The Current
UMSL’s Independent Student News

Resources for Diverse Students

Leah Jones
Features Editor

Diversity lies at the heart of the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ thrumming campus. Like a human experience, including the blood of the university, circulating ideas between different people with different backgrounds, bringing oxygen and life to all of the individual cells which make up UMSL’s campus.

International students are an important part of this system, since they bring with them unique cultural experiences and backgrounds. However, not all UMSL students are aware of some of the obstacles that international students may face including language barriers, culture shock, and most recently, the presidential executive order.

“It seems like a lot of work to get over here, and to have that in jeopardy might seem unfair,” said domestic student Michael Holmes, junior, English.

Located in the Millennium Student Center 261, the International Student and Scholar Services (ISS) offers international students a wide array of services. Rebecca Kehe, an International Student and Scholar Services Advisor at UMSL, said that ISS helps students with advising and transcript evaluation, but that they also provide international students with cultural services, visa and travel services, personal services, and academic services.

ISS ensures that students understand the rules, regulations, and rights that their visas grant them by working individually with students and offering workshops on the different types of visas. J-Visas grant students the right to work, M-Visas grant students rights that their visas grant them by allowing them to work and study, and F-Visas grant students the right to study with the understanding that these students will eventually go back to their home countries to complete their projects or work. Students who come into the country for a shorter time — such as study abroad opportunities — enter the United States on these visas. F-Visas grant students entry into the United States for longer periods of time, enabling students to complete full bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs in the United States. These visas stipulate that students must understand the rules, regulations, and rights that their visas grant them by working individually with students and offering workshops on the different types of visas.

From right to left: Dean Charles Hoffman and CEO of AT&T Randall Stephenson speak to packed Century Rooms.

Randall Stephenson Tackles Race and Education in UMSL’s CEO Speaker Series

Bob White
Staff Writer

The chief Operating Officer and Chairman of AT&T, Randall Stephenson, visited the University of Missouri-St. Louis on Tuesday for a fireside chat between Stephenson and Business Dean Charles Hoffman in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms hosted by the College of Business Administration.

Boasting a $147 billion revenue and 281,000 employees, AT&T is a telecommunications company that employs a global workforce.

Stephenson emphasized the importance of being passionate when discussing his experience in business.

“Stephenson relayed a moment in a private interview. Stephenson chose Stevenson to launch the first segment of their CEO Speaker Series because of his good character and high position in a booming business. "He offers a very good lesson: You’re only as good as the team you build," said Hoffman. True to this guiding principle, Stephenson spoke about social struggles, reliable relationships, and evolving education.

Once, Stephenson found a video of his best friend, an African-American man, talking to a congregation about the Black Lives Matter movement. Stephenson said of his friend, "He’s a very accomplished individual, but he had some concerns and caution about police.” Stephenson relayed a moment from the video: “When he [my friend] goes out and runs in the morning, to this day, he carries his ID with him because he expects the police to stop him, and he has to prove that he lives in this neighborhood.”

Upon watching this video, Stephenson and Hoffman launched the first segment of their CEO Speaker Series.

Tuition For Illinois, pg. 3

Hat Man, pg. 4

Syd Review, pg. 6

Betsy DeVos, pg. 7

What's Inside:

From right to left: Randall Stephenson and Hoffman launch the first segment of their CEO Speaker Series.
Math Problem of the Week

Zak and Sara have a bag with 10 lottery balls, numbered 1 - 10. Zak reaches into the bag and pulls out a lottery ball without showing it to anyone. Afterwards, Sara selects a lottery ball from the bag. What is the probability that she selects the “4”?

Email guesses and responses to covertdj@umsl.edu.

There were no correct guesses for the hot dog problem. The correct answer is 35, since 20 hot dogs had no mustard, 15 had no ketchup, 20 had no relish, and 10 had no onions, so that 65 hot dogs could be missing at least one ingredient. Therefore, at least 35 hot dogs must have all four ingredients.
The PrideSTL Center library provides a comfortable reading experience for all. Assistant. For example, Smith and another volunteer have begun to plan a self-defense course.

Smith has advocated for victims of sexual and domestic violence for nearly five years, beginning with air years as a gender studies student of Washington University. Brownfield studied biological anthropology and psychology at Saint Louis University. One goal shared among the volunteers is to see an intercollegiate alliance use the center as a meeting place. They expressed the need for an LGBTQIA organization of college students that would not be contained within a particular school, but would form a more inclusive community in the metropolitan area.

B uild a wall, we'll tear it down!” shouted a group of young Muslim Americans last Sunday, leading a protest of students outside Terminal 1 at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. Despite the crisp, overcast conditions, they cycled proudly through chants, the group collectively confirming, “No hate, no fear! Immigrants are welcome here!”

As has become customary of these protests, many held signs with phrases ranging from the simple to the complex: “Build a wall, we’ll tear it down!” “F—— your wall,” to the more poignant, “Without immigrants, Trump will crumble. I watched the same thing happen in Nigeria,” she said. “I hope my Christian friends look bad.” She agreed, passing her clipboard to a people’s lives.”

The England hope that having a physical presence — and a physical list of signatures — will continue to echo the protesters’ chants once they inevitably leave the airport. “Online petitions may give [signers] a false sense of security. A physical petition shows our representatives that people cared enough to actually get out of their homes and demonstrate,” Craig said.

T he following is a series of daily crime and incident reports issued by the University of Missouri–St. Louis Police Department between February 1 and February 8.

February 1: At 10:35 a.m. Facilities Management and Elevator Maintenance responded to a report of an UMSL staff member stuck in an elevator at Marillac Hall. At 11:42 a.m. UMSL PD, Facilities Management, and Environmental Health and Safety responded to a gas odor in the Research Building. The source of the odor was unfound. At 7:41 p.m. an UMSL student reported that their laptop had been taken by another student.

February 2: An UMSL student reported that fraudulent transactions had been made on their credit card in Europe. At 5:55 a.m. an UMSL student reported that they had lost flash drives in Benton Hall.

February 3: No incidents were reported on this date.

February 4: At 12:26 p.m. a pursed found at Mansion Hill Apartments was turned in to UMSL PD and held for safekeeping; the owner was notified.

February 6: At 5:32 p.m. an officer on patrol found an ID card in the West Drive Garage; the owner was notified and the item was held for safekeeping.

February 6: At 5:16 p.m. a bicycle found in an unknown location was turned in to UMSL PD and held for safekeeping. At 7:02 p.m. an UMSL student reported that they had lost a Jeep car key in the Social Sciences & Business Building (SSB).

February 7: At 10:34 a.m. a campus visitor was transported from the emergency/fatigue room to the Hospital Center to the hospital after suffering a panic attack.

February 8: At 5:44 a.m. a book bag found at Clark Hall was turned in to UMSL PD and held for safekeeping. At 10:57 a.m. an UMSL student made a delayed report to UMSL PD in regard to falling in Stadler Hall on February 6. The initial report of the girl’s medical attention. At 12:35 p.m. an UMSL student was transported from Clark Hall to the hospital after experiencing stomach pain. At 6:52 p.m. a wallet found at the Arts Administration Building was turned in to UMSL PD and held for safekeeping; the owner was notified. At 6:57 p.m. a purse found in SSB was turned in to UMSL PD and held for safekeeping; the owner was notified.

As the PrideCenter is a new resource for the LGBTQIA community and is always looking for qualified in-house counseling for visitors, its services for the community are still growing. The PrideSTL umbrella group has been at the protest since the first day.

Like the Women’s March on St. Louis on January 21, this protest mirrored a national movement of citizens standing up to President Trump’s onslaught of executive orders.

Like the Women’s March on St. Louis on January 21, this protest mirrored a national movement of citizens standing up to President Trump’s onslaught of executive orders. Protesters gathered in New York, Laganaria Airport Saturday night, inspiring copycat protests across the country.

Many protesters, hoping to avoid airport traffic and parking garage fees, made their way to Lambert by way of St. Louis Metrolink, whose last westbound stop on the红线 is Lambert’s Terminal 1.

Standing just before the escalator leading to the Metro station, eagerly waiting for these protest-goers, were Craig and Tam England of Wheeling Group, 45 and 46. They hoped to engage citizens in another way: through petitions. “We want to make it clear to our representatives that so many of us find this unacceptable,” Craig said, pausing to ask a few passersby for their signatures. “We don’t know if it will change their minds, but we’re doing everything we can.”

The Englands hope that having a physical presence — and a physical list of signatures — will continue to echo the protesters’ chants once they inevitably leave the airport. “Online petitions may give [signers] a false sense of security. A physical petition shows our representatives that people cared enough to actually get out of their homes and demonstrate,” Craig said.

T am cited outrage as her number one motivation for coming to the protest. “There are names to each of these faces in the crowd here, names for each of the refugees in the pictures circulating the web,” she said.

“The real problem is that this [the executive order] will probably help recruitment for ISIS,” Craig said. “This does nothing to make us safer, but has real impacts on real people’s lives.”

“I’m just flat out sucks,” Tam agreed, passing her clipboard to a group of sign-wielding, hometown protesters.

T he decision to expand the tuition rate comes in the midst of the university considering a tuition increase for the 2018-19 academic year. It also comes just weeks after Governor Eric Greitens cut around $9 million in state funding to UMSL.

According to STL Public Radio, the university had been close to closing $15 million in budget deficit prior to the cut.

February 7:

February 8:

February 9:
Hats Off To UMSL's Own Baseball Cardinals Hat Man

Kat Riddler
Editors-In-Chief

With the Super Bowl over, it seems like the St. Louis most-beloved sport: baseball. The St. Louis Cardinals’ spring training games begin February 25 in Jupiter, Florida, but that does not stop loyal fans from getting psyched here in St. Louis for the next season. One of these loyal fans is right here at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. While you might recognize him as the university’s friendly mail carrier, Tom Lange goes by “The Hat Man” in the world of Cardinals’ baseball fandom.

Lange said, “I don’t really know why I started making hats; I would have to guess it was Fair Saint Louis that gave me an idea.”

Lange has been a volunteer with Fair Saint Louis for over 20 years, and many of the workings of the event also work on the Mardi Gras Committee. He made his first hat in 2004 from old sets of beads and Mardi Gras necklaces. He had previously made it a tradition to camp out in line to get tickets for the opening day game. By 2006, the new Busch Stadium opened, but tickets were sold exclusively online. Lange only had a dial-up internet connection, and the tickets were sold out almost instantly without his purchase making it though. He looked for alternatives to get opening day tickets.

“I knew if you went to the game early enough, you could line up the day before and offer tickets for something different,” said Lange. He decided to use his hat making skills to stand out in the crowd of Cardinals fans.

In honor of the new stadium, Lange created a hat called “New Nest” and wore it downtown. He noticed more people taking pictures of him as he got closer to the stadium. Although he never entered the stadium, the next day his picture was on the front page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and he was then interviewed by Major League Baseball (MLB) and next appeared in a McDonald’s video. His picture also appeared in the book “The First Year of Busch Stadium,” which was released later that year.

The Cardinals went on to win the World Series that year. After “New Nest,” Lange never thought he would make another hat. But inspiration struck him when he saw bobblehead replicas of the Cardinals players with a World Series trophy. He decided to create a hat with 10 World Series trophies on it named “Baseball Heaven.” Lange said, “There was something special about this hat. When people saw it they would call out other people to see it.”

From then on, Lange always had a theme for his hats. In 2008, the rededication of the Stan Musial Statue took place, the All-Star Game was held at Busch Stadium in 2009; Ozzie Smith and his opening day flip were honored in 2010; and 2011 was the 11 in 11 World Series, which Lange proceeded to create a hat for in 2012. He has created other hats honoring the Cardinals’ 1999 World Series, the 2009 Golden Bears, scoring four runs in the first, one in the second, and one in the third. Miles’ first and only run of the game came in the fourth. The game ended in the fifth with UMSL scoring another three runs to close the game once again at the top of the fifth. The Tridents could not stop the Chargers’ next six runs at the top of the fifth. No one scored during the sixth inning, and UMSL could not gain a run in the seventh inning, making it a three-run run at center field. The Tridents faced a massive setback. In the five innings, not one run was scored against West Florida, who racked up nine points. However, this did not discourage the Tridents in their final match up against North Alabama. The Lions, the defending NCAA DII national champions, took a 3-0 lead after two innings. Innings three and four saw both teams come up short in runs. But a home run by Kroeger, freshman, pre-den- sal, showed at the bottom of the fifth that the Tridents still had a fight in them. At the top of the sixth, North Alabama was able to add one run on their score, making it a three-run lead. However, Serena Olson, sophomore, accounting, was able to deliver a long ball with a three-run shot in the bottom of the sixth, tying the game 4-4. Although it was still anyone’s game at the top of the seventh, North Alabama was able to hit a solo home run that would end up being the game-winning point.

The Invitational was an impressive season debut for the GLVC softball team, who at press stands with a 3-1 record. The Tridents faced four teams in Bentonville, Arkansas, on February 10 and February 11 in the Arkansas-Monticello DII Challenge. The updated scores from the Friday and Saturday games will be added to the online edition.

Softball Opens Season with Gulf Coast Invitational

Lance Jordan
Sports Editor

In the annual Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Softball Pre-season Poll, the University of Mis- souri-St. Louis softball team was picked for a third place finish for the 2017 season.

The Tridents went out to prove why they ranked so highly in the GLVC Poll, from February 3 to 5. The Tridents faced six teams as part of the Gulf Coast Invitational at Gulf Shores Sportsplex in Gulf Shores, Alabama. At the end of the weekend, the Tridents held a 3-3 record to start off their 2017 season.

The Tridents’ first match up of the day on February 3 was against the West Florida Argonauts, and the Tridents faced six teams as part of the Gulf Coast Invitational at Gulf Shores Sportsplex in Gulf Shores, Alabama. At the end of the weekend, the Tridents held a 3-3 record to start off their 2017 season.

The Tridents’ first match up of the day on February 3 was against the West Florida Argonauts, and the Tridents faced six teams as part of the Gulf Coast Invitational at Gulf Shores Sportsplex in Gulf Shores, Alabama. At the end of the weekend, the Tridents held a 3-3 record to start off their 2017 season.
Syd Evokes Late 90s Sound With Solo Debut ‘Fin’

Daniel Strawhun
A&E Editor

While it is true that dancers and artists often blur the line between music and dance, even in the paintings of French Impressionist Edgar Degas, the artist was an unlikely innovator for his time. Degas, an active member of the collectives “The Impressionists” and “The Parisian Impressionists,” painted the women who made them as well as their hats. This relationship between the hats and the nudes of Degas and the dancers, of Degas and the Paris Millinery Trade, is one of Degas’ most modern and prescient paintings, and it is a wonderful way to end the tour.

Another highlight of the exhibition is “The Millinery Shop,” the most famous example of Degas’ millinery theme, on loan from the Art Institute of Chicago. The painting depicts a milliner at work fashioning a yellow hat while other completed hats lie next to her on display. “The Millinery Shop” is an extreme example of Degas’ textural contrast and range. Some surfaces in the painting, like the straw hat in the middle, appear flat and languid, while other surfaces, like the pink hat on the left and the milliner’s face, carry a contrasting depth and vivacity.

Ribbons, plumage, and artificial flowers were the materials that milliners used most frequently to adorn their hats, and the 40 hats on display in the exhibition are testament to this fact. Each one, with the exception of the men’s hats on display, features at least one of these materials—and often all three in combination. Exotic bird feathers were particularly sought after for use in hat decoration. One hat in the exhibition even features a whole African superstar mounted on its side, and many more are decorated with the feathers of a multifarious assortment of wild birds, such as ostriches, egrets, and birds-of-paradise. While beautiful, this practice proved detrimental to wild bird populations. It is estimated that over 300 million birds were killed for millinery purposes in the year 1913 alone. However, the fashion was short-lived, and by 1914 the demand for extravagant plumage had all but died out.

Other pieces of interest include the famous painting, “The Shop Girl” by James Jacques Joseph Tissot, lace hats by Madame Georgette, and “Divan Japonais” by Joseph Tissot, lace hats by Madame Georgette, and “Divan Japonais” by Joseph Tissot, lace hats by Madame Georgette, and “Divan Japonais” by Joseph Tissot.

Tickets to see “Degas, Impressionism, and the Paris Millinery Trade” are $15 for adults and $13 for students. The exhibition is also free of charge on Fridays.

Syd’s upcoming album, ‘Fin,’ will drop on February 13, 2017.

Syd is now ready to strike out on her own. After a brief relationship with Matt Martians, now known as Syd, who recently released the EP ‘Fin,’ Syd is ready to strike out on her own.

Syd is now ready to strike out on her own. After a brief relationship with Matt Martians, now known as Syd, who recently released the EP ‘Fin,’ Syd is ready to strike out on her own.

‘Fin’ is the 12-track debut solo album from Syd Tha Kyd, released by Columbia Records and Sony Music.

The painting is located in the last gallery of the exhibition next to “Divan Japonais” by Joseph Tissot, lace hats by Madame Georgette, and “Divan Japonais” by Joseph Tissot. The painting is located in the last gallery of the exhibition next to “Divan Japonais” by Joseph Tissot, lace hats by Madame Georgette, and “Divan Japonais” by Joseph Tissot.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.

Syd Tha Kyd, who was once a member of the collective “The Internet” inside the Odd Future camp. Syd and Matt Martín enjoyed a decent amount of success with their neoclassical and alternative R&B sound. Breaking away from the ranks of Odd Future, Syd is now ready to strike out on her own.
UMSL Offers Diverse Resources to International Students

For international students, especially challenging times are when we continue to work with International Studies to be a visible presence and source of support to students who are concerned about the impact of the changes.

Students from western cultures will sometimes come in and they will be very expressive (about) how they are feeling...Students from some eastern cultures, are not as expressive verbally, and so when they are experiencing culture shock, sometimes it manifests itself physically...because they are not able to get it off of their chest.

ISS offers programs to acclimate students to their new environment and amuse some of this culture shock. They host International Education Day on which they invite international students and study abroad alumni to come to Jefferson City for tours and meet with state senators and representatives to talk about the importance of international education. Study Missouri sponsors the initiative to encourage Missouri institutions to welcome international students and encourage Missourians to study abroad.

ISS also hosts events during international education week, and helps student organizations work with the Office of Student Involvement.

The International House is a joint venture between ISS and Residential Life that gives international students a place to build community on campus. “For a lot of the international students...they say they are here on campus, living in a dorm, is comfortable, but it doesn’t feel like home, and really is no house...that students feel like is theirs,” Kehe said. “The House being a student run initiative, many students feel like that’s their home.”

The International House also recognizes both international and domestic students, and holds events such as a Mardi Gras Night and an international fashion show, among others. The International House is also work to provide international students with a sense of community and belonging.

International and domestic students can also be on the lookout for community and support in Lingua, a new student organization that has come to life at UMSL, and in St. Louis. Groups have gone to the landmarks around the city such as the St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park, and the Gateway Arch; though they also familiarize international students with more practical things, like the Metro. The UMSL buddies email their international students over the summer to answer any question they might have and pick them up at the airport when they arrive.

Cultural clubs around campus also offer international students the opportunity to meet friends and create support systems. The Chinese-American Corner, the Chinese Student Organization, the German Students Association, the Hispanic and Latino Association, the International Students Club, the Japanese American Student Association, the Pan-African Student Association, the Vietnamese Student Association, the Muslim Students Association, the Jewish Student Association, and any of the Christian organizations on campus can all provide international students with a sense of community. Other non-student groups, such as International Students Incorporated, also work to provide international students with a sense of community and belonging.

International and domestic students can also be on the lookout for community and support in Lingua, a new student organization that has come to life at UMSL, and in St. Louis. Groups have gone to the landmarks around the city such as the St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park, and the Gateway Arch; though they also familiarize international students with more practical things, like the Metro. The UMSL buddies email their international students over the summer to answer any question they might have and pick them up at the airport when they arrive.

Cultural clubs around campus also offer international students the opportunity to meet friends and create support systems. The Chinese-American Corner, the Chinese Student Organization, the German Students Association, the Hispanic and Latino Association, the International Students Club, the Japanese American Student Association, the Pan-African Student Association, the Vietnamese Student Association, the Muslim Students Association, the Jewish Student Association, and any of the Christian organizations on campus can all provide international students with a sense of community. Other non-student groups, such as International Students Incorporated, also work to provide international students with a sense of community and belonging.

International and domestic students can also be on the lookout for community and support in Lingua, a new student organization that has come to life at UMSL, and in St. Louis. Groups have gone to the landmarks around the city such as the St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park, and the Gateway Arch; though they also familiarize international students with more practical things, like the Metro. The UMSL buddies email their international students over the summer to answer any question they might have and pick them up at the airport when they arrive.

Cultural clubs around campus also offer international students the opportunity to meet friends and create support systems. The Chinese-American Corner, the Chinese Student Organization, the German Students Association, the Hispanic and Latino Association, the International Students Club, the Japanese American Student Association, the Pan-African Student Association, the Vietnamese Student Association, the Muslim Students Association, the Jewish Student Association, and any of the Christian organizations on campus can all provide international students with a sense of community. Other non-student groups, such as International Students Incorporated, also work to provide international students with a sense of community and belonging.

International and domestic students can also be on the lookout for community and support in Lingua, a new student organization that has come to life at UMSL, and in St. Louis. Groups have gone to the landmarks around the city such as the St. Louis Zoo, Forest Park, and the Gateway Arch; though they also familiarize international students with more practical things, like the Metro. The UMSL buddies email their international students over the summer to answer any question they might have and pick them up at the airport when they arrive.

Cultural clubs around campus also offer international students the opportunity to meet friends and create support systems. The Chinese-American Corner, the Chinese Student Organization, the German Students Association, the Hispanic and Latino Association, the International Students Club, the Japanese American Student Association, the Pan-African Student Association, the Vietnamese Student Association, the Muslim Students Association, the Jewish Student Association, and any of the Christian organizations on campus can all provide international students with a sense of community. Other non-student groups, such as International Students Incorporated, also work to provide international students with a sense of community and belonging.
**Betsy DeVos: The Assault on Public Education**

Kay Kreader

Editor-In-Chief

W hat incumbent secretary of the department of education, Betsy DeVos, lacks in public education credentials (of which she has none), she more than makes up for with bad ideas, like the need for guns in school to guard against attacks by grizzly bears. DeVos never attended a public school or state university, nor did any of her children. She does not believe in the need for public education and wants to funnel money out of public schools and universities and into private and for-profit charter schools—efforts which she spearheaded in Michigan.

There are, of course, good charter schools—but there are also many bad ones. They at least require the same level of oversight as public schools, especially those that receive public funding. But the system DeVos pushed in Michigan lacks sufficient oversight and ranks poorly.

So-called school choice advocates say they want to empower parents to be able to send their kids to whatever school they want and believe that a free market of competing private institutions will improve educational outcomes. Unfortunately, this is often a model for mass chaos. It also robs local school districts of valuable resources needed to educate the majority of students who would remain in public schools. After years of charter school development in St. Louis City, the public schools are still guaranteed for 22,500 students. We need to focus our attention and resources on improving public education, not abandoning it.

The DeVos nomination turned out to be one of the most polarizing of President Trump’s cabinet picks. For the first time in history, a vice president had to cast a tie-breaking vote to approve a cabinet nominee. Her nomination generated a tremendous outpouring of opposition from people all over the political spectrum who share a concern for the future of public education.

That opposition unfortunately fell mostly on deaf ears, with only two courageous Republican senators—Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska—breaking ranks to oppose DeVos. Many citizens who had never before picked up a phone to call their senator received an education on just how difficult making their voice heard can be. They were often greeted with a recorded message: “the senator's mailbox is full.”

On the other hand, DeVos knew all too well how to make a senator pick up the phone. Her family donated millions to politicians over the years. Our own Missouri Senator Roy Blunt received $33,000, which was possibly enough to secure his vote against the deluge of phone calls and emails from parents and teachers across the state.

One bright spot is that her proposed $20 billion-a-year voucher subsidy for private schools is unlikely to survive a Congress more intent on slashing funding for programs and passing massive tax cuts. In fact, on the same day DeVos was confirmed in the Senate, Congressman Thomas Massie (R-KY) introduced a bill to do away with the Department of Education entirely. His one-page bill, with seven co-signers, bluntly proposes that the Department of Education cease to exist on December 31, 2018.

The Department of Education has been in existence since 1980. It accounts for about 9 percent of all funding that goes toward education and represents about 2 percent of the discretionary spending in the federal budget. DeVos will be doing everything in her power to shift that public funding away from public schools and universities and into the coffers of for-profit and religious schools nationwide. Some in Congress will be doing all in their power to get rid of it altogether, but the end result for public education will be the same. From “no child left behind,” we seem to be entering the dark and dreaded age of “the forgotten child.”

**Why the Gender Pay Gap Is Not a Myth**

Jannice Woodson

Staff Writer

When I hear the gender pay gap denounced as a myth, the critic typically claims that the gap is imagined by those who like to play victims. If the critic is rather well-read, he or she might argue that the wage gap is a fact, but it is driven by various factors based on individual choice. They claim that some women may earn less than their male counterparts because they make decisions that directly lead to lower pay, regardless of choice.

The problem with denouncing the gender pay gap as a myth or as a consequence of personal preference is the lack of consideration for the cultural factors driving the gap. Every policy and quantifiable pattern can be explained by cultural influences; for every argument that the wage gap is imaginary or inexorable, there is a culturally-based explanation for why it is not.

Perhaps the problem is not that the corporate world is driven by men hell-bent on undermining female employees (an idea I find almost too ridiculous to write); instead, I would suggest that the wage gap is the result of our culture convincing women that they have the right to do whatever they want. They have the right to do whatever they want, so long as they keep in mind that their social lives are likely to be more fulfilling if they choose a less lucrative major. I will refrain from explaining how I feel about these points, but I do want to make it clear that these points do not justify the wage gap.

For those who say that women should choose careers with higher pay, how is this even an argument if you look at the representation in these fields? In 2009, the national census found that women made up only 24 percent of the workforce related to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. There must be a cause, and since we all agree that it is not some legal or social restriction, it must be something that women are choosing to do. How can the wage gap be justified by personal preference if the problem is driven by cultural factors based on individual choice?

Others point to the wage gap as a direct result of women working fewer hours than men. A professor at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst found that women make four percent less after having a child, while men make six percent more per child. Women stay home to care for children and are not wholly compensated, while men are rewarded financially for having families. During high school, I had several girls who were told that getting married and starting a family was much more important for them than going to college. They were told this lovingly; they were told to embrace their abilities to create and nurture life. However, they were encouraged to do so at the expense of education, a factor that is almost impossible to address; it is unsaid, implied, and embraced by society. It is almost as if they have forgotten that the problem has been solved. Some women I am. Some say that women choose lower-paying careers because the higher-paying choices are more dangerous, labor-intensive, or both. At the surface, it seems that this is caused by personal preference, but I know from experience that women are often dissuaded from career paths in which they are generally interested, because those industries and professions are stereotyped as being for men. After college, I had hoped to go to trade school and study welding, since the hobby had really grown on me, and I see no problem with pursuing it as a career. I was immediately informed from all channels that I was going to be sexually harassed and that I would not want to deal with working in a male-dominated hobby such as metalworking and embrace their logical sides have somehow convinced the naysayers that the problem has been solved. It is almost as if they have forgotten that the problem has been solved. Some women I am. Some say that women choose lower-paying careers because the higher-paying choices are more dangerous, labor-intensive, or both. At the surface, it seems that this is caused by personal preference, but I know from experience that women are often dissuaded from career paths in which they are generally interested, because those industries and professions are stereotyped as being for men. After college, I had hoped to go to trade school and study welding, since the hobby had really grown on me, and I see no problem with pursuing it as a career. I was immediately informed from all channels that I was going to be sexually harassed and that I would not want to deal with working in a male-dominated hobby such as metalworking and embrace their logical sides have somehow convinced the naysayers that the problem has been solved. It is almost as if they have forgotten that the problem has been solved. Some women I am. Some say that women choose lower-paying careers because the higher-paying choices are more dangerous, labor-intensive, or both. At the surface, it seems that this is caused by personal preference, but I know from experience that women are often dissuaded from career paths in which they are generally interested, because those industries and professions are stereotyped as being for men. After college, I had hoped to go to trade school and study welding, since the hobby had really grown on me, and I see no problem with pursuing it as a career. I was immediately informed from all channels that I was going to be sexually harassed and that I would not want to deal with working in a male-dominated hobby such as metalworking and embrace their logical sides have somehow convinced the naysayers that the problem has been solved. It is almost as if they have forgotten that the problem has been solved. Some women I am. Some say that women choose lower-paying careers because the higher-paying choices are more dangerous, labor-intensive, or both. At the surface, it seems that this is caused by personal preference, but I know from experience that women are often dissuaded from career paths in which they are generally interested, because those industries and professions are stereotyped as being for men. After college, I had hoped to go to trade school and study welding, since the hobby had really grown on me, and I see no problem with pursuing it as a career. I was immediately informed from all channels that I was going to be sexually harassed and that I would not want to deal with working in a male-dominated hobby such as metalworking and embrace their logical sides have somehow convinced the naysayers that the problem has been solved. It is almost as if they have forgotten that the problem has been solved.
“The Hat Man” Tom Lange Stands Out In Any Crowd

AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson Visits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Many gathered to hear Stephenson and Hoffman in the Century Rooms of the MSC.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

parts I need to complete it?” he said.

Not all of his hat themes center around the Cardinals. Some of Lange’s other hats include a Race for the Cure “PINK Hat,” a hat for the Forest Park Hat Contest, and the “Dana Brown” hat. Lange has even made hats for charity; the U.S. Bank Herbert Hoover Duck Derby hat and a hat for Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). Some are even ISS-related. Lange made a St. Patrick’s Day hat for an UMSL float downtown. He also created two hats to honor athletics and academia. Lange would not leave out St. Louis’ other sporting love: hockey. He has also created a St. Louis Blues hat.

Lange’s favorite hat is one he created based on Sesame Street. He was inspired after reading a person’s shirt that read “I was raised on the Street” on the front and “Sesame Street” on the back. “Of course the next time I was in a store I saw some Sesame Street characters I knew would work well on a hat. I googled the rest of the characters and off I was making a Sesame Street hat,” he said.

Lange said he is looking forward to the upcoming season for the Cardinals. He is making an opening day hat for 2017. Opening day is April 3 against the Cubs in St. Louis. This will be the first time since 2011 that the Cardinals’ opening day game will be a home game. Although April 3 is a long time to wait and see what Lange will create next, you can check out his previous hats at the Post Office on campus, located at 8230 Florissant Road.

Many gathered to hear Stephenson and Hoffman in the Century Rooms of the MSC.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

phenson was baffled. “I never knew about this guy,” Stephenson said.

Since that epiphany, Stephenson has been an advocate for tough conversations about race and race relations, especially in corporate America. “We don’t want to talk about that; it’s a little uncomfortable ... It can even be awkward,” he admitted.

Twice a year, the top 25 CEOs of the world meet. Each CEO has about seven minutes to speak on a subject of their choice before the others give their input. Stephenson brought this topic to the table, and the group held a discussion for an hour and a half. Many CEOs asked him to speak at their companies.

“A conversation by itself isn’t going to fix anything, but we’re not going to get anywhere if we don’t start talking about it first,” said Stephenson.

In the last 30 years, there has been a “miracle of productivity,” according to Stephenson, but technological advances have yet to reach higher education. AT&T has been investing in this idea. Working with Udacity and Georgia Tech, AT&T helped cut the cost of the latter’s master’s program in computer science from $41,000 to $6,600.

The shift in learning was even more impressive. At the start of AT&T’s involvement, students thought the workload was too overbearing and felt they could not keep up with the program. They collaborated more and, as time passed, their perspectives and their learning changed. Toward the end of the program, students said the coursework was more strenuous, but the workload was lighter.

The program offered a way for students to learn without depending on instructors. Through collaborative learning, students learned how to re-educate themselves, a vital skill in today’s market. “At AT&T ... we want that [skill] instilled into our company,” Stephenson said. “If you get nothing out of your time at UMSL, please walk out of here with the ability to just constantly be re-training, re-educating, re-learning, re-tooling, re-skilling yourself. If you’re not, two years after this, you’ll be very, very frustrated — You’re going to fall behind fast.”

Tom Lange and his Molina and World Series Rings Hat.

UMSL Resources for Int’l Students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Club, Sigma Tau Gamma, and the Graduate Writers Association all attended the first meeting.

Kehe said that ISS also refers students to Counseling Services, located in MSC 131. With the uncertainty about visa statuses and how things like OPT will be effecting the student population, ISS has been busy meeting with International Students to be a visible presence and support to students who are concerned about the impact of the changes. We continue to hope that values its international members by more than just Lingua. This is a diverse and inclusive community that offers career and professional development, academic coaching, leadership development programs, personalized academic support, social and cultural activities, a speaker series, free tutoring and study groups, scholarship opportunities, study areas and a computer lab, as well as mentoring opportunities for peers, faculty, and staff. This semester, they are hosting their “Commit to Success” workshops, with themes such as “Motivation,” personal growth modules, and different citation styles.

Students may also go to Student Retention Services (SRS), located in MSC 225. SRS’s stated mission on their homepage is to foster an environment of accountability, support, and achievement that challenges students, faculty, and staff to become active agents and advocates for student persistence and degree completion.” SRS offers support services such as, Academic Advising, Academic Support Centers, Campus Testing Centers, Personal and Professional Development, and the Veterans Center, which are open to all UMSL students.

While international students at UMSL face obstacles that do not affect many domestic students, there are a plethora of services available on UMSL’s campus to help acclimate these students and keep the life-blood of innovation - diversity - flowing through UMSL’s hallways and courtyards.

“If you’re not, two years after this, you’ll be very, very frustrated ... You’re going to fall behind fast.”

Randall Stephenson.