROW.



Visitors to the Saint Louis Science Center's new exhibit GROW can sit in a giant combine just like the ones used on farms.

LORI DRESNER/THE CURRENT

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Gateway Summer Program Hones Writing Skills

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Summer is usually a time when students and teachers are out of the classroom. The Gateway Writing Project (GWP) puts teachers back in the classroom to work on honing their own writing skills and changing the focus of how to use writing in their classrooms.

Graduate students at GWP come from all different teaching backgrounds, experiences, and teaching methods to discuss research projects and pedagogies they can bring back to their students in the fall. The class meets Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., alternating between the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus and the Harris-Stowe State University campus during an intensive four-week period in June.

Fawn Ponzar, graduate, English, said, "GWP has been refreshing and relieving. I am excited to get back into the classroom and try out the ideas I've received from others and from what I've read. I also love the openness and friendliness of the other students. Everyone has been very welcoming, accepting, and willing to help."

Students work on a variety of projects during the condensed course. These include creating a portfolio of their own writing to reflect on, demonstrating a lesson used in their classroom where writing is the central aspect, creating or modifying a syllabus or 10 lessons with writing as the centerpiece, and an inquiry project based on individual interest to create an annotated bibliography and reflection sheet.

Emily Hutti, graduate, English, said, "I like GWP because it is making me come out of my comfort zone. Even though I am an English teacher, and therefore a teacher of writing, I myself do not write very often. Being able to write and express myself with other teachers has been very powerful."

The class focuses on writing individually, in small groups, and in large groups. Individuals and groups do not just stay in the classroom during the breakout sessions; they go outside, to computer labs, lounges, cafeterias, and more. Writing prompts at the beginning and end of class stimulate thought, and sharing ideas around the classroom becomes beneficial to others' individual projects. The class also sets itself up so that individuals can receive and share input on their writing to improve that particular piece or their writing skills as a whole.

Victoria Modenesi, graduate, English, said, "As a teacher and as a student, you spend most of the time producing papers/lesson plans, etc. on your own. The whole collaborative workshop idea has pushed me to work on my listening skills as well as ways to negotiate meaning. This is important for me because as a future teacher of composition, I feel that being able to listen to our students in their concerns or in their writings is crucial as well as



Students working in groups for the GWP 2016 at Harris-Stowe

KAT RIDDLER/THE CURRENT

negotiating meanings with language that allows us to question/inquire/investigate, rather than elicit countless comments or pointing out mistakes."

Two teachers who have gone through the GWP lead the class. Sioux Roslawski is in her third year leading the GWP, but has been an active teaching consultant (TC) and committee member since 2000. Roslawski remembered her favorite part as a student in the GWP, "As a student, I think the really cool parts were the mindblowingness of it. It is meeting people you don't know and almost instantly you develop a rapport because of the writing and the sharing and the risk taking you are doing as a writer. The methodicalness—I know that's an invented word—where you are really looking at yourself as a writer and what you need as a writer."

Tracy Brosch, the co-teacher for GWP, has been a tech liaison for GWP and an active TC for over five years since she was a student. This is the first year Brosch has been a teacher of the GWP. Brosch remembered her favorite part of GWP as a student and a leader. Brosch said, "I had a really strong small group and we have stayed connected to this day—6 years later. They built me as a writer. I went back into the classroom as a writer, and I think that changes how you treat students and

what you do with students."

There is also a way to stay connected after the class is over as each member becomes a TC of the GWP. There are events held throughout the year that TCs can attend: networking opportunities, book clubs, writing clubs, leadership roles, and committee roles, depending on how involved the members want to be. Brosch said, "Once you leave, it's not over. It is not just a class. If you choose you can stay connected to this community. There are book clubs, there are opportunities to stay connected and talk to other teachers not in my district."

The GWP has a long history. It was founded in 1978 and is sponsored by UMSL and Harris-Stowe State University. The GWP is part of the National Writing Project and the Missouri Writing Projects Network. Nancy Singer, co-director of the GWP and GWP TC since 2002, explained, "I had been aware of the National Writing Project for probably 10 years before that. The National Writing Project has been around since 1974 and the Gateway Writing Project since 1978. In education, few organizations have that staying power. That the writing project is still going strong is a testament to the value we put on professional development that matters to teachers and that has real applicability to their

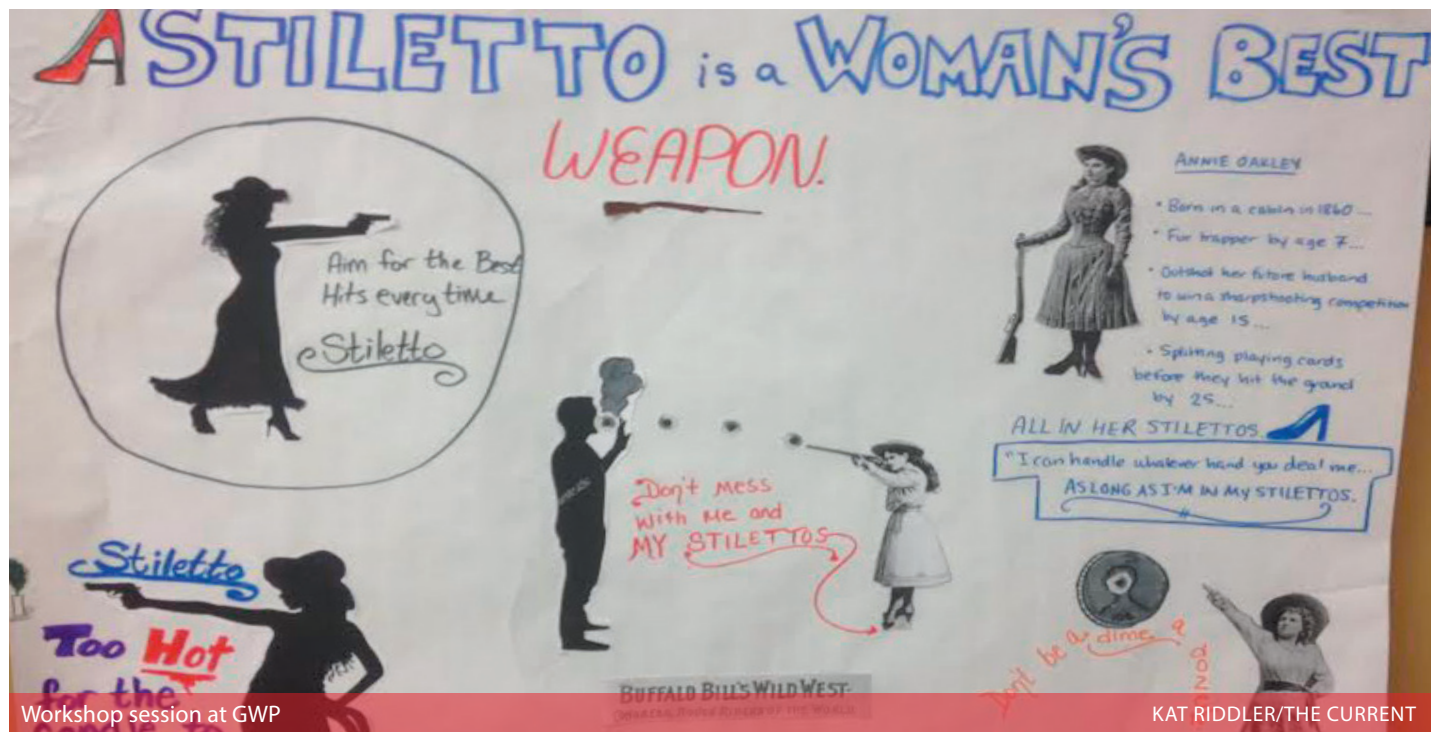
day-to-day practice."

Singer has directed the Gateway Writing Project since 2010. She described how the program has grown and why it is such a success. Singer said, "The writing project might start with a summer institute experience, but it continues long after that. Teachers rely on GWP for professional development and renewal. It is great to see teachers intersect with the writing project at various states of their careers."

"One of the hallmarks of the writing project is the principle of 'teachers teaching teachers.' Likewise, teachers' word of mouth is our best advertising. It's difficult to describe the summer institute, but once a teacher has come through, he or she can usually help us tap another teacher to experience what they had," Singer added.

For many participants, the GWP is a turning point in their careers. As Roslawski observed, "That's what I always say, [GWP] is life changing. It changes you as a writer. It changes you as a teacher. It changes you as a member of this learning community."

A similar observation was made by Brosch, echoing in her own words, "[The GWP] changed my life as a teacher. It just did. It made me who I am. It made me love teaching. It made me understand teaching."



Workshop session at GWP

KAT RIDDLER/THE CURRENT

Social Issues, Dark Themes Focus of New "OITNB" Season

VANESSA MCKENZIE
PHOTO EDITOR

Season four of "Orange Is The New Black" dropped June 17 on Netflix, exactly one year after the release of season three. For those who watched last season, it ended on a happier note, with the women of Litchfield prison running through a large hole in a fence to a lake. Season four started where it left off in the previous season. The first episode recanted what had been happening, but quickly introduced us to the new storyline that would play out this season. As with the other seasons, this season had a total of 13 episodes. The tone of this season was significantly darker than other seasons.

The same humor that was present in the other seasons was there. Quite a few laughs were to be had this season, but compared to the other seasons, they really focused on inequality and other heavy topics, such as discrimination against LGBT people and people of color, mental illness, and overpopulation on jails and prisons. The writers seemed adamant on getting under the skin of their audience and making them think.

Another difference from the previous seasons is the focus on more minor characters. In previous episodes, the characters of Piper (Taylor Schilling) and Alex (Laura Prepon) were heavily focused on, along with a few of the other main characters. One character in particular that was eye-catching and different and was introduced back in season two, Lolly Whitehill (Lori

Petty), received a lot more screen time, and even a full backstory as to how she ended up in Litchfield. Unlike the other seasons, which focused heavily on intellectual disabilities, the writers decided to focus on mental illness. Lolly suffers with what is believed to be schizophrenia. Sam Healy (Michael J. Harney) comes in with more of a past as well, befriending Lolly due to the fact his mother suffered from schizophrenia and believing he can help her.

New characters are also introduced this season with the incoming of the new inmates, but the writers stick to focusing on characters we are already familiar with, choosing to make the new inmates extras within the season with only a few new people receiving some screen time. Two of the main characters, Alex and Piper, still get much screen time, with Alex specifically getting a new storyline that adds intensity and anxiety to the overall storyline.

With all of the tropes this season, many past viewers decided to bow out and skip this season due to spoilers that were posted on the internet. Having decided to watch it and avoid spoilers, it hit hard when the season came to a close. I learned quickly of the spoilers and was left in shock and speechless by what happened. Viewers who refuse to watch the new season claim it is because the writers went too far and that they were done with the show. It is completely up to the individual if they wish to watch or forgo.

There are many reasons to take the time to watch this season of "Orange

ORANGE is the new BLACK

Is The New Black," as the subjects touched upon are something we deal with in everyday life. The show makes you think and showcases many different important issues that not everyone may be aware of. Despite this season taking a dark turn, there are many great

reasons to catch it or add it to your watch list for future viewing. It is not an easy watch, but it is worth the time if you can handle difficult themes. The show can be streamed via Netflix and is available now.

'Dance of the Bones' Fizzles, Crashes, Disappoints

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR

In March 1970, artifact prospector Amos Warren is found dead in the middle of Soza Canyon, Arizona, shot in the heart. His young protégé and adopted son, "Big Bad" John Lassiter, is tried and convicted for his death—despite the fact that his then girlfriend, Ava Martin, was the one who pulled the trigger and set Lassiter up for the fall. Fast forward to 2015, and Lassiter is now up for parole, but it looks like he will not survive that long if Ava Martin, now Ava Richland, gets her way.

Enter J.P. Beaumont and Brandon Walker, two fictional investigators from the pen of author J.A. Jance who have never met until now, preferring to stay settled in their own separate series. In the newest Jance novel, "Dance of the Bones," now enjoying a paperback release with an added exclusive novella, the two men become unlikely partners as they investigate what looks like a cold case but is about to get much hotter. Everything gets thrown into the mix—drug smuggling, Native American mythology, archeology, love feuds, criminal justice reform, gun running, and the occasional petulant teenager.

Unfortunately, Beaumont and Walker barely spend any time together, choosing to communicate across phone lines, and the juggling act of plots, sub-plots, and barely-there plots send the entire book on a collision course with incoherence.

Jance has been writing these characters for a long time: the Beaumont novels have been running since 1985, and the Walker family series has been running since 1991. It is

clear that Jance has a love for writing law enforcement mysteries in the Southwest, but from the viewpoint of a reader new to her characters, I found her craft utterly lacking in spark or imagination, or any sort of fire that would inspire people to return to her books for over twenty years.

The book itself is short enough, as a mass paperback with over four hundred pages, but getting through those pages was a drag. It did not help that every chapter opened with a segment of Native American mythology that did not fit in with the main narrative at all and only became distracting after the first three times it was used.

None of her characters grabbed my interest, especially not the protagonists. Beaumont and Walker are the most boring parts of the book. When they are not serving as a mouthpiece for the author's social and political viewpoints, they are playing the cardboard cutout role of the good-hearted-but-gruff-older-man who plays by no one's rules. They are surrounded by characters like Lani and Leo, Native American characters who defied any expectations of internal development and seemed to exist only to assuage white readers' conceptions of indigenous people as those who live on reservations do not actually care about racism or class issues and would rather consult crystals than Western medicine.

I have watched some of the TV series "Longmire" (thanks, Netflix!). It is possible to tell a ripping good story while exploring the socio-economical and racial complexities of being law enforcement in a town

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A beautiful 3 bedroom 3 bathroom home with a gunite pool, two acres, two-car extended garage, bonfire pit, wet-bar, built-in aquarium behind the wet-bar, two fireplaces, two balconies, a family room and bonus room, and is less than 15 minutes from downtown and the Galleria in Clayton! Walking distance to the University of Missouri (UMSL). Yes. It's true! This home is very centrally located and has easy access to I-70, as well as anywhere in the St. Louis area! The home has many updates, but still maintains an ornate, historic charm for the eclectic inside of us all! Located on an established cul-de-sac, it boasts a beautiful master bedroom suite with his and her sinks, closets, and cabinets. The main level bedroom has a separate bathroom that is perfect for guests, children, or an elderly loved-one. Two balconies overlook the acreage that offers both privacy and plenty of enjoyment opportunities. The clearing that is surrounded by the wooded lot is ideal for bonfires parties, re-unions, weddings, or when you just want to get away and clear your thoughts! Have a look. It's a home anyone could enjoy! Excellent Home Warranty offered as well!



The second bedroom has a cedar walk-in closet. The living room has a vaulted ceiling with beautiful up lighting that looks remarkable in the evening while entertaining. This home also boasts a new A/C unit installed in 2015, new laminate flooring installed in 2015, new ceramic stove installed in 2015, new exterior doors installed in 2016, and a new whole-house intercom/radio system installed in 2016! The custom Blue Haven pool has four deck jets, a garden water feature, and a custom safety cover to ensure that all is safe during the off-season. This is a must see, move-in ready, and a bargain for only \$185,000!



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Alternative Sports: Climbing To New Heights

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

Their hands bleed. Their bodies ache. Indoor rock climbers climb anyway.

Climbers have two options when they climb. They can either sport climb a tall wall, or they can climb a boulder. In both variations, athletes follow color-coded routes to reach the top of the wall or the boulder. Sport climbers strap into a harness and rope and scale a tall wall, which generally rises 40 to 60 feet in the air. Bouldering climbers scramble up a large faux “rock,” known as a boulder. The boulder rises only about 15 feet into the air, though climbers free climb on the boulder—meaning they climb without the use of a harness or ropes. Sport climbs often require more sustained effort and endurance over a longer period of time, since the routes are longer. In contrast, the shorter bouldering routes require more intense bursts of energy.

Setters rate bouldering routes on a V-scale. V0 indicates a less challenging bouldering route. As the numbers increase, so does the difficulty of the climb. Indoor rock climbing gyms often boast bouldering routes that are rated up to V10. More advanced climbers develop techniques such as flagging (sticking one foot out as a counter-balance), heel hooks (resting some of their weight on their heel, instead of the ball of their foot), toe hooks (also known as a bat-hang, in which climbers rest some of their weight on their toes), and dynos (an explosive move in which climbers jump off of the wall in order to make it to the next move).

Some indoor rock climbing gyms have top-out boulders, which allow climbers to finish climbs by crawling onto the top of the boulder. Others do not top out, and climbers must drop onto mats once they complete the routes.

Climbers have several options when they sport climb. Climbers may clip into an auto-belay device, which will catch them and lower them down slowly when they fall or complete the route. Climbers can also top rope, in which they use a figure eight knot to tie into one end of a rope that is wrapped around a pulley system at the top of the wall. A belayer stands on the other end of this rope and pulls up slack as the climber ascends the wall.

More advanced climbers lead climb. These climbers tie into a rope that is not already attached to the top of the wall and instead go up with a rope. They clip their rope into clips that are bolted to the wall every five to seven feet, and use these clips as their anchors. A lead belayer stands on the other end of this rope and takes up slack or gives slack as needed.

While more challenging, lead climbing can also be more dangerous because

climbers must ensure that they clip in correctly, watch their footwork, and be prepared for falls of up to 10 feet or more. Setters rate sport routes by the Yosemite Decimal System, which was originally used to rate hiking trails. The number five indicates a vertical grade, and the number and letter after the five indicates the difficulty of that climb. Climbs rated 5.6 are fairly easy climbs, while climbs rated 5.10a or higher can be quite challenging.

Climbers reap the benefits of both a strength and cardio workout. While rock climbing clearly counts as a strength training exercise, livestrong.com cites a study published by The British Journal of Sports Medicine in 1997 which found that climbers also experienced elevated heart rates equivalent to that of moderate joggers. While climbing clearly has health and fitness benefits, students may find it to be an expensive sport. Climbers must pay for entrance into a climbing gym, as well as rent or purchase a harness if they want to sport climb.

Though not necessary, many climbers also either rent or own special climbing shoes and chalk to enhance their climbing. Students at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, however, have access to the Recreation and Wellness Center’s rock climbing wall, harnesses, shoes, and chalk as a part of their tuition.

The UMSL Climbing Center boasts a tall wall that rises 32 feet into the air and a bouldering wall that rises 12 feet into the air. The wall was designed by Entre Prises USA, an Oregon-based company that makes custom climbing walls and manufactures climbing holds. Over the summer, the tall wall is open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday. During the school year, the tall wall is open from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday.

The bouldering wall has more flexible hours, and is open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday over the summer. During the regular school year, the bouldering wall is open from 5:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information on UMSL’s climbing wall, visit online at umsl.edu/campusrecreation/climbingcenter/index.html.

For information on the health benefits of climbing cited in this article, read it on the Livestrong website at livestrong.com/article/467023-is-rock-climbing-a-good-cardio-workout/.



The Chimes, They Are A-Changing

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

The University of Missouri—St. Louis has recently changed its tunes. Chancellor Thomas George, with the Dean of Fine Arts and Communication, Dr. Jim Richards, and the Supervisor of General Maintenance, Bill Warren, decided that it was time to change the songs that radiate from the Thomas Jefferson Library every day for half an hour at noon and 5 p.m.

The residents of the neighborhoods surrounding UMSL's campus in places like Bellerive and Bel-Nor have heard this same sequence of songs for many years. Though no one seemed to know exactly how long the songs had remained the same, Dr. Richards said, "It's been at least a couple decades ... I think with the residents, it was less that they didn't like it, or didn't like having it, it was just the sequence of the same songs."

Chancellor George said, "This got resurrected right now, sort of because Bill Warren emailed me—I mean out of the blue." Taking into consideration the neighboring residents and Mr. Warren's email, the chancellor "thought that it would be nice to just re-examine what we're doing."

Dr. Richards compiled two lists of songs that he had hoped might replace the old tunes. One list was composed of Beatles songs, and the other consisted of songs that were unique to Missouri, such as "Shenandoah," "The Missouri Waltz," and "Meet Me in St. Louis."

They were unable to play either of these lists however. The songs are played from a digital carillon system that is housed on the top of the TJL. Via email, Mr. Warren said, "There are no actual bells. All [the] music is digital ... A couple of hundred songs are encoded into the system. Once the songs are selected, we do the programming, [and] set the times [that] they are played, along with the volume." Since the



Front shot of the Thomas Jefferson Library

LEAH JONES/THE CURRENT

carillon system atop the TJL only plays the songs encoded into the system, they were unable to use Dr. Richards's initial list.

However, Chancellor George chose popular and recognizable tunes from the available songs. The repertoire of songs on the "Standard Secular Package Classic" list categorized songs into 14 groups: Rogers and Hammerstein, Love Songs, Old Favorites, Classical, World Folk Songs, Songs for Children, Patriotic 1, Patriotic 3, National Anthem, Seasons, Songs for a Cloudy or Windy Day, Songs for a Rainy Day, Songs for a Spring Day, and Christmas. Of his selections, Chancellor George said "It was just very arbitrary."

However, as a jazz pianist himself, Chancellor George said that he did choose "songs that I sort of immediately recognized ... things that I have played on gigs, I kind of picked some of those." "A Foggy Day in London Town," "I'll Remember April," "Over the Rainbow," "Come Rain or Shine," and "Spring Is Here" are all songs that the chancellor said that he plays regularly. When asked about his favorite selection, he

cited "Embraceable You," originally by George Gershwin.

Even if they had been able to create their own list of songs to be played, there would have been some pragmatic parameters around which songs they were able to choose. Since it uses bell sounds, the carillon system cannot play dense pieces. According to Richards, "You mainly have to play tunes that are a single line where you have just a melody, and occasionally there will be an extra accompanying note to make a harmony. But it's not like playing a song on the piano, where you would have chords and some sort of counterpoint. It's mainly just a single tune."

Despite this limitation, the songs are still recognizable. "Some things you can hear with your ears very easily. Especially if you know it, you can sort of supply the harmony in your own mind and it makes sense, and the tune itself sort of implies the accompaniment," said Richards.

Aside from the obvious uplifting aura provided by the tunes, Dr. Richards also said that the bells are a very traditional addition to the campus: "the

bell tower carillon, even [going] back to the old medieval university ... if you go back to Cambridge or Oxford. So, there is a little bit of history about campuses associated with this."

In addition to changing the chimes at the TJL, there was also mention of changing the hold music for the UMSL telephone system with the help of the upcoming Music Department chair, Gary Brandes. "I see these as a package" Chancellor George said. "The repertoire [for the telephones] for the most part, is from our faculty and students playing. It's great stuff. Just great stuff ... Hopefully by the start of the new school year, it would be nice to have new hold music."

In the meantime, students and faculty still have the chance to enjoy the new songs played by the carillon system. Dr. Richards said, "I hope people really enjoy this, and they really think of it as adding an ambiance to the campus that's special and comforting, and somewhat memorable about being here."

Keep an ear open for the new chimes, and for upcoming information about the new telephone hold music.

EduHack Makes Problem Solvers Out Of Techies



SARAH MYERS & LEAH JONES
STAFF WRITER

On the weekend of June 24 through the 26, a Hackathon took place in the Ed Collabitat on the University of Missouri—St. Louis campus.

The Hackathon's purpose is to possibly to recruit new workers. It is "done by companies to find talent" said Mark Sundt, CTO of Clearent,

which organized the event. Hackers are rewarded through prizes. "We wanted to solve a civic problem," Sundt explained.

The Hackathon is working with new technology like the Google Eddy Stone, which essentially is physical web technology: everything can have a URL.

"Interaction without an 'app' is what I'm talking about," said Sundt. "Everything has a webpage, and there

are no applications required." These include "small computers emitting Bluetooth" and "any object or place that can broadcast content," used for parking, locating pets, people, and more.

The Hackathon for Education tackled questions such as: How can I use gamification for attendance? How can I encourage people to attend? This is done by making competition and games between friends. Foursquare was used as an example.

This is a problem activity for solving for educational issues. Competitors form teams to solve the problems for 72 hours. Staff are there 24 hours a day, but participants are free to leave.

Sundt is also on the board of St.

Louis Civic Pride, which is where he met Victor Frank, who introduced him to Carol Bastille, the Dean of School of Education at the UMSL. Sundt said the Collabitat is one of the greatest venues, "a great space for doing these types of events," because of the open space, the meeting and brain storming rooms and the easy access wifi.

Clearent is a credit card processing company, and one of the top thousand fastest growing companies in North America. They do grid computing and as the 41st largest credit card processor in North America, they are always looking for talent.

Participants at the Hackathon had anywhere between zero experience to 20

Continued online at
thecurrent-online.com

UMSL Student Film Showcased at Local Festival

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

Clinton Jordan, media studies, alumna, met Nicholas Rousseau, media studies, senior, and Ben Smith, media studies, alumna, in a Media Studies Production Course at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. All three cited a love of film from an early age as the precursor to their major in Media Studies and subsequent friendship. Rousseau received a merit badge for film while he was in the Boy Scouts and after that he said, "I have never put down the camera in my life."

Now the three have made a film that will be featured in the 2016 St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, which features films with ties to St. Louis and will run from July 17 to 21 this year. At the time of this interview, the show date for "The Ultimate Fan" had not yet been released.

Rousseau wanted to further develop a short film that he had begun writing earlier in his college career. Rousseau said, "I was just like 'Do you guys want to make a film?' like out of the blue, and they looked at me and they were like 'Yeah! We'd love to!'" and "The Ultimate Fan" was born.

At 15 minutes, "The Ultimate Fan" features a St. Louis Blues fan who goes to a bar, seeking to escape his sister-in-law. The Stanley Cup, which is being displayed at the bar, is stolen and the ultimate fan has to save the day. "I was watching a hockey game when he came

up with the idea," Rousseau said. "Anything could be a movie plot and I'm like you know what – let's make a movie around the cup!"

Rousseau wrote and directed the film. Smith co-wrote the film and served as an assistant director. Jordan served as the director of photography. An impressive amount of people were involved in making the film. Rousseau gathered crew from around UMSL's campus and tapped into his other connections to recruit actors for the film.

"We gained a lot of valuable advice and guidance from Mike Leicht, who served as production gaffer and also as editor on this project," said Jordan. "Nick's brother Marc was able to create a lot of makeshift props." With the help of Marc and YouTube videos, they used PVC pipe and other household materials to create a dolly, a hood mount for the front of a car, and a boom pole to hold a microphone. The homemade props and some professional film equipment worked. "We made it look good," Smith said.

Jordan continued, "Ultimately, what was most impressive about this project to me was that we were able to gather such a large cast and crew together, and shoot in some impressive locations."

Smith agreed: "We really appreciate that we were able to get to all these local locations so it didn't end up just being us filming in our backyards." The film was shot in several areas around St. Louis including the Kirkwood Amtrak Station, the Bayless High School track,



Screenshot from the short independent film, "The Ultimate Fan." COURTESY OF NICK ROUSSEAU

and The Original Cruseo's restaurant. The climax of the film takes place in UMSL's parking garage.

All three expressed gratitude, not only to the venues where they filmed, but to all of the other people who helped to make the film a reality. "I enjoyed working with Ben and Clinton and the other member. I would work with them again. We got along so well. I was scared there would be fights but there wasn't...Everybody didn't have an ego. [We worked] as a team," Nick said. Jordan also said "I am extremely grateful to Professor Jim Fay for how much he has invested in all three of us as Media Studies students."

They also wanted to encourage other

Media Studies students to pursue and develop their interests. Smith said, "To current Media studies students at UMSL, if you want to gain experience to do stuff like this really, you know, just find projects like this to work on, and kind of develop your interests as whatever you want to be."

Nick agreed and said, "If an UMSL student wants to do this, just do it. Don't be afraid... Love what you do and don't put down the camera."

For more information on the St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase, visit cinemastlouis.org/st-louis-filmmakers-showcase.

To view the trailer for "The Ultimate Fan," visit vimeo.com/154677284.

UMSL Strides To Go Green With Sustainability Office

Continued from Page 1

The Sustainability Office has been making many efforts to reduce waste on campus, such as collecting eyeglasses through the Pre-Optometry Club and magazines for an unnamed literary project. They are also working on other projects, such as collecting electronics in a campus-wide e-cycling drive and expanding bike services on campus, but a lack of funding and student interest has, so far, kept these ideas in the planning phase.

They also introduced the G.O.O.S.E. (Good On One Side & Eco-friendly) paper bins. These flat cardboard boxes are located in strategic places around campus where paper is widely printed and abandoned, such as the Library Research common printing areas in the Thomas Jefferson Library. They are places to drop off unwanted printouts that do not use both sides of the sheet for use as scrap paper by others.

UMSL Sustainability's first annual report can only be accessed via the Wayback Machine, which links to an archived version of the report from September 2015 (a quick link can be found here: <https://goo.gl/h7mtzC>). In the report, the office lists their goals as covering several focus areas: education; energy and water; food and dining services; green building; procurement;

transportation; and waste. This is followed by a timeline of specific goals, broken down by year and priority level.

Do not expect any more annual reports in the near future; they have been abandoned for a more open, hands-on system. The Sustainability Office has recently switched to a program run by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). UMSL now sets its sustainability goals via AASHE's Sustainability Tracking & Assessment Rating System (STARS), which can be updated on a regular basis. STARS bills itself as a "transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance," according to the system website.

According to a 2016 STARS summary snapshot provided by the Sustainability Office, UMSL is currently pursuing or has completed projects related to topics such as campus engagement, public engagement, air and climate operations, and health and wellbeing. Due to the difficulties of working with multiple departments at one time, for the most part, the office is not currently working on anything pertaining to curriculum and research, which would include sustainability curriculum programs, academic research, and support for said research.

Engaging faculty in being mindful

of more eco-friendly ideas has been a hard task for Smaistrila. One of the goals set out by AASHE is to introduce and integrate sustainability education into college curriculum. However, because every department works independently and do not always communicate, it is a struggle to figure out what is being taught where and how it fits into AASHE guidelines.

Smaistrila describes each department as a "silo" that rarely talks to other departments, nor do the departments work on an interdisciplinary level. "[UMSL Sustainability hasn't] done a campus wide survey of all of the faculty to ask 'are you teaching about or mentioning sustainability in your coursework?' I know there are faculty out there that are, and any time I come across one I'm always excited, and do whatever I can do to help. I'd love to support those projects that they are asking their students to do, but it's just hard to find out about it."

Unfortunately, accessing UMSL's own full campus STARS report might be hard, since AASHE requires that colleges pay them to put their reports online for consideration. Since the college is already in a budget crunch, and the Sustainability Office is not a high priority for receiving money, the STARS report has been put to the side until proper funds can be obtained, a

song that is becoming an unfortunately familiar one to those who work in Sustainability.

Back at Smaistrila's office, she relies upon the assistance of student workers, hired through grant money and not the college's student worker program, to carry out many of the on-campus sustainability projects. This includes weighing waste that is created in the Nosh, setting up recycling bins and Terracycle containers, and reaching out to students during the annual Recyclemania event which emphasizes catching students "green handed" i.e., doing something good for the environment, whether it be riding a bike to school or using a refillable water bottle.

TerraCycle concentrates on turning trash into new items in a process called upcycling, which involves taking what would normally be thrown away and making it something usable. Smaistrila wants students to know that everything they do impacts the planet, even if it is a seemingly small gesture such as throwing a soda bottle in the recycle bin as opposed to a trash bin.

"We need your help," Smaistrila said. "We're trying to change a culture, right? Institutions move very, very slowly, so it's going to take everybody involved. So we need help."