

9-26-2016

Current, September 26, 2016

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University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, September 26, 2016" (2016). *Current (2010s)*. 239.
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The Current

1966

Celebrating 50 Years as

2016

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

VOL. 50

ISSUE 1509

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016



From left to right: Jessica Long-Pease, Kat Riddler, Nat Smith, Charlotte Kawa, Sean Burkett, Kathryn Loucks, Briana Robertson, Curt Coonrod

COURTESY OF AUGUST JENNEWEIN

Founders Dinner Marks 25th Year Honoring Achievements

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The University of Missouri-St. Louis' Founders Dinner was making history this year as well as celebrating a bit of its own. The annual dinner marked its 25th anniversary at the Ritz-Carlton in Clayton, Mo., on September 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The first Founders Day was held in conjunction with the inauguration of Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill on September 12, 1991. In 1993, Touhill shaped UMSL's Founders Day into a week long celebration in honor of the founding of the campus. The purpose of the dinner is to honor exceptional faculty, alumni, staff, and contributors in the UMSL community. The dinner also acknowledges the anniversaries of 25-year faculty and staff members, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence recipients, Distinguished Alumni awardees, the Auguste Chouteau Society, and Pierre Laclede Society donors.

For the first time in UMSL's history, donors Stan and Terry Freerks reached the \$5 million dollar donation level to the university. In 2006, UMSL established the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Medal for Philanthropy. This award was given this year to the Freerks for their support. They are the first UMSL alumni to receive this medal. Their donations can be seen in a variety of scholarships, the arts, capital campaigns, athletics, the College of Business, the College of Arts & Sciences, and St. Louis Public Radio, as well as helping with the reinstatement of the swimming program in 2014.

Terry said, "If we were to take a pen and put, in two-inch letters, the names of all the people who have helped us through our lives and careers, we would fill up the walls of this room. Our wish is that we can help others and maybe someday, on their wall, our names will be there."

Joe Stieven, bachelor's in finance, 1982, concluded the evening with an inspirational speech. "But equally as

important as the great graduates we have are the thousands of alumni who are leaders at every level in St. Louis and around the world," Stieven said. "These leaders are charting new courses for success. Thus UMSL, via offering a great value in education is painting the horizon very bright and it has lots of color."

The first graduating class of UMSL, class of 1967, will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2017. Some of the class members were in attendance at the dinner.

Jennifer Jezek-Taussig, associate vice chancellor for alumni engagement, introduced the Distinguished Alumni awards. Jezek-Taussig said, "I'm pleased to introduce five individuals who excel in their fields and make us all proud. Their accomplishments bring honor to each of them and, in turn, they shine a bright light on this university."

Five alumni recipients were recognized. Patricia J. Amick, BS physics, 1974, is a technical fellow at The Boeing Company. As a technical fellow

in electronics and manufacturing, she supports both military and commercial aircraft and missile programs. Amick is an advocate for the improvement of workplace conditions for women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs as well as a mentor for men and women in engineering. Amick is a published author of several technical handbooks and papers as well as a recipient of two patents and numerous awards by McDonnell Douglas/Boeing. She also donates to many national charities and has held multiple leadership positions on teams for over 20 years.

Joseph A. Bergfeld, BA political science, 1970, is President and CEO of Pittsburgh Pipe & Supply Corporation. Bergfeld established the company in 1977 with his business partner Bill Manser. He has diligently grown the company from three employees to over 70 employees. He was recognized by the Young President's Organization and

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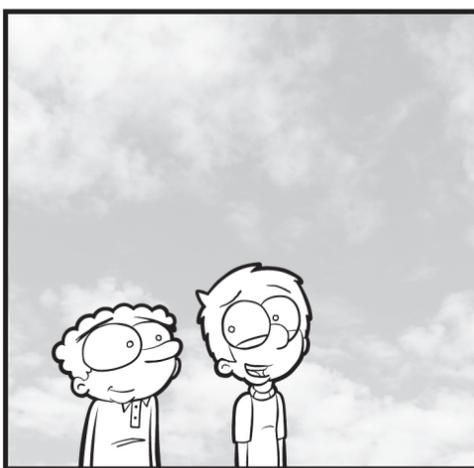
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THAT FILM'S CINEMATOGRAPHY WAS BEAUTIFUL. THE USE OF LIGHTS...THE ACTING...SUCH RAW EMOTION...FLAWLESS DIRECTION. DID YOU NOTICE THE CONFLICTING THEMES?



I LIKED WHEN THE GIANT ROBOTS BLEW STUFF UP.

THAT WAS ONE OF THE TRAILERS.

I'D WATCH IT AGAIN.



ON THE QUAD BY MIKE DILBERTO

FRIDAY
 SEPT. 30

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NEWS BRIEFS

Vehicle Damage, Property Theft Prompt Clery Warning

LORI DRESNER
 NEWS EDITOR

Reported property damage and thefts from parked cars over the span of two days prompted a Clery Timely Warning to be sent out to the University of Missouri-St. Louis community via the UMSL Alert System on September 21.

According to the warning, an incident was captured on surveillance footage where four individuals entered the South Campus Parking Garage (SCPG) at 12:07 a.m. on September 20. The individuals broke into several unoccupied vehicles, damaged several vehicles, and removed small

personal items that had been left in the parked vehicles. Still images of the suspects accompanied the email.

Later on September 20, another student reported to their vehicle parked in Lot VV, and a student whose vehicle was parked at University Meadows reported that someone had gone through items in their car overnight but nothing was taken. Another reported the theft of a debit card from their vehicle in Lot XX.

The UMSL Police Department asked anyone with information on the incidents to contact Detective Tawanna Bingham by phone at 314-516-5160 or via email at binghamt@umsl.edu.

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UMSL Faces Enrollment, Retention Challenges

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

Most of the University of Missouri-St. Louis community is aware that in recent months the university has faced enrollment challenges. Despite a record number of high school applicants and campus visitors in 2015-2016, freshmen enrollment is down 14.2 percent this semester from Fall 2015 and total undergraduate enrollment is down 6.6 percent from last fall.

As far as new student enrollment goes, three areas are up compared to Fall 2015: transfer students increased by 1.6 percent with 25 more students, new graduate students increased 4.8 percent with 35 more students, and new optometry students increased 7.1 percent with three more students.

Alan Byrd, Dean of Enrollment, explained that UMSL is among a majority of colleges in Missouri that are facing enrollment challenges. He said, "Right now there are no schools that are really growing unless they can attract a lot of out-of-state or international students because Missouri isn't growing. By UMSL being really more of a commuter campus that focuses on local students, that presents major enrollment challenges."

Freshmen enrollment was at 454 as of August 22, making it only the second time in 30 years that UMSL has enrolled less than 500 freshmen. In

comparison, there were 529 freshmen in Fall 2015. According to Byrd, the target enrollment for freshmen for this fall was 550.

High schoolers provided five reasons for not attending UMSL. These included not being satisfied with the quality of social life at UMSL, UMSL not being their first choice, receiving better scholarships or financial packages at another institution, UMSL lacking the amenities or extracurricular activities they were seeking, and UMSL being too expensive.

"Some of those reasons we can address with just some short term things, but most of those issues are long term projects," explained Byrd.

Another reason for this year's enrollment decline was poor retention rates for upperclassmen, according to Byrd. This semester, there are 569 less undergraduate students, 26 less graduate students, and four less professional students, totaling a 5.2 percent decrease in total UMSL enrollment from Fall 2015. Approximately 500 seniors who were in good academic standing did not return to UMSL this fall. This, combined with the largest graduating class in UMSL's history in 2016, contributed to the decline.

According to a list of UMSL's strategic plan recruitment goals in Fall 2015, the university aimed to enroll 2,400 new undergraduates every fall and 950 every spring. For graduate and

professional students, that goal was 800 new students each fall and 200 each spring. UMSL also hopes to increase total enrollment to 17,500 students by Fall 2018.

Declining enrollment at St. Louis Community College (STLCC) was one reason cited for UMSL's enrollment decline in the Fall 2015 Enrollment Summary. According to the summary, STLCC is UMSL's top feeder district for prospective students, and the four STLCC campuses produce one-third of UMSL's transfer students on an annual basis. According to statistics in the summary, enrollment at all four campuses has been declining since Fall 2011.

Total enrollment for the four campuses declined by 2,316 students from Fall 2014 to Fall 2015. Long term, STLCC enrollment declined by 10,328 from Fall 2011 to Fall 2015.

Another reason for UMSL's enrollment decline, according to Byrd, has been the decrease in high school graduates. UMSL has also seen an increasing number of first-generation college students and students with higher need for financial aid.

Byrd said, "That presents new challenges both for recruitment and retention. We're really having to look at ourselves in the mirror and determine what kind of campus we want to be moving forward, to really accommodate the students that we want to attract and make sure that we put students in the

best position to succeed."

The Fall 2015 Enrollment Summary proposed five steps for how UMSL could enhance recruitment efforts. These included expanding UMSL's marketing and recruitment efforts beyond the St. Louis Metro area, upgrading campus facilities and amenities to be on par with local competitors, increasing investments in merit scholarships and need-based financial aid, modifying degree programs to cater to working adults and 100 percent online students, and increasing course offerings and campus activities on Fridays and weekends.

Byrd said that UMSL has already begun broadening their recruitment scope. Traditionally, UMSL has only recruited from the St. Louis area and a few counties in Illinois. UMSL has now expanded recruitment efforts to include more of Illinois and, this past year, began recruitment to the Midwestern exchange states that are part of the Midwestern Student Exchange Program (MSEP). Students from these states receive discounted tuition and are not required to pay the out-of-state tuition fee.

According to Byrd, TV marketing is another new strategy that UMSL will be implementing. In the past, UMSL has utilized print ads, billboards, and radio advertisements for marketing purposes, but UMSL will begin advertising on TV for the first time this year.

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 September 13.

September 13: At 11:15 a.m., UMSL PD arrested a suspicious person reported in the Millennium Student Center for an outstanding warrant. The person was transported to St. Louis County Intake Services. At 11:50 a.m., UMSL PD responded to a 'keep the peace' call concerning a small group of people gathered around a speaker; all was in order. At 3 p.m., a report was taken after a student reported the feeling that another person had been following them.

At 3:35 p.m., a debit card found in the J.C. Penney Conference Center lobby was turned in to the UMSL PD for safe keeping. At 4 p.m., a student reported that their car had been struck and damaged while parked on West Drive between 9:30 a.m. and the time of the report. At 5:15 p.m., a student reported receiving a harassing phone call about their status as a student. At 8:30 p.m., a student reported leaving a violin in an unknown classroom on

campus.

September 14: At 10:32 a.m., two vehicles were involved in an auto accident at Lot Q. There were minor damages and no injuries were reported. At 5:18 p.m., a student reported a lost building key in the Social Sciences & Business Building (SSB). During the day, a car key on a yellow lanyard was found in Marillac Hall and a set of keys found in the Thomas Jefferson Library were turned in to the UMSL PD for safe keeping.

At 10:25 p.m., UMSL PD assisted a student at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center; the student had run out of gas. Also during the day, a student reported having been harassed by another student on September 13.

September 15: At 8:30 a.m., a pill box was found in the Mercantile Library and turned in to the UMSL PD for safe keeping. At 10:30 a.m., a performer at the Touhill was transported to the hospital after passing out. At 12:20 p.m., a staff member reported receiving a call from a non-campus

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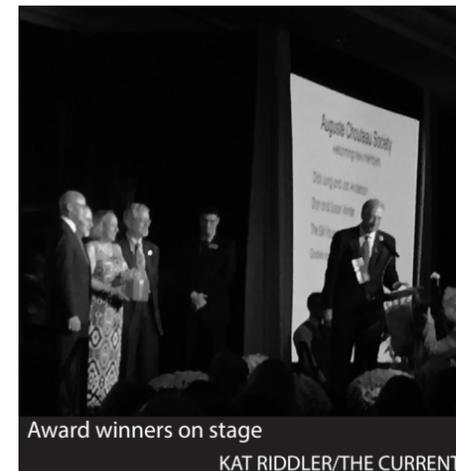
Founders Dinner 25th Year

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in 1998 he received the Award of Excellence from the Association of Steel Pipe Distributors. He served as the president of the National Association of Steel Pipe Distributors and is a lifetime board member. Bergfield has also previously served on the UMSL College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Leadership Council, Forest Park Master Plan Committee, St. Louis Ambassadors, Kilo Diabetes & Vascular Research Foundation Board, and Laumeier Sculpture Park board.

Sharonica L. Hardin, Ph.D. education, 2014, is the superintendent of the University City School District. Hardin was previously the assistant superintendent for human resources and leadership development for the Ritenour School District. She has overseen the hiring and professional development of staff in the district, led contract negotiations with unions, and had a lead role in the district's work around social justice and high school students. One of those lead roles has been her service to the Ferguson Commission's Child Well-Being and Education Work Group.

Robbyn G. Wahby, MPPA, 1998 and BSBA organizational behavior, 1989, is the executive director at the Missouri Charter Public School Commission. This is a newly established agency that has statewide authority to sponsor charter schools. Previously,



Award winners on stage

KAT RIDDLER/THE CURRENT

Wahby served as Deputy Chief of Staff to St. Louis City Mayor Francis Slay and was the director of Alumni Relations at UMSL from 1996 to 2001.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient is John J. Waterhouse, BSEE, 2006. Waterhouse is an Associate Engineer at Ameren Corp.. At Ameren, he is responsible for the construction of 10 substations in the Illinois Rivers Program. The 1.4 billion dollar initiative is the second largest program in Ameren's history. Waterhouse is active in the St. Louis community as a member of the Board of Directors for the Center for Hearing & Speech and chair of their strategic planning committee. He is also a former board member of the UMSL Alumni Association Governing Board and chair of its Student Engagement Committee.

Anthropology Alumni Preserve Stories, Uncover Bodies

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

Stories are often told in words, but the University of Missouri-St. Louis' anthropology students and alumni know that objects can tell also stories. The stories they tell are not always clear though.

What does it mean when all the crucifixes are broken off the rosaries that were left with bodies in a specific cemetery?

These are the types of questions that UMSL anthropology alumni Joe Harl, Meredith Hawkins Trautt, Corri Mader-Twillmann, Courtney Hayden, and Corey Fitzpatrick ask themselves about objects they find on archaeological digs.

Mader-Twillmann, Hayden, and Fitzpatrick are all recent graduates who are currently working on a federally-funded Cultural Resource Management project with The Archaeological Research Center of St. Louis Incorporated (ARC). The ARC is excavating historic sites in North St. Louis before the construction of the new \$1.6 billion National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) facility.

Harl co-owns ARC with Janet Kneller and Robin Machiran. Harl, also

an UMSL anthropology graduate, began working with the company when it was a contract program with UMSL in 1978, but UMSL dropped the program in 1994. "By that time I was in charge of it," Harl said. "So...we just took everybody that we had there and started a private company." Preservation laws stipulate that archaeological excavations be done on federal projects, which is how ARC gets most of their jobs.

The NGA project will cover 99 acres. ARC pored over historical records to select 25 blocks to excavate. "We did an extensive archival review. We looked at census records, deeds records and... fire insurance maps," Harl said. "We're trying to get a real mixture of people. We're trying to get flats versus houses... businesses, like this grocery store... drug stores...[and] three schools."

Mader-Twillmann, who graduated in May with her bachelor's in anthropology and an archaeological field certificate, started working on the project in June. She said that she heard about the job opening from Dr. Patti Wright, associate professor of anthropology at UMSL. "We're finding a lot of privies, water closets, cisterns, and building foundations," Mader-Twillmann said. "From those we are recovering bottles,



Corri Mader-Twillmann shows off an artifact

LEAH JONES/THE CURRENT



Anthropology students at the excavation site

LEAH JONES/THE CURRENT

ceramics, animal bones, and other interesting items such as glass and ceramic marbles and ceramic dolls... The [item] that I am most fond of is a brick that had a sheet of paper in the mortar. I was able to clean it off and it was revealed to be an old grammar lesson."

Hayden, who also graduated this past May, learned about the position from Mader-Twillmann and has been working on the project for a few weeks. "[We found] random bits of metal. So that's kind of a fun mystery. We [also found] a couple horseshoes, [and] a couple of actual intact bottles with actual labels on them," she said.

One of the excavation sites at the corner of 22nd and Montgomery Street, is an old house that Harl estimated was built in the early to mid-1800s. The foundation featured upright cedar posts, which indicated to Harl that it had

been a French-style house.

"It's kind of sort of French, kind of sort of not. It's a very weird house," said Hawkins Trautt, the Field Director for ARC. "Nothing else about it is really very French... It's kind of an odd mixture between [a] French and American type of building, so we don't really know what's happening."

Though the houses are interesting, the group looks for privies and out-houses, since that is where many people threw out their garbage before the city collected waste. However, Harl said that they were finding more objects in cisterns, which collected rainwater for household chores.

The group has also excavated wells that were up to 30 feet deep. "It's amazing," Harl said. "They just used shovels

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Darryl Wea: Dedicated Employee Of Over 30 Years

TAYLOR MILON
STAFF WRITER

Darryl Wea is a professional full-time staff member at the Millennium Student Center. He is the Operations Supervisor, but his job is behind-the-scenes-superhero. Wea has been working at the University Missouri-St. Louis for over 30 years. In 2003, Wea received the Riverstar Employee of the Month award in recognition of his outstanding customer service. In the years since, he has only grown to exceed his previous years of work.

Wea oversees logistical operations, custodial management, and financial matters. That really means that he supervises the custodial staff throughout the entire MSC and the conference portion of the J.C. Penney Building. In

addition to maintaining the building, all of the men and women who change out light bulbs, climb ladders, and crawl under water fountains in blue button-up polos and white name badges, report to Wea.

All things pertaining to the appearance of the building are a main part of Wea's day-to-day responsibilities. On top of that, he oversees financial matters including invoices and campus-wide vending services, and he communicates with Coca-Cola for student organizations. Wea takes pride in his contribution to the everyday functions of the MSC, working alongside his fellow coworkers and helping the facility operate smoothly and serve as a welcoming and clean environment.

Wea said that his main duties have been constant through his time working

for UMSL but that he has "overcome many hurdles and learned so much." One stumbling block Wea faced was dealing with all the office finances, but he grew in his job. He said, "If I would have been asked before if I could do what I do now, I would have said no."

Wea recently received more leverage in his position to make executive decisions. He now has a direct line to deal with business proceedings. Wea went on to say, "Working for Miriam Rocca [the Assistant Dean of Students] has been different; she really challenges you to achieve your full potential."

Over the years working for UMSL, Wea has amassed multiple amusing stories. One he shared happened about two years ago. Staff and students came rushing into his office to inform him that there was a bird flying around in

the MSC during classes. He took action right away. He called animal control and with the help of the Financial Aid Office, captured the bird. Wea explained that after the incident, he understood the importance of how his position coexists with his coworkers and other departments in the building, and that collectively, they all get the job done.

Wea's profession requires him to stay alert and on top of his game. He even walks through the building to make sure that everything is up to par, so that when people are in the MSC they see UMSL's grandeur. Wea's office is located on the second floor rotunda in MSC 218. Feel free to stop in; Wea loves to hear good things from the students, who are, after all, whom it is all for.

'Ghostbusters' Is Hilarious, Nostalgic Comedy

KAITLYN WALLER
STAFF WRITER

The new "Ghostbusters" movie received negative reviews when its trailer was released this summer. However, the previews do not capture the movie well, as this reboot of a cult classic will keep you entertained and laughing.

Kristen Wiig plays Erin Gilbert, a reserved and uptight physicist at a university. Wanting to hide her past paranormal work from her boss in order to keep her job, she meets up with her old research partner Abby Yates (Melissa McCarthy) at Abby's lab, along with Abby's co-worker Jillian Holtzmann (Kate McKinnon), a quirky but brilliant scientist, in order to ask her to stop publishing their paranormal research book. After some ghost encounters and other mishaps, they eventually overcome their differences and form the group all-too-familiar to fans in order to protect the public from ghosts. They move into a place together for their headquarters and hire a slow-witted secretary named Kevin (Liam Hemsworth), who could be one of the funniest characters in the film. Patty Tolan, a worker for the city played by Leslie Jones, also joins the group later on after a terrifying ghost encounter in the subway.

The actresses work well together and have great chemistry, delivering fun



Poster for the 2016 "Ghostbusters"

COURTESY OF UPB

and weird characters that have equal screen time and equal importance.

At the beginning of the movie it seems as if the actresses are restrained by the cleaner script, since most of them have been associated with cruder humor than what "Ghostbusters" has to offer. As the story progresses, though, the actresses do not have any troubles in delivering an abundance of hilarious jokes.

There are several nostalgic cameos from the original "Ghostbusters," but their characters tend to clutter the plot line and fail to add to the film. Steve Higgins from "The Tonight Show" also

appears for brief moments and, unlike the other cameos, he delivers some of the best lines of the movie.

"Ghostbusters" is very bright, with neon colors and luminescent ghosts and ectoplasm. Several of the ghosts the team encounters are visually neat and come out at the audience from the screen, but they tend to lack originality. The ghosts are also cartoonish in appearance, but this contributes to the light-heartedness of the movie. There are several good action scenes and a great climax. You can expect to hear the trademark theme song several times, along with some appearances of the

original "Ghostbusters" ghosts.

The major drawback of the movie is the plot. It is not well developed. There are several plot holes, inconsistencies, and certain events that seem to happen suddenly without prior buildup. The villain of the film is also poor. His actions are those of a typical outcast villain with stiff acting and cringe-worthy lines that seem out of place within the context of the movie. He is more of an outsider than an integral part in the story. Some scenes are also in poor taste and should not have been used as a source for humor.

There are swear words used and other suggestive material, but besides for those few instances, the humor is clean yet funny for a PG-13 movie.

It is over two hours, but there is never a dull moment. It will keep you laughing throughout the entire duration. "Ghostbusters" is a fun movie to watch if you want to have a good laugh and feel nostalgic. I personally have not laughed that hard during a film in a long time.

"Ghostbusters" was the newest film shown during Friday Night Flicks, which takes place in the SGA Chambers in the Millennium Student Center on Fridays at 7 p.m. Attendance is free and food is provided. The next Friday Night Flick will be "Star Trek Beyond" on September 30.

'NBA 2K17' Impresses, Has Room To Grow

LANCE JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

While the regular NBA season has yet to start, I already know how the match-up between the Cleveland Cavaliers and the new and improved Golden State Warriors might look. For now, all I can say is LeBron might have his hands full if he hopes to capture a back-to-back championship.

I know how this match-up will look because I have been playing the latest game in the "NBA 2K" series, in which players take control of famous players and play out their fantasy matches on the screen. "NBA 2K17" marks the 18th entry in the series, released annually since 1999. "NBA 2K" has been the leader in basketball video games and has become one of the most popular video game series of all time.

What "2K" has done well in recent years is present players with the most realistic experience possible. From simply playing an exhibition match, I was treated to a pre-game show, followed by a half time and post-game show, as I proceeded through my match. The players looked fantastic in the game, looking as life like as I assume possible for the PS4 system. Small details like facial hair, tattoos, and sweat really make a huge difference when enjoying the presentation of the game. The arenas were not slacked on by any means either, as playing in the arenas seemed



An example of the life-like graphics in "NBA 2K17"

2K SPORTS

really well-constructed. Playing as the Cleveland Cavaliers in the Golden State arena, I was received with a loud echo of boos throughout the arena, while the arena erupted as Steph Curry drilled in a three-pointer. It is just how you would expect the audience to behave if this were a real match-up.

The AI seems smarter this time around, even on lower difficulties. I found myself challenged, and frustrated by players like Curry and Clay Thompson, who seemingly never missed their shots after my attempts at defending them. It only inspired me to keep playing exhibition matches to get better. Earlier struggles come from learning the new crossover system and new shot meter after being well adjusted to "2K16" controls. Aside from those two elements, much of "2K17" plays like

"2K16".

MyCareer mode was widely criticized last year and for good reason.

The Spike Lee-produced MyCareer mode decisions did not seem to matter, as no matter what school or team you chose, decisions and event outcomes were already predetermined. While "2K17" is an improvement as far as decision making and freedom go, I still

found myself back in exhibition mode or the other gameplay modes more, as small tedious issues such as practice and doing sponsorships kept me from enjoying the story. What I really enjoyed in MyCareer was the voice acting from Michael B. Jordan ("Creed", "Fantastic 4") who plays your best friend and teammate Justice Young, and Hannibal Burrell ("Eric Andre Show", "Broad City") who plays a barber.

So far my only true headache came from creating a player. Players are enticed to do so at the very start of "2K17", as your character will serve as your avatar and character for the story mode. The game has a very deep creation mode, with the ability to customize everything from your name and head shape, to your tattoos.

The one feature in this mode that I was looking forward to was importing my likeness into the game and onto my

Continued on page 8



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Men's Basketball Prep For 3rd Annual 'Friend-Raiser'



LANCE JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

Last year, the men's basketball team hosted its second annual "Friend-Raiser" golf outing. The team considered it a success, having over 50 golfers in attendance. Sponsors for last year's event included Coca-Cola Covallo, Grimco, and more.

A year later, the third annual "Friend-Raiser" golf outing will take place October 3 at the Normandie Golf Club, the oldest public golf course west of the Mississippi River. The team is hoping for an even bigger turnout this year. So, *The Current* reached out to assistant men's basketball coach Scott Gauthier to find out more about the upcoming event.

The Current (TC): Can you tell us how the "Friend-Raiser" golf outing got started?

Gauthier: Head Coach Bob Sundvold wanted to connect the past, present, and future, and the best way he thought to do that was a golf outing, where it's just everyone having a good time playing golf, not only for current students but for our alumni, local businesses, friends, and supporters of the program.

TC: What can participants expect when attending the outing?

Gauthier: The number one thing is fun! It's at a great golf course here in Normandie. For serious golfers it's a chance for them to play golf. But more importantly for us is everyone coming to the event [and] having a good time. [We] will be having lunch, drinks, food, contest, games, and a swag bag giveaway that has various items. So we're really just trying to connect people.

TC: What are some memorable moments that stick out from the previous events?

Gauthier: This will be my first event. I haven't had the chance to participate. But I know you get a bunch of people together and you hear a bunch of stories, some that aren't printable. So

I'm looking forward to what's in store this year.

TC: Has the university or local businesses supported the event in the past? And how have they been supportive this year?

Gauthier: Absolutely! Mary Jo Adams in the Alumni Office who helped send out the information to 35,000 alumni... *The Current* for getting the information out... local businesses in Ferguson have been fantastic. Last year almost all of them donated an item to give away. We had a local bakery that baked cookies to give away to every participant.

TC: Any notable names that you know of, that are participating in the outing?

Gauthier: In the past we had a lot of our former players come back. We've have major companies such as Grimco, Marriot Hotel, Aflac Insurance. A lot of local businesses, who are actively recruiting students. A lot of people like to wait till the last minute, so we are still building our list of attendees.

TC: If someone is unable to attend can they still donate to the team?

Gauthier: Absolutely! Whether its current students, former students, faculty, we have a website where you can go onto, if they are unable to attend. If it's \$1, \$5, \$10, whatever, we're looking for any type of donation we can get, because we are looking to use the donations for capital improvements and enhancements. So we appreciate any type of support we can get.

TC: Anything else you would like to share about the outing on the third?

Gauthier: I just want to make sure that even people who aren't golfers know it's open to anybody. We're going to have a social hour so if people want to come out and make a donation or just want to come out and make a connections athletically, or professionally we'll have people out there. There will be a lot of people out there who aren't going to golf. At the end of the day we want to put on an event that will have people say 'hey that was a lot of fun!'

MMA King Comes To UMSL

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

Daniel Isaac describes himself as a father, husband, pastor, humanist, spiritualist, follower, and teacher, among other things. "Quite a few hats," he said. "But I think it's possible for everyone to wear different hats but have the same focus... I think 100 percent dedication to what you do will take you to the pinnacle."

One of Isaac's hats is also as a kickboxing instructor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis' Recreation and Wellness Center, though he said that he is trained in 15 forms of martial arts. His cardio kickboxing class, offered on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. features high-energy music and alternates between cardio intervals and basic punches and kicks.

Isaac focuses on form in his classes; students roll into a standing position without their hands, stand in orthodox and southpaw fighting stances, and punch straight out in front of them. "I have seen that a lot of the people who are teaching cardio kickboxing... but their form is wrong," Isaac said. "That's transferring to the students and [they are] wasting energy." Isaac's path to UMSL, though, has not been as straight as the jabs that he teaches.

Isaac grew up in India, where the Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) scene is much less prevalent than it is in the United States. However, as a third generation martial arts instructor, he has always been imbedded in the martial arts community. In 1999, Isaac opened Tiger's Gym, India's first MMA training center. Isaac said that he used his philosophical stance as a pastor to redirect youth from the street into the gym. "We had quite a few guys who were street fighters and then they channeled their energy to become professional fighters," Isaac said. "I used to take these fighters all over the country and soon all over the world, fighting as professionals."

In 2012, Raj Kundra, a British-born wealthy businessman, walked into Isaac's gym. The two discovered that they shared the same birthday: September 9, 1975. Isaac said, "And for some reason we kind of clicked and we became best friends... So he hired me as the CEO of his company... the Super Fight League."

Isaac worked as the CEO for several years, training fighters and producing about 23 different shows on national television. However, Isaac drove three hours each day between Mumbai and his home-city of Nashik. He said "It reached a point in my life where I had no family life... I have two beautiful daughters and a wife."

In 2014, Isaac visited St. Louis for the first time. While visiting a friend who also teaches martial arts, Isaac met with an immigration lawyer, who told Isaac that it is difficult for an Indian to obtain residency in the U.S. However, in an X-Men-esque twist, the lawyer informed Isaac about an EB1 visa, which would allow Isaac into the country as an Alien with Extraordinary Ability. The visa has strict criteria, requiring applicants to present three forms of evidence (out of a possible 10), which demonstrate their extraordinary accomplishments. "Anyone who has done something substantial in their field, they can get an EB1 Visa... professors, Nobel Peace prize [winners], entertainers, Bollywood actors," he said. Isaac also

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Isaac instructing kickboxing
LEAH JONES/THE CURRENT

ZACH GALIFIANAKIS
THE PAWN

OWEN WILSON
THE BRAINS

KRISTEN WIIG
THE BAIT

MASTERMINDS
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KATE MCKINNON
THE EX

LESLIE JONES
THE LIES

JASON SUDEIKIS
THE PSYCHO

IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 30

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Apple: The King of Phones?

TRAVONTE HARRIS
STAFF WRITER

The iPhone 7 is the next step in the future of phones. When my grandma was young, she did not have a cell phone, yet people my age cannot last a minute without theirs. It has become a staple of modern life.

First it was the Blackberry. While not the first smartphone, the Blackberry marked a major development in smartphone technology. You were not considered a professional unless you had one; they became a standard in the world of business. Then Android threw its hat into the ring and dominated the smartphone market, knocking Blackberry out of the competition altogether and solidifying its place as one of the “big two.”

Now the market is dominated by various types of Android phones, as well as the “King of Phones” itself, the iPhone. The iPhone’s inception dates all the way back to 2007. At its unveiling, Steve Jobs called the iPhone a magical product. From that day onward, competitors were doomed.

What Apple is selling is the future. While we might not agree with everything they do, they are innovators. They “Think Different.” And sometimes it is hard to truly comprehend the work of geniuses in the moment. Often the most brilliant ideas only seem brilliant in retrospect.

I’m sure everyone thought Thom-



PAST |-----> PRESENT
GIUSEPPE VITELLARO/THE CURRENT

as Edison was crazy too. They might not have truly comprehended what he was doing until he was done. Edison invented the light bulb and the motion picture camera, both of which are now mass produced and are everywhere. A person like you or I may even have a high-quality film camera like movie studios use! They are widely available, and lower level cameras are used to take home videos as well.

But what if Thomas Edison had been discouraged by backlash from friends and family? There would be no film cameras or light bulbs. I would be

writing this article in the dark. And all those family memories would be just that—memories. And don’t get me started about movies! They wouldn’t exist.

One major change present in the newest iteration of the iPhone is the removal of the headphone jack. But, while we may not agree with Apple removing the headphone jack, we must remember to “Think Different.” It is the future. I myself love using regular headphones, but that is the past and this is the future.

There are other problems too. The

iPhone 7, according to Forbes, will not have wireless charging, and the LED display is still only 750 pixels. Third-party products won’t be able to use the headphone jack for add-ons and replacing the new headphones, which are called AirPods, will cost \$150.

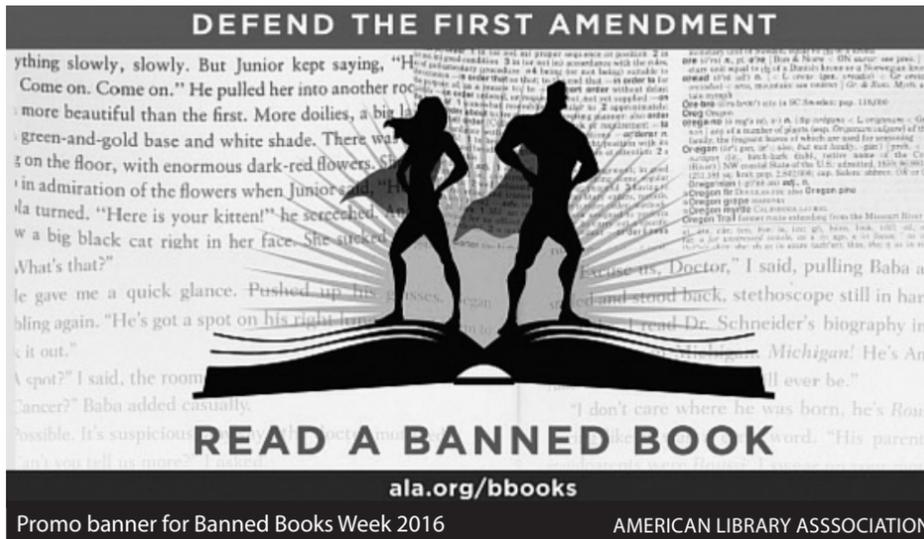
That’s pretty steep, but Apple is the future and I have no doubt all of these problems will eventually be fixed. Or Apple may find a way to create a solution to the problem that bypasses current technology. Only time will tell.

Banned Books Week: Celebrate Your Freedom

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mark Twain’s “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” published in 1884, did not take long to become a banned book in Concord, Massachusetts in 1885. It has remained a controversial volume, as have works like: “The Autobiography of Malcolm X,” by Malcolm X and Alex Haley, 1965; “Catcher in the Rye,” by J.D. Salinger, 1951, or “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee,” by Dee Brown, 1970. According to the American Library Association, more than 11,300 books have been challenged in the United States since 1982.

In response to this rise in censorship, The Banned Books Week Coalition was formed and for the past 36 years has been educating the public that banning books is, well, un-American. In 1953, science fiction and fantasy writer Ray Bradbury published “Fahrenheit 451,” his famous work about the consequences of a society that burned books. One middle-school in Irvine, California stopped short of banning a book about banning books, but they did studiously go through and black out words they



found offensive like “hell” or “damn.” We have all seen the images of Nazis burning books in the run up to World War II. But there are no iconic images of people who have been jailed or killed in some countries for having a banned religious text. Nor are there any pictures of the editors of newspapers who have been kidnapped or killed for being on the outs with a particular regime, nor of those who have felt the invisible hand of an oppressive culture or government and simply knew not to rock the ship of state.

This year the International English

Honor Society (Sigma Tau Delta), the English Department, Gender Studies Department, The College of Arts & Sciences, and *The Current* student newspaper are working together to shine more light on the issue of banning books and state censorship. Banned Books Week, Sept. 25 through Oct. 1, is a celebration of your freedom to read what you want to read and the freedom of authors to write works that challenge society or accepted notions.

Following the easy path, the safe road, does not take us anywhere as a people, as a society, or as a nation. The

“go along to get along” path leads to a dead end of political and social stagnation. There is a famous line from the musical “1776,” uttered by the character portraying John Adams, who, fed up with the constant suggestions to tone down the words of the Declaration of Independence so as to not offend others, exasperatingly declares, “This is a revolution, damn it! We’re going to have to offend somebody!”

Several events are being hosted during Banned Books Week on campus, including a discussion open to all faculty and students hosted by the University of Missouri-St. Louis professor Dr. Kathleen Butterly Nigro, in the Office of Sexuality and Gender Diversity, Lucas Room 494, on September 28 at 12:30 p.m. T-shirts, bookmarks, buttons and flyers being will be distributed. The red T-shirt has a quote from Ray Bradbury, who passed away in 2012. Commenting on “Fahrenheit 451,” Bradbury observed, “You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.”

Banned Books Week is a good time to remember his words and challenge ourselves to read the books others would ban.



From left to right: Ethan O'Connor, Alex Meseke, Daniel Isaac, and Samantha Sansom
Leah Jones/The Current

MMA King Comes To UMSL

Continued from page 6

pointed out that Korean pop sensation Psy, who released the song “Gangnam Style,” entered the U.S. on an EB1 Visa. Peace prize [winners], entertainers, Bollywood actors,” he said. Isaac also pointed out that Korean pop sensation Psy, who released the song “Gangnam Style,” entered the U.S. on an EB1 Visa.

So, Isaac applied as an Alien with an Extraordinary Ability and was granted residency in the U.S. The visa also allowed him to bring his family. “If I stayed back in India, I would continue to be the MMA King,” Isaac said, “But [I would have] no family life.” Isaac also stated that he hoped that his wife and daughters would have more opportunities available to them. “I realized...if I [made] the move here, my daughters, my wife, they [could] start a life,” he said.

When Isaac and his family arrived in the U.S. though, Isaac said that he did not have a job offer, a place to live, or a car. Despite these obstacles, Isaac said, “We made the move, contacted some friends, got a little apartment, [and] bought a car. It’s been an adventure, driving on the opposite side of the road, [and] the steering on the opposite side of the car.” In addition, Isaac’s wife also just got a job as a personal trainer at UMSL.

Though he is no longer the “MMA King,” Isaac said that he wanted to move to the U.S. and “start from scratch, just be an instructor, no CEO, none of that... This is what I love doing. I love teaching.” In the long-term, Isaac said that he would love to see UMSL become a cardio kickboxing headquarters, where instructors come to train on proper form.

‘NBA 2K17’ Preview

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character. This is a feature introduced last year in “2K16”, and it has found its way back into “2K17.” It involves downloading the “2K17” mobile app and from there scanning your face and importing it into your game console. While I am not sure if this was an error with my own internet connection or with the “2K” server, I was very disappointed that I was treated to a frozen 40

percent completion screen, that did not even budge an inch. I had to continue on without it. I hope to eventually finish the story mode and see my character’s ascension to the basketball stardom as well as have a character more in my image. But for now I am enjoying just playing with different teams in exhibition mode, while perfecting my shooting and defense game.

Martial arts tones not only students’ bodies, but their minds and spirits as well, according to Isaac. “Martial arts is all about surprising your mind, not just your muscle,” he said. “With weights and with exercise, you’re surprising your muscles. With martial arts you’re surprising your mind, and through that you’re uniting body, mind, spirit together, with the focus of what you’re doing.” He also said that it helps students to de-stress so that they can focus on their studies and feel more confident.

The students in his classes seem Ethan O’Connor, freshman, communication, said, “It’s a lot of work, but it’s super rewarding. When I got here and we started doing stuff, I was super exhausted, like halfway through with the warm-ups, but now that I’m... done, I feel good about myself. I’m like ‘I did some exercise today.’ It makes me want to come back here more and do it again.”

“I believe there are a lot of things in life that we don’t want to try... [due to] bias,” Isaac said. “I’d like all those who are reading to try new things in life, because that’s the spice of life. Variety. You’re only going to be here for a little while, so try everything out and there might be so many things that you might enjoy and like. Making the move from India to the U.S. was a surprise, it was a leap of faith, but...we tried it out. It was difficult... Try something new, take a step out, take a leap of faith sometimes, and life will be more fun.”

If you would like to give Isaac’s class a try, he teaches kickboxing from 6 to 7 p.m. and cardio kickboxing from on Mondays from 7 to 8 p.m. in Studio 1 at the Recreation and Wellness Center.

Visit his Facebook page at [facebook.com/kickboxingcoach/](https://www.facebook.com/kickboxingcoach/).

William H. Gass Symposium

DANIEL STRAWHUN
OPINIONS EDITOR

“William H. Gass is the nicest genius you will ever meet.” That is how one member of the audience described the renowned author and literary critic at the William H. Gass Symposium: International Writing event on September 23. The symposium, which was free and open to the public, was held in the Um-rath Lounge on Washington University’s (WUSTL) Danforth campus. Washington University Libraries, the Committee on Comparative Literature, the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities co-sponsored the event.

However, despite original plans, which included a Q&A session with the author, attendees did not get the chance to meet the congenial genius—at least not in the literal, flesh-and-blood sense. Gass, who was born in 1924 in Fargo, North Dakota, but who has lived in St. Louis, Missouri for over 30 years, was unfortunately not able to attend the event. But as all good readers know, it is ultimately the author’s body of work, the corpus, that truly lives and breathes. And in that regard, the symposium, which dealt with Gass’ lifework and especially with his work in translation, did not disappoint.

German poet, novelist, and translator Matthias Göritz began the symposium with a lecture focusing on the particular challenge Gass’ work poses to translators. For the benefit of readers who are not yet acquainted with his writing, it might be best at this time to quote a passage, in order to demonstrate exactly why Gass is so difficult to translate. The following appears in his essay “Emerson and the Essay,” from the collection titled “Habitations of the Word,” which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism in 1985:

“Yet nature turns a dumb face toward us like a cow. When we read its

wonders, we wonder whether we haven’t written them ourselves. We are in ferment, but our greatness grows like a bubble of froth. We sense that existence itself lacks substance; that it is serious in the wrong sense; that its heaviness is that of wet air. The sublime...ah, the sublime is far off, though we call for its coming. Yes. Life falls short—it is never what it should be. Rhymes will not rescue it. Days end, and begin again, automatically. Only the clock connects them. Sullen sunshine is followed by pitiless frost, and the consequence is we are a tick or two nearer oblivion, and the alarm for our unawaking.”

As anyone can see from this example, Gass’ prose is breathtaking. The qualities that constitute this passage—the rhyme, the rhythm, the alliteration, the abstraction, the irony—commingle and serve to elevate the prose into the realm of aesthetic beauty. But they also thoroughly confound the translator. To approximate meaning is one thing, but to approximate beauty is nigh impossible—especially when it is made up of so many constituent parts in such well-crafted balance. Göritz’s lecture culminated with a different example that demonstrated this same conundrum, using an excerpt from Gass’ famous essay “On Being Blue.” Göritz concluded by saying that in order to effectively translate the essay into German, it might need to become “On Being Green” instead, which perfectly illustrates the kind of semantic departures translators must make when attempting to translate Gass.

After a quick coffee break, the focus then shifted to Gass’ own work as a translator of German poetry, with a presentation by translator and Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at WUSTL, Ignacio Infante. Infante detailed Gass’ concept of “transreading,” a process of intermediary translation wherein, according to Gass, “one

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