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The Current

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SEPT 23, 2013

UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

22nd annual Founders Dinner celebrates UMSL's 50th birthday

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Members of the campus community, including alumni and current faculty and staff, gathered at The Ritz-Carlton on September 19 for the 22nd annual Founders Dinner. The prestigious event recognizes the outstanding leadership and notable charitable acts of University of Missouri–St. Louis students, alumni, faculty and donors. This year's soiree doubled as a 50th anniversary birthday party for the university as part of the 2013 UMSL Jubilee. An elegant dinner was paired with an array of eloquent speakers, each commemorating the academic legacy established by former and current students at UMSL.

The sold-out evening event saw thousands of professionally dressed guests in attendance. The Ritz's main hall was packed with hundreds of tables seating ten guests each. Patrons chatted excitedly in between speakers as waiters in pressed white sleeves and black vests scurried between the maze of chairs to drop off complimentary drinks from the bar and remove empty glassware as it appeared. The décor at the event was distinctively UMSL, with gold and red balloon columns erected strategically along the stage and doorways.

Upon entering the event, guests gazed at the large center table in the foyer that bore a massive birthday present tower with red tote-bags bearing UMSL insignia surrounding the festive structure. Included in the gift bags were two books based on UMSL's first 50 years. The first was "First, A Dream," edited by Ron Gossen, senior associate vice chancellor for University Marketing and Communications. The second book, "The First 50 Years," was compiled by former university chancellor Dr. Blanche M. Touhill.

22nd annual Founders Dinner

The program began after the initial open bar orders and informal yet friendly reintroductions among guests ebbed. Chancellor Thomas George kicked off the evening by extending a formal welcome to guests. He used a projected presentation as a visual guide as he addressed the thousands of UMSL supporters in the main hall. Dr. Touhill attended the event and stood for the roar of applause as Chancellor George acknowledged her in his speech.

Chancellor George then shared the stage with a prerecorded address to UMSL by Governor Jay Nixon. Governor Nixon commended students and alumni for their accomplishments in diverse academic fields "from chemistry to criminal justice." Nixon ended his address by reaffirming that the success of UMSL attendees is synonymous with the success of the city of St. Louis. After Chancellor George made a few co-institutional comments of praise, he relinquished the stage to the Double Date, an acappella singing troupe who performed a number of hits from the 1960s until dinner was served.

Caesar salad and steak and potato entrees were escorted to each table by three white-gloved servers, each carrying three plates. The service element of the evening was astoundingly efficient, with hospitality professionals anticipating the needs of guests in between trips to and from the kitchen with rapid-fire precision. Once dinner was cleared and desserts sampled from a tray of fruit and cream tarts, the speeches resumed on stage.

Faculty and staff were formally recognized and met with thunderous applause from attendees. The UMSL Alumni Association honored six alumni with the prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is issued to former students who have succeeded at long-term careers and community service with a level of notable significance over their peers. The 2013 award recipients were Nicole Colbert-Botchway (Assistant Missouri Attorney General), Frederick R. Buckles (Magistrate Judge), T. Christopher Peoples (President of Pitzman's Company of Surveyors and Engineers), Gordon S. Heddell (retired Inspector General, US Defense Department), Grayling O. Tobias (Hazelwood School District Superintendent), and Opal M. Jones (President and CEO of Doorways).

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ONLINE

Rancid concert

Visit thecurrent-online.com for exclusive online content. This week:

- Concert reviews, including Rancid at The Pageant and J.Cole and Wale at the Fox Theatre
- An interview with Switchfoot
- Our review of Christa Wells' newest album, "Feed Your Soul"
- Fall TV reviews, including "Dads" and "Sleepy Hollow"
- Our review of Denis Villeneuve's newest film, "Prisoners"
- Comics

Jubilee Flashback compiled by Albert Nall

The Current has been a part of UMSL since 1966. In honor of the campus' 50th anniversary, we are reprinting articles from years past. This story originally ran on September 23, 1991. For more Jubilee Flashback, visit our website at thecurrent-online.com.

CBS Comes to Campus as Part of National Tour

UM-St. Louis students got a taste of Hollywood and more last week, when the University Program Board in conjunction with Student Activities brought the CBS College Tour to campus.

A total of eight booths, each ran by a real CBS announcer, were set up on campus Monday and Tuesday, with different events for all students.

After registering, participants received a punch card. From there, they went from booth to booth playing games ranging from The Price is Right to Family Feud. Also available was a booth set up as a miniature movie theater, one for mock productions of newscasts, and one for play-by-play sports announcing.

All of the booths were free and participants received free cassette tapes and video tapes of their productions.

The total cost to the University for the tour was less than $2,000 and over 5,000 prizes were given away at the booths, including free home games and squirt bottles.

Grand prizes were awarded to three students. These were 2 round-trip airline tickets to anywhere in the U.S. that United Airlines flies, and a $500 cash scholarship.

The tour, is attempting to do one stop all 50 states. Once you are registered, you qualify to win the national grand prizes given away at the end of the tour.

One award is seven days and six nights plus round-trip air fare to the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, France, given by AT&T.

CBS is giving away a Mazda MX-3 GS, a round trip to Hollywood for two walk-on rolls in a soap opera and a comedy, and an IBM PS2 fully equipped computer.

Live From UMSL- *See page 2*

Evelyn Garner, a UMSL student, makes a mock weather forecas
College Tour brought to UMSL by University Program Board and

THE UNDERCURRENT *By Matthew Gianino*

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CLASS AND WHY?

LIZZY PANHORST
Freshman, Secondary Education

"My favorite class is American Government and Politics because I like learning about different policies and why people think like they do. I get to voice my opinion on the issues."

ANGELICA FERNANDO
Sophomore, Biology & Pre-Med

"My favorite class is chemistry because I get to interact and meet people. The study groups are helpful, and I like doing labs."

JAMIE BOILES
Freshman, Civil Engineering

"I really like my writing class because my teacher is great, and she's helping me expand my writing."

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
76 HI	79 HI	78 HI	79 HI	81 HI	81 HI	73 HI
56 LOW	61 LOW	58 LOW	58 LOW	67 LOW	58 LOW	52 LOW

NEWS BRIEFS

Missing Person Found

UMSL Police can be reached at 516-5155

Allison B. Reed, a 21-year-old female UMSL resident reported missing on September 15, 2013, was found 8:30 a.m. on September 16, 2013.

The report was initially filed when her family was unable to locate her after dropping her off at a campus living community on the preceding Thursday. Reed is not considered to be in any danger and the missing person notice was cancelled.

Update on 2012 rape incident

A non-student was reported to have been raped at the corner of West Drive and Natural Bridge in Bellerive Acres on November 12, 2012.

The perpetrator, 24-year-old Bel Ridge resident Raymond C. Lozan, Jr. has been apprehended. Lozan, Jr. has now been charged by the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office with multiple sexual offense violations. He is currently being held on a $50,000 cash-only bond.

Honors College announces winners of Excellence in Writing contest

The Pierre Laclede Honors College recently announced the winners of the 2012-2013 Pierre Laclede Honors College Excellence in Writing Contest.

Students submitted work from the previous academic year in their honors courses and the winners were selected from a blind review by an Honors College faculty committee. The contest consists of four divisions: 1000-level course, 2000-level course, 3000-level course, and creative writing.

Eric'el Johnson, sophomore, electrical engineering, won in the 1000-level division with an essay entitled "A Strange Meeting: Wollstonecraft and Voltaire" prepared for Cultural Traditions II. The 2000-level victor was Emily Dorn, senior, modern language, who submitted "The Balance of Anderson: Nietzsche's Apollonian and Dionysian in Fantastic Mr. Fox," originally for a course titled Contemporary American Cinema: Wes Anderson. In the 3000-level division, Elizabeth Eikmann won the title with "Rape in Antebellum America: Inception, Evolution, Purpose, Impact, and Law" written in America's Slave Narratives. The winning creative writing submission was Diana Miller's "Something Stolen," composed in Writing About People.

Prizes are awarded and the names of all four winners will appear in the Spring 2014 issue of "Bellerive." The full text of one will also be reprinted in the publication, also selected through a blind review by the "Bellerive" Staff.

'I Chose UMSL' aims to attract St. Louis students

ADDY LAI
STAFF WRITER

The "I Chose UMSL" campaign debuted on September 6, 2012, with billboards planted along local interstates featuring a number of well-known University of Missouri–St. Louis graduates. The campaign can be credited to Rob Gossen, senior vice chancellor and chief marketing officer, who was first presented with the project of advertising UMSL to high school students across Missouri and neighboring states.

"I've been in advertising for a very long time," Gossen said. "When the department came up with this we thought it was good."

It was determined early on that the campaign needed to appeal to a wide and diverse audience.

"When you come with advertising concepts and slogans, you want to have it amorphic, not in shape or form, that people can put their own good feelings to it," Gossen said.

Since it's debut, the campaign has grown with the help of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. Search engine marketing and additions that include teleivision spots have also enabled the "I Chose UMSL" campaign to reach a broader audience. This year's campaign efforts involve the use of billboards and radio to advertise the "serious education, serious value" of UMSL.

While it is still too early to gauge the effectiveness of this year's marketing strategies, the success potential leaves little to doubt.

"I recognize the marketing potential of it," Nicholas Moore, freshman, physics, said.

"I Chose UMSL" not only brings together current students with future attendees, but helps reconnect alumni with the university.

"There are alumni who love it. I can't tell you how many times I've heard from people. We've got 85,000 alumni," Gossen said.

Gossen also noted the joy of collaborating with universities across the nation.

"The ability to call up the President of Marymount University in Virginia and say, 'You don't know me, I'm the chief marketing officer at UMSL and we want do a campaign' and they say 'sure,' that was cool," Gossen said.

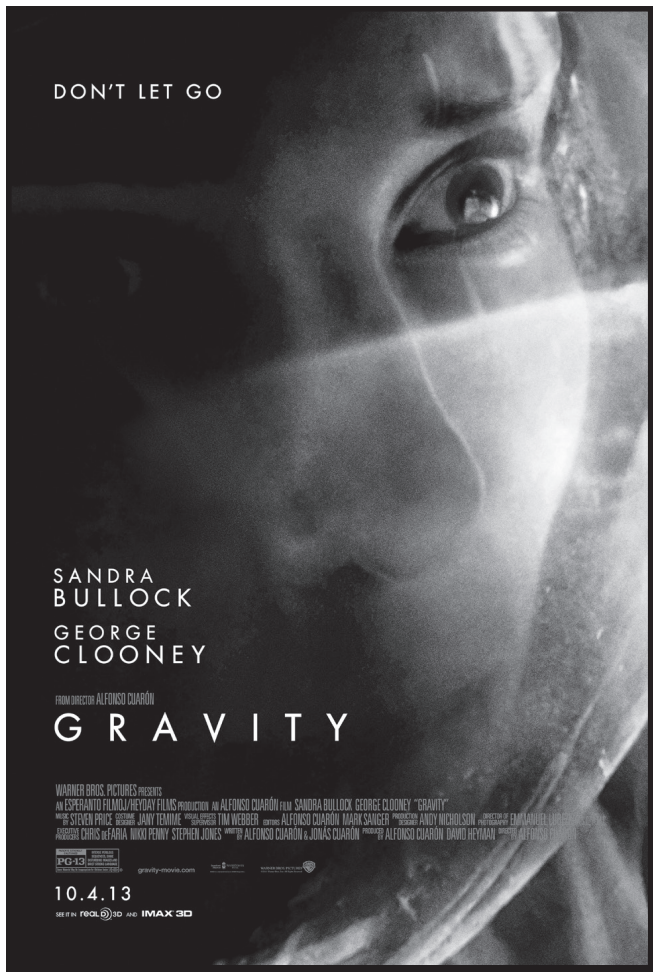
"I Chose UMSL" is a continuously changing marketing campaign created to advertise UMSL to future potential students. It began by introducing alumni who have successfully transitioned into leadership positions. In later years, publicizing the successes and post-collegiate pursuits of UMSL graduates became a main focus. This year's goal is to identify the successes and opportunities that UMSL students have to look forward to as they enter the real world.

"This campaign will start in a few weeks, and it will go through at least to the spring," Gossen said.

In the spirit of constant change, Gossen is already planning for the future of the project.

"We may be able to pull more expressions of it with the same concept," Gossen said.

Gossen maintains confidence in the diversity component of his promotional strategy, stating that "I Chose UMSL" has something for everyone.



The Current
INVITES YOU AND A GUEST TO AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF
GRAVITY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 AT 7:00 P.M.
PLEASE VISIT WWW.GOFOBO.COM/RSVP AND ENTER THE CODE UMSLNEGF TO DOWNLOAD YOUR COMPLIMENTARY PASSES!

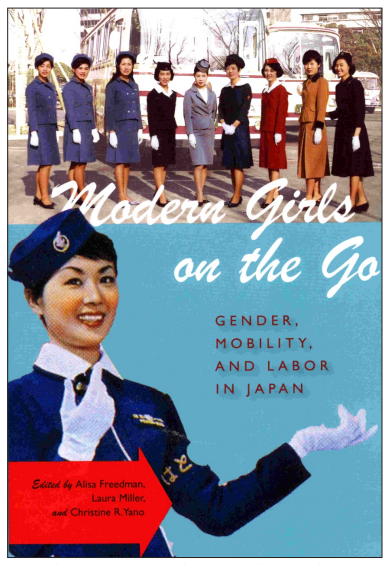
This film is RATED PG-13
Please note: Passes are limited and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. No phone calls, please. Limit one pass per person. Each pass admits two. Seating is not guaranteed. Arrive early. Theater is not responsible for overbooking. This screening will be monitored for unauthorized recording. By attending, you agree not to bring any audio or video recording device into the theater (audio recording devices for credentialed press excepted) and consent to a physical search of your belongings and person. Any attempted use of recording devices will result in immediate removal from the theater, forfeiture, and may subject you to criminal and civil liability. Please allow additional time for heightened security. You can assist us by leaving all nonessential bags at home or in your vehicle.

IN THEATERS AND IMAX OCTOBER 4
GRAVITYMOVIE.COM

'Modern Girls' book launch gives insight to traditional gender roles

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

A book launch and presentation was held on September 12, in honor of the publication of "Modern Girls on the Go: Gender, Mobility, and Labor in Japan." The book's authors are Alisa Freedman, associate professor of Japanese Literature and Film at the University of Oregon, Dr. Laura Miller, the Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai professor of Japanese Studies and professor of Anthropology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Christine R. Yano, professor and Chair of Anthropology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Book cover, "Modern Girls on the Go"

The event was held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in room 332 of the SSB and was sponsored by the Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Endowed Professorship, International Studies and Programs, Gender Studies, and the Japan Studies Alliance.

"Modern Girls on the Go" explores the multifaceted cultural understanding and portrayal of working women. Women have been essential to Japan's national labor force, but have been largely overlooked by researchers. The role of Japanese women in the workplace often spearheaded gender role discussions.

Dr. Joel Glassman, director of International Studies and Programs and associate provost of Academic Affairs, provided the introduction for Miller, who lead the presentation on Elevator Girls. Miller opened with a quote from a 1995 New York Times article, authored by Nicholas D. Kristof. Kristof wrote about women in the service occupations in Japan, describing the demeanor of Japanese women in the service as being "as sweet as syrup, and having a voice as high as a dog whistle."

"There was something about the description in the New York Times article that irritated me a bit, because it appears that all that Japanese service girls do is speak in a high pitched voice," Miller said.

Miller and her co-authors began working on the book at a time when Japanese females began a broad public demand for the recognition of a woman's role in the workplace. Historically, men have been credited for the success of the Japanese marketplace.

"The many jobs and roles that women were involved in was a major contributor to the economic vitality in Japan," Miller said.

Miller and her co-authors wanted to focus on the greatly trivialized occupations dominated by women in the hospitality and retail industry. Each author focused on a specific occupation that contained a high concentration of women. Miller's section examines the female-dominated industry of "elevator girls."

"These women are easily identifiable because they always wore a cute hat," Miller said, going on to acknowledge the cross-cultural influence of the job, as well. "The first elevator girl appeared in Japan in 1929. The prototype behind the 'elevator girl' came from the United States."

According to Miller, traveling up and down an elevator was only one of many roles taken on by these women. Other jobs included greeting shoppers, speaking on the store's history, and other hospitality tasks and clerical work.

"Speaking in a high pitched voice was a part of the job, which implied elegance, and the elevator girl had to be trained in speaking this way," Miller said.

The presentation focused on the elevator girl employee as the center of a great legacy. She was often the source of ridicule by others because of her uniform and demeanor. Despite social marginalization, the elevator girl was significantly depicted in Japanese film, television and novels.

"Modern Girls on the Go" can be purchased at the UMSL Bookstore or at any major book retailer.

FILM FESTIVAL

'St. Louis Black Film Festival' showcased African-American films, filmmakers

SIMONNE KIMBLE
STAFF WRITER

For those interested in independent African-American film, the second annual St. Louis Black Film Festival offered a chance to sample the work of black filmmakers at Ronnie's 20 Cine from September 15 to September 18.

Over the years, many had discussed the possibility of hosting a black film festival in St. Louis but, due to lack of sponsorships and funding, it had failed to materialize. Furthermore, no one was willing to step in to host the event, until James Thomas, a well-known film critic known as "The Movie Man," came forward.

According to James Thomas, coordinator of the St. Louis Black Film Festival, a black film festival has not been held in St. Louis in twenty-three years. He was challenged to run the festival by Laura Resnick, the marketing manager of the Landmark Theaters in St. Louis, which includes the Tivoli and Plaza Frontenac.

The festival was created to show the work of African-American directors in St. Louis. Thomas' goal for the festival was to introduce people in the St. Louis area, and even in the state of Missouri, to the best videos and films created by African-Americans. During the three days of the festival, there were movies, music videos, short films, and short documentaries screening in Ronnie's 20 Cine Theater, which is located on South Lindbergh. The tickets, which could be purchased at the theater, were $10 each per night.

"The Black Film Festival is a great way to expose black cinema [to different people]," Thomas said.

In 2011, the first Black Film Festival was held at the Tivoli Theater, located in the Delmar Loop. No festival was held in 2012. For economic reasons, Thomas decided to change the location to Ronnie's 20 Cine this year.

The festival started off on Sunday with an opening reception at Legacy Books and Cafe, located at the Union in Delmar Plaza, held from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. Free hors d'oeuvres and wine were served.

On Monday, Jeff Keane, executive producer of "Welcome to Sweetie Pies," and producer/director Chris Benson gave a talk at the Legacy Books and Cafe at the Union, during which they discussed how to direct and product films. "Welcome to Sweetie Pies" focuses on a St. Louis restaurant and is shown on Oprah Winfrey's OWN network. The talk was held from noon to 3 p.m. and cost $10 per person to attend.

Each evening of the festival, a variety of films, documentaries, and music videos were rolling on the Ronnie's movie screens. The world premiere of "Suspect" starring the famous actor Mekhi Phifer, was the last film shown, airing at on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and closing the festival with a healthy dose suspense.

"I'm hoping we get close to 300 [people] each night," Thomas said. Thomas estimated that around 1,500 attended the festival in 2011.

After the festival is over, Thomas plans to begin working on next year's within two weeks. Since there were few special guests for this year's event, his goal is to have special appearances for next year.

For more information on the St. Louis Black Film Festival, visit www.facebook.com/st.louisblackfilmfestival.

CONCERT REVIEW

Switchfoot 'Fading West' tour debuts in STL

HUNG NGUYEN
MANAGING EDITOR

After eight albums and nearly 17 years as a band, Switchfoot broke new ground with their highly successful "Fading West" tour debut at Missouri Baptist University on September 20, 2013 in St. Louis, MO. The Fall 2013 "Fading West" tour will promote their upcoming film and album, both titled "Fading West," scheduled for release in January 2014.

The night began with the premiere of their film, also titled "Fading West," a warm and candid but light-hearted collection of memories from their 2012 world tour and surfing adventures. The five-member rock group comprised of Jon Foreman (lead vocals, guitar), Tim Foreman (bassist, vocals), Drew Shirley (lead guitar, vocals), Chad Butler (percussion), and Jerome "Romey" Fontamillas (percussion, vocals), set out to record new music while on their year-long world tour, incorporating the sounds and revelations inspired by the diverse faces and landscapes on the shores of Australia, South Africa, and more.

Facing new challenges as not just rockers but fathers and husbands, the film captured the struggles but also a new sense of purpose for the band. Leaving their families behind, each note they sang seemed to take on newer, more significant meanings. The film memorialized their great success but forced Switchfoot to re-examine their lives and careers.

The personality of the film, akin to the band's, remained buoyant with plenty of laughable moments. Switchfoot's first effort in filmmaking was remarkably successful, exuding a sincerity and candor that initially attracted fans to Switchfoot before the awards and major hits. Their music is one inspired by passion and optimism, not one engineered to be top radio singles, though they've had that honor many times. With a few snapshots of acoustic demos and live performances in the film, Switchfoot's no-frills approach to songwriting and performance is evidently an effective vehicle for their artistry, the world over.

After a 20-minute intermission, the band was welcomed on stage with screams and applause. Audience members tweeted questions about the film that were answered throughout the night. The film and Q&A made for a more intimate atmosphere than at a larger venue. Jon Foreman noted that it is a different "social dynamic" they were experiencing, but that both the audience and band were figuring it out together.

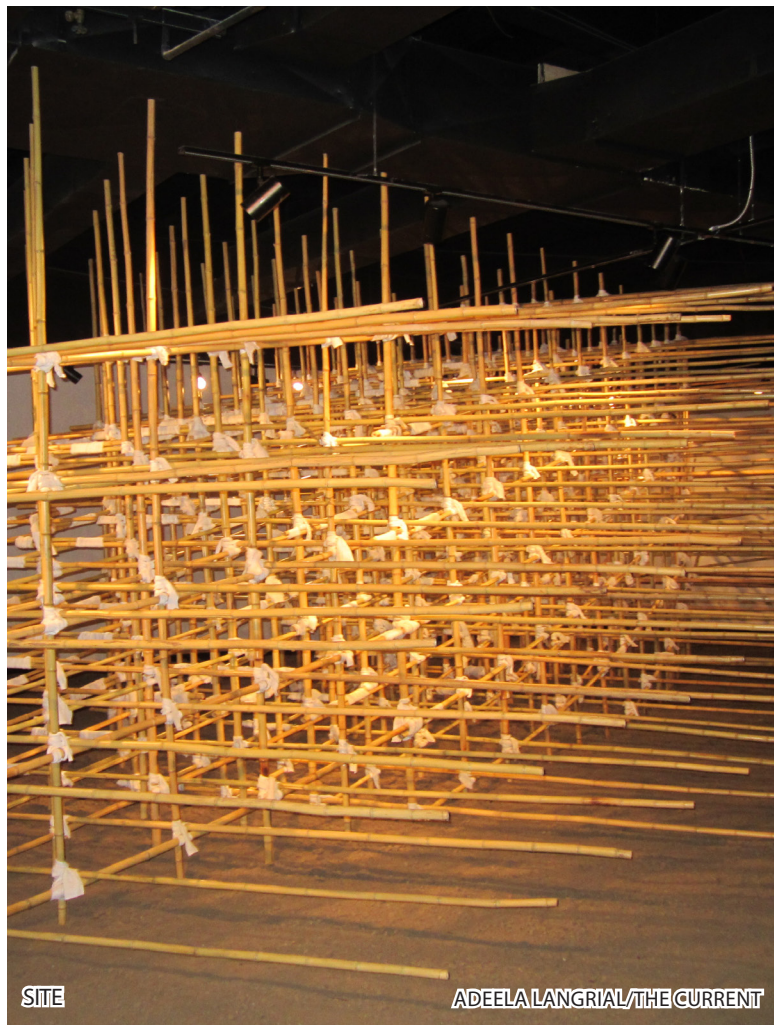
The band played a set list of old favorites like "Dark Horses" and "Dare You to Move." Untarnished by time, Jon Foreman's vocals have gained much more depth and texture as the years have gone by, with his signature breaks and vocal styling gaining a greater intensity, carrying a more gut-wrenching tension in his delivery than before. Their music maintains a signature luster and evocative essence, thankfully not dulled and silenced by years of repetition on the road.

Calling it a "high school song" as they played "Who We Are," a new track on identity, Jon Foreman described the song as taking him and Tim Foreman back to the beginnings when the brothers were touring the country in a minivan as youngsters who just wanted to make music. The audience embraced this song with great enthusiasm, accepting Jon's invitation to join in even without knowing the lyrics.

Switchfoot closed out the night with "Where I Belong" to deafening claps and screams. The one complaint that night was that the audience wanted to hear even more. One viewer asked if "Fading West" would be their last record. Jon Foreman responded with hopeful uncertainty. From the great success of Switchfoot's first night on their "Fading West" tour, let there be many more records in the years to come.

Read our Switchfoot interview at thecurrent-online.com

GALLERY 210


SITE ADEELA LANGRIAL/THE CURRENT

Sarah Frost's 'SITE' showcases prodigious bamboo structure

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

Once again, Gallery 210 has unveiled yet another masterpiece. Artist Sarah Frost opened the doors to her architectural piece called "SITE" on September 14, in Gallery 210's Gallery A.

The artwork, which fills nearly the entire gallery space, was created specifically for its location. The structure itself is built of hundreds of bamboo poles unified by white fabric. The fabric is tightly tied in each intersection of the bamboo poles to hold them together.

With the architectural structure running fifteen feet wide and forty feet high, it is designed to creatively evoke the image of a fortress. According to the artist's statement, the artwork was inspired by a trip to China that Frost took back in 2007.

Through scale manipulation, Frost uses small pieces, the bamboo, to convey a larger look. In order to get the bamboo to arc and move in the way that she saw fit, Frost also had to carefully bend and manipulate each piece in a grid-like form.

Frost does an excellent job of showing off the durability of the bamboo itself, even though it is held together only by the white fabric she uses.

Once one walks into the gallery, the first thing to notice is that the ground is covered in dirt. The dirt is deep and heavy in order for the bamboo poles to stand straight and sturdy.

Given how the structure stands, the poles evoke the feeling of being threatened. They stick out in a spear-like manner, creating a sense of intrusion into one's personal space as you circle the piece. Some may even describe the poles as being similar to fighting sticks or swords.

Visually, this piece is magnificent. Though it can appear to be standing straight, it also appears slightly slanted, like a fallen ladder. Looking at it, one may feel the urge to move the way it moves, to follow where it leads. Physically, it leans and stretches from side to side, from wall to wall It causes one to think of what they feel when looking upon it.

When one looks upon Frost's structure, there is one question that might come to mind: What is really going on in this piece? The answer is everything. Although the artist herself states that she was inspired by China and someone else may conclude that it represents her interest in creating an environment, one could lways argue that there is something more. It was meant to intrigue the viewer, to catch their eye the moment they step onto the dirt of the structural area. Frost should be applauded for her dedication and the obvious work that has been put into this piece.

Sarah Frost's "SITE" is on display until December 7, 2013. This is definitely one exhibit that you will not want to look away from.

UMSL Triton Men's Soccer Team huddle prior to match against St. Joseph's at Scott Gallagher Soccer Field

Tritons extend streak with multiple wins

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Women's golf placed third at the Screaming Eagle Invitational hosted on September 15 by Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana. The Tritons shot a combined score of 633 through two rounds and was helped by the strong play of Bailey Hopper, junior, business administration, who shot a combined 170.

Men's golf placed fourth at the Brickyard Invitational on September 16 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team compiled a score of 879 and was assisted by the excellent play of Colby Yates, sophomore, criminology, who placed second with a 213, earning all-tournament honors.

Women's volleyball defeated Maryville at home through a 25-11, 28-26, 25-12 victory on September 17, the first game in GLVC play. The Tritons were lifted by strong play from Lindsay Meyer, sophomore, business administration, with 30 assists and 12 digs and Chelsea Burkle, senior, nursing, with 12 kills and 10 digs.

Women's soccer defeated St. Joseph's 2-0 at Scott Gallagher Soccer Field on September 20 for their first GLVC win of the season. Jaylon Griffith, sophomore, business administration, and Jessica Mincher, sophomore, nursing, both contributed with goals.

Men's soccer defeated St. Joseph's 1-0, also on September 20, at Scott Gallagher Soccer Field. Nick Cherry, freshman, chemistry, attained a goal with a header 23 minutes into the game and this proved to be enough to win.

Women's volleyball defeated McKendree on September 21, with scores of 25-22, 21-25, 25-19, 25-23 through four sets. Haley Brightwell, senior, business administration, contributed to the victory with 13 digs.

Tritons, by the numbers

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

For those of you that are Triton fans, you may have a desire to look behind the sports teams that we have here at the University of Missouri–St. Louis and understand how they are composed and where the students come from. If that's the case, then look no further.

UMSL Triton Sports is composed of 166 total student athletes. Of the 166 athletes, 84 are women, and 82 are men. The 84 women are divided into 6 teams, while the 82 men are spread throughout 5. Triton women outnumber the men in both the number of teams that compete and the number of student athletes competing.

Within the 6 women's teams, soccer is the largest, with 21 students on the roster. Softball follows with 18, in front of volleyball and basketball, both with 15. Tennis has 9 students, while golf has six.

For the men, baseball has the largest number of student athletes with a whopping 27 on the roster. Soccer is second with 24. Basketball is next with 15, followed by golf and tennis both with 8.

When looking at the numbers, women are on top. Moving beyond gender, where do the students come from? Are there more students playing from Missouri than anywhere else?

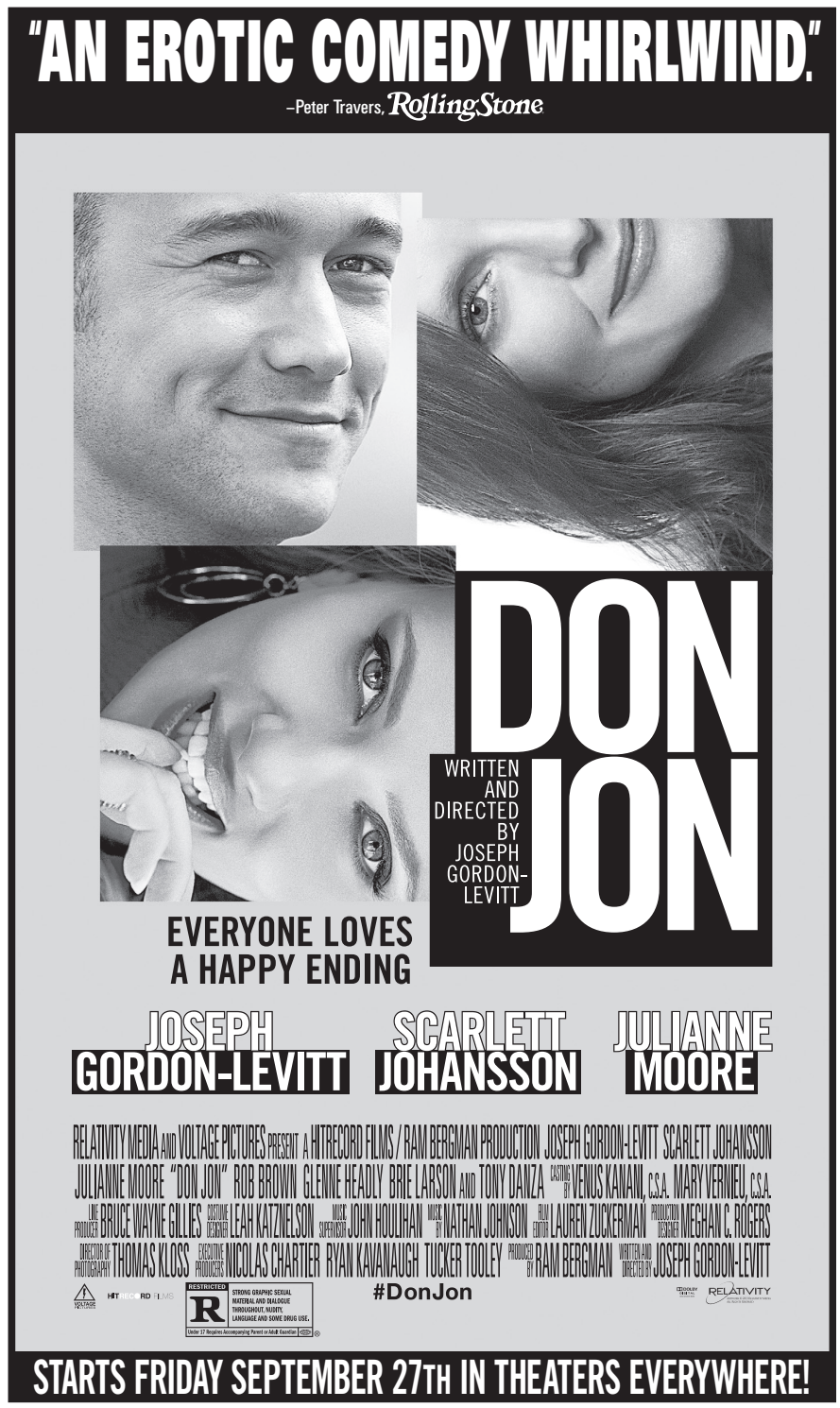
The short answer is yes. 60 of the student athletes are originally from Missouri, making up over a third of the athlete population. 43 are from Illinois, accounting for over a quarter. If we combine these numbers, we find that 62% of the Tritons originate from either Missouri or Illinois.

But let's move beyond our backyard. If we look at states other than Missouri or Illinois, we find 42 more students traveling away from their hometown to play at UMSL, from 17 different states. This demographic makes up 25% of the student body. So far we have accounted for 87%. What about the remaining 13%?

Student athletes from overseas are the final and smallest demographic, accounting for 21 of the 166 total athletes. Even though there are only 21 of them, they represent 16 different countries, from England to Saudi Arabia.

The findings outlined here indicate an interesting spread of demographics for the Tritons. Even though a majority of the student athletes are playing from our hometown, we have managed to find a way to incorporate diversity, a wide range of it, with 16 countries and 17 states other than Missouri and Illinois being represented.

It is my hope that this trend continues, and we can continue to build the sports program with the seeds of diversity that are evident today. The blueprints are set, and we have a healthy program that is on a good path for consistency and ripe for growth.



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POINT COUNTERPOINT

OPINIONS

SHOULD WE COLONIZE MARS?

POINT: Let's Move to Mars

Humans most certainly should colonize our red neighboring planet, Mars. The entire goal of a species is to survive and produce offspring. The truth is that humanity will not last forever on Earth. If we do not colonize other planets, then humans will eventually go extinct. It is quite important that the human civilization provide itself with more security as a species.

Imagine the diplomatic potential that colonizing another planet will have. With all nations working together toward a common goal, fewer differences and more commonalities will be shared. Rather than going toe-to-toe with other countries in bouts of rage and hysteria, all countries can unite in a joint goal, potentially thwarting human civilization into a virtually worldwide peacetime.

Martian-Human settlements would be highly beneficial in displaying our level of advancement as a species. Assuming that humans are the only advanced life form in the universe is an incredibly self-centered and ignorant statement. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics have evolved so rapidly, that future interactions with other intelligent species must be considered. There are various funded units already preparing should the incident occur. Having humans on multiple planets would show that we are advanced enough and capable of interplanetary travel. This would help preserve our species.

So, humans should most definitely colonize mars for the betterment of our species. The purpose of a species is to reproduce, thrive, and grow. Putting human settlements on the red planet and even one day committing to a terraforming project would ensure our survival in the event of an Earthly cataclysm.

COUNTER: Don't colonize Mars

Humans shouldn't even think about colonizing Mars. In the event that technology advances to the point where we can begin to settle on other planets, we, as a species, should first consider if that is a move we are ready to make.

Any non-nefarious reasons we could have for colonizing Mars would be sure to get lost in the actual pursuit of the red planet. It's not likely that any pure(ish) goals to expand human kind and explore the fianl frontier would survive the merciless greed of those with the money to fund such endeavors. Trust me - if you have the money to buy a planet, you're not going to let people live there for free (even if they were there first).

As a planet and as a species, we do not have the best history when it comes to colonization. One need only skim the pages of any history book to see that. Look at how we have treated other humans just because they were different from us or had something we wanted for ourselves. What if Mars is already home to intelligent life, or resources that we want or need? We all saw Avatar; that story doesn't end well. Can you imagine what fresh horrors we would inflict on a species when it would be so easy to defend it morally with a simple 'They're not even human'?

Humans have not even mastered how to treat each other humanely on our own planet, and we have had more than enough time to practice. How long would it be before our species fell victim to infighting, entire countries going to war on Martian soil in order to claim the most territory? Mars would become just another blood-soaked battlefield.

We should focus on cleaning up the mess in our own backyards (and front yards, and houses) before we talk about spreading it throughout the galaxy.

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