

3-18-2013

Current, March 18, 2013

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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Recommended Citation

University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, March 18, 2013" (2013). *Current (2010s)*. 134.
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UMSL students and faculty gather for the Women Trailblazers Awards.

Sarah Myers/ The Current

Women Trailblazers Awards presented March 12

Awards ceremony in MSC honors Bleile, Macan, Williams, other exceptional UMSL women during Women's History Month

HEATHER WELBORN
Staff Writer

Students, faculty, staff and visitors to University of Missouri-St. Louis gathered in Century Rooms A and B to celebrate outstanding UMSL women for the eighteenth annual Women Trailblazer Awards on March 12. Trailblazer Awards are bestowed upon UMSL faculty, staff, students and alumnae who have broken barriers in their professions, advocated for change in their communities or made significant contributions to the university or their respective fields.

A committee made up of representatives from a variety of departments, offices and organizations on campus chooses five of the nominees submitted by the campus community to receive the award. The committee chooses the women they feel best exemplify

what the Women Trailblazer Awards stand for. This year, the five women honored for their outstanding accomplishments were Jessica Bleile, senior, mathematics; Therese Macan, associate professor, psychology; Jane Miller, who used to teach chemistry at UMSL; Evelyn Moore, who designed and managed the construction of the Pinckneyville Power Plant Storage Facility Project; and Linder Williams, coordinator of programs and services for persons with disabilities. The annual awards ceremony, held during Women's History Month each year, follows the theme chosen by the National Women's History Project each year. This year's theme — "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics" — brought to light the struggles women face in male-dominated fields while honoring women who have found personal success within them.

Dr. Patricia B. Wolff, founder and executive director of Meds & Food for Kids, served as guest speaker, delivering an address that shared her personal story of determination and hard-earned success in the male-dominated field of medicine.

"The ceremony was so nice. It was really humbling and inspiring to be in the same room with so many powerful women and many previous trailblazers," Bleile said. Of the five women to be awarded, only one undergraduate student is chosen each year to receive a Trailblazer Award. Bleile was this year's recipient. "My favorite part was Dr. Wolff's speech about all the obstacles and pressures she

had to overcome to fulfill her dreams," Bleile said.

Singer, actress and radio personality Deborah Sharn, accompanied on piano by Carolbeth True, performed two musical selections. Also featured in the program was Chancellor Tom George, who provided the event's opening remarks. Andrea Purnell, communications and artistic director at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health at UMSL, served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

"The stories of the honorees are so inspiring and motivating. The diverse ways in which we celebrated women — speech, song and examples — is what I enjoyed most," Deborah Burris, director and chief diversity officer in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, said. The Office of Equal Opportunity

and Diversity has collaborated with a variety of other campus departments to host the event since its inception in 1995. This year's award ceremony drew a crowd of nearly 150 attendees.

According to Burris, the 2013 Women Trailblazers Planning Committee was made up of representatives from all over campus and included the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life, Faculty Senate, Staff Association, Women's Leadership Council, Alumni Office, the Department of Gender Studies and the Office of Student Affairs. Together they worked to host an event that would do justice not only to the outstanding and diverse group of women it sought to honor, but also to the extraordinary women who paved the way and the women who are sure to follow in their footsteps.

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What's Current

“What's Current” is the weekly calendar of UMSL campus events and 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, with the subject “What’s Current.” No phone or written submissions.

MONDAY, MARCH 18

Monday Noon Series: “The Intellectual Pragmatism of Margaret Bush Wilson”

Priscilla Dowden-White, University of Missouri-St. Louis associate professor of history, traces the intellectual influences on the social activism of the late civil rights attorney and former national NAACP board chair, Margaret Bush Wilson, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. in 402 J. C. Penney Conference Center. For Info: Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

“Success Through Leadership” seminar

Sigma Pi fraternity hosts guest speakers from Leadership Messenger Academy for this seminar in leadership skills, in Millennium Student Center Century Room C from 3 - 5 p.m. For Info: Chadd Griesemer at 314-477-5443.

PLHCSA Battle of the Bands sign-up deadline

Today is the deadline to sign up for the Pierre Laclede Honors College Student Association’s “Battle of the Bands,” which takes place April 11 at 7 p.m. Contact Marty at mjid4f@mail.umsl.edu or Jessie at jnbleile@mail.umsl.edu to sign up. For Info: Jessica Bleile at 314-640-0594.

UPB Blackout Egg Hunt

University Program Board sponsors an Easter egg hunt with prizes, 7 p.m, on Oak Hall lawn. For Info: Charlie McDonald or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

University Orchestra Concerto concert

UMSL Orchestra performs classical to contemporary music at their annual Concerto Concert under the direction of Robert Charles Howard, 7:30 p.m. at Touhill Performing Arts Center’s Lee Theater. Features Martin Laufhutte, violoncello, winner of the November 2012 University Concerto Competition. For Info: Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Veterans Center Guest Speaker Series: Veteran Employment

Retired Brigadier General E. Tracy Beckette and John Roberts speak on issues of employment and job seeking for veterans, noon - 2 p.m. in UMSL Veterans Center Lounge. Free food. For Info: UMSL Veterans Center at 314-516-5705.

Fireside Coffee House Series: Griffen Alexander concert

Free live concert by musician Griffen Alexander, noon - 1 p.m. in Fireside Social Lounge in MSC, sponsored by UPB. For Info: Scott Morrissey or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Photography exhibit opening reception: DEAF, Inc.

Opening reception for photo exhibit by UMSL Public Policy Research Center Photography Project and DEAF, Inc., which provides communication access services for deaf and hard-of-hearing people in St. Louis, noon - 1 p.m. in 427 Social Sciences/Business Building. For Info: Becky Pastor at 314-516-5277.

‘Give A Damn?’ documentary screening

Free screening of documentary, about three friends, two idealistic activists and one skeptic, attempting to experience how the poor live by existing on \$1.25 a day across three continents, 7 - 9:30 p.m. in MSC Pilot House. Followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers. Part of Poverty Awareness Week and Social Justice Month Sponsored by the Catholic Newman Center and UPB. For Info: Rachelle Simon at 314-385-3455

Campus Crimeline

SICK CASE – EVARTS & OXEYE

March 8 Report # 13 - 099.

An intoxicated person not affiliated with the University was transported to the hospital via ambulance. Disposition: Report taken.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON–TJ LIBRARY

March 8 – Report # 13-100.

An UMSL student was approached by an unknown male who removed the students shoe. Investigation continuing. Disposition: Report taken.

HARASSMENT–STADLER HAL.

March 8, Report # 13-101

An UMSL staff member reported receiving threats from another employee. Disposition: Report taken.

PROPERTY DAMAGE – OAK HALL

March 8 – Report # 13-102.

A hole was punched in a wall following a dispute between two UMSL students. Disposition: Report taken.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Phi Mu Alpha Rib Shack Fund Raiser

Phi Mu Alpha’s 2nd Rib Shack fund raiser is 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. at Rib Shack, 8642 Natural Bridge Rd. For Info: Brett Lindsay at 636-578-5085.

Book Launch: “Shattered, Cracked, or Firmly Intact? Women and the Executive Glass Ceiling Worldwide”

Farida Jalalzai, UMSL assistant professor of political science, will give a brief presentation on her new book, followed by refreshments, 5 - 6 p.m. in SSB 331. For Info: Sally Barr Ebest at 314-516-6383.

Shantytown

Participate in raising awareness of homelessness as we set up a village of cardboard boxes on the MSC lawn starting at 6 p.m. and stay overnight until 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. Evening activities include speakers, documentaries, a housing simulation, and a candle light vigil. Advertise your student organization by sponsoring a box to be displayed. For Info: Rachelle Simon at 314-385-3455

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia American Music Recital

The men of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia perform some great American music, followed by refreshments, 6:30 - 8 p.m. in Music Building Room 205. For Info: Dustin Shrum at 314-420-8897.

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Safe Driving Obstacle Course

UPB offers a new twist on the usual driving test, 11 a.m. at MSC Patio (Pilot House if raining). For Info: Katie Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Feminist Film Series

Part IV of the award-winning documentary, “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women World-Wide,” with free popcorn, 2:30 - 4 p.m. in Gender Studies lounge, Lucas 494. BYO soda. For Info: Sally Barr Ebest at 314-516-6383.

Economic Department Guest Speaker: Jim Talent

Former U.S. Senator Jim Talent speaks on “The Decline of American Power and Its Consequences,” followed by Q&A and refreshments, 3:30 - 5 p.m. in J.C. Penney Summit Lounge. RSVP to Judy Cates at 314-5161-5353 or catesj@umsl.edu; not required but appreciated for planning purposes. For Info: Judy Cates at 314-516-5353.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

MADCO: “Momentum” dance performance

UMSL’s resident dance company performs “Momentum” at Touhill PAC’s Lee Theater, March 22 - 23 8 p.m. Performance includes work of some of the nation’s hottest choreographers, Gina Patterson, Mikey Thomas, Janice Garrett and Joseph Mills. Discounted SNAP student and faculty/staff tickets available. For Info: Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Chic Corea and Bela Fleck concert (Jazz St. Louis)

Jazz fusion great Chic Corea and Bela Fleck, considered the world’s best banjo player, present a genre-bending concert, 8 p.m. in Touhill PAC Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. Both are multiple Grammy winners. Discounted SNAP tickets available. For Info: Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

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LOST PARKING PERMIT – LOT D

March 11, 2013 – Report #13-105.

An UMSL student reported a lost parking permit. Disposition: Report taken.

LOST PARKING PERMIT – PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

March 11, 2013 – Report #13-106.

An UMSL student reported a lost parking permit. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – RESEARCH BUILDING

March 11, – Report # 13-107.

An UMSL student reported the theft of a gym bag containing and ipod and personal items. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – LUCAS HALL

March 11, 2013 – Report # 13-108.

An UMSL teaching assistant reported an I-pad stolen from their office, the suspect was described as a very dark skinned b lack male approximately 19 years old, wearing a black hoodie, black jeans and black tennis shoes – he was carrying a black backpack and had a thick gold chain double wrapped around his neck. Investigation continuing. Disposition: Report taken.

Students get irrational at second Pi Day

HEATHER WELBORN
STAFF WRITER

Students were excited to get irrational at the second annual Pi Day Celebration last Thursday. The event was hosted by the Math Club in the Pilot House of the Millennium Student Center. The annual algebraic observation of March 14, or 3.14, has become popular in high schools and on social media websites over the years. The event gave students an opportunity to indulge in free snacks and have fun while engaging in pi-themed activities for prizes.

Pi is one of the most-used mathematical constants. Defined as the relationship between diameter and circumference, pi has been used for centuries in calculations involving circles. This ratio, roughly 22/7, will never change, even as the size of the circle shrinks and expands. Because pi is irrational, the number of decimal digits is infinite and continues without any pattern or repeats. To date, pi has been calculated to over 1 trillion decimal digits.

Pie-like snacks were provided for participants, as well as orange T-shirts bearing an equation that translates phonetically to "I ate some pie." Students were encouraged to sign up for Math Club as they snacked, while

others tried to win gift cards to Subway and the University of Missouri-St. Louis Bookstore by playing math-themed games. In one challenge, students guessed how much candy was inside a glass container, the answer being a triplet found within pi's decimal code. In another, students signed strips of colored paper symbolizing the next digit in pi, forming a chain for display on the MSC Bridge.

The pi recitation contest was the main event. Students tried their best to recall as many decimal digits of pi as possible for prizes like a Kindle Paperwhite and a Galaxy Tab 2. Last year's winner correctly remembered nearly 250 decimal digits. His prizes were a coffee mug, a movie and a book. The improvement in rewards has to do with the Math Club's official status this year. They won the award for best new organization last year, and now that the funding is available, they decided to forward it to fellow students.

The turnout was larger than one would expect for a math event, with friendly and enthusiastic club members readily assisting curious students as they passed.

Jessica Bleile, senior, mathematics, president of the Math Club, organized Pi Day last year. She stresses



UMSL students celebrate Pi Day.

HEATHER WELBORN/THE CURRENT

that students of any major can join the math club, which meets two to three times over the semester, mainly to plan events and raise awareness of math-related concepts on campus. The events they sponsor offer opportunities for fun and community within the student body on campus. Jonas Kersulis, senior, electrical engineering, treasurer of the Math Club, calls math "high impact stuff" and reminds students that regardless of your

discipline, math affects you directly and on a daily basis. He notes that there is applicable as well as philosophical value to pi, from engineering concepts to musing about an endless number calculating an endless shape. The Math Club also reminds Current readers of the Problem of the Month, still in each issue, with Subway gift cards awarded to correct answers submitted in time.

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Computer security expert discusses privacy issue on the Internet for Monday Noon Series

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Charlie Miller, an Internet security expert, discussed "Privacy in the Internet Age" on March 11 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center as part of the Monday Noon series. The audience of approximately 30 was treated to refreshments before the event.

An alumnus of Lindbergh High School in St. Louis, Miller is a graduate of Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo. Miller holds a master's degree and a doctorate in mathematics from Notre Dame. He is a computer security investigator and consultant with Accuvant in St. Louis.

Miller is a four-time winner of hacking contests. One of the contests he won was at the Pwn2Own Conference in Vancouver, Canada, where he found a critical bug in Apple's new MacBook Air, a

line of ultra-portable laptop notebook computers, as well as in other Apple products.

The issues that Miller discussed with those in attendance included who wants your data and why you should care. "There are groups of people who feel that they are not doing anything wrong or something interesting that society would even care about. In that sense, many people are blasé about the threat to privacy on the Internet," Miller said.

"The general concept of the importance of encryption as a means to privacy online is in the encoding of messages by the sender in a way that eavesdroppers or other hackers would be unable to intercept and read," Miller said.

Miller spoke at length about what is called "the Crypto Wars." The Foundation for Information Policy Research said that the Crypto Wars began in the early 1970s with the U.S.

government. At that point, the government defined the early research of the World Wide Web as a form of weaponry.

"At that time, the World Wide Web was a network of university scholars that did not think too much of security risks and were more interested in software development and storage of data," Miller said.

According to Miller, when the government started cracking down on the shipping of computer hardware, the researchers got around the regulations by creating reports, and the receivers utilized the pamphlets to establish hard drives on their systems.

The government made it a practice to collect data on all citizens, even though there was no proof that much of this would be used by criminals and terrorists. The U.S. government had the means to spy on private citizens, sometimes

without a warrant, Miller said.

The Crypto Wars are the conflict between the interest of a government in protecting its citizens from cyber criminals and international terrorists spreading viruses on computers and the academic community that saw privacy as the basis for innovation, as well as a democratic society, according to Miller. "The problem with cyber security is that the laws have not kept up with the way that people communicate in a contemporary age," Miller said.

Miller said that there are options for privacy advocates, and encryption is freely available. One of the new trends that Miller described is called TOR. The TOR system is a client routing system where encryption is done by way of a network messenger chain. In TOR, e-mails are filtered through member links on their way to the receivers.

Also, to get around

bogus certificate authorities organizations, many computer networks rely on "Certificate Pinning," or a certification that the correct certificate protects your computer from threats. A valid certification includes the presence of a lock as a symbol of proof that a person can trust a site, Miller said.

Google sharing is a system where users submit materials by way of a link to a site or a file with a list of organizational addresses, Miller said.

The final event for the Monday Noon Series before spring break was conducted by Pricilla Dowden White, professor, history, on March 18. Gerald Early, a professor at Washington University, will conduct a seminar on "Why Humanities Matters" on April 1. For more information about Monday Noon Series events for Spring 2013, call (314) 516-5698.

Honors College hosts Root Beer Pong tournament

KARLYNE KILLEBREW
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday night, the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association put a sweet twist on a classic game when they hosted their semiannual Root Beer Pong tournament at 7 p.m. in the Museum Room of the Provincial House.

There were playing stations set up with round tables pushed back to back and the cups laid out on them for the teams to play.

Following the same rules that are found in traditional beer pong, teams of two competed against each other in multiple elimination rounds. The winners played against winners from other matches, and the losers were no longer in the competition. However, the

cups they used for playing the game were filled with water instead of beer.

PLHCSA drew a sizable crowd with the sandwich buffet they provided along with a few dessert trays and a keg of Fitz's fresh-brewed root beer. Residents from Oak Hall, Villa Hall and University Meadows showed up, along with a fraction of the Triton women's basketball team.

Students who were not competing showed up just to hang out and participate in the merriment.

"I'm in the honors, so I try to attend events when I can. This one seemed like it would be pretty fun! ... The free T-shirts are always nice, too," Christian Deverger, freshman, international business, said.

There were 20 teams compet-

ing at the start of the tournament. Through the process of elimination, the number dwindled as the PLHCSA members tracked the results National Basketball Association bracket-style.

It was a relatively timely event until the competition dwindled to the last three teams. Anthony Jackson, freshman, criminal justice, and Michael Hayes, freshman, criminal justice, had gotten the opposing team down to one cup, but could not seem to sink that final toss.

After a tense five minutes or so of participation, Jackson and Hayes finally won, making them contenders in the final competition against Kelly Kunkel, freshman, business and her partner Morgan Settle, freshman, elementary education.

The final game passed rather

briefly as Jackson and Hayes dominated against Kunkel and Settle.

They, along with the second and third place teams, were allowed to pick from a table full of prizes for their skill and perseverance.

Marlee Thomas, sophomore, biology, PLHCSA service chair, said the event was inspired by "tradition ... I'm not sure when it started ... way before my time. I'm just glad it was successful, glad people came out."

"We decided upon root beer pong [because] we can't have beer obviously and because we believed we would have a good turnout for an event of this nature," Katie Kratzer, senior, criminal justice, PLHCSA secretary, said. She was "happily surprised with the turnout."

When asked how she would

respond to the people who consider beer pong a trashy frat game, Kratzer said, "While it is true that the vast majority of people that play beer pong are totally trashed, that is not always the case. I know me and my friends substitute the beer for water and play that way, and I don't feel like that is trashy."

Judging by the sizable group who came out to play and drink root beer, quite a few people agree.

For those who missed out or want to know how they can be informed of future functions, PLHCSA events can be found posted on the event calendar, Get a Student Life, and banners are usually hung from the rotunda in the MSC.

Band Power Cross raises funds for eye care

ANYA GLUSHKO
FEATURES EDITOR

Power Cross is a band for the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists. FCO meets every Friday at 7:15 a.m.

"We as optometrists ... use medicines, lenses, but we as a band want to do more than just provide physical vision. It's funny, because we have a term called the 'power cross' in our optics class, which made us think about this name," Daniel Ethakoti, one of the band members, said.

"Initially, we had one acoustic guitar," Ethakoti said. "I and Aaron used to sing song and lead worship at FCO. Dustin, one of [our] classmates, joined us and started playing the electric, and it was then that we wanted to form a band. We learned that Greg, another classmate of ours, plays the bass guitar, and he, too, wanted to join us. We knew that Amy plays the electric and invited her to jam with us once. It worked out great, and so that is the way we got together. We still did not have drums or any amplifiers or mikes or anything. We did our first concert with two electrics, a bass and acoustic guitar ... One of our common friends [was] moving to a smaller house, and they gave us their drum kit, and another friend gave us his huge amp because he was not using it. So by summer 2012, we had a pretty

decent setup."

Power Cross held their first big concert in March 2012 in the Century Rooms at University of Missouri-St. Louis, in order to fundraise for an orphanage in India. "We were able to raise around \$900 ... which was helpful to ... the kids there at school. We also had Chi Alpha, another Christian organization, partner with us for that concert. We had a turnover of around 50 or 60 people, and it was great," Aaron Peterson, lead vocalist and guitarist of Power Cross, said.

Power Cross's third concert will be a fundraiser for Students Volunteering Optometric Services to Humanity.

"We are playing this concert as a fundraiser for SVOSH. We are a Christian band who plays anything from positive rock to gospel worship. The organization we are supporting fits with our beliefs toward helping others and giving back to those in need because we have been given so much. Also, a few members of our band hope to go on a mission trip to a foreign country in the near future. We believe that by playing this concert, we are giving UMSL students a positive alternative to other questionable Friday night activities," Peterson said.

"I enjoy playing for this band and putting on events such as fundraisers for service organizations. We are a group of five optometry classmates who have

grown very close to each other over the past year and a half. We connect on common career plans, beliefs and taste in music. I like the fact that we are able to pick just about any type of song, learn it and put our own twist on it. It is especially cool because we each add a unique element to the band that cannot be replaced. Each of our band members brings different ideas to the group, which allows us to constantly keep changing and improving our harmonious music," Peterson said.

"Playing in Power Cross and jamming with the guys gives me a way to relax outside of school and let go of my current worries, to just celebrate what I have and value in life. I am enthused to be involved in SVOSH and to lead our UMSL chapter next year as president. One of my goals in SVOSH is to go on a service trip to Peru in the future," Amy Walsh, sophomore, biology, Power Cross vocalist and guitarist, said.

"I decided to play for this concert because I wanted to help poorer people see better, and SVOSH would help accomplish that task. I love to serve people because it's a passion that God placed in my heart. I love playing the drums and playing with my band ... I'm doing 23 credits a semester. It's crazy, and we need a break," Ethakoti said.

China Night

The annual "China Night" at UMSL highlighted Chinese culture on March 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center. The event featured Chinese Kong Fu, a drama performance and Chinese food.



HEATHER WELBORN/THE CURRENT

Stay informed. Stay Current.

Jubilee Lecture Series talks ancient civilizations

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

The Jubilee Lecture Series event “The Rise and Fall of Civilizations” was held on March 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center at University of Missouri-St. Louis. The second event in the Jubilee Lecture Series, it was sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Languages.

After an introduction by Susan Brownwell, professor, anthropology, and Beth Landers, assistant teaching professor, French, Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, professor, archaeology, presented “The Emergence of States: The UMSL Archaeological Expedition in Greece.” Cosmopoulos spoke about the origins of popular Greek culture, including the epic stories of Homer, the Iliad and the Trojan War and their effects on the establishment of the Greek state.

Cosmopoulos’ lecture placed particular emphasis on the ancestries

of the Mycenaean Age, which dated from around 1600 B.C.E. to 1100 B.C.E. Mycenae is an archaeological site in Greece where the states of Athens, Thebes, Pylos and Tiyns were established. The remains of a Mycenaean palace that were found at this site were searched by Cosmopoulos and his expedition crew over the years. Cosmopoulos discovered taxation records of the State of Pilos that constituted the early central government and political units. Also discovered at the site were frescoes that included female figures and sailing vessels, according to Cosmopoulos.

“What we found was a Linear B tablet with writing on both sides of a Mycenaean palace called ‘a-pu2-We’ that were the remnants of the first recorded state in Western civilization. These were a part of over 1,000 state records of a Greek state that was modern and very ahead of its time,” Cosmopoulos said.

Cosmopoulos also spoke about

the many wars that took place in Ancient Greece and were pivotal in establishing early governments. According to Cosmopoulos, kings and warlords fought among states for a stake in pieces of the Greek territory, although reference to specific kings involved in the hostilities cannot be identified through the findings.

“The formation of the early Greek states were the most fascinating chapters of human history in that it established the formation of states that were taken over by military force to develop kingdoms,” Cosmopoulos said.

“The archaeological project in Greece was a field project in which 60 to 70 students at UMSL have been involved in for 14 years, with five to six students per trench project. The fundraising for our expedition was done through private donors,” Cosmopoulos said.

“We were looking for an understanding of the origins of civilization, and the finding of

the Linear B tablet was simply a remarkable part of our journey in Ancient Greece,” Cosmopoulos said.

After a short recess, Dr. Michael Ohnersorgen, assistant professor, anthropology, presented “After the Fall: Cultural Continuity and Ritual Sacrifice in West Mexico.”

The West Mexico expedition, led by Ohnersorgen, journeyed through Maya, a Mesoamerican civilization that is known for the art and architecture found at the site. The early Spanish civilization of Maya is noted for the establishment of a solar calendar. The many finds at Maya included Aztalian pottery, copper bells, tweezers, shell armbands and other artifacts of that civilization.

According to Ohnersorgen, the site has a social and political history rooted in such Indian tribes as the Huichol and the Coras. Some of the uncovered artifacts included various human skulls. According to Ohnersorgen, the Coras performed

sacrifices, made blood offerings and took the lives of maidens, carving out their hearts.

“The Huichol Indians used crystals that they believed were links to the souls of the living and dead. The Huichol believed that their ancestors lived a spiritual life behind the sun after death,” Ohnersorgen said.

“Civilizations often fall into a gap and evolve into cultural change and the continuity of a culture. The archaeological records of Maya civilizations enrich our understanding of the present in that part of the world,” Ohnersorgen said.

On April 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Languages will hold the third part of its Jubilee series, “What to Eat? Food Selection in Primates and People.” This event is free and open to the public. For information on this event, contact Beth Landers at (314) 516-6546.

StoryCorps comes to UMSL Veterans Center

HUNG NGUYEN
OPINIONS EDITOR

On April 5, StoryCorps Military Initiatives will be coming to University of Missouri-St. Louis to record the stories of post-9/11 veterans at the UMSL Veterans Center. The team of StoryCorps discussants will be in St. Louis for three days, spending April 3 and 4 at the Regional Arts Commission and finishing on April 5 at UMSL.

StoryCorps is a national nonprofit organization that is aimed at recording and preserving the stories of Americans from all backgrounds. Recorded audio is preserved at the

American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and broadcast on National Public Radio stations across the country.

This event is part of a weekend-long series of artistic festivities for veterans from April 3 to April 6 titled “Creative Conversations: Uniting Veterans and Community through the Arts,” collaboratively coordinated by the Warrior Arts Alliance and VSA Missouri. In addition to StoryCorps, the Combat Paper Project and Veteran Print Project will have three guided workshop sessions on paper and printmaking. The events are laced together with the theme of celebrating the transformative and

empowering aspects of storytelling, as well as the individual stories themselves.

“Our stories are as individual as our fingerprints, but they cement us in our relationships, our families, our communities and our world. These opportunities for creative expression serve as keys to open the doors to additional conversations and understanding between veterans, families, artists and members of the community at large,” Deborah Marshall, director of Warrior Arts, said in an official press release.

Warrior Arts, the Combat Paper Project and Veteran Print Project have published volumes anthologizing

the multitudinous experiences of veterans through various media.

“The interesting thing is that it is a conversation,” Dr. Kathleen Nigro, UMSL professor of English and gender studies and a member of the Missouri Humanities Council, said. “The veteran is paired with a discussant, and they may frame the conversation in the form of questions and answers or however they may want to tell the story. I think having this important event will be great for veterans and a good opportunity for the new UMSL Veterans Center. There is a power in finding individual identity through telling one’s story.”

Appointments are required for

the interviews; those interested in participating may contact Nigro by March 21 to be included.

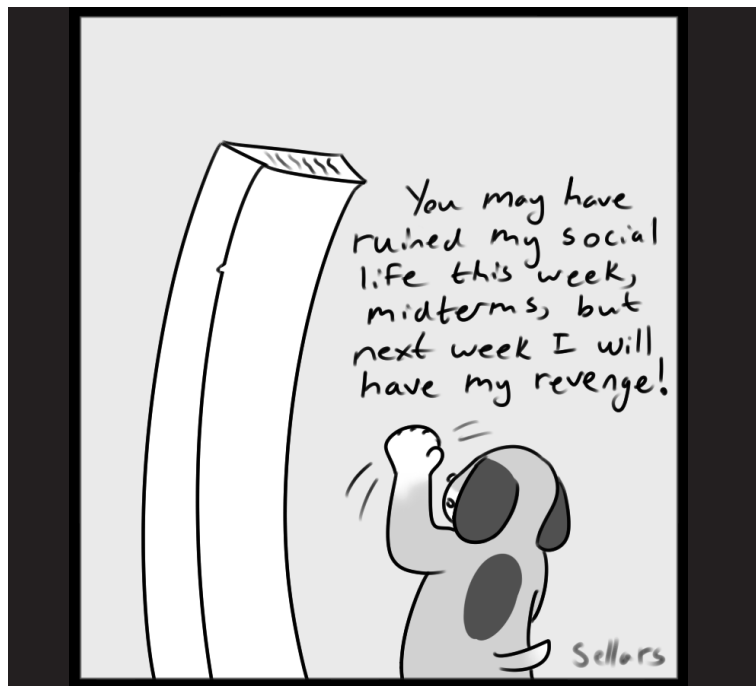
The week of events is sponsored by the Warrior Arts Alliance, VSA Missouri, the Regional Arts Commission, the Missouri Humanities Council, the Arts & Education Council, the Missouri Arts Council, the UMSL Veterans Center, St. Louis Community College Veterans Affairs and VA St. Louis Health Care Systems.

All events are free and open to veterans and their families.

COMICS & PUZZLES

Simply Beagle

BY LEE SELLARS



Cryptogram

A Cryptogram is a simple substitution cipher puzzle in which each particular letter of the alphabet is replaced by a different letter consistently throughout the puzzle. That is, if “A” is replaced by “B,” then “A” is replaced by “B” throughout the puzzle.

Solve:

VJFK FPI TZW
YZQEO XZP
MUPQEO APIFR?

Answers will be up in next week’s issue.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Teachers and students should be able to be friends on Facebook

Underage students interacting with their teachers on Facebook is not dangerous or undesirable in and of itself.

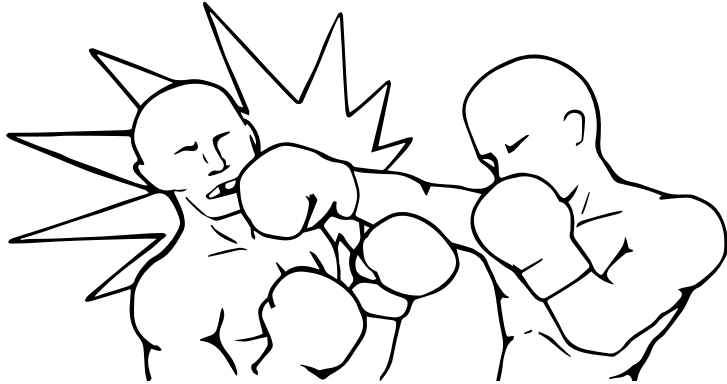
At school, administrators monitor the interaction of teachers and students via Facebook. Web access and content, including the pictures in personal chats, are monitored and controlled on school computers. They all have to do with what is being taught at school. This close monitoring means that there is no need to worry about children interacting with teachers in special Facebook chats while at school. These resources are structured to benefit their education. What is next? Shall we ban paper and pens because students and teachers could exchange inappropriate letters in the mail?

Teachers and legal professionals have raised objections to banning Facebook interaction between students and teachers on principle. It is a free speech issue. Without being sardonic, we cannot seriously consider that our default view of teachers should be one of distrust. The

authority to regulate hiring practices rests with the school boards and the government agencies whose jurisdiction they are under, as does the responsibility for mistakes. Any other implication would suggest that we do not trust our teachers. And if we do not trust our teachers to interact online with student, in a media that can be easily recorded and monitored, then how can we trust our children alone in the physical company of the same teachers while we ourselves are away? It would seem a simple matter to let parents police their children's use of

social networking at home. There are many software options for doing just that.

Social media is just one tool that is already revolutionizing the way we learn. The benefits of using this technology as a learning tool simply outweigh the incidental detriments that occur as a result of failures of control. The technology should be regulated and optimized for bona fide usage, not made entirely illegal for student-teacher communication. Limiting such usage would deprive our children of a valuable learning tool and possibly handicap them.



CHRISTIAN KESSLER/THE CURRENT

Teachers and students should not be friends on Facebook

It is not acceptable for teachers and students to be friends with each other on social media sites such as Facebook or MySpace.

As long as teachers and students do not have access to each other's social media profiles, teachers remain respectable, authoritative figures. There has to be a separation between the teachers' professional and personal lives. Imagine if all teachers added their students as Facebook friends. This would allow students to view details about the teachers' personal lives, allowing them to perceive them in whatever manner that the students decide. The teachers would no longer be reputable members of

the faculty, but would be considered peers among their students.

Teachers may also become biased toward students who they are connected with via social media. This would be unfair to other students who are not connected to the teacher on any given social media site. It could cause controversy in the classroom by leading the other students to believe that another student is receiving special treatment and grades because they are connected on Facebook with the teacher. Something such as a teacher adding a student to their social media site is hard to keep secret, possibly creating insurgence in the classroom.

Inappropriate and illegal sexual relationships between teachers and students are also possible. Consider ex-Cincinnati Bengals cheerleader Sarah Jones, who pled guilty to having sex with a 17-year-old student while she was a high school teacher. The student uploaded the inappropriate pictures that he received from Jones to his social media profiles. The news and photos spread like wildfire amongst the student body at the school where she was teaching.

For these reasons, it would only be acceptable for a student and teacher to be Facebook friends once the student graduated or the teacher is no longer teaching.

COLUMN *The Chopping Block*

Rethinking 'personalized' online marketing

HUNG NGUYEN
OPINIONS EDITOR



The "Recommended for You" feature has now appeared on many websites. These "custom" lists make use of an electronic paper trail — a log of recently viewed or purchased items — and actually raises some concerns about what vendor websites actually keep track of and use to market their products.

Some proponents suggest that it enhances their shopping experiences. People who purchase or view an item may have further interest in procuring similar items. The feature would actually save consumers the time spent researching alternatives and related products. As new products become available, the user may simply click on the list of recommendations without navigating to a separate page for updates. Web-based media providers such as iTunes and Netflix also employ a version of this web element to direct audiophile and movie buffs to artists and films, respectively.

But the feature has its drawbacks and is far from being completely customized. If viewing a product listing did not result in a sale, the consumer may still be plagued with recommendations based on the viewing. This "history" is also not always subject to change when the customer is dissatisfied with a previously purchased product. If one watches the first few minutes of a video and realizes that it was the wrong one, it will appear on a similar list. Some vendors have sought to improve the situation by including a star or point rating system, where lower ratings will enable the algorithm to filter the particular item. This system, however, is not an exact and well-advertised measure. The difference between one or two or three stars and the probability of seeing similar-quality products cannot be clearly correlated and guaranteed.

The feature also raises some privacy issues, since it means that the ven-

dors are actively monitoring and recording user data. The vendors have a stake in keeping the information private, since violation of consumer privacy is not exactly a good public relations decision. Yet a recent headline-making hacking scandal, Julian Assange's WikiLeaks scheme, makes it clear that it is not impossible to hack into corporate and government networks and databases.

For the average user, the risk is arguably quite tame. Some would go as far as stating that they would care less if the world knew they bought the new Justin Bieber album or a crockpot. But what if the information renders the person a social outcast in their community? Imagine a curious student living in a highly religious community going online to buy three books on atheism. A respected priest or councilman goes online daily to buy massive amounts of adult videos. In both of these instances, some may suggest that the information may be a form of liberation or even protection, if they are being pressured into certain behaviors. But the choice lies with the user and when he or she sees fit to disclose it. One can imagine more disastrous scenarios, but they are not necessary. The feature unintentionally endangers user privacy, and that should be a concern in itself.

Until the handling of electronic user data becomes better regulated and the adaptability of the feature to actual user experience is improved, this feature should not be used on online vendor sites.

STAFF OPINION

Sequestration only part of greater national problems

PAUL PEANICK
STAFF WRITER

The growth of national debt is greatly outpacing increases in gross domestic product — an economic measurement of total goods and services produced by an economy — and is ultimately unsustainable. The sequestration is a microcosm of a much larger problem — that is, the lack of incentive for politicians to act in accordance with their duties. Why would a politician care about the actual cost of a budget appropriation 10 plus years from now, when he or she will have long since retired? The incentive, rather, is to be elected. This incentive is why entitlements are highlighted and costs underestimated. Taxes are unpop-

ular and entitlements are popular, and what is popular garners votes.

Leaders have thus far failed to address the "fiscal cliff," a term describing the point when the government will approach a standstill when it runs out of money at the end of April. Unable to agree on cuts, they have cynically provisioned the sequestration, a series of across-the-board cuts in government spending, to do their work for them. The needed cuts will happen anyway, and someone will take the blame.

Among other measures, sequestration will furlough government workers and cut grants for college students, costing 750,000 to 2.5 million jobs. Much of its effect will not be instantaneous but will ripple throughout the economy, setting off

a chain of events where cuts are expected to decrease consumer spending, lower profits, lower investment and hurt overall employment.

Most macroeconomists agree that the fixed cuts to discretionary spending come at a bad time, when the nation is trying to address a growing financial crisis. However, economists such as Michael Allison, professor of economics, do point out that though "the rate of growth of the economy will be less than it would have been otherwise, the grip of the recovery is probably strong enough that we won't have another recession. We will simply have a less efficient [slower] growth in the economy."

We are now in a crisis. Currently, the interest on the national debt ab-

sorbs 6.5 percent of federal spending and is, by conservative estimates, expected to quadruple by 2020.

The federal budget in 2012 was approximately \$3.5 trillion according to the Federal Office of Management and Budget. \$2 trillion of that went to entitlements, which are mandatory spending. The amount spent on these program is decided internally by the programs themselves given various economic indices, such as projected cost of living. Since their budgets are thus insulated, there is no incentive to promote efficiency. The next two-thirds of the federal budget went to defense. Another one-third went to discretionary programs, including the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education and Housing

and Urban Development. The last \$200 billion, 6.5 percent, went to servicing the national debt.

The priorities of the nation have been inverted. Entitlements should be last on the list of priorities as they do not produce more revenues to support themselves, whereas education, infrastructure and health all do. National defense is a necessity, but its priorities reflect a cold war economy that no longer exists, and its sacrosanct position in politics encourages waste.

The only way to address our fiscal instability in the long term is with a massive re-organization of the way the government is run, along with new definitions and ideals for the American democratic social contract.

UMSL men's basketball needs more depth

LEON DEVANCE
SPORTS EDITOR

To build and maintain a quality National Collegiate Athletic Association program, University of Missouri-St. Louis basketball coach Frank Haith said that you need classes stacked on top of each other. Quality, depth and success from year to year are also needed to achieve a winning program.

As Mike Anderson's successor, Haith needed bodies to complete the roster at Mizzou. Haith offered scholarships to 10 players in two years. Having a quality director of athletics such as Lori Flanagan to raise funds is also needed.

To sell the program to alumni, parents, fans and prospective recruits, you have to win. Coach Steve Tappmeyer has the UMSL program on the right track, producing a 35-20 record for a .636 winning percentage. Unfortunately, the decision of Charlie Woods — who averaged 9.3 points and 5.6 rebounds a game — to leave the program two weeks before the end of the regular season for personal reasons left UMSL behind the eight-ball.

Woods had the right to leave for whatever reason, so there is no need to disparage him for the 74-63 season-ending first-round loss to Indianapolis in the Deaconess Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament. According to the UMSL website, Indianapolis shot 46 percent from the field compared to UMSL's 39.6 percent. Indianapolis held a 45-19 advantage on the glass and an 11-1 edge in offensive rebounds.

UMSL finished the season 4-3 after Woods' departure and compiled a 17-11 overall record. But a trend was established against Drury in a 90-75 road loss. Drury shot 69.1 percent for the game. In that road loss, Drury raced to an 11-0 lead to start the game. UMSL scored their first basket on a jumper by Joshua McCoy, senior, communications. Drury



closed the first half with a 17-9 run to assume a nine-point lead, 45-36. Drury then opened the second half with an 11-5 run and later assumed an 80-58 lead before UMSL was able to whittle that lead down.

Against William Jewell, UMSL surrendered a game-high 29 points to Dillon Deck in an 80-75 loss. William Jewell shot 52 percent from the field in the game and out-rebounded UMSL 37-29, holding UMSL to 40.9 percent from the field.

This means that a bigger portion of the scoring burden fell to McCoy and Darian Cartharn, junior, communications. However, Kevin Dwyer, junior, business, played in foul trouble after Woods' departure. Opposing guards found a wide-open lane to the basket and were able to easily feed the ball to their big guys inside. Without Woods' presence to challenge or block shots, UMSL's opponents found it easier to score in the paint. When Dwyer started picking fouls, a small lineup suddenly became smaller.

If UMSL is to become among the Division II bluebloods of college basketball, a larger and more versatile roster is required.



UMSL's Aareon Smith dribbles against William Jewell's defense.

LEON DEVANCE/THE CURRENT

Are you planning to graduate this semester???

Have you applied for graduation???

If not, visit your academic advisor today!!!

2013 **MAY** *Commencement*

**SATURDAY, MAY 18 &
 SUNDAY, MAY 19
 MARK TWAIN BUILDING**

Each ceremony will be approximately 1½ hours in length.

No tickets required.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 10 A.M. | - College of Nursing |
| | - College of Fine Arts & Communication |
| | - School of Social Work |
| | - Master of Public Policy Administration |
| 2 P.M. | - College of Arts and Sciences |
| 6 P.M. | - College of Optometry –
<i>Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center</i> |

SUNDAY, MAY 19

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 2 P.M. | - College of Education |
| | - Bachelor of General Studies |
| | - Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies |
| 6 P.M. | - College of Business Administration |
| | - UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program |
| | - Missouri University S & T Engineering Education Center |

DON'T MISS THE GRAD FAIR!

Wednesday & Thursday - April 3 & 4
 UMSL Bookstore, 209 MSC, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- Purchase your cap, gown and tassel, order or purchase announcements, look at class rings.
- Attire available in Bookstore after these dates but a \$10 fee will apply after Friday, May 3.
- Stop by the **UMSL Alumni Association** table to activate your **FREE Alumni Membership!**

Visit the UMSL Commencement website at www.umsl.edu/commencement for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with GradImages™.