Bow Ties and Bath Bombs Success

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

All thumbs when it comes to tying the perfect bow tie? Or finding bath time a bit boring? Then Bow Ties and Bath Bombs was the place to be Tuesday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Nosh.

The event was hosted by Fraternity and Sorority Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. All sorority and fraternity life were represented at a table in front of the Nosh stage on Tuesday, teaching curious passersby how to tie a bow and how to make a bath bomb. Demonstrators were tying ties on each other following simple printed steps that people could take with them to try at home. Adjacent to the tie brigade, others were manning a bath bomb table instructing students how to create the perfect bath bombs there or at home.

Daniel Pogue, junior, mechanical engineering, was on hand to help the tie-tying-challenged as part of the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. Pogue said, “Many people don’t know how to tie a tie. It’s very useful to know at this point in our college lives.”

The event was originally scheduled to take place in the quad outside, but pop-up showers on Tuesday forced the group to move inside. Colleen Pace, student services coordinator in the Office of Student Involvement, said the move was fortuitous for the event’s success. Pace said, “It ended up being a way better location as people were

Fall Expo Invites Students to Get Involved at UMSL

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

Bailee Warsing, freshman, computer science, sat at one of the grated iron tables on the North Campus Quad with her wide eyes, bright smile, and backpack amidst a forest of red striped tents at the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ Fall Expo on Tuesday. Warsing said that she liked UMSL so far. “It’s been fun. It’s been a good first week,” she said. “Warsing, a recent graduate of Granite City high school in Illinois, and a member of the Honors College, had the opportunity to talk to over 60 organizations and departments that had set up booths and games to acquaint new and returning students with their organizations.

One of those organizations was the Criminology and Criminal Justice Undergraduate Student Association. The CCJUSA table featured a bean bag toss with the scales of justice framed by the Arch, the CCJUSA logo, painted onto the goals. Sherman Brawner, senior, criminology and criminal justice, told new students about the organization.

“Our organization is a group of people that are pursuing a degree with either a major or a minor in CCJ and what we’re looking to do is help people get acquainted to that professional field… [We] hear from the courts and the different departments and agencies,” he said.

Though last year was the CCJUSA’s first year as a funded organization, CCJUSA members gained a lot of experience and knowledge in that first year. Brawner said, “Last year we went on a tour of a federal… active prison… We went to the federal courthouse downtown. We heard from a judge, a prosecutor, a guy from probation, pretrial services, and then [the] U.S. Marshals. And this year we’re hoping to hear from two special agents with the FBI.”

Another booth that Warsing could have visited was the Minority Student Nursing Organization (MSNO). Joy Keubee, nursing, sophomore, serves as the organization’s Student Government Association (SGA) Representative. “It is for the minorities in the nursing program,” Keubee said. “We provide support, study aids, [and] we give out volunteer opportunities in the community. Basically, it’s just getting involved with the community and having someone that you’re able to come back to, people that are able to support you.”

Keubee said that they had gotten a “good amount” of students to sign up for their email list and she hopes that some of them will pledge to their organization. The first meeting will be held on September 8 at 4:30 p.m.

Other organizations focused on supporting non-traditional students. As part of Student Social Services, UMSL Social Worker Robin Kimberlin hosted a table with information about Students Who Are Parents (SWAP). “This is a basically a resource sharing initiative for students who have children… Student volunteers, who are called SWAP ambassadors… post things on Facebook, everything from recipes, to community events happening, to tips for parents, to things going on on campus,” Kimberlin said.

The table also boasted a “SWAP Survival Guide,” which urged students to get a planner, talk to their
Welcome! Are you here for the blood drive?

I SURE AM! GOT A CART FULL OF THE DONATE.

Blood Drive

It’s...it’s not that kind of drive.

Hope it’s okay that I have mostly a..
Chancellor’s Certificate encourages Student Leadership

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

This fall, a new comprehensive certificate program called the Chancellor’s Engaged Leadership Certificate is available to University of Missouri-St. Louis undergraduate and graduate students of all majors. The certificate encourages and recognizes student leadership experiences.

“I’m really excited about this because when I interviewed for this position, they talked about needing a progressive leadership program,” said Jenna Bartak, Coordinator of Leadership in the Office of Student Involvement. “Really, [the certificate] is supposed to highlight what students are already doing.”

To complete the certificate, students must fulfill five main components: campus engagement and education, citizenship and service, mentorship, leadership legacy, and an exit presentation.

Students can fulfill the campus engagement and education component by taking part in positions on campus such as peer mentoring or being on the board of a student organization. These are only baseline suggestions of how to fulfill this component, however, and students can also come up with their own ways to do so, such as by studying abroad through UMSL. Each of the activities has a certain point value assigned to them, and in order to earn the points, students are required to complete reflections about their engagement.

For the mentorship component, students can either choose a mentor or have one assigned to them. Students are required to go over certain talking points with their mentor, whom they will meet with at least four times throughout the program. One of the talking points is legacy, where students discuss with their mentor how they will have an impact on UMSL once they leave the university. This could be through creating a new policy on campus or “anything positive that’s going to make a difference,” said Bartak.

Those enrolled in the certificate program need 150 points of campus engagement and education and 50 total hours of community service to complete the engagement and education and citizenship and service components. Prior community service that students have completed does not count towards the latter component.

Once students complete the five components, there will be a one-credit hour leadership course that will begin in the fall of 2017. After that, students will do a final presentation where they will present their e-portfolio. In the portfolio, they will need to have a reference from their mentor, an overview of their leadership legacy, leadership philosophy, and the student leadership competencies that they have utilized throughout the program.

So far, six students have enrolled in the certificate, and there has been a lot of interest, according to Bartak. Enrollment for the certificate began the first day of school and the deadline to enroll is September 16 at 5 p.m. For students who miss the deadline, enrollment will open again in the spring semester.

The Chancellor’s Engaged Leadership Certificate is self-paced, meaning students can complete the components of the program around their own schedule and complete the five components in as much time as they need. However, the Office of Student Involvement recommends that students complete the certificate over four semesters to make the most of the program.

To enroll in the certificate, students need to fill out a statement of intent form that includes their contact information, classification, and anticipated graduation date. Filling out the form will not constitute automatic enrollment, since the certificate will probably take at least two years for students to complete and some students may be graduating sooner and will not have time to complete everything.

Students who enroll must also maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. Initially, students will also be asked whether they want to pursue the certificate and will also be asked to begin thinking about the mentorship component.

To access Taylor’s obituary and to complete the certificate, students must first fill out a statement of intent form that includes their contact information, classification, and anticipated graduation date. Filling out the form will not constitute automatic enrollment, since the certificate will probably take at least two years for students to complete and some students may be graduating sooner and will not have time to complete everything.

Students who enroll must also maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. Initially, students will also be asked whether they want to pursue the certificate and will also be asked to begin thinking about the mentorship component.

Once enrolled, students will need to join the Office of Student Involvement portal on TritonSync to have access to the necessary forms. There, they will be sent a link to complete the online Student Leadership Competencies Assessment, comprised of eight competency clusters.

After completing the assessment, they will need to meet with a Leadership Education staff member, who will go over the assessment and articulate how the student can grow in those areas. They will also review what the student has already completed that will help them meet the 150 points of campus engagement.

Upon completion of all components of the certificate, students will receive an official certificate and cords to wear to graduation.

“I think it’s a great opportunity,” said Bartak. “As an undergrad, I would have loved to do something like this. Leadership is extremely important and I don’t think anyone can not be a leader. I think that leadership is just about being able to recognize it in themselves, they have that potential, and then this is just a way to showcase that.”

CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

I-70 Ramp Closed Aug 25-31

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Due to Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) crews replacing bridge joints, the ramp from northbound I-70 to westbound I-70 will be closed from August 25 to August 31. The University of Missouri-St. Louis community was notified of the closure via email on August 24. The I-70 ramp is one of several ramps and roads throughout St. Louis that will be closed through August 31.

Student Taylor Pile Passes

VICTORIA MODENESI
SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

The Division of Student Affairs informed the University of Missouri-St. Louis community on August 26 that UMSL student Taylor Nykole Pile, of East Alton, IL, passed away on August 24. Taylor was 21 years old, a senior, and a nursing major.

Taylor’s passing awakened remembrance and sadness among those who had known her. On social media, friends manifested their shock and grief, and reached out to her friends and family by evoking Taylor’s sweet, vibrant personality and wonderful smile.

To access Taylor’s obituary and to share memories, her family has created the following page: eliaskallalandshaef.com/obituaries/Taylor-Pile/#1Obituary. Private services will be held at Elias, Kallal and Schaaf Funeral Home in Beltharto, IL. Taylor’s family indicated that the building was evacuated. The cause of the alarm remains unknown. At 11:10 a.m., an UMSL employee at the Touhill Performing Arts Center was treated for a cut arm. At 12:26 p.m., UMSL PD released an informational report verifying that a sex offender had been registered.

August 23: At 5 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a report of a vandalized car with a threatening note left on it in Parking Lot F.

August 24: At 8:05 a.m., a Sodexo employee was taken to the hospital by ambulance upon reports of illness. At 1:55 p.m., an UMSL faculty member turned in a bullet found by a student on the floor in Clark Hall.

August 25: At 9:53 a.m., UMSL PD responded to a student trapped in the Social Sciences Tower Building elevator. At 10:40 a.m., UMSL PD released an informational report verifying that a sex offender had been registered.

August 27: At 5:48 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a fire alarm in Benton Hall. The building was evacuated. The cause of the alarm remains unknown. At 11:10 a.m., an UMSL employee at the Touhill Performing Arts Center was treated for a cut arm. At 12:26 p.m., UMSL PD released an informational report verifying that a sex offender had been registered.

August 28: At 5:48 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a fire alarm in the Social Sciences Tower Building elevator. At 10:40 a.m., UMSL PD released an informational report verifying that a sex offender had been registered.

August 29: At 9:48 p.m., UMSL PD assisted Residential Life in responding to a potentially distraught student.

Once, student reported a wallet lost on campus. At 5 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a report of a vandalized car with a threatening note left on it in Parking Lot F.

August 22: At 12:30 a.m., a noise complaint was made at Mansion Hill Residence. At 11:01 a.m., UMSL PD responded to a fire alarm in Benton Hall. The building was evacuated. The cause of the alarm remains unknown. At 11:10 a.m., an UMSL employee at the Touhill Performing Arts Center was treated for a cut arm. At 12:26 p.m., UMSL PD released an informational report verifying that a sex offender had been registered.

August 23: At 12:50 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a distraught student in Oak Hall. The student was accompanied by a parent. At 3 p.m., an UMSL student reported a wallet lost on campus.

Student reported a wallet lost on campus. At 5 p.m., UMSL PD responded to a report of a vandalized car with a threatening note left on it in Parking Lot F.

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**Bow Ties and Bath Bombs Success**

Jessica Carson helping Officer David Woods tie a bow tie in the Nosh

COURTESY OF COLLEEN PACE

Continued from Page 1

the Nosh and they wandered over. We didn’t have to stop anybody or anything. It got pretty busy down there for a while.”

The idea of hosting this type of event and assistance came from several sources. Pace said, “I wanted to create an event sponsored by Fraternity and Sorority Life that wasn’t just them standing at a table trying to recruit people.” The Panhellenic Council co-sponsored with University Program Board a Self-Care Isn’t Selfish event where everyone made bath bombs last year. To get ready for the UMSL event, Pace grabbed instructions on how to tie a tie and recipes from Pinterest for the bath bombs. The graphic designer for the Office of Student Involvement created handouts from the recipes and instructions for people to take home with them.

The event was so popular that they ran out of lemon juice. Substitutes for the lemon juice were quickly found from other recipes to keep the event going. Pace said there were other surprising aspects to the event. “We actually had a lot of men interested in the bath bombs,” Pace said. “I think it is because they made it themselves they are more into it.”

Pogue described his favorite part of the event, “My favorite part was helping people learn how to tie a tie as well as how nice the bath bombs smelled. Another cool part was getting people interested in fraternity and sorority life and seeing involvement.”

Pace said she wants to continue the success of the event in the future. Pace said, “We will either do it again for Self-Care Isn’t Selfish, in March for Women’s History Month, or do it again next fall, potentially.”

**Serendipity Sendoff Closes Triton Take-Off Weekend at UMSL**

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

An amalgamation of excitement and trepidation about future academic and social success permeated the air as Triton Take-Off Weekend came to a close at the Serendipity Sendoff this past Sunday. Though not all of them attended the event, Megan Green, Director of New Student Programs, estimated that there are about 450 incoming freshmen and 1200 transfer students who will begin their journey at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the upcoming fall semester. The students who did attend received welcome at the Serendipity Sendoff.

Green described Triton Take-Off Weekend as an extension of students’ orientation, designed to get them involved, to become aware of opportunities on campus, and to make connections. On August 19, students moved into their dorms and participated in ice-breaker activities to meet their peers. Green said that though the activities were fun, students were “nervous… [there are] many emotions that many new students go through.” Saturday’s events facilitated more serious conversations, with programs like Strange Like Me, which focused on diversity on campus. Sunday’s events focused more on academics. “The academic buildings are open. They can tour and see where their classrooms are. [There is the] Serendipity Sendoff and the Welcome Picnic, kind of inducting and beginning the brand-new school year,” Green said.

Victoria Rogers, senior, biochemistry and biotechnology, who also works as a peer mentor in Residential Life, helped to give some of the classroom tours. She also gave tips to incoming students. “Some classrooms… are ridiculously difficult to find. This is my last semester here and I still get lost on the second floor of Benton-Stadler… That complex is really convoluted,” she said. Rogers also helped students to learn to navigate the periphery between North and South campuses and advised students on other important things such as food at the Nosh. “You don’t necessarily know what comes out quickly,” she said.

“Every year, [the Serendipity Sendoff] is kind of a way to get UMSL freshmen engaged on the campus and feel celebrated and welcomed and it’s pretty cool. All the returning students line up and basically high-five all the freshmen and transfer students. She wished them serendipity, which she defined as “good fortune.”

Sheena Crompton, alumna, business administration, of the UMSL Alumni Association spoke next. She situated students in UMSL’s 53-year history, beginning with the original purchase of the property from the Normandy School District in 1963 and welcomed new students to the current UMSL community of 16,000 students, 851,000 alumni, and even more faculty and staff. She spoke about her own journey through UMSL, beginning in 2010, and told students how she discovered her enthusiasm for international business. “Here at UMSL, I uncovered my passion…I encourage you to use your time here at UMSL to explore your passions” she said.

Green took the stage next. “You all represent UMSL’s future,” she said. The attending faculty pledged to mentor the incoming students on their academic journey and the new students took the Triton Pledge.

Fall Expo Invites Students to Get Involved at UMSL

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

Continued from Page 1

Sendo

teachers and make connections via SWAP and TritonSync. They also handed out a flyer for family friendly events on campus. Kimberlin said, “We just want student parents to know that they’re not the only ones and that we’ve got their back.”

Students milled through the tables from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., with many signing up for one of the Fall Expo’s many featured organizations and departments. Like all students, Warsing will be busy during her first semester on campus. However, she did think that she would have time to join at least one organization. “I think that I am going to Environmental Adventure Organization, because they do a lot of outdoorsy things and they do trips and it seems like stuff that’s really fun. They seem like a nice group,” she said.

For more information on student organizations, visit the student organization’s portal on TritonSync.
Sports and Violence Examined in New Book

SARAH HAYES
A&E EDITOR
A&E 5 August 29, 2016

“Unsportsmanlike Conduct” is a difficult read. It describes in detail the worst day in the lives of multiple women and the hierarchical destruction of their lives in the name of team loyalty. Luther admits that her love for Texas college football means unlearning her blind loyalty to her beloved FSU team, but detailing the “politics of rape” in a college setting becomes more than just a journalist beat. It becomes a necessary responsibility in bringing these painful issues to light. Considering that the University of Missouri System itself is discussed in this book, we here in St. Louis would do right by our fellow classmates, who may know these stories on a personal level, to look into the problems explored in “Unsportsmanlike Conduct” and ask each other what we are actively doing to make our college environment a healthier, safer place in which certain students can learn.
It was a dream come true for Gauthier. For the basketball team at Mizzou, he was going to Mizzou for college and had arranged for Gauthier’s former football and basketball coach Scott Stallcup to join Jay Blossom’s staff. Gauthier decided to hang around the program that first year because of his love of basketball. The second year, he was offered an assistant coach position.

Gauthier got used to his lifestyle when Baker’s filed for bankruptcy. He was forced to find another job. He found a job in St. Louis at Laclede Gas as their Director of Accounting and Special Operations, but he wanted to keep coaching. He tried to do what he had done at Baker’s, but for some reason the new schedule was a struggle to keep up with. He knew he wanted to get out of accounting and follow his passion for sports.

He quit his job and joined the one year, full-time Masters of Business Administration at St. Louis University (SLU) while continuing to coach. This set Gauthier up to reconnect with a former student basketball player Drew Hanlen, who started his own basketball top player development and training program called Pure Sweat. The group trains players in all levels of basketball, from youth to professional athletes.

Hanlen was a senior when Gauthier joined Webber’s basketball team. They won the State Championship that year, and he went on to play at Belmont University. Gauthier joined Pure Sweat as the Director of Basketball Operations and continued to coach at Webber.

He continued to be an adjunct professor at SLU for Sports Management. They had a full-time, non-tenure professor position at SLU for which Gauthier was a finalist, but unfortunately he did not get the position. Gauthier was disappointed, but that did not deter him from continuing to be around sports.

Gauthier was training now新鲜man Kobe Wands, business administration, and wanted to talk to UMSL’s Head Coach, Bob Sundvold, to have him check out Wands for the basketball team. After a game, his best friend introduced him to the coach. They kept in touch after that meeting. Over this past summer, Gauthier received a call from Sundvold asking to meet about an assistant coach position at UMSL.

Gauthier’s coaching record at Webber was very impressive.

Continued on Page 8

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Missouri Ballot Issue to Increase Cigarette Taxes

DANIEL STRAWHUN
OPINIONS EDITOR

The state of Missouri has the lowest cigarette tax in the nation. At 17 cents per standard pack of 20 cigarettes, cigarette smokers in Missouri pay a whole 13 cents less per pack than even their Virginian counterparts, who, rather unremarkably, pay the second lowest rate in the U.S. But that could all change Nov. 8.

There are currently two separate ballot measures that would raise cigarette taxes in Missouri if passed. The first, officially titled Constitutional Amendment 3, seeks to raise the current 17 cent tax by 60 cents, with revenue generated to be deposited into the Early Childhood Health and Education Trust Fund. The second, Proposition A, would increase the current tax by a modest six cents and would allocate the funds to “transportation infrastructure projects” within the state.

These ballot measures are, in themselves, not particularly surprising. What is surprising, however, is the support that each draws. Constitutional Amendment 3, the larger of the two proposed hikes, is backed by tobacco giant Reynolds American, Inc., a company that produces around 30 percent of all cigarettes consumed in the United States. Proposition A, the more moderate of the two, is backed by a number of smaller tobacco companies. Even more surprising is the opposition: the American Lung Association in Missouri, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, and other related health organizations released a joint statement denouncing both proposals, calling them “insufficient” and arguing that “the [tobacco] industry’s support for these small increases is merely to improve their image while lining their pockets while driving up the cost of a healthy cigarette for Missouri citizens.”

Photojournalism: When Words Fall Short

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

St. Louis is blessed with many wonderful museums, but one of the least well known locally has a big reputation internationally. The International Photographic Arts and Sciences Museum and Hall of Fame is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The Photographic Arts and Sciences Foundation began in 1965 assembling a growing collection of historic photographic prints and cameras. The International Photography Hall of Fame first opened to the public in Santa Barbara, California in 1977 as part of the University Museums at the Brooks Institute of Photography. In 1983 the museum moved to Oklahoma City. Then, after a major fundraising effort, the museum found a home in the Grand Center Arts District of St. Louis.

Thousands of photographs in the collection represent some of the best work of over 500 artists. Among the collected works are photos by many photojournalists.

Last week, a photojournalist in Syria filmed a five-year-old boy, covered in dirt and blood on his young forehead, sitting quietly and stoically in the back of an ambulance. His home had been bombed as part of the ongoing civil war in that country. Still images of the boy were shared on social media and in newspapers around the world. We instinctively wanted to know more and found out in subsequent reporting that his name was Omran Daqneesh and that he survived.

It was a reminder of the power of a singularly moving image and of the role of a photojournalist. Words are often inadequate to express the full extent of a story in a way that connects with every person. But images can break through barriers of language and nationality. No one who saw that image will forget it and no one who saw it was not just a little more aware of the human toll of war.

Images have always had a powerful impact on the delivery of the news. Think about the images that stand out in your own mind, perhaps the World Trade Center on fire, the image of the young son of assassinated President John F. Kennedy, John Kennedy Jr., bravely saluting his father’s casket as they left the state funeral ceremony, or the image of the American soldiers over Iwo Jima during World War Two.

Photojournalists help tell the story of mankind’s journey. Many of them also got their start working at a school newspaper. If you would like to join The Current Student Newspaper on the road to photojournalism, pick up an application outside the office at 388 Millennium Student Center or email thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu for more information.

The International Photojournalist Hall of Fame’s hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday they are closed. Additional hours can be added by appointment. Their phone number is 314-535-1999. They are located at 3415 Olive Street and are wheelchair accessible. Admission is $5 for adults, $3 for students with IDs, military, and seniors, and those 18 and under are free.
Gauthier Joins UMSL Basketball as Assistant Coach

Continued from Page 6

Over his nine years with Webster, the team won 94 percent of their games, qualified for nine Suburban South Conference Championships, three district championships and two state quarterfinal appearances, which included the 2008 Missouri Class 5 state championship. He started to do a little digging about Sundvold. He said, “There wasn’t a person that I spoke to or said that this wouldn’t be a great opportunity or that he wasn’t a great coach and person to work under and for.”

Gauthier toured the campus and met with the other coaches. “I was really torn. I loved Webster and Webster Groves High School was going to be really good. But as I started looking at it, it has always been a dream of mine, a really good. But as I started looking at Groves High School was going to be

“it’s funny that I’ve circled back to where I always wanted to be. Even though accounting and finance was great and I enjoyed it, it was just going to work every day didn’t get the same passion and love I feel when I coach,” Gauthier said.

“My advice is to follow your passion. Whether it’s athletics or school, never let anyone tell you that you can’t do something,” Gauthier said. “Like me, my heart always said I need to be in sports and coaching, but my head was saying I need to get in accounting and business to make money. I did that (the latter), but I wasn’t happy. You’re always going to face adversity, but it is how you face that adversity.”

Gauthier has many people he would like to thank who helped him get where he is now. He would especially like to thank Scott Stallcup, the assistant coach at Webster Groves High School, Dr. Clark, the principal at Webster Groves High School, and Hanlen at Pure Sweat.

“We are going to do our best to put on a good product and win games, but we want people, family, kids, relatives to come to the game and have fun.”

Increased Cigarette Taxes

Though a lively event, the Serendipity Sendoff is a new tradition at UMSL. The first sendoff took place in by the Millennium Student Center in 2013. Dorian Hall, Event Services Supervisor said, “NSP just felt like there wasn’t one singular unifying event to get new students together. We do have the picnic, but there wasn’t any speech or any rally cry to sort of speak. . . We wanted to do something a little more ceremonial.”

Hall also wished the students a prosperous year. “I want to wish all of the students a good first year, those that are coming in this year, and continued success to those that are returning this

“Youthful and enthusiastic for the next season and has met August 8. While practice and training at some point in my career in college,” Gauthier said.

“Over his nine years with Webster, the success to those that are returning this

“it’s funny that I’ve circled back to where I always wanted to be. Even though accounting and finance was great and I enjoyed it, it was just going to work every day didn’t get the same passion and love I feel when I coach,” Gauthier said.

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“We are going to do our best to put on a good product and win games, but we want people, family, kids, relatives to come to the game and have fun.”

Increased Cigarette Taxes

Continued from Page 7

pockets.”

But I fail to see the logic in this opposition. While neither proposal is the “meaningful tobacco tax increase… of $1.00 per pack or more” for which the joint statement calls, both are still increases, no? A small step in the right direction is better than no step at all. The potential 60 or 6 cent increases should be viewed as fractions of an ultimate, higher goal—not as simple failures.

Moreover, the inverse relationship between price and demand exists as a gradient. While it is true that demand may begin to sharply decrease around a certain price point (which the health organizations deem to be one additional dollar), there still remain smaller, less dramatic gradations of change leading up to the mark. If the goal in raising cigarette taxes is decreased consumption, then every degree of decrease should be welcomed and celebrated as both a victory and a milestone.

One must consider the fact that in opposing the tax increases, the health organizations are essentially opposing the good that the potential revenue could affect in the community. Regardless of whether or not a 6 or 60 cent increase would actually bring about instantaneous, widespread cessation of smoking, both would undoubtedly produce a substantial increase in state revenue. The funds that Prop A could generate for statewide infrastructure development seem especially important as we attempt to retrofit St. Louis with new forms of public transportation while, at the same time, rebuilding our ancient crumbling streets and bridges.

But the effects of Constitutional Amendment 3 would be harder to gauge. Making early childhood education more accessible in our communitiess, of course, a noble cause; however, the moving parts involved, namely the nine person oversight committee required in each county, but also the teachers, students, and parents involved, always have the potential to render useless any well-meaning increase in funds. And anyway, funneling more money into a program does not necessarily improve the quality of said program. Whereas an increase in funds allocated to infrastructure development more readily translates into actual measurable improvements, an increase in funds allotted to educational programs generally does not.

The other problem with Constitutional Amendment 3 is that a yearly increase indexed to the inflation rate has been written into the legislation, which hardly seems fair considering the stagnant wage growth in Missouri, which has not kept pace with inflation rates in recent years.

While neither tax would very probably achieve its ostensible goal—to dramatically curb smoking amongst

Continued online at thecurrent-online.com