UMSL Officially Opens New Science Learning Building

Celebrating the official opening of a new facility, the Science Learning Building, on November 10, the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Arts and Sciences held a ribbon-cutting ceremony, featuring remarks from both faculty and students.

The university first broke ground on the new building, which adjoins the Benton and Stadler buildings on North Campus, on December 9, 2013. Most construction was completed by the summer of 2016, in time for certain summer laboratory classes. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Ronald Yasbin, UMSL Chancellor Thomas George, and students Olivia Rogers, senior, biochemistry and biotechnology, and Stephanie Theiss, senior, biology, expressed their excitement for everyone who will use the facility.

"It makes you feel good just to walk in here," said Chancellor George. He informed the audience of students, faculty, alumni, and investors of the steps involved in financing the building. When a reduction of funds for budgets was announced, but never officially enacted, the university decided to turn the unused funds into capital, via bonds. The new building will cost an estimated $32 million. George indicated that the current state of interest rates and the climate for borrowers made this a wise decision for the university.

The new building, which is comprised of 75,000 square feet covering four floors, includes spaces designed for group study sessions, a solarium, a coffee shop, and labs equipped with the latest technology for chemistry, biology, biochemistry, and biotechnology classes. Its large windows and open floor plan are intended to optimize creativity and socialization. "Every student needs that space on campus where they can feel at home, where they can feel comfortable," said Rogers. "This new building truly gives to our students that home base."

Each lab in the new building follows a module design, encouraging a community atmosphere with open communication, rather than the isolation associated with older lab designs. "The upgraded teaching labs are my new favorite part of the addition," said Theiss. "The benches allow for larger class sizes, and this encourages lab students to enroll each semester." In addition, the building meets the criteria set by the U.S. Green Building Council. Yasbin added that the labs are designed acoustically for instructors’ voices to reach every student in the lab, while smaller lab groups can have discussions without distracting one another.

However, since the opening of the new building, some students have already noticed flaws in its design. One student noted that there are no longer locks on the storage space for individual students’ equipment, for which students are held accountable throughout their use of the labs. Another reported issues with the gas valves used in labs, as they were still connected to the system used in the old Benton and Stadler buildings. "Everyone has their own vacuum, cold water, and air," said Omar Saffaf, junior, biochemistry and pre-med. "And everyone signs for their stuff, but there are no locks."

Yasbin added that many students have commented on the increased quality of light and air in the new building, as well as the increased quality of light and air in the new building, as well as the increased learning environment. "The laboratories are all set up for the modern approach for teaching labs, that is, more interaction," said the dean. "So there’s a lot more student engagement, and it’s not a passive learning experience—it’s an aggressive and active learning experience, and the environment emphasizes that."

Besides the new workspaces, students have full access to brand-new equipment. "There are new microscopes, new models for anatomy classes, new molecular biology equipment, a new ultra-water purification system, new spectrophotometers," said Wendy Olivas, chair of the biology department. She hopes that the new layout and equipment, and all the subsequent possibilities for learning and discovery, will excite students about their laboratory courses.

During the ceremony, the dean spoke about the bigger picture for...Continued on page 3
GAME CORNER

The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents: Problem of the Week

Last week's puzzle:
A standard deck of 52 cards consists of thirteen ranks (2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10, Jack, Queen, King, Ace) each from four suits (Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts, Spades). A five-card poker hand consists of five cards from a standard deck. How many five card hands contain a three of a kind? (A three-of-a-kind consists of three cards of the same rank, with the remaining two cards each of different ranks.). There were no correct guesses. The Correct answer was: $13 \times 4 \times 66 \times 4 \times 4 = 54,912$.

This week's puzzle:
100 passengers are in line to board a plane, and the plane is completely booked. The first person in line realizes he lost his boarding pass so when he boards he decides to take a random seat. Every person that boards the plane after him will either take their assigned seat, or if that seat is taken, they will pick a random seat instead. What is the probability that the last person who boards their plane will sit in their assigned seat?

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

WANNA GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS?

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

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Learn more about student organizations, leadership opportunities, service activities, and more with the Office of Student Involvement umsl.edu/studentinvolvement
Old Newsboys Day and UMSL Share A Tradition

In an age when the news is constantly at one’s fingertips, Old Newsboys Day volunteers handing out newspapers on corners raises nostalgia as well as donations for charities.

According to their website, the Old Newsboys Day mission is “to ensure that children who are at risk in our community, because of abuse or poverty, receive adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care and are provided equal opportunity for social development.”

The event is a charitable project of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and goes back to the days of the old Globe-Democrat newspaper. The first fundraiser was held in 1957. This is the second year that The St. Louis Post-Dispatch is leading the event and the 60th year of the campaign.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has always been an active in the airport…If we could rejuvenate this, because it is for a great art of taking off in flight. This year, the campaign has expanded to the UMSL and Wildwood Community College students. Costello said, “The new Provost at Wildwood is encouraging participation by more of their faculty and students. I am offering a challenge to each school by offering to match up to $500 raised by each school.”

Governor Thomas George has been a volunteer for Old Newsboys Day and hopes participation will grow to help the worthy cause of helping children. Chancellor George said, “One thing I remember was that it was always a rainy, cold day. We would get school groups. I remember one being very active in the airport…If we could rejuvenate this, because it is for a great cause, that would be great.”

Anyone interested in volunteering for Old Newsboys Day is advised to contact Costello at costellom@umsl.edu with his or her name and shift desired. Shifts are from 6 to 8 a.m., 8 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The 6 to 10 a.m. shift will be collecting donations at the entrances to North Campus on Natural Bridge and the afternoon shift will be collecting in the MSC.
NaNoWriMo Takes Off On Campus In 2016

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

As November knells the end of the warm weather at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and brings colorful leaves, chilly evenings, and warm beverages with it, it also brings with it National Novel Writing Month. Known by most as NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month begins on November 1 of every year and motivates aspiring writers to write every day until November 30 in order to complete a 50,000 word novel. This year’s theme is “Your Novel, Your Universe.”

According to their official website, NaNoWriMo offers to help keep writers motivated and creative. The project began in 1999 in order to encourage writers to get their novels out on paper or into a digital file. In 2005, NaNoWriMo became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. In 2015, 431,626 writers participated in the event. This year, the NaNoWriMo press release states that they expect even higher turn-out of about 500,000 people. Though the writing project began nationally, today it is observed by participants all around the globe.

Sarah Hayes, senior, English, and A&E Editor of The Current, completed the NaNoWriMo challenge three times. The first year that she completed NaNoWriMo was in 2009. “As a writer, I thought the idea of writing an entire novel (or at least most of one) in one month was super cool and worth exploring. I had already had a story idea burning inside of me and thought that I thought were good enough to expand into 50k words, so when NaNoWriMo hit, I was ready,” Hayes said.

The 50,000 word goal seems high, but if writers write about 1,667 words per day, they will complete all 50,000 words. Of the 431,626 people who wrote last year, the press release stated that more than 40,000 participants reached this goal.

Hayes said that she wrote about 2,000 words per day to reach 50k words. She said, “When it came to the day to day slog of writing to reach 50k, I just had to set aside time every day for writing and only writing. That usually meant sitting at the computer for hours at a time, typing and drinking coffee and keeping my favorite music playing on loop so I wouldn’t be distracted by ‘new’ sounds. I believe that the unoffi- cially unofficial soundtrack was The Pillows and Fantastic Plastic Machine, 2010 was Lady Gaga and Lonely Island, and 2011 was more of a mixed bag.”

Hayes also said that there are a number of programs which NaNoWriMo offers to help keep writers motivated throughout the month. “The most useful service from the NaNoWriMo website was probably the forums,” Hayes said. “I often found inspiration from what other people were already mulling over. Also, it introduced me to the TSOD - the Traveling Shovel of Death - the plot device that many a NaNoWriMo writer has relied upon to keep the plot moving. The TSOD gets pulled out whenever the plot stalls, and usually means killing a character off, or just blowing something up or having something cataclysmic occur—anything that shakes up the status quo in the manuscript.

NaNoWriMo also offers pep talks to writers in order to spur them on throughout the month. Previous years have included talks by authors such as Gene Luen Yang, John Green, N. K. Jemisin, and Veronica Roth. This year, the line-up includes, Alexander Chee, author of “Edinburgh” and “The Queen of the Night,” Daniel José Older, author of “Half-Resurrection Blues” series, Alaya Dawn Johnson, author of “The Summer Prince” and “Love is the Drug,” Maggie Stiefvater, author of “The Raven Cycle,” series, and Jenny Han, author of “All the Boys I’ve Loved” and “P.S. I Still Love You.”

Hayes agreed that motivation was key to completing NaNoWriMo. She said that connecting with people and turning the process into a game helped her to maintain focus. “It’s staying motivated that seems to kill a lot of aspiring writers, and that’s something I didn’t do alone. I connected with people online via Livejournal and the NaNoWriMo forums, and we would go onto chat rooms and write together. We would ‘sprint,’ which is when one writer nonstop for a limited amount of time and then sees how much words they actually put down. It becomes a competition and also a great motivator, so often people can create chat rooms just for sprinting,” she said.

While Hayes connected with people online, there are also offline spaces where writers can connect and write. Libraries and bookstores can also join in the Come Write In Program in order to build welcoming spaces for local aspiring novelists. The Cliff Cave Branch of the St. Louis County Library, the Grant’s View Branch of the St. Louis County Library, the Indian Trails Branch of the St. Louis County Library, La Salsa Fresh Mexican Grill in Creve Coeur, the St. Louis Country Library at Rock Road in St. Ann, the St. Louis Country Library Jamestown Branches, and the Glenisan, the St. Louis County Library Mid-County Branches have partnered with NaNoWriMo.

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Getting ready to write.

NaNoWriMo highly enough. Just make sure you are surrounded by supportive people and have plenty of snacks,” she said.

“Somehow [I] was able to reach 50k in two weeks while attending community college - so yes, winning NaNoWriMo and going to school full time while also having a part-time job is possible!”

For more information on NaNoWriMo, visit nanowrimo.org.

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Explore Vast Planets in ‘No Man’s Sky’

DANTEL POINDEXTER STAFF WRITER

Space is vast and wide. No matter how long or how far we look, we will never officially discover what these vast number of galaxies have to offer. This is the concept presented in the August 2016 game ‘No Man’s Sky.’ ‘No Man’s Sky,’ an action-adventure video game that relies on your creativity and adaptation skills. The player discovers various planets settled throughout the galaxy through a single ship that must be upgraded, carefully landed when arriving on a new planet, and heavily armed during space combat with enemies. Developed and published by Hello Games and Sony Interactive Entertainment, this indie/contemporary fascination of a game is said to have no end. This possibility could rely on the fact that Hello Games announced that the game itself holds 18 quintillion planets—an obscenely large number. It is hard to question that statement with no end being found. It also explains why its development took so long, Gareth Bourn designed this game for both PlayStation 4 and Windows, allowing a wider audience to take hold of the experience. ‘No Man’s Sky’ won the award for ‘Most Anticipated Game’ as it allows extreme mobility, thorough and realistic data recovery, and pulls the eye in with a vibrant bohemian color scheme, something quite unique for being sci-fi. The functionality and theme of the game can best be compared to ‘Abzu,’ another adventure-based game that is not queued around fighting enemies but discovery, and relies on the beauty of its sceneries and storytelling. However, ‘No Man’s Sky’ is sure of a single story, because there is none to follow. There are no cutscenes or characters but the objective of the game does require you to get to the center of the universe. Easy, right?

Some quirks about the game is that it will often take some real-time effort to travel from one planet to another, depending on how far that planet lies in the galaxy. No, that does not mean you need to wait two years to get to the next planet; just about 15 minutes. Another quirk is that the universe is not stored on your hard disk or your server, which means that once you leave a planet, it gets removed from memory. When you return, it is generated exactly as it was. However, ‘No Man’s Sky’ does also mean that the game will be playable offline. Though these partial details may be tiring and a little annoying for some players, it does illustrate the true realism of traveling, which might appeal to others.

If you are considering playing ‘No Man’s Sky,’ know that it is not entirely a massive multiplayer online game. The sheer size of the universe means that everyone is going to be massively far apart. It is possible yet rare to find another player. You can also choose to name your planet, which means that your discoveries will be recorded in your database. Other things to know: your jetpack is your best friend, planets are defined by their position in space, some planets can be toxic, not all creatures are friendly (as should be expected), and don’t worry, you will always have an available ship.

It is good to mention that this game will perhaps tire you if continuous exploration is not something that appeals to you. Also, some of the game lacks what was promised when it was promoted, like separately unique ships that you can obtain after upgrading or the fact that you can battle with factions. And, although promised, the ability to scan ships was never delivered. As no game is perfect, these are specific aspects you want to keep in consideration as you play—factors that took away from the game. A great suggestion is role-playing, because “No Man’s Sky” is definitely an acquired taste. Though clearly creative and adventurous, this game does still rely on your imagination since there lies no direct missions or quests. Thus, role-playing brings a little more impact to your journey, “No Man’s Sky” is truly about what you want to do.

Five Writing Contests For Students To Enter

MICHELLE REYNOLDS STAFF WRITER

Got a couple story ideas jotted down and want to share them? As William Faulkner once said, “If a story is in you, it has got to come out.” No matter what genre or how long the story is, there are various contests available to help students get their stories out there. Here are five writing contests to help students get published.

1) 2017 Questions Writing Prize. For talented writers ages 18 to 30, the 2017 Questions Writing Prize is looking for you. They are looking for fiction or non-fiction of any topic between 1,500 to 2,000 words. The winner will have their work published in a book and a forthcoming issue of Questions and $2,000. Sweet deal right? If interested, send all submissions electronically in a Microsoft Word document to helens@futureleaders.com by May 1, 2017. For more, visit: littleacornpublishingblog.wordpress.com/2016/10/06/2017-questions-writing-prize- anthology/.

2) St. Martin’s Minotaur/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition. This contest is looking for a story with murder or another serious crime or crimes at the heart of the plot. Stories must be no less than 220 typed pages or approximately 60,000 words. Eligibility is restricted to authors who have never published a novel in any genre and are not under contract with a publisher for publication of a novel (self-published authors are acceptable). All manuscripts must be double-spaced, with pages numbered consecutively from beginning to end. Manuscript Title: “Manuscript Title_Entrant Name” and be submitted as Microsoft Word documents or PDFs. To enter, complete an online entry form and upload an electronic file of your manuscript. Only one manuscript entry per person is permitted and only electronic submissions are accepted. Manuscripts must be uploaded through the online entry form. All submissions must be received by December 12, 2016.

The winner will be offered a publication deal for the submitted manuscript, and after agreement will receive an advance against future royalties of $10,000. The winner will also be recognized at the Edgar Awards Banquet in New York City in April 2017. More information: mysterywriters.org/about-mwa/st-martins/.

3) Room Magazine. Roommagazine.com currently has two contests going: Cover Art Contest and the Short Forms Contest.

Cover Art Contest: Have any visual art? Send in it before November 30, 2016 for a chance to win $500 and publication on the cover. Second place wins $50 and publication in the issue.

The Short Forms Contest: Submit any genre for prose poems, flash fiction, or flash creative non-fiction, as long as it is under 300 words. The winner of the Short Forms Contest will be published in the December 2017 issue of Room Magazine. To submit by January 15, 2017. More information: roommagazine.com/contests.

4) Since ‘The Current’ is the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ newspaper, it only makes sense that the last contest to be mentioned would be Litmag. Litmag is a student-run literary magazine published annually each spring through the English Department here at UMSL. With a campus full of ever-present literary talent, Litmag wants to help promote the creative work coming from UMSL. All UMSL students, faculty, and alumni are welcome to submit up to three works of fiction or non-fiction no longer than 4,000 words or five poems. Litmag is also accepting unlimited submissions of art, including photography, drawing, painting, comics, etc. If interested, please email a copy of your stories and include a detachable cover page with your name, email address, and phone number. Then attach both the story and cover page into an email and send to you at decideand.yourdate@com or place a print copy in the green Litmag box in front of the English Department office. Litmag is accepting submissions from October to February. Everybody can write, but while some are confident about writing, others are not. So, after reading this article and deciding whether or not to enter, here is some advice: do it. As Anne Lamott once said, “Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere.” So why not here?
Tritons’ Volleyball Team Finishes Regular Season

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Tritons of University of the Missouri-St. Louis women’s volleyball team faced three opponents last week in Maryville University, Missouri S&T, and Drury University to close out the regular season before the Great Lake Valley Conference (GLVC) Tournament.

UMSL women’s volleyball team faced off against Maryville University on November 8 with an attendance of 190. The Tritons were successful in defeating Maryville 3-1, extending their winning streak to three games.

Last week, the Tritons played three matches up at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. UMSL was defeated 0-3 against Lindenwood in the night of November 1. But the loss did not discourage the team as their next two games on November 4 and 5 against Southern Indiana and Bellarmine respectively saw the Tritons win each match up 3-0.

In the Tritons’ home finale against Maryville, the Tritons claimed the first set 25-18, dropping the second set 25-23, but then winning the final two sets 25-14 and 25-15 respectively.

Maryville could not catch up in the first set, as UMSL sped into the lead. Maryville’s final point came from an attack error, but by then it was too late. In set two, UMSL and Maryville seemed to play a more competitive match up with no team pulling too far ahead. It was a tough battle that allowed Maryville to claim the second set. At the start of the third set, UMSL came ready to play and finished the set with an 11 point lead. The same could also be said for the final set, as UMSL finished that set with a 10 point lead.

The women of UMSL came to play. During the game Gaylyn Jones, senior, nursing, had double digit kills with 11 plus 12 digs. Madison Abevya, junior, accounting, had 25 assists and 12 digs and Kendall Buchman, freshman, business, had 16 assists and 13 digs. Lexi Rogers, senior, accounting, and Selena Nolte, freshman, biology, tied Jones with 11 kills each. Morgan Childers, freshman, undecided, finished with 10 kills of her own.

UMSL switched focus November 11 as the team traveled to Rolla to face Missouri S&T. A total of 367 people was in attendance to watch the Tritons defeat Missouri S&T 3-1, extending their winning streak to four games.

UMSL also improved their record 17-11, extending their GLVC record to 11-6. The 11th win in the GLVC is the women’s volleyball team’s most since the 2011 team, who currently holds the record of 13.

The Tritons won their first two sets 25-22 and 25-19. It was in the third set that UMSL fell to Missouri S&T 25-23. They however bounced back, winning the final set 25-21.

The Tritons’ only concern in the first set happened early on. After taking a 2-1 lead, UMSL dropped the next five points due to attack errors and kills from the opposing team. After a time out, the team kicked it into another gear to finish out the set on top.

In the second set, with the match 19-16, UMSL pulled ahead by three points, before Missouri S&T could score again. It made little difference, as UMSL won that set six points up. In set three, UMSL and Missouri S&T fought a more evenly matched game. With Missouri S&T leading 24-23, a kill by Missouri S&T allowed them to clinch the third set. In the final set, UMSL faced another more evenly matched set but it was UMSL who secured the final four points to walk away victors.

Kyle Lrudinski, freshman, biology, was UMSL’s kills leader for Friday’s game, with 14 kills. Nolte followed behind her with 12 kills and Jones with 10 kills. Once again UMSL had three players in double digit kills.

Danielle Waecklein, junior, nursing, lead UMSL with 21 digs while Abevya and Buchman totaled 23 assists to help lead the offense. Kristen Uradzienek led the defense with six blocks.

The final game was November 12 and scores will be added on the online edition.

Women’s Soccer Wins Third Match Against Rockhurst

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

First round action of the NCAA Division II Tournament Championship saw the University of Missouri-St. Louis women’s soccer team take on 12th ranked team Rockhurst on the Grand Valley State campus in Allendale, Michigan on Friday. Fans of the women’s soccer team will know this 2016 season the team has yet to beat Rockhurst heading into this match up. The first meeting was on September 23 at the Don Dallas soccer field, while the second meeting was on November 4 in Carroll Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In the first meeting, Rockhurst broke the scoreless game just after the halftime break. Rockhurst took a shot from inside the box after a through ball. In the second meeting just a week before Friday’s game, a shot to the low right 12 yards out was able to get into the goal. UMSL was once again defeated 1-0.

But in this third confrontation UMSL was able to defeat their rivals 1-0, after a long pass from Ally Mines, freshman, elementary education, to Miriam Taylor, senior, accounting, who got past two defenders and took the shot through Rockhurst Hawks’ goalie to the right corner pocket.

Period 1, lasting 45:00, saw UMSL attempt five shots, the first coming from McKayla Harder, sophomore, psychology, at the 2:36 mark. The second and third came from Kristen Crabtree, senior, psychology, and Taylor respectively finished that set with a 10 point lead.

The final game was November 12 and scores will be added on the online edition.
How Taking a “Gap Year” Can Help You Find Focus

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

I remember the college fairs during high school that teachers would hype during my senior year. Teachers and counselors explained that it was important to go to college right after high school, as to not get too lazy or lose the information that we had learned in school. The college fairs would usually be in the high school gym, with hordes of students moving around in a circle visiting each table set up, each manned by one or two admission representatives. Some of the colleges were close and affordable while others were expensive. Some of the colleges were close and affordable while others were expensive. Some of the colleges were close and affordable while others were expensive.

However, that no matter which college I ended up picking, I still had no clue what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

A little over a decade ago in the U.S., Prince William and Prince Harry took planned time off before entering college in the UK.

In 2000, Harvard published an article titled “Time Out or Burn Out for the Next Generation.” In this article, authors William Frasier, Dylan E. McGrath, and Charles Ducey define the gap year as a “time to step back and reflect, to gain perspective on personal values and goals, or to gain needed life experience in a setting separate from and independent of one’s accustomed pressures and expectations.”

A study conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California Los Angeles found that nearly 2.2 percent of entering freshmen in the U.S. class of 2015 took a year off before entering college.

For young adults eager to get college over with, going into college without an idea of what you are majoring in tends to correlate to higher debts in college.

I started college in the year of 2010, with no rest from the taxing four years of hell known as high school. At Florissant Valley Community College I declared myself a graphic design major.

And for the next two years I dedicated myself to art classes, buying sketch pads, charcoal, and erasers. But those classes would not matter, once I decided I was not going to be an artist and wanted to go into business. I decided I was not going to be an artist and wanted to go into business. I decided I was not going to be an artist and wanted to go into business.

Webster University had a better environment than community college. The students seemed more focused on school, and the prospect of passing over math and science classes for alternative classes was enticing enough for me to enroll. I enrolled.

My experience, I decided, was my best investment. I decided my best investment was my best investment. I decided my best investment was my best investment.

Continued on thecurrent-online.com

An Ode to UMSL’s Gender Neutral Bathrooms

ABBY N. VIRIO
CONTRIBUTOR

In the hurricane of bedding-stuffed hampers and ramen-filled suitcases that is move-in day, I dutifully packed a pink shower bag with a plethora of hygiene products—shampoo, conditioner, rubber-ducky-themed washrag, etc. But it was not until I grabbed my towel and headed towards the refuge of a much-needed shower that I first encountered my dorm’s gender neutral bathrooms.

The Villa North living community has two such bathrooms on the third floor—a shower room and a toilet room.

I was startled when, at first glance, I could not find that red or blue stick figure above the bathroom door which had always indicated which tiled room belonged to fellow XX-chromosomers. Instead, this bathroom had a sign that read “Villa North Gender Neutral Showers” atop a happy little shower icon. I was not shocked because of any previous aversion to gender neutral bathrooms I might have had; rather, I was surprised—that especially in a state as conservative as Missouri—this unassuming but progressive symbol had been approved. Today you can even find gender neutral bathrooms elsewhere on campus. Three single-style bathrooms can be found behind the Nosh next to TritonCard. While those bathrooms are not quite the same as a gender neutral toilet, they are not gender neutral toilets as well. The messy stereotype simply does not hold water.

Now, I think I speak for many women when I say we have long assumed that ladies’ rooms are cleaner, fresher, and overall better places to plop a squat. There may be longer lines at high-traffic events for our rose-scented haven, but why would we ever desire to use a men’s room—what with their lack of potpourri and those inedible cakes in their pre-sinks? But I am here to tell you that the gender neutral bathrooms that I share with my male dorm-neighbors are just as clean and just as dirty as any ladies’ room. In fact, in my experience, I have found many more dirty lady-hairs clogged in the shower drain than any of the boys’. The messy stereotype simply does not hold water.

But what about safety, you may be asking. True, the bathrooms I share are not quite the same as a gender neutral toilet. But would you assume that a lady or a gender neutral toilet would be in a cafeteria. Aside from my hallmates’ guests, I know everyone who uses those bathrooms. However, I would point out that according to RAINN, only 20 percent of sexual assaults are committed by strangers. The other 80 percent are committed by people known to the victim, making our restrooms hypothetically more dangerous. Yet I feel completely comfortable.

It is funny that what was undoubtedly a money-saving move by ResLife is something I am so proud of my university for doing. It is so nice to know that my dorm is more efficient, inclusive, and welcoming to people of all gender identities through this one simple act. Are there drawbacks? Sure. The discreet boxes for feminine hygiene products are markedly missing from our bathrooms. And yes, I can now take a shower or use a toilette experience, you may require our bathrooms. If you have a cultural or religious prerogative for a more private toilette experience, you may require our bathrooms. If you have a cultural or religious prerogative for a more private toilette experience, you may require our bathrooms. If you have a cultural or religious prerogative for a more private toilette experience, you may require our bathrooms. If you have a cultural or religious prerogative for a more private toilette experience, you may require our bathrooms. If you have a cultural or religious prerogative for a more private toilette experience, you may require our bathrooms.

For those with ideals of what this nation should be, who are at odds with the vision of the President-elect, there is no more reason to give up on those ideals than today there was a week or more ago. With Republicans in charge of the presidency and both houses of Congress, as well as every statewide office in Missouri and the Missouri General Assembly, whatever happens going forward is the result of one-party rule. Americans have come to have faith in checks and balances, and midterms elections have traditionally resulted in losses for the political party to which the President belongs. Voters in 2018 will be faced with a simple question. Where is the check on President Trump?

On Trump’s Election: Don’t Despair, Don’t Give Up

KAT RIDDLE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For the majority of Americans who voted for Hillary Clinton last Tuesday, the wee hours of Wednesday morning were devastating. Friends and co-workers walked around in shock and mourning. Others took to the streets in major urban areas to voice their anger. Many in the Hispanic, Asian, American, LGBTQ+, Muslim, and Millennial communities fear for their future. Those concerned with women’s rights, economic justice, fighting poverty, health-care, pollution, and climate change were devastated to see their country moving away from addressing these issues.

Now is not the time to mourn the loss of your country, but to fight for it. Many people took to news outlets and social media in the days following the election to urge that people accept the results, wish the President-elect well, and respect the office of President.

The first of these we must do. The peaceful transition of power in our nation is not just a tradition, but the warp that keeps the threads of our nation and union together. Unravel that, and we sink into the civil chaos that curses so many other nations.

The second depends on your interpretation of wishing Donald Trump well. If that means we wish he does not get us into World War III, then yes, we wish him well in that. But it does not mean we have to wish him well in accomplishing those policy initiatives with which we strongly disagree. We can be the loyal opposition...loyal to our country, but opposed to the actions of our elected leaders. We did not choose a king.

John Adams and others had proposed that the President of the United States be addressed with your “Highness” or “Majesty” as had been the form of address for monarchs. This was not because he wanted a king, but because he wanted to strengthen the executive branch. Thomas Jefferson called it the most ridiculous thing he had ever heard. James Madison finally proposed, and got George Washington to accept, the title of “Mr. President” which we use to this day.

Respect is not a right; it must be earned. The office is not the person occupying that office. Respect for the office would extend to not trying to show the President during a State of the Union Address by calling him a liar as one Republican Congressman so infamously did to President Obama. That is the common form of respect we extend to anyone and it is not somehow a hoopier respect. We can and must separate the man from the office. With half ideals of what this nation should be, who are at odds with the vision of the President-elect, there is no more reason to give up on those ideals than today there was a week or more ago.

For those with ideals of what this nation should be, who are at odds with the vision of the President-elect, there is no more reason to give up on those ideals than today there was a week or more ago. With Republicans in charge of the presidency and both houses of Congress, as well as every statewide office in Missouri and the Missouri General Assembly, whatever happens going forward is the result of one-party rule. Americans have come to have faith in checks and balances, and midterms elections have traditionally resulted in losses for the political party to which the President belongs. Voters in 2018 will be faced with a simple question. Where is the check on President Trump?
George Takei Speaks Out on the Importance of Activism

#LoveStillTrumpsHate Rally at Washington University

LEAH JONES FEATURES EDITOR

As hate crimes proliferate across the United States in the wake of the election of Donald Trump, many Clinton supporters and Anti-Trump activists from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and St. Louis community at large mourned, shared their emotions and experiences, and protested the results of the election on November 11 at Washington University’s Danforth Center on Mudd Field.

Members of the Washington University and Saint Louis University community organized the peaceful rally, which was part of a national movement called #LoveStillTrumpsHate. According to the event’s Facebook page, Liz Doyan, Craig Yugawa, Joy Kudia, and Aron Elizabeth hosted the event. Other cities across the United States, including Boston and New York City held sister rallies using the same hashtag, which was taken from Hillary Clinton’s final campaign speech in Raleigh, North Carolina on Monday night.

According to the event’s Facebook page, #LoveStillTrumpsHate was “a space in which to speak, some aloud, others in their heads.” The event was organized to “offer a platform for the communities targeted by Trump’s racism, sexism, homophobia, anti-Muslim, and ableist rhetoric. On the event’s Facebook page, they stated that they hoped to “Let marginalized communities know that we all will continue to support them and love them. Spread love and peace through the country, and help start the movement #LoveStillTrumpsHate.”

Activists milled through Mudd Field carrying various signs advocating for different marginalized groups. One such sign read, “Nasty Women Fight For Their Rights,” referring to Trump’s accusation that Clinton was a “nasty woman.” Others sported rainbows in support of the LGBQT+ community.

The event featured a diverse group of speakers from around St. Louis. Kat Scott, a film and gender studies major at Webster University, read her poem about gender neutral bathrooms. “I encourage everyone to protect the safe spaces of love,” she said.

Other speakers called people to action and to protest the president-elect. Attendees participated in rounds of chanting phrases such as “I believe that we will win.”

Sarah Watson, a second-year law student at Washington University, concluded the formal events of the evening by reading Maya Angelou’s “Still I Rise.” “It is a poem that has given me inspiration in many ways,” she said.

Watson’s voice rang out over the crowd as she read Angelou’s poignant words. “You may shoot me with your words, You may cut me with your eyes, You may kill me with your hatefulness. But still, like air, I’ll rise,” she recited.

Watson also said, “I am also here to say that we are not backing down. Even though we will not perpetuate hate, we will not accept it either…So, to president Trump, I say, ‘It ain’t over’.”

Watson finished speaking at 5:45 p.m., but since the event sought to provide marginalized voices with a place to be heard, many informal speakers took the podium and spoke after the event concluded.

While the rally gave a marginalized voices a space in which to speak, some believed that this was not enough. UMSL MFA student Jessie Eikmann said, “In my humble opinion, the rally didn’t give me anything constructive in terms of what our next steps should be in the wake of Republican tyranny. I was expecting a lot of organizations to show up and say, ‘These are the things on our agenda and here’s how we might go about advocating for these things.’ But mostly it was just students and community members wanting to sing ‘We shall come overcome together and community members wanting to sing ‘We shall come overcome together before the onslaught.’ I think that what I got out of it is a reminder that we have to do throw ourselves into grassroots activism and no one can afford to sit on the sidelines anymore. We need all the foot soldiers we can get.”

Other rallies and events are planned at various venues across St. Louis in the upcoming week. A peaceful march in downtown St. Louis on Sunday at Citygarden was planned for 2 p.m. To view the event Facebook page, visit, facebook.com/events/654077684766777. To read Maya Angelou’s “Still I Rise,” visit, poets.org/poetorg/poem/still-i-rise.