

1-17-2017

Current, January 17, 2017

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The Current

Vol. 50
Issue 1519
January 17, 2017

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

UMSL Students Celebrate MLK Day with Community Service Across St. Louis Area

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

AS WOMEN and allies around the country prepare to march in the tradition of the civil rights, students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis prepared to celebrate civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with the ninth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (MLK DOS).

After legislation made King's birthday a federal holiday in 1983, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service in 1994. Hosted by the UMSL Students of Service (SOS), UMSL's MLK DOS event featured 12 volunteer sites with 212 volunteer slots.

"The goal is really to go out and serve those who are serving the community on a regular basis; a lot of non-profits and organizations. They are short-staffed and not able to execute everything they need to do to operate at full capacity and so our priority is to serve those who are serving and fulfilling a need," said Ashlee Roberts, assistant director in the Office of Student Involvement and advisor for the UMSL SOS. "Our driving question [when selecting service sites] is 'Would this project be able to be completed without volunteers?'"

Students helped a range of St. Louis residents including young children and adolescents, seniors,



Martin Luther King Jr. waves to the crowds in Washington D.C.

COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

people with disabilities, and local gardeners. Volunteers at both EarthDance Farm School and Gateway Greening helped prepare the organizations for the upcoming spring growing season. Volunteers at Community Living, Inc., the St. Ann Early Childhood Center, St. Ann Catholic School, Mosaic Community Center, the Pine Lawn senior home, and the Ferguson Youth Initiative helped to spruce up the buildings by organizing, painting,

cleaning, assembling furniture, and completing light building projects. Students who volunteered at Junior Achievers of Greater St. Louis, Inc. helped make program kits to help prepare the junior achievers for life after school, while volunteers at Pathways to Independence worked directly with residents with certain disabilities in a counter top cooking class. St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center volunteers put on an educational program for residents

at the facility.

Roberts emphasized that the service that the volunteers completed benefited the organizations and fulfilled the needs of those organizations. "We want to make sure that we are going into organizations accommodating their actual needs and not having them accommodate how we want to volunteer. It's important for students to recognize that when you are helping and serv-

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Women and Allies Prepare to March on St. Louis

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

AS PRESIDENT Barack Obama gave his farewell speech in Chicago on January 10, St. Louis women and allies prepare to hold a march and rally to bring the incoming administration's awareness to the rights of women and other marginalized groups on January 21 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The march, held the day after the inauguration of president-elect Donald Trump, will coincide with the Women's March on Washington, which has spurred similar marches across the nation and in 28 other countries at the writing of this article.

The Women's March on St. Louis will begin at Union Station on Market Street near 18th Street and the marchers will then proceed past the Federal Courthouse and end at Luther Ely Smith Square Park at 20 N 4th Street, where a rally will be held at 10 a.m. The rally is expected to last 30 to 45 minutes and will feature five speakers. After the rally, people can attend the

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Gallery Visio to Reopen With New Exhibits This Semester

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

GALLERY VISIO, the University of Missouri-St. Louis's art gallery located on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center, will reopen this semester featuring three planned exhibitions. The gallery was closed for the entirety of the fall semester due to budget cuts that led to the laying off of the gallery's former director.

Exhibitions for Gallery Visio this semester will include works from UMSL professor of art Dan Younger from January 19 to February 18 and works from UMSL assistant teaching professor of studio art Michael Behle from March 2 to April 8. An International Photo Contest exhibition will take place

for two weeks in late April.

"The program's going to be different in that the exhibitions will come in and go probably more quickly than they did previously," said Terry Suhre, affiliate associate professor and the director of Gallery 210, as there are plans to potentially showcase other forms of art inside Gallery Visio in partnership with the MSC.

Miriam Rocca, assistant dean of students, further elaborated, "In planning with Terry Suhre and Dr. Maureen Quigley, Chair of the Art Department, we do hope that Gallery Visio will become a space in the MSC that celebrates the arts in all forms. We hope that programs and activities that showcase student talent in areas like music, poetry, or crafting might be hosted in the

space down the road as well."

The gallery was previously operated by Stuart Shadwell, an UMSL alumnus, from November 2014 until his layoff last summer. Suhre said that Shadwell's layoff led to the gallery being closed for the fall.

"That really caught us unaware that this was going to happen to Stuart. So we really had to scramble to try and pull it together. And we just couldn't get anything for the fall. There was just no way to put it together. It happened so suddenly," said Suhre.

He continued, "I think that the whole university has taken some cuts and some hits ... and we really have to be good stewards of the monies we have. So tough calls have to be made. It was disappointing to



A bird chirps in Gallery Visio.

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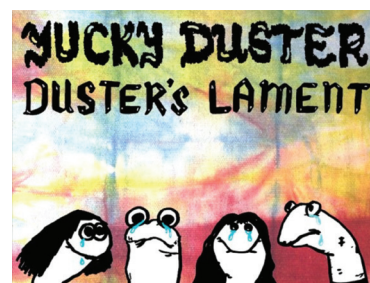
see Stewart go because he was doing a great job programming over there."

The gallery will be tentatively
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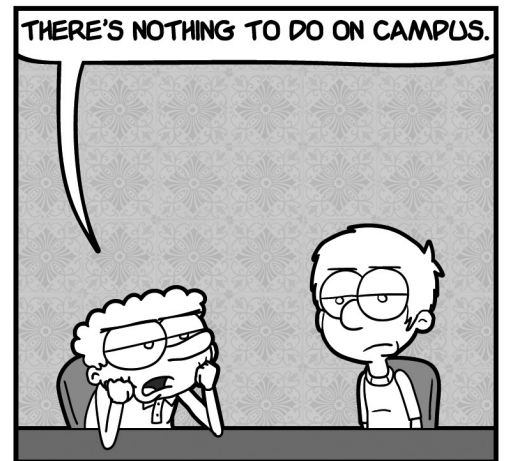
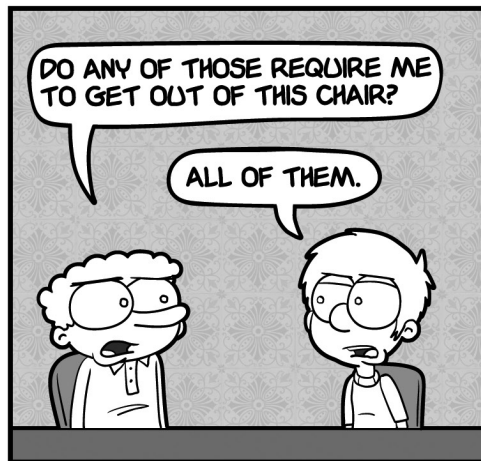
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ON THE QUAD BY MIKE DILBERTO

WEDNESDAY
JAN. 18
11am-1:30pm

WINTER EXPO

Come and see what organizations are out there to join and learn more about departments and offices around campus. Sponsored by Office of Student Involvement.
MSC, 2ND FLOOR ROTUNDA

To our readers:

Dear readers,

You've likely noticed *The Current's* new look. There were several reasons behind the redesign, but perhaps the most exciting reason is to kick off the next fifty years of publication. Some changes include new type-faces, additional columns (from four columns to a flexible five), and little tweaks like column rules.

More importantly, we're planning on exploring design as more than just pretty-looking pages. Rather, it will become an editorial tool, with more interplay between text and graphics and the news they convey. To that end, *The Current* is in search of designers and illustrators who can lend a hand in visualizing the articles printed on these pages. If you think you would be a good fit—or if you know someone else who would—please get in touch, and we'll bring you aboard.

One final note: the redesign is not quite finalized. We'll be ironing out the kinks over the next few weeks. If you have any thoughts at all on the redesign (positive or otherwise), please send them my way at gvcn2@umsl.edu. Thanks, and wish us luck as we continue to serve you as your student newspaper.

Giuseppe Vitellaro
Design Editor

Kristin Sobolik Named New Provost



Kristin Sobolik.

COURTESY OF UMSL

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of Missouri–St. Louis has named Kristin Sobolik, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Wright State University, its next provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. Sobolik will officially begin her new position on June 1.

Sobolik holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Iowa and a master's and doctoral

degree in anthropology from Texas A&M University. She became dean of Wright State in 2013 after spending 20 years at the University of Maine where she started as an assistant professor of anthropology and eventually advanced from department chair to dean.

Sobolik's salary will be \$260,000 in her new position.

Glen Cope, who served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UMSL since 2004, retired in June.

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UMSL Students Can Destress and Relax at MSC's Whole U



an open space to work on the
WHOLE U

Whole U's opening announcement.

COURTESY OF THE RWC

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DO YOU need some space to relax, re-energize, and focus on you at the University of Missouri-St. Louis? There will soon be such a place in the storefront next to the Triton Store in the Millennium Student Center. The space, which will be dedicated to serve the well-being of students, will be called Whole U.

Assistant Director of the Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) Secily Adams explained, "The main purpose of the Whole U is to provide an open space for students, faculty, and staff to incorporate all aspects of the wellness into their daily life. This will be done mostly through programming and collaboration with many university offices."

Whole U will open January 17 at 10 a.m., and their grand opening will be February 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The space will be stocked with adult coloring books, puzzles, Legos, and other activities to destress and relax as well as cots for those who need to nap. There will also be programs taking place in the space. Adams said, "Some activities to highlight are Chair Yoga happening on Tuesdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Arty Party, and Motivational Card Making."

The Millennium Student Center has been the epicenter of student services and mimics a mall space where students can get a variety of services in one area. When the Triton Store made renovations and the extra space became available, the next question was what will go in that space. Since the MSC was built with tax exempt bonds, this re-

stricted the building from exceeding a certain percentage of its space being contracted out to for-profit entities. This led to a different way of thinking about how to fill the space, since the university would have to operate whatever was put there. There were many suggestions for potential amenities sent to Miriam Rocca, assistant dean of students. Rocca said, "What we determined that [missing amenity] to be was to focus on the holistic betterment of the students. That was a general space that was missing."

Rocca explained, "We know that wellness isn't only about working out and it's not only about what's provided in health services. There is a lot of space in between that."

The Whole U will be run and staffed by the RWC. Certain programs like yoga will have certified instructors there. Whole U will be open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The time may change based on how and when the space is used this semester.

Adams said, "I am looking forward to engaging more of UMSL's campus in health and wellness activities that they might not be doing already. Many vpeople only think of the physical part of their wellness but there are many other areas of wellness we should be focusing on. This space will allow that to happen."

Rocca said, "We see a lot of potential good partnerships with folks on campus who may be doing things already but this will help bring greater visibility to some of the things we already have."

Gallery Visio to Reopen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

open Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. when exhibitions are on display. Although it remains to be seen who will staff the gallery during its hours of operation, Rocca said, "It is also our hope that the gallery will be predominantly student run, showcasing student art in a space that is accessible and visible while providing an opportunity for continued learning for UMSL students."

This will not be the first time that the gallery takes a student-centered focus. The idea of Gallery Visio was originally spearheaded by the Gallery Visio Student Association. According to Gallery Visio's website, "The Gallery Visio Student Association was organized at the University of Missouri-St. Louis by a group of fine arts, anthropology, photography, and graphic design students who saw the need for an alternative venue to showcase student works and abilities on campus." The association became recognized by the Student Government Association in 2001. Gallery Visio had its first exhibition and opening reception in February 2002.

Suhre said, "On the other hand, this sort of does take the gallery back to its original intent when it was founded. ... It was really to be operated for and by students. ... It kind of evolved into what I like to call a professional space. And now I think it's going back to ... more or less its original purpose."

Another recent installation of artwork in the MSC was the addition of several pieces that now hang on the walls of the third floor near the Office of Student Involvement. The works were created by late UMSL alumna Leatrice Shank, who took studio art classes at the university in her later years, but passed away in 2013. An exhibition featuring Shank's artwork ran in Gallery



Pieces from a Gallery Visio exhibition.

THE CURRENT ARCHIVES

Visio from December 2015 to January 2016.

Julie Dunn-Morton, Mercantile Library Endowed Curator of Fine Arts Collections, said that a few of Shank's paintings had already been owned by the university after being purchased many years ago. The university obtained the rest of the paintings when Shank's family contacted Shadwell about running an exhibition of her work and ultimately decided to donate them to the university.

Shank's artwork became part of Exhibits and Collections, which consists of pieces that are owned by the university but are not part of the Mercantile Library Collection.

Dunn-Morton explained, "Basically the point of the university collections is that people generously give us paintings. We have quite an eclectic collection. And so it doesn't do any good to have it sitting in storage. It's better off to have it out in a hall or a lobby or a conference room where people can enjoy it."

The MSC is not the only location where artwork and exhibitions can be found this semester. Gallery 210, UMSL's other art gallery located near the North Metrolink Sta-

tion, will see its 45th anniversary this semester.

Gallery 210's first exhibition this year will be a semester-long featured program called "Taking It to the Streets." It will feature works from 12 different artists addressing identity, social justice, place, environment, and family. The exhibition will focus on contemporary urban experiences of interest to the communities of North St. Louis County, North St. Louis City, and all of Metro St. Louis.

An opening reception for the artists whose works will be on display in Gallery 210 will be held on January 28. The reception will begin with a panel discussion moderated by De Andrea Nichols at 4 p.m. and will be followed by a public reception until 7 p.m.

Two other exhibitions are also being showcased in the Mercantile Library, located downstairs in the Thomas Jefferson Library. Currently on display are "The Nature of Light," a retrospective exhibit featuring photographs by Heidi Sherman, and "Audubon and Beyond," a collection of natural history exhibits. Both exhibitions will run until June.

Campus Crime Report, 1/1-11

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

THE FOLLOWING is a series of daily crime and incident reports issued by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department between January 1 and January 11.

January 1 to January 3: No incidents were reported on these dates.

January 4: UMSL PD verified a sex offender registration. At 7:11 p.m. UMSL PD assisted Normandy Police on a suspicious person call at Mansion Hill Apartments. At 9:19

p.m. an UMSL student was transported from Stadler Hall to the hospital after experiencing chest pains.

January 5 to January 6: No incidents were reported on these dates.

January 7: At 5:27 p.m. an informational report was taken by UMSL PD after an officer on patrol at Clark Hall discovered a broken water pipe.

January 8: At 11:42 p.m. an UMSL student at Mansion Hill reported a reckless driver to UMSL PD.

January 9: At 12 p.m. a coin box was discovered stolen from a copier

at the Millennium Student Center. At 8 p.m. a student at Mansion Hill was transported to the hospital after requesting assistance.

January 10: At 9 a.m. a student at the Thomas Jefferson Library reported a lost student ID. At 3:50 p.m. UMSL PD responded to a peace disturbance call regarding an irate student upset about a power outage.

January 11: At 3:50 p.m. an individual unaffiliated with the university suffered an apparent overdose at Parking Lot U and was transported to the hospital.



UMSL Adopts Canvas as New LMS in 2017

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

AFTER a semester of deliberation over the learning management system (LMS) of the University of Missouri - St. Louis, the decision was made to adopt Instructure Canvas as the new LMS. The UMSL community was notified of the university's decision in a campus-wide email from Chris Spilling, Interim

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, on December 20.

Spilling said, "More details about the transition to Canvas are coming soon. The Faculty Resource Center and [the] Center for Teaching and Learning will offer opportunities for faculty and staff to manage the transition during the 2017 calendar year. Opportunities to help students make the transition are being developed as well."

He stated that UMSL faculty, staff, and students would have access to Canvas beginning January 1. However, most courses will migrate to Canvas in summer and fall of 2017. The full migration process will be complete around Spring of 2018. UMSL's current LMS is Blackboard, also known as MyGateway. The university's contract with Blackboard ended in December.

During the fall semester, the

campus community was invited to attend vendor demonstrations of both Blackboard and Canvas. Surveys and open forum discussions were also available to gather input from students, faculty, and staff.

According to Spilling, committees from the Faculty Senate, University Assembly, and Student Government Association, the Provost's Council and staff from Information Technology Services and the Cen-

ter for Teaching and Learning used the input gathered to offer assessments of each product and recommendations for the best LMS for the campus.

Some of Canvas' features 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.

4 Back to Back Losses for the Tritons at Lewis University

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

THE LEWIS University Flyers pulled off two victories, just narrowly defeating the visiting University of Missouri-St. Louis men's and women's Tritons, in match-ups in the Neil Carey Arena, Thursday January 12.

The women Tritons lost by just two points, while the men fell short by three points.

The ladies played the first match-up of the night. The Flyers, the No.19 ranked team in Great Lake Valley Conference (GLVC), ended the first quarter with a 14-10 lead. In the second quarter, the Flyers were able to get rid of the Triton's 32-31 lead by making a two point shot with just six seconds remaining.

The Flyers started off strong in the third quarter, giving them their biggest lead of the game at 6:11 mark at 45-34. But the Tritons were able to close the gap and even take the lead, leading into the final 10 minutes of the game, with a 55-53 score.

At 5:12 the game was tied by Sammie Sproul, junior, business, making it a 60-60 point game. However, two free throws by the Flyers helped them to gain the lead at 68-65 with 37 seconds remaining.

With the assist from Jordan Fletcher, junior, business marketing, Shawnta Johnson, junior, communications, put away a three-pointer to tie the game with only 6.4 seconds left. However,



Junior Steven Davis in Thursday night game against Lewis University.

COURTESY OF UMSL ATHLETICS

the host scored the game-winning point three seconds later to avoid the defeat by the Tritons. The Flyers won 70-68.

Laura Szorenyi, sophomore, communications, scored 20 points, while Fletcher scored 19 points. Johnson and Robneisha Lee, senior, liberal studies, each picked up six rebounds, while Lee also had four assists and two steals.

As of Thursday night the lady Tritons hold the record of 7-6, 2-3 GLVC.

Following the women's match-up, the men Tritons began the first half also losing the lead to Lewis 32-29. The Flyers held an early lead in the game, with a score of 16-9 seven minutes into the game. UMSL mounted a comeback at 2:23, with a one point lead and a score of 26-25. However, it wasn't enough to secure the lead going into the second half.

In the second half, the Flyers extended their lead to 42-34 at three and a half minutes in. Suddenly, two three-pointers by Steven Davis, junior, business management knocked away UMSL's deficit to 42-40. But the Flyers retaliated with eight unanswered shots and their advantage went into double digits.

UMSL continued to attempt to close the gap with a score of 67-64 with 2:15 to play. Even three three-pointers in the final 80 seconds by Davis couldn't get the win though, as the Flyers got the victory 76-73.

Davis and Hunter Reine, senior, criminal justice, both scored a total of 18 points, while Reine tallied seven rebounds. Elijah Watson, junior, accounting, also reached double digits with 11 points and six assists.

As of Thursday night the men Tritons hold the record of 8-8, 2-4 GLVC.

Q&A with Senior Fernando Robledo

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

FROM MADRID, Spain, Fernando Robledo, senior, international business has been a member of the UMSL men's swim team since the start of the program in fall 2014. With this being his final season with the team, The Current sat down with Robledo for a Q&A.

The Current (TC): Why did you choose the University of Missouri-St. Louis?

Robledo: Coach Tomas [Kuzvard] gave me a good opportunity and scholarship to come here, which none of the other universities would provide me. Also his character and his attitude [made me want to come here]. He showed interest in me, which also pushed me to come here.

TC: How did you begin swimming?

Robledo: Well I've been swimming since I was three or four. But at the age of eight years old I started going to swim lessons and I kind of had an advantage over everyone in my classes, swimming faster than everyone. The same place that offered swimming lessons also had a swim team and suggested I join. That's where I started competing and getting seriously involved.

TC: Did you automatically fall in love with swimming or did you learn to love it in time?

Robledo: I mean swimming definitely is a sport that you have to love and put dedication in[to] because it's a lot of sacrifice. It requires a lot of practice; maybe two to three times a day. If you don't love it, then it's definitely going to be hell for you. I like it because it's different from other sports. It takes place in a different environment. You have to make your body used to something it's not used to doing; moving in the water, being fast in the water. Some days its hell, especially when you have to wake up at 6 am and its 10 degrees outside and your like 'No, I don't want to get in the water.' For me this last season, this will be my last time competing this way, and training this way. I'm going through every moment and value all those moments with my friends and my coaches.

TC: What has been the biggest challenge you've faced this season?

Robledo: Coming back from my shoulder problems. I've had different surgeries; I've had knee surgery, and I've had shoulder surgery. Over the last three years, I've been struggling more with my shoulders. I had to spend more time doing therapy in the beginning of the season than actually swimming.

TC: Do you have any personal goals or achievements you hope to accomplish the rest of the season?



Senior Fernando Robledo

COURTESY OF UMSL ATHLETICS

Robledo: In the beginning, my goals were to classify for nationals. But because I had my injury in the beginning of the season, my goals have narrowed down to doing my best, [and] getting the best times [that] I can. Now that I'm feeling better, I can still try to qualify for nationals. It's important. It's what I [have] wanted to do since I got here.

TC: You are an international business major. What are your plans after you graduate with your degree?

Robledo: That's a hard question. I've been asking myself that question these last few weeks. Honestly, I don't know. In Spain, I studied architecture and when I came here I started in civil engineering. But they told me the degree was going to take five years and I wasn't going to get any of the credit from Spain. I would've had to fit five years into the three years that I had here, which was impossible to do.

TC: How have you been able to balance academics and athletics?

Robledo: I have to say it's complicated sometimes. You need a time management. But here at UMSL, it makes it easier to pursue both.

TC: What do you do in your free time when you're not competing, training or in class?

Robledo: I have such a busy schedule, I can't really tell you. When I go home and I'm with my girlfriend, we watch movies, [and] go out to restaurants. I'm a very active person, so I like to do other activities: climbing, biking, and surfing. Here [there] is just studying with no time for anything else.

TC: How has support from the university been at swim meets?

Robledo: I would say it's not as strong as other sports here at UMSL, basically because we have been here [for] less time than other sports. But I would say people have become more aware of our program. At the beginning, I was asked 'UMSL has a swim team? I didn't know that.'

THE OFFICIAL ATHLETIC SITE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ST. LOUIS TRITONS

SPORTS INSIDE ATHLETICS FANZONE FACILITIES RECRUITS SEARCH

RANGERS RALLY BACK IN FOURTH TO STUN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL IN 73-70 LOSS

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Thursday, 1/19	7:30 p.m.	Men's Basketball	vs Quincy	Home
Saturday, 1/21	1:00 p.m.	Women's Basketball	vs Truman	Home
Saturday, 1/21	3:00 p.m.	Men's Basketball	vs Truman	Home

CNN May Not Be “Fake News,” But It’s Not Real News, Either

NATHAN WATSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

ONCE UPON a time, the story goes, the major news organizations—think CNN, MSNBC, The New York Times—played the role of the “gatekeeper,” filtering out news content that was misleading or flat-out wrong before it could reach the eyes and ears of a gullible American public. Then came the rise of the internet, and with it digital news content whose accuracy and legitimacy could no longer be guaranteed. We now, apparently, call this “fake news.”

Among the outlets for fake news is BuzzFeed, the go-to source for listicles—articles often comprised

Once you have cleared the way for passion and partisanship to rule over reason and deliberation, you have already diminished the chances of your audience acting as responsible consumers of news information.

entirely of headers, photos, and gifs—and clickbait, whose sole function is to generate advertisement revenue. Although they had mostly pursued their business-model independently of the scrutiny of the mainstream media and political figures, they apparently overstepped their boundaries when, last Tuesday, they published dozens of pages of uncorroborated and demeaning information from a dossier pertaining to President-elect Donald Trump. Unsurprisingly, Trump mounted a counter-attack, taking to Twitter to call BuzzFeed what it is: a pile of garbage.

Fast forward a day to Trump’s first press-conference as president-elect. When asked by CNN reporter Jim Acosta to field a question, Trump refused to do so, calling CNN “terrible” and saying “you are fake news.” Predictably, Trump’s dismissal of a CNN reporter was met with much disdain, with the most extreme criticisms predicting that it represents the start of a fascist suppression of free press. More moderate responses have pointed out that Trump may have been misinformed or confused by his press secretary’s previous conflation of BuzzFeed’s decision to publish the dossier with CNN’s accurate reporting of its existence. As CNN’s Senior White House Corre-

controversy. Regardless of whether it explains Trump’s dislike for the network, CNN has in fact done much to blur the line between real news and “journalistic” entertainment. This is no more evident than in its role during the presidential elections.

Don’t believe me? Go back through some of CNN’s television and internet advertisements (they’re available on Youtube) for the presidential debates. One of my “favorites” (read: one of the most repulsive), is a 30-second clip that more closely resembles a preview for a Michael Bay movie. “Trump. Clinton.” the narrator dramatically begins over a background of special effects and super-hero close-ups. “It’s all been leading up to this.” Really? Nothing like prepping an audience to think critically about important issues by inducing “edge of your seat” suspense about which candidate will be the superhero and which the supervillain.

This is perhaps one of the less pernicious of the network’s attempts to sensationalize politics, however. More troublingly, the genuine issues in each of the past three presidential elections were inevitably altered by the deliberate construction of compellingly dramatic and emotion-manipulating narratives—narratives that are more at home on reality television than in political campaigning.

Make no mistake about it, Trump did run a campaign of dema-

gogery and gave CNN much in the way of material to work with. Yet, so did Clinton and, for that matter, Obama. Still don’t believe me?



troduces the first performer presidential candidate Hillary Clinton against a background of applause and a DJ air horn—yes, an air horn!

Clinton enters the stage, embraces her pal “Jay” (as she calls him), and affirms the previously crafted narrative. And thus, it all comes together as a perfect example of both a major news organization performing irresponsibly, and a presidential nominee taking advantage of an unreasonable voter-base. As for the former, I would not call anything about it “real” news. Nor can I blame Trump for lumping it in the same category as BuzzFeed.

Keep that Youtube tab open and do a search for “Beyoncé, Jay-Z, and Clinton.” Thanks to the cynicism of the Clinton campaign and the complicity of the major news networks, voters were unashamedly “informed” of Clinton’s narrative role in the election by none other than Beyoncé and Jay-Z, and in the wonderfully appropriate venue of a concert. Thankfully, the clip is still up on CNN’s Youtube channel. In it, Beyoncé and Jay-Z address the audience, outlining why the policies of Clinton would have been more conducive to the welfare of the citizens of the United States . . . just kidding, it actually goes something like this: Beyoncé tells the audience that, just as anybody who cared about black people ought to have voted for Obama, anybody who cares about women ought to vote for Clinton. The crowd cheers. Then Jay-Z in-

The problem is, once you have so cynically appealed to the public’s basest desires for entertainment and drama, you no longer have to report half-truths or lies to irresponsibly sway public opinion. The job has already been done. Once you have cleared the way for passion and partisanship to rule over reason and deliberation, you have already diminished the chances of your audience acting as responsible consumers of news information. And this, after all, is exactly what has caused the rise of fake news. The ad-revenue generated by enthusiastic sharing of digital content is exactly what generators of fake news are after. So sure, CNN—you may not report false information as egregiously as BuzzFeed, but you nonetheless kindled a fire under a “failing pile of garbage” all election season.

International Rationale: Culture Shock and Finding a Home at UMSL

VICTORIA BAUER
SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

WHEN I decided to leave Argentina and go to graduate school in the United States, I had already spent a full year immersing myself in American culture. As is the case with many foreigners, I experienced culture shock. I protested the small stuff, like the abundance of stop signs throughout the city; I was surprised by the cultural diversity; I adapted to a new eating schedule (dining five hours before going to bed did not make any sense to me). I also had to cope with the absence of habits and customs, flavors and smells, cultural rituals, daily habits, communal behavior, interpersonal relationships, and the nuances of a regionalized language, that I had come to associate with “home.”

If I could go back in time and ask myself three years ago about what I expected to encounter in America, I would have probably described a picture full of Hollywood clichés. But my daily interactions with strangers and with my host family, as well as the language-immersion

school I worked at, exposed me to the rich, multi-layered, and eclectic American culture.

With time, I realized that culture shock and homesickness were not my biggest challenges. What was most challenging was the need to make my culture and the American one coexist in a sort of symbiotic relationship.

When I first came to the University of Missouri - St. Louis, I was so worried about my academics that I neglected to pay atten-

With time, I realized that culture shock and homesickness were not my biggest challenges.

tion to an altogether different form of culture shock—immersion in a new academic environment. Of course, I was welcomed with open arms and a fantastic group of people was ready to assuage all the worries of an anxious newcomer. However, such hospitality is rarely enough and I was nonetheless overwhelmed by America’s unique academic culture.

If you are an international student like me, my advice is this: find your own way to deal with culture

shock in a productive way. There are many ways you can do this. It took little time for me to realize that opening up about missing home and my traditions was equally as important as trying to continue some of them and sharing them with new friends. This helped me establish a balance that, in some ways, minimized the distance between the U.S. and home.

But I wanted more than that, and you may too: I wanted to make UMSL my space, my home away from home. This was not just a mere whim—I believe that doing so has helped me to excel academically. It was not easy because everyone

else around me seemed to be pretty settled, while I felt uncomfortable and out of place. However, getting involved in activities at school was extremely helpful and helped me appreciate UMSL’s campus life in an exciting way. The Current, for instance, has given me opportunities to improve my abilities as a writer, all while gaining an awareness of what goes on in UMSL and around the city. This awareness was complemented by getting a job as a student worker. This job not only



became a source of interaction with other members of the UMSL community, but a space where I could learn more about UMSL in an effort to help others. The help has ended up being a two-way street.

This is an invitation for anybody who, just like me, finds themselves in a new place with new, overwhelming, yet potentially fulfilling

experiences. Spend some time at UMSL outside of class time; talk with those who might not even share your same first language or culture; be on the look-out for enriching experiences and activities (which are plenty!) Turn culture shock into an opportunity to enjoy a different culture, achieve your goals, and make UMSL your home!

Women's March on St. Louis Gears Up as New Administration Takes Office

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action fair at the Phyllis Wheatley Heritage Center YWCA on 2711 Locust Street, St. Louis, MO 63103. Organizers encourage participants to post their reasons for marching on their Facebook and Twitter page with the hashtag #whymarch in order to promote unity and growth. The march will be hosted by DefendHERS LLC, a St. Louis-based grassroots social justice organization.

"We are drawing attention to serious issues with this current administration, but not because they are Republican. It is because of their threats to defund important programs, create registries for Muslims, deport immigrants without delay, build walls, tear apart our rights and liberties, as well as many other things," said Valerie Brinkman, lead organizer and co-founder of the non-partisan organization. She and other St. Louis activists organized the event mostly through social media after realizing that a trip to Washington D.C. was financially impractical, and hearing about a sister-march planned in Chicago.

The website for the event states that the march and rally are not a protest. Instead, the stated goal of the event is to "stand together for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health and our families" and to call attention to the rights of women and other marginalized groups. "We march for women, but not just women," the website states. "We also march for immigrants, minorities, those with diverse religious convictions, LGBTQIA individuals, those with disabilities, the economically disadvantaged, and survivors of sexual assault. We march for anyone who has felt marginalized by the results of the latest election."

Dr. Kathleen Butterly Nigro, associate teaching professor in sociology, gerontology, and gender, and Director of Gender Studies at UMSL, teaches a course on Holocaust Literature, in which the students discuss rhetoric, and this

semester will be teaching a course entitled, "Eyes on the Prize: Civil Rights." In speaking about the value of the march, Nigro said, "We live in a democracy where we might not be happy with results. That doesn't mean that we won't accept those results, but we have a right to express, indeed, many people feel, a moral obligation, to make our voices heard about our disagreement with that. And I believe that it's uncomfortable to be in that position. But that is why I think the people see it as their obligation to speak out."

Dr. Adriano Udani, Assistant professor of political science who studies public policy and immigration in the United States at UMSL, supports the march and said that it was trying to do some very important things by bringing attention to the diversity in women's voices. "[Some] people want to use this event to bring attention to some of the sexist and racist attitudes and policy priorities of the incoming administration. From my own perspective, I think some women of color believe that the target is much bigger than just Trump and his administration. The goal is really challenging people who have some connection to privilege, or privileged groups in our society to really listen, to learn, [and] to also realize how oppression didn't just arrive in November 2016," he said.

The stated goals of the Women's March on St. Louis and their respect for intersectionality echo

"Oppression didn't just arrive in November 2016."

the mission stated on the website for the Women's March on Washington, which states, "We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities."

The organizers of the Women's March on Washington were originally going to call the march the Million Women's March, harkening back to the civil rights Million Women's March on Philadelphia



The march's logo.

COURTESY OF DIAN REDMOND

on October 25, 1997, and the Million Man March on Washington D.C. on October 16, 1995. However, in respect for the racial history of these marches, the organizers changed the name to the Women's March on Washington.

Udani spoke about the importance of the name change of the event. "There have been some charges of cultural appropriation [by] using names that have been used in the 90's with the Million Man March and the Million Women's March, that clearly were organized by African Americans, so I think it's important for the organizers and also for citizens to understand the context [of] the name and also the event [and] how these two things speak to what's going on."

Though the organizers changed the name of the event to respect the history of the Million Women's March and the Million Man March, the press release invokes the long and successful history of marches

in the United States, going back to the August 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Martin Luther King Jr. gave his now-famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Dr. Joyce Marie Mushaben, Curator's Distinguished Professor for Comparative Politics and one of the founding mothers of the Women's Studies Program at UMSL, who studies new social movements and youth protests and will be attending the march in Washington D.C. said, "The Women's March in Washington builds on the longer tradition of big demonstrations for abortion rights before Roe v. Wade. It certainly builds on the use of the mall for Martin Luther King Jr. There was a lot of identification and a lot of exchange among the anti-Vietnam movement, the women's movement, and the civil rights movement in the 50s and 60s. It was very clear that we are stronger together rather than trying to be the one that gets attended to first."

Mushaben said that due to different levels of media coverage,

the local marches will not send the same kind of signal as the march on Washington DC. However, she did say, "The reason that the local marches are important is because you cannot change the world by starting at the top."

Brinkman said that she and the other organizers of the Women's March on St. Louis selected speakers for the local rally who will reflect the diversity which the name change of the Washington D.C. march sought to respect. University City native and Missouri State Senator Maria Chappelle-Nadal will speak about environmental racism. Macy, a young teenaged activist with Planned Parenthood's Teen Advocates for Sexual Health program, will speak about reproductive rights. De Andrea Nichols, who describes herself as a "social practice designer and lecturer" on her website and serves as a board member for the social justice organizations Forward Through Ferguson and Creative Reaction Lab, will speak at the event. Other speakers will include neurologist Dr. Ghazala Hayat, a member of the Interfaith Partnership in St. Louis and a Pakistani Muslim woman, as well as Margaret Johnson, who has been an activist for women's and lesbian's rights for more than 50 years. Dr. Anita Manion, associate teaching professor and undergraduate advisor of political science at UMSL, echoed the hope that the St. Louis march would be inclusive for women of a variety of experiences. "While the march is about feminism, it is trying to harken back to Hillary Clinton's quote that women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights by having an intersectional social justice movement," she said.

Liz Miller, graduate, English, said that though she has not officially decided if she will go to the march, the march is important to her for a number of reasons. "To march in support of women's rights is to march for things that are of the utmost importance to me. ...

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UMSL Students Celebrate MLK Day with Service

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ing others, you are doing it for them and not for you," she said.

Kasey Bastean, senior, philosophy, and chair on the UMSL SOS, expressed enthusiasm for the Juvenile Detention Center site, though as the chair, she had to remain at UMSL for the event. "I'm kind of hoping my career goes that way. I want to help juveniles, especially in St. Louis, so I'm a little disappointed [to not go, but] that's a really awesome site that they've been doing for a while," she said.

Though many organizations that participated in the event were returning organizations, the University Child Development Center, the Pine Lawn Senior Home, the Ferguson Youth Initiative, and Mosaic Community Center were all new organizations.

Laura Miller, graduate, philosophy, who founded Mosaic Community Center last semester to help feed hungry students on UMSL's

campus, said "I can't help but remember how Mosaic was founded out of a desperate desire to help friends, classmates, and peers; a desire for change and a challenge to our institution to actively engage in assistance for our students. Now, five months later, that call has been answered by the volunteers from UMSL who will give of their time to paint Mosaic's walls and make this community center an integral part of our institution."

However, Roberts said that male volunteer rates across campus were low. In 2016, she said that only 25 percent of registered volunteers for the MLK DOS were men. So far this year, that number was even lower.

Daniel Pogue, junior, mechanical engineering and newly-elected president of Sigma Tau Gamma, worked with Roberts to help get more men involved with the MLK DOS. He said that he hoped to have 10 to 12 guys from his organization at the event. "If we don't have

a lot of participation in MLK DOS, we will be doing the service day for homecoming...[but] I like MLK DOS a little bit more just because it is giving back to the immediate community," he said.

Pogue volunteered for the second year in a row with Gateway Greening, and for his third year with the MLK DOS. Last year, Pogue helped to build flower boxes for an urban garden. "Community service is important for any student organization because it shapes you as a person and that's what all of these organizations are about. They're about shaping the individual and preparing them for the real world," Pogue said.

Roberts echoed Pogue's sentiment and said, "Volunteering in general is just a really great way for students to see what the community needs are and serve something bigger than themselves, but also for them to get some kind of professional experience and some expo-

sure to those things."

Bastean, who volunteers frequently on her own, spoke about why she chose to volunteer for MLK DOS. "I'm really passionate about community service, especially when it's dealing with kids in the community...It's just really important for me. So, I signed up for MLK DOS because I wanted to help out, and not just on my own, but with the university, because I feel like we can do more as a group, as a team, versus just one person going out. It gets a bigger impact," she said.

While students could volunteer their services on just this one day, Roberts, Bastean, and Pogue all encouraged students to turn their day of service into a year of service. "We hope that this sparks students to be able to continue to be involved in service...We hope that they continue to serve with UMSL SOS, or I can also do one-on-one or organization consulting in my capacity here. We can find ways to help

them get connected. We'd love to have them for one day, but we hope that whether they are with UMSL SOS or not, that they continue to implement service as part of their life," Roberts said.

Bastean agreed. "We [SOS] always have something to fit. We always have stuff throughout the year that if you can't do this one, you can do the next one. There is something that someone, everyone, can do," she said.

Pogue said, "Martin Luther King Jr. was a champion for civil rights and he did community service. The greatest community service that you could do [is] helping gain rights for someone. So, anytime that you can do something similar, I feel like you should. MLK DOS, it's not just the one time that you do it [...] It's a good way to kick off a year of service."

For more information on UMSL SOS, check out their TritonSync page at orgsync.com/59704/.

Book Review: 'There's So Much They Haven't Told You'

DANIEL STRAWHUN
A&E EDITOR

THERE'S SO much more they haven't told you. Don't you want to know?"

Author Michelle Ross poses this question to readers at the end of "Atoms," the first story in her debut collection of short stories, "There's So Much They Haven't Told You," which will be published on February 7 by Moon City Press. The question, spoken through the sucker-stuffed mouth of a know-it-all little schoolboy, doubles as an invitation to readers to explore the rest of the 23 stories that comprise the collection.

The stories, variegated and raw, are centered in Texas and are set in everyday locales, like schoolyards, classrooms, hospitals, buses, offices, trailers, planetariums, and swimming pools—in short, the kinds of places where life happens. But, with the exception of "Rattlesnake Roundup"—the setting of which, as the title suggests, is unmistakably Texan—most of

Ross's stories have a universal quality that makes them feel like they could have happened just about anywhere in the U.S.; "There's So Much They Haven't Told You" is not a geographically niche book by any means.

But that is not to say that the setting is superficial or without consequence. Ross tastefully reminds readers of the stories' southern environs with small, subtle details. In "Stories People Tell," an epiphanic coming-of-age story in which a teenage girl loses her innocence in more ways than one, a mother asks her child, "Qué paso? Qué paso?" In "Virgins," the protagonist's grandfather fishes for crabs in the Texas City dike. And in "Key Concepts in Ecology," readers are reminded of the story's geographic location when the narrator cites, rather morbidly, the Branch Davidians' compound in Waco, Texas as her favorite Texas landmark. The result is a collection of stories that are united, but not defined, by their common location.

If the stories' setting is what brings them together, it is their content that sets them apart. Ross populates her stories with a diverse cast of characters, from young children to middle-aged adults. She has a knack for depicting children in particular, which she puts to good use in many of the stories.

"Virgins" is an emotionally rending but ultimately touching story about Star and Meredith, two eight-year-old girls who meet in a summer church camp. Over the course of the summer, Star witnesses and must learn to accept an assortment of traumatic experiences of varying degrees of gravity, including the September 11 terrorist attacks, the death of a crab, and the rape of her friend Meredith. By the end of the story, desperate for some semblance of control, Star attempts

to drown her own pet hamster as a sacrifice for Meredith's wrested virginity after learning the biblical story of the binding of Isaac. In Ross's story, God does not intercede on the hamster's behalf; however, Star's conscience does, and she saves the



The book's cover.

COURTESY OF MOON CITY PRESS

struggling rodent after briefly submerging it in Meredith's pool.

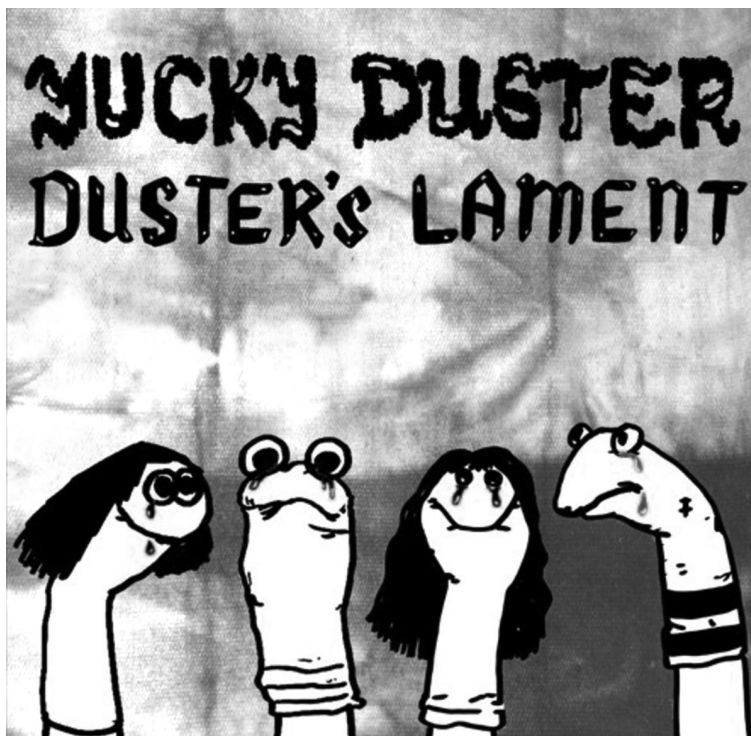
Ross also employs a variety of narrative perspectives in the collection. The book begins with the aforementioned "Atoms," a fulgurant two-and-a-half page story told entirely in the second-person. It serves as a dramatic prologue to the rest of the stories, and Ross's use of the second-person perspective helps to situate and invite the reader inside the fictional world of the collection. Ross also utilizes the more traditional first- and third-person styles of narration to great effect throughout the rest of the collection.

The stories also differ in their respective levels of fidelity to literary realism. Some, like "Alien Eye," which tells the story of a gifted but lonely teen, are extremely realistic in their portrayal of both the outer and inner world. However, stories like "When the Cottonmouths Come to Feed," which deals with a brain aneurism, a school shooting, and the mysterious appearance of two copperhead snakes, flirt with the unknown, evoking a kind of liminal, dreamlike version of reality; still others dive right in. "Pam's Head" is an extremely short, extremely strange story about a woman's head suspended in gel that calls to mind the absurdist flash fiction of Donald Barthelme.

"There's So Much They Haven't Told You" is a promising debut from a new author. While there are brief moments of naive, overly sentimental writing (the end of "Rattlesnake Roundup" comes to mind), the book is doubtless an overall success. The collection has already won the 2016 Moon City Press Short Fiction Award.

"There's So Much They Haven't Told You" is available for preorder at uapress.com and will arrive in bookstores on February 7.

Album Review: 'Duster's Lament'



Cover art for "Duster's Lament."

COURTESY OF YUCKY DUSTER

DANIEL STRAWHUN
A&E EDITOR

ON JANUARY 13, Brooklyn based pop group Yucky Duster released their new EP, "Duster's Lament." The EP, distributed by Infinity Cat Recordings, is the group's second release since their self-titled album "Yucky Duster" debuted in June 2016.

This time the band is back with a shorter, but altogether sweeter, collection of five songs. The sometimes brash, aggressive shouting that vocalists Madeline Babuka Black and Maggie Gaster brought to the band's earlier self-titled release is markedly missing from the new EP. Instead, Black and Gaster, who also double as the band's drummer

and bassist respectively, have mellowed at the microphone, delivering consistent, cotton-candy-sweet vocal harmonies that would make Lesley Gore proud. As a result, "Duster's Lament" feels much less punk-inspired than the band's self-titled album did.

Also new to the vocal mix are guitarists Zack O'Brien and Luca Balsler, who are featured prominently in tracks like "The Ropes" and "Different People." The guitar work on "Duster's Lament" is simple, but not simplistic. The smooth, upbeat rhythm sections carry the songs forward, while the tastefully overdriven lead chimes in in perfectly timed intervals. The effect is reminiscent of the Beatles, specifically the Beatles of "Revolver," the

Beatles who wrote songs like "She Said She Said" and "And Your Bird Can Sing."

One thing that did carry over from Yucky Duster's first album is the group's sense of humor. Every song on the new EP has a line in it that is sure to make listeners smile. In the first track, "Duster's Lament," Black and Gaster complain, "I don't mean to be a drag; I'm just having one of those years"—a hyperbolic line that nearly everyone has thought at some point in life. "Thaw," the second track on "Duster's Lament," begins with the line "I smelled you from a couple blocks away, and then I'd hear you at my window," sung deadpan by Black. "The Ropes," the EP's second single, is segmented by a loud, juicy kiss that was strategically planted on the track so as to usher in its refrain. The EP's first single, "Elementary School Dropout," is funny from the title onward. Black sings, "I'm allowed to know what's real, what's unnecessary, what's uncomplementary [sic]...I'm an elementary school dropout, I break the rules like every single time."

This offbeat humor, coupled with the group's penchant for upbeat rhythms and sweet pop harmonies, seems to sprout right out of the head of Weezer's "Blue Album."

The songs on "Duster's Lament," while brief (the longest is three minutes, and the entire five song EP is barely ten minutes long), are memorable, and well worth the five dollars that the band is asking for in return. "Duster's Lament" can be purchased on the Yucky Duster bandcamp page at <https://yuckyduster.bandcamp.com/>

Film Review: 'Assassin's Creed'

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

ALL THE major gamers out there know that on December 21, "Assassin's Creed" hit the movie theaters. For those who lack knowledge of the gaming world, "Assassin's Creed" is a 2007 action-adventure stealth video game that was released on November 13 of that year. It was developed by Ubisoft Montreal and Gameloft and is still available on consoles PlayStation 3, Xbox 360, Microsoft Windows, and iOS.

The first game introduced a fictional history of real-world events that chronicled the struggle between the Assassins and the Templars. The Templars desired to obtain peace through control but the Assassins retaliated, desiring peace through free will. From this beginning, many games were to follow.

The movie features Cal Lynch, our prominent character played by Michael Fassbender, who travels back in time to 15th century Spain through a device called the Animus, which unlocks genetic memories contained in the DNA from his ancestors. Cal is taken by a scientist, Sofia, played by Marion Cotillard, after being sentenced to death. He awakens in a facility where he learns about the Assassin's Creed and how his ancestor is a part of it. Though Sofia tells him she wishes to find the cure to violence, there

is a larger secret to finding the 'Apple,' a device that unlocks the genetic codes to free will, than even she is aware of. Cal's ancestor was the last to have it in his possession. Through the Animus, Cal must live out the experiences of his ancestor, Aguilar de Nerha, as the assassin that he was and discover the secret society that fights to protect free will.

The movie opens with a subtle introduction about the induction of a new member into the Assassin's Creed in Spain during the 15th century. Afterwards, the scenes play a game of back and forth between past and present events. Neither the beginning, nor its intended message, becomes blurry beyond explanation, which is a great way to start a film. The movie continues with a non-linear timeline that bounces back and forth between Cal's current situation and when he entered the Animus. As for the action that occurs when he does travel through his ancestor's memories; not bad. Actually, it was the highlight of the movie. The storyline for the film was clean and precise, but if you are a dedicated fan of the "Assassin's Creed" gaming series, you might struggle a little at first to understand how they're introducing some aspects of the game.

That small criticism is not something that should deter anyone from the movie. With the action scenes and plot set-up, the movie

had few flaws. "Assassin's Creed" is a step in the right direction for all video game movies. With a run time of two and a half hours, the movie covers a lot of ground that also provides room for further development of more films, though the company could stop at this movie alone and call it a promotion for those who have never played the games. Either way, it is a win. However, the character development of the movie could have been better planned.

The two Assassin's Creed members who are in the facility before Cal, Moussa played by Michael Williams, and Lin, played by Michelle Lin have little to no stories. Though they may seem unimportant, these two characters are constantly highlighted throughout Cal's stay at the facility. Moussa is a wise yet riddle-like character that appears to hold more valuable information about the secret society, and Lin is quiet but deadly. Her moves are more thorough yet covert. With a two-and-a-half-hour movie, there was plenty of time to develop their stories and explain their importance that gushes throughout the entire film. While it is important to highlight Cal—as the secret of the 'Apple' device surrounds his ancestors—the various other modern day assassins become lost in his feature. The only relevant assassin that is useful, shapes Cal's character, and features more of a story was the

CONT. ON THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

St. Louis Women (And Men) March

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As someone who is terrified at the thought of not being trusted to make decisions for myself and my own body ... I wish to register my support of women's rights — and human rights — in a public forum," she said. "This is important to me personally, and I suspect such is the case for others as well, because I sometimes feel at a loss to know what to do in the face of oppression and political gaslighting and the threat to basic human rights considered necessary for survival."

Justin Yancey, UMSL alumnus and rhetoric and composition student and teacher at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, said that he intends to attend the march on Saturday. "For me, this isn't about my marching because I have a mother or a sister and 'How dare someone say something about my family!' It isn't about women's relation or connection to my masculine gender; it's about rights, civility, and social equity for women. ... As a democracy, we need to take care of each other and ensure others' safety as much as possible. Thus, how can I not participate in the Women's March on St. Louis?" he said.

Udani highlighted the importance of the participation of men as well. "I think the march should bring attention to things males choose not to see, or what I call privilege due to our male-ness, or how our male privilege is exacerbated by our race, class, and sexuality," he said.

Some recent political movements, including the marches and rallies, have been criticized for pandering to the hurt feelings of people offended by the words and rhetoric of the past election cycle. However, Brinkman said, "Words are power-

ful and meaningful. When a person says things that are anti-woman, anti-Muslim, anti-black, anti-immigrant, anti-disabled persons we have to take that very seriously. We can't be so dismissive as to not see the pattern and stand up for what's right."

Udani said of those who dismiss the rhetoric of the recent election as just words, "I hope that they realize that their own privilege, allows them to view these words as just words. ... I think it's important to bring attention to the fact that because of their privilege, they can easily escape those criticisms [of being overly sensitive], but many have to deal with these criticisms on a daily basis, and it's exhausting."

Yancey held similar beliefs about the power of words. "Words have cultural meaning, significance, and implications; they carry weight. We create meaning with language," he said, citing how words can reinforce rape culture, patriarchy, sexism, misogyny, and dominant masculinity.

Nigro agreed and said, "It is our responsibility in a democratic society to be aware of people who feel disempowered or marginalized, and to allow their voices to be heard. We have progressed to that point, I hope, and we don't want to lose that. That anecdotal evidence is very important for us to keep moving toward a more perfect union ... and if we are going to keep moving toward that goal, we cannot have people feel disenfranchised and not heard."

Others have expressed concerns that the march will not actually be able to affect social and political change. Udani said, "The research shows that it's really difficult to sustain policy changes that are unearthed from social movements. ...

It's not impossible, but it's really hard. A lot of activism needs to be sustained." Mushaben echoed this sentiment and cited the fizzling out of the Occupy movement that began back in 2011.

However, Nigro said, "I think there is some empowerment about marching with people of a like mind and having that collective voice."

Manion agreed and said, "But it seems to me that having people come together across the country in support of each other's rights is an accomplishment in itself. ... This is an opportunity for those folks to come together and stand up for what they think is right, to make their voices heard. In order to make a real impact, this march cannot be the end; instead, it must be the beginning of their social movement."

Mushaben agreed that the march could inspire sustained political action after the march. "I think the first thing that happens is that if you are a first-timer, your experience will be, 'Wow, this is really exciting,' and get all riled up. ... But that's what the march is about. Getting people inspired. [The second point of the march is] You're feeling depressed, I'm feeling depressed [and] you see it's not just me. All of these people are as upset as I am." After identifying common sentiments and concerns with other marchers, Mushaben said that the third step of the march would be to talk to different networks about what action to take next.

"So that's what the purpose of the local march is, as well," Mushaben continued. "To get people to say the next morning, 'What little bit can I do?' And when you add one person and one person and one person, before you know it, you have a professional organization." Through these professional organizations, Mushaben said that those interested in political change should pick one issue and devote their time to that issue by working, volunteering, or applying for internships with people like Maria Chappelle-Nadal, who will be speaking at the St. Louis rally. "If [you are] going to learn how to fight, [you are] going to learn how to fight from her," Mashaben said.

One way that participants can create and join these action networks will be at the action fair to be held after the rally. The National Council of Jewish Women, Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice, American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters, National Women's Political Caucus—St. Louis, YWCA, American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, NARAL Pro Choice Missouri, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority have all confirmed their attendance at the fair, according to the website.

Udani added that another way to sustain the political momentum after the march would be for individuals to exercise quotidian resistance to combat oppression and privilege. "That involves us, on a day-to-day basis, challenging the norms that govern our social behaviors, as well as our own internalized, racial, gendered, ethnocentric beliefs," Udani said. "I think those are small changes, speaking up when we see sexism or racism

Sigma Tau Gamma's New Student Leader Daniel Pogue



ΣΤΓ's Daniel Pogue.

MIKE PLUMB/THE CURRENT

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

COMING BACK after winter break brings new leadership to some student organizations. One new student leader will be Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity's President Daniel Pogue, junior, mechanical engineering.

Pogue attended Farmington Senior High School in St. Francis County, Missouri, before he joined the University of Missouri-St. Louis' joint engineering program. The program requires him to take classes at both the UMSL campus and the Washington University campus. Pogue said, "I saw the program with Wash U and I jumped at it because it is an excellent deal and I wanted the most bang for my buck."

While in high school Pogue was sociable, a new city, campus, and community made him a little nervous. Pogue visited the Sigma Tau Gamma house a few times and really liked the people there. Michael Hayes, now alumnus, who was there to help ease any tension or hesitations about the fraternity, asked if Pogue had thought about Greek Life. At that time there were about 13 active members in the fraternity. Some of those most influential to Pogue besides Hayes included Clayton Roberts, alumnus, Devin Thompson, alumnus, and Kevin Mangrum, senior, business administration. He continued to go back until the brothers of the fraternity extended him a bid to join the fraternity. "I accepted in 30 seconds because I was like 'This is what I want and this was who I want to be at this point,'" Pogue said. "What drove me to [Sigma Tau Gamma] was the brotherhood. What kept me here was the chance to grow it."

Pogue's involvement with Sigma Tau Gamma also helped him feel more comfortable on campus and he agrees with the Office of Student Involvement's slogan that UMSL students should "Get A Student Life." Getting involved helped Pogue stay motivated to continue his education. Even though Pogue took a semester off, he came back to finish his degree with the help of the fraternity. Pogue said, "The fraternity has introduced me to so many different people on so many different levels. I have met CEOs of companies and Vice Presidents of companies, and not just our alumni running companies, but [people] who they know. I'm part of student life so I get to meet the faculty and

staff who run it. I get to know a lot more about campus than the average student might."

Pogue is also part of the Associated Black Collegians and UMSL's Student of Service on top of his new leadership position in the fraternity. Pogue said, "I like UMSL for the fact that it is a commuter school and it brings so many different people from different walks of life together. It allows us to network with each other."

Pogue was nominated by fraternity members for the position. He was given two weeks to prepare his presentation to the fraternity chapter after a chapter meeting. Pogue was nervous and did not know what to expect. He said, "I read a book... 'Reality Based Leadership' [by Cy Wakeman] and it set me up for what I was going to say." After the presentation, nominees left the room for the chapter to discuss then hold a vote for the position.

There are no term limits for president. His term officially starts January 1, 2017 but Pogue has been meeting with administration and with the past president of the fraternity to ensure a smooth transition for the student group. Pogue said, "In my personal opinion, after your one year, you should be able to hand the baton off to someone else and be there if they need you. I feel that different people should be in the leadership position every single year. No one person should lead more than one year. You need a different mindset. You need different eyes to look at it."

Sigma Tau Gamma does lots of philanthropy programs. Their biggest philanthropic event is the Polar Bear Plunge, held in February, which raises money for Special Olympics. They also contribute to community service in the Bel-Ridge area, participating in Adopt-A-Family, Bel-Ridge Dinner, Haunted Hayride, and more. Pogue hopes to continue the service projects to include a spring picnic for the community and community cleanup, besides contributing to MLK Day of Service through UMSL as well.

Pogue encourages students to check out Greek Life and be more involved in organizations on campus. "Being part of the fraternity, they are my family, and how much fun it was, push[ed] me even harder to not only come back to school, because I did have to take a semester off, but [to] push me even more now to continue to do well."

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