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The Current

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April 17, 2017

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

PRIZM Builds Bridge of Understanding Across UMSL



Sammi Risius and Jessie Kehle on the MSC bridge in front of the wall of intolerance.

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

FOR THE last 6,000 years, humans have been making bricks for their architectural endeavors. While the Great Wall was built as a defense system to keep invaders out of the country, today people also build metaphorical walls of bricks to separate themselves from other people. PRIZM, the queer-trans-straight

alliance at the University of Missouri–St. Louis demonstrated these metaphorical bricks and walls on the Millennium Student Center bridge this past week with their Walls of Intolerance event. Students wrote instances of discrimination on red blocks of construction paper, which were meant to simulate bricks. PRIZM members then taped these bricks onto the windows of the bridge, effectively building a

wall built of discrimination and intolerance.

Jessie Kehle, graduate, English, and president of PRIZM described the annual project. “This is a program where students are supposed to write instances of discrimination, bias, or judgment that either they have witnessed, experienced, or seen someone else experience,” Kehle said. “The idea is we cover the

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MDMC Speaker Offers Insights Into Future of Technology

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SOME DAYS it seems like the future is hurtling toward people faster than they can adapt. Peering into that future can be frightening, but it may also be the best way to cope with what is to come.

The future was on full display this past week at the Midwest Digital Marketing Conference (MDMC), produced by the University of Missouri–St. Louis College of Business and presented by Charter Spectrum at Union Station on April 12 and 13. It brought together over 1,300 social and digital marketing wizards from a host of industries and startups to learn and connect with the latest trends, innovations, and ideas.

Among the many notable presenters and keynote speakers was James Whittaker, Ph.D., the self-de-

scribed “technical evangelist” at Microsoft. His presentation was entitled simply, “A Brief Introduction to the Future” and the vision he shared was of a world to come that is profoundly different than the one people know now.

Whittaker laid out for the packed audience three great disruptions of the past 30 years. It began with the mainframe computers that revolutionized mankind’s ability to stretch the reach of their own minds. He said that mainframes “ruled the world,” that is, “until they didn’t.”

Like Prometheus stealing fire from the Greek gods and giving it to man, PCs took the power of those mainframes, which had been tethered in large corporate facilities, and gave it to the homes and offices of everyone. That was the second disruption.

The third was the creation of

the world wide web, connecting people around the globe. Suddenly, one did not have to go to a brick-and-mortar store to buy software, movies, or music. eBay, Facebook, YouTube, Amazon, and even dating sites emerged. Another presenter noted that the first clickable advertisement appeared on computers on October 27, 1994, from AT&T.

Whittaker said people are currently in a fourth disruption: the advent of smart phones and mobile devices. Just as it is hard for people to imagine what it was like for their parents to have grown up in a time before cell phones, it also will be difficult to remember a time before smart phones and tablets. Maps suddenly went the way of the dinosaurs with the advent of electronic driving directions and users had new distractions like Pokémon Go. There

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John Butterly: Racism Begets World Hunger

LEAH JONES
FEATURES EDITOR

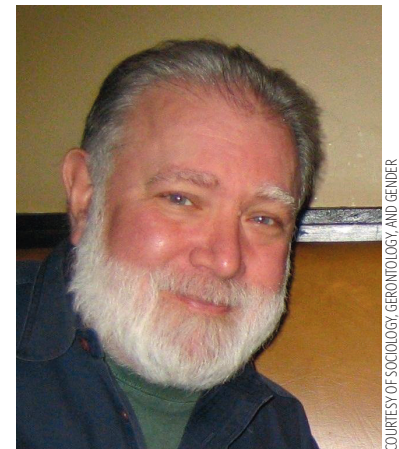
THE UNITED Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that one in nine people, or 795 million people, suffered from chronic undernourishment from 2014 to 2016. In 2013, 161 million children under five years old were estimated to have stunted growth because of malnutrition. According to UNICEF, half of all of these children lived in Asia, and over one-third lived in Africa.

Dr. John R. Butterly, M.D., a fellow of the American College of Physicians, as well as a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, who teaches and conducts research as a professor of medicine at the Dartmouth Institute, spoke to University of Missouri–St. Louis faculty, staff, and students about this intersection of global hunger and race throughout the week. Butterly’s work as both a practicing physician and as an administrator in healthcare delivery programs has led him to the intersection of health, politics, and social injustice, which he addresses in his book “Hunger: The Biology and Politics of Starvation,” as well as in his upcoming book “Global Health and Society.”

Butterly spoke to six classes about this intersection while at UMSL. In addition, he also led a seminar on narrative medicine for a gerontology class on Friday. Between all of these classes, Butterly found the time to give an open lecture in the SGA Chambers from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 11, during which he spoke to the audience about how racism affects worldwide health. His visit was funded by a Visiting Scholar’s grant awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Aaron Jones, junior, pre-social work, attended the evening’s lecture after hearing Butterly’s earlier lecture in one of Dr. Susan Brownell’s anthropology courses. “The topic is very interesting... and I have always been interested in the environment and people. That’s why I am [studying] social work. So, I really don’t know what to expect, but I heard that I was in for a treat,” he said before the event.

Dr. Kathleen Butterly Nigro, associate teaching professor in sociology, gerontology, and gender studies, and director of the gender studies programs at UMSL, intro-



Dr. John R. Butterly, M.D.

duced Butterly, who is her brother. However, she said that he is more than just her brother. “He is my hero because of his abiding commitment to social justice and I think that you will hear that tonight,” she said.

The lecture, entitled “Race, Racism, and Global Health: An Unexplained Variable in the Health (And Wealth) of Human Populations,” was sponsored by the department of sociology, gerontology, and gender, and demonstrated this abiding commitment to social justice. Butterly built his argument through research on the behavioral aspects of intra-species aggression. He cited Konrad Lorenz’s book, “On Aggression,” which posits that the stronger the social bond within a species, the more likely animals within that species are to commit violent acts against each other. Though this intra-species violence serves basic evolutionary functions within these groups, animals with strong social bonds, such as humans, must balance that tendency toward intra-species aggression with the competing evolutionary impetus to procreate. This, according to Butterly, engenders an “us versus them” mentality, which can be used to justify hurting others or hoarding resources for one’s own group. For these differences to justify violent racist practices, Butterly says that these differences must be seen as innate and inherited, unchangeable and unbridgeable.

Next, Butterly examined whether race is a biological or social construct. “[I am going to] bring you through a genetic argument about whether or not there is such a thing as a biological race difference. I think it’s important to use the genetic evidence because that is re-

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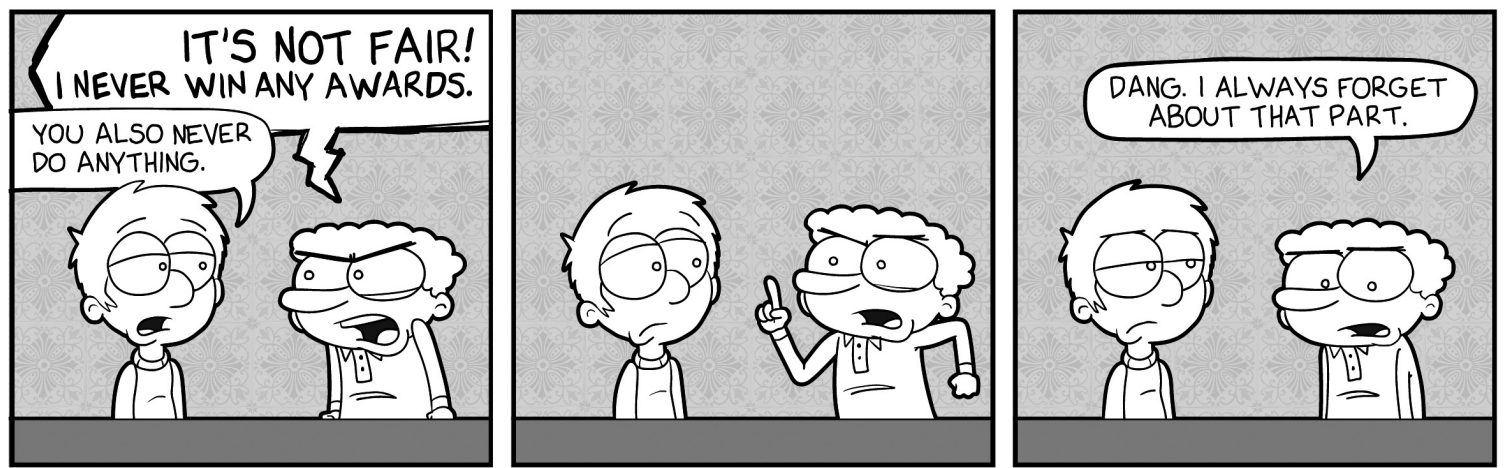
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ON THE QUAD BY MIKE DILIBERTO

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

MONDAY
APRIL 24

6:00pm-8:00pm
MSC Century Rooms

Help honor your fellow Tritons as we recognize student leaders and organizations for the hardwork they've done all year.

Math Problem of the Week

Suppose you have a fair coin (equally likely to land on either side) and call one side "heads" and the other side "tails." What is the probability that you flip as many "heads" as "tails?"

Email solutions to covertdj@umsl.edu.

There were no correct guesses for this puzzle.



News Brief: UMSL Ranked Fifth Among 50 Best Value Colleges for Adult Education

LORI DRESNER
NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of Missouri–St. Louis was recently ranked fifth among the 50 “best value colleges for adult education” by Great Value Colleges.

UMSL earned the fifth-place ranking for its 25 majors available at the graduate level, eight of which can be earned completely online, as well as the flexibility of its online

courses, among other things.

Using a point system, Great Value Colleges ranked the colleges according to several criteria, including affordability, bachelor’s degree programs, online degree programs, graduate study availability, additional programs and services beneficial to nontraditional students, student-faculty ratio, student retention, and academic awards and recognition.

UMSL earned 13 points. The

university that ranked first place, University of Alaska Fairbanks, earned 16 points.

Great Value Colleges gathered information from the National Center for Education Statistics’ College Navigator Database, U.S. News & World Report, Wikipedia, the individual universities’ and colleges’ websites, and other websites to rank the colleges on the list.

According to Great Value Colleges, “Adult education offerings

for those nontraditional students looking to start or continue their academic careers include online courses, an active veterans office, night classes, accelerated programs, and more.”

SmartAsset also recently ranked UMSL fourth among Best Value Colleges in Missouri. The Missouri University of Science and Technology, Washington University, and the University of Missouri–Columbia ranked ahead of UMSL.

Intensive French

Learn French in just nine weeks and complete your foreign language requirement! The summer Intensive Language Program begins May 22, 2017. For more information, call the Language and Cultural Studies office at 314-516-6242, or go online to: <http://www.umsl.edu/lang>.

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#MDMC17 Talks Technology: Who Owns the Future?



Many gathered to hear the numerous keynote speakers at MDMC17.

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are apps for almost any chore, such as ordering your own pizza.

The Cloud replaced the web. It is not as noticeable since the cloud kept up the www addresses, but there is no longer a web of connected servers as there was in the beginning. Massive data collection is now possible. Some estimates claim that 90 percent of all the electronic data and content ever created has been done in the last two years (source:

Science Daily).

Whittaker observed that the world we know is being reduced to data, data that machines will be able to use to radically change our world. The image of everyone looking down at his or her smart phone and scrolling will become passé. In the future, according to Whittaker, one will not need to do all that work of scrolling; the machines will simply sort out what you want or perhaps need to know. There will no

longer be screens because the images will simply be beamed into your visual cortex. Virtual reality may become the new reality for gaming and entertainment.

He also cited self-driving cars and speculated that, as machines would be able to drive cars much more safely than humans, one day the operating of a vehicle by a human might be outlawed. Machines will begin to anticipate our needs, and the interactive voice assis-

tants like Amazon Echo and Google Home will simply know what to do. It will be the age of autonomous machines. We already have refrigerators that can scan their own contents and order what you need.

Autonomous machines will, according to Whittaker, replace most blue collar and service jobs. He warned, however, that many traditional white-collar jobs would not be spared. He cited that investment consultants are just there to

make you feel good and that computers are doing all investments in the stock market and commodities. He said that some apps would soon be doing a better job of finding loopholes in the law and handling parking and speeding tickets than traditional lawyers.

Each of the previous disruptions Whittaker spoke of took about 10 years to catch hold and replace our previous view of the world—which means the future is already upon us.

U.S. Service Academy Nominees Honored at UMSL



Congressman Lacy Clay poses with this year's U.S. Service Academy Nominees.

KAT RIDDLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE CEREMONY for the 17th annual U.S. Service Academy Nominations was held on April 15 at 10 a.m. in the J.C. Penney Summit Lounge at the University of Missouri–St. Louis. The awards were presented by U.S. Congressman William Lacy Clay.

Congressman Clay said, “We do this annually to recognize the young people from the district who want to serve their country in the military. For me, this is one of the more moving ceremonies because you see all of the promise in these young people, and it just touches you.”

The honor of attending a service academy comes with the obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation. Congressman Clay may nominate up to 10 individuals for each vacant academy slot allotted to his district, which encompasses the City of St. Louis and a

large portion of St. Louis County.

Eligibility requirements as of July 1 of the year of admission to an academy include being 17 to 23 years old, a U.S. citizen, unmarried, not pregnant, without legal obligation to support children or other dependents, a resident of the 1st Congressional District of Missouri, and able to satisfy the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the academy.

Members of Congress may nominate candidates for appointment to four of the five U.S. service academies: U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, New York; the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Annapolis, Maryland; the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Kings Point, New York. The fifth service academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA), New London, Connecticut, does not require a congressional nomination for appointment.

Students can be nominated for more than one academy. Admission requirements differ for each academy, and nominees compete with other applicants for the position. The process opens May 15 the year the student is a junior going into their senior year of high school. The academies then met with applicants in October or November. Academies notified applicants of their admission status in February.

The class of 2017 nominees are Caleb Berry, Carson Berry, Alana Chandler, Dylan Crawford, David Le, Robert Shields, Jr., Katherine Stujenske, Jennifer Thomas, Brendan Farmer, Josiah Goosen, Laryn Grant, Austin LaRue, and Darric Woodley.

Special guests for the ceremony included Lt. Colonel Brian Beveridge, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Commander Michael A. Carnes, retired U.S. Navy, and Chief Master Sergeant Thomas Williams, retired U.S. Air Force.

CAMPUS CRIME REPORT

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 April 7 and April 13.

April 7: At 9:30 p.m. UMSPD was called in to assist the Normandy Police Department with a child found in the parking lot of Mansion Hill Apartments.

April 8: At 12:19 a.m. UMSPD found a non-UMSL student sleeping in a chair in the Social Sciences and Business Building (SSB); the individual received a notice of trespassing from UMSPD because of a previous incident and was escorted off campus.

April 9: No incidents were reported on this date.

April 10: At 2:19 p.m. UMSPD took an informational report after a small bag of marijuana was found at Oak Hall and turned in to UMSPD. At 10:01 p.m. a set of keys found in SSB was turned in to UMSPD and held for safekeeping; the owner was

notified.

April 11: At 6:17 p.m. two credit cards found on the Metrolink UMSPD North walkway were turned in to UMSPD and then destroyed at the request of the owner.

April 12: At 12:30 p.m. a computer power cord found in Benton Hall was turned in to UMSPD and held for safekeeping. At 4:50 p.m. UMSPD took an informational report after being notified of comments related to a possible past sexual assault that were left on an UMSPD social media site. At 11:56 p.m. an UMSPD officer found a student ID in Lot KK; the student was notified, and the item was held for safekeeping.

April 13: At 10:04 a.m. two vehicles were involved in an auto accident in the West Drive Garage; there was minor damage but no injuries. At 7:45 p.m. an UMSPD student was transported from the Recreation and Wellness Center to the hospital after suffering a broken arm.



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PRIZM Deconstructs Walls of Hatred and Discrimination



Sammi Risius and Jessie Kehle take down the wall of intolerance.

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whole bridge with them so that people know that this kind of stuff does not go away. It's not going to go away in my lifetime, or your lifetime, or probably anybody's lifetime [...] and you have to pay attention to it."

Sammi Risius, sophomore, media studies is a general member of PRIZM. Risius said that the Walls of Intolerance project is one of her favorite PRIZM events. "I don't like people making fun of other people. I don't like people bringing others down, so this is something that we do to make people aware. People can read these statements and think, 'Oh, I didn't know that was such a big deal.' Or [people] writing down [instances of discrimination] lets them vent it out," she said.

"I hope it is going to be successful. I hope we are going to fill every single window," Kehle said.

After a week of building the Walls of Intolerance with bricks of discrimination on the MSC bridge all week, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., PRIZM held their Day of Silence,

followed by the Breaking the Silence event, which featured a band and open-mic for those who wished to speak. "We are going to take down the wall silently as a community [...] on the Day of Silence," Kehle said. "Then we [will] walk over to the Fireside Lounge, and that is where we [will] do an open mic night to break the silence of the day for those who are participating."

"We [will] tear it down, like tearing down discrimination," Risius said. On their TritonSync page, PRIZM's stated goal is "to create and maintain an inclusive, safe, and accepting environment on our campus for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities," as well as to undermine negative stereotypes and educate students on these issues. While this event aimed to fulfill these goals, Kehle and Risius hoped that students would take away more than just the knowledge that discrimination exists.

Kehle said that she hoped that students would take up a call to action from the event. "These kinds of

hurtful things happen, and we need to do something. So, the first step, of course, is to notice it. The second step is to actually take action. Join the fight against these kinds of things. It's very important that we do that," Kehle said. "I have a lot of marginalized identities, so I get it a lot. People will make fun of me because I am gay. They will make fun of me because my wife is [transgender]. People make fun of me because I am on the autism spectrum. It gets to you. It really does."

"[Students should] watch what they say and not talk about others. They might not know that they are being rude ... Be mindful of others," Risius added. While humans have used brick historically to build walls to separate and isolate themselves, they have also used bricks to build bridges to connect them to other people. People may build walls of intolerance with bricks of discrimination, but they can also take action to build bridges and try to understand each other with bricks of understanding.

Race and Hunger Are Related, Says Professor

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ally where the science is," Butterly explained.

Though his argument was based in scientific research, true to interdisciplinary form, Butterly began his line of logic in Western theological traditions, which he said informs thought and discourse around topics

their phenotypical presentation but also by behavioral characteristics as well, ascribing homo sapiens americanus with the distinctive feature of "paints himself with red lines." By contrast, early classification systems of humans described Homo sapiens europeanus as being "governed by laws."

A large part of global hunger has to do with racism, says Dr. Butterly.

such as race in the Western world, whether or not one believes that the religious tradition has any basis in reality. He began by explaining the difference between genesis, the theory that all humans evolved from a common ancestor, and polygenesis, the theory that modern-day humans evolved from many different ancient people. If humans evolved from different ancestors, Butterly said, then humans could be subdivided into subspecies. "Once you say that, you begin that 'us versus them' dichotomy," Butterly explained. "And if you are going to believe that, then you [justify] eugenics, which is selective breeding, that actually started in the United States prior to Nazism. [You can justify] oppression and segregation, and eventually ... genocide, because if these are different races, then they are not human and then we are able to oppress them."

He then went on to give a historical example of this theory of polygenesis at work. Carolus Linnaeus, who developed the biological system of classification still used today, and his followers further divided the species of homo sapiens into four subspecies: americanus, asiaticus, africanus, and europeanus. He defined these subspecies not only by

"Just a little self-serving," Butterly remarked. He went on to explain how the theory of polygenesis justified this otherness and these racist classifications. According to Butterly, it is therefore important to understand whether or not humans are of the same or different origins. If they are of the same origin, then the logic behind the otherness becomes null and void.

The earliest Homo erectus remains, which dated back to 3.7 million years ago, were discovered in Africa. Homo erectus dispersed from Africa throughout the world sometime after this. However, modern day humans have evolved into Homo sapiens. The question for early anthropologists therefore centered around whether or not the homo erectus living in Africa later evolved into the Homo sapiens of today. If they did, then humans all have a single origin and are of the same species, Butterly reasoned. If they did not, then humans living in Africa and humans living in Europe would be two separate species.

As it turns out though, Butterly studied under just the man to address this question. Dr. Allan Wilson, late professor of biochemistry at the University of California-Berkeley, and Butterly's graduate mentor, developed a method to measure evolutionary rates through mitochondrial DNA. Through his groundbreaking work, Wilson posited the African Eve Hypothesis, which claims that all humans descended from a single

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Hispanic Latino Association Educates About DACA

CANDICE MURDOCK
STAFF WRITER

ON APRIL 10, the Hispanic Latino Association (HISLA) held a forum on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which explained the realities of being an undocumented student in the United States to students, faculty, and staff at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Virginia Braxs, a Washington University professor of Spanish, vice president of the Hispanic Arts Council, and co-founder of the educational taskforce Universidad YA!, spoke at the event.

The event began with an introduction about the struggles of undocumented students. Braxs used materials such as videos and Powerpoint slides to drive home the importance of recognizing how many students are left without any solutions to continue their education after high school. Her visual presentation provided examples of high school students who had to make some tough decisions about what they were going to do after high school, due to their status as undocumented students.

People attending the DACA forum watched PBS's "The Gradu-

ates/Los Graduados," which went over the realities of being an undocumented student. The documentary captured the lives of two students, including one young man named Gustavo, who faced a major dilemma his senior year. Gustavo realized that he lacked an essential element needed in order to apply for college: a social security number. During the duration of Gustavo's segment, he became determined to find other solutions. One of the solutions was becoming a social activist and working toward the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which allows undocumented students to obtain legalization through getting an education and working part-time, among other things. Gustavo ended up getting into Freedom University, which is a university that allows undocumented students who are in the DACA program to have the college experience and prepares them for entering into a four-year college.

The second story featured a young teenage mother from Tulsa, Oklahoma, named Darlene. The teenager had dropped out of high school after getting pregnant at 14, but after having the baby, she realized that she needed to do some-

thing for herself. Darlene ended up enrolling in a school called Union Alternative School, where she worked to obtain a high school diploma.

Braxs next introduced six students who talked about the challenges of being an undocumented student. The DACA Forum panel featured a college graduate, three current college students, and two high school seniors. The panelists talked about what it is like to be a DACA beneficiary. Some of the common limitations of being a DACA beneficiary are the restrictions about where one can attend college, not having adequate enough support from the counselors, getting scholarships, and having to pay the international student tuition. Some of the fears include the uncertainty of the program, a fear of who knocks on their door, and fears for their family.

Vivian Garcia-Cruz, a high school senior at Rosati-Kain High School, explained the realities of being a DACA student. "Being a DACA student, we are in your classes, your schools, and it may sound crazy but it's true, as far as we exist. We also matter, and every single day is a

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STL Italian Film Festival Shows “Che Vuoi Che Sia”

DANIEL STRAWHUN
A&E EDITOR

IF YOU were offered enough money, would you post a video on the internet of you and your partner having sex? This question forms the basis of Italian director Edoardo Leo's latest comedy, “Che Vuoi Che Sia” (“What’s the Big Deal”). The film, which premiered in Italy on November 9, was shown for the first time in St. Louis at Washington University’s Jerzewiak Family Auditorium on April 14. The screening was part of the ongoing Italian Film Festival of St. Louis, an annual month-long film series organized in collaboration with the Italian Film Festival USA to promote awareness of the language and culture of Italy through modern cinema.

“Che Vuoi Che Sia” is set in Milan, where the young lovers Claudio (Edoardo Leo) and Anna (Anna Foglietta) live a simple, frugal life together. Anna is a high school teacher, and Claudio is a computer engineering graduate who makes a meager living doing freelance computer repair while he tries to convince a software company to help develop his website. The website is essentially a review platform on which customers can rate the quality of work done by freelancers and independent contractors. When he pitches the idea to the development firm, the CEO encourages Claudio to crowdfund his website’s development. After his attempts fall flat, Claudio, while extremely intoxicated with his girlfriend Anna, records a video in which he accuses internet users of being porn-obsessed losers and then jokingly promises that he and Anna will live-stream themselves having sex if he meets his crowdfunding goal of €20,000. You can probably guess what happens next.

The video begins attracting attention, and donations come pouring in. By the next morning, Claudio’s crowdfunding campaign has already raised €4,000, compared to the paltry €80 that it had raised in the two weeks prior. Disgusted that internet users have taken his derision seriously, Claudio attempts to delete the crowdfunding campaign altogether, but an error on the web-



The poster for Edoardo Leo’s film, “Che Vuoi Che Sia.” Its St. Louis debut was last week.

site prevents him from making any changes. Helpless to do anything but watch as the video goes viral and donations increase accordingly, Claudio attempts to hide the situation from Anna, which works for a while—that is, until her students and colleagues see it.

Anna is furious at first, but when the donations steadily surpass the €20,000 target, she begins to reconsider. With enough money, Anna reasons, she and Claudio could move elsewhere and start a family, living on the donations until Claudio’s website takes off. Thus, she and Claudio decide to capitalize on the situation and begin making follow-up videos to help encourage new donations. The development firm contacts Claudio and proposes that he further monetize the campaign by making it the subject of a clickbait article.

The situation continues to spiral out of control, and soon enough, Claudio and Anna have become Kardashian-esque internet celebrities with sponsors and daytime-TV appearances. The couple find themselves at the center of a public debate, with one side maintaining that such wanton exhibitionism is shameful and disgusting and the other side asking, “What’s the big deal?”

In the end, Claudio and Anna must decide whether their conjugal intimacy is indeed priceless or just another commodity to be bought and sold.

“Che Vuoi Che Sia” is not a bad movie. The acting and cinematography are both superb, and the comedy is varied and rarely falls flat. Furthermore, Edoardo Leo’s interrogation of internet and tech culture is commendable: The protean topic

is seldom addressed so directly and with such earnestness. But the film is certainly less than perfect.

One of the film’s major faults is its ill-conceived premise, namely, the notion of crowdfunding the development of a website. Crowdfunding is a strategy employed by people who want to create a tangible product—for example, a watch, a personal 3D printer, or a movie. The creation of such products usually incurs a large initial start up cost, which would be insurmountable without the money of outside investors. Crowdfunding is essentially an informal and somewhat altruistic form of investment. In return for

their money, crowdfunders usually receive the finished product before it is released to the public, plus they can feel good about helping other people realize their entrepreneurial dreams. The development of a website is not an ideal or even logical crowdfunding project because it incurs minimal start up costs and provides no tangible incentive for investors.

In “Che Vuoi Che Sia,” it is never clear exactly why Claudio feels he needs €20,000 in order to develop his website. He has a degree in computer engineering, so we can assume that he will manage the coding him-

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Celebrating The Arts

The 15th annual art exhibit showcasing UMSL community drawings, paintings, photography, sculptures and more!

April 24-27
in Provincial House
(South Campus)
Reception
April 27, 2:30-4:00

Submit art to:
Pierre Laclède Honors College,
Provincial House Main Office, Room 109.
by 4:00, April 21

Up to three original works per artist,
and if possible art should be matted
or able to stand on an easel.

Students, Faculty, Staff, & Alumni
of all mediums and levels
are encouraged to participate!

Contact KateVotaw@umsl.edu for more information
Pierre Laclède Honors College

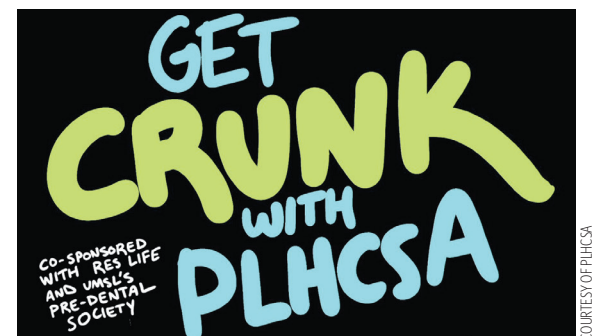
ARTS CALENDAR



This weekend, the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center will host the annual **Greater St. Louis Jazz Festival**. The festival will take place **Friday, April 21** and **Saturday, April 22**. The April 21 performance is titled “A Tribute to Louis Armstrong” and will feature guest musicians Wycliffe Gordon, trombone; Terrell Stafford, trumpet; Chris Vadala, saxophone. The April 22 performance is titled “Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Dizzy Gillespie” and will feature guest musician Jon Faddis, a renowned trumpet player who studied under Gillespie in his (Faddis’) youth. Both performances begin at **8 p.m.** A weekend pass is available for \$60; otherwise, each performance costs \$35 to attend. Student tickets are available for \$15.



The Italian Film Festival of St. Louis, an annual, month-long film festival celebrating the language and culture of Italy through modern cinema, continues this week with a second screening of the lauded 2016 Italian comedy “**La Pazza Gioia**” (“Like Crazy”). Directed by Paolo Virzì, the film tells the story of an unlikely friendship that forms between two psychiatric patients, whose friendship leads them on an adventure out of the mental institution and into the world of “sane” people. “La Pazza Gioia” won Best Film and Best Director at the David di Donatello Awards ceremony. Admission to the event is free; the screening will be held at **8 p.m.** in **Lab Sciences 300** on Washington University’s Danforth campus.



Help the Pierre Laclède Honors College begin its summer countdown on **April 20 at 8 p.m.** “**Get Crunk!**” will have “kickin’ music, strobe lights, a nacho bar, a photobooth, volleyball, music, glow sticks, root beer pong, beach balls, mocktails, dancing, prize, and much much more,” according to PLHCSA’s Facebook event page. All UMSL students, honors or not, are invited to this free event, which will be held in the Provincial House courtyard on South Campus. For more information, contact Nicole Gevers at nmgtzc@mail.umsl.edu or visit PLHCSA’s Twitter @umslplhcsa.

RWC to Host Second Bouldering Competition This Thursday



LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of Missouri-St. Louis Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) is hosting its second bouldering competition on April 20. The first bouldering competition required students to register for the free event. This year, the bouldering competition will require no registration, and encourages students to drop in and participate. The event will be held between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on April 20.

"Last year, we didn't have as many participants as I would've liked, but the people who did come had a lot of fun," said Sherman Brawner, senior, criminology and criminal justice, and climbing wall attendant at the RWC.

In the lower level of the RWC, the climbing center is located next to the equipment room, and to the right of the stairwell. The bouldering wall, which is color-coded with different routes, has no ropes or harnesses, which could be intimidating

to some, but the bouldering wall area is equipped with padded flooring. The area is also staffed with attendants for competitors' protection, making this a fun, safe, and free climbing experience.

The competition will be altered slightly from last year, in which a few competitors dominated the competition, to all the wall attendants' surprise. "We had three guys that came. Only one of them climbed often here. They all climbed frequently at other places like Upper Limits, and Climb So Ill. They knocked our socks off with how good they were; we need to make some hard stuff if they come back," Brawner said.

Competitors will be divided based on ability and will compete in their respective divisions, to avoid a beginner feeling discouraged when competing against a more advanced climber. Being an athlete in another sport does not necessarily translate into success at climbing either, as Brawner has noticed.

"There are some very good athletes. Swim, basketball, baseball,

football, whatever it is, they come down here try to do it and go, 'Wow I didn't know it was that hard,'" Brawner said. Brawner explained, "The better you get and the farther along you go, you realize the less you want to use your upper body, and the more you want to use your legs."

Brawner first started working in the UMSL call center before transferring over to the RWC, wanting a job that was more physically rewarding. During his time as an attendant, he has seen a large number of students come and attempt the climbing wall at least once. "The way that I've seen it, 80-90 percent that have used the wall have used once or twice to see how it was, then they don't come back. But for the 10-20 percent that come back frequently, I think they definitely benefit from it," Brawner said.

Last year's winners received free guest passes to Climb So Ill, which is still being considered as a prize this year.

Q&A with UMSL All-Time Softball Hits Leader Alex Stupek

LANCE JORDAN
SPORTS EDITOR

EARLY IN February, *The Current* reached out to Alex Stupek, senior, nursing, to talk about everything from softball to nursing to her downtime. Since then, the all-American and three-time first team Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) selection has recorded three hits in a game against William Jewell on March 31. She became the program's all-time career leader in that category with 236 hits. Stupek also earned the GLVC Player of the Week on February 20.

The Current (TC): How long have you been playing softball?

Stupek: I have been playing since I was in about first grade, starting with T-ball, and I started my first competitive travel ball season when I was in third grade. I have been playing ever since, spending most of my summers traveling around to different states to play, and playing on my high school team in the spring.

TC: Who has had the biggest impact on your softball career?

Stupek: Definitely my parents because of all the time they have put into taking me to practices, games, and practicing with me. My dad and I would practice together almost every night together. It was a big time commitment for them as well, and I am really thankful that they were willing to do everything they did for me. Also, my travel ball coach, Dale Shelton, because he was who really starting trying to get my name out there to coaches, and building my confidence.

TC: What made you choose UMSL to play softball?

Stupek: The big thing that made me decide to come to UMSL was that I could play softball, and I could also go through the nursing program. A lot of sports coaches don't like their athletes being nurses because of the demanding schedule; across the board, in all the sports, UMSL is open to working with student/nurse athletes. UMSL is not too far from home (about two and a half hours), so I still get to see my family a lot because I am very close with them. Also, I could see that the softball program was starting to really become something, and I wanted to be a part of a good organization.

TC: You became the program's all-time career leader in runs; how does that achievement feel for you?

Stupek: It feels good! I am proud that I was able to have some kind of impact here, and grateful for all of the opportunities that I have gotten throughout my four years.

TC: Do you have a favorite game during your career that stands out to you?

Stupek: I don't think there is just one game that stands out to me specifically, but any conference championship game we won, and all the games we won in post-season really stand out to me. The atmosphere is fun to be around in such high pressure games, and the feeling



Senior Alex Stupek currently holds the All-Time Hit Leader title.

of getting that third out in the seventh inning of a big game and winning is unreal. I have been lucky to have played with such fantastic athletes and got to experience a lot of winning in my time here.

TC: When you graduate with your bachelor's in nursing, what do you plan to do next?

Stupek: I plan to enjoy some free time! [Laughing.] Along with that, I plan on getting a job somewhere in the St. Louis area, in a hospital. I have started applying to some different places, but do not have anything secured yet. I eventually plan on going back to school to further my education. But in the meantime, I just want to secure a job and enjoy some free time with my friends, family, boyfriend, and dogs.

TC: What do you like to do to have fun when you aren't studying or practicing for a game?

Stupek: I have two dogs that live with me in St. Louis, and I love doing things with them whenever I can and be outside. In the summers, my boyfriend and I spend a lot of time down at the stadium, watching the Cardinals play. As of late, when I get some free time I have been spending it on the couch, watching Gossip Girl and just chilling out.

TC: Do you hope to achieve any other career highlight before leaving UMSL?

Stupek: I would like for the team and myself to experiencing winning another conference championship, along with playing in another postseason. Personally, I am not sure. I have kind of made it a point this year to not look at my statistics, team statistics, or where I am in relation to any records. I just want to enjoy the rest of my senior season. I am happy for any honors I have already received and would be very lucky to experience anymore.

TC: What words of encouragement do you have for the Tritons' future [in softball]?

Stupek: The biggest thing is just to enjoy it. Everyone told me that it flies by, and you never believe them until it happens to you, because as a freshman you can't even imagine the idea of you ever being a senior, but it came fast. It's such a fun time in your life, so just work out hard, study hard, make some time for friends, family, and enjoy, enjoy, enjoy.

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Attack on Shayrat: Who Really Gains From Acts of War?

CHRIS ZUVER
STAFF WRITER

ON THE night of April 6, at the order of President Trump, the USS Porter launched 59 Tomahawk missiles at the Shayrat Airbase in Syria.

The strike was ordered in response to a chemical attack two days prior in the Syrian town of Khan Shaykhun, which killed at least 74 people and injured more than 500. The governments of multiple countries—including the United States, Israel, and the United Kingdom—all agreed that the chemical attack must have been ordered by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

In a letter that Trump sent to congress after the attack, he wrote: “I directed this action in order to degrade the Syrian military’s ability to conduct further chemical weapons attacks and to dissuade the Syrian regime from using or proliferating chemical weapons.” Furthermore, he wrote, “I acted in the vital national security and foreign policy interest in the United States.”

Since 2011, the established state of Syria has been in a civil war involving multiple factions including Rojava, Al-Qaida, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS). Since the beginning of this civil war, there have been other in-

stances of chemical attacks, such as the Ghouta attack in 2013, which was also blamed on Assad without proof.

What is unusual about the idea of Assad ordering this recent chemical attack on his own civilians (besides the fact that he would have attacked his own civilians), is that he reportedly turned over all of his chemical weapons to the Organisa-

The mainstream media isn’t as much focused on giving fair coverage as it is on gaining an audience.

tion for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for destruction in 2013 after the Ghouta attack, which killed over 280 people. This was done in response to pressure from the possibility of the U.S. taking military action against Syria.

Now, I’m not naïve. Just because Assad claimed to have turned over all of his chemical weapons, he could obviously lie about that. But what would he have to gain from ordering an attack on his own people? Also, he would have had to consider that if the last attack that was blamed on him almost drew U.S. intervention, another attack would likely cause the same or similar ramifications? Currently, Assad’s side is winning the civil war—why would

he carry out an attack that would damage his reputation and create more enemies right now?

There are alternative explanations for what occurred on April 4 in Khan Shaykhun.

One possibility is that if Syrian warplanes bombed a rebel weapons depot where chemical weapons were being stored, the explosion could have caused the gas con-

tainers to rupture and proceed to disperse into the streets. Another scenario is that Al-Qaida jihadists simply staged the attack. This wouldn’t be the first instance in which the rebel group showed disregard for human rights.

Meanwhile, in America, one would think that the mainstream media outlets would have varied opinions on the situation. With the possibility that Assad is not to blame in the recent chemical attack, one would think this would be addressed by the news networks.

However, with few exceptions, this has not been the case.

On April 7, an article was published on media website FAIR titled, “Five Top Papers Run 18 Opinion

Pieces Praising Syria Strikes – Zero Are Critical.” In the article, it stated that five of the major U.S. publications, including the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and New York Daily News, gave no room for opposition to Trump’s airstrikes in their editorials. Between the five papers, they ran a total of 18 op-eds that supported the attack.

CNN host Fareed Zakaria, in an on-air commentary, stated that in the wake of the Shayrat attack, “Donald Trump became president of the United States,” and that “President Trump recognized that the President of the United States does have to act to enforce international laws.”

Additionally, upon discussing the video footage of the Shayrat attack, on-air MSNBC anchor Brian Williams described scenes from the footage as “beautiful pictures,” in a heavily patriotic tone, and he even quoted the late Leonard Cohen, saying “I am guided by the beauty of our weapons.”

So why does the mainstream media have this fawning support when they talk about the attack on Shayrat? Why do they unequivocally support President Trump’s actions?

The answer is simple, really. As musician Jon Anderson once said, “War is big business.” Companies such as Raytheon, who developed

the Tomahawk missiles used against the Shayrat airbase, will inevitably make more money from the U.S. military, who will buy replacements. It is interesting that President Trump is invested in Raytheon as well, whose stocks rose after the attack.

But when it comes to the media, they need viewers to support them, and war coverage brings a surge of traffic to their networks. So it seems obvious that they want to support these types of actions, as conflict creates stories. And why would they want to create doubt in the narrative by giving doubt to actions of the military? It doesn’t matter if a news outlet is biased toward left-wing ideals or right-wing ideals; both sides profit from coverage of war and conflict. It’s like the old saying: “If it bleeds, it leads.”

Just this month alone, most major stories have either focused on touchy situations with the U.S.’s involvement with Syria, Russia, and, of course, North Korea.

The mainstream media isn’t as much focused on giving fair coverage as it is on gaining an audience.

If you ask me, any publication can draw attention by pointing toward the absurd or macabre. Yet, when it comes to the media, behind that macabre story there is likely to be a certain degree of self-interest.

Guest Editorial: Get Out and Travel

STEVEN DOERHOFF
GUEST WRITER

AFTER TRAVELING abroad for the first time in 2014, I wondered why Americans are so reluctant to do the same. In many cases, they don’t even have the ambition to do so. When I broke the news to family and friends about my travel plans, I was met with confused looks and questions like, “Why would you want to do that?” and “Are you sure it’s safe over there?” When I returned home, it seemed impossible to share my experiences and insights in a way that they could truly understand, brushing off

stories about times I considered to be life-changing with a “cool,” and then quickly switching the subject to whatever happened at the bar the night before.

In such cases, it’s not that they do not care, but that they cannot relate. Traveling abroad is something that they do not consider a priority or that they think it unattainable. American culture needs to value international travel as an essential experience—or risk becoming even further detached from the world outside our borders.

Running into a fellow American traveler was an extremely rare occurrence during the four months I

spent wandering through Southeast Asia. It seemed everywhere I went there were Brits, Aussies, and French (among many other travelers from other European and Asian nations), but Americans were scarce on that side of the globe. Why was this?

One obvious reason is that most Americans simply do not have the means to travel. Of the approximately 320 million people who are citizens of this country, about 132 million valid passports were in circulation in 2016, according to statistics from the U.S. State Department. That means only about 40 percent of U.S. citizens hold a passport.

Compare this to a 2011 census of England and Wales, which shows that 76 percent of the population held a valid passport.

A lack of free time is surely another reason more Americans aren’t leaving the country for vacation. It is no secret that the U.S. is an extremely overworked country and doesn’t treat its workers as well as other industrialized nations do. The Center for Economic and Policy Research released a slightly depressing graph in 2013 that showed the amount of mandatory paid vacation leave by country. Our European working class counterparts enjoy significantly more time off than Americans.

French and U.K. workers receive 30 and 28 mandatory paid vacation days respectively, while Italian and German employees each get 20. Even our neighbor to the north, Canada, requires employers to give their workers 10 paid days off. How many days are American workers required to receive, you ask? Zero.

Travel in the U.S. is often thought of as a luxury or something that is an option for only the rich or retirees, but this is a myth. From my own experience, I could live modestly in Southeast Asia on \$20 to \$30 a day, far less than the cost of one night at a hotel near a popular U.S. vacation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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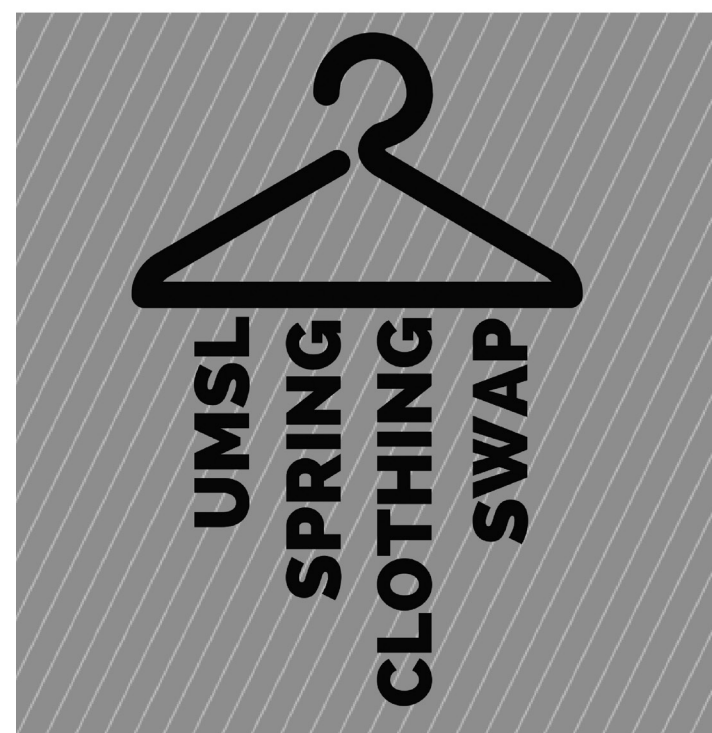
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"Che Vuoi Che Sia"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
self. Is the money necessary because he wants to quit his computer repair job in order to focus on developing the website? If so, that is never explicitly stated in the movie. Instead, the importance of the €20,000 is presented as self-evident and never adequately explained. Since the entire plot hinges on Claudio's pursuit of this all-important pecuniary sum, the entire movie begins to feel gratuitous and poorly planned once the viewer realizes that the importance of the money was never justified but simply assumed in order to set the plot in motion. The €20,000 is a textbook MacGuffin.

With a duration of 105 minutes, "Che Vuoi Che Sia" is also longer than it needs to be. There is one particularly painful scene in which Claudio and Anna's video is "re-mixed" into a troll-face meme by internet users. The scene, which is both unfunny and out of touch, should have been cut.

Everything considered, "Che Vuoi Che Sia" is fine for what it is—a light comedy about technology's influence on modern life. Watch it for the jokes, or, if for no other reason, the beautiful shots of Milan.

DACA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4
struggle to get up and go to school. Realize some of these kids you go to school with have the whole world against them, and yet they come to school every single day, not knowing if they'll see their parents when they get home. These kids ... matter, they exist, they're a part of this whole community, and that's what makes America."

DACA also provides benefits to students. Panelists said that they could find people who connected them to other people, the ability to work, the opportunity to support their families, as well as provided them with peers and people that they can look to as examples.

The panel stressed the importance of educating people on what DACA is. The program that former President Barack Obama created on June 12, 2012, calls for deferral of deportation for young people who were under the age of 31 on June 15, 2012; came to the United States under the age of 16 years old; or received or plan to receive an education. The DACA program gives undocumented immigrants protection against deportation and allows a work permit.

As well as the DACA forum, HISLA will be hosting other events that are related to educating others on the issues that affect people in the Hispanic community. Sara Ricardez, senior, biochemistry and biotechnology and president of HISLA said, "As soon as the new administration started, we have been interested in ways of letting the whole community in on what's going on in the Hispanic community. With all the problems we're having, we are going to have more events about immigration, and this is a unique event for this semester, but we are going to have more events for next semester."

Visiting Scholar Speaks to UMSL about Race and Hunger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4
African woman who lived 200,000 years ago.

If this is the case, then Butterly says that we are all the same species and that race is a social construct used to justify violent racist practices, including the unequal distribution of food. "A large part of [global hunger] has to do with racism," Butterly concluded.

In Butterly's earlier lecture in

Jones' anthropology class, he addressed the biological effects of hunger, global nutrition, and how many people die worldwide from lack of food.

Jones said that he learned a lot from the earlier lecture, and hoped to learn just as much from the second lecture. "I'm not a traditional student, so I am having a great time being back in school. I am learning a lot, so this is going to be very educa-

tional for me. Who knows? It might benefit me later on down the road," he said.

While Butterly's work may benefit Jones later on down the road, Butterly hopes that the work will benefit the rest of the world by undermining the othering and racist ideologies that underlie global hunger later on down the road as well.

Guest Editorial: Travel the World

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
spot. Of course, I wasn't holed up in a lavish hotel or resort lounging by the pool but instead chose inexpensive shared dorms near local neighborhoods. This gave me a better opportunity to immerse myself in the culture while interacting with locals and fellow travelers that had a worldview unlike my own. When you're able to get the need for comfortability out of your head (which is the main selling point for the typical American vacation), you'll discover you don't need to be a millionaire to explore exotic destinations often thought to be reserved for the latter part of one's life. Experiences that have become some of my most treasured memories arose from uncomfortable situations. The cost of travel isn't so much about where you travel; it's how you travel that determines the expense and what you get out of it.

The value of travel is priceless, and I wish it was thought of as so by more of the people in the U.S. One 4-month trip completely changed

everything I thought about the world, but unfortunately, the worldview of most Americans will continue to be made up of a 5-minute segment on the news, casting what they see onto the people of an entire culture. I learned that the world isn't filled with terrorist attacks, mass killings and hostage situations, as the media so often suggest, but that it is filled with many people who share similar values and principles that we as Americans do. Travel allows one to start seeing people not for their differences but for their similarities. Love, friendship, happiness, and prosperity are universal ideas that drive people of all nationalities, and if we want to avoid basing our opinions on the insufficient information and blatant stereotypes we see in the media, we need to get out in the world and develop our own individual conclusions.

The first destination of my 2014 trip was Bangkok, Thailand. A few months before my arrival, a scandal involving the prime minister of Thailand at the time, Yingluck Shi-

nawatra, caused anti-government protests for her removal from office on charges of corruption. Her supporters clashed with protesters during these rallies, with some confrontations turning violent. Despite the U.S. State Department warning against all nonessential travel to Thailand, I bought my ticket and packed my bag. Within a week of arriving, the Thai military had removed Shinawatra from office, taken control of the government, and implemented martial law and a nationwide curfew. Certainly, 10-second videos in the media back home of armored military vehicles and soldiers carrying assault rifles on the streets of Bangkok spurred the emails I received from family and friends asking if I was okay. Meanwhile, I was on an island in Southern Thailand surrounded by the Andaman Sea, cranking the throttle of a motorbike as I sped down a dirt road towards a hidden beach. Their concern was somewhat funny to me as I looked at my surroundings.

Midwest Digital Marketing Conference Photos



Companies setting up to meet everyone in the Exhibitor Hall.



One of the many packed sessions during the two day event.



The halls outside the session rooms were very busy in between speakers.

KAT RIDDLER / THE CURRENT

SGA Candidates



SGA President
Sean Burkett
Junior, Psychology

SGA Vice-President
Ysaye Chadwich Ellis
Junior, Media Studies
Sammi Risius
Sophomore, Media Studies

SGA Comptroller
Benjamin Branco
Junior, Information Systems

SGA Senator
Corinne Anselm
Junior, Political Science
Patrick Archer
Graduate, Mathematics
Harold Crawford
Junior, Social Work
Trevor Dobbs
Junior, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Social Work
Joseph Dordoni
Freshman, International Relations

Emma Kneiff
Junior, Fine Arts
Michael Plumb
Graduate, Business Administration
Daniel Pogue
Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering
Kathleen Riddler
Graduate, Business Administration
Corey Smith
Junior, Electrical Engineering
Aleathea Williams
Sophomore, Political Science
London Williams
Senior, Liberal Studies

Students are able to vote April 17 through 21 using the link in their TritonSync portal, or by visiting <http://umsl.edu/go/votesga> (or via the QR code below).

