Faculty Fight for a Union Election

BRIAN SHERRILL  STAFF WRITER

Unionizing faculty supporters and some students chanted and rallied across the bridge from the Quad to the Millennium Student Center and down to the stage near the Nosh the morning of September 27. The demonstrators were attempting to put pressure on their administrators by demanding their voices be heard among the Board of Curators.

They were trying to start productive conversations about the benefits of joining a union during the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ budget crisis.

Dr. Lauren Obermark, assistant professor of English, said, “The rally was a powerful and visible statement for the university community and its students.” Obermark hopes that students realize this is a faculty movement protecting their students’ education. “Faculty members want changes and a voice in how the university works, because this will improve our working conditions, which in turn will make us stronger teachers. A union would give fast representation in the decisions the university makes. We work with the students, and we’re committed to maintaining a strong educational culture on campus,” she said.

Obermark also said UMSL has many excellent professors struggling to get by without benefits and job security. Jennifer Alexander, an adjunct instructor at UMSL, said, “If the vote for a union passes, we hope to exercise our right to bargain collectively with the administration over the terms and conditions of our employment.”

Alexander said most adjuncts work for poverty-level wages, teach at multiple campuses to make ends meet, have no job security, and no access to decision-making processes. “If we hope to maintain high standards as researchers and educators at UMSL, then we will need the legal protection of a faculty union. Better working conditions for educators will mean better learning conditions for students,” Alexander said.

Dr. Wally Siewert, the director of The Center for Ethics in Public Life, said at the rally that the administrators have been working hard under tough circumstances. He said, “But it shouldn’t all be on their shoulders and there is a big voice missing from the discussion. Students deserve a supported faculty that makes sure you get what you need for your education. Faculty deserves fair compensation and a seat at the decision making table for their institution which they have grown to love. An administration deserves to know exactly where their faculty stands, what their needs are, and to know that their faculty has their back when they go to deal with the State and the [UM] system.”

UMSL’s faculty wants to protect their students’ education and in order to do that, Siewert said they need to use their right to organize and have a union election via a fair and swift process. “First, we want this election administered by a neutral third party,” said Siewert. “Secondly, we want this election to be ready to go and called into place when 30 percent of faculty members have signaled their support for a union election. Thirdly, we want a mail-in ballot. We want to make it as easy as possible for every voice to be heard. So if you think the working conditions for your faculty are important, and you think the decision making process of all that happens here at UMSL are important, what we’d like for all of you to do is get involved. You can go to www.umslunited.org. It takes two minutes to sign a petition and send a letter to the Board of Curators.”

Sunny Hutton, graduate, education, also said at the rally that the UMSL administration has made decisions that have negatively impacted the university’s sustainability, faculty, and staff’s commitment, which disadvantages UMSL students academically.

Hutton said, “When the board drove our university into a financial hole, it mimicked the actions of the fed-
GAME CORNER

The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents: Problem of the Week

Puzzle # 14:

What is the next letter in the sequence OTTFFSSENT…?

Email solutions to covertdj@umsl.edu with an email titled “Puzzle of the Week”.

NEWS BRIEFS

Campus Venue Hours See A Cut For Fall

The University of Missouri-St. Louis’ Residential Life and Housing Office has recently updated hours for several on-campus locations. The changes were announced in a campus-wide email on September 30. The following locations will be changing their hours of operations, effective October 1:

- The Provincial House’s late night dinner option is open between 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday, with the dining room closing at 9:30 p.m. On Friday and Saturday, there are no late night dining options.

- The Oak Hall C-Store is open between 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. from Sunday through Thursday. On Friday, it is open from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. On Saturday, it is closed.

- The Triton Store is no longer open on the weekends. During the week, except for Friday, it is open from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Friday, it is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For further information, contact the Residential Life Office at 314-516-6877 or online at umsl.edu/reslife.
UMSL Faculty Rallys For A Union, An Election, A Voice

Continued from page 1

eral government and Wall Street. They bailed themselves out, maintaining their positions and salary while hourly wage workers were fired. Tenures were taken away along with implications of raises. Adjunct professors are teaching half of department courses and high turnover rates are happening due to the fact that they are leaving for better [paying] jobs. We will hold the UM board curators accountable to a fair and timely election process.”

Dr. Pamela Stuerke, UMSL faculty senate chairwoman and associate professor in the College of Business Administration, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, “This is supposed to be a divisive issue on campus. We have a really fabulous system of shared governance here. We’ve been told by people at other institutions that what we have here is how shared governance is supposed to work. A possible outcome of a union contract is that shared governance and faculty council—along with its almost two dozen committees—could end.”

The previous school Stuerke worked for was a union school. She said, “My experience there with respect to the issues that tie into shared governance was very negative. The relationship broadly between faculty covered under the union agreement and the administration was at best adversarial on both sides.”

Adriano Udani, an assistant professor of political science at UMSL and member of the organizing committee, told St. Louis Public Radio, “Given the budget crisis at UMSL, I think we all agree and believe that a collective bargaining unit that speaks for all faculty is going to increase UMSL’s capacity to address the long-term issues in a collabor­ative manner. We have a legal right to organize, and I think the university has a legal obligation to provide a fair process.”

The group, however, has not reached a conclusion yet. Another possible outcome was the “clone course” option, which copies the instructor’s course and applies it to the next semester’s calendar, updating all the due dates in the process.

During the workshop, some instructors even went as far as to import their own Canvas courses into Canvas, testing the software’s cross-compatibility. After the demo, Barbara VanVoorden, associate professor of English, said: “I tried to import a test from the online grammar class, just to see how that worked, because some of the rumors that had been going around had been that changing over to the different test tool was going to be a real headache. However… I exported the test from Blackboard and then imported that package, like a zip file or something, into Canvas, and it seemed to go very smoothly. I looked at the test and everything was there.”

However, VanVoorden also offered her own criticism of the program. She said: “From what I could see, I think it would be very similar to what we already have with Blackboard. It looks like all the same tools and functions are there. They’re just called something else and on a different place on the screen…” However, she also mentioned some new features that she liked: “What Canvas does have that Blackboard does not is slightly less expensive than the other, but it’s not a huge difference. So I don’t think cost is going to be the primary determining factor. I think it’s really going to be: what are the preferences of your faculty, staff, and students?”

An online survey is currently available to the campus community to gather information about which LMS features are preferred. Goodman said that as of last week, there were around 400 responses to the survey and around half of them were from students. He encouraged more of the campus community to provide input about which features they would like to see in the LMS. “We’d love for more students to be responding, and faculty as well. We really want to know what people think,”

Instructure Representatives Showcase Canvas

On September 21 and 22, representatives from Instructure Inc. visited the University of Missouri-St. Louis to demo the company’s learning management software, Canvas. The demo took place in the Thomas Jefferson Library’s Training Room and was open to both students and faculty.

The presentation began with an overview of the Canvas platform, with special emphasis placed on the innovative features that set Canvas apart from its main competitor, Blackboard. Canvas, which was launched in 2011, was “architected for the Cloud,” as one of the company’s reps explained; therefore, the software is constantly up and running, with zero downtime for scheduled maintenance. Canvas also works on all browsers, and there is a free, fully functional mobile app version available to both Android and iPhone users. As the rep was eager to point out, users could potentially complete an entire online Canvas course using only their smartphones—a milestone in usability that the company surpassed three years ago. Canvas also opens all documents in-line, which means that users never have to download files in order to view them. Everything is contained and displayed within the browser page.

The demo also included a workshop, which was oriented toward instructors. Laptops were arranged in front of each seat, and the reps guided audience members through the process of creating their own Canvas courses on the spot. One feature that seemed especially popular with instructors was the assignment calendar, which allows assignments to be rescheduled or postponed with a simple drag-and-drop motion. Another popular feature was the “clone course” option, which copies the instructor’s course and applies it to the next semester’s calendar, updating all the due dates in the process.

During the workshop, some instructors even went as far as to import their own Blackboard courses into Canvas, testing the software’s cross-compatibility. After the demo, Barbara VanVoorden, associate professor of English, said: “I tried to import a test from the online grammar class, just to see how that worked, because some of the rumors that had been going around had been that changing over to the different test tool was going to be a real headache. However… I exported the test from Blackboard and then imported that package, like a zip file or something, into Canvas, and it seemed to go very smoothly. I looked at the test and everything was there.” However, VanVoorden also offered her own criticism of the program. She said: “From what I could see, I think it would be very similar to what we already have with Blackboard. It looks like all the same tools and functions are there. They’re just called something else and on a different place on the screen…” However, she also mentioned some new features that she liked: “What Canvas does have that Blackboard does

Campus Considers Learning Management System Switch

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

This fall, the University of Missouri-St. Louis is in the process of deciding whether to keep its current learning management system (LMS), Blackboard, or migrate to a different system called Canvas. The decision must be made by November 30 and input is being gathered from students, faculty, and staff about which system’s features will best suit the campus’ needs.

Features that the LMS have begun to contain new and upgraded features of the current version that UMSL is using. Some of these features would include faster mobile access, a new app for Android and iPhones, and the ability to drag and drop files.

Features of Canvas include compatibility with all browsers, a mobile app for Androids and iPhones, and the ability to open all documents in-line so users do not have to download files.

The migration from the current version of Blackboard to Blackboard Ultra could take anywhere from one to two years if UMSL stays with Blackboard. If the campus makes the switch to Canvas, the full migration process would be complete around Spring 2018.

J. Andy Goodman, Associate Provost for Professional Develop and the Director for the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), is heading up the process of deciding which LMS the campus will use moving forward.

Goodman explained that the process began when the University of Missouri-Columbia put out a request for proposal (RFP) for a new LMS. There were several requirements, one being that the new LMS had to be cloud-based, meaning that there would no longer be downtime for users. The version of Blackboard that UMSL currently uses is hosted on the Columbia campus. Beginning in January, UMSL will begin migrating to a cloud-based system, although most courses in the spring semester will still be on the current Blackboard server. Although costs associated with Blackboard and Canvas are undisclosed, Goodman said, “One is slightly less expensive than the other, but it’s not a huge difference. So I don’t think cost is going to be the primary determining factor. I think it’s really going to be: what are the preferences of your faculty, staff, and students?”

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Continued at thecurrent-online.com
Leslie Pietrzyk Encourages UMSL Writers to Persevere

Leah Jones  
Features Editor

Leslie Pietrzyk, author and teacher, described herself as “the most stubborn person in the world.” Her stubbornness has paid off though. After having her collection of short stories “This Angel on My Chest” rejected by several other publishers, Pietrzyk won the prestigious Drue Heinz Literature Award from the University of Pittsburgh in 2015. Pietrzyk visited the University of Missouri-St. Louis to read from her book on September 29. The stories all feature a young grieving widow and use unique narrative forms. Mary Troy, professor of English, said, “The stories in this book are held together by an intelligence and an artfulness, a way of looking at the same thing from different perspectives and positions. This collection works, in fact, by being a true tour de force.”

Pietrzyk’s determination extends beyond just publishing though. She also uses it to deal with difficult personal struggles in her own life. She chose the book’s subject matter from her own experiences as a young widow. Pietrzyk, whose first husband passed away of cancer at 37, said, “My first husband’s passing had a great effect on me. I was writing the first story in the book, “Ten Things,” followed by her second novel, “A Year and A Day,” about a young girl whose mother commits suicide. Pietrzyk said that though nothing was factually the same as her life, that novel was about her grieving.

After these two pieces about her loss, Pietrzyk said that she thought that she was done writing about that time in her life. However, while at a writer’s colony, Pietrzyk had a breakfast conversation with a poet about reading subcultures. The idea piqued Pietrzyk’s interest and she returned to her studio and started writing a list of subcultures about which she could write. Pietrzyk included cooking school and various jobs on her list, as well as “Young Widow’s Support Group.” “The minute I saw that I thought, ‘That’s going to be really hard,’ and then I also thought, ‘Oh, I have to do that one,’” Pietrzyk said.

Pietrzyk began writing “The Circle” while at the writer’s colony, but that single idea generated more ideas. “By the end of the day, I didn’t know it would be a book, but I knew that I would be writing more stories from that time,” Pietrzyk said. “The assignment that I gave myself was [that I would write about] one true hard thing from my personal experience. I was going to blend fact and fiction and see what happened…It was clearly the right time to write all of those stories.”

“The material for the book was emotionally demanding though. Pietrzyk added, “A lot of grieving is actually obsessing.” She created distance from the content by using odd forms such as a multiple-choice quiz, a list, the use of second person, and a craft lecture piece, “One True Thing,” which uses nine different points of view. “For me, using a second-person character is an important tool to create some distance…it’s like, this didn’t happen to me, this was someone else, ‘you,’ and so I think that was why I kind of turned to those different points of view and different forms in the book,” Pietrzyk said.

In addition to struggling with the difficult emotional content, Pietrzyk said that she also found herself questioning whether or not her grief was enough in comparison to other people’s trauma and grief. In the end though, Pietrzyk said though it may be selfish to write about one’s own grief, that’s fine. “Grief is universal…and yet it’s utterly individual,” Pietrzyk said. Pietrzyk avoids sentimentality in her stories through self-reflexive humor.

This is not the first time that UMSL has celebrated Pietrzyk’s work. Her short story “This Day With You,” was published in the first edition of UMSL’s literary journal, Natural Bridge, in April of 2003. “I was very excited to be a part of that tiny but special place in the Natural Bridge archives and history,” the story, which takes a more traditional form, also draws on facts from Pietrzyk’s life. Like the characters in the story, Pietrzyk grew up in Iowa and worked at a movie theatre. Pietrzyk’s connection to Natural Bridge kept her connected with Troy. After Pietrzyk won the Drue Heinz Literature Award, Troy invited her to do a reading at UMSL. In addition to the $15,000 prize and book printing, the award gave Pietrzyk an endowment for travel to universities for readings, so she accepted the invitation. Pietrzyk said that she chooses what she will read at a reading based on the audience and time frame. Though she said that readings can be difficult because she “gets the good and bad of seeing people respond,” she said, “I really love doing readings…I think it’s exciting when a reading goes really well. The audience is energized. I am energized. People will tell me secret moving things that they wouldn’t normally announce…It’s very moving.”In addition to writing fiction, Pietrzyk also writes blogs and essays. Though she said that essays are “tortuous,” she explained that she could use her own voice in her blog, which focuses on writing and some cooking. “I can have anything I want to say, and I can say it,” she said. “I could be humorous. I could put parentheses all over the place (which I love to do). That was me.” As with many writers, Pietrzyk also teaches at a low-residency MFA program.
New Assistant Coach Shaw Arms Men’s Basketball Team For Conquest

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Rob Holloway, who resigned last month for a position at Eastern Illinois, will be replaced by University of Missouri-St. Louis men’s new assistant basketball coach Jesse Shaw. Shaw’s record includes a NJCAA Region VI Coach of the Year award, KBCA Junior College Men’s Coach of the Year award, and several other championship and tournament victories while serving as the head coach at Pratt Community College, an NJCAA Division I junior college in Kansas.

The opportunity presented itself when former UMSL men’s basketball head coach Steve Tappmeyer informed Shaw of the open position at the university.

“Coach Steve Tappmeyer was the previous head basketball coach here before Coach Sundvold. He contacted Coach Sundvold and myself when the position became open. I always wanted to get back to the four-year level, and my wife and I loved the idea of living in a major city. Plus, everyone I talked to about Coach Sundvold said great things about him,” Shaw said.

Waiting no time, Shaw went to the new assistant coach. He already has big plans for the first place he could and signed the contract. He already has big plans for the men’s basketball team here at UMSL. The team last season had a slightly disappointing 12-16 record, which Shaw hopes to turn around and even win the championship. “I’m all about championships and relationships. My goals here are to win conference championships, conference tournament championships, regional championships, and national championships. I also want to make sure every one of our seniors is set up to be successful in their next step in life,” Shaw said.

In what would be Shaw’s final season as head coach at Pratt Community College, the team placed second in a 14-team Jayhawk conference, won a total of 22 games, and finished with the best record in the East Division of the conference. As he says his goodbyes to Pratt, Shaw said he will miss the players, staff, faculty, and people in the community the most.

Still in what he describes as the honeymoon stage, Shaw, his wife Hannah Bell, and daughters, Harmony and Avery, are finding St. Louis great so far. “Our heads are spinning right now! My wife and daughters are excited, and our families are too. Pratt was great, but for some reason I think our families are more excited to visit us in St Louis!” Shaw said.

Shaw said the UMSL men’s basketball team’s first game of the season will be in November. They will start the season with an away exhibition game against SIU Carbondale. Shaw is confident that not only the team can win the opener but also outplay the other teams in the division.

“My initial evaluation of our team is that we have enough talent and depth to win championships. We will obviously have to stay healthy and get lucky. We will also have to be an extremely close group, one that is willing to outwork the other teams in our conference, and completely buy in to coach Sundvold’s system and roles,” Shaw said.

To read more about Coach Shaw, visit umsltritons.com/news/2016/9/13/shaw-joins-mens-basketball-coaching-staff.aspx/ path=mbball.
Family Secrets, Romance Butt Heads in Fine ‘Caroline’

CAROLINE O’CONNOR is fine. Sure, she had to move back to her hometown of Cold River, Missouri, deep in the Ozarks, where she now runs her parents’ run-down bait shop. Sure, she now watches after her mother who has Alzheimer’s and sometimes thinks Caroline is her caregiver, not her daughter. And, sure, she still does not have a boyfriend and people think she is going to marry her childhood friend Court, who does not even like women. No, Caroline is doing just fine. So when Noah Cranwell rolls into town, fresh from a stint in New Jersey and ready to revive the family store, bearing the last name of a local clan which has been ripe with success, and hard work. She pointed out that students have control over two of those things.

“Just Fine With Caroline” is the second novel by local author Anne England Noblin, an alumna of Missouri State University who lives in the Ozarks. The book is “Cold Mountain” wrapped in candy cotton: sweet and light on substance in parts, but still emotionally satisfying at its core. It does not aspire to be the next big thing in Ozark-centric fiction, which is good, because it does not have the reach for it, but it turns an oft-maligned corner of Missouri into a welcoming, heartfelt setting.

Caroline is an interesting character. She fights for agency and independence while her one defining romantic relationship in the entire novel, her on-and-off courtship with Noah Cranwell, seems to take that away. For some reason, the steamier parts of their courting—and it does get a bit explicit at points, more of a hard PG-13 than a soft R, although when they actually do the do, Noblin cuts to the pillow talk—involves Caroline as an active partici- pant but her feelings are not described. In the romance genre, half of the appeal is seeing how the characters feel in the heat of the moment and yet Caroline keeps her feelings locked inside of her, even while telling the story.

Then again, perhaps I am not giving Noblin enough credit in portraying a protagonist who has dealt with

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Clinton and Trump Square Off In First Debate

LIZ WILEY STAFF WRITER

On September 26 at 8 p.m. CST, like many people in America, I tuned in to watch the first Presidential debate for the 2016 election on my local news channel. The following are some highlights from the debate and my response to the answers from the candidates.

The candidates walked on stage after riveting camera footage of the audience clapping for a full 15 minutes. They each began by giving a comprehensive list of why Americans should elect them president in the upcoming election.

The Democratic nominee, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, gave a nice speech about “investing in Americans” and detailed her plans on how to change America’s future into a bright one. She included taxing the wealthy, providing paid leave for employees, building up America’s small businesses, expanding renewable energy efforts, and creating manufacturing jobs as a way to boost the economy in her speech. Then, like the clang of a hammer on an anvil, came Donald Trump.

Trump did not waste any time with subtleties, but then again, what did we expect? He began his persuasive monologue by blaming China and Mexico for stealing American jobs. His comprehensive plan for changing America can be summarized as starting to tax companies that outsource to other countries and deporting of illegal immigrants that are “stealing” American jobs.

One of the highlights of the debate was Trump’s criticism of Clinton’s participation in the NAFTA trade agreement. Clinton responded to this criticism by stating that the agreement was successful in some ways, but not necessarily in the ways in which it was intended to be. Clinton followed up by citing her 26 years of experience in politics, which she claimed has enabled her to know exactly what to do. Trump complained about this by saying that “other people” he knows “do not get audited” and vaguely suggested harassment by the IRS. He also alluded to not paying federal income taxes, which he views as a “smart move.”

When the debate eventually moved onto the topic of racial divide in America, Clinton admitted there was a problem. She said that the answer was to foster trust between communities and law enforcement, to provide police with better training, and to stop a “plague of gun violence” by implementing stricter gun safety laws. She also gave her support for community policing.

Trump also admitted that there was a racial divide, but endorsed “stop and frisk” as a method for fixing these issues. Holt immediately clarified that “stop and frisk” was deemed unconstitutional, T from high school, who live at home or on campus and do not have a spouse or child.

The responsibility actually falls upon the traditional student to make the college experience welcome for adult learners. We are the ones older students interact with on a regular, daily basis. The experience of higher education is often felt like there is enough emotional and psychological support for adult learners as there is technological and academic support, and both kinds of support are crucial during the college experience.

This agist phenomenon seems to be more heavily present at four-year colleges than two-year colleges. The average age of the community-college student tends to be older—one who has a full-time job and/or a family and responsibilities aside from classes. However, for four-year college student bodies tend to bend towards the younger side: 18-to-22-year-olds, many fresh from high school, who live at home or on campus.

Regardless of your political preferences, please watch a rerun of the debate and draw your own conclusions. There are a couple more presidential debates scheduled, so make sure to tune in for those. Most importantly, please go out to vote on November 8 for the next president of the United States.

It Is On Us To Combat Ageism In College

SARAH HAYES A&E EDITOR

Here are the things that people will say if you are an incoming college student, returning or otherwise, over the age of 50. You need help. You need lots of help. You do not know how to surf the internet or send an email. You might not even know how to use a computer. You are probably auditing classes and will drop in two weeks anyway, so why bother talking to you? You are doing this because you have nothing better to do. You are intrinsically less smart than your classmates.

You are out of touch. You will waste the university’s time pursuing a degree you are so old, why are you even here? Are you someone’s parent? You must be the instructor because you’re the oldest person in the room. Your input is invalid. Remember how clueless you

Continued at thecurrent-online.com
Completion of Great Streets Project Marked With Fountain

Continued from page 1

project for ten years, and I think it turned out more beautifully that I ever anticipated. I think the fountain, which is a relocation of a famous historic St. Louis fountain, turned out beautifully and I couldn't be happier,” said Betty Van Uum, Assistant Chancellor for Public Affairs and the Chair of University Square Community Development Corporation.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis Brass Ensemble, directed by Gary Brandes, Teaching Professor of Music, Director of Bands at UMSL, and Chair of the Department of Music, opened the dedication ceremony: The UMSL Brass Ensemble was followed by Van Uum's introductory speech. The Mayor of Normandy, Patrick Green, who also spoke, thanked everyone who attended the ceremony and said that the Great Streets Project is dedicated to the community.

"On behalf of the University Square Committee, I would like to thank the city of Normandy, Missouri Department of Transportation, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Great Rivers Greenway, St. Louis County, East-West Gateway Council of Governments, and North County Inc. for their efforts and their continuous support to improve our city for our community," said Van Uum as she invited all parties involved to come forward.

The project began when Van Uum saw that East-West Gateway had a Great Streets competition in 2006. Out of the 36 applications for street projects, University Square was in the top four. The group held many town hall meetings and updates to keep the community aware of the project and to figure out the cost. University Square was the biggest and most expensive of the projects in the top four. The project took about 10 years to complete.

In 2012, Van Uum was able to convince four of the six commissioners of the project that the street beautification project was a good idea. East-West Gateway was just the first of many partners that needed to be brought on board for the project. These would grow to include the Missouri Department of Transportation, the City of Normandy, Great Rivers Greenway, St. Louis County, and North County Inc.

Van Uum described what she was looking forward to about the newly finished project. Along the road, there are trees that will bloom in the spring. The trees are planted in such a way that the shades are ordered from white to red as one moves closer to the fountain. While the trees were just planted in summer, Van Uum estimates in about two years, those trees will be big and full of color for passersby to admire. Soon after Van Uum's speech, the second Vice Chair of East-West Gateway Council of Governments and St. Louis County executive, Steve Stenger, who is also an UMSL alumnus, was introduced by UMSL Chancellor Tom George.

“I graduated from UMSL in 1993... That was a long time ago and I've seen the city's progress throughout the years... The goal of the St. Louis Great Streets Initiative is not only to move more vehicles faster, but this is also to center our communities around attractive and lively historic streets that serve all means of transportation,” said Stenger.

In lieu of ribbon cutting, Stenger invited everyone to gather around the fountain with super soakers and gush water onto the fountain. The event went on with music at the Fountain Plaza. At 8 p.m., the fountain light show began. Then, for the finale, a torch was lit and carried from Glen Echo Country Club, the site of the 1904 Olympic golf championship, all the way to the plaza, where it was used to light the fountain. The torch light went off twice in an attempt to light the fountain. After their third try, the fountain was successfully lit, to the amusement of attendees. ”I have been living in Normandy for 10 years and I am delighted to see that everyone gathered to celebrate our community. The improvements that they made definitely will give people who live outside our county a different, but a positive outlook,” said Kevin Woods, a Normandy resident.

University Square invites everyone to visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/University-Square-CDC-176146736144744/.

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