UMSL Alumnus Binford Signs With Green Bay Packers

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

How does a theater and dance major at the University of Missouri-St. Louis go from being a full-time student to playing for the Green Bay Packers?

Harvey Antonio “Smoov” Binford II, theater and dance, alumnus, started at UMSL in 2009 and is now a member of the NFL. An East St. Louis, Illinois native, Binford attended SIUE East St. Louis Charter School of Performing Arts before coming to UMSL. “My favorite classes at UMSL were all of my dance classes. I enjoyed dancing. At the time it was my life and all I wanted to do...I didn’t play football in high school,” Binford said. “We didn’t have sports, so I danced.”

Binford did play intramural sports while at UMSL: volleyball, basketball, and football. He participated in UMSL’s 2010 campus recreation games and set a new record for the Men’s 40-meter dash of 4.22 seconds. Binford said, “I’ve always been interested in football. Ever since I was a little boy, I just never played. It wasn’t until my sophomore year at UMSL I made the decision to want to play.”

Binford transferred to Lindenwood University-Belleville in 2012 to finish his bachelor’s degree in communications with an emphasis in broadcasting. While there, he joined their football team. He ended up scoring the program’s first touchdown in 2012 and he is the first player to sign an NFL contract.

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Building Bridges Between Orlando and UMSL

KAT RIDDLER/THE CURRENT

UMSL faculty and staff from the College of Arts and Sciences, Counseling Services, Gender Studies, and the Millennium Student Center came together to memorialize the victims of the shooting and show support for the campus’ LGBTQ+ community. For Counseling Services, the project focused on mental health concerns for LGBTQ+ students. Dr. Laura Holt, psychologist and Outreach Coordinator for Counseling Services, said, “As a clinician, I know that the rejection and oppression queer people of color experience can be terribly detrimental to mental health.”

Dr. Kathleen Buttery-Nigro, associate teaching professor in sociology, gerontology, and gender, and Director of Gender Studies, said that while Gender Studies is an academic discipline, it is also an office of sexuality and gender diversity, and as such, that they “take that role of calling people’s attention to where social and cultural changes need to be made very seriously.”

#WeAreOrlando appears on the bridge of the Millennium Student Center to honor the victims of the attack. Thirteen red and yellow posters display the victims’ photo and brief details about each one’s life. Organizers specifically chose to group victims together and compiled information about each one for the project. “The idea was to make each of the lives we lost more than the death tally,” Holt said. “Rodolfo and Jean had bought houses. Joel and Alejandro had just moved to America to fulfill their dreams. Xavier and Jerald were fellow Disney fans, just like me.”

Continued on Page 7

Pulse Nightclub became a household name after an attack on June 12 killed 49 people and injured over 53 others in Orlando, Florida. But Pulse is more than just a name at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

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THE CURRENT STAFF
GAME CORNER
Difficulty: Keep Calm and Read The Syllabus

Ring in the new school year with events all over campus during WEEKS OF WELCOME
AUG 22 thru OCT 1
For a full list of events pick up a WOW booklet or visit umsl.edu/wow

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

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NEWS BRIEFS

Anti-Bullying Center in St. Charles Expands With Megan Meier Center For Youth

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

The Megan Meier Foundation (MMF) announced on July 20 that they would be expanding their resource center, which supports young individuals and families impacted by bullying and cyberbullying. The expansion was made possible through a Purchase of Service Grant from the St. Charles County Community and Children’s Resource Board (CCRB).

With the expansion, the foundation will now be able to provide on-site expressive, therapeutic, and counseling services to adolescents 19 and younger. An open house was scheduled on August 3 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for staff to showcase the newly renovated facility and to demonstrate how it will aid those facing bullying. Children and teenagers who had received support from the MMF were also to be on site to tell how the foundation made a difference in their lives.

As the resource center incorporates external support into its services, “The MMF firmly believes that through its counseling services youth will experience meaningful psychosocial and academic improvements, thereby reducing the long-term, detrimental effects of bullying,” according to a press release statement.

“This is a very exciting time for us,” said Tina Meier, founder and executive director of the MMF. “We are fortunate to be able to provide additional support, counseling services and mentorships. We are beyond grateful to our supporters and sponsors for believing in our cause and helping us make a positive impact in the lives of children, families, schools, and communities.”

According to statistics cited by MMF, more than 3.2 million students become targets of bullying each year and 160,000 of those students stay home every day. Of 42 states and the District of Columbia, Missouri ranked highest for high school bullying on school property, and on average, Missouri ranked near the bottom as the 41st out of 43 states at controlling bullying in high schools.

Located at 515 Jefferson Street Suite B in St. Charles, the MMF was founded in December 2007 by Tina Meier, the mother of Megan Meier, a teenager who committed suicide in 2006 after being bullied over the internet. The MMF is a non-profit 501 whose mission is to support and inspire endeavors to end bullying, cyberbullying, and suicide through services and programs for youth, parents, and educators struggling with these issues. More information on the MMF, the resource center, and their programs and services can be found at www.megannmeierfoundation.org. They can also be reached at 636-757-3501.

UMSL Campus PD
314-516-5155

Weekly Sports Calendar

Friday, August 26
Men’s Tennis vs. SLU
All Day Away

Women’s Tennis vs. SLU
All Day Away

Saturday, August 27
Men’s Tennis vs. SLU
All Day Away

Women’s Tennis vs. SLU
All Day Away

Customer Service Advocate Position
Resolves problems, concerns, insurance, coding and billing questions, manages all incoming internal and external customer phone calls, e-mails. Send your resume and salary to: skan76@outlook.com

Web Developer Needed
Create website layout/user interface by using standard HTML/CSS practices. The Web Designer will work directly on our products by prototyping. Contact us for more details: eryr87@aol.com

Advertising
Contact us for rates and available space.

About The Current
The Current is the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ student newspaper. The paper is published every Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters, and once a month during the summer. The Current is dedicated to providing the University of Missouri-St. Louis community with trusted, student-produced journalism while also serving as a platform for the expression of diverse voices, promoting meaningful dialogue and encouraging a collaborative environment.

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 August 5.

August 5: At 11:26 a.m., a student living in Mansion Hill reported an incident of credit card fraud. An unknown person had used the student’s former address to open a credit card under the student’s name.

August 6: A credit card using the student’s name. The car’s driver was injured and transported to the hospital after falling and injuring themselves by the parking lot. During the day, a report was filed on an event from August 12.

August 7: At 2:35 p.m., a Bel-Ridge resident was transported to the hospital after expressing suicidal thoughts.

August 8-9: At 9:44 pm, in a report of a suspicious odor at a Mansion Hill apartment. The source of the smell turned out to be a malfunctioning furnace and air conditioner.

August 9: At 5:25 p.m., a Norman resident reported that an unknown male exposed himself to them while the resident was jogging on the Ted Jones Trail, behind the softball field.

August 10: No incidents were reported on this date.

August 11-13: Incidents were reported on these dates.

August 14: At 8:46 a.m., an Express Scripts employee was transported via ambulance to the hospital after reporting chest pains.

August 15: At 11:26 a.m., a student living in Normandy reported possible identity theft. An unknown person had used the student’s former address to open a credit card under the student’s name. At 5:25 p.m., a Norman resident reported that an unknown male exposed himself to them while the resident was jogging on the Ted Jones Trail, behind the softball field.

August 16: At 8:30 a.m., a student living in Normandy reported that an unknown male exposed himself to them while the resident was jogging on the Ted Jones Trail, behind the softball field.

August 17: At 2:35 p.m., a Bel-Ridge resident was transported to the hospital after expressing suicidal thoughts.

August 18: At 3:50 a.m., a Metro Bus and car were involved in an auto accident on East Drive at Natural Bridge. The car’s driver was injured and transported to the hospital. No bus occupants were reported to be injured. At 10:18 a.m., a student in University Meadows reported possible identity theft. An unknown person had opened a credit card using the student’s name.

August 19: At 9:44 pm, in a report of a suspicious odor at a Mansion Hill apartment. The source of the smell turned out to be a malfunctioning furnace and air conditioner.

August 20: No incidents were reported on this date.

August 21: At 11:26 a.m., a student living in Normandy reported possible identity theft. An unknown person had used the student’s former address to open a credit card under the student’s name.

August 22: At 9:40 p.m., an UMSL PD assisted the Northeast Fire Department at 9:44 pm. in a report of a possible identity theft. An unknown person had used the student’s former address to open a credit card under the student’s name.

August 23: No incidents were reported.

August 24: No incidents were reported.

August 25: No incidents were reported.

August 26: No incidents were reported.

August 27: No incidents were reported.

August 28: No incidents were reported.

August 29: No incidents were reported.

August 30: No incidents were reported.

August 31: No incidents were reported.

September 1: No incidents were reported.

September 2: No incidents were reported.

September 3: No incidents were reported.
The Student Activity Budget Committee (SABC) enacted changes to its policies pertaining to student organization travel on July 1. These changes will affect University of Missouri-St. Louis student organizations seeking to take trips, graduate and Ph.D. students participating in conferences, and teams that travel for competitions.

Previously, student organizations requested funding for travel as a part of their SABC budget. With the recent changes, organizations will request funding online through the Student Domestic Travel Form (formerly called the Travel Itinerary Form) at least two weeks prior to their trip. The money will be held in a central account through the Office of Student Involvement and funding for travel will not be transferred to student organization budgets.

The new Travel Funding Guidelines state that students will receive reimbursement after their return before reimbursement is submitted. Students must also complete a Travel Reimbursement Form, complete with signatures from the student organization’s president and treasurer. They will also need to submit receipts and travel documentation to the Office of Student Involvement, which will then verify the information and process reimbursement payments. Students must also complete a Student Travel Report within 10 business days after their return before reimbursement is submitted.

Student organizations are not guaranteed funding and will never receive the full amount of their requested funding. SABC may fill up to 75 percent of the funding request. When applying for funding, expenses must fit into one of the following categories: admission costs (up to $25 per person), economic airfare (up to $300 per person and more than 7 hours driving distance from UMSL), bus/professional transportation rental, car rental, conference registration (up to $100 per delegate), hotel rooms (up to $55 per night per person), meals, parking, personal mileage reimbursement, public transportation, taxi fares (only between the airport and the destination), and team registration fees (up to $75 per person per team). The expenses will not cover personal care or tips over 20 percent.

To be considered for funding, students or the student organization must be presenting an academic presentation or attending a leadership convention, both of which will bring positive recognition to UMSL. The SABC will not fund employment ventures, trips for which students will receive academic credit, international travel for study abroad trips, or trips on which an individual will conduct thesis or dissertation research.

Student organizations must show that the planned travel will enhance student learning while supporting the stated mission of UMSL and/or the student organization. They must also ensure that all members are eligible to participate in the planned travel, and travel must comply with federal, state, and local laws. SABC will only consider requests made during the academic semester in which the student organization intends to travel.

If a student organization is unsure whether they will need to travel, they should propose the trip in advance. If they do not end up travelling, the SABC funding will be withheld or recaptured. Additionally, if fewer students go on the trip than initially intended, the percentage of funding for that student will also be recaptured.

To view the memo for the policy changes, visit orgsync.com/56515/news_posts/160123. The travel guidelines can be found at orgsync.com/91869/files/1014360/show.

For any other questions, contact the Office of Student Involvement at (314) 516-5291 or at studentlife@umsl.edu.
The small energetic woman bounced around the stage in front of about 100 University of Missouri – St. Louis students and listed offensive words and phrases. She warned the audience that they would address emotionally triggering issues and that the women in the audience needed to keep their feelings in check. Students shifted in their seats, some giggling in discomfort. They later described the experience as “weird,” “insensitive,” and “offensive,” and claimed that using those words re-inforces the stereotypes with which they are associated.

“So, what does diversity mean to you?” moderator for the interactive program, Strange Like Me, asked the audience. The answer proved elusive. Students gave a wide array of answers, ranging from “well-rounded and adaptive,” “a variety of characteristics, ethnicities, religions, and genders” to associating diversity with success. Morrison himself said, “[It is…] Experience and awareness of the norm… The base definition of [diversity] for me would be people that are open-minded and mindful of themselves… People might be one or the other but not both.”

Morrison, who started working as an actor for Gestic Theatre Company (GTC) Dramatic Dialogues 12 years ago and wrote the controversial opening dialogue, pushed the discussion even further by asking students and actors about their reactions to two skits. The skits featured actors Kathryn Fumie, who presented the initial dialogue, Ricardo Beaird, and Ben Kolis.

Above: Kathryn Fumie, Ricardo Beaird, Ben Kolis, Toussaint Morrison, Brandi Fields, and others

In the first scene, Ted, a white Jewish man, tried to set up his friend, Linda, a white Iowan woman, with Al, a black Catholic man. The interaction showcased quotidian examples of racism and sexism, but also addressed issues of religion and regionalism. Morrison and the students then questioned the actors, who remained in character. When questioned about her reactions, Linda’s character spoke to how verbal sexual harassment is as invasive as physical sexual harassment. Students also asked questions about the prevalence of white culture, whether or not members of a marginalized group can make jokes about their own group, and if one person can speak for an entire group of people. They also debated about who holds the responsibility to educate others. Some maintained that the black character, Al, was responsible for educating his white peers, while others maintained that the white characters were responsible for educating themselves.

This scene that incited much debate and reaction among students was written in the 1980s, before many of them were born. “Before Seinfeld,” Before “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,”” Morrison said. “The saddest and scariest part about that dialogue is that it’s over thirty years old and … It plays like it was written last week. That’s the saddest and scariest part about that whole scene.”

The next scene featured Chris, a black transgender woman, who told their friend Emily, a white woman, about one of their first experiences wearing a dress in public. Chris’ roommate, Jacob, found a picture of Chris in the dress online. When Chris told Jacob that they identified as transgender, Jacob became irate and expressed concern about what it would mean socially for him. This dialogue sparked discussion about the differentiation between gender identity and sexuality. Students also wrestled with questions about who is entitled to know another person’s gender identity, assumptions of sexual perversion about the transgender community, when a transgender person can feel safe disclosing that information, and how visibility does not necessarily denote identity.

Though the hour and a half long program did not include much discussion on some issues such as disability and mental illness, several students felt comfortable enough to disclose their own differences. It also facilitated dialogues and narratives that both Morrison and Megan Green, UMSL’s Director of New Student Programs, hope will continue outside of the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms.

Green said, “This helped them [the students] engage with the [characters]. Hopefully it was that realism… You’re going to have that same scenario somewhere, and possibly during your time here, and how are you going to respond to it?” As part of Triton Take-Off Weekend, Strange Like Me was not required for new students, but it was highly encouraged.

Morrison said that he hopes that the program helps “students to better know their classmates, the people they share the campus with, and also to get to know themselves too.”

UMSL Accelerate Offers Entrepreneurship Courses

A new program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis called UMSL Accelerate has been developed to focus on entrepreneurship. During the 2016-2017 academic year, UMSL Accelerate will offer three new courses that will be open to undergraduate students of all disciplines.

Introduction to Entrepreneurship will provide students with an introduction to “state of the art” skills, perspectives, and theories that innovators in any field or industry will need to increase the likelihood of success. “Real world” examples and case studies will be part of the curriculum in this course.

The second course, Principles of Social Entrepreneurship, will help students to differentiate themselves when competing for employment in any field, since employers in all industries now expect students to have a basic understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship. Students who take the course will be introduced to commercial concepts and frameworks in social ventures as well as theories and skills of entrepreneurship.

Ten-year veteran of the non-profit arts industry Phil Dunlap designed and will teach the third course, Business in the Arts, which will give students an in-depth look at business aspects through the lens of art. In this course there will be an emphasis on cultivating and developing an entrepreneurial perspective.

These courses were created as part of the University of Missouri System’s goal to enhance entrepreneurship education on all four of the UM campuses. All three of the courses fulfill the general education requirement.

Students interested in taking the courses can speak with their advisor or email Kendra Perry at perryk@umsl.edu for more information.
Getting Down and Dirty In EAO’s Community Garden

DAVID HONGHI KIM
STAFF EDITOR

Although summer break has come to an end, luckily for gardeners, it is only the beginning of a new growing season. Whether you already have a green thumb, want to get some experience growing your own food, or just want to enjoy nature’s bounty, the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ own community garden, run by the Environmental Adventure Organization (EAO) and the UMSL Sustainability Office, offers students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to play with their food and get a little dirty too.

Originally started as a collection of small containers and a single plot for planting wildflowers and grasses to be later transplanted into the neighboring native prairie restoration area by Campus Honors Environmental Research Program (CHERP), the area has now become a full garden with room to grow. The garden and native prairie restoration area are located immediately behind the South Campus Garage (SCG) across from the Nursing Administration Building.

According to the current President of EAO, Sage Rohrer, senior, biology, “The gardens are helping to reduce the fossil fuels needed for shipping food from long distances like California and Mexico, and also to reduce the amount of pesticides and fertilizers needed to grow food commercially (which can cause pollution). The gardens are also providing space and resources for community members to learn how to grow their own food, which in turn will potentially help to combat food insecurity in the long run.”

Along with seven concrete cinder block plots, there is a shed in the SCG where garden tools including shovels, trowels, and gloves are available for public use. There is also a picnic table at the garden, and students can borrow gardening books from the UMSL Sustainability Office in the Millennium Student Center North Parking Garage.

In an effort to promote organic gardening, there are two mesh compost bins, which receive food waste and leaves, grass clippings, and other garden waste. The Sustainability Office has proposed a plan to Sodexo, UMSL’s food service company, for composting campus food waste, but no action has been taken yet on the plan because of budget issues.

Although there is not a bee hive set up near the garden at this time, there are bees and several beneficial bugs present in the native prairie restoration area. Currently, the produce is just going to whoever tends the garden. EAO has not yet organized sponsored plots, but that is something they may look into in the future.

Out of the seven plots, five are currently claimed and being utilized by graduate instructor Jay Fish and the Honors College ecology classes, UMSL Sustainability, EAO, Express Scripts, and Safia Madani, graduate, biology.

St. Louis is classified as a USDA Hardiness Zone 6b (winter low ~0°F). Popular quick sprinters, plants that mature in a short time, such as arugula, mustard, spinach, turnips, and crispy red radishes are ready to pick in four to five weeks. For those who appreciate tasty Asian greens, such as tatsoi or mizuna, baby plants are ready in three weeks to add to stir-fries and soups. Now until first frost is a good time to plant beets, carrots, green onions, Chinese cabbage, broccoli, and cabbage cousins, such as cauliflower and kohlrabi.

Tomatoes, bell peppers, okra, cantaloupe, honeydew, and watermelon are currently the most popular to grow. Rohrer recommends tomatoes and melons for inexperienced gardeners to start with.

For now, the EAO works with the garden plots that have already been built, but there are plans to expand the garden and to develop new garden sites. EAO is eager for more future gardeners to try their hands at urban farming and there is plenty of space around the CHERP trailer to put in a few more beds. The Sustainability Office has some plans underway to start a native prairie plants garden by the science building.

If a student group or individual is interested in tending a plot, there is an application on the UMSL Sustainability website at http://www.umsl.edu/~sustainability/Gardening%20at%20UMSL.html.
Holt said, "Juan had just started his degree while Antonio had just finished his. Brenda's story is the one that knocks me down every time: she was a mother of twelve who had survived cancer TWICE."

Counseling Services provided two safe place groups for the LGBTQ+ community and allies to meet during the time of the attack. During one of these "coping sessions," several members of the UMSL community, including Holt, Nigro, Elizabeth Eikmann, an alumna and former gender studies teaching assistant, Dr. Lynn Staley, assistant director and advisor of gender studies, and Cody Schara, academic advisor in the College of Arts and Sciences, expressed frustration that many media outlets emphasized the shooter's presumed motives but not the victims' identities or lives.

Instead, "We chose Orlando as the narrative we wanted as our focus," Nigro said.

Cody said something great, that it was important for this project to go beyond 'the 49,' that the idea was to make each of the lives we lost more than the death tally," Holt said. When Holt learned that one of the victims, Luis Vielma, had been a Gryffindor like her, his name 'came alive' for her.

Holt said that after that, "Everyone in the group wanted to create similar connections."

Eikmann, who Nigro described as "central" to the project, Schara, Staley, and others found biographies for the victims from multiple sources. Staley then chose one aspect to highlight about them on the posters. "I tried to pick the things that revealed what was important to each of them. Like the hairdressers who chose to provide services to victims of domestic violence, or the ones who were in military service, or who had just finished college, or the cancer survivor. I tried to think of what they and their families would have been most proud of in their lives."

Staley said, "When we began to focus on the aspects of their lives that made them unique and real, we felt like we were giving them back a bit of their lives." The group reached out to Miriam Roccia, Assistant Dean of Students, and Dorian Hall, Event Services Supervisor at the MSC, who immediately offered to co-sponsor the project.

Roccia said, "As part of its mission, the MSC strives to complement the academic experience of the campus community while serving as the 'heartstone' of UMSL, fostering a sense of community amongst all who visit."

The MSC Bridge lent itself as an ideal space for the project, both practically and symbolically. Since the bridge is a high-traffic area, many students walk across the bridge daily and see the project. Symbolically, Nigro pointed out that like the connection that they formed with the victims in the human details of their lives, the bridge also serves as a connection.

The participants also hope that the project, which is set to remain up through the first week of the fall semester, will create connections between LGBTQ+ and cisgender students. Holt said, "It's my hope that cis straight students will consider the oppression others might face and take the time to learn how to overtly express support and how to communicate acceptance of identities that they might not have understood previously. I hope that LGBTQ+ students know that they matter, and feel supported."

Like Holt, Nigro also hopes that the exhibit will affect both LGBTQ+ and cisgender students. "I hope that it will not only appeal to people who identify in the LGBTQ+ community, but that everybody will become an ally, that they will think about what he project is trying to say about our shared humanity and about and not to be judgmental about human experience," she said.

The MSC strives to complement the academic experience of the campus community while serving as the 'heartstone' of UMSL, fostering a sense of community amongst all who visit. Counseling Services will be launching a weekly LGBTQ+ support group to provide a confidential and safe space for UMSL students who identify within the LGBTQ+ community.

Four open houses will be held on August 30 from 5:30-6:30 p.m., August 31 from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 7 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and September 12 from 2-3 p.m. in Lucas 450 for interested students.

We reached out to Eikmann, Schara, Dorian Hall, and others, but some responses were not in by publication deadline. Check for updates on thecurrent-online.com.

To read more about the people featured on the MSC Bridge, visit issuu.com/humanrights campaña/docs/equality-magazine-summer2016/11?e=1357809/37745122.
‘Pokemon Go’ Campus Guide To UMSL

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you are new to campus you might be wondering why people are looking at their phone, fiddling something on the screen, or even repeatedly tapping the screen. Most likely they are playing Pokémon Go on their Android or iPhone.

Pokémon Go was released June 6 in the United States and developed by Niantic. Players can use an augmented reality or stagnant screen to catch Pokémon that pop up near the gamer based on their GPS location. Players then collect all the Pokémon available in the game. Some Pokémon are region specific and can only be caught in a certain country. Taurus can only be caught in North America, Mr. Mime in Europe, Farfetch’d in Asia, and Kangaskhan in Australia.

Once players reach level five they can choose to join a team: Team Valor, Team Mystic, or Team Instinct. Each one has a correlating color: red, blue, and yellow.

Players can take over gyms with their team color in hopes of acquiring a defender bonus for holding the gym. If players are on the same team as the gym, they can build the prestige of the gym to a certain score in order to add their own Pokémon to defend the gym. If they are on an opposing team to the current gym leader, players can work together to take down the prestige of a gym and eventually take over a gym to add their own defenders.

Items to heal Pokémon after gym battles can be bought or received from spinning a Pokéstop. Various Pokémon Balls, Pokémon Eggs, Razz Berries, and various potions and revives can all be found at Pokéstops. Pokémon Lures can be added to Pokéstops to try and attract rarer Pokémon to that location for 30 minutes. This is marked by falling pink petals from the Pokéstop.

Pokémon Go is a free app that is based off of the Pokémon franchise released in the United States in 1998. Pokémon is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Nintendo is set to release “Pokémon Sun” and “Pokémon Moon” for the Nintendo 3DS on November 18 of this year.

There is a warning when the game starts that advises players to be aware of their surroundings. There have been reports of accidents involving players using Pokémon Go and driving, gamers walking off of cliffs while playing, and people being robbed while at a Pokéstop with an active Lure. Players should always be aware of their surroundings and should not play Pokémon Go while driving. Updates have caused the developer to place warnings when a player is going too fast as a precaution.

The Current counted 33 Pokéstops and four gyms on or easily accessible to North Campus. On South Campus, The Current counted nine Pokéstops and two gyms. If you want to add to the list, email thecurrent@umsl.edu.

North Campus Pokéstops

- MSC
- Senator Wayne Goode Plaque
- UMSL in Glass Brick
- Memorial Plaza Dedication Plaque
- Beta Gamma Sigma Dedication
- Angel Harvey Tree Plaque
- Thomas Jefferson Statue
- Mercantile Library Statue
- Pyramid at UMSL
- St. Vincent Greenway Trail
- Dedication Plaque-Normandy, MO and UMSL
- Charles and Miriam Oldham Memorial Garden

South Campus Pokéstops

- UMSL South Metrolink Station
- Dripping Fountain
- Silver Claw
- Court Cross
- Guardian of Courage
- Perry Lealedge Honors College
- The Courtyard Gazebo
- St. Vincent Oak Tree
- The Grotto
- Metrosopes: A Garden of Sculptures
- Ward E. Barnes Library

DC’s ‘Suicide Squad’ Kills It In Theaters

“The biggest takeaway from this movie is the cast. The casting of the characters was spot on and they play off each other well. It is hard to put together an ensemble of this many characters and not feel that your own favorite was slighted, but somehow Warner Brothers pulled it off pretty well.”

Will Smith plays Floyd Lawton, known as Deadshot, to perfection. He is an assassin for hire who never misses a shot, but also a father trying to do right by his young daughter. He would have been easy for Smith to have dominated this film, but he dials it back just enough to make his character believable.

Margot Robbie plays former psychiatrist Harley Quinn becomes the brain and deadly Harley Quinn. She had one of the harder roles to live-up to fan expectations, but she did so masterfully.

“Suicide Squad” received withering reviews from many critics, but fans of the DC Comics-based adaptation did not let that get in the way of rushing to see the new film. Warner Brothers’ ‘Suicide Squad’ has already surpassed the $500,000 mark worldwide in its first two weeks, crushing Paramount and MGM’s expensive remake of the movie classic “Ben-Hur.”

Critics on Rotten Tomatoes gave the movie a low 29% review and critics not much better with a 1.5 starts out of five, but reviews are not stopping people from going to see the movie.

So how did a storyline about a band of super villains, most guilty of heinous crimes and psychotic tendencies, end up besting at the box office one of the classic tales of First Century revenge and redemption? They seem to have pulled it off with their own 21st Century tale of revenge, redemption, and second chances.

Anti-heroes have always had a wide appeal for audiences, but DC definitely pushes the envelope with “Suicide Squad.” Yet seemingly the worse someone else is and yet is able to find their way back, perhaps the better the feel about our own choices.

It is hard trying to describe the visual impact of this film. Techno, punk rock, neon, and grunge all come to mind, especially at the end credits. Music like “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “Heathens” play well in the movie without being too much of a distraction.

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Binford said, "That’s where I began my football journey after two years of semi professional football. I didn’t get drafted. I signed as an undrafted free agent.”

Binford’s positive experience in college led him to try out for the Arena Football League, and he became a member of the Philadelphia Soul. Binford was successful, to say the least. In 2015 he caught 24 passes for 412 yards and seven touchdowns.

Binford was a free agent at that time. A free agent is someone who has not signed a contract with a team and is eligible to sign with any team. Binford said, “I was a rookie free agent because it’s my first year and I wasn’t signed to a team.”

His hard work and talent led to a phone call on July 28 asking Binford to fly to Green Bay and work out with the team for a day. It was his first professional workout. Upon arrival, he ran the 40-yard dash and signed a contract the same day. The contract is for three years once he makes the 53-man roster. The cut will happen after the last preseason game.

Harvey Binford was set to play his first National Football League (NFL) game on August 7 at 7 p.m. against the Indianapolis Colts in the Hall of Fame game, but it was cancelled due to field concerns. His next NFL game day was August 12 at 7 p.m. against the Cleveland Browns. Binford is a 6-foot tall, 185-pound Wide Receiver and is wearing number 13 for the Green Bay Packers.

Binford gave advice to anyone who wants to play in the NFL. He said, “Never give up on your dreams. Don’t allow anyone or anything keep you from becoming great. We all have it in us to be whatever we want to be, we just have to dig deep and grind.” Binford quoted former Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis: “Before anything great is ever achieved your comfort zone must be disturbed.”

Binford continued, “Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and do things you wouldn’t normally do. Step out on faith and trust in God. He will guide you and lead you in the right direction.”

With the Rams moving to Los Angeles and UMSL not having a football team, at least now UMSL football lovers can root for the Green Bay Packers and Binford.
What I Wish I Knew When Entering College

LORI DRESER
NEWS EDITOR

As a new semester begins at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, many new students will be entering the whirlwind that is college for the first time. As someone who was in that very position two years ago, I thought I knew what it was like. Now that I am going into my third year at UMSL, I thought it would be fitting to write a piece aimed at incoming freshmen based on my own experiences in college and the key lessons I have learned along this journey.

1) Try not to cram too many classes into one semester. When you are a freshman you may not realize all the hours you will have to allot to reading the material, studying, doing projects, and working on homework for each class you are taking—especially if some of those classes are more challenging. It can be easy to spread yourself too thin by piling on too much. Since everyone is different, my advice is to find a number of credit hours that works for you. If you take five classes during your first semester and find that it is too much, learn from it and take less next semester.

2) Read the chapter or material before class. You will come to class much better prepared if you have already read and have a grasp on the material. It will also help you pay attention more closely for the concepts you did not understand or comprehend entirely while reading. If you do not have time to read the entire chapter, at least skim for the important points or write down definitions in your notebook so you avoid coming into class completely clueless.

3) Do not be afraid to take classes outside your major. Most students have room to take general education classes within their first two years of college. Get outside your comfort zone and take something because it sounds interesting or because you have always wanted to learn more about it, even if it is unrelated to your projected career path. During my first two years I took classes in many different areas and I can honestly say that I learned something valuable from each class. College is your perfect—and quite possibly your only—opportunity to learn something you never knew about before. So make the most of it.

4) Do not be afraid to change your major. If you find that the major you have chosen is not where your passion lies, do not be afraid to explore other options and switch if the option is viable. For some there can be a financial component that compounds this decision, so I cannot speak for everyone. But if you are able to make it work, by all means consider it. In many cases switching your major is incredibly easy and can be as simple as meeting with an advisor and filling out a form.

5) Do not let anyone deter you from majoring in something you are passionate about. The reality is that there will be pros and cons to whatever you choose, and everyone will have a story or reason for why you should not do it. To demonstrate this, do a quick Google search for “why you shouldn’t major in...” You will quickly see that there are results for every single major. You cannot avoid it so pick what you want.

6) Take summer classes. I was not enthusiastic to take my first summer class, especially considering that it was a math class. But after having been through two summers of classes, I can say that I actually enjoy taking them now. The number one advantage is that taking summer courses will help you graduate faster. Furthermore, both of my summer courses have been small and were taught by graduate student instructors, both of whom I felt that I could relate to well. If you have to take a course that you know might be particularly challenging or time-consuming, consider saving it for summer and taking it by itself so you can ensure you can devote all the time you need to it.

7) Take the advice of others with a grain of salt. In college you will discover that there are all kinds of influences—family, advisors, professors, friends, the media, and many others—who will all try to have an impact on your college experience and career path. Although most of them will have your best intentions at heart, remember that everyone is speaking from their own experience and that experience will not be the same as yours. It can be beneficial to hear others out, but remember to do what is best for you and your unique situation.

I sincerely hope that some of these tips will serve as guiding points for you as you begin college and that they will make the experience a little less intimidating. Although I hope these tips will prove helpful, remember that it is okay to make mistakes. After all, college is about the journey, not the destination. And by the end of that journey you are bound to have your own list of things you have learned along the way.

International Students Beware Tax Scam

VICTORIA MODENESI
SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

Last Friday was a day like any other. I was at the Office of Student Involvement on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. Since I was working, my phone was in my purse, silent. Buzz buzz. It would not stop. Someone was trying to contact me and adamantly kept calling, I decided to pick up.

As you may have figured out already from the not-so-clever and quite disclose title of this article, picking up was a grave mistake—not only because I should not have been using my phone, but because “Officer Johnson” was going to tell me in 10 seconds that I had not paid a required educational tax, and so a legal procedure against me was underway. You probably think that this could never happen to you, or if it did, you would never be naive enough to believe it. But, why not? The number displayed on your phone is the same as the Missouri Department of Revenue located in Jefferson City, and they are telling you your arrest is imminent, you get a call from 911. Maybe then, even though you thought this would never happen, you start to sweat and freak out a bit. Believe me, I tried to stay as focused as I could and started questioning back. I had never been summoned to court, and had filed my tax return during tax season, even though there were no taxes I needed to pay. But from the other end of the line, they were still trying to hold down the fort and convince me that I had not paid something which was mandatory; they even told me that my enrollment at the University of Missouri-Richardson was going to be canceled. At that point, since one of my coworkers came into the office and I no longer knew what to say, I mumbled that there was an emergency and that I had to run to the International Student & Scholar Center (ISS) downstairs. If you are an international student, you know the ISS very well—basically, they are the ones who take care of your visa processing and let you know if there is anything special you need to do or know while you are in school.

I was pacing fast down the hallway as I told myself, “Don’t panic, they can help you.” I accidentally hung up on the phone. As I entered the office, Erika Feckova, office support staff II, was there, smiling, greeting me by name. I am still in awe as I write about this, because this person had not seen my face since spring orientation, and yet she still remembered my face and my name. Feckova very calmly explained to me that what had just happened to me was a scam and helped me calm down. I cried, I took deep breaths, I apologized, I got it together. As this was going on, another person at the front desk announced that she had contacted my advisor, and two minutes later, Rebecca Kelhe, international student advisor, appeared. I sat down with her and got a “Taxes and IRS 101” course in 15 minutes. I asked numerous questions, and she made sure that I got my answers and that a complaint was filed to the Missouri Department of Revenue.

The fact is, I had taken a course on tax returns, but I had no idea how the United States government contacts its citizens, or what the consequences are for not filing your tax return, paying your taxes, etc. If you are an international student and do not know much about this, or maybe if you have just started dealing with taxes and tax forms, you would like to have more information about it, you should know that no one from the government will ever contact you in any way but by post. If there is anything you need to be informed of, you will find it in your mail.

Unfortunately, there are many of us who did not get this. I certainly admit, I might have gotten an ISS email about this but disregarded it, thinking I was smart enough not to get caught; or I might have just read it too fast to even remember. However, I was caught off guard. Continued online at thecurrent-online.com
Demystifying Trump: An Analysis

DANIEL STRAWHUN
OPINIONS EDITOR

As November draws nearer, almost every day brings with it news of the latest Trump “campaign shakeup.” This nervous shuffling of upper management comes at a time when Trump is down in the polls, trailing Clinton by as much as eight points in recent weeks. The Trump phenomenon, from all outward appearances, seems to be losing steam. For many, this comes accompanied by a large sigh of relief. “FINALLY,” we grumble in our heads as we read about dwindling support and CEO resignations, “finally, the madness is losing its grip.” But, like tormented dreamers suddenly waking from a flight to the death with our sheets, or addicts coming down after a three day long, schedule 1-fueled orgy, we are left feeling sober and shameful on behalf of our fellow citizens. Scratching our heads, we ask ourselves, “How did this happen?”

The answer to that question is deceptively simple. Trump’s uncanny surge in popularity was fueled by nothing more than an instinctual avariciousness in the American public toward censorship. His campaign’s brief but dazzling success is not emblematic of a growing nationalistic bent in the masses, or of the rise of populism, or of latent racism in the working-class aroused by incendiary rhetoric.

So why has the Trump campaign faltered in recent weeks? It is simply because the ecstasy of release directly depends upon sustained denial. Trump is essentially a streaker who has exposed himself so many times that his once-taboo genitals no longer elicit any response. He has pushed the button too many times, and now his overfertilized support lies instead flaccid and limp.

However, this is not a defense or justification of the Trump phenomenon any more than the analysis and explanation of the sexual abuse that occurs within the Catholic Church is a defense or justification of it. It is merely an attempt to demystify and defuse a startling event through dispassionate, objective analysis. Only by truly understanding the cause of an event can we hope to dismantle it. To say otherwise is to admit that there is no hope, that the event is beyond rational explanation and therefore incomprehensible and unstoppable.

Living Under The Political Microscope: UM System Review

KAT RIDDLE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Under a plan approved in April of this year in the State Senate, to help stave off even more severe budget cuts, the University of Missouri System will be required to implement recommendations of an eight-member commission appointed by the Speaker of the House, Todd Richardson; R-Poplar Bluff, and the Senate President Pro Temp, Ron Richard, R-Joplin.

Among the team of eight is Dave Spence, CEO of a pharmaceutical packaging firm and a Republican candidate for Governor in 2012. Also Renee Hulshof, who has a radio show, and also the wife of former U.S. Rep. Kenny Hulshof, the Republican nominee for Missouri Governor in 2008. Being well connected politically seems not to have been a disqualifying factor in assembling the best and brightest to review our entire UM System and how it operates.

One bright spot may be the appointment of Jeanne Sinquefield, wife of one of the more polarizing figures in Missouri politics, Rex Sinquefield. But Jeanne Sinquefield has some impressive academic qualifications, having an MBA, being an avid musician, and helping to steer millions of private dollars towards education and the arts.

Her husband, on the other hand, has spent millions trying to dismantle the St. Louis earnings tax which would cripple city services, imposing a flat tax that shifts the burden of sustaining vital services to the middle-class and working poor, and getting rid of the state income tax for corporations. In other words, the same failed economic policies that have reduced the State of Kansas to financial shambles.

The review commission organized in late July, at last report did not have a budget, and by the end of the year must issue their findings of how the entire UM System should be organized and operated. That is five “whole” months to do the kind of review and planning most small businesses might give themselves a year to undertake.

State Senator Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, had proposed the commission to study the UM System after helping push deep budget cuts to punish the entire state for the protests that occurred on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus. The fact that he was also running for Attorney General of Missouri at the time, against a candidate who was a professor from Mizou, leads us to believe had nothing to do with his political campaign.

Schaefer lost to associate professor Josh Hawley in August.

This sort of political shenanigans is perfectly legal in Missouri, which has some of the most lax ethics and campaign spending laws in the nation. In fact you have to compare us more with third world countries to get a true sense of just what an open sewer runs through our State Capital. A family of millionaires from Joplin, the hometown of the Senate President Pro Temp, just spent around a million dollars in August to replace a Republican State Senator on the side of the state, who would not vote their way, to elect one who promised to vote the way they wanted.

Continued online at thecurrent-online.com
‘Strange Like Me’ Sparks Conversation

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He said that students often discover things about themselves, such as their own setbacks and pre-conceived notions, during the program.

“The main goal is to have everybody get to know one another a little better, and to create a narrative outside of the building,” Morrison said.

Brandi Fields, junior, nursing, agreed that it was important to continue the conversations on campus. “It was actually really interesting to see how some of [the students] thought about things, because these are things that they’re going to run into while they go through their journey at UMSL. It’s so relevant to this campus.”

While they hope that the conversation will continue with students, UMSL administration has also apparently had some of this conversation. In addition to offering interactive programs such as Strange Like Me, Green said that UMSL is also changing its admissions applications so that students will be able to indicate their preferred pronouns on applications. They will not have to choose between male and female, she said, but will be able to identify however they feel comfortable.

To find out more about the Strange Like Me interactive program, visit highimpacttraining.net/strange-like-me.

DC’s ‘Suicide Squad’ Kills It In Theaters

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Jared Leto filled the big shoes left by Heath Ledger as The Joker. He does a believable job of portraying an evil psychopath. The filmmakers wanted to put their own stamp on the character, but I found the costuming make-up a bit flat for such a flamboyant personality. There were also parts with the Joker that felt pushed into the movie. His character was more of a subplot that seemed to be intruding on the main plot and sometimes was disorienting.

Joel Kinnaman has his moments as Colonel Rick Flag, the hard as nails Army Special Forces operative tapped to lead the Suicide Squad. His best moments are in his interactions with his deeply flawed team of misfits. But he falls short as the love interest of June Moon (Enchantress) played by Cara Delevingne.

Moon’s body harbors the soul of the ageless witch known as the Enchantress who can take possession of Moon and transform the demur archaeologist into a near-god-like creature bent on revenge. Costuming and make-up of her witch persona was fantastic and she kept the audience guessing when she would turn.

Jay Hernandez portraying Chato Santana aka El Diablo, puts in a masterful performance as the accursed master of fire. His power is hard to suppress and has resulted in the death of many people, but he must learn to harness his rage for the greater good. His character is more quiet compared to the more talkative Harley Quinn and his pain and suffering as a “bad guy” seems to be almost too much for the other members of the group, but he too has his part to help the team in its hour of need.

Overall, this movie is enjoyable. While there are some bumps along the way, if you enjoy anti-hero misfits, you will enjoy this movie.