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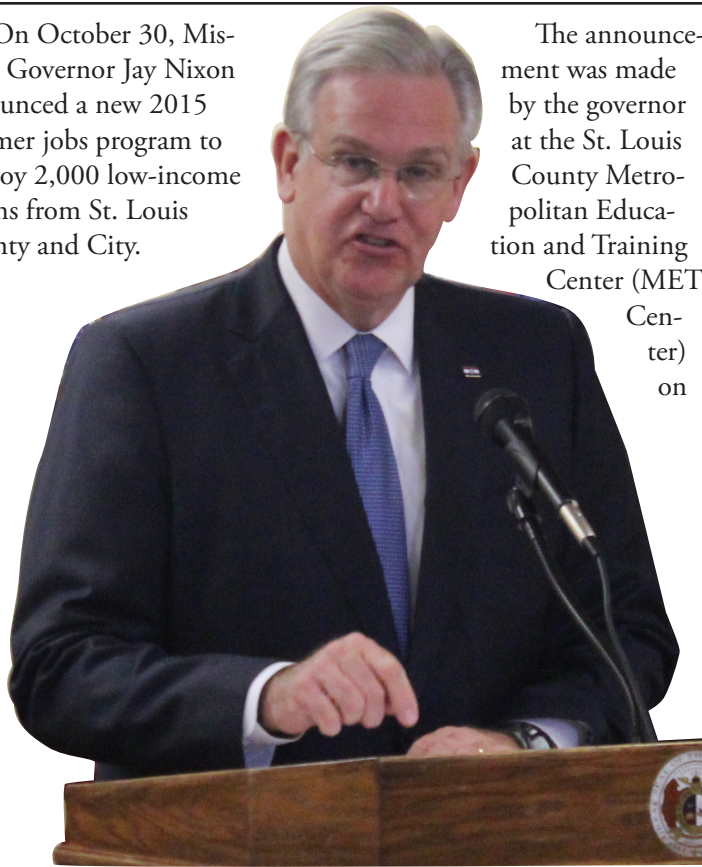
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Governor Nixon announces summer jobs program

DANIEL C. HODGES
STAFF WRITER

On October 30, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon announced a new 2015 summer jobs program to employ 2,000 low-income youths from St. Louis County and City.



Governor Jay Nixon ROB SIFFORD/THE CURRENT

The announcement was made by the governor at the St. Louis County Metropolitan Education and Training Center (MET Center) on

October 30. The MET Center is a job training facility that serves the St. Louis area. The governor spoke about how an individual's first job is important to learning basic skills that will last throughout their career. Nixon followed-up saying that, "for many young people, especially those in low-income communities, access to these kinds of meaningful job opportunities is limited." Providing these opportunities is the end-goal for this new summer jobs program. The program is open to young people between the ages of 16 and 21 years old, who live up to one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty level.

In St. Louis, the fed-

eral poverty level varies by the number of individuals in the household but runs from \$11,670 annually for a single person to \$40,090 annually for a household of eight. One hundred eighty-five percent of these levels is \$21,589.50 and \$74,166.50, respectively.

The program will principally be funded with federal capital through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The TANF program began in 1996 and provides funds for low-income families with dependent children. This availability of TANF money is the result of improved economic conditions. TANF resources are available for low-income families under 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Further funds will be available

through the federal Workforce Investment Act and Community Development Block Grant. The new summer jobs program will utilize \$5.9 million of federal funds to employ up to 2,000 youths in \$8 an hour, 30 hours a week jobs. The \$5.9 million sounds like a great deal of money but compared to the overall problem of youth unemployment, it is just a beginning. Assuming little-to-no overhead costs, \$5.9 million distributed in such a fashion will last 12.3 weeks with each participant earning \$240 per week before taxes.

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Dance Professor Kumanomido inspires many

JACQUELINE IRIGOYEN
STAFF WRITER



COURTESY OF MARIKO KUMANOMIDO

Faculty member Mariko Kumanomido

When lecturer and assistant dance professor Mariko Kumanomido is not at the University of Missouri—St. Louis teaching dance classes, she can be found teaching dance to children, dancing for different dance companies, or working at Tani Sushi Bistro.

Kumanomido started dancing when she was 8 and asked her mom for dance lessons. "I did not always want to be a dancer because I did not see it as a real job but I always loved dancing," said Kumanomido. As she grew older, she danced at The Studio St. Louis and then went to a more prestigious ballet school, the Alexandra School of Ballet, when she was thirteen.

She then left for college and realized what she was really passionate about. "I went to Washington State University for college and then realized that I wanted to do nothing but dance and so I went to University Missouri Kansas City because they had a very prestigious dance program and conservatory," said Kumanomido. Later on, Kumanomido received a scholarship to The Ailey School and moved to New York City.

Kumanomido started at UMSL in the fall of 2013. "I always wanted to teach because growing up I always admired my teachers," said Kumanomido. Teaching children is a lot different then her classes with

her college students but she enjoys it just as much. "Teaching kids is probably the most humbling part of my week," said Kumanomido, "it reminds me that dancing isn't always about perfection. It's about movement and expressing yourself and having fun."

Kumanomido can be considered an inspiration because of how she carries herself as a dancer, and how dancing has changed her outlook on life.

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THE CURRENT ONLINE

SGA meeting

WILLIAM PATTERSON
CRIME REPORTER

In the November 7 Student Government Association meeting, several events were discussed. One was the Campus Walk from last month. During the campus walk, students noticed many broken light fixtures around campus (parking lots, etc.) so they are proposing to have more checks on outside campus lighting. Another event addressed was the “It’s on Us Campaign”, to prevent and stop sexual violence. The campaign was endorsed by President Barack Obama. On November 12, there will be an “Ask a Senator” event in the Nosh at 12:30 p.m. Here, students will get to talk with Student Government Senators about issues they have on campus. On November 15, Associated Black Collegians will be having a skate night at the Coachlite Skate Center from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. There will also be a shuttle for people in need of a ride to the event. On November 17, University Singers and Vocal Point will be having a concert at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. On November 19, the University Percussion and Afro Cuban Ensemble will be having a concert at the Touhill. It is also at 7:30 p.m. and both concerts are free. November 19, there will be a Dodgeball Tournament at the Mark Twain Health & Fitness Center.

MSC evacuated

Campus Crime Report

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

WILLIAM PATTERSON
CRIME REPORTER

On November 5, at approximately 2 p.m., an alarm sounded in the Millennium Student Center building. The PA system announced an emergency and instructed occupants of the MSC to evacuate. As students waited outside for about 30 minutes, emergency medical service crews, along with the fire-department inspected the MSC. Building maintenance staff cleared the way for people to return to the MSC, and events at that time resumed as scheduled. According to Benard Diggs of the building maintenance department, someone was playing around and it triggered the alarm system.

This past week, there have been several thefts on the University Missouri—St. Louis campus. One theft was reported on November 2, at the new Recreation Center site. Two pumps were reported missing. On November 4, another theft occurred. This time a cell phone was reported stolen at the Millennium Student Center. On November 5, an UMSL staff member recovered their stolen wallet with \$50 missing from it. On November 6, another cell phone theft was reported in Oak Residential Hall. In addition to thefts, a dispute between students was reported on November 3.

UMSL student attacked at protest

KAT RIDDLER
NEWS EDITOR

The clergy of the Greater St. Mark Family Church organized a meeting the night of November 6, for the Ferguson protests at the church. A University of Missouri—St. Louis student was attacked after attending this meeting. According to KSDK, about 40 minutes into the meeting, someone pointed out that a young man, who has been live streaming from the protests, had his cell phone and camera out. Several people reportedly attacked him.

Chris Schaefer, senior, business administration, says he was punched in the head, and kicked in the ribs and stomach. He suffered scrapes and bruises, and says he knows those injuries could have been much worse in his interview with KSDK.

He was reportedly pushed out of the meeting and pushed to the ground before another group from the meeting protected him, allowing Schaefer to flee to a Walgreens down the street. Someone called 911 and he was taken to the hospital where he posted a video online giving an update on his condition and the situation. Schaefer told KSDK that he never recorded the meeting or posted the meeting online. The leaders who helped organize the meeting publically apologized.

St. Louis County Police are investigating the incident and are searching for five to six suspects.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GET INVOLVED

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent, or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

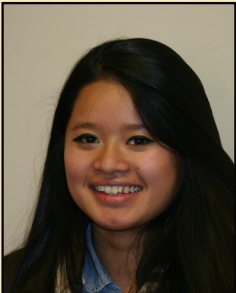
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The Current values feedback from the campus community. What do you think of our campus coverage? Let us know your thoughts at thecurrent@umsl.edu.

THE UNDERCURRENT

By Rob Sifford


WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE CLASS THIS SEMESTER?



MARIA NGUYEN,

Junior, Biology


“Genetics lecture because Dr. Spingola is very intelligent and makes the class very interesting. This class has changed my study habits and how I am as an overall student for the better.”



STEPHEN DAY,

Freshman, Business Administration

“Chorus because I love to sing and this class is helping me to better my singing.”



JUDITH FLOWERS,

Senior, Criminology and Criminal Justice

“As a senior at UMSL, I feel very proud attending all the CCJ classes that have been offered. They are interesting. The History of Crime in Criminal Justice.”

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WCW explores lack of women in STEM fields

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Public opinion, along with the explanation for the shortages of women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, was the topic of discussion given by Professor Bettina J. Casad, assistant professor in the department of psychological sciences. The lecture by Professor Casad took place in the Student Government Association Chambers in the Millennium Student Center building on November 5 from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Pizza and beverages were served. A printout of a newspaper article by Natalie Angier published on September 2, 2013, was distributed at the event. The dialog was part of the monthly “What’s Current Wednesdays” discussion series that is co-sponsored by “The Current” and “The New York Times.” Editor-in-Chief Anna Glushko, junior, psychology, represented “The Current” and moderated the event. Professor Casad was introduced by Lynn Staley, associate

teaching professor of English, who is a member of the organizing committee with Student Life and Community Outreach & Engagement at UMSL. According to Casad, there is a lot of progress for women in disciplines such as biology and other subfields represented in STEM. However, Casad noted that there are different and lower levels of representation for women in fields such as computer science, physics, and engineering. Casad addressed what she felt was the misconception by industry professionals that “women are choosing not to go into the STEM fields” by pointing out the scarcity of American engineers compared to other countries. “My argument is this: the sciences and engineering is critical for economic, foundational and competitive success in a global economy. If there are not enough engineers in the United States, we will be at a disadvantage,” Casad said. Accord-

ing to Casad, there is research that sends a message regarding diversity in the STEM fields. “A diverse scientific workforce is more effective when it comes to such factors as race, gender and life experience. There is more creativity among a diverse workforce than more homogenous teams, and this is good for scientific innovation and the bottom line,” Casad said. The downside of STEM that was discussed by Professor Casad at the lecture is the cultural socialization, especially among ethnic minorities, that may discourage women from entering into technology. “Among the factors that result in women not entering in the STEM field, or changing their major, include encountering people in college who do not look like them. Also, women are often attracted to fields where they can help others, which is often cited as a greater value than entering into the sciences,” Casad said.

Jaleah Williams, graduate, higher education, changed her major from a STEM field. In college, Williams’ intention was to follow a pre-medical track. “Thinking back, I was very smart in high school, and all of my math teachers were male and they really knew their stuff. However, I transferred from a predominately African American college to a predominately white institution. This was a culture shock for me. While I did well in my classes, I changed to an education major from a STEM field because I wanted to do work to help society,” Williams said. Another issue that Casad addressed was biases that discourage women from entering into the sciences. According to Casad, there were experiments done where female applicants for jobs changed to masculine names on their resumes. “The outcome of the experiment determined that males were not only are more likely to be hired

than the women, but the men were offered higher salaries as well,” Casad said. Sandra J. Langeslag, assistant professor of psychology, addressed what she felt was the denial on the part of college academic departments to acknowledge biases in the hiring of women in science departments. “Being aware of the bias is an important step in overcoming them. In the first college that I taught at, there were five chairpersons discussing careers in the sciences. I asked them, do you have a bias when judging resumes for the department. The chairs all said, ‘of course not,’” Langeslag said. The purpose of “What’s Current Wednesdays” is to encourage campus community engagement on topics in the news. For more information on future topics at the lectures, visit The Current website at www.thecurrent-online.com.

First Women’s Hackathon takes place in ESH

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

The first Women’s Hackathon at the University of Missouri—St. Louis took place on November 8, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in room 103 of Express Scripts Hall with approximately 100 people in attendance. The event was sponsored by MasterCard and the St. Louis Women Executives in IT. According to Bettina J. Casad, assistant professor in the department of psychological sciences, the objective of the hackathon was for female students to work with mentors representing a number of local IT organizations in building a functional prototype application that will play a role in dealing with natural disasters. “The hackathon is a fun event with a purpose of getting more women

interested in careers in the computer sciences,” Casad said. There was a networking session along with a continental breakfast between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. At 9 a.m. Brian Lawton, senior lecturer in management-information systems, and Charles Hoffman, dean of the school of business administration, opened up the event. Vicki Sauter, professor of management and information science, addressed the participants upon being introduced by Lawton. Sauter noted that while the UMSL Women’s Hackathon was not as big as others across the United States, this will be the first of many events like this and is a celebration of women in computing. “If you don’t have any technical skills, don’t

worry, you will pick up more of a perspective on technology, and you will become better at what you are doing,” Sauter said. Sauter then quoted Albert Einstein; “I have no special talents, I am just curious.” “So I challenge you to be passionately curious to find out about what is going on around you, and you are going to learn because you are doing it,” Sauter said. After Sauter spoke, Lawton then began the team formation process by calling up the chosen mentors one by one. The mentors introduced themselves, and then picked out of a hat the women who would become members of their team. The mentors representing MasterCard included Tammy Hawkins, graduate, information sys-

tems, along with Laura Helton, a Unix Software Administrator. “I am passionate about breaking software and then fixing it again. A career in IT is not only about new product development. There is a different career in fixing what other people broke,” Helton said. Andrew Benz, a Senior Developer from ShipWorks was another team mentor. “You don’t have to work at a software company to have a career in IT. I worked at the St. Louis Art Museum in the mummy room. Things got a little scary when it got dark,” Benz said. After the teams brainstormed, along with a lunch and networking, the teams spent the afternoon building the prototype. The teams then made their

presentations of the finished works. Afterwards, there was an awards ceremony and the event culminated with dinner and networking. What many took away from the first UMSL Hackathon is the interest that all in the science community have in the development of women in the technological field. “I would like to thank you on behalf of my daughter,” Lawton said as his infant daughter appeared on the PowerPoint screen. “I hope this event paves the way for future generations of women in IT and I hope that my daughter will go into the field because of you,” Lawton said.

Governor Nixon announces summer jobs program

DANIEL C. HODGES
STAFF WRITER

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The new jobs program will be run by St. Louisian and former state senator, Democrat Maida Coleman. She is the head of the state government’s new Office of Community Engagement (OCE), whose

purpose is, according to the Columbia Missourian, “to better connect [the] state government with low-income and minority Missouri residents.” The OCE will partner up with the Division of Workforce Development, local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB), com-

munity organizations, school districts, and varying local employers to offer 2,000 jobs that will “run the gamut”, according to Press Secretary for Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, Scott Holste. This wide range of jobs will offer youths the opportunity to acquire a variety of job

skills. Scott Holste said, “One important thing to bear in mind is that this [program] will help these young people in taking on the responsibility of having a job and the pride that comes with that – especially when the unemployment rate among that age group in St. Louis is consid-

erably higher than with other age groups.” At this time, the program is still under development for the next several months. Local WIBs and school districts will be the online points of contact for youths when the time comes to apply.

Center for International Studies hosts screening of Natsanat

CULLEN WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

The Center for International Studies at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, along with the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professorship in African/African-American Studies, co-sponsored a screening and discussion of the award winning short documentary ‘Natsanat’ with Cheryl Halpern, the film’s director and producer. The event was held November 5, on the third floor on the Social Sciences and Business Building (SSB) at UMSL.

A small group of students and visitors gathered in SSB 331 to personally hear from Halpern and to ask her questions regarding her work during the film, as well as her current work in filmmaking. Halpern stated that her involvement in political and social justice lead her to be an advocate for gender equality, which inspired her to document the women of Ethiopia during the reign of the Derg.

Halpern also shared with those in attendance the personal family loss by the Nazi Regime

during the Second World War, which encouraged her to bring the story of these woman to the attention of the public. She knew that she could not keep quiet when shown the cruelty these women endured.

The film, although only 25 minutes in length, documents the struggle and triumph that the female Ethiopian freedom fighters endured under the Derg Regime. The Derg came into power after overthrowing Haile Selassie in the mid 70’s, leading to a civil war which claimed the lives of over a million Ethiopians.

The film shows the cruel and inhumane treatment women and children underwent during this time period. Villages throughout the country were pillaged and thousands of women and children were murdered and raped because of their gender. It was these actions that caused the women of Ethiopia to stand up and fight for freedom, democracy and equality.

The women documented



Cheryl Halpern receiving an award from the Center for International Studies after the film screening

in the film have since gone on to inspire change throughout Ethiopia – serving in the Ethiopian Parliament and doing other political and social work to continue to bring change to the country.

After the viewing, Halpern stated that many of the countries where genocide has been prevalent have since become

countries that have embraced and championed women in major political roles. In fact, Rwanda and Ethiopia are both countries that have more women in roles of political power than the United States.

The film has gone on to win awards at the Canada International Film Festival, Moondance International Film Festival,

International Black Film Festival in Nashville, and the E. Desmond Lee Africa World Documentary Film Festival, as well as being nominated for the Audience Award at the San Francisco Docfest.

The film can be viewed for free at <http://hq-creative.net/port/natsanat/>

Take a look back at St. Louis’ golden age

MARY CHICKOS
STAFF WRITER

A Speaker Series in honor of the founders of the Mercantile Library and the 250 Anniversary of the founding of St. Louis had a presentation November 2 at 2 p.m. in the Instruction Room of the Mercantile Library featuring a lecture by Dr. James Ott. A small group gathered for the presentation, which discussed the Art Worlds of the Gilded Age. Dr. Ott, a native St. Louisan, is a professor of art history at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

He discussed the material from his book “Manufacturing

the Modern Patron in Victorian California: Cultural Philanthropy, Industrial Capital, and Social Authority” and his slide show detailed the histories of material culture and art collecting from 1700 to 1950.

He passed around this book to the group, which is one of the most important books on Gilded Age art patronage written in many years. It gives a much needed perspective on American art and patronage of the late 1800s. On the west coast this was reflected in California’s rich cosmopolitan heritage in the age of gold mining.

Cultural philanthropy included San Francisco’s Mercantile library of 1856 which had a collection of rare books, periodicals, museum artifacts and picture galleries.

Dr. Ott also showed slides of Woodward’s Garden (1869), which had a zoo, aquarium, plant conservatory and art museum similar to Forest Park. He also showed pictures of the 14th Industrial Exhibition, Mechanics Institute Fair Pavilion and exhibition of paintings at the San Francisco Art Association on Pine St. (1891). In addition, he showed slides of plaster casts

from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts of the 1800s. These galleries provided aesthetic entertainment to their patrons and some of these galleries were restricted, private collections, mostly on the east and west coasts.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art in Central Park in New York City was shown as a new building near 82nd St. in the New York Post February 14, 1879. The Metropolitan Museum of Art became a cultural education center with trustees that was closed on Sunday for religious purposes as well as

for limited budget and tight security. The permanent collection was on the second floor of the museum. Eventually New York became an art market with an overview of artists and works that were there at the time.

The Mercantile galleries were some of the first art galleries in the country. “Museums were tomb-like spaces back in the day.” Trustees were interested in having the public support the arts and so shopping and art viewing were put together in commercial spaces much like we see today at modern art fairs.

Dance Professor Kumanomido inspires many

JACQUELINE IRIGOYEN
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1

“Dance has taught me to always find my center and to stay true to myself,” said Kumanomido. “Growing up as a dancer, I was criticized a lot by teachers and other people but my love

and passion for this art always brought me back and got me to where I am today,” she further explained.

There are so many people who work jobs they hate just to get the paycheck that they want or because what they want to do

is not realistic as far as the real world goes. For Kumanomido, between all her teaching, and working at Tani Sushi Bistro, she is always on the go. While it may seem exhausting, when you have passion for and are dedicated to something like

she does, it never really seems like just a job or just another day at the office. “There is a quote that I love that my friend Jen Medina told me once and it goes, ‘when you dance from your heart, you cannot fail’,” Kumanomido said.

Kumanomido worked hard to be where she is today and did not let the money aspect stop her from doing what she wanted she has proven how far passion and dedication can take you.

Arianna String Quartet performs with Alex Klein

CHRISTIAN L. DEVERGER
STAFF WRITER

The Arianna String Quartet performed four works from various classical composers in front of a packed house on November 7, at 8 p.m. in Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater. The concert, titled "Beethoven and Klein," included a performance by oboe master Alex Klein. Each of the pieces showcased a distinct element of the quartet and oboe.

The Arianna String Quartet consists of four members: John McGrosso on lead violin, Julia Sakharova on second violin, Joanna Mendoza on viola, and Kurt Baldwin on cello. The quartet formed in 1992 and has been critically acclaimed as one of the best chamber ensembles in America.

Guest artist, Alex Klein, is considered one of the most talented oboe players in the world and has taught at Northwestern University and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

The first song performed was Mozart's "Oboe Quartet in F Major K. 370." Mozart wrote the piece when he was 24 years old and working with oboe prodigy Fredrich Ramm. The piece itself was written for a quartet, which meant that the second violin sat out for the particular song. Mozart's writing created a masterpiece quartet to showcase the talents of Ramm. He succeeded, showing off the amazing skill of the young oboe player and creating a lasting masterpiece for the instrument.

Following the Mozart piece, the quartet performed Antal Dorati's "Notturmo and



Arianna String Quartet performed with oboe master Alex Klein at the Touhill on November 7

Capriccio for Oboe and String Quartet." Dorati's piece echoed a darker and more haunting theme that captured the intensity in the string section, while the oboe melodically moved in and out of the piece. The Capriccio then created an amazing sound of layered weaving, in which each of the instruments moved in and out of the spotlight, creating a beautiful melodic section, which faded into conclusion.

After the intermission, the group opened with Benjamin Britten's piece titled "Phantasy." The piece was written for violin, viola, cello, and oboe and, in this instance, the lead violin sat out. Perhaps the most eccentric piece performed through the

night, Britten opened "Phantasy" with a march sound and dove into an intense, military sound that made use of plucking and sharp, decisive notes. The cello opened the piece alone, creating an amazing sense of tension, which continued through the entire piece.

Beethoven's "Quartet in F Major OP.135," his last full piece written before his death, concluded the show. Rather than following Beethoven's regular form of grandiose musical landscape, OP.135 is a more minimalistic piece. The second and final movements of the piece especially stand out as being quite unique and engaging. The second creates an element of extreme intensity in which

three of the string instruments drum out a blitz of notes while the lead violin dances over the top, creating a unique contrast that was quite memorable. In the final movement, Beethoven drew his inspiration from the phrase "Must it be?" and listeners can clearly hear the instruments asking this question throughout the movement. As a whole, the piece worked as an amazing final act from the master composer.

One of the more notable features of the evening was the pre-concert segment. Before the show, the performers all took the stage to discuss each of the various pieces they were planning to play throughout the evening. For viewers who

were not familiar with classical performance, it was a refreshing experience, which allowed each composition to be outlined and explained. It was plain to see that each of the performers had a passion for their work and for teaching others about what they do.

The Arianna String Quartet provided an enjoyable evening of music, which became more than just a concert performance but a kind of learning experience, allowing an accessible entrance point for viewers to delve into chamber music. The excellent musical performance made for an unforgettable concert experience.

UMSL teams with SLIFF for program on woman film pioneer

CATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

Two University of Missouri—St. Louis professors, one in music and one in film, have teamed up for a special screening event at the 2014 St. Louis International Film Festival, which takes place from November 13 to 23.

The free special event at SLIFF, "A Tribute to Alice Guy-Blache," is co-sponsored by UMSL and was organized by Dr. Rita Csapo-Sweet, associate professor of media studies. Alice Guy-Blache, the first woman director and possibly the first to direct a narrative film, had an enormous influence on early cinema yet was forgotten for years.

The highlight of the event is a screening of Alice Guy-Blache's 1906 silent film epic "The Birth, Life and Death

of Christ" with live musical accompaniment. Composer Barbara Harbach, curators' professor of music and director of Women in the Arts at UMSL, wrote an original score for the silent classic, which will be performed as live musical accompaniment by members of the St. Louis Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Dr. James E. Richards, professor of music and associate dean of Fine Arts and Communication at UMSL.

The free screening takes place at the St. Louis Art Museum on November 16 at 2:30 p.m. The program also includes a new multimedia piece on Guy-Blache's life and career, created by Csapo-Sweet and video artist Zlatko Cosic, an introduction of the film by Csapo-Sweet and post-film discussion.

Screenings of silent films with live musical accompaniment has become a standard in many film festivals and films series, including SLIFF, with musicians relishing the chance to compose and perform the soundtrack for classic films. The live music adds a dimension to the screenings that increases audience enjoyment and understanding of silent films.

UMSL has had an ongoing connection with SLIFF for many years and Csapo-Sweet has often been a part of that. Last year, UMSL served as one of the festival's venues, hosting events for a sidebar focused on films and filmmakers from the former Yugoslavia.

Dance St. Louis, which makes the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on the

UMSL campus their performance home, is co-sponsoring a sidebar at SLIFF called "Dance on Film." The program features seven free screenings, including "Tribute to the Nicholas Brothers" on November 22 at 6 p.m. at Webster University's Moore Auditorium, Tap or Die, about African-American choreographer Derrick Grant's efforts to revive the classic American dance style known as tap, on November 22 at 8:30 p.m. at Webster University and a documentary on ballet legend Rudolph Nureyev, "La Passion Noreev," on November 18 at 8:30 p.m. at Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

This year, the festival has a special focus on African Americans, in light of the events in Ferguson, with a sidebar called

"Race in America: The Black Experience." Highlights include the special "The Digital Diaspora Roadshow," in which community members share family photos and discuss them on November 23 at 3 p.m. at the Nine Network, next to UMSL in Grand Center. The documentary "Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People" will be shown November 22 at 7 p.m. at Washington University in St. Louis.

A full listing of films, special events (many free) and ticket prices at SLIFF this year is available at their website, www.cinemastlouis.org.

Sports march on into late fall season

ERIC HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR



Sophomore Jory Siebenmorgen leaps to score

There was plenty of action on the Triton athletic scene this past week. In Indianapolis, Felix Kusnierz, freshman, engineering, brought home the first two individual titles of the season in the 200 yard butterfly and the 500 yard freestyle. Kusnierz also finished second in the 200 yard freestyle. The Tritons had 3 second place finishers, with Matt Borges, freshman, business administration, Anson Tam, freshman, biochemistry, and the relay team of Fernando Robledo, freshman, engineering, Felix Kusnierz, Anson Tam, and Mladen Senicar, freshman, biology. On November 15, both the

men's and women's swim teams head off to Liberty, Missouri to take on William Jewell University.

Women's Volleyball finished out their regular season on the road. On November 5, the Tritons went across the river to take on McKendree University, where UMSL took a tough loss of 3-2. Jory Siebenmorgen, sophomore, studio art, scored a stunning 21 kills for the Tritons, followed by Haley Brightwell, senior, business administration, and Carly Ochs, junior, accounting, with 10 kills each.

The Tritons were able to bounce back on November 7

when UMSL Volleyball traveled to Quincy University and posted a 3-1 win over the Hawks. Gina Pezze, freshman, nursing, stepped up, scoring 14 kills for the Tritons, followed by Siebenmorgen with 12. Emily Bragaw, senior, elementary education, and Lindsay Meyer, junior, economics, tallied 23 digs apiece.

To close out the regular season on November 8, the Tritons endured one more loss at the hands of Truman State University with a final score of 3-1. In this game, Hannah Miller, junior, graphic design, brought in 12 kills for UMSL, followed by Lexi Rogers, sophomore,

communications, who scored 10. Later this week, Volleyball heads off to the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament from November 13 to 15.

UMSL Men's basketball had an early season exhibition game versus the University of Missouri on November 8 in Columbia, Missouri. The Tritons came out strong after the first half with an 11 point lead over Mizzou of 25-11. The Tigers were able to make a comeback and win with a final score of 77-54. Kevin Swanson, junior, fine arts, led the Tritons with 15 points followed by Tre Ogles, junior, liberal studies, with 13. The Tri-

tons start off their regular season next Saturday against Grand Valley State in Quincy, Illinois as part of the Great Lakes Valley Conference/Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Challenge.

Triton Women's Basketball opens their season up on November 14 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, in the Puerto Rico Classic. Next week, they will host the UMSL Classic on November 21 and 22 in the Mark Twain Athletic and Fitness Center. Teams in the tournament this year include Maryville University, Minnesota State, and Lincoln University.

FROM THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF LOVE & BASKETBALL

beyond the lights

Gugu Mbatha-Raw
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‘Contrast’ is a mix of pluses and minuses

TIFFANEE ARTHUR
STAFF WRITER

The electronic game “Contrast” is an artistic design puzzle game made by independent developer studio Compulsion Games. In “Contrast,” the player must solve puzzles that require movement between a 3D physical world and a 2D shadow world. The player can also manipulate objects in the 3D plane and take them to the 2D plane. This helps reach certain objects and new areas. There are things to collect which are simply called “Collectables,” which gives you more of an insight on the characters that are introduced. “Contrast” is available for Xbox 360, Xbox One, PS3, PS4, and Windows.

The game is set in a strange 1920s noir setting, where people are represented by “shadows.” The main characters Dawn and Didi are the only characters that are not shadows. The player controls Dawn and her imaginary friend Didi, a little girl with a curious mind who is determined to help her family out in any way she can. Together they set off in helping Didi’s

family with some very unfortunate situations.

The game-play mechanics utilize both 2D animation (like the old school Super Mario Bros.) and 3D perspective. This makes for some interesting puzzle designs. The ability to shift to the wall and use the shadows of the surrounding area to navigate from place to place is very unique and creative. The player must be able to take advantage of the shadows and use them.

The character designs are also very creative. Dawn looks like a circus acrobat and fits very well with the world she is placed in. Didi has an almost circus look as well. The town looks as if it is based on 1920s Los Angeles, yet when wandering around, there are pieces of floating landscape in the distance and an unexplained misty void. It is as if the districts are floating in mid-air. Overall, the town is lifeless, which is fine due to the mysterious nature of the game.

The camera view in this game can get clunky. It usually happens when it switches

between 2D and 3D. There are times when the player can get stuck due to the camera’s inability to locate the players at all times. This can lead to all sorts of frustrating situations where it is impossible to complete a puzzle and the player has to reload and start over again.

There are also parts where the game can glitch out and render the player powerless. Some players would have to restart their systems because the game refused to reload a save.

The game sound is lackluster. There is no music that plays in the background and when there is music, it is not very memorable. This may be because it might distract the players from the overall atmosphere of the game, but having music in situations’ ambience could be beneficial.

Overall the game is interesting and different. Some of the puzzles are very unique and take advantage of the main elements of the game’s ability to switch back and forth from 2D to 3D. Players can tell that the develop-



‘Contrast’ video game’s box cover art

ers took time and used a lot of creative thought when it comes to the puzzles. The story is also a plus. The player will be interested to know how and why Didi’s family is the way they are and how she ultimately solves their

issues. However, with many glitches and a disjointed camera, it fails to give a perfect experience to the player.

GRADE
C+



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