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The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

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leaves legacy of
research and
success at UMSL

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The Current

VOL. 45, ISSUE 1349

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AFFILIATIONS



News

New campus nonsmoking policy will be put to the test this fall

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
Staff Writer

As bans on public smoking have become increasingly common in American cities, the University of Missouri- St. Louis has followed suit, adopting a new campus-wide nonsmoking policy for the fall semester.

Much like the public smoking ban adopted by St. Louis county on New Year’s Eve, 2011, the new campus smoking policy prohibits the use of tobacco products on all campus grounds and facilities, permitting smoking only in private vehicles provided the windows, doors and other openings are closed.

The new UMSL nonsmoking initiative expands the university’s previous smoking policy, adopted in 1991, which only prohibited smoking inside campus facilities and within ten feet of buildings.

This campus-wide ban is similar to other nonsmoking initiatives within St. Louis area colleges; Washington University has had a non-smoking campus for several years, and Saint Louis University, is considering campus-wide smoking restrictions similar to UMSL’s as well.

UMSL’s new smoking policy was enacted on July 1 and has been in effect during the majority of the summer semester, allowing the UMSL students enrolled in summer courses to take note of the impact on the campus, particularly its influence on their smoking habits.

“Having to run to the parking lot every time I needed to smoke was pretty tiresome,” said Lavette Tollivier, senior, social work. “It cut down on my smoking significantly, which I guess was the goal of the ban to begin with.”

“I don’t usually make a habit of smoking on campus, but the new policy has already encouraged me to stop all together” said Blake Miner, senior, biochemistry. “It’s definitely a change for the better.”

Other returning UMSL students have made

similar predictions about how the ban will affect their upcoming semester, often commenting on how effective the campus police will be in executing the policy.

“Transferring from a community college that was smoke-free as well, I feel like it will be a difficult policy to enforce,” said Matthew Plodzien, senior, communications. “There’s a lot of students that have personal objections to the smoking policy. I’m not sure how the university police plan on enforcing it, but I imagine it would take a much bigger campus presence than they’ve maintained in the past.”

Although some UMSL students may have concerns regarding campus security’s ability to enforce the policy, UMSL’s faculty and staff have an entirely optimistic outlook on the success of the new measures and anticipate a smooth transition from UMSL’s old smoking policy, which had remained relatively unchanged since its introduction.

“Thus far, it appears that students, faculty and staff are voluntarily complying with the policy,” said Associate Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications Bob Samples. “The Campus Police have not received any calls to report violations of the policy, but officers on their normal patrol routes have encountered a few individuals who were in violation of the policy. A gentle reminder was all that was needed to inform and bring about adherence.”

Bob Samples also commended the smoking cessation programs offered by the Health, Wellness and Counseling Center as a particularly noteworthy feature of the new policy.

Although the first week of the fall semester is likely too early to draw any conclusions about the success of UMSL’s new nonsmoking initiatives, UMSL students, smokers and non-smokers alike, can certainly anticipate some significant changes to the campus in the upcoming weeks.

WEATHER

MON. 89	TUES. 92	WED. 97	THURS. 93	FRI. 91	SAT. 90	SUN. 88
71	75	75	70	70	71	70

UMSL awards its first Doctor of Nurse Practice degree

Marie Mueller received UMSL’S first Doctor of Nurse degree, putting a landmark for UMSL’s contribution to the feild of nursing

MADDIE HARNED
Staff Writer

This August Marie Mueller received UMSL’S first Doctor of Nurse Practice DNP degree – a landmark moment for UMSL’s contribution to the field of nursing. Mueller’s journey toward becoming a nurse did not follow a traditional route.

After getting a degree in business, Mueller attended Saint Louis University’s Law School for a year.

“It was very interesting, but I had this thing about helping people, and law school just didn’t fit my vision,” Mueller said. “I realized it wasn’t the way I wanted to help people.”

Mueller found that she wanted to become a nurse in order to fulfill her desire to provide aid and support to people. After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from UMSL, Mueller decided she wanted to further her knowledge of working with patients by pursuing the DNP degree.

“It’s such a new degree and it’s evolving as far as what we are doing and what we are going to do in health care”

— Marie Mueller

The DNP degree differs from a PhD in nursing. While PhDs in nursing focus more on conducting research, the DNP focuses on putting research done by others into practice. The DNP degree also focuses on educating nurse practitioners, changing policy in health care industry and enhancing the delivery of health care to patients. This hands-on approach to providing health care was what drew Mueller to the DNP degree.

“It was kind of a natural progression to get a doctorate,” Mueller said. “The nursing Masters program here at UMSL is very intense and in-depth so it prepared me for what was to come with this degree.”

While working toward completing her DNP degree Mueller was faced with the task of balancing her family life with her full workload.

“On lunch breaks I was doing work, I was getting here early, leaving late and studying on weekends,” Mueller said. “For me, it has been all work for the past three years, but I do love my work.”

Being the first UMSL student to receive the DNP degree, Mueller has paved the path for other students to pursue the degree. Mueller’s work has not gone unnoticed by UMSL staff, including Nancy Magnuson, Associate Dean for Advanced Nursing Education.

“Marie has demonstrated outstanding personal and professional growth while in the DNP program,” Magnuson said. “Marie serves as preceptor for many of our Nursing Practioner students, and is an excellent mentor and role model. She has been a leader among her DNP student peers, encouraging the four students in the first DNP cohort along the way.”

Mueller’s connection to the DNP degree is unique because she participated in the review for DNP accreditation in the College of Nursing by attending by speaking at the reviewer’s conversation with students. She also took part in creating DNP marketing materials.

Mueller currently serves as the Clinic Coordinator at UMSL Health, Wellness, Counseling and Disability Access Services. Mueller has held this full-time position while she completed her DNP. Working with UMSL students has highlighted some flaws in the health care industry that Mueller hopes to correct.

“When I first started I was seeing patients that really needed help but didn’t have insurance,” Mueller said. “Most of our students don’t have insurance and we’re really working on ways to deliver health care here to people without insurance.”

The DNP is relatively new to academia and is constantly expanding as the health care industry changes. As a leader in the field of nursing, Mueller is prepared to contribute to the ever-changing health care industry.

“It’s such a new degree and it’s evolving as far as what we are doing and what we are going to do in health care,” Mueller said. “I’m very glad to be where I am today.”

The UNDERCURRENT

by Jennifer Meahan

“What have you done to stay cool during the summer?”



“What I have done to stay cool in the summer is drink plenty of water and stay in a cool environment.”

Erica Frazier
Social Work Senior



“I stayed in the shade on my back porch.”

Jill Johnson
Teaching and learning Graduate



“I went swimming and stayed in my basement.”

Mike Harris
Accounting Junior

SOMETIMES IT’S OKAY TO LET STRANGERS TALK TO YOU.

READ The Current

Physics professor impacts UMSL; memorialized for accomplishments

JEREMY ZSCHAU
Opinion Editor

Dr. Richard Schwartz, a professor emeritus of astronomy, died on July 28 at his home in Sequim, Washington after almost three years of struggling with pancreatic cancer. He had a long and distinguished career of 28 years at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, from his arrival in 1975 as UMSL's sole astronomer through his retirement with distinction in 2003.

During his tenure at UMSL, Professor Schwartz was active in the Department of Physics as both a teacher and an administrator. It was Dr. Schwartz who built UMSL's astronomy department from the ground up, and it was his guidance that

Over the course of his career he built for himself a solid international reputation as an astrophysicist and astronomer, with over 80 published papers in his name; several of these papers contained original research that continues to be used and cited by other astronomers in their own work even today. Recognized as a leader in his field, Dr. Schwartz performed research for organizations as prominent as the National Science Foundation as well as NASA, from which the professor received contiguous funding from 1979 through 1998. His record of research led to his being awarded the Chancellor's Award for Research and Creativity in 1999.

In addition to his accomplishments in research and education, Dr. Schwartz

“He was a leader in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, a superb astronomy teacher for thousands of UMSL students”
-Bruce Wilking

resulted in the astrophysics option to the list of specialties for physics majors – an option that is currently the most popular choice for students choosing to major in physics. In 1981, he also designed and oversaw construction of the observatory that was built on south campus, and during his career mentored over 30 students in projects there. The observatory was one of Dr. Schwartz's priorities, and in his time here at UMSL he helped to ensure it was kept up to date as a research facility for the use of both faculties and students. He also served as department chairman shortly before his retirement, occupying the slot from 1996 to 2000, and was honored upon his retirement by the Board of Curators, who elected to rename the south campus observatory after him. A scholarship for students in the physics department, the Richard D. Schwartz Undergraduate Scholarship for Physics Majors, has also been endowed in his name.

However, Professor Schwartz's contributions were not limited to UMSL alone.

was highly thought of by his peers and colleagues as a leader and as a person, who still remember his legacy to this day. “Richard certainly left his mark on the University besides the Observatory and scholarship that bear his name,” Dr. Bruce Wilking, professor of physics, said. “He was a leader in the Department of Physics & Astronomy, a superb astronomy teacher for thousands of UMSL students, and a research advisor that launched the professional careers of many UMSL physics majors. Richard was also a wonderful friend and mentor to me.”

Dr. Schwartz is survived by his wife of 23 years, Eleanor. Any contributions made in his memory have been requested to go to the scholarship in his name; all such contributions should be addressed to Maura Wuellner, 230 Woods Hall, University of Missouri-St. Louis, One University Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63121. A memorial service for Dr. Schwartz will be held at the Glen Echo Country Club at 3401 Lucas and Hunt on Sunday, September 4 at 7.

Student life in-house renovation is about to reveal changes for benefit of students

YUSEF ROACH
Staff Writer

The UMSL school year is off to a fresh start with the Office of Student Life finishing up in-house renovations for the Fall 2011 semester. The construction began earlier this summer with the planning process scaling all the way back to March.

The goal of the construction is to address efficiency and storage issues plaguing the Student Life staff such as the need for more storage, more workspace for student organizations, and the very small front desk space.

The Office of Student Life, located on the third floor of the Millennium Student center, provides support to student groups and organizations, acting as a liaison between the two, and provides a campus platform for emerging leaders in the student body.

“I think our space is really unique,” Jessica Long-Pease, Assistant Director of Programming, said, “Having the student groups have cubicles out in this space and being able to interact with the staff on a pretty consistent basis in an easy manner. The space itself is fantastic, so, right now, what we're trying to do is to make sure that we're utilizing it to the best of our abilities.”

Among the changes being instituted is a much needed increase to office storage, as opposed to its current place in the basement of the MSC.

“Really we hadn't done any updating for about ten or eleven years. What you saw there at the front of the office was the way it looked when the building opened in 2000,”

Miriam Huffman, director of Student Life, said. “Our telephone and foot traffic have increased so significantly that really we needed two people at the front to be able to manage supporting the student organizations, supporting the staff, supporting walk-in traffic and supporting phone traffic.”

This is an actual phase two of the campaign to revivify the office of Student Life; phase one, starting about a year ago, being a movement toward a more technologically driven workspace. Amenities such as web cams and SmartBoards are installed in the conference room, allowing for enhanced meetings. These changes are already yielding a noticeable increase in the office's student traffic.

“We knew we needed better technology in that conference room,” Miriam Huffman, said “it used to be somewhere else in the office and we moved it up just a year ago. And when we moved that conference room, what we found is, because it was visible to everybody, student groups started reserving it constantly, where in the past it had not been used at all by outside groups.”

Save for a few minor “odds and ends” to be wrapped up later in the year, the construction is to be complete on August 17, just in time for the new year. An open house is being held August 25 at 11:30 a.m. to showcase the newly renovated office, offering door prizes and refreshments.

Stop by, enjoy the renovations and use this opportunity to check out the various student organizations showcased within the Office of Student Life. Get involved on campus and get more out of the overall experience offered here at UMSL.



Anne Hathaway (left) and Jim Sturgess (right) star as Emma and Dexter in the romance ONE DAY, a Focus Features release directed by Lone Scherfig. Photo credit: Giles Keyte. © 2011 Focus Features.

‘One Day’ in two peoples’ lives, over 20 years, paints portrait of relationship

MOVIES

“One Day” follows a couple’s off-and-on romance, friendship and lives, by giving a snapshot of their lives on the same day - the day they met - through twenty years.

Starring American Anne Hathaway and Brit Jim Sturgess, this British-set tale is a three-hankie tearjerker. It is likely to please fans of “The Notebook” and other Nicholas Sparks adaptations, as well as some fans of the book, which bears the same name, from which this film was adapted. It is however not a film for every taste.

Emma Morley (Anne Hathaway) and Dexter Mayhew (Jim Sturgess) meet on the day they graduate college, July 15, 1988. Although they attended the same university, Em comes from a working-class family in Northern England while Dex is a pampered child of privilege. What at first seems like a casual pick-up deepens into an unexpected friendship.

Although they resolve to just be friends, an undercurrent of unspoken attraction remains.

Director Lone Scherfig’s last film, “An Education,” was an outstanding drama, a film of real meaning and humanity. This film is a disappointing follow-up because while it is reasonably

faithful to the novel’s story, it lacks its depth.

Still, there is romantic charm to both characters and some convincing chemistry between Hathaway and Sturgess. This is a laughter-and-tears tale, with each July 15 illustrating where they are in their lives, separate and together, and in their roller-coaster feelings for each other.

The one-day-a-year technique - always the day they met - seems a bit contrived but works better in the film that expected. The film actually skips a year or two occasionally but does cover most of twenty years. The snapshots work well to cover a relationship that spans decades and the seasons of life.

Both the book and film are both set in England, which makes Anne Hathaway’s wandering British accent is a major distraction. One has to wonder why the story was not re-set in the U.S. or a real British actress was not cast.

Apart from her indeterminate accent, Hathaway does well as the unassuming, self-effacing Emma. Hathaway is undeniably cute as Emma, an unconventional aspiring-poet, although having the beautiful Hathaway play what seems to be a role as a less-attractive woman is a bit unconvincing.

Audiences may recognize Sturgess from the Beatles pic “Across the Universe,” or possibly the adventure film “The Way Back” earlier this year. The actor is very good as the not-

always-good Dexter.

The supporting cast is good, particularly Patricia Clarkson as Dexter’s mother, although the episodic nature of the film makes character development in supporting roles a bit limited.

Visually, the film is very appealing - pretty people in pretty places - as befits this kind of romantic tale. Much of the story takes place in London but it also roams to Paris and other beautiful spots. The film also offers a bit of a cultural tour of the ‘90s and ‘00s, with fashions and fads appearing and fading.

Skipping year to year one has a sense of skimming over the surface of the characters’ emotional lives. Beyond their relationship, the film does not offer much insight on life, despite the sometimes devastating events the characters go through.

While the yearly snapshot is a fresh approach to the relationship storytelling and the acting is good, in the end the film is far less profound than it could have been.

Despite its long time-line and some comic moments, at heart “One Day” is simply a good tearjerker. But for fans of romantic dramas like “The Notebook,” it may be just the ticket.

B- - Cate Marquis

Chicago Comic Con isn't just a nerd gathering, it's something more

JANACA SCHERER

Managing Editor

Geeks and nerds alike have always been shunned from most societies. However, those who make up the geeky and nerdy world we live in have found a way around all of the hateful glances and disapproving stares: Comic Con.

On August 9 though 12, Chicago hosted its own Comic Con.

While a lot smaller than the international Comic Con hosted in San Diego, Chicago was still more than one could ever imagine.

For those who don't know, Comic Con honestly and truly can be summed up as a nerd/geek-fest.

There are tons of fat guys who haven't showered in days and skinny girls dressed in skimpy outfits. There are comic books as far as the eye can see, statues of every super hero you can think of, t-shirts with random television quotes and tons of people in cosplay (dressing up as a character from a TV show, video game, comic book, etc.).

Rows of artists who could draw absolutely anything imaginable were present.

Crossing the lines of Marvel and DC and progressing into Star Wars and anime, these artists can draw anything a

twisted comic-loving soul could want.

Stars from every TV show and movie imaginable also make appearances.

Covering everything from space movies, vampire shows and zombie series there is nothing left to want for.

But, somehow, it is something more than that. It is a community of people, who have gathered and are committed to preserving an art that most people forget once they grow up.

Comic books have been a way of life for many people (more so boys than girls) but for some reason, when a certain age hits they are left behind.

Aisles of anything a geek/nerd could ever want could be found.

A robotic R2-D2 was found roaming the aisles as Ray Park (Darth Maul) and Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca) signed autographs. Christopher Lloyd made an appearance as the "Back to the Future" Delorian sat for pictures.

Rare and classic comic books were found and bought as new graphic novels were being sold. Doc Ock and Spiderman fought it out while Hipster Ariel and Princess Ariel talked about legs versus fins.

Every new comic book or graphic novel a reader could ever want could be found, with reduced prices nonetheless.

Rare figurines and action figures from attendees' youth could be found. Totoro pillows, Domo plushes, swords of all shapes and sizes and every style of art imaginable could all be found at the same booth.

But perhaps the most talked about event of the weekend was a cast reunion of the absolutely ridiculous "horror" film "The Evil Dead."

Featuring Bruce Campbell as the hero, the panel was hilarious. Poking fun at fans and handing out money to anyone who had something good to say about him or the movie, Campbell well deserved his spot that weekend. The other cast members were just as quick to poke fun and created a light an easy atmosphere for all in attendance.

As a whole, Comic Con is something that cannot easily be explained. It is more than just an event but exactly what is hard to describe. Only attending something so large and nerdy (but in the best way possible) can one understand what goes on inside.

LATEST + GREATEST

Movies Opening Calendar

*Movies opening Friday, Aug. 26
(Subject to change)*

COLUMBIANA (everywhere)

- Action/thriller with Zoe Saldana as a woman raised by her uncle to be an assassin, setting out to kill the Colombian drug lord who murdered her parents. Luc Besson is writer/producer in this "Kill Bill" like tale.

OUR IDIOT BROTHER (everywhere)

- A family comedy about a naïve but sweet organic farmer (Paul Rudd), paroled after bust for selling pot to a cop, now couch-surfing between his mother's Long Island home and his three NY sisters (Zooey Deschanel, Elizabeth Banks, Emily Mortimer) apartments. This dry, satiric comedy also stars Steve Coogan.

THE WHISTLEBLOWER (Plaza Frontenac only)

- Rachel Weisz stars in this fact-based drama about Nebraska cop who uncovered sex trafficking while serving as a U.N. peacekeeper in Bosnia. Director Larysa Kondracki pulls no punches in her feature debut, a film also featuring Monica Bellucci and Vanessa Redgrave.

CD Release Calendar

August 23: The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus' 'AM I THE ENEMY'

Their first full-length album since 2009, RJA is releasing their third album. YouTube videos have been released for the single "Reap," which plays more into their punk and screamo side than the typical punk pop they are known for.

August 23: Black Tides' 'POST MORTEM'

In the works for almost two years, 'Post Mortem' will hit the metal world by storm. Singles have already received a positive response and it can only get better from there.

August 29: Lil Wayne's 'THE CARTER IV'

After years of push-backs, Lil Wayne's latest is finally going to be released. Extremely anticipated by fans for the past two years, the album features 15 songs and tons of featuring artists to keep fans busy.

August 30: Red Hot Chili Peppers' 'I'M WITH YOU'

The first album in over five years, RHCP will finally be releasing 'I'm With You.' Highly covered by Fuse and MTV, this album is sure to amaze all classic alternative rock fans.

‘The Help’ earns its paycheck

MOVIES

Some people say that far too many films have attempted to talk about the Civil Rights Movement and that there is nothing new to say about it. However, many of these films focus on large figures, like “Malcolm X,” or notorious acts of violence, like “Mississippi Burning,” and they tend to stick to male ensembles. “The Help,” based on Kathryn Stockett’s 2009 best-selling novel of the same name, brings something new to the table by zooming in on the prevalent de facto racism in the relationship between black maids and their spoiled white mistresses.

In 1963, 23-year-old Ole Miss graduate and aspiring journalist Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan (Emma Stone) returns to her hometown of Jackson, Mississippi and enlists a friend’s maid, Aibileen (Viola Davis), to help her write cleaning advice for the Jackson Journal’s column. As she collects the tidbits, Skeeter becomes

inspired to write a book from the point of view of the maids of Jackson, and she successfully pitches the idea to a New York book editor (Mary Steenburgen).

Meanwhile, Skeeter’s friend and Jackson Junior League President Hilly Holbrook (Bryce Dallas Howard) is working to pass the Home Health Initiative, which would force the maids to use outdoor bathrooms because in Hilly’s almost psychotically backward mind, “they carry different diseases than us.” This leads her fiery former maid and Aibileen’s best friend, Minny (Octavia Spencer), to tell her story as well. As Hilly’s passive-aggressive attacks on the maids increase in severity, more maids begin to talk.

The story itself is much more episodic than the trailers make it appear. The plot thread of Skeeter’s book is just one of several main storylines. In fact, compared to Aibileen’s and Minny’s characters’ powerful and dynamic arcs, Skeeter’s comes across as a much more generic

coming-of-age story. Perhaps this is intentional to show Skeeter’s privilege in her ability to move forward while women with much more interesting stories are stuck because of racism but it still feels a bit tiresome, though Stone brings a great sense of spunk to the role.

Within the film, director Tate Taylor, a childhood friend of Stockett, creates a strong Southern atmosphere that feels authentic, not like a superficial family tour. Though some of the film’s settings look conspicuously clean, those are mainly the Caucasian areas of Jackson, largely the suburb where Hilly rules her Junior League court and Skeeter’s family’s more rural home. The maids’ homes are darker and simple, in line with reality, but also speaking to their societal roles, just one of many subtle symbolic touches scattered throughout the film.

The film’s strongest aspects, however, are its characters and cast. Aibileen’s and Minny’s stories completely deconstruct the “Mammy” archetype of black housekeepers, depicting them as three-dimensional women who struggle in their personal

lives even as they must put their own children second in order to provide for them by raising white children whose own mothers neglect them.

Davis and Spencer give powerhouse, and potentially award-worthy performances and the film is definitely theirs rather than Stone’s, though she acquits herself nicely. Howard, as the thoroughly despicably Hilly, is deliciously evil, yet human enough to remind most female audience members of just about every queen bee they have ever met, regardless of race or generation. The rest of the female ensemble, including Allison Janney and Sissy Spacek as Skeeter’s and Hilly’s respective mothers, are also extremely strong, creating a very believable look into a not-so-far-off yet alarmingly backward time and place in American history.

Overall, “The Help” shows that in such tumultuous times, words and passive aggression can be just as explosive as violence.

B+ - Mary Grace Buckley



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"Hive Body" by Brigham Dimick, one of the art works in Gallery 210's upcoming exhibit "Exposure 14." Photo courtesy of Gallery 210.

Gallery 210 and Visio art ranges from zombies to Southern culture

ART

This semester, both of University of Missouri-St. Louis' art galleries, Gallery 210 and Visio, will host exhibits focused on artists, many of them local, directing, interacting with and reflecting on overarching cultural themes.

At Visio, this is the campus' student-run gallery, those cultural explorations range from zombie to the multicultural. Gallery 210, which is recognized as one of the region's most significant art venues, begins its season with its annual focus on new works by prominent local artists, "Exposure 14," and goes on to explore a variety of cultural traditions.

For instance, one of Gallery 210's first exhibits, "Southern Journeys: African American Artists of the South," is a traveling exhibit that displays work from 54 African-American artists, who all have different connections to the South. Some live there, some are natives who have left, some have familial ties, and some have only their cultural connections to it, but their works reflect their own personal views of and responses to the South, no matter the relationship. An opening reception will be held on September 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the exhibit will run

until October 8.

The other exhibit that opens this semester, "Exposure 14," features artwork by local St. Louis artists Brigham Dimick, Ron Leax and Greg Edmondson, their work will explore the connections between science and art, such as in recent forays into artificial intelligence and bioengineering. The exhibit will look at how those links have become apparent in artists' studios as well as in more functional mediums like architecture and design. A panel discussion and opening reception will be held on August 25 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with the panel discussion starting at 6:15 p.m.. The exhibit runs until October 1.

The gallery's next exhibit, "TASK," features pieces selected by artist Oliver Herring that will be created by attendees at a party he will throw on October 21 from 5 to 9 p.m. Each attendee will create works of art by picking a piece of paper with a "task" written on it at random and then performing that task, in hopes that their work will be displayed. Attendees will also create the tasks. Interactive TASK parties have been held at galleries at Drake University, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Principia College and other schools. The exhibit runs from October 20 to December 3.

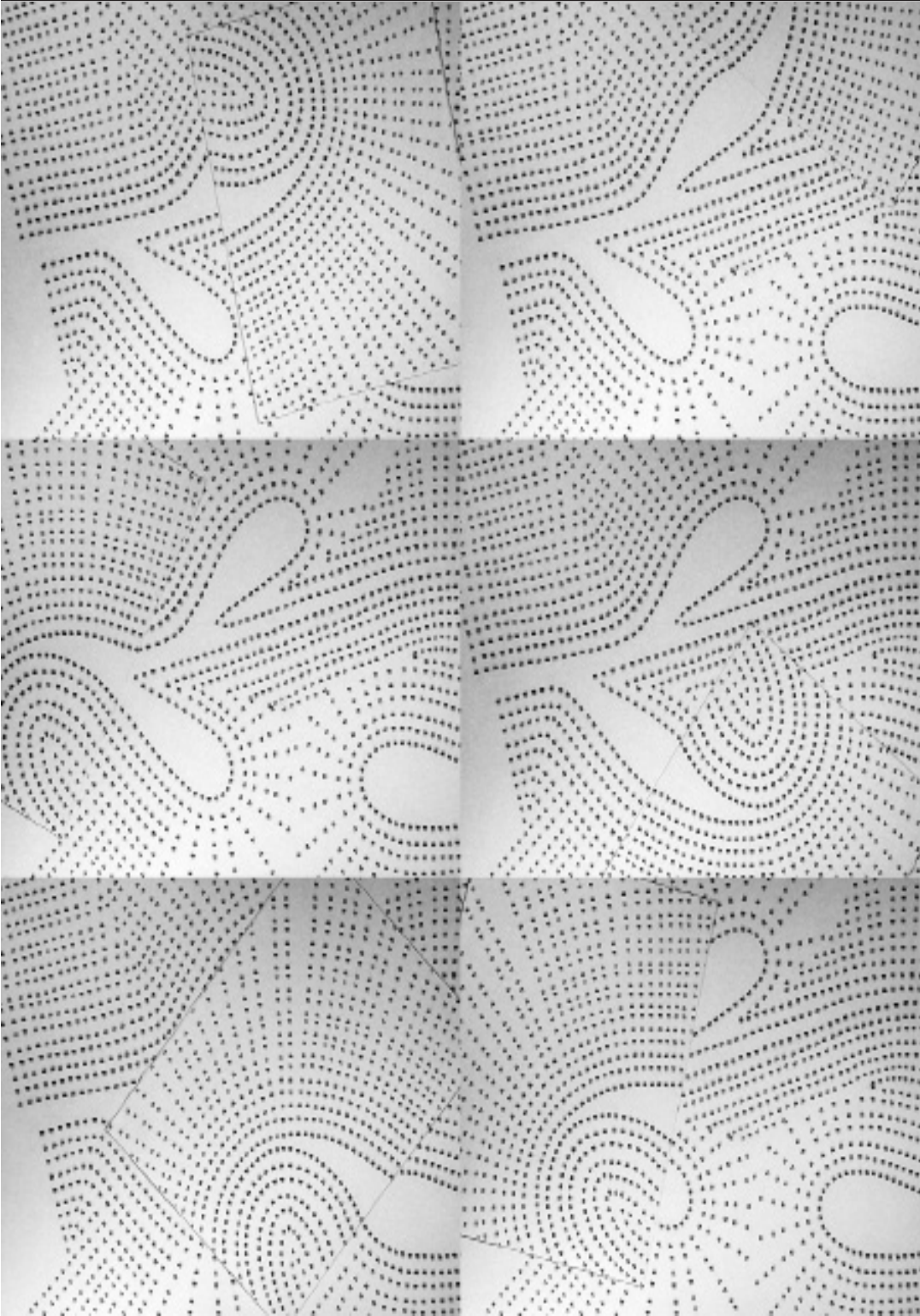
Gallery Visio will open its season with "Visie Van Amsterdam" from August 25 until September 22. This exhibit will showcase posters, inspired by Dutch art, created by UMSL design students during a recent trip to Amsterdam, showing how a foreign culture can influence one's work and personal vision.

From October 6 to November 3, Visio hosts the zombie-culture themed "Expired." This exhibit features works by UM-St. Louis students that use their favorite media to depict the various disgustingly dynamic facets of zombie culture and possibly that potential zombie apocalypse. Made Monarchs will co-sponsor the event.

Finally, "Awareness = Life" will run from November 10 until December 15 at Visio. This one will showcase work by Normandy High School students in a gallery for the first time. This show's proceeds will go to the Will Flores Fund, which assists families and children affected by HIV and AIDS.

Overall, in many different ways, UMSL's Gallery 210 and Visio are allowing local artists to showcase work that affects them and the world around them in very personal ways, but also speaks to larger societal themes.

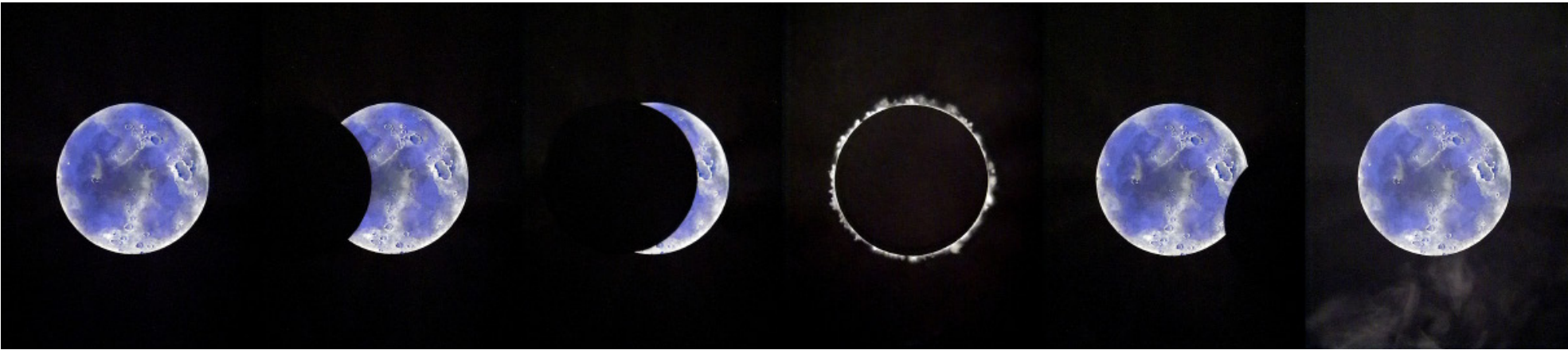
- Mary Grace Buckley



“Circular Logic” by Greg Edmundson. Photo courtesy of Gallery 210.



“Untitled” by Greg Edmundson. Photo courtesy of Gallery 210.



“Lunar Eclipse” by Greg Edmundson. Photo courtesy of Gallery 210.

Features

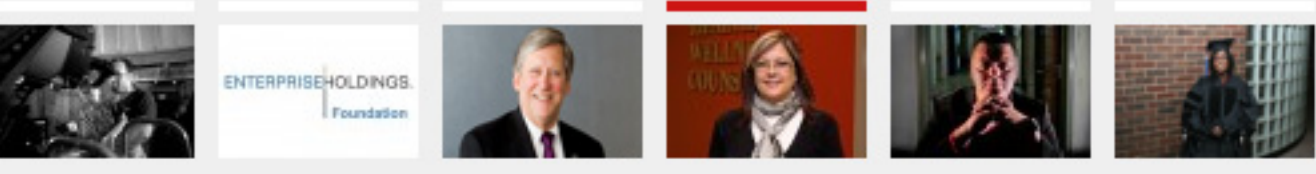
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'UMSL Daily' works social media concept; replaces Newsroom

MADDIE HARNED
Staff Writer

The way University of Missouri–St. Louis students, staff and alumni receive university-related news is undergoing a drastic change, culminating in the new and improved "UMSL Daily" – an online social media newsroom that is replacing the weekly e-mail newsletter "UMSL News."

Months in the making, the "UMSL Daily" social media newsroom is an interactive and cutting edge approach to delivering university news.

For students and staff it started with an e-mail, announcing a change from the "UMSL News" weekly newsletter, yet details were scarce about exactly what was to come.

Editor of "UMSL Daily," Ryan Heinz, acknowledged that this was a strategic move on the part of the creators.

"We were trying to tease it a little to generate some interest," Heinz said. "We have been working on this basically non-stop since late spring."

Since the idea of updating the way UMSL students, staff and alumni receive university news, Heinz along with "UMSL Daily" web manager, Jon Hinderliter, and Chief Marketing Officer/Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, Ron Gossen, have been diligently working on new and interesting concepts for the social media newsroom.

Heinz along with his three other colleagues will write all of the stories featured on the news site.

Essentially, "UMSL Daily" has done a complete overhaul of what was UMSL News.

"'UMSL News' was simply a four to six story newsletter and as new stories were added the other ones would get bumped down," Hinderliter, said. "'UMSL Daily' has a new theme, custom to our needs and looks like a news website." Hinderliter also designed the main UMSL website nine years ago.

The online newsroom will use RSS feeds that allow the public to view the news how and when they want to.

This popular type of web feed format is often used in news websites and blogs that are updated regularly.

Readers would be able to receive frequent news updates via e-mail by subscribing with their e-mail address.

"You can subscribe to Touhill Performing Arts news, alumni news or whatever section you want," Hinderliter, said.

"UMSL Daily" will have the feel of a social media website blended with the signature format of a top-quality news website. This merger of social media and news website styles was done with the intention of broadening the readership of the website.

"Social media websites, like Twitter and Facebook, are how people communicate," Gossen, said. "This is how people can be reached."

"UMSL Daily" will have multi-media features and will use social media news releases which are more cut and dry and use more basic and conversational language than typical news releases. Plus, the website will feature links

to Facebook.

The creators of "UMSL Daily" assure readers that the news they provide will always be up-to-date because the website will be refreshed daily with new stories in a wide variety of categories.

"This was modeled off national social media newsrooms, specifically Penn State's newsroom" Gossen, said. "Instead of pushing information on people, they can select what interests them. 'UMSL Daily' really has got it all."

Adding to the vast bank of new features is a list of UMSL faculty that allows people to find experts in specific fields and a media relations section that gives reporters and bloggers access to UMSL news releases.

With the end of "UMSL News" comes the birth of a monumental news advancement in "UMSL Daily", which goes far more in-depth and highlights many more aspects of UMSL than its predecessor.

Hinderliter, who has been the main web designer of the project, says that this new format completes the university as a whole.

"UMSL's slogan is serious value, serious education," Hinderliter said. "Now we also have a serious newsroom."

It was also discovered that the site was modeled off the newsroom at Pennsylvania State.

Penn State is known for staffing their newsroom with professional writers who are experts in their concentration.

"UMSL Daily" will make its grand debut with the inception of the fall semester.

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MATTHEW B. POPOSKY
Editor-in Chief

St. Louis is vast, and the options for how to spend one's time are certainly impressive and intimidating at times. Thus, The Current is here to provide students and faculty, both new and seasoned veterans alike, with a short list of suggestions for where and how to spend that extra downtime.

After all, just sitting around the dorm room is bound to get boring eventually, and even the best TV shows lose their charm over time.

Where to Eat

The area surrounding the University of Missouri – St. Louis is absolutely overflowing with options for eating. From fast food chains to small, locally-owned cafes, it can sometimes be overwhelming.

As the fast food options are readily visible and really quite obvious, these suggestions will be for the local flavors.

First up is Breakaway Café. From sandwiches to burgers, with everything from pizza to pasta in between, Breakaway manages to provide a little something for just about everybody. The environment is tight and cozy, usually providing a soft rhythm on the radio to set a relaxing mood for lunch or dinner.

Although a bit more out of the way, those seeking a more traditional coffee house feeling may want to

check out Pastries of Denmark, in Creve Coeur. It may indeed require a drive down the highway, but the sweets and savories alike are worth the time and effort. Much like Breakaway, Pastries of Denmark provides a very relaxing environment.

With seating options ranging from spacious tables to booths, and even veranda seating with protective umbrellas, Pastries manages to provide a very 'classic' coffee house feel, while still providing the many amenities expected of a modern restaurant, from variety to friendly service.

Where to Enjoy the Arts

The Pageant, located centrally in The Loop, is also a grand location to attend for artistic ventures.

From live bands to the Halo Nightbar next door, The Pageant provides an atmosphere unmatched by many of its contemporaries around the city.

Of course, as long as The Loop is open, The Tivoli theatre is another fantastic haunt. The Tivoli presents a wide variety of shows, from new to old, famous to independent.

For those not interested in leaving campus, The Touhill offers a wide variety of shows throughout the semester for both the UMSL community, and those from beyond. From dance

performances to music, comedians to seminars, The Touhill is constantly providing different strokes for different folks.

Where to Spend the Evening

So, here it is: the bread and butter of a college student's career. While education is the primary focus here, everybody needs to cut loose (footloose...) from time to time. Nightclubs are varied and abundant around St. Louis, and it is really more a matter of what exactly patrons are looking for rather than how popular a club happens to be.

Those looking for a rap-oriented experience may want to stick to areas downtown, where locales such as Club Buca and The Oz excel.

Those hoping for a more varied selection might want to jump over to St. Peters, and take a chance on the Electric Cowboy dance club, where everything from country to modern pop rules the night, and the patrons are just as random.

In Summation

So, there it is. While these suggestions are certainly far from comprehensive, they should provide a starting point for those hoping to get their new lives at UMSL established. So go out, enjoy your school life, but make sure not to forget said school life.



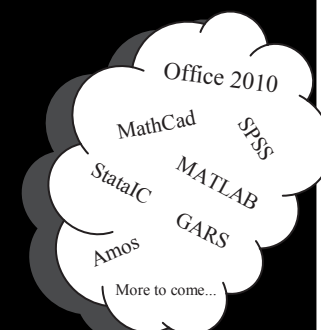
The Pageant, located in the Delmar Loop JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

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Assistant Vice Chancellor gets the opportunity of a lifetime

GREGORY A. LAINE

Staff Writer

Assistant Vice Chancellor, Gwen Deloach-Packnett, has served the University of Missouri-St. Louis community for 14 years as the founding director of the Office of Multicultural Relations, as well as the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

Now, she has been given the opportunity to serve as a member of The American Council of Education Fellowship.

The American Council of Education is a business started by an organization in Washington DC and it is the premier organization in preparing senior level administrators in higher education.

In order to be considered for the fellowship, one must

be nominated by the Chancellor or a top level administrator.

The Current: As Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Academic Affairs, what is your main role?

Gwen Deloach-Packnett: My main role is to assist Provost Cope with the academic curriculum, faculty, and courses offered; anything that deals with the academic side of UMSL. *TC: What was your initial reaction to hearing the news about your new appointment?*

GDP: I am very honored and humbled that Chancellor George and Provost Cope felt that I was worthy of being nominated.

TC: When will you make the transfer from UMSL?

GDP: I have already made the transfer from UMSL and will spend one academic year at IUPUI (Indiana University – Purdue University of Indiana). I will also be attending a preparatory conference in Chicago. All ACE members must attend at least four conferences. After the conference I will head to IUPUI.

TC: How were you informed about the opportunity to take the position as a member of the American Council of Education Fellows?

GDP: I first heard about it through its reputation, they have a very good reputation for preparing higher level administrators to become senior level administrators. I found out more about it after being nominated

through research into the fellowship.

TC: What does this mean for your career as an educator?

GDP: I trust it will mean that I continue to move forward on the ladder of higher education.

TC: What is the purpose of the ACE Fellows?

GDP: The fellowship is a pre-merit organization that prepares higher education administrators for senior level positions; they have a reputation for preparing higher education administrators to assume the roles of presidents, chancellors, deans and the like.

TC: After your tour away from UMSL, will you be able to return to your previous duties?

GDP: Yes, after my academic year away, I will return to my duties as the Assistant Vice-Chancellor



Gwen Deloach-Packnett, UM-St. Louis education professor

COURTESY OF GWEN DELOACH-PACKNETT

of Academic Affairs and continue to assist Provost Cope.

TC: After the year with IUPUI will you have any more activity with the ACE fellows?

GDP: During the fellowship, there will be travel and international travel; there is an opportunity to be a fellow at Oxford in England, or in South Africa.

Manners and Mischief pays a visit to UM-St. Louis campus

ASHLEY ATKINS

Features Editor

On September 7, Dr. Laura Miller, the Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Endowed Professor of Japanese Studies and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, will launch the book "Manners and Mischief: Gender Power and Etiquette in Japan" in the Social Sciences & Business building on campus.

Dr. Miller will give a short presentation in which she will dive into the contents of the book, sharing comics and illustrations of misbehaviors that have been the focal point of visual representation in Japan.

A project she co-edited with Dr. Jan Bardsley, Associate Professor and Chair of Asian Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the book is an accumulation of interdisciplinary scholarship with help

from literary studies, gender studies, anthropology, cultural studies, history, etc.

Together, all subjects touch base on the role of conduct literature in contesting, supporting, and poking fun at race, gender, nation, and class in Japan.

"Bardsley and I had each published on aspects of conduct literature in the past, and we came up with the idea for Manners and Mischief as a natural step after publishing our first co-edited volume, *Bad Girls of Japan* (Palgrave Macmillan 2005)," Miller, said.

When creating this book, Miller and Bardsley wanted to put something together that was entertaining and accessible, yet still offered its readers the changing dynamics of Japanese culture.

They wanted to show how conduct literature and

etiquette conventions have persuaded ideas of advancement in gender, class, nation, and sexual orientation.

Dr. Beth Eckelkamp, Associate Teaching Professor and Director of Language Programs in the Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Languages at UMSL, will be using "Manners and Mischief" in the Honors College course 2310: Images of Japan.

The course will be associated with both Japanese and Anthropology. While preparing to teach this course for a second time, she was in search of a text that would offer a rich insight on modern Japan from a variety of disciplines.

When she heard about the book that Miller was editing, she felt it was a perfect fit. The literature would expose her students to various perspectives without weighing them down with a heavy load of reading.

A student would be able to walk into her class without prior knowledge of Japanese culture and language.

Dr. Eckelkamp credits Miller's arrival on campus as the driving force towards a degree program in Japanese for UMSL students. For the first time, this fall, a concentration in Japanese will be offered to Modern Language majors.

By reading this book, there are hopes that Japanese stereotypes will be resolved, stereotypes voiced internationally.

"Many aboard tend to think of Japanese simply as 'very polite,'" Dr. Bardsley said. "'Manners and Mischief' tells the back stories to codes of all kinds, revealing how nation, culture, and gender are constructed—and undone—through manners."

Bardsley said that by working on the book she has gained a new apprecia-

tion for examining guides and other forms of popular literature that have sunken below academic radar, all of which help develop a greater insight into the subject matter of the book.

Dr. Rebecca Copeland, Professor of Japanese Literature at Washington University, believes that the book opens up a wonderfully innovative window into Japanese society.

"There is great variety in Japan, just as there is in any culture and there is also 'mischievousness,'" Dr. Copeland said. "This book, I think, helps make Japanese society just that much more 'real' and 'human.'"

The book launch and presentation will happen from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Room 331 of the SSB. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and free refreshments will be provided to attendees, in addition to discussion of the book.



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Tennis teams excel on and off the court year-round

Sports

YUSEF ROACH

Staff Writer

University of Missouri- St. Louis' devotion to scholarship shines once again. The 2010-11 men's and women's tennis teams are being recognized by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association for their excellent balancing of athletics and academics. The women's team is being given the ITA's All-Academic Team award, which requires a cumulative team grade point average of at least 3.20 on a 4.00 scale for both fall and spring semesters; the female squad earned a combined 3.369.

The men are represented by Andreas Hammar, whose been named an ITA Scholar-Athlete, an individual accolade requiring a minimum GPA of 3.50 and at least 2 semesters of previous enrollment. He receives this distinction along with four representatives from the women's team: senior Aya Gombo, juniors Pujitha Bandi and Katie Rynkiewich and freshman Louisa Werner.

The ITA is the governing body of tennis at the college level, managing 15,000 student-athletes in 1,200 schools across all divisions of the NCAA, the NAIA, and community college. Rick Gyllenborg, a 16-year veteran of the UMSL Athletics department, coaches the team, and strives to preserve a maintainable balance between academics and athletics. "There's a huge emphasis in division two athletes to have a balance of academics and athletics... Practice times, travel times and

scheduling are set so that they have the maximum chance of getting their academic work done, missing as few classes as possible," Gyllenborg said, regarding the line between scholarship and sports, "It's talked about most days at practice: make sure you're getting your homework done, make sure you're

supposed to be on time. As soon as you think you're working hard, we'll push you a little bit harder, then push you a little bit harder again; strong academics people are normally that way. So does the athletic side help academically, or does the academic side help athletically? I think that is up to the indi-

"It's talked about most days at practice; make sure you're getting your homework done."

-Rick Gyllenborg

ahead of yourself with your scheduling."

Coach Gyllenborg also makes it a point that a strong academic background can make for a better breed of athlete and vice-versa. "It helps with the discipline. Most good students are disciplined with their time management and getting things done. Sometimes, especially during midterms, we see an advantage to being a student athlete in that there are a lot of demands in being an athlete: hard work, being where you're

vidual person."

Academics are a priority in the athletics department; they hold overall GPA goals, and individuals as well. There's even a little friendly competition between the 11 university sports teams; in addition to receiving the prestigious ITA award, the Tennis team also holds the distinction of having the highest GPA in the athletics department. The athletic director awards the winning team by hosting a night out to dinner.

Great Lakes Valley Conference gives UMSL high preseason marks

RYAN KRULL

Distribution Manager

As the fall sports season gets ready to kick off, the Great Lakes Valley Conference has released its annual preseason coaches' poll. The poll shows that there are great expectations for some of the University of Missouri-St. Louis sports team and plenty of room for others to prove that they have been underestimated.

UMSL women's volleyball fared very well in the poll, garnering the most votes in their West Division of the GLVC as well as the most votes overall. Lewis received the second most votes overall and was ranked first in the East Division of the GLVC. Last season the Tritons faced Lewis three times and only came away with one victory.

St. Louis area school Maryville came in dead last among the East division's eight programs.

"I am glad to see that our team is rated as high as we are because it's nice to see your competitors recognize the talent you have, but I really don't pay a lot of attention to this sort of thing because pre-season ratings are just basically a guess or prediction," volleyball coach, Ryan Young, said. "If we are

#1 at the end of the season in the final ratings, I will be very pleased, because those are the only ratings that matter."

This will be Young's first season as head coach. He was promoted to the position from assistant coach in April.

Women's Volleyball will kick off their season at home on Sept 2 with their first game against Wayne State.

road.

Men's soccer will start their season on Sept 1 with two games in California. Their home opener is Sept 11 against Illinois-Springfield.

"We're a talented team and can control our own destiny," King said.

"King says that the team's biggest problem last season was inconsistency."

UMSL soccer on the other hand did not fair quite as well in the preseason poll. Men's soccer came in ninth out of 16 teams, well behind number one ranked Northern Kentucky, a team that is both the current GLVC champion as well as the defending NCAA Division II national Champion.

Men's soccer coach Dan King said that he felt his team was ranked "right where we deserved to be."

King says that the team's biggest problem last season was inconsistency. He points specifically to losing some very winnable games at home while managing to go undefeated on the

On the women's side of things, the Women Triton soccer team was ranked 11 out of 16 teams in the poll. Bobby Lessentine calls the ranking a "good motivation for us to improve." Lessentine says that this season the team will have 11 returning players and 11 first year players. According to Lessentine the 50/50 split of new and returning players is not totally ideal but it is a overall a pretty good situation.

The GLVC preseason poll is released annually and determined by voting from the head coaches around the conference.

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Opinions

OUR OPINION

Job market only harmed by use of discriminatory hiring practices

To get an up-close look at the effect this recession has had on the people of America, many need look no further than their own lives. When the economy went into free-fall in 2009, many experienced workers found themselves pink-slipped for no other reason than that their employer was desperate to cut payroll.

Now here in 2011, the economic recovery is faltering, and while the job market might not be hemorrhaging jobs like it was at the height of the recession, job growth still isn't what one might expect from a "recovering" economy. Companies and corporations simply aren't hiring at rates that would ensure the sustainability of the recovery effort.

Because of this combination of high unemployment and low hiring rates, there are still quite a few jobless people in this country. Also, because of the nature and extent of the recession itself, many of these unemployed people have been unemployed for quite some time, some up to a year or even more. With the economy recovering and a large part of the available workforce consisting of experienced workers aching for a job, it looks like a perfect storm for the job market. So what went wrong?

The problem is that businesses just aren't hiring a lot of people; those same un-

employed, specifically. These days it's become common on job listings to see current employment as a prerequisite for applying for the advertised position.

Wait, what?

That's no mistake — current employment is being used as a criterion for future employment. Where does that leave the long-term unemployed? These are the people who actually need what few jobs are available, only to find themselves shut out by an employer's artificial constraints — constraints which don't seem to make much logical sense.

It's true that in times like these, employers can afford to be picky about whom they hire. It makes sense for a business to hire the most qualified person available. In this case, however, they're not even doing that much. Even experienced executives aren't immune; in fact, middle-aged and older workers have been the hardest hit by the one-two punch of recession and picky employers who don't want to overpay for experience don't want to invest in training an inexperienced worker from scratch, and don't believe that any worker laid off during the recession was a valuable employee.

That hardly justifies what is clearly a discriminatory and destructive practice. Corporations who employ this tactic certainly carry a

share of the blame for the lagging recovery, given that part of what is keeping the economy down is our current anemic job growth. Never mind the personal consequences for the long-term unemployed, many of whom developed credit problems from the financial crush they found themselves in after being fired, which in turn led to even more problems in the job hunt as most employers perform credit checks on potential employees.

It is possible that this was not a conscious decision on the part of some businesses. Many companies outsource their job advertisement to ad firms and have little to no control over what is actually posted. A number of companies have renounced or rebuked their ad companies since this issue was first aired. However, just as many have not — and if recovery is to continue, these employers must be shown the error of their ways. Pure, unadulterated greed, and a fixation on nothing but the bottom line; those are the things that got the country into this mess and they're certainly not going to pull it out again.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Matthew Poposky, Minho Jung, Ashley Atkins, Cate Marquis, Jennifer Meahan, Jeremy Zschau and Janaca Scherer.

OUT OF LEFT FIELD

Congress and lawmakers have bigger concerns than the game

You're paying too much attention to baseball.

That isn't directed to the reader. No, it's our lawmakers that are occupying far too much of their time on America's national pastime.

Seeing the government stick its nose into baseball is nothing new. In 1922, Major League Baseball was granted an exception to the rather stringent anti-trust laws of the time. There was also the reserve clause case of the 70s, which resulted in the creation of the modern system of arbitration and free agency that is used in MLB today. However, the case of free agency wasn't far from lawmakers' last attempt to meddle with and influence baseball.

Though the 1990s are widely known as the so-called 'steroids era' in baseball, it really got its start in the late 1980s in Oakland, as juiced-up sluggers Mark McGwire and Jose Canseco burst onto the scene with back-to-back Rookie of the Year seasons for the Athletics. The duo was known as the "Bash Brothers" for their home run prowess — prowess that even then was suspected, at least in Canseco's case, to be steroid-fueled. No official investigation was made, and steroid use increased into the 1990s.

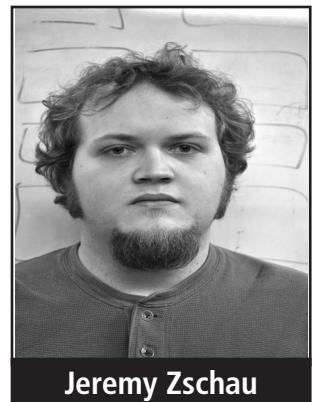
If the 1994 strike nearly killed baseball, the 1998 home run race saved it. McGwire was at the center of it all, his total of 70 setting a single-season major league record at the time. He wasn't quite alone at the top, either; fellow slugger Sammy

Sosa of the rival Chicago Cubs hit 66 the same year, and for most of the year the pair traded places atop the home run leaderboard, even as whispered accusations of steroids slowly made the rounds.

Fast forward another few years. The sense of wonder from 1998 was replaced in the first decade of the new century with a sense of cynicism as what many had suspected over the past decade were proven right: baseball was rife with steroids use. Not all players used them, of course, but many did.

In 2006, Senator George Mitchell launched an investigation into the use of steroids and human growth hormone in baseball and his 2007 report leaked the names of 89 current and former MLB players who had either failed steroid tests outright or were in some other way connected to steroids since 2003. During Senator Mitchell's investigation, a number of players were subpoenaed to give statements before the grand jury, a number of whom perjured themselves during these hearings; both Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens have found themselves charged with perjury following their appearances before the Mitchell tribunal.

The point here is simply this: do Congress and our justice system have that little to concern them that they needed to get involved? The answer here is a very decisive no. Yes, the use of performance-enhancing drugs is a bad thing, but why did



Jeremy Zschau

the government need to get involved? Throughout the history of professional sports, athletes have always looked for an edge, and steroids are simply the latest and greatest response to this need. Where was Congress during baseball's cocaine epidemic of the 1980s, or the amphetamine craze of the 1960s and 1970s?

It bears noting that in the years during and leading up to Congress' hearings and investigations into baseball's steroid problem, the country was fighting two wars — not to mention that the groundwork was being laid for the worst financial collapse since 1929. It isn't as though there weren't more important things demanding the attention of our leaders. That hasn't changed. Yet, in the middle of a recession, state governments are spending ridiculous amounts of money to try men like Bonds and Clemens.

In short, lawmakers: you've still got bigger problems than baseball.

Jeremy Zschau is the Opinions Editor and a columnist for The Current.

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SCIENCE MATTERS

Perseids meteor shower brings late summer show

As late summer arrives, we head back to school with one last outdoor show: the annual Perseids meteor shower.

Light pollution limits stargazing in town, so the chance to view shooting stars is a fine excuse for one last camping trip. Missouri's state parks and commercial campgrounds offer great places to see the stars, meteors or not.

The recent passing of Dr. Richard D. Schwartz, emeritus of astronomy at University of Missouri-St. Louis, had this writer thinking about astronomical events.

Schwartz founded the campus' astronomy program and our campus observatory is named for him. When Schwartz came to the university in 1975, there was no astronomy major for this campus. In fact, Schwartz was the only astronomer in the Physics department. He designed and oversaw the building of our campus observatory.

The Perseids is one of the most spectacular of the annual meteor showers.

Beginning in mid-August, they are best seen from midnight to dawn. This event occurs when the Earth passes through the remnants of Comet Swift-Tuttle.

The bits of debris from the comet hit the atmosphere at 140,000 mph, according to NASA's website. As they enter the atmosphere, they burn up, creating the bright streams of a "shooting star."

On a night with clear skies and no moon, one might see 50 to 60 meteors per hour.

The comet debris field that creates this shooting star extravaganza originates from the constellation Perseus (hence its name).

The debris field is wide, so it takes a few weeks for the

Earth to pass through it, although viewing is best at its mid-transit peak.

This year's show was diminished by the full moon, whose light washed out all but the brightest shooting stars.

However the annual Perseids is known to produce some big, showy shooting stars.

The best of this year's meteor show began Thursday, August 11, and peaked Saturday, August 13, although some meteors can be seen the weeks before and after.

To watch for these shooting stars, look to the northeast part of the sky, where the constellation Perseus is found, although they can appear anywhere in the sky.

As the moon sets in the west and dawn approaches, viewing of meteors will be best in the east.

For any meteor shower, you need to be somewhere dark, away from the lights of populated areas. Allow yourself time for your eyes to adjust to the dark. Avoid looking at the moon or other bright objects.

The best time for viewing many meteor showers, including the Perseids, are the hours before dawn.

Even if you missed the Perseids, there are other meteor showers you can catch.

However, the moon will make this year less favorable for all of them.

The Draconids peak from October 7 to 8. They originate in the constellation Draco the Dragon.

This meteor shower is best seen in the evening rather than after midnight. Some years, it puts on a big show with hundreds of meteors per hour.

The Orionids put on their



Cate Marquis

show from October 20 to 21. They originate in the constellation Orion, of course, and are best seen in the hours before dawn.

The shooting stars of the Orionids sometimes leave long streaks across the sky, making for some spectacular viewing.

The placement of the moon will make the long-lasting but less spectacular Taurids, November 11-12, difficult to see. The same is largely true for the Leonids, which appear from November 17 to 18.

The Geminids, which are expected December 13-14, are the year's last big meteors show. The Geminids often compete with the Perseids for year's best meteor shower show.

Unlike many meteor showers, the Geminids are best seen approximately between 9 and 10 p.m., with as many as 50 meteors per hour.

However, a moon rising mid-evening will wash out many of them.

Although the moon will mean this is not the best year to see shooting stars, it is still fun to catch a few.

And there is always next year.

Cate Marquis is Arts and Entertainment Editor and a columnist for The Current.

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

Preparation and procrastination: the two 'p's of success in life and studies

School, school, school. Well, faithful readers, it would seem school has returned yet again (it is a mystery how this continues to happen, is it not?), and now the question may arise: how should adjustments be made to prepare for the tenacity required for success in education?

Quite simply, focus on schoolwork first. There are plenty of distractions in this world, and plenty of them certainly seem far more appealing than simply sitting down and writing that seven-page research paper on quantum physics. The fact of the matter remains, however, that letting such work slide under the table often results not only in last-minute stress, but also in a lack of enjoyment of those activities for which homework was shoved aside.

The problem with this is that there are so many temptations to drag students away from their studies, correct? Wrong. The problem is that too many students choose these temptations over their studies.

One thing needs to be straightened out immediately: those who attend college are called students. Students study. That is just how the world is supposed to work.

If those who attended college had a primary obligation to partying, then they would not be called students: they would instead be referred to simply as partiers. The Mil-

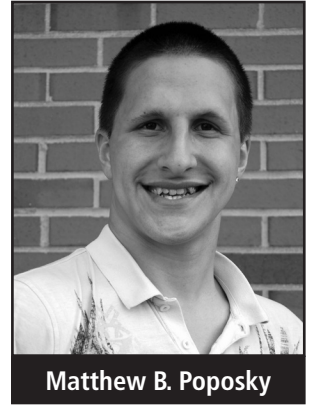
lennium Student Center would need to be renamed the Millennium Partier Central, and it would not smell or look as nice as it does now were that change to be made (see: any locale used primarily for partying which does not hire a full-time janitorial staff).

Likewise, if students' primary job was to play games all day, drink while watching sports all day or do drugs, they would be called professional gamers, abusive stepfathers, or druggies, respectfully.

Honestly, when it comes down to the line, most students seem to have a rather rose-colored image of academic success. While it is, indeed, possible to simply coast through some courses on luck and the goodwill of a professor, that is likely because the professors themselves do not have much interest in their subject...that, or the coaster is extremely lucky.

Those who do take the time to finish homework and projects prior to going out often find themselves far more pleased with the time they spend on each part of their lives. They are also often more rested, as their dreams are not bombarded by angst and worries concerning school, but rather gumdrops and sugar fairies...or not. But, let's get down to the point here.

Clubbing loses its luster when the awareness of



Matthew B. Poposky

a massive research paper hangs over one's head like the proverbial "Sword of Damocles." A date will be able to tell if their partner is not entirely focused upon the "here and now," which will not lead to a pleasant follow-up. That new videogame is not going to seem as exciting when every five minutes of playtime results in a glance to the clock, bemoaning the moment that "homework crunch time" arrives. While not everybody can speak to this experience, it has been said that having too many worries on one's mind can even ruin a "trip" from those less approved of extracurricular activities.

Constant fear of failing in one's obligations due to an obsession with pleasure and excitement will lead only to suffering in the long run. Focus upon schoolwork first: it really does take less time and effort when done in advance, rather than being left for the last moment.

Matthew B. Poposky is Editor-in-Chief and a columnist for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
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Point/Counterpoint



Should Facebook rants be cause for dismissal from a job?

Online or offline - free speech is free speech and should be protected

Does the first amendment apply to the internet? Are spiteful words exchanged within an online social network free and protected speech, or does the universal nature of the worldwide web qualify it as libel instead? It's a debate as old as the web itself, and it's at the core of the 'corporate firings over Facebook' controversy. The Orwellian omnipresence of Facebook aside, there's a reasonable assumption of privacy that accompanies clicking that infamous "Post to Facebook" button; as such, the online tirades of disgruntled corporate employees, however crass they may be, should be held to the same degree of legal protection as traditional free speech.

This stance does have some legal precedence to back it up. In 2004, the notoriously secretive Apple issued a subpoena against PowerPage, a website dedicated to Apple news and products, alleging that the website had published confidential company data regarding upcoming Apple products. Apple insisted that

PowerPage revealed company trade secrets that could only have been leaked by an Apple employee, and they demanded that PowerPage disclose the source of their information. Ultimately, however, the California appeals court sided with PowerPage, allowing PowerPage to keep its sources anonymous.

This ruling suggests that corporations cannot circumvent our first amendment rights in order to protect their public image, online or offline. Although Facebook is a decidedly corporate enterprise—a quick glance to the ads dominating the right side of the screen will confirm that—the corporations don't own Facebook, its users or their words, meaning they have no grounds to suspend their employees' right to free speech in defense of their good name, just as Apple has no right to tread on PowerPage's journalistic freedoms to protect its trade secrets.

This is not to say, of course, that Facebook users should feel entitled to post whatever vulgar, malicious diatribe which comes

to mind; indeed, most of the Facebook firings were fairly reasonable when considering some of the things that were posted. Allowing something as trivial as a web post to become grounds for dismissal, however, sets a terrible precedent for the freedom of online speech. Why not allow schools to expel students for griping about faculty in their posts, or allow police departments to convict Facebook users under the age of 21 for posting pictures of their drunken shenanigans (the two of which account for a huge portion of all Facebook posts)?

So, in conclusion, let's admit two simple facts: nothing is going to stop people from griping about their jobs, and nothing short of the complete overhaul of Western society will prevent people from using Facebook. As long as Facebook exists, people will use it as a mouthpiece for their career frustrations, and corporations need to accept this. In any case, Big Brother is watching, and he's a Facebook stalker to boot.

It's the thought that counts; posting it is the same as speaking aloud

You don't need some article to tell you that social media and networking have overtaken our society. They can be found everywhere and everywhere has them. Businesses are realizing the important roles that they play on the people that are buying their products and patronizing their stores.

But they are also realizing the absolutely damaging roles that employees can play in these social media outlets and the positive factors it can have on the hiring of new employees.

Complaining about your boss, sharing sale secrets and even bashing products that they sell can now result in measures as drastic as dismissal. Posting excessive pictures of you drinking, statuses with rude language and your interaction with friends and followers can result in your dismissal from a job listing as well.

The separation from work that social media networks supply, allow for employees to speak without really speaking. A few simple complaints can cause for a companies to

lose business, and in extreme cases even close. Without having to really think about the consequences, employees are 'free' to say whatever they like on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, etc. about what business they work for.

In order to safe guard themselves from possible damage, companies are now requiring that employees and new-hires sign social media agreements. These set out a list of rules that require that employees not bad mouth their employers on these websites, give away company 'secrets,' or even give interviews without company consent.

But is it really all right for a company to fire an employee about saying hateful things about the company when they aren't at work? Yes, it most definitely is. In its way, posting on Facebook is no different from voicing something aloud. Saying you hate your boss on Facebook is the same as saying it in person, except that in the case of a Facebook posting, the employee doesn't have the guts to actually tell off their boss in person.


Respect is something that must be found in all workplaces, and even outside of them. If workers can't respect their companies, bosses and fellow employees, then chances are they really shouldn't be working there. If they want to keep their job, then they need to learn that respect and take it to heart.

There is a reason we have the right of free speech. Without it, we would be under constant threat from the ever-hovering hand of censorship. However, even where a basic right such as free speech is concerned, there are rules and guidelines that should be put in place and observed. It's simple common sense and courtesy.


This issue isn't going to be solved just by telling people they should stop or requiring businesses to constantly troll on their employees. It's an issue that requires a lot of thought and careful negotiations between both employees and employers. A common ground of free speech and censorship must be found or wrongs will continue to be done on both sides.

Comics & Horoscopes


CURRENT HOROSCOPES by The Inane Collective

**ARIES**
(MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You're alone because you a horrible person, and no one likes you; FOREVER. Like to remedy this? Call 1-900-JERK to learn how to cancel out your jerkiness and be a generally good, nice person.

**LIBRA**
(SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)


Always fair, always in balance, always ready to steady the scales! Often, however, possessing a skewed view of the world, in favor of the scale preferable to the Libra. Also, sometimes boring...y'know?

**TAURUS**
(APRIL 21 - MAY 21)


Flying is a mission you have always hoped to accomplish in your lifetime, and now that society has invented a drink which allows this, you will finally succeed! Remember Timmy.

**SCORPIO**
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)


The Insane Collective has recently decided that you have been welcomed to join said group. So, if you are a scorpio, join a mental institution, since you're not joining The Inane today!

**GEMINI**
(MAY 22 - JUNE 21)


Freshmen attending college, keep this in mind: being a twin is not always beneficial. You will be targeted by many who wish to take advantage of your charm and ability, including scientists.

**SAGITTARIUS**
(NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)


Chickens are often fun to kick, but keep in mind that elves require a good trouncing now and again, as well. This is just a day in the life of a centaur, so keep classy.

**CANCER**
(JUNE 22 - JULY 22)


Meet a caveman this week. Buy him dinner. Force-feed him dinner (as he fears that which is cooked by fire). Next, teach him to use fire. This will remedy all your personal problems. Woot!

**CAPRICORN**
(DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)


Remember not to create anthropomorphic robots with high-end artificial intelligence...especially not if they can adapt using logarithms to their environment. CYLONS are scary!

**LEO**
(JULY 23 - AUG. 21)


Meow meow meow meow. Meow meow meow meow! Meow Meow Meow Meow, MEOW MEOW MEOW MEOW! Meow...meow...meow! Yea...lots of meowing...get over it...punk!

**AQUARIUS**
(JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

You have the most useless power of any superhero ever! Seriously...you can only use your powers if you are underwater...HOW does that help ANYTHING!? Fail.

**VIRGO**
(AUG. 22 - SEPT. 23)


Your boyfriend seems SOOOO dreamy, but SOOOO cold. Like, actually cold, like a block of ice, and sparkly. Have I mentioned how sparkly he is? Oooh...you should be together, forever...oof! Yea, baby!

**PISCES**
(FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

Be sure to keep an eye out for zombies this week. Contrary to popular belief, they are not always easily killed. Beating them with pool sticks? To "Don't Stop Me Now?" Not that easy.

Simple Beagle by Karlee Sellars

Summer is finally here! And this time I'm going to do it right! I will get all kinds of things done and be productive!



I'll get a jump on classes by reading textbooks! I'll grow a garden! I'll learn a new language! I'll make a film with friends! I'll write a novel! I'll...



School starts in a week and I didn't accomplish anything!



Sellars