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## Current, November 14, 2011

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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# The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

NOV. 14, 2011

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## Students' hunger for subs satisfied



By Joseph Grate, page 2

SARAH LOWE / THE CURRENT

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# The Current

VOL. 45, ISSUE 1361  
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AFFILIATIONS



# News

## Subway joins UMSL's cafeteria variety - met with support from student body

JOSEPH GRATE  
Staff Writer

Students at the University of Missouri - St. Louis have decided to add another restaurant to the campus. Subway was chosen from amongst the vast array of options available and has since been erected in UMSL's Pilot House. Signs went up this past month advertising the addition of Subway and jobs that would be open to UMSL students due to the grand opening. The new Subway opened on November 1 in the Pilot House on the lower floor of the Millennium Student Center and has since drawn a crowd of interested students, faculty and staff.

Tucked into the Pilot House of the MSC, the sandwich shop operates throughout the day. There the restaurant lies amongst the paint-splattered walls and colorful tables. Hustling behind the counter of meats and condiments are new student employees, learning the ropes and trying to provide snappy service to the hungry customers as the experienced employees supervised them. It was slow but unique to be served a sandwich in the Pilot House environment.

The new Subway has been advertised for weeks and many were waiting to get a break from the same

old food they are faced with every day on Campus. "This adds a little variety. It's different from sushi, burgers and fries," Justin Meyer, junior, political science, said. Meyer was studying Constitutional law in Subway's café atmosphere after having his lunch. Other students were also there studying for tests or fiddling with their smartphones. Some took advantage of the couches to lounge with their friends or gathered at the long table that seated more than twelve people, creating an environment which was absolutely cluttered with books and Subway wrappers from the new sandwich shop.

If something is on campus and deals with food, then Sodexo, UMSL's food distributor, has always had their hands in it. This time, however, Subway opened up through the contributions of an independent owner. Gud Totakhil is the owner of the new Subway and also owns another in the Normandy Shopping Center on Natural Bridge Road. He has wanted to become more involved in UMSL for a while. "We wanted to be here a long time ago," Gud Totakhil, owner, Subway, said.

Ultimately, it was the students' votes for the installation of a Subway

in the MSC that gave Totakhil the opportunity to get involved with the UMSL community at long last. "We started back in January. And then in August, we signed the lease," Totakhil said.

UMSL was in his radius for Subway franchise expansion, which covers a five-mile area. That means within a five-mile radius of his store in Normandy Shopping Center, Totakhil owns the rights to any store that is built. So, as UMSL wanted a Subway on campus, they had to go to Totakhil since they are in his area. This will help him compensate for the loss of business the new store will take from his old one.

Opening on a college campus has its perks. The employees at this restaurant are mostly college students from UMSL. "We only have two from outside of campus; the rest of the employees are students," Totakhil said. "That's why we advertise here for hiring. We hire them and they really appreciate that they have a job."

Specifically, a job at the same location where they go to school. Totakhil likes the idea that his Subway will allow students to be able to work and attend classes by cutting out the commute in

between. "I think it's fair to hire them," Totakhil said. UMSL already has students who are potential employees. There is no real reason to look elsewhere.

So far, the new employees are slow and still learning. Even a short line of three customers can drag out over ten minutes. But the hired students are trying to put perfection in the sandwiches and are eager to help each customer. The slow production has not stopped them from getting business. The first week they opened was cash only and they still generated profit.

UMSL students appreciate the options Subway is providing them. "[Subway] gives us other options outside of what we normally get at UMSL," Matt Scherer, junior, business administration, said. This sentiment seems echoed by other members of the UMSL community, as Subway products have been seen everywhere on UMSL's campus, especially around the MSC, since Subway opened in the Pilot House.

Totakhil has been in the Subway business since 1997 and is passionate about what he does. "I love Subway," he says. Take a trip down to the Pilot House sometime soon, and check out the new shop.

WEATHER

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# Students run scared from job economy into graduate school's lap

*Bad economy pushes students into graduate schools, causing inflation of higher education*

## HALI FLINTROP

Staff Writer

The ailing job market, along with other drastic effects, has led many students graduating with an undergraduate degree as well as people disenchanted with the job market running scared to graduate school in order to avoid unemployment. As a result, students only keep accruing more debt without necessarily increasing their likelihood of finding employment afterward.

According to an About.com article entitled "Is Graduate School Worth the Cost?" colleges and universities are experiencing higher levels of enrollment than is usual. Students often end up choosing to pursue a graduate degree because they believe it will make

them more employable. Also, employees with graduate degrees earn more than employees with only an undergraduate or no degree. It is becoming common for students completing their undergraduate degree to look into graduate school hoping to improve their prospects concerning their future careers. There has also been a rise in the number of non-traditional students entering graduate school, many after experiencing lay-offs, facing difficulties finding work in their field or an inability to find any employment at all, for that matter.

While a graduate degree could be the solution to some people's employment problem, choosing gradu-

ate school to avoid the job market and improve financial prospects has a definite potential to backfire. According to About.com, on average, master's graduates leave graduate school with \$30,000 of debt. Additionally, employers in the current job market may be more unlikely than usual to hire employees with graduate degrees. Typically, employers have salary standards that pay employees according to their level of education, so those with graduate degrees would be set to make more than those with undergraduate degrees or no degrees. The problem is that, in the current economy, employers are unlikely to be willing to pay the inflated salaries that those with gradu-

ate degrees request. Due to that reason, students choosing graduate school to avoid the bad job market may ultimately wind up facing the bigger problem of unemployment as well as unmanageable debts from exorbitant student loans.

Professor Kosnik, economics, UMSL, advises that, while graduate school is a great opportunity for students who are looking for more knowledge about their field, graduate school is too serious an undertaking for those who are simply looking for temporary exemption from competitions in the job market.

"It depends on the student, and there is no certain answer as to whether or not graduate school

is a good idea. If a student already has leanings towards graduate school and really wouldn't mind more learning in a particular area, then it might not be a bad idea. If a student is just doing it to avoid the job market, well, then I'd probably advise them against going. Graduate school, in any discipline, is hard, often much harder than undergraduate work. So if you don't truly want to be there and aren't greatly interested in the subject matter, it is doubtful you will do well and then you will just be left with more debt, and maybe not even a degree if you fail to graduate. But if you truly have a passion for something, that is another story," Kosnik said.

Ultimately, students will be forced to decide between the job market and graduate school as they plan their post-graduate life. With pros and cons, it will be a tough choice.

"I'm struggling all the time to decide what to do next year. It would be wise to get a job in the field and then pursue higher education. Some employers will even pay for graduate school, then. It doesn't seem wise to choose graduate school to avoid the job market. I don't want to be in debt for the rest of my life. [Choosing graduate school to avoid the job market] would just avoid the real world and not solve anything," Jackie Keck, senior, studio art and painting, said.

## The UNDERCURRENT

by Nikki Vahle

**"What are you most looking forward to about Thanksgiving?"**



"I look forward to seeing a very old childhood friend again after several years."

Nils Mueggenburg  
Freshman  
International Business



"I'm most looking forward to getting to go home to see my family and friends."

Erin Driskell  
Senior  
Business



"I look forward to seeing my family and eating a good meal!"

Monica Strube  
Senior  
Physical Education



# Bachmann Book Series brings in female corporate leaders

*Fourth Installment of Bachman Book Series invited Former top Girl Scout to talk about leadership*

**RYAN KRULL**

Staff Writer

Last week, two legendary female business leaders came to the University of Missouri - St. Louis campus to talk about their careers and answer questions from students in a panel discussion as part of the continuing Bachmann Book Series.

The Bachmann Book Series is made possible by John Bachmann, a senior partner at Edward Jones as well as an executive fellow of UMSL's Executive Leadership Consortium. Tuesday's event was the fourth installment of the series and featured Frances Hesselbein and Becky James Hatter. Hesselbein was the president of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America from 1976 to 1990 and is currently the president and Corporate Executive Officer of the Leader to Leader Institute, an organization that focuses on ways to improve management in non-profit organizations. Hatter is the CEO of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri.

After an introduction by Keith Womer, dean of the College of Business Administration at UMSL, a comprehensive question and answer session began with Bachmann asking questions of Hesselbein and Hatter regarding the successes of each of their distinct careers as well as how their leadership skills led to the success they achieved over the years in their corporate lives.

During this Q&A

between Bachmann and the business leaders, the conversation often drifted to the importance of leadership in a corporation's overall success, both financially and in the eyes of the public. Hesselbein summed up leadership as "How to be, not how to do." And Hesselbein is widely considered to be an expert on leadership. She has lectured on the subject in 68 countries and her new book is called "My Life in Leadership—The Journey and Lessons Learned Along the Way." Her previous published works include the book "Be, Know, Do: Leadership the Army Way."

Hatter's advice to aspiring corporate leaders was "to love your customer," rather than simply focusing upon the final profit margin at the year's end.

"Make sure whoever you are in service to, whether it is a social service or a business...loves the people you are serving and deeply cares about them," Hatter said.

Hesselbein then went on to talk about the high levels of cynicism and distrust that Americans hold for business leaders and politicians and how important honesty is at this point for leaders in business.

"You all are people who can do something about it," Hesselbein said. Addressing the audience in regards to turning around the perception of the American business community, Hesselbein

continued. "This is a time when we need to get on our horse, whatever that may mean to you."

On the topic of leadership, Bachmann asked Hatter and Hesselbein about being female business leaders. "You are not aspiring to be a woman leader, but a woman who is also a leader," Hesselbein said.

Recognizing that a former president and CEO of the Girl Scouts was sitting on the discussion panel, Bachmann began to wrap up the Q&A on a lighter note by asking Hesselbein and Hatter to name their favorite Girl Scout cookie. For the record, Hesselbein's is Thin Mint and Hatter's is Caramel deLites.

In the hall outside the event were a number of businesses and corporations for students to talk to about potential job opportunities. One of the companies on hand was Boeing. Matt Daniels, a representative of Boeing, cited both Boeing's strong relationship with UMSL as well as Hesselbein's history of teaching at West Point and the Air Force Academy as his company's reason for being on site.

Also in attendance at the event with several others in his international finance class was Nitesh Jain. "[This discussion was] good for business majors, it will give them an advantage in the future to lead," Nitesh Jain, senior, business administration, said.



Frances Hesselbein's books at Bachmann Book Se

NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

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# UMSL partners with Kansas City Medical School, announces accelerated osteopathic medical program

MADDIE HARNED  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri - St. Louis recently made the process of entering osteopathic medical school easier and faster for prospective students. At a luncheon ceremony on October 26, several UMSL faculty members including Chancellor Thomas George and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Ron Yasbin signed an agreement announcing that the university had partnered with the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Also in attendance at the luncheon ceremony was H. Danny Weaver, president and chief executive officer at KCUMB. Several UMSL faculty members who will closely work with the osteopathic medical program in the future were also present, including mentor for the College of Arts and Sciences Joe Southerland, Dean of Students Curt Coonrod and Director of Admissions Alan Byrd. The partnership was enacted to develop a program that allows UMSL students to earn a bachelor's degree as well as a doctorate in osteopathic medicine in just seven years instead of the traditional eight years it normally takes to earn such degrees. "The program is designed so that an incoming freshman at UMSL would earn a bachelor's degree, most likely in liberal studies in just three years...then, the student would transfer to KCUMB to earn a doctorate of osteopathic medicine degree," George said. To make the process even simpler, future students enrolled in the program will not have to take the MCAT, the medical school entrance exam that is notoriously strenuous even for the most gifted students. Another appealing aspect of UMSL's new osteopathic medicine program is that it offers an accelerated track to earning the O.D., shaving off an entire year of undergraduate studies so that students can enter Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences' College of Osteopathic Medicine after receiving their bachelor's degree in only three years. This accelerated course track is guaranteed to save not only time but also money for students enrolled in the program. The field of osteopathic medicine has been on the rise over the past decade. The number of osteopathic medical school graduates in 2011 is nearly twice that of the number of graduates in 2005. "Osteopathy takes a more holistic approach to medicine and the body is seen as a whole self-regulating unit," Yasbin said. "Out of all of the times you have been treated by a doctor in your lifetime, chances are several of them were osteopathic doctors instead of medical doctors and you may have not even known it." Prospective students will apply for the program during their freshman year at UMSL. George and Yasbin will begin the process of recruiting students in the near future. "We are looking for the best and the brightest for this program," Yasbin said. "Of course there are certain requirements for a student to enter the program, like a minimum GPA, but we also want students who show a real interest in the field." Overall, UMSL's partnership with KCUMB to form an accelerated osteopathic medical school program is fairly unique and is one of only a few other types of similar programs. "We're very excited and hopeful about this opportunity for students," George said.

## Development of non-invasive glucose monitor is one step closer to market

*University of Missouri-St. Louis professor Zhi Xu and his team are stepping up to develop non-invasive glucose monitor for diabetes patients, making positive progress along the way*

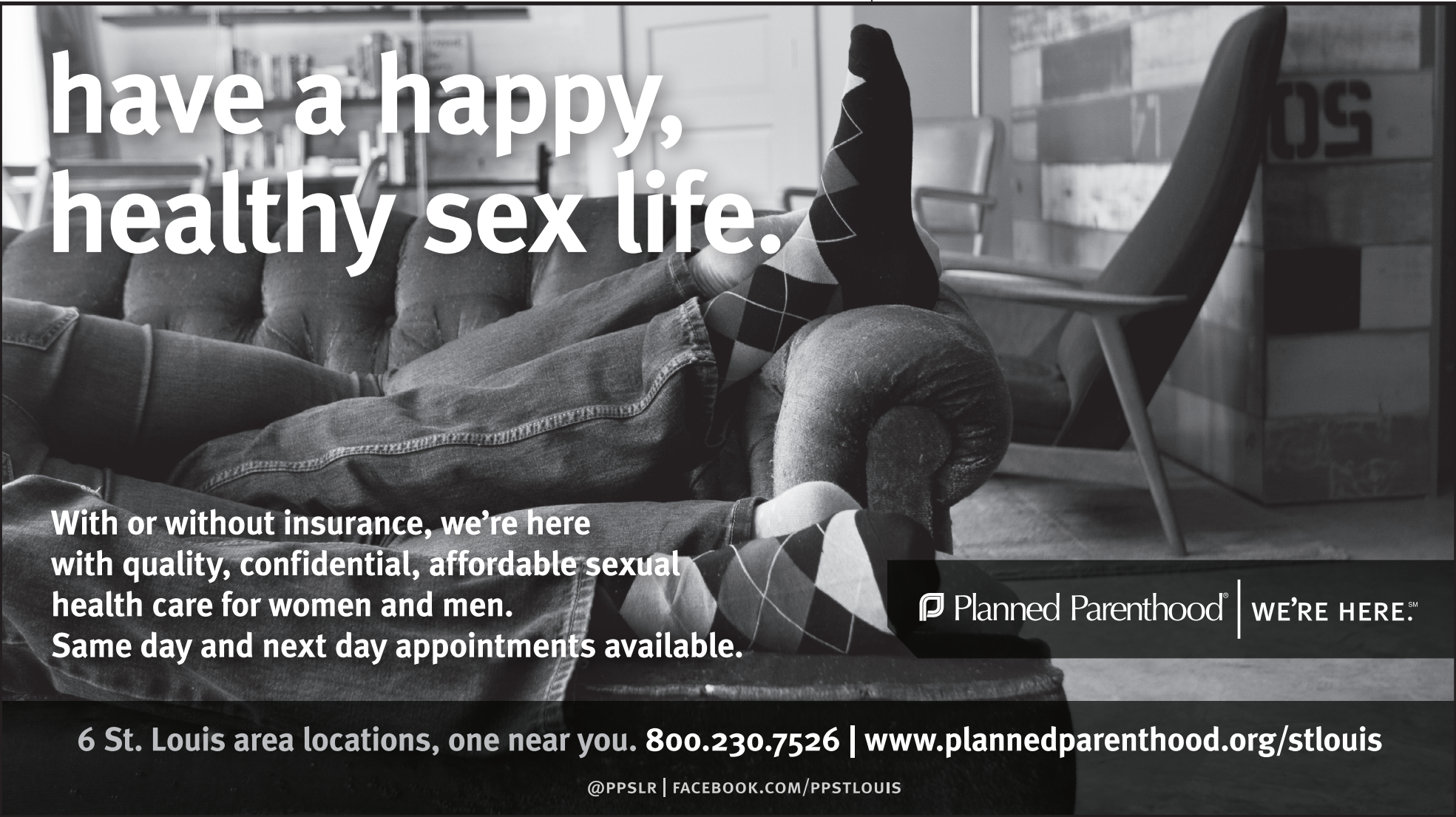
MINHO JUNG  
News Editor

Pricking a fingertip is a painful routine all diabetes patients have to go through sometimes more than ten times a day in order to monitor their blood sugar levels. "The pain they have to endure is another big concern. The current way of checking blood sugar levels requires drawing blood through the skin, which causes many diabetics not to test as often as recommended by their doctors," Zhi Xu, associate professor of chemistry and biology, said. "The non-invasive glucose monitor will significantly improve both issues." The competition for developing non-invasive glucose monitor has been going on since the mid-1980s in order to replace the painful and inconvenient traditional method. A plethora of research teams have been putting tremendous efforts into developing noninvasive technologies nationally and internationally. "We are in the middle of the device development," Xu said. "Based on the fact that 25.8 million people in the United States and over 300 million people worldwide have diabetes, the size of market is just immense." Diabetes involves problems controlling blood sugar levels because the body is not able to produce or use the hormone insulin that regulates glucose. Either high or low levels of blood sugar could cause extremely devastating results. In addition, people who have diabetes are more likely to get other diseases associated with the kidney or heart. Although it could be detrimental to their health, the cost and inconvenience of needles prevent many patients from testing their blood glucose. "Diabetes is a serious disease that could take away people's lives. Because there is no cure for the disease at this point, the detection and tracking of glucose levels is a key step for diabetes control," Xu said. "The cost of each test is about \$0.7 to \$1 before insurance. Considering the number of tests that the patients have to go through on a daily basis, it really is a big financial burden." The general prediction states that non-invasive glucose testing devices will be found in the market within three to four years. Before the new technology gets into the market though, it has to go through strict U.S. Food and Drug Administration's scrutiny to get approval. Dr. Xu's non-invasive glucose monitor has been covered many times by local and national media, aiding in public views of the product. "Our invention has been licensed. It really feels great and exciting," Xu said. "I expect to see more positive outcome of what we have been working on in the future." According to the World Health Organization, diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. Worldwide, 180 million people have diabetes. WHO predicts that the number of patients will be doubled by 2030. "Developing a non-invasive glucose monitor is exciting work, because it means a lot of people with diabetes will be able to monitor their blood glucose level without pain," Xu said. "Success with this project will touch many people's lives, who suffer from diabetes. I expect that it will benefit society as a whole."




# What's Current

**Your weekly calendar of campus events.** "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to [thecurrenttips@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrenttips@umsl.edu), with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.



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### Tuesday, November 15

**Lunch and learn: the ethics of love and sex**  
From 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Located in Century Room C and open to all. Come to a Q&A session with John Brunero, Brit Brogaard, and Eric Wiland to figure what is naughty and nice in life. Also come enjoy free lunch. For more information, call Erin Potts at 314-516-5531.

### Wednesday, November 16

**How's your financial fitness?**  
From 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Located in the Center for Student Success and open to students. Are you concerned about having enough money to cover everything? Do you know the impact of student loan payments on your credit scores? Learn how to create a personal budget to help manage your college expenses and prepare for your financial future beyond college. For more information, call Antoinette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

### Thursday, November 17

**Communication: The university and you**  
From 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Located in the Center for Student Success and open to students. This is an interactive presentation that will require participants to evaluate their true understanding of effective communication and its many elements. This workshop will decode the art of communication by identifying participant's communication style and verbal vs. written communication. For more information, call Antoinette Sterling at 314-516-5300.

### Friday, November 18

**Concerto competition final round concerts**  
From 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Located at the Touhill and open to all. The University of Missouri - St. Louis Department of Music hosts the Fourth Annual Concerto Competition at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Open to the public, the final round is an exciting chance to hear the university's top musicians compete for an opportunity to perform as soloist with one of the UMSL's premier ensembles. For more information, call the Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

# A&E



George Clooney as Matt King and Shailene Woodley as Alexandra King in THE DESCENDANTS from Fox Searchlight. PHOTO COURTESY OF MERIE WALLACE / FOX SEARCHLIGHT

## 'Descendants,' other Oscar-bait film excite at St. Louis film fest

**CATE MARQUIS**  
A&E Editor

The St. Louis International Film Festival is heaven on earth for serious film fans. SLIFF rolls into its full week of programming with remarkable international films, thought-provoking documentaries and rarely-seen Oscar potential short films, along with sneak previews of several Oscar-bait big releases.

This article will focus on films showing from Tuesday, November 15 through Sunday, November 20. The festival all culminates that Sunday with its closing night party when the festival announces its award winners. Full descriptions of films and date and time are on the website [www.cinemastl.org](http://www.cinemastl.org).

The festival offers films for the intelligent filmgoer, films beyond the usual Hollywood fare at the multiplex. Besides

the chance to preview big films expected to be among the award-season's best, SLIFF is the best chance St. Louis film fans have to see big-buzz and worthy films, narrative features and documentaries, that play bigger cities like New York but usually skip us out here in "flyover" country. It is also one of the only festivals that is a qualifying venue for Oscar-hopeful short films. The festival has several programs of these delightful little cinematic bon-bons.

The festival has already seen the wildly successful premier of the crowd-pleasing "The Artist," the festival opener, Ralph Fiennes' bloody modern Shakespearean tragedy "Coriolanus" and David Cronenberg's "A Dangerous Method," which returns here in late December. Among the other Oscar-potential and Hollywood heavy hitters previewing at SLIFF this year are "Butter" a biting comedy

about competitive butter sculpting at Midwestern state fairs, and director Alexander Payne's ("Sideways") wonderful "The Descendants" which stars George Clooney as a member of a family with ties to Hawaiian royalty. "Shame," which stars Michael Fassbender, who also appears in "A Dangerous Method," the Dupliss Brothers' mumblecore comedy "Jeff, Who Lives At Home," the Gen X reunion themed "I Melt With You" and WWII-set drama "In Darkness" are among the high-profile films screening this week.

Generally, these Hollywood films come back for a theatrical run. Much better to spend precious festival time (and dollars) on films St. Louis does not usually see. There are some major gems, including winners at other festivals, among them the Bosnian "Belvedere," Italian coming-of-age film "Corpo Celeste,"

Chinese drama "Empire of Silver," whimsical French adventure "The Fairy" and the imaginative, playful French bio pic "Gainsbourg," about singer Serge Gainsbourg.

A variety of national cinemas are represented. "Seven Minutes in Heaven" is a moving Israeli film about a survivor of a suicide bombing. "Simple Simon" is a sweet Swedish comedy starring Bill Skarsgard, son of famous Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgard. Stellan Skarsgard himself appears in "King of Devil's Island." "The Woman in the Fifth," a French-Polish crime thriller starring Kristen Scott Thomas from director Pawel Pawlokowski.

Two prize-winners are the Polish drama "Tomorrow Will Be Better," about three Russian boys and "The White Meadows" is a dream-like Iranian drama.

The full range of film genres, from comedies to action, appear in the

fest. Japanese director Takeshi Kitano returns to his gangster film roots with "Outrage." "Shuffle" tells the tale of a man experiencing life out of order. "Headhunters" is a Norwegian crime thriller while "Hermano" is a crowd-pleasing family drama. "Hospitality" is a modern Japanese comedy.

Of course, there is plenty of art-house fare. Legendary Chinese director Kaige Chen offers the period drama "Sacrifice." "Young Goethe in Love," is a German film set in 1772 and inspired by Goethe's work and the birth of Romanticism. "The Athlete" is an award-winning German-Ethiopian drama about the barefooted runner who won Olympic gold in 1960. "Salt of Life" is a warm Italian comedy.

SLIFF always has fabulous animation, some kid-friendly but also some for adults. This year's program includes "A Cat in Paris," a hand-drawn

French beauty and "The Ugly Duckling," a comic adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen tale done in stop-motion. And Joann Sfar's charming kid's flick "Little Vampire."

Several restorations are featured, among them a Rin Tin Tin silent, "Clash of the Wolves," with live musical accompaniment and an introduction by the author of a book on the original movie hero dog. "House on Haunted Hill" continues the hundredth birthday celebration of St. Louis native Vincent Price. Legendary director Ernst Lubitsch's silent "The Wildcat" will be shown with live musical accompaniment.

The whole thing wraps up Sunday night, November 20, with a closing night party at the Moonrise Hotel in the Delmar Loop, where the winners of the various awards are announced. For lovers of cinema, SLIFF is the year's best festival.



# ‘In the Mood’ visits UMSL for swing dancing at Touhill

**MATTHEW B. POPOSKY**  
Editor in Chief

Dancing is a pastime which is recognized not only across clique and age boundaries but across cultural boundaries as well. “In the Mood” visited the University of Missouri - St. Louis’ Touhill Performing Arts Center on Saturday, November 5, and set fire to the hearts of those in attendance with a blast from the past: swing music and dancing, in all their splendor.

The production “In the Mood” was selected by the World USO in 1993 to be an official entertainment for the 50th Commemoration of World War II and has since traveled across 48 states, as well as to Canada, Europe, New Zealand and Australia. Thus, they have spent nearly 30 years traveling the globe sharing the music and spirit of the 1940s with anybody willing to take a glance and learn something about American traditions and culture.

The performance followed the progression and evolution of swing music alongside the progress of World War II during the 1940s. As America went to war, the themes of swing music reflected the war, and that reflection was shown throughout the course of the performance, starting with portrayals of swing dance clubs in the carefree moments preceding the war’s crescendo, and

continuing to the darkest moments of losing a loved one to the war. Swing dancing was portrayed in its darkest and lightest moments at the Touhill.

“In the Mood” represented their performance with the question “Have you heard the music that moved the nation’s spirit?” During their visit to UMSL, they certainly managed to rouse a variety of spirits throughout the evening.

With attendees ranging from veterans of World War II to those far too young to even understand some of the references made throughout the night, “In the Mood” had their work cut out for them. Despite this, the entire audience cheered and clapped along to every exciting number and rested in anticipation during the darkest moments of the storyline.

The show concluded with an encore of the opening piece, “In the Mood,” preceded by a recognition of the troops in the audience. From the United States Army to the Air Force, soldiers of wars both young and old were asked to rise and receive commemoration and respect through applause and cheering from their assembled peers. This was, of course, done in the traditional style of flashing back to the 1940s which “In the Mood” had retained all night, with references such as the Air

Corps soon becoming the Air Force, etc.

Providing the musical accompaniment for “In the Mood” was the String of Pearls Orchestra. Everything involved in the “In the Mood” concert was performed live, there were no recordings. Therefore, it was absolutely imperative that the singers and dancers of the “In the Mood” performances were accompanied onstage by a live, professional orchestra. The String of Pearls Orchestra did an excellent job. From mellow melodies to crashing crescendos, the combination of the orchestra and the “In the Mood” singers and dancers was a fusion of artistic talents which was absolute magic to not only the ears, but the eyes as well.

“In The Mood” put on an excellent performance at the Touhill. It was a historical yet entertaining and engaging look into the music and culture of 1940s America accompanied by a commemoration of those men and women who daily lay their lives on the line for the prosperity and survival of their fellow man. This show is one to look out for next year and which provided entertainment to audiences of all ages.

**Grade: A**

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## LATEST + GREATEST

### New Movies Calendar

#### OPENING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

##### THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN, PART 1 (everywhere)

The romantic teen vampire series begins its wrap-up with a two-part finale. Stars Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart. Directed by Bill Condon.

##### HAPPY FEET TWO (everywhere)

The dancing penguins return, but this time it is the next generation’s turn. Voiced by Elijah Wood and Robin Williams. Directed by George Miller.

#### OPENING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

##### THE DESCENDANTS (everywhere)

Alexander Payne (“Sideways”) directs George Clooney in a sure Oscar-bait film. This winning adaptation of the novel is part tragedy and part dark comedy about a man and his family, descendants of Hawaiian royalty and early missionaries.

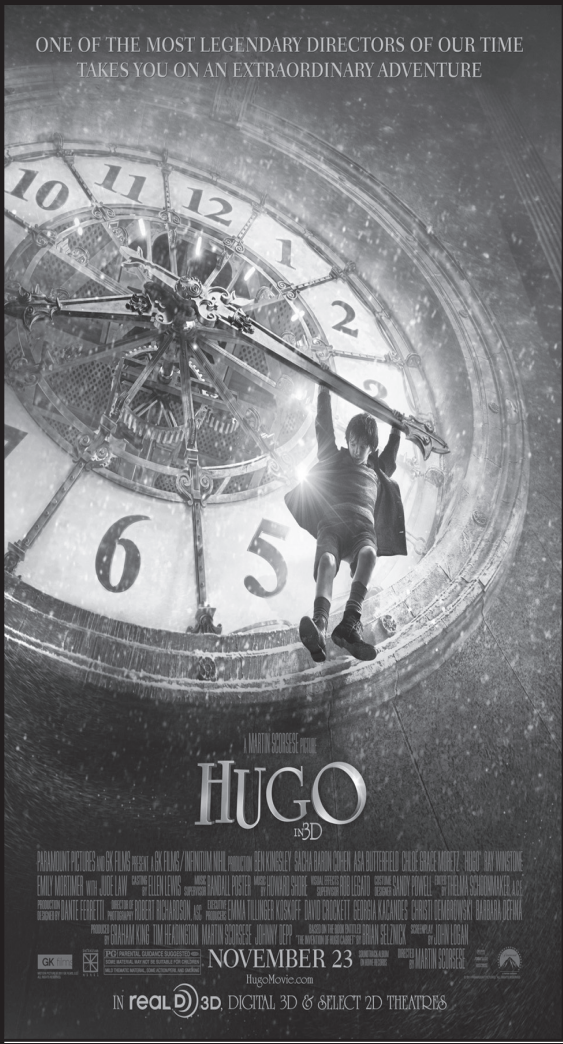
##### HUGO (everywhere)

Martin Scorsese directs this fantasy adventure with a touch of Harry Potter about a boy who lives in a train station in 1930s Paris. Stars Asa Butterfield, Chloe Grace Moretz and Christopher Lee.

##### MELANCHOLIA (Tivoli)

Director Lars Von Trier’s visually lush, meditative science fiction film about two sisters, a wedding, depression and a planet approaching Earth. A big winner at Cannes. Stars Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg and Kiefer Sutherland.

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NOVEMBER 23

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UNLOCK THE SECRET NOVEMBER 23





Staring John Cho, Neil Patrick Harris and Kal Penn, this Christmas special is unlike anything you've seen before.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS PICTURES

## Another wacky ride for Harold and Kumar in their Christmas special

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Sports Editor

Harold (John Cho) and Kumar (Kal Penn) are back again for their third comedy film, "Harold and Kumar: A Very 3D Christmas." The first two films were classic and set the bar high for their third adventure.

Six years have gone by since the two escaped from Guantanamo Bay. Since then, the best buds have become estranged and are leading two completely different lives. Harold is a successful businessman who is moving up in the world.

He has a beautiful wife whose family is coming into town for the holidays. His in-laws have extreme Christmas traditions, which Harold is trying to uphold to get on their good side, especially his intense father-in-law Mr. Perez (Danny Trejo).

When the Perez family gets into town, the first thing Mr. Perez notices is Harold's fake tree in the living room, which upsets him very much. Mr. Perez is offended that Harold would not use a real tree. Perez has a tree brought in that was grown on his farm for twelve years, just

to carry on a Perez family legacy of using a home-grown fir.

The last thing Harold needs now is his old trouble-causing buddy Kumar to come around and shake things up.

Kumar is living in an apartment with a young college roommate. Kumar's place is a mess and he is not working, after being kicked out of the medical field after failing a drug test.

Kumar is having a normal day of television and bong rips when his ex-girlfriend Vanessa (Daneel Ackles) shows up at his apartment, although they

have not seen each other since their break-up three months ago. Vanessa is there to break the news to Kumar that she is pregnant, news he handles childishly. When she departs, she leaves a package on his doorstep, addressed to Harold. Kumar hops in a cab and heads to Harold's to deliver the package.

Disaster ensues and Harold and Kumar's Christmas adventure begins with a search throughout New York City for a Christmas tree on Christmas eve. The guys find themselves at a party at a Russian mob bosses

house, in a Broadway Christmas musical with their pal Neil Patrick Harris and even eating White Castle with their old buddies Goldstein (David Krumholtz) and Rosenberg (Eddie Kaye Thomas). As usual, the adventure involves lots of drugs, hilarious outtakes and insane circumstances.

This movie is guaranteed to bring some laughs, but not hysterical ones. The funniest highlight of the film is the toy of the season, Wafflebot, who comes in handy for the guys. The characters and scenarios are not up to par with

the previous two movies and it has a few more heartwarming moments than one would expect, but it is still a funny comedy nonetheless.

For film fans going out for a laugh, this movie will come through for them but the 3D effects are not great and the movie plot is kind of desperate and drab in comparison to previous Harold and Kumar movies. This is not what one would call a must-see in theatres. Even fans of Harold and Kumar might rather wait for this one to come out on DVD.

**Grade: B-**

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JC Penney Conference Hall held the Women in the Arts Conference Thursday-Saturday.

SARAH LOWE/ THE CURRENT

# Women in the Arts Conference promotes female success

**ASHLEY ATKINS**  
Features Editor

"None of this would have been possible if it hadn't been for Barbara looking at our work, believing in our work, and the Women in Arts," Janet Goddard, writer and creative writing instructor at Visitation Academy, said. It was Sunday and Goddard along with her artistic partner Gretchen Hewitt, composer, had closed out what had appeared to be a very successful three day conference for Women in the Arts. Created back in 2005 by Dr. Barbara Harbach, director of the Women in the Arts, the conference was held in the J.C. Penney Auditorium at the University of Missouri - St. Louis on Thursday, November 10 to Saturday, November 12. With a variety of presentations conducted by talented women, guests had an opportunity to come and go as they pleased, making it a schedule friendly conference.

To further promote women empowerment,

Dr. Harbach had decided to present guests with a marketplace, set up outside of the auditorium that promoted women creators, as well as presented guests with an opportune moment to get a head start on their Christmas shopping. Businesses at the conference included Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Plow Shar-ing, Qui Lin and Renata's Pictures and Jewelry, among others.

Renata Kilgore, owner of Renata's Pictures and Jewelry, inquired about being at the conference after seeing the event advertised in St. Louis American. "Because [the conference] was women orientated and with my being an entrepreneur, I wanted to participate. It was a business opportunity to display my products and to network," Kilgore said.

Some of the goals of the Women in the Arts Conference were to praise women's accomplishments, encourage creative potential

in youth, and recognize diversity among women creators. During the three days of the conference, guests were introduced to poets such as Lisa Zimmerman, english professor, University of Northern Colorado. "I really wanted to go to an all woman conference because I am a feminist. For me being a feminist is a choice," Zimmerman said. She entertained the crowd with a poetry centered around her daughter, complications with her mother's lifestyle, and her brief adolescent encounter with an older gentleman at the age of twelve.

Chancellor Thomas George, who had made random appearances at the conference throughout the week, was impressed with the conference, commending it on its thoroughness, programming, and variety of artists. "I do not think that we could have asked for anything better," George said.

UMSL's own Maria Teresa Balogh, professor of Spanish, amused the crowd with her unpublished short essay "Dos and Don'ts for Growing Up in Macholand." It was centered around the difference between the upbringing of boys versus girls. While girls are taught how to upkeep a household, boys are taught how to value their peni. Audience members commended her on talking about a subject that is hardly discussed out loud in society, both in America and internationally.

On Saturday, the crowd was introduced to the young film maker, Vanessa Woods, artist-in-residents, who had studied film at the San Francisco Art Institute with the original intent to focus on photography. "I was always interested in telling narratives and at the time I was doing it through sequences of still photographs and so when I took this film class and I real-

ized that you could put still images together and really tell stories and have sound and narrative, it all came together," Woods said. She presented a still of a piece entitled "On Alzheimer's," which consisted of photographs of herself in her grandmother's apartment. She animated the photos with her grandmother's objects to create the film.

Sunday was the last day of the conference and ended with a presentation and performance by Gretchen Hewitt, composer and Janet Goddard, writer. Together, they presented "The Mechanical Cat - The Collaborative Process of Writing a Musical with Janet Goddard."

They both credited their collaboration to Harbach. After Goddard had written her musical she was unaware of what she could do with it. It was not until a friend had suggested that she get in contact with Barbara Harbach who strongly pro-

moted Women in the Arts.

"When [Janet] was looking for a composer she found Barbara and Barbara luckily thought of me and put us together," Hewitt said.

Hewitt enjoyed being apart of the conference as well as attending some of the other presentations. She said that she wished she could have taken advantage of more because it was so stunning.

"I was here all three days and my favorite part was today [Sunday]," Dianne Ridgeway, senior, media studies, said. "[The conference] was inspiring. It really shed light on every aspect of art including womanhood itself."

"It was absolutely outstanding. We had presenters that were at the top of their field whether it was poetry, or whether it was talking about sculpture, or whether it was about composition. It was a wonderful three days," Harbach said.



# PSA talks about Occupy STL

**HALI FLINTROP**

Staff Writer

Thursday, November 10, University of Missouri- St. Louis students and faculty came together at the Political Science Academy to focus on the Occupy movement and the current political and economic climates.

The event offered attendees the opportunity to hear Joyce Marie Mushaben, professor of comparative politics at UMSL and Research Fellow, Center for International Studies Ph.D., present "Tent City vs. Turbo-Capitalism: Why Youth . . . 'Are Mad as Hell and aren't going to take it any more'" which shed relief on the situation that brought Occupy about and how the youth of the Occupy movement have the opportunity to affect real change, if the right steps are taken. The event was hosted by Terrence Jones, professor and interim chair of political science, Ph.D., at his home in University City.

Dr. Mushaben's 30-minute presentation covered the necessary information from history, economics and international politics as they pertain to the Occupy movement. She said that among the irritants driving the Occupy movement are the callous attitude of the government towards the lower classes and exorbitant expenditures by the government to benefit the rich. She also said that the political elites are out of touch with those they are in charge of representing, as they are overwhelmingly wealthy and thus do not comprehend the urgency of the problem for those who lose their homes or are con-

cerned about Social Security and Medicare failing them in the future. Mushaben said that the income gap has only increased over time and the trickledown theory of economics fails due to the few that earn the vast majority of the available money do not spend it all; therefore, it will never fall into the hands of anyone else.

However, Mushaben's presentation cautioned that it is too simple for the Occupy movement to blame the government and the wealthy and call it a day. She said that the protest needs to develop into more than it is. Some of the Occupiers may take the movement too lightly. Also, the Occupy movement still has a largely unclear purpose. It is the responsibility of the Occupy protesters—the youth—to first educate themselves on what they really want to gain from the movement. They should also look to history and identify with the protests of the past to see what has worked and what has failed.

Having a concept of history and a platform of clear principles and goals for the movement will give Occupy protesters a clearer idea of what to ask for. Then, the protesters need to achieve cooperation with society and politicians nearest them. Mushaben advocates that the protesters find a way to work with the police and protest lawfully, rather than work against them. Then, the protesters should work with local politicians to achieve their policy goals. She said that local politicians are more likely to

be sympathetic because they have to bear the brunt of what the big, rich government decides and carry out these actions. When the Occupy movement becomes more defined and identifies clear targets, it should move to create changes in public policy. Policy changes alone can last and be impactful in the long run.

Following Mushaben's presentation was a lively Q&A. Emilio Pagoulatos, retired professor of Economics at UMSL said that young people ought to become informed about history before taking a side in politics or economics. Additionally, we should be informed about the people who provide information, because too often they lack credibility. Pagoulatos sees a lot to be gained for UMSL students attending PSA meetings, having increased understanding of history, economics and politics. "It has become very crucial for us to understand 'what are these people [politicians] talking about.' If people who are educated do not understand, then those who are not educated are very easy to fool," Pagoulatos said.

Adis Alagic, junior, political science, president of PSA, stressed that PSA meetings are open to all UMSL departments and the topics are geared towards all audiences. "I would like for people to have their facts before they form their opinions," Alagic said. "I want people to accrue knowledge. Plus, it is always good to get involved. The meetings are open to everyone, including the UMSL community."

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# Sports



Erin Higgins, senior, early childhood education, plays court manager in a conference match against Illinois - Springfield at Mark Twain

JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## UMSL volleyball has quick end to conference tournament run

**OWEN SHROYER**  
Sports Editor

Tritons volleyball had a very successful regular season in 2011. They won nineteen games, including thirteen in conference. This was good enough for them to be second in the west division of the Great Lakes Valley Conference behind the Missouri S&T Miners. The team was on a three-game winning streak heading into the conference tournament, where they had a meeting with west division champion Missouri S&T.

Missouri S&T was two wins better in conference than the Tritons. The two

teams split the season series. The first time they met was at Missouri S&T's home court, where they took care of the Tritons easily, taking the match in three straight sets. When the Miners came to St. Louis, University of Missouri - St. Louis was able to defeat them, 3-2, in what was one of the more exciting games of the year.

This was the post season though, and the Tritons needed to bring their best if they wanted to win. The first set did not start well for the Tritons, as they dropped the first two

points on errors by Shelby Crawford, senior, biology, and Erin Higgins, senior, early childhood education. Shelby and Erin have been great leaders all season and these mental lapses are not characteristic of their play. The Tritons were able to stay in it early, but after the set was tied at eight points a side, the Miners took over, scoring five straight points en route to taking the set 25-20. UMSL made eleven errors in the first set.

The start of the second set gave UMSL hope, as Anna McNulty, sophomore, communications, set up

Erin Higgins for the kill, something these two have done all year. Unfortunately for the Tritons this kill did not get Higgins back on top of her game, as she committed two errors soon after the point. UMSL stayed competitive longer in this set, and had it tied at ten. After battling with Missouri S&T through the midpoint of the set, the Miners slowly pulled away and won the set 25-22. The Tritons were able to clean up their play a bit, only making five errors, but it was the final two errors that did them in, as the

team was only down by one when the score was 23-22. Two straight errors gave the Miners the set.

UMSL really had to dig deep to stay alive, but it was just not their day. The Tritons had their biggest lead of the day early, when they went up three to one, but it was all Miners from there. The Miners outscored the Tritons 24-7 after that en route to their 25=10 win in the set, and sweeping the match three sets to none.

This match certainly did not do the Tritons justice for their talent level and

was not what they expected. Although they were knocked out of the conference tournament in the quarterfinals, it was to a very good team. The season is not necessarily over as the team hopes that their play this year will earn them a second straight trip to the NCAA tournament, where they hope they can sharpen up their play and make a run for the championship. This is certainly not how they want to end their season. Maybe a shot at a national title is what the team needs to get them to play their best volleyball.



# Men's basketball tips off

**OWEN SHROYER**

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri - St. Louis men's basketball program is excited heading into the 2011-2012 basketball season. Last year, the Tritons introduced their new head coach, Steve Tappmeyer, whose work ethic and coaching ability was readily apparent. In his first season as head coach, Tappmeyer made UMSL basketball relevant by leading the team to its large number of victories since the 1990-1991 season. The team also won ten games in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which was the most in Triton's basketball history and the first time the team had a winning record in conference play.

Last year's team was a success, but Tappmeyer has this program on the rise and wants to change the tides here at UMSL. The team is only returning five players from last year and has ten newcomers. The players returning include two starters: center Zach Redel, senior, business administration, and guard Justin Hightower, senior, communications. Also returning are Vinnie Ralmonda, junior, middle school education, Eli Wiegley, sophomore, business, and Kevin Dwyer, sophomore, business. Hightower led the team in assists and steals last season, while Redel led the team in blocks. The leadership roles of these two seniors will be key in the success of the team this season, especially with all the new faces. "We have ten new players and that has been our biggest challenge. Our seniors will be counted on for leadership," Tappmeyer said.

Among the newcomers are junior college transfers and five freshmen. Perhaps the most impor-

tant newcomer is transfer student Troy Long, senior, liberal studies. Long has three years of college basketball experience, most recently last season, when he played for University of Southern Illinois - Carbondale, where he played in nineteen games. Previously, he played for Southern Illinois Community College, where he was an all-conference performer. Joshua McCoy, junior, communications, and Charlie Woods, junior, psychology, both transferred to UMSL from Cleveland State University. McCoy will add a shooting threat to the team, as he is a high percentage shooter with good range. Woods will help shore up the interior defense, as he led Cleveland State in blocks last season.

Among the five freshmen is guard Jack Connors, freshmen, business. Connor's skills at guard earned his first team all-state his senior year in high school, averaging over sixteen points a game, six assists and four rebounds per game. Another incoming freshman guard is Janeil Hatchett, freshmen, nursing. Hatchett brings with him a pedigree of success. Last season, he led his team to a perfect record and a state championship. Niel Branham, freshmen, finance, was an all-state selection in high school and a prolific scorer. The team added more scorers to the roster with Aareon Smith, freshmen, undecided, and Ben Ruether, freshmen, engineering, who are both guard/forward hybrids who can work the perimeter as well as get inside scoring.

The mixture of freshmen, transfer students and returning players provides a challenge for the Tritons to start the season with,

as they will need to work on team chemistry every game. "We should be an exciting team to watch. We have hardworking guys that will continue to improve as the year goes on. We hope to get off to a strong start as we have a large number of players that can play. We have only been together for a short time. Teams with a large number of returners have a huge advantage this time of the year," Tappmeyer said.

This season kicked off with the GLVC/GLIAC challenge with two away games. "Our opening weekend will tell us a lot about where we are at," Tappmeyer said. The games were against Lake Superior State and Northwood University. Although the team lost both games, they showed improvement in a single night, and every player saw court time. The game against Lake Superior was lost in the second half when Lake Superior got hot. The Achilles heel for the Tritons was the three ball. The second game was much better for the Tritons, but despite battling hard the whole game and improving from the three-point range, the Tritons simply could not score against Northwood as they shot over 50 percent from the field.

If Tappmeyer is right about the weekend giving a good idea of where the team stands, then there is room for improvement. They showed improvement in one game, so hopefully this trend will continue. The team has its home opener November 19 against Lindenwood-Belleville. Maybe a home court advantage can help edge the Tritons to their first victory.

# Golf fall season recap

**ELI DAINS**

Staff Writer

Despite a slow start to the fall season, the Tritons showed flashes of greatness and expect to tune up in the second half of the season. "We started slow, but played much better in the second half of the fall. We had a lot of new players this year, and it takes time for players to get comfortable with playing college golf. So the slow start is not unexpected," Troy Halterman, head coach, UMSL, said.

Things started off well for the team, as they finished fifth out of eighteen teams in the Missouri Intercollegiate tournament, and won a one-on-one match against Maryville University. They then finished middle of the pack at 14th place out of 27 teams at the Great Lakes Fall Regional Tournament to finish up the month of

September.

In the Great Lakes Regional Tournament the Tritons showed what it was capable of doing, finishing second out of 15 teams. In that tournament the Tritons played their best round of the season, shooting a 290 in the second round, and nearly caught up with first place finisher Bellarmine University. In the following tournament the team fell back to the middle of the pack, finishing seventh out of thirteen teams in this tournament's standings.

The final tournament of the first half of the season was the California State University - Monterey Bay Invitational. "I think it showed the guys what the best in the country look like. We played the first two rounds with teams ranked in the top ten in

the nation. Hopefully they realize that we still have lots of work to do in order to reach that level, but at the same time we showed for at least one round we can play at that level. I think the experience will only help us down the road," Halterman said.

Players embraced the challenge of playing against more highly touted programs as well. "We got to see what the best competition in the country plays like and what we need to strive to be able to beat," Joe Atkisson, sophomore, business, said. The team ended up finishing in 13th place out of 15 teams, but will use the experience gained to move forward on a positive note. The team does not play again until the University of New Orleans Mardi Gras Invite, February 26.

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# Point/Counterpoint



## Bieber and others like him deserve a fair trial in the court of public opinion

Paternity suits seem to be a new rite of passage for any male international headliner nowadays. Seventeen-year-old heartthrob and superstar Justin Bieber is the latest victim. A twenty year-old Los Angeles woman named Mariah Yeater is now claiming her three month-old baby, named Tristan, is her and Bieber's lovechild following a thirty second tryst after his October 25th, 2010 show at the Staples Centre. Yeater is requesting a paternity test and, depending on the results, "adequate" financial support. While, sadly, there is an actual, human child involved and no one but the involved parties will ever really know what happened that night following the concert, this incident and its timing just outright scream "crazed, opportunist fan doing whatever it takes to lessen the distance between herself and her idol."

What did or did not happen that night at the Staples Centre is, of course, debatable. While Justin Bieber's "in a relationship" status has been flaunted internationally for almost a year now (particularly because he is with fellow, though lesser,

teen idol, Selena Gomez), it definitely would not be the first time a young celebrity commits unfaithful acts with a fan. Still, it seems unlikely. Call it a tenuous argument, but it seems dubious that Bieber would discard all he has worked so hard for a thirty second tryst, particularly when it can be said, pretty objectively, that he can do much, much better.

Also interesting is the fact that Bieber was raised devoutly Christian and his faith has become one of his most marketable selling points. It further conveys a sense of innocence in his act, appealing to the zealous and overprotective just as much as the negligent and nonchalant. One tenet of his spirituality that he has been especially vocal about during interviews is his immense disgust with casual sex. Whether or not this sentiment is heartfelt and actually practiced is obviously a mystery. The bottom line is, however, that his fan base believes it. Even loose association with a story like this causes serious and possibly irreparable damage to his character and brand. It seems highly unlikely that Bieber, no matter how

wild with lust he may or may not have been, would commit character assassination of such a high degree, partaking in the very acts he so vehemently lobbies against. It is just bad business.

Bieber's security guards that night claim that following the show, he went right to the dressing room, never stopping to even remark at Yeater. Clearly the interests of the bodyguards are somewhat aligned with the star, as they are under his employ. However, that does not cancel out the boldness of their claims. Surely there must be some kind of proving footage or at least some supporting or conflicting eyewitness accounts?

In this situation, Justin Bieber has the greater credibility. That is not to dismiss the alleged victim in this, as no matter how fanatical one is or how celebrated the defendant is, everyone deserves a fair shake. Still, the evidence, circumstantial as it may be, paints an incomplete picture. This case hinges on whether or not Justin Bieber agrees to a paternity test, with potential consequences either way.

## Bieber's accuser's claims cannot simply be dismissed without thought

Celebrity indiscretions are a fact of life and teen superstar Justin Bieber is the latest to discover this. It is true that Bieber is a teenage boy and teenage boys have impulses. Of course, that does not excuse the young woman, Mariah Yeater, who made the accusation. She was 19 when the alleged tryst took place and Bieber himself was 16, which would potentially make this a case of statutory rape. Celebrities are often accused of high-profile misdeeds and paternity suits are among the more common. The pressure on celebrities to take a paternity test in these situations is high, regardless of whether they are or are not the father.

High-profile entertainers such as Bieber often experience such incidents at their concerts and events. At first, Yeater claimed that another man was the father before focusing on Bieber, but it is possible she could still be proven right in her accusation if Bieber agrees to a paternity test. She could still see some legal trouble over the statutory issue, and

Bieber's career would almost certainly be hurt in the process, along with a possible break up with his current girlfriend. The accuser could be a possible innocent fan of the celebrity, who just ended up having a sexual relationship with him (There is precedent for such a situation, even though Justin Bieber is so young; many girls felt the same about the male members of the Jackson 5, despite their age.) Celebrities do have a reputation for taking advantage of fans in this fashion and it is not entirely undeserved, especially when so many seem to have the attitude that they should get away with situations just because they are celebrities. (Of course, celebrities have been arrested and thrown in jail before, so perhaps they should re-evaluate this idea.)

If Justin Bieber is the father of the child, the accuser would be completely right to demand he pay child support for their son. Regardless whether criminal charges are pressed against her for the encounter, in the end her child would benefit from the

care that a share of Bieber's wealth could provide.

There is a court hearing set for December which will determine the final outcome of the case. Whatever the outcome, it is possible Bieber's fans wouldn't believe the child is his without incorruptible proof to the contrary; given the image he cultivates, it would bring a shock to them all if their favorite singer was to be the father of an illegitimate child, especially after saying that "I don't think you should have sex with anyone unless you love them."

If the test comes up positive, Bieber's career would take an interesting turn of events. It would certainly affect his popularity, and it could even put his career in danger. The attorneys believe that this is a crime accusing Bieber of such acts, since he denies such thing took place. What people need to remember is that Yeater isn't necessarily out to ruin his career; if her story proves true, it's clear that all she wanted was to see justice done on behalf of her son.



# Opinions

## OUR OPINION

### Who is truly to blame for redistricting shenanigans in Arizona?

In 2000, when it looked like the Florida recount was beginning to turn against them, the Republicans resorted to other means - in that case, legal intervention - to get the outcome they desired, and it worked. Bush v. Gore ended with a court-ordered halt to the Florida recount, and as a result, Bush became president of the United States.

Now, the Republicans are up to similar tricks. The Republican-controlled state of Arizona gained an additional seat in Congress following the 2010 Census, going from eight representatives in the House to nine; as such, the state government appointed a special committee to oversee the redistricting process. This five-person committee was comprised of two Republicans, two Democrats and a registered independent. This independent, a woman named Colleen Mathis, was also appointed to head the committee.

Two Republicans, two Democrats and an independent. Everything seemed perfectly fair and balanced until the committee actually began their work.

Before the redistricting, Arizona had eight national congressional districts, five of which were held solidly by Republican representatives and three others which leaned Democratic. The initial redrawn map released by the committee featured four strongly Republican districts,

two heavily Democratic districts and three that would be competitive.

This did not sit well with Arizona Republicans, particularly Governor Jan Brewer, who sprang into action almost immediately when the committee released their initial map of the redrawn districts. She called for the dismissal of Mathis and the two Democrats on the committee, charging them with gross misconduct and excessive partisanship.

These charges appear to stem primarily from the creation of the three "competitive" districts. Apparently, creating new districts that might not be under solid Republican control is proof of "misconduct" and "partisanship," according to Arizona Republicans. After all, no members of the Arizona GOP contested the new state legislative map drawn up by the committee, which would have all but ensured that 16 of the state's 30 legislative districts would have remained under strong Republican control. Mathis sided with a 4-1 majority in approving that map, which only serves to cast more doubt on Brewer's claims of partisanship.

Also, it is not as if Brewer herself is a champion of moderation. This is the woman, after all, who invented vague stories about headless bodies in the desert to whip up support for her infamous "green card" law that empowered Arizona police to ask suspected illegals

for proof of citizenship at will, a law conservatives wholeheartedly support and that liberals abhor.

In this case, Brewer's hyper-partisan ardor case was partially cooled by members of her own party. The Republican-controlled state legislature was unwilling to remove the two Democrats, believing the problem would be solved with the sole removal of Mathis.

Of course, that is not necessarily their call to make. There were a number of irregularities surrounding Mathis' removal, not the least of which is the fact that in cases of alleged misconduct, as Brewer has suggested, only a judge has the power to remove a member of the commission, and not the governor or the legislature. In addition, the fact that Brewer and her cronies in the legislature knew the committee's lawyer was attempting to appeal the decision, and managed to ram the vote against Mathis through before the appeal went through certainly raises a few eyebrows.

The governor is certainly right about one thing: there is something fishy going on with the redistricting process in Arizona. However, any search for the culprits should begin with the governor herself.

*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

### 'Tis the season: the "war on Christmas" rears its ugly head

It is one of the less joyful aspects of the Christmas season: every year, conservatives find some excuse to charge liberals and government with conducting a "war on Christmas." This year, the right could not even wait until Thanksgiving was over and done with to come up with an excuse to fire the opening salvos in this tired old conflict.

President Barack Obama has long been the favorite boogeyman for the American right, so it comes as no surprise to see that he has become the latest target for their inflammatory diatribes. According to the hyper-conservative Heritage Foundation, Obama has become the latest and greatest villain in the left's so-called "war on Christmas."

Why? According to the Foundation, Obama is an enemy of Christmas because he and his Agricultural Department recently levied a tax on Christmas trees.

Sounds positively diabolical, no? In truth, as is common with many claims conservatives have been making lately, the reality falls somewhere short of the sensationalist and irresponsible statements made by the Heritage Foundation.

A Heritage blogger named David Addington, a past associate of former Vice President Dick Cheney, fell all over himself to lambast Obama for instituting the tax, but the change that has sparked the furor is not even a tax at all. It is, in fact, a fee of 15 cents per tree that was proposed, not

by President Obama or anyone within his administration, but by the Christmas tree industry itself.

For some time now, sales of Christmas trees have slackened as artificial trees become more and more popular. It got to the point where, in 2009, a group of tree farmers petitioned the USDA to create a promotional board for the tree industry that would allow them to better market and sell their products. It was this board, not the Obama administration, that proposed this 15-cent surcharge on Christmas trees.

What makes this case even more bizarre is that promotional boards such as this are allowed by a law that was passed by Congress in 1996, a law that enjoyed considerable support from Republicans (including John Ashcroft and Christopher Bond, the two U.S. senators from Missouri at the time the law was passed).

Conservatives have always hated anything that smacked of government involvement in business, and that tendency has only become more marked in recent years. However, in this case they are completely barking up the wrong tree, as it were. Promotional boards such as that of the tree industry were intended to help businesses by giving them a means to work more closely with the government in order to protect domestic industries and to safeguard American jobs.

This is a prime example of what a one-sided travesty



Jeremy Zschau

that this culture war has become. The right is more concerned with scoring political points on the opposition than seeking actual truth, and the left cannot fully refute their ludicrous charges without drawing comparisons to the Grinch, or perhaps a secular Scrooge.

So, for one more year, the rest of the country will have to just sit back and clench its collective teeth as the right insists on once again resurrecting this old strawman. Even as stores and retail chains fan the flames of avarice and consumerism by beginning their annual deluge of advertisements earlier than ever before, even as conservative school boards try to push their religious agenda on students of all faiths and creeds, Americans will still have to sit through another year of being told that it's the left, not the right, that is the true enemy of the Christmas spirit. It is an insult not only to liberals, but to the intelligence of the American people.

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

**What do you think?**  
**www.thecurrent-online.com.**

## SCIENCE MATTERS

## Forever young fruit flies? Study hints at key to slowing aging

The recent (but maybe not so great) film "In Time" centered on an idea that has gripped the human mind for centuries: immortality and endless youth.

Science has not been immune to this human longing and curiosity about life span. In the past, researchers have looked at the role of telomeres, the ends of chromosomes, in aging, the way that calorie restriction can increase longevity and the role of individual genetics in life span (if you want to live to 100, have grandparents who did).

A new study at University of California - Los Angeles offers tantalizing new research in aging: a gene that slows aging in fruit flies.

Researchers activated a gene called PGC-1 in the fruit flies, which increases the activity of mitochondria. Mitochondria are the organelles in cells that serve as power generators control cell growth and influence cell death. The researchers increased the gene's activity in different cells and tissues of flies and studied its effect on the aging process; increasing PGC-1 activity within the fly's digestive tract led to flies living significantly longer than in past studies.

The senior author on the study was Dr. David Walker, an assistant professor of integrative biology and physiology at UCLA. The study was published online last week in scientific journal "Cell Metabolism" and will be published in the next print edition of the journal.

The researchers did not see the same effect when they activated the PGC-1 gene in neurons, muscle and other tissue types, only in the intestines. Increasing PGC-1 gene activity in the intestine slowed aging, both at the cellular level in the intestine, and also for the whole fly. It delayed the aging of the flies' intestines and extended

their lives up to 50 percent.

Activating this single gene in just one tissue, the intestine, caused the fly to live longer.

The research has implications for humanity as well. *Drosophila melanogaster*, or fruit flies, are a favorite of genetics researchers. The fly has a short life span, about two months, and they are easily raised and bred in the lab, which makes them ideal for longevity research. The flies ordinarily show signs of aging at one month, then progressively become less active until death. Since fruit flies have been studied so long, their genes are well-known and scientists know how to switch on and off individual genes. Researchers focus on genes that are found in both the flies and humans and function in the same way, as seems to be the case for this gene.

As a gene that impacts both mitochondria and intestines, PGC-1 can have implications for our longevity too, since we have the same gene.

This may be a hint at the causes of aging at the tissue or cellular level. Mitochondria become less active and less efficient with age. The PGC-1 gene both activates mitochondria and regulates their activity in fruit flies and mammals like us. Walker and his fellow researchers found that the gene has the same function in humans as in flies.

The intestines not only absorb nutrients but defend us from toxins and play a role in the immune system. Earlier longevity research found that calorie restriction boosted life span. This research further indicates that the intestines and the digestive tract play a special role in aging and longevity.

In 2010, another study using fruit flies found that a protein called Sestrin was a natural inhibitor of aging. Again, the gene is found in both fruit flies



Cate Marquis

and humans and is involved in regulating metabolism. That study was led by Michael Karin, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology in University of California - San Diego's Laboratory of Gene Regulation and Signal Transduction and was published March 5, 2010 in the journal "Science."

In this case, the protein plays a role in a signaling pathway that regulates metabolism. Sestrin impacts two protein kinases, enzymes that catalyze changes in function, in the signaling pathway. Sestrin activates AMP-dependent protein kinase (AMPK) and inhibits the Target of Rapamycin (TOR). Both are in a pathway that is a central regulator of aging and metabolism in several organisms, including mammals.

Interestingly, calorie restriction activates AMPK, while TOR is activated by overeating. Also, activation of AMPK inhibits TOR. Sestrin deficiency was associated with accumulation of triglycerides, cardiac arrhythmia and muscle degeneration in young flies, mirroring the weight-gain, heart disease and muscle loss seen with aging in humans.

When it comes to increasing longevity and slowing aging, maybe we should go with our gut.

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

## MAD WORLD

## Boxing world wants women to wear skirts; no reason required

Officials from The International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) have stirred up some controversy recently by suggesting that Olympic female boxers may soon be required to wear skirts in the ring. Dr. Ching-Kuo Wo, the president of the association, has argued that it would help viewers tell the difference between male and female fighters. Because if you're a spectator at the Olympic female boxing championships you absolutely need the women to wear skirts so that you can be absolutely certain that it's women you're watching. At a women's sporting event. That you knowingly bought tickets to go see. Tickets which presumably mention somewhere on them that you're a guest at a female boxing event, featuring two female boxers whose names are printed in prominent places on the tickets.

The Amateur International Boxing Association presented competitors with skirts, rather than the usual shorts, during last year's World Championships. They've stated that they want to "phase in" the skirts for international competitions. Understandably, many boxers rejected the ridiculous change, presumably recognizing the obvious fact that it's an Olympic sport, not a spring cotillion. There's no logical reason for them to be required to wear skirts in the ring other than the fact that apparently the AIBA has as nuanced an understanding of gender roles

as "boys = pants" and "girls = skirts," even in the ring.

For now, it's up in the air as to whether or not the first female Olympic boxers will be made to wear skirts in the ring. The final decision will be announced in January. However, this sad attempt to make female boxing more 'feminine' (which, in popular society, is very nearly always synonymous with sexy in some way or another) is just another blow to equality for women in sports. The Amateur Boxing Association of England (ABAE) only lifted their ban on women's boxing, which was previously in place for 116 years, in 1996. Men have the option of competing in 164 Olympic events; women, only 124. It wasn't until 1992 that women could compete in judo. Women couldn't enter weight lifting until the year 2000. There is no logical reason for women to be unable to participate in these sports on an Olympic-level; it's sad to think that when women finally are allowed equal entry, those in power attempt to implement aesthetic standards that infringe upon that equality.

This change would serve no real purpose other than to needlessly differentiate between male and female athletes. By forcing the women to assume more traditionally female clothing, the AIBA is doing its best to remind female athletes that, while the sport that they work tirelessly at may be not only their pas-



Sharon Pruitt

sion but career choice, in the eyes of many they are – and must be – women before they are athletes. And to many, being a woman means appearing traditionally female in all that they do, whether that's dressing up for Halloween or boxing on an Olympic level. Their athleticism and skill is not allowed to hold center stage. One has to wonder how long it will be before all female athletes are expected to hit the ring or field in their underwear, Lingerie Football League-style.

Poland Boxing has made it required for their female boxers to wear skirts. Coach Leszek Piotrowski was quoted as telling BBC Sports that by wearing skirts the boxers give off a "good impression, a womanly impression." When statements like the aforementioned are made in complete seriousness, it just goes to show that women in the world of sports have a long way to go before they can reach anything even approaching equality.

*Sharon Pruitt is a columnist and staff writer for The Current.*

**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**  
Let us know at [www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)



# Horoscopes

**CURRENT HOROSCOPES** by The Inane Collective  
altered by:  
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**SCORPIO**  
(OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Be aware that this week, somebody will park in two spots when you most need to find a parking spot. It really does not matter how early you arrive: this will still happen. Good luck.



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

This week, you are tasked with contemplating this fact. The universe is ever-expanding. So, what is it that the universe is always expanding into? Figure this out, and that hot chick will date you.



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

There is a proverb to avoid being 'forever alone,' and it really is quite a simple task. Make friends with yourself. If this is not enough, get a few mirrors as well - problem solved.



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

This week, prove to the world that you can break out of your shell and that, despite popular opinion, your boyfriend is actually not a better dancer than you.



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

Remember, while picking friends up from the hospital, do not put yourself in a position to immitate the behavior which put them there in the first place. Jumping off of roofs is just a bad plan.



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

Keep your cool this week. Yes, that person in the car in front of you will be going ten mph under and signaling that they will turn for about five miles. Just try to remember: you can not afford any more tickets.



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

Put down the gaming system, put out the 'J' and go find a job. That whole fear of not being able to post whatever you want on Facebook or Twitter should not be more important than a paying job.



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

Yes, Skyrim came out this week. That is just fantastic. Oh, and so did Modern Warfare 3? Wow, this means abandon everything, right? Actually, make this decision alone. I'm not the best source.



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

Get out of bed this week. Quit being a penguin and start turning some of those wondrous scenarios in your mind into reality. Either do this or quit complaining about life.



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

This week, pay special attention to your mentor's sage advice. The fact that your mentor happens to be a six-foot tall dinosaur really should not bother you. After all, he ate the hipsters.



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

Quit taking directions from the Bachelor's Guide to Luxury when trying to impress women of any true quality. Honestly, a quarter-pounder is not as prestigious as a lobster dinner. Learn new tricks.



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

You've been trying far too tenaciously to fit in with the crowd lately. Unless you happen to be a polar bear wearing a penguin's beak in order to get a quick meal, just be yourself for once.



Are you planning to graduate this semester?  
Have you applied for graduation?  
If not, visit your academic advisor today!!!

## 2011 DECEMBER Commencement

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17  
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

EACH CEREMONY WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 1½ HOURS IN LENGTH.  
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10 A.M. - College of Education  
- College of Nursing  
- College of Fine Arts & Communication  
- School of Social Work  
- BGS/BIS  
- Master of Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration  
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program  
- Missouri University S&T-Engineering Education Center

### All Graduating Seniors

- Activate your Free Alumni Membership!
- Get a FREE cupcake and hot chocolate from S.T.A.T. November 1, 2, 3
- At the Grad Fair, MSC - Bookstore

Stop by the UMSL Alumni Association Table

### Don't Miss the Grad Fair

November 1, 2, 3 at the UMSL Bookstore in the MSC • 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Purchase your cap, gown and tassels, etc.  
Attire available in bookstore after these dates but a \$10 late fee will apply after Monday, November 28.

Visit the UMSL Commencement website at [umsl.edu/commencement](http://umsl.edu/commencement) for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with GradImages™.

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