Three-year Homecoming Theme Built on Tradition Comes to an End with “Where Tradition Happens”

Kat Riddler
Editor-in-Chief

Where Tradition Happens" was the theme of the University of Missouri-St. Louis’ 2017 Homecoming celebration. This ends the three-part tradition theme started in 2015 to try to build cohesiveness in the move from the fall to spring in which Homecoming is held.

Director of Student Life, Jessica Long-Pease, said, “With UMSL being as young as it is, I think the tradition piece is the part that is challenging. ... [The theme] gave us some continuity for the last couple years, and it connected each of those homecomings together.”

Homecoming Week started out with a friendly competition between offices at UMSL on February 13. The Office Spirit Competition required offices to have artwork with the name of the office, the slogan “Where Tradition Happens,” and a link to the Facebook Homecoming fan page. The offices were judged on effort, appearance, creativity, originality, tastefulness, and school spirit. The 2017 winner was the Human Resources Office, who received bragging rights across campus and won up to $300 toward an office party.

Window Painting was the next event on February 12. Student groups and departments competed in showing their Triton pride on the Millennium Student Center Bridge's windows. The displays stayed up all week. The winner of the competition was Alpha Xi Delta.

The Red and Gold Regatta took place right after the Homecoming Kickoff in the Recreation and Wellness Center on February 13. Students party at the Homecoming Dance on Friday.

This wet competition put student groups and campus departments in the pool, racing cardboard boats they built. The winner this year was Pi Kappa Alpha.

Big Man on Campus was hosted by the Panhellenic Association on February 14. Students competed in a series of live events to win the title of Big Man on Campus. Collection buckets for a penny war were set up for audience members to vote for their favorite contestant. All proceeds went to benefit Girls, Inc. The winner this year was Braxton Perry, senior, physical education. Perry won Homecoming King last year and was sponsored by the sorority Delta Zeta.

Blitzball and the silent disco were held in the J.C. Penney Summit Lounge and lobby from 8 to 10 p.m. Blitzball is an indoor version of paintball that is mess free and was enjoyed by dedicating himself to school at age 10. He said, “Go to school. Do well in your classes.”

Silent Disco has guests wearing Bluetooth headphones that broadcast 2 different music channels. Guests can pick the music channel they want to hear, and start dancing away. But with Silent Disco, the music is only on the set of “Life Happens—Now What!” Myles described growing up as the 14th of 16 children, raised by parents who had not attended high school. He discussed the problems of living in a rural area “where there was little expected of black males,” and how he fought by dedicating himself to school at age 10. He said, “Go to school. Do

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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.
The UM System to Increase Password Security by Fall 2017

The University of Missouri System will be implementing the Secure Authentication Toolkit to provide a second layer of password safety for users. This tool is similar to password security used by banks and credit card companies. The change was explained in a campuswide email sent out on February 13 by Information Security Officer Mark Monroe.

According to the campuswide email, “Logging in to an electronic resource with a username and password confirms your identity and grants authentication to access University IT systems and sensitive information. This makes passwords the forefront of protecting your personal information as well as the university’s electronic data.”

The toolkit provides a second step of password security, such as phone numbers, email addresses, and questions so that users can gain access to IT systems to retrieve their password. All UM System employees and students will have to provide a cell phone number and a non-university email account by the end of the fall and will have to fill out knowledge-based questions and answers. All employees and students will also have to be registered through the toolkit in the coming weeks by changing or resetting their passwords. If registration is forgone, services like password change and reset will not be accessible.

The FAQ section states, “The University will use this information for legitimate University purposes and as required by law. The University does not market personal information to outside entities.” The section includes a note for students on this. Directory information is publicly available under Missouri’s open records law unless they exercise their rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and university policy to restrict information from the directory. More on FERPA can be accessed on the registrar’s website at registrar.missouri.edu/policies-procedures/ferpa.php.

For technical help with the tools contact Technology Support Center at 314-516-6034. More information about the Secure Authentication Toolkit can be found at umsystem.edu/ums/fs/infosec/secure.authentication.toolkit.

To register with the Secure Authentication Toolkit, please visit umsystem.edu/ums/fs/infosec/how_to_use_the_secure_authentication_toolkit. For additional information, visit the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage at umsystem.edu/ums/fs/infosec/secure.authentication.toolkit.faq.

The Current: UMSL’s Independent Student News

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Why the Number of Black Baseball Players is Declining

BRANDON PERKINS  
Staff Writer

B aseball in the black community is quickly declining in popularity among young people. Participation in the sport is occurring at the professional level, collegiate level, and in youth leagues. Black players represent just eight percent of the Major League Baseball player pool today. Entering the 2017 playing season, the St. Louis Cardinals have just one black player on the active roster. The same could be stated for the University of Missouri–St. Louis, whose baseball team only has one active black player.

Many argue that these trends of participation affect the up-and-coming generation that is watching. Many black players such as Deion Sanders, Barry Bonds, Brian Jordan, Joe Carter, Mo Vaughn, Hank Aaron, Reggie Jackson, and countless others once starred on the MLB diamond. To many Negro League baseball fans and black players and fans still enjoyed and experienced the game. Names like Josh Gibson and Satchel Paige, members of the Negro Baseball League, are important to remember that the color barrier in MLB was not broken until 1946 when Jackie Robinson made his debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The truth is that having only one player in the entire league could not mean any color barrier was broken nor was progress made. However, prior to the color barrier being broken, an entire league of black players existed, which was called the Negro Leagues, and not being accepted in MLB, many black players and fans still enjoyed and experienced the game. Names like Josh Gibson and Satchel Paige, members of the Negro Baseball League, are important to remember that the color barrier in MLB was not broken until 1946 when Jackie Robinson made his debut for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

While the Negro Leagues were not as popular as the major leagues, they were just as fierce, and they provided an opportunity for African American athletes to compete at the highest level. The Negro Leagues were instrumental in developing the skills of many black players, and they provided a platform for African American athletes to showcase their talents.

The Negro Leagues also played a significant role in the history of baseball in the United States. They were a symbol of resistance against racial discrimination and segregation. The leagues were founded in response to the lack of opportunities for black athletes in the major leagues. As a result, they became a source of pride and inspiration for African Americans.

In conclusion, while the decline in participation in baseball among black youth is concerning, it is important to acknowledge the contributions of the Negro Leagues and the role they played in the history of baseball. The leagues continue to be an important part of African American culture and history, and they should be celebrated and remembered.

Ken Griffey bats for the Mariners in 1997.

LANCE JORDAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

O n January 16 Daniel Brodsky started his first day in the University of Missouri–St. Louis Athletic Department as the coordinator of external operations.

Jarret Alexander, who as of two weeks ago is no longer with UMSL, filled the position of this position opening. “He reached out to me and said they had the position open and asked if I was interested,” Brodsky says. “My father got his undergraduate and graduate degrees here at UMSL. I knew there was a lot of potential for me here on this campus and that this position would allow me to start my career in a really positive way.”

At Ball State University, Brodsky chose sports administration as his major and played in baseball at high school. I was a pretty good athlete,” Brodsky recalls. “I think analytical- ly, I have a business-oriented mind. So business was what I thought I really wanted to go into, and sports administration is basically sports business.”

Brodsky’s talent is backed up with an impressive list of internships during his studies. He served as a promotional events game day intern for the Cincinnati Reds, completed an internship with the Indiana Pacers, and has also done internships for Lindenwood Athletics and the Parkview North High School Athletic Department. To this day, the internship with the Reds is something Brodsky still thinks about.

“Baseball is my favorite sport. My dad has been a Cardinals season ticket-holder my whole life. I was a baseball player for two years at Ball State as well. So to be able to work in baseball, especially at the major league level—even though it was not for the Cardinals—was a dream come true. Fortunately in my position I was able to be around the game and on the field a bit,” Brodsky says.

With his position Brodsky is responsible for administrative operations he will take on the day- to-day operations of the athletic department, which is made up of many teams and notoriety from his super-human athleticism and notoriety from his super-human athleticism and marketing, trying to increase our brand, awareness, and visibility—obviously on campus, and throughout the community as well. Lastly, he will be responsible for the implementation of planning pertaining to an athletic event. A lot of people think you pull the bleach out, you roll a ball in the middle of the court and you start a basketball game. Well, there is the stuff, when you walk in through the door there is someone selling tickets, someone at the concession stand, custodians around the facility. You have the actual game itself, which has the referees, and there’s different scripts you have to write that they have to read off of. You have to set up the score table, cameras for instant replay. You have to figure out a way to tear it all down and do it again.”

As previously mentioned, Brodsky played for two years on Ball State’s baseball team, where they won the 2016 Mid-American regular season conference championship. Before Ball State, Brodsky attended Parkway North High School, where he also played baseball on the school newspaper. Only five weeks into the position, Brodsky is already hard at work preparing the spring semester’s home games for the different athletic programs.

Brodsky hopes his time at UMSL affects the school in a positive way.

“Here at UMSL a lot of people might see the challenges as nothing but a challenge. But with challenge comes opportunity, and I see the potential our department and the school as a whole.”
On January 28, Netflix viewers were once again able to transport themselves to the fictional, bloody English streets of Whitechapel. “Ripper Street” season 4, produced by Amazon Prime Instant Video, brought back the dynamic trio of Inspector Edmund Reid (Matthew Macfadyen), Detective Inspector Sergeant Bennet Drake (Jerome Flynn), and the American surgeon Captain Homer Jackson (Adam Rothenberg) to solve the killings by vampires, werewolves, and fiends that plague the East End of London.

“Ripper Street” began in 2012 as a BBC fictional drama after the murders of Jack the Ripper. Season 4 starts in the summer of 1897 with Queen Victoria celebrating her diamond jubilee. New technologies like the telephone and microreader help to make police work more manageable in the new police building that was destroyed last season by a train’s head-on collision with the building. But the new police building is not the only change in Whitechapel. Drake was promoted to the head of the H Division when Reid decided to move away from Whitechapel with his newly found daughter. But Reid could not stay away from his home, and he comes back under Drake to continue to solve murder mysteries.

“Ripper Street” is as gripping as the street it is named after and is fine murder-mystery writing and acting.
UMSL’s Homecoming “Where Tradition Happens”

continued from page 1

broadcast through the headphones, so anyone without the headphones can’t hear the music.”

The Homecoming Steering Committee will convene in a few weeks to assess the programs and decide if they will be considered again for next year’s events.

“Construction” was held the morning of February 15. Students and student groups competed in collecting nonperishable cans to donate to the Pagedale Family Support Center. Groups competed to create a structure that reflected the Homecoming theme. This year there was a tie between Alpha Xi Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha for first place; 4,536 cans were collected in total. There were so many cans donated this year that one ton of cans was also taken to the Food Search charity.

Five recipes were submitted for the Chili Feed, sponsored by the Faculty Senate on February 15. UMSL faculty and administration worked hard to bring several types of chili to their audience. The different types were Olivia’s Turkey Chili, Hearty White Chili, Traditional Chili, Three Course Chili, and 3-Bean Vegetarian Chili. For $5 everyone was able to try a serving from each entry and submit their favorite choice. They were then welcomed into two groups for student organization award presentations.

Ten different types of chili were submitted this year, including the homecoming court candidates, whose participation was mandatory. Nick Domescik, senior, psychology, won this year’s Lip Sync Competition. The Homecoming blood drive took place on February 16 in the Century Rooms of the MSC. The Homecoming blood drive was one of the most highly participated drives of the year. Pi Kappa Alpha co-sponsored this year’s blood drive.

The spirit competition was split into two groups for student organizations of different sizes. Red level was set for student groups with members less than 20. Gold level was for student groups larger than 20 members. Pi Kappa Alpha used these two groups to award the most donations from student groups. Revolution Campus Ministry won for the Red Division for their donations. Alpha Xi Delta won for the Gold Division.

Service projects took place alongside the blood drive on February 16 and focused on community service projects around UMSL. Participants were able to stop by to take the cans collected for “Construction” to the multiple charities, write letters to service members, and create dog toys for donations.

Homecoming brought together the crowdfunding efforts of the Homecoming Steering Committee to the multiple charities; write letters to service members, and create dog toys for donations. Homecoming brought together the crowdfunding efforts of the Homecoming Steering Committee.

The homecoming king and queen. Homecoming brought together the crowdfunding efforts of the Homecoming Steering Committee. The homecoming king and queen.

The students were asked to raise money for a scholarship of their choice. Together they raised $4,035. Overall spirit competition winners were announced at the dance. The student groups who won for each division received bragging rights for the next year and will have their name engraved on the Homecoming plaque in the Office of Student Involvement. For the Red Division, Revolution Campus Ministry won first place and the Entrepreneurial Group won second. For the Gold Division, Delta Zeta won first place, Alpha Xi Delta won second, and Zeta Tau Alpha won third.

King and queen candidates were asked to crowdfund for a scholarship of their choice. Together, they raised $4,815 for UMSL scholarships. The Homecoming Queen candidates consisted of Alaina Altenbernd, junior, biology/pre-optometry; Sarah Hilpert, junior, psychology; Sarah Schaper, junior, nursing; Lizzy Turner, senior, criminology and criminal justice; and Madisyn Weiss, sophomore, political science & criminology and criminal justice. Homecoming King candidates were Michael Clark, senior, accounting; Alex Neupert, UMSL alumni, psychology; AJ Rothman, senior, SUCCEED; and Mario Miles-Turnage, senior, media studies.

Homecoming King Domescik said her favorite part of the Homecoming festivities was “getting to raise 1,963 cans for the Pagedale Community Center.” Homecoming Queen Hilpert said “My favorite part of Homecoming was the opportunity to get more involved at UMSL. I also love all of the connections I had the opportunity to make.”

UMSL’s Homecoming Court 2017

Alaina Altenbernd, junior, biology/pre-optometry
Madisyn Weiss, sophomore, political science & criminology and criminal justice
Michael Clark, senior, accounting
AJ Rothman, senior, SUCCEED
Lizzy Turner, senior, criminology and criminal justice
Sarah Schaper, junior, nursing
Mario Miles-Turnage, Senior, media studies

Monday, February 13
Where’s Louie Medallion Hunt All Day
Homecoming Info Booth All Day
Homecoming Kick-Off at the RWC 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday, February 10
Office Spirit Competition at 12 p.m.

Sunday, February 12
MSC Bridge Window Painting 4-7 p.m.

Red & Gold Regatta at the RWC 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Homecoming Week 2017 Around UMSL

**Tuesday, February 14**
- Where’s Louie Medallion Hunt All Day
- Homecoming Info Booth All Day
- Big Man on Campus at the J.C. Penney Aud. 7 p.m.
- Blitzball/Silent Disco at the J.C. Penney Auditorium 8 p.m.-10 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 15**
- Where’s Louie Medallion Hunt All Day
- Homecoming Info Booth All Day
- Canstruction in Century Room C in the MSC 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Chili Feed in Century Rooms A&B in the MSC 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Lip Sync in the J.C. Penney

**Thursday, February 16**
- Where’s Louie Medallion Hunt All Day
- Homecoming Info Booth All Day
- Blood Drive in Century Rooms in MSC 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Service Projects in Century Room A in MSC 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Pack the Stands at Mark Twain 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.

**Friday, February 17**
- Where’s Louie Medallion Hunt All Day
- Homecoming Info Booth All Day
- Friday Flick Matinee in SGA Chambers in MSC at 2 p.m.
- Homecoming Dinner & Dance at Chase Park Plaza Hotel 6:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

**Saturday, February 18**
- Tiny Tritons Pancakes and Basketball at Mark Twain 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Leaders and Luminaries at the MSC 6:30 p.m.

**Above:** Attendees getting fired up for Pack the Stands

**Left:** Around 550 students attended the Homecoming Dance on Friday.

LANCE JORDAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Animal Collective is a band that has built a reputation through constant reinvention. Since its inception in 2000, the Baltimore-based experimental pop group has been in a state of intentional flux, both in terms of its lineup and artistic vision. The band has existed as a duo, trio, and quartet at various points in time and has produced a diverse body of work spanning ten full-length studio albums, eight EPs, three live albums, and one visual album, which diverse body of work includes forays into psychedelic pop, ambient drone, dance, folk, field recordings, and noise rock.

For this reason, it may seem oxymoronic to call the amorphous collective’s new EP, “The Painters,” a return to form—but that is exactly what it is.

In recent years, Animal Collective has struggled to recover from the commercial success and critical acclaim of “Merriweather Post Pavilion,” the 2009 breakthrough album that helped deliver the group out of the obscurity of the avant-garde and into popular consciousness. The two studio albums that the band has since released—“Centipede Hz” and “Painting With”—have felt inspired in comparison, lacking the ineffable “truth” that the earlier works possessed.

But that has all changed with “The Painters.” The four-song EP was released February 17 by Domino and features songs recorded during the “Painting With” studio sessions. There’s more to “I Decided” than its lead single “Bounce Back,” a catchier trap-influenced song propelled by Metro Boomin. However, this isn’t a diss to the song, as the boastful song about coming back after taking a loss to become better is an anthem in its own right, similar to the group’s “I Don’t F— with You” in 2011.

The album can be described as a conscious rap project, as well as a concept album, as Big Sean considers his present and also his future. The “Intro” goes further into the story, leading listeners into the rest of the album, which feels like a self-reflection on his success and struggles. Big Sean calls on several big names for his latest release, including Eminem, Jhene Aiko, and Migos to name a few. In Sean’s track with Migos, titled “Sacrifices,” Big Sean and Migos both reflect on the sacrifices they have made to become successful. In the hook, Sean raps, “I done made sacrifices, so many sacrifices I done gave up so much free time, knowing time ain’t free, [expletive] I sacrificed it. My girl show me love, she know I made big decisions.” And in Migos member Offset’s verse, he raps about finally giving up his thug life in order to live a more lavish, more exciting life: “I done sacrificed the thug life, dialed my wrist a hundon.”

Album art.

It sounds stylistically similar to the work on Lennon’s latest album, “Panda Bear Meets the Grim Reaper,” yet it avoids falling into some of the musical pitfalls that songs on the album succumbed to, viz. repetition without sufficient evolution. “Peacemaker” is indeed repetitive, at least technically, but the song nonetheless seems to evoke a destination altogether different than that whence it came.

Also included on “The Painters” is Animal Collective’s first ever studio cover, “Jimmy Mack,” originally performed by the Motown R&B trio Martha and the Vandellas. David Porter reimagines the phrasing of the song’s opening chorus, slowing it down considerably with his reverb-laden voice while a wall of digital noise and discordant drums surges in the background. This mounting tension is relieved by the sudden shift into the song’s first verse, at which point the song becomes a bouncing pop number that threatens at times to careen out of control.

“The Painters” EP is a welcome return to form for Animal Collective and is well worth owning. It is available in vinyl, CD, and digital formats through Domino Recording Company.

Big Sean Bounces Back with Latest Album “I Decided”

LANCE JORDAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Big Sean certainly has come a long way from his 2011 debut studio album, “Finally Famous.” From then to now, Big Sean has received numerous accolades for his songs over the years and has gone verse for verse with some of rap’s biggest stars. Now in 2017, Big Sean has blessed us with his fourth studio album, “I Decided,” which may have set the bar for rap albums in 2017.

There’s more to “I Decided” than its lead single “Bounce Back,” a catchy trap-influenced song produced by Metro Boomin. However, this isn’t a diss to the song, as the boastful song about coming back after taking a loss to become better is an anthem in its own right, similar to his single “I Don’t F— with You” in 2011.

The album can be described as a conscious rap project, as well as a concept album, as Big Sean considers his present and also his future. The “Intro” goes further into the story, leading listeners into the rest of the album, which feels like a self-reflection on his success and struggles. Big Sean calls on several big names for his latest release, including Eminem, Jhene Aiko, and Migos to name a few. In Sean’s track with Migos, titled “Sacrifices,” Big Sean and Migos both reflect on the sacrifices they have made to become successful. In the hook, Sean raps, “I done made sacrifices, so many sacrifices I done gave up so much free time, knowing time ain’t free, [expletive] I sacrificed it. My girl show me love, she know I made big decisions.” And in Migos member Offset’s verse, he raps about finally giving up his thug life in order to live a more lavish, more exciting life: “I done sacrificed the thug life, dialed my wrist a hundon.”

In one of the most talked about tracks on “I Decide,” Big Sean and Eminem assure listeners that they didn’t need any help to make it to the level they are at today. Sean leads with the hook, “Make it, make it, make it, make it, boy, we gotta make it.” From there, Sean takes over the first verse, which is highlighted by his lyrics. “The D to Flint, kids who get sick with lead, others get hit with the lead”—which refers not only to the continuing water crisis in Flint, Michigan, but also to Detroit’s rise in homicides. In the second verse, we are introduced to Eminem, who creates a lot of buzz after appearing on the track, ranging from questions about his relevancy in today’s evolving rap genre, to his lyrics about John Lennon, who performs under the stage name Martha and the Vandellas.

The “Outro” of “I Decided” features for a conversation between Big Sean and his mother, in which they discuss how proud she is of Big Sean and his success.

Fans of Big Sean will definitely find this album enjoyable from start to finish, and I’m sure the group will continue to make music that keeps their fans happy. Big Sean has built a reputation through constant reinvention, and that is evident in this project.
Hispanic and Latino Students Bring Diversity and Community to UMSL

LEAH JONES  FEATURES EDITOR

Left to right: Kathie Rice, Jennifer Emily, Samantha Barnett, Ashley Vance, John Cleggett celebrate Anthropology Day, Below, a poster on the history of race.

The ASA meets UMSL Students with Anthropology Day

LEAH JONES  FEATURES EDITOR

Opening from the Greek prefix “anthro-,” which means “pertaining to humans,” and the Greek suffix “-logia” which means “a speaking, discourse, treatise, doctrine, theory, or science,” anthropology is generally considered to be the study of human behavior. Anthropologists combine the work of investigators from intellectual fields such as history, language, science, and politics to study a topic that is relevant to everyone: humans themselves.

People tend to think that things are separated from the rest of the world, that Western civilization is the only one that counts, that there’s some distanced fact about a group or a nation or a race or ethnicity, so we aren’t all going to look the same. —Negrón

Negrón said that HILSA gives all the students a place to develop a community and support system. “[We] do anything from if a student asks about an easy class, help them get an inexpensive tutor, or help them have an issue with a class and they need some help figuring something out... to just creating an environment in the university where people understand that [Hispanic and Latino students] are there, that they are acknowledged, and that they feel comfortable on campus,” Negrón said. “My goal is to get students to know that there is a network of people [for them], and that they are actually super cool. [I want students to know that they] don’t have to be afraid to talk to someone, and just to get that sense of community... It’s about creating community. It’s about creating something that students know that they have to use them in whatever way we can.”

While HILSA also hosts an annual conference for HILSA members on campus, they also reach out and engage with UMSL students who may not have exposure to Hispanic and Latino culture. “Our organization’s goal is to create awareness about the great diversity in the students and faculty that we have here on campus. We really want to educate and help create an understanding of different cultures,” Ramos said.

HISLA also works closely with the Spanish language department to bring together Spanish speakers of all levels from across UMSL’s campus. Though HISLA had done some speaking groups in the past, Negrón said that the events picked up last semester, with attendees ranging from native Spanish speakers, to those who have studied Spanish, to those who knew little to no Spanish. Despite the difference in proficiency levels, Negrón said that the students discussed a lot of different topics in what she described as “a really warm environment.”

HISLA also hosts an annual meet and greet. The group’s second annual meet and greet took place in the Millennium Student Center Fireside Lounge on February 8 from 5 to 7 p.m.

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In Defense of Truth: The Role of the Free Press

Kat Riddler
Editor-in-Chief

John Edward Dalberg-Acton, a 19th-century British writer, historian, and politician is less well-known by name than by the oft-quoted words he penned in 1870: “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Within the same paragraph, however, Dalberg-Acton wrote what is perhaps his most famous and enduring: “The only remedy for corruption of power is to have power so organized and distributed as to make腐败不可避免.”

The 2016 presidential election was the beginning of an era of post-truth politics and the decline of the role of the free press in our democracy. With President Donald Trump’s rise to power, the traditional role of the press as a check on power has been questioned and the media has become embattled in the role of providing the American people with the truth of their government.

Tech Column: Should We Trust Elon Musk’s Pet Project SpaceX?
Travonte Harris
Staff Writer

You may know Tesla as the company that has rocketed onto your street as the quiet, sleek, and powerful, all-electric and fully automated vehicle. What you may not know, however, is that the founder of Tesla, Elon Musk, has other technologically progressive plans for the world.

One such plan is the Space Exploration Technologies Corporation, also known as SpaceX. I like to call SpaceX by a different name: Elon Musk’s Pet Project.

SpaceX is Musk’s program that boasts the ambitious plan of making space-travel ubiquitous. SpaceX has problems, but even SpaceX says that the rockets are safe. Elon Musk’s Pet Project has done well—it has put many rockets into space and only had limited issues. Nonetheless, I think they have a long way to go before the public feels safe enough to get on board.

NASA has been stepping back a bit and giving private enterprise a chance to make its mark on the future of space travel. Many billions of dollars are competing to be the first to send a human to space. But SpaceX is paving the way. His company is the most talked about, the most publicly known, and the most advanced private space-travel outfit.

SpaceX has problems, but even NASA does, too. The key is to keep researching, keep innovating, and persevere when something goes bad, and it seems that Musk and SpaceX are following all of these principles. SpaceX has a bright future ahead and I can’t wait to see what they do next.

President Gwynne Shotwell told Reuters that the company plans to launch rockets into space every two to three weeks. SpaceX has tried this goal before, with disastrous results—one of their rockets exploded in September of 2016, destroying a $200 million Facebook satellite in the process. They did demonstrate some success, however, managing to pull off eight launches before they grounded their fleet for the rest of 2016. The company has improved and has recently launched a rocket into space every two to three weeks. SpaceX has problems, but even NASA says that the company is making progress.

Elon Musk’s Pet Project has done well—it has put many rockets into space and only had limited issues. Nonetheless, I think they have a long way to go before the public feels safe enough to get on board.

“SpaceX plans to fly humans in its rockets as soon as 2018, but there is a huge problem: engine cracks.”

President Gwynne Shotwell told Reuters that the company plans to launch rockets into space every two to three weeks. SpaceX has tried this goal before, with disastrous results—one of their rockets exploded in September of 2016, destroying a $200 million Facebook satellite in the process. They did demonstrate some success, however, managing to pull off eight launches before they grounded their fleet for the rest of the year.

Can Musk’s pet project safely take people into space? SpaceX plans to fly humans in its rockets as soon as 2018, but there is a huge

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Let the president insult and demean the members of the press. Let him call reporters names to their faces and try to bully them. Let him continue to tell untruths to mask the truth. Let him dodge and weave and distract. Remind us as you call a member of the federal judiciary a “so-called judge” or a sitting Unit-
The Hispanic Latino Association at UMSL: Global to Local

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UHLC students also enjoy Jimmy, shake, cha-cha, and mambo during HSLA’s salsa nights. Like the Spanish speaking nights, dancers of all abilities and levels come together to learn how to dance the salsa.

“My favorite event has to be the Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration,” said Ramos. “Last year, we created a very beautiful altar on the MSC Bridge decorated with colorful paper flowers, sugar skulls, and food. The altar is a sweet way to honor family or friends that have passed away.”

HSLA also celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with the UMSL community from September 15 to October 15 every year. In fact, Hispanic Heritage Month served as the impetus for HSLA’s formation nearly thirty years ago. Negrón researched the roots of the organization and found that HSLA originally formed in 1988 when a group of students wanted to have a Hispanic Heritage Month on campus. “It was really important at that time, especially for students to stand what they’ve been through.”

In ancient Greek society, veterans had a social function, but it also had almost an activist function. They were collecting signatures. It was very interesting. We didn’t know that we were that old,” she said.

UMSL still celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month. Last year, Ramos said that HSLA kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a Venezuelan film followed by a panel discussion which explored poverty, gender, and race in Latin America.

Negrón added that students from all over the world attend HSLA’s events. “It’s been great knowing people from all over and getting to know them. I think that something that is really cool about this organization,” she said.

In addition, Negrón said that HSLA will be doing some community service work as well, including working at tutoring center for children.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was passed on June 15, 2012 under the Obama administration. Deferred action allows immigrants who meet certain standards and came to the United States as children to request that the U.S. government defer legal action to deport them for a period of time. While DACA does not grant legal status to these individuals, it does qualify them to work to receive authorizations. As The New York Times reported, the new administration arrested more than 600 people last week in an attempt to deport undocumented immigrants with criminal convictions, raising questions among all students, including, but not limited to those in the Hispanic and Latino community, about what might happen to students or their family members who have been deferred action.

Though these questions weight on students’ minds, Negrón and Ramos made clear that HSLA is there to support these students and help them to understand and navigate DACA.

While Negrón has dedicated herself giving students a sense of safety and community through HSLA, she also commented on how committed the students are as well. She hopes to get even more students active in the organization. She encourages students to continue to engage with students from different backgrounds and perspectives to build HSLA’s diverse local community.

Like Negrón working for bigger changes through local organizations and events, Ramos also sees these quotidian interactions as a place for larger social change. “I hope students will benefit from [HSLA] by walking away with a wider world view of people, especially Latinos, who might look and sound different than them, by taking the time to learn about their culture,” she said.

For more information on HSLA and their upcoming events, visit https://orgsync.com/73977/chapter.

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Student Anthropologists Connect UMSL with Mankind’s Past

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The past, he pointed out that these important similarities and differences between our cultures have important implications for how we deal with modern-day problems. Since the Greeks have mostly been studied in terms of their unique cosmopolitanism, Cosmopoulos explained that most every generation of ancient Greeks fought in wars and saw combat.

“This is a major difference with our veterans. Our veterans come as a family. We understand, and this made the transition easier,” he said. “The human experience remains similar, in the way that war and violence changes you. So now the U.S. military is going back and trying to examine the ways in which ancient Greek culture dealt with post-traumatic stress disorder, with unit cohesion.”

Emily also spoke to these present-day applications of anthropology. “[In] forensic anthropology ... you can help [victims of murder, and their families because] you can identify them so you can give them their identity back. You can help their families find resolution.”

While anthropology helps students connect seemingly disparate fields of study, different cultures, and the past and the present, Wright contends that it also connects people to other life forms such as plants and animals. “I am interested in ethnobiology, which has to do with people’s relationship to plants and animals and the environment,” she said, citing an interest in cropping systems. Wright said that she hopes to develop a course on food as well.

Cosmopoulos said that all of these connections can help connect students to their future careers as well. “There is a practical advantage. We live in a world where the job market and job environment [is] very demanding in terms of learning new skills. These skills change very quickly with technology. Technology moves so fast, so anthropology helps [students] to just learn how to keep learning,” he said. “It’s not sufficient anymore to just teach humans one set of skills because that set of skills will be outdated in a couple of years. It’s more important to teach them how to adjust and how to keep adjusting to new skills and new requirements.”

To connect with the Association of Student Anthropologists at UMSL, visit their Triton Sync page at https://orgsync.com/74053/chapter.

To connect with Greek culture by studying abroad in Greece in the summer of 2017, visit studyabroad.ums.edu.

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