

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS SINCE 1966

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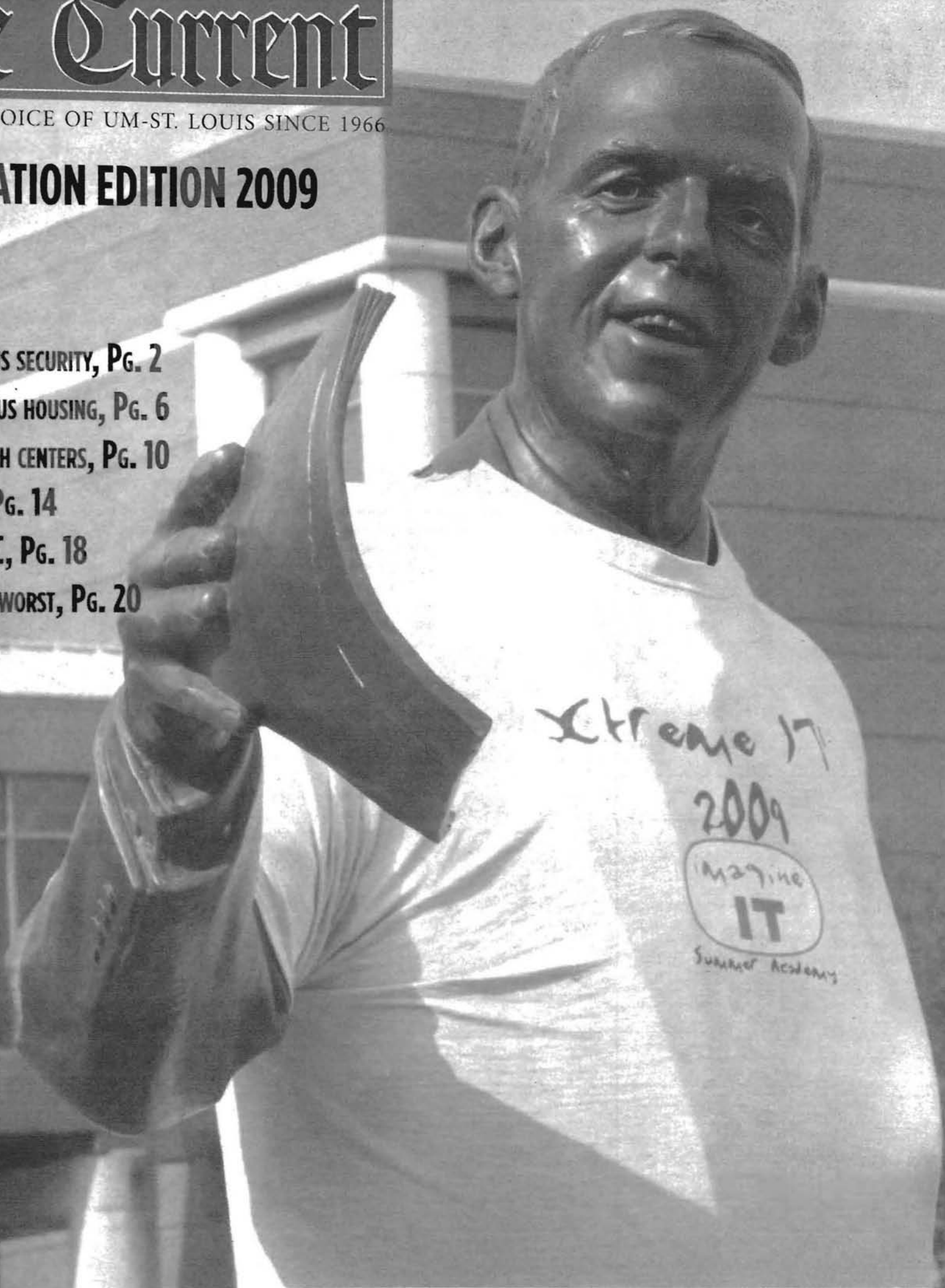
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The Current

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UMSL's adjacent areas a safety concern

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

Lieutenant John Schupp of the UM-St. Louis Police Department explained that 90% of the crimes that occur on campus are from someone outside the UM-St. Louis community. Schupp also said the majority of the crimes committed are "property crimes" which occur when students and faculty leave their personal things unattended. The Police Department is constantly urging the campus community to always have control over their personal belongings.

"We made an arrest recently within the last month and the subject that we arrested said that he picked

[UM-St. Louis] as his place of opportunity because the opportunity was so great," Schupp said. "He said it's 'easy to steal at UMSL.'"

Aside from keeping a close watch on personal property, the UM-St. Louis Police Department urges students, faculty and staff to travel in groups at night and to stay in well lit areas. Schupp explained that any time a student is in an area that is "diminished in lighting at all, [he or she] can become a target."

Stephan Tiratsuyan, senior, finance, says that he feels pretty safe on campus.

"I think generally [the police department] is pretty good. Mainly because I work on campus and they do a

pretty good job whenever you call them up with a question [or problem]," Tiratsuyan said. "They come right away and help you."

Tiratsuyan also mentioned that it seems to be pretty common at UM-St. Louis for people to have their belongings stolen (Tiratsuyan himself had his phone stolen) and that perhaps the Police Department could look into doing something about that.

James Levine, senior, marketing, mentioned that while the campus is generally safe, the areas around the campus make him uncomfortable. Levine said that there have been different "occurrences" in the areas around campus.

"We saw a kid get shot in broad daylight, on a Sun-

day, two blocks down from school," Levine said. "Last summer, they found a dead body in the trunk of a car at QuikTrip down the street. Just those occurrences make me feel unsafe on Natural Bridge."

The police officers for the University of Missouri-St. Louis, like those at all of the universities in the UM-System, are certified through a "police officer standard in training." Schupp explained that the Police Department at UM-St. Louis was the first in Missouri to be accredited through the Virginia-based Commission on Accreditation Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

See SAFETY, page 26

Benton-Stadler starved of funding again

► JASON BECKRING
Staff Writer

Benton-Stadler Hall will continue to sit in limbo as funding for its improvements has been frozen by the state. The University of Missouri-St. Louis has spent a decade petitioning the state to allocate additional capital to aid in the efforts of restoration of Benton-Stadler Hall, the ailing home of the sciences.

The UM System states that: "The Science Complex at the UM-St. Louis consists of five buildings: Benton Hall, Stadler Hall, the Research Building, Anheuser-Busch Ecology and Conservation Complex (Greenhouse), and the Center for Nanoscience (CNS) Building. The total area of the five buildings is 354,750 square feet. Previous studies of existing conditions in Benton Hall, Stadler Hall and

the Research Building have recommended substantial renovation and upgrades to laboratories and public areas, as well as provision for laboratory space expansion."

Benton Hall suffers from both electrical and plumbing problems. The building's contemporary competitiveness has steadily declined throughout the years and is in need of a complete overhaul through the creation of a total science complex. Chemistry and Bio-chemistry Department Chair Dr. Chris Spilling explains: "Benton Hall is in a general state of disrepair. We need new teaching labs with functional infrastructure."

The proposed cost of the endeavor is projected at \$28 million. The request of the university was noticed in June 2007 when Missouri Governor Matt Blunt elected that Senate Bill 389 would



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

The original Benton-Stadler remains. After much talk of renovations, the science building is still unchanged.

provide a \$350 million dollar bandage to be placed upon the wounds of not only UM-St. Louis' Benton-Stadler Halls, but also upon the hurt of thirty other campuses across the state.

The money would be transferred from The Missouri Higher Education Loan

Authority (MOHELA) to the proposed ventures.

Phase 1 of the proposed renovations were set to commence earlier this year and ending early 2011. Phases II and III were scheduled for a 2014 ceremony of closure.

See FUNDING, page 26

New GI Bill Means Opportunity to UM-St. Louis' Veterans

▶ **MARK WEBBER**
Staff Writer

On the first of this month, a historic event took place when the new GI Bill, entitled the Post 9/11 GI Bill, was placed into effect. Veterans across the nation will receive full undergraduate tuition reimbursement for their service following the September 11, 2001 tragedy. In a ceremony celebrating the implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, President Obama said, "I am honored to renew our commitment to ensure the men and women that wear the uniform of the United States of America get the opportunities they earn."

During his speech, the president explained why the improvement to the Mont-

gomery GI Bill was necessary. "The contributions that our service men and women can make do not end with when they take off that uniform." He added: "We owe a debt to all who serve and when we pay that debt to all those service members among us then we are investing in our future... Now with this policy, we are letting those who have borne the heaviest burden lead us into the 21st century."

This GI Bill provides the most comprehensive education coverage since President Franklin Roosevelt signed the original GI Bill following WWII. It offers veterans with opportunities while transitioning from the military lifestyle. Because of confusion

and complications regarding the new GI Bill, the government has created a website called www.NewGIBill.org to help answer questions.

According to the website, under the conditions of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, veterans must have served at least 90 days of active duty service post 9/11 or have served 30 days and been discharged for a service related injury or illness. Tuition assistance can be used at both public and private universities, but is capped at the cost of tuition at public state universities. Also included is a monthly living stipend and up to \$1,000 for books.

Read more online at
www.thecurrentonline.com

What's SGA up to this fall?

▶ **JESSICA KEIL**
Editor-in-Chief

All summer, the Student Government Association executives have planned for the fall semester. Their plans extend to homecoming, SGA agendas, environmentalism and beyond. They even have a new logo.

"I think the biggest thing for us this [school] year is giving the students a voice back," GraceMarie Ritter, senior, liberal studies and president of SGA said.

"We want to be accessible and receptive to what the students want. Our focus shouldn't be mainly on the administration, it should be on what the students want and then we go to the administration."

One way that Ritter, along with Greg Meyer (Vice President of SGA) and Dann Rosner (Comptroller) plans on being more accessible is by producing a newsletter. The trio will also update a bulletin

board on the second floor of the MSC and utilize dry-erase boards on their office doors.

"If we are out of the office we are going to have a dry-erase board out where you can leave your contact information or we can tell you where we are," Ritter said. "We also want to do a weekly update to the whole assembly about what we have been working on."

At SGA meetings this year, Ritter, Meyer, and Rosner plan to continue with a tradition started last year to turn SGA green.

"SGA is completely green now," Rosner, senior, accounting said. "There will be absolutely no paper handed out, all of the information will be on the website... and it will be updated quite often."

Despite the fact that SGA is 'completely green,' the executives still plan to send out a newsletter geared towards student organizations in the SGA assembly. The newslet-

ter will contain information about the on-goings of SGA executives as well as upcoming current events on campus.

"It will be geared towards the assembly so it can help with the organization. Like if the SGA rep (from a student organization) couldn't make it to a [SGA] meeting at least they will still know what is going on [after reading the newsletter]," Ritter said.

Ritter also announced four events coordinated by SGA that the group would hold this fall. Called 'Pizza with Professors,' the four separate events will include four different colleges on campus. The four colleges are Fine Arts and Communications, Business, Arts and Education and Science.

"Any professors that would like to attend will come, meet with students and eat pizza," Rosner said.

See SGA, page 26

New Conceal and Carry Law Could Seek to Allow Guns on Campus

Missouri legislation sought to redraft the law of possessing a concealed firearm in House Bill #668. The bill passed through the house in March, but found its demise on the Senate floor when no action was taken on its part. Though the bill made no further progress, a reintroduction under a different name and with amended articles is possible when the new legislative session convenes.

The redrafting sought to release the prohibition of firearms from being carried on to university campuses as well as elementary, middle and high schools. In addition, the revision sought to lower the legal age limit to carry a weapon to twenty-one. The revisions also proposed the use of deadly force on unlawful entry onto private property.

However, the bill stated that the restrictions concerning education facilities should not be lifted "without the consent of the governing body of the higher education institution or a school official or the district school board."

Supporters of the bill argue that the allowance of firearms would assist in the prevention of school shootings and add a feeling of security to students.

Campus loses student to suicide

Thursday, July 9th around 1:00 P.M. a female student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis committed suicide by jumping off the parking garage by the Millennium Student Center on north campus.

All UM-St. Louis students received a short email from the Office of Student Affairs stating that a suicide took place on campus and that no names will be released until the family has been notified. The event was covered by the local media outlet KSDK.

Editor's Note: If you or someone you know is experiencing suicidal thoughts, please contact Counseling Services at 314-516-5711. If it is an emergency and it is after office hours or it is on the weekend please call 911, or Life Crisis Services at 314-647-4357. Life Crisis Services is a suicide prevention hotline that is available every day of the year and at all hours.

"Journalism
is the ability to meet
the challenge of
filling space"
-Rebecca West

Expand your Mind: Take a Philosophy Course this Semester

Why Philosophy?

- ◆ Philosophy is a discipline that encourages participants to think, to criticize, and to wonder.
- ◆ From the very beginning, philosophers have asked the hard questions: What is knowledge? How should we live? Is there a god? Are we free?
- ◆ Philosophy classes at UMSL allow for extensive discussion of important and interesting issues. Classes are taught by regular faculty members who hold Ph.D.s from prestigious institutions.
- ◆ Since philosophy challenges our established assumptions and requires reasoned support for all conclusions, philosophy courses give students highly useful analytical and critical skills.
- ◆ Philosophy majors perform better on standardized tests like the LSAT (8.7%), the GMAT (11.0%), and GRE (17.6% verbal, 4.6% quantitative). (The numbers indicate the percentages by which the average scores of philosophy majors bettered the average scores of all test takers. From *The Chronicle of Higher Education*)

A variety of intro-level philosophy courses is offered each and every semester at UMSL. Consider sampling one of these staples: Phil 1130: Approaches to Ethics, Phil 1150: Major Questions in Philosophy, Phil 1160: Logic and Language, Phil 1185: Philosophy of Religion. We also teach a trio of applied ethics courses that are excellent introductions to our discipline: Phil 2256: Bioethics, Phil 2254: Business Ethics, Phil 2255: Environmental Ethics.

Check our departmental website (<http://www.umsl.edu/~philo/>) for fuller descriptions of these courses. Also listed are descriptions of special offerings for Fall 2009. These are upper-level and/or variable-content courses that are not available each and every semester.

Statshot

UNDERCURRENT

The start of the fall semester can be a stressful time. Everyone needs a place to relax. **What's your favorite spot?**



"My favorite place is by the lake outside of the MSC."

Christina Fitzgerald
Senior
Business



"I really like Quarters [in the MSC] because that is where all the cool people and games are."

Theresa Tang
Senior
Anthropology



"Anywhere off campus is my favorite place to relax."

Derrick Davis
Junior
Biology



"At the parking lot before class starts is my favorite place to relax."

Allen Van Dillan
Junior
Biochem/Biotech



"Anywhere outside of my statistics class!"

Ashley Scott
Senior
Business

What about you? Sound off at www.thecurrentonline.com

VERBATIM

"Even though we still have a few issues to work out, what's remarkable at this point isn't how far we have left to go, it's how far we've already come"

-President Obama, On a new health care plan

"Just keep playing."

-Edward Williams, Two-time winner of Kansas Lottery

"I never thought that buying supplements and vitamins, it was going to hurt anybody's feelings."

-David Ortiz, when questioned about being on the 2003 survey

"Put it in the 90 percent category."

-White House National Security Advisor James Jones on how certain is the death of Mehsud, a Taliban leader

"I am an ordinary person who has been blessed with extraordinary opportunities and experiences. Today is one of those experiences."

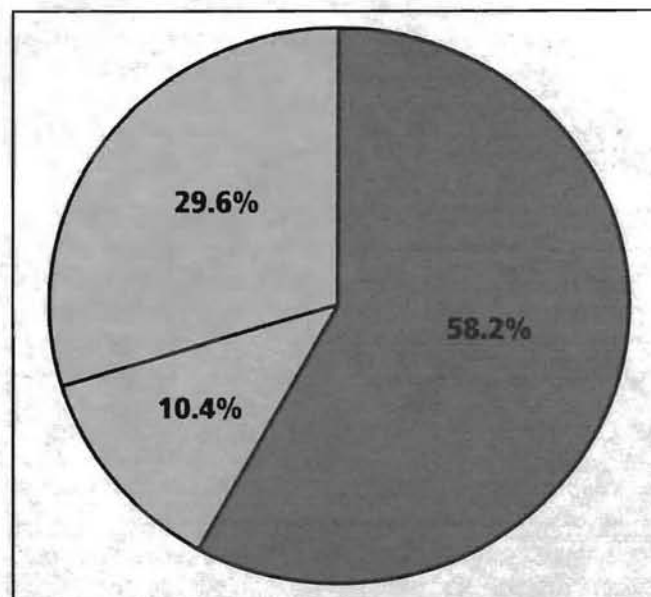
-Sonia Sotomayor on receiving title of 1st Hispanic Supreme Court Justice

"Texting and driving should not mix. We need to restore some common sense to driving."

-Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood on a possible law banning texting while driving

STATS

Average percentage of insured men and women, age 18-29 in the U.S.



Private insurance
Medicaid
Without insurance

This week:

We will return to our web poll. The question will be: "How should health care be reformed?"

Answer at www.thecurrentonline.com

Source: CDC/NCHS, National Health Interview Survey

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Tuition: more than just class

► CHRIS STEWART
Asst. A&E Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis applies a schedule of fees to every enrolled student. Far from being a blanket tuition charge, this schedule allots each fee and even portions of individual fees to specific aspects of student life, and includes numerous services and discounts.

Students at UM-St. Louis have access to a number of facilities and amenities ranging from free access to sports and workout centers, health, wellness and counseling services, computing labs, art galleries and recreational facilities. Each are funded by small fees paid by each student that are calculated into their overall tuition.

There are six overarching categories of cost in the UM-St. Louis 2009-2010 fee schedule. The first of these categories is the base education fee. This fee is \$245.60

per credit hour and is multiplied by the number of credits a student takes. There is a \$12.20 Information Technology fee that goes to "support hardware, software, supplies, staff and infrastructure for technology-based facilities and programs" according to UM-St. Louis' Cashier's Office web page. This is how students have access to campus computing labs, various computer stations around campus; and MyGateway and MyView, as comprehensive communications networks have a substantial overhead operational cost.

The next fee is the USA Today fee which grants students free daily access to major Newspaper publications including the USA Today and the New York Times. This fee of \$2.00 is one of two fees in the schedule that remain at the flat rate of \$2.00 regardless of credit hours.

A Performing Arts Fee of \$10.00 is the only other

set-rate fee. At \$10.00 during fall and spring semesters and \$5.00 during summer semesters the fees "...provide a student discount of 25% per ticket on a maximum of two tickets for each event held in the Performing Arts Center".

The most complex of the six main fees is the Student Facility, Activity, and Health Fee. This cost of \$34.89 per credit hour covers eight specific sub-categories. The University Center Fee of \$10.88 goes directly, according to the Cashier's Office website, to "support the operation of the Millennium Student Center." Likewise, the Athletic Fee is \$10.00 and Recreational Facility Fee of \$2.75 is also logistical support funding mainly used for the upkeep of their facilities. The Student Activity Fee of \$4.46 enables student organizations to function each year.

Read more online at www.thecurrentonline.com

Tom George elected to the Great Lakes Valley Conference chair

After six years of active participation in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC), Tom George, Chancellor of University of Missouri-St. Louis was elected chairman of the President's Council. This Division II conference is "one of the best, if not the best" of the other Division II conferences, according to Tom George. This athletic conference for college sports teams includes teams from various states: Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and even as far as Wisconsin.

According to George, the number of teams presently taking part in this conference is now 14, and in the process of adding a fifteenth, Maryville University and the University of Illinois-Springfield to the division. The number of teams is up from the previous amount of 11.

Even though the chancellor has recently been elected as the chairman of the president's council, a two-year term, his duties have not changed due to his previous activism in the GLVC. The major differences he will experience as being the chairman of the President's Council will be to run the GLVC meetings and to work more closely with the commissioner, Jim Naumovich. In addition to making decisions on schedules, scholarships of the athletes are discussed during the meetings.

Ending their six-week program, STARS participants graduate

On July 17, another group of Students and Teachers as Research Scientists (STARS) participants graduated the program. The STARS program that the University of Missouri-St. Louis hosts is affiliated with Washington University, St. Louis University, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, and Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville. It is a program offered to high school students in the metro area.

The 71 students who participated in the program had the opportunity to take part in advanced research projects with various well-known and prestigious science faculty at the various organizations who took part in the program. The various departments included Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Psychology amongst others. According to Kenneth Mares, director of the STARS program, the students in this program are not the average high school students who are thinking of possibly going into scientific studies.

Mares said that "these are kids who want to be scientists, nothing else." The STARS program gives these high school kids a deeper understanding of the research and investigation process in science, along with giving them knowledge of research protocol.

Leifeld leads university to break fundraising record

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN
News Editor

On July 20, the University of Missouri-St. Louis announced their fundraising record has been broken by donations in the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).

The University raised a total of \$26.9 million, an increase of 54% over the \$9.4 million raised in the 2008 fiscal year.

The final amount of \$26.9 million was made possible by three large donations which totaled \$7.7 million. The donations came from the Anheuser-Busch Foundation (\$2.5 million), the Foundation for Credit Education (\$3.25 million), and a third donation of which the donor has not yet been disclosed (\$2 million). The name of the third donor will be released

in the upcoming month.

Brenda Mcphail, Associate Vice Chancellor of Advancement for Development said that UM-St. Louis has changed its "fundraising approach". The university used to focus on large corporations for donations to the school whereas now alumni have become a larger part of fundraising.

Martin Leifeld, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement explained that the university's alumni are sort of like a "proverbial sleeping giant."

"Sometimes the University is taken for granted of being right here in St. Louis," Leifeld said, "so by drawing attention to our alumni the need for support, the importance of support, and how that could advance the university we are seeing a great deal of positive response."

Mcphail also explained that instead of "project-based funding," the school has made a shift to "prospect-based funding." In prospect-based funding, the alumni choose the area in which they would like to contribute.

"Instead of asking them to support the projects that are our priorities, [we] talk to them and find out what their passions are," Mcphail said. "Then we try to match those donors to the activities and programs we have on campus."

Leifeld explained that many alumni and other potential donors are unaware of public universities' growing need for financial support. Leifeld said public universities do not need to work as hard as private universities to gain support from their alumni because they were "well supported by their

states." However, with the dismal economy and budget cuts at every turn, critically needed funding has been frozen. Leifeld attributes the alumni's growing support to be a reaction from the their realization that public universities are desperately in need of funds that in previous years the state may have provided.

"I think people are becoming more [aware] that the times have changed," Leifeld said, "and I'd like to think that in some way in the midst here when we talk about more alumni [supporting] the University, [that] they are becoming sensitized these new realities, that things aren't the way they were twenty and thirty years ago."

Appointed last August, Leifeld made some changes once he took office such as reallocating salary dollars to

create some new positions, and joining some areas of "overlapping interest." For example "alumni relations" was joined to "annual giving" under one director. Leifeld explained that the purpose of joining these two entities was to help increase efficiency.

Leifeld also explained that the university is in the "quiet faze" of its first fundraising campaign.

The campaign began July 1, 2005 and will conclude June 30, 2012. Since it is the university's first fundraising campaign, it has laid a lot of infrastructure for fundraising.

Chancellor of UM-St. Louis Tom George expressed that he "could not be more pleased" with the Division of Advancement and Vice Chancellor for Advancement, Martin Leifeld.

"Against all odds, with the

economy turned down like it is and we're getting an increase of 54% over last years level and [even] last year's level was an increase from before," George said. "Considering how young we are [the university], it's amazing."

The Division of Advancement is already off to a great start for the 2010 fiscal year as well, despite the fact that fundraising often decreases in the summer.

During the first month of the 2010 fiscal year, \$3.75 million in commitments to the University were raised, helped along by the donation of yet another large gift to the university.

The donor of the first large gift of the fiscal year will be announced as part of the Division for Advancements public announcement in September.

Features

Career services helps students find jobs, plan careers

► **BRIAN CRAYCRAFT**
Features Editor

New students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who need to put some money in their pockets might be interested in finding a job while they are in school.

Whether they want to work on or off campus, Career Services in the Millennium Student Center is the place to go.

But over and above helping students find a little part-time work, Career Services can help new students with serious long-term career planning.

"In Career Services we love to see people get started as early as possible in their

career development," Emily McEneny, Assistant Director of Career Services said. "Someone who is a freshman just coming to campus can get started exploring what is out there in the field of careers and get started on the right path to finding that great full-time job after graduation."

A freshman who walks into the Career Services office will get an appointment with a Career Services Coordinator who can help the student put a resume together and get moving toward an internship or a part-time job.

Career Services not only offers job search assistance, they also have a series of web pages that can help students

choose a major. From the Career Services homepage, click "Resources" from the menu on the left side of the screen and you will be taken to a page with numerous links, one of which is "What Can I Do With This Major?" Follow that link to find a page that provides a wealth of information connecting majors with careers.

Teresa Balestreri, the Director of Career services, has some advice for new UM-St. Louis students who are thinking about their career path. They need to get acclimated to the university. They need to make good grades, they need to focus on their academics, but be keeping in their minds, "Where am I

going with this?," said Balestreri.

But why should a freshman care about Career Services when he or she has not chosen a major? "There are assessments that are available to all students but are really excellent for freshmen to take. These assessments can help them understand how their interests and personality traits will parlay into a career where they will be satisfied and successful," Balestreri said.

In addition to job search help, workshops are a regular item on the Career Services schedule of events and all students are welcome. During September, students can attend sessions on inter-

viewing skills, get resume critiques, or attend the Fall Internship and Job Fair to be held in the Mark Twain Building. Students can sign up for these workshops in the Career Services office or online from a Workshops link on the department's homepage.

Career Services is available to current students and UM-St. Louis alumni both, no matter what stage of their career path they are on. On a recent afternoon, Dianne Salem, a UM-St. Louis graduate with a B.S. in Biochemistry, was in the Career Services office using one of the computers there to help with her job search.

The economic climate is

difficult for job-hunters right now and Career Services is an important part of her job search strategy.

"I'm applying for biochemist positions but I also have experience in marketing and business development, so I can apply online here for a variety of positions," Salem said.

Career Services is in 278 Millennium Student Center, next to the Cashier's office and across from the bookstore. Their website is www.umsl.edu/depts/career, or you can search for Career Services from the UM-St. Louis homepage. All students are welcome to walk in Monday through Friday during regular business hours.

To live or not to live...on campus, housing

► **BRIAN CRAYCRAFT**
Features Editor

For 18-year-old incoming freshman Joana Holliman, campus living means one thing: freedom. "I've been living under the umbrella of my parents forever, now it's time for me to be free," she said. Holliman believes living on campus is the first step to reaching independence.

"It's the quickest, easiest way out," she said. The bubbly communications major plans to move into one of Oak Hall's four-bedroom suites at the end of the month.

Living on campus is ideal for most freedom-seeking freshmen who are immersing into college life for the first time. "Renting an apartment for someone my age with no credit history and no real job is unrealistic. It was this or

my SpongeBob-themed bedroom, so I'm happy with my decision so far," she laughed.

Residential Life and Housing Director Jonathan Lidgus thinks that Oak Hall is perfect for students like Holliman. "It is typically for students aged 18 - 22 starting out [at UM-St. Louis]," he said.

There are resident assistants on every wing of the building, a live-in graduate assistant, and professional staff on-call 24 hours a day, so even though students like Holliman will be on their own, they will never be alone.

Oak Hall's amenities include a heated pool, 24-hour fitness center and laundry facilities, plus a convenience store. However, there is a required meal plan to live in the dorm, the cheapest costing \$978 per semester.

For a nine-month academ-

ic school year, students interested in living in Oak Hall can anticipate paying \$5,610 for the single four-bedroom suite, and \$4,490 for the double suite. The prices do not include the required meal plan.

For those students who have surpassed dorm life, there is Mansion Hills Condominiums. "Mansion Hills are for upperclassmen who are ready to transition to a more independent style of living," said Lidgus. Students 21 years of age or older, graduate students, students with families, and transfer students are all encouraged to live in Mansion Hills.

Mansion Hills is even pet friendly, but like Oak Hall, it has live-in resident assistants, and a required meal plan. "The meal plan required for Mansion Hills is only \$200," said Lidgus.



SOFI SECK / THE CURRENT

University Meadows is just one of many housing options at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Students can choose whether to live in the unfurnished one- or two-bedroom units in which they would be responsible for electric, internet and cable for \$635-

\$750 a month. The inclusive one- and two-bedroom units which include electric, internet and cable go for \$830-\$990 a month.

Mansion Hills' amenities

include a pool, dishwasher, recreational areas and all electric appliances in every unit.

To learn more about campus housing, call the Housing office at 314-516-5877.

UM-St. Louis, Zoo team up for new course on global climate change

► **CATE MARQUIS**
Staff Writer

Global climate change is a much-discussed topic with far-reaching implications. But sorting out the scientific facts in the debate and judging the merits of the arguments can be a daunting task for many. A new course that is a collaborative effort of the Saint Louis Zoo, UM-Saint Louis' Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center and the Des Lee Collaborative Vision seeks to shed light on both the science and the public debate on climate change and global warming, and what we can or should do.

"Global Climate Change" is being offered through the University's Continuing Education Department as a non-credit course for the general public. It can also be taken as a 2-hour credit course, un-

dergraduate or graduate, by students of UM-St. Louis, Washington University and St. Louis University.

The class will be held at the Saint Louis Zoo, on Thursdays, Aug. 27 - Dec. 10, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Exploration Outpost, located on the lower level of the Orthwein Animal Nutrition Center at the Saint Louis Zoo.

This is certainly a timely topic. This wide-ranging course has something to offer everyone, with a series of discussions ranging from defining climate change, weather, scientific data, political perspectives, economic and environmental implications to ways to address its effects. Each discussion is presented by a researcher or other expert in that field of study.

This course will be useful to all students, those already convinced and those who are

not convinced that global climate change is occurring. For those already on board, it will cover the evidence so that the students will be much more effective advocates. And of course, for members of the general public, it will give a fair treatment and in depth review of the data available, and the uncertainties," Dr. Robert Marquis, Professor of Biology at UM-Saint Louis said.

People can also register for single sessions in the 15-week course at \$19 per talk. This is the first time the course has been offered but there are plans to make it a regular course offering.

Speakers include Carl M. Bender, Konneker Distinguished Professorship of Physics at Washington University, and Lea-Rachel Kösnik, Assistant Professor of Economics at UM-Saint

Louis. A full listing of topics and speakers is available at www.umsl.edu/continuing/artsscience/noncredit/globalclimatechange.html.

The idea for the course came from graduate student Humberto 'Beto' Dutra, who is working on his PhD in biology here. Last year, Dutra went to the World Ecology Center's Conservation Forum at the Zoo and heard one of the Zoo's leaders talking about St. Louis' potential to become a center for conservation knowledge due to the many universities here doing work on conservation including: the Nature Conservancy branch, the Whitney Harris World Ecology Center, the Saint Louis Zoo and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Dutra realized that it was true but wondered how to bring that about.

"So we thought about of-

fering a course that would talk about a major problem that is going on, which is global climate change, but it would not be offered just to UMSL students, because, especially for the graduate students in our department, that is preaching to the choir," he said. "We wanted to reach out to the local community."

Dutra turned to Dr. Patricia Parker to help organize this course. Parker is Desmond Lee Professor of Zoological Studies in the Department of Biology at UM-St. Louis but also Senior Scientist at the Saint Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute. She is also part of the university's World Ecology Center. Parker gives full credit for the idea to Dutra.

"On Christmas Day, I got an email message from him, saying 'I noticed that there is no course in the Saint Louis

area; despite all the numbers of strong academic institutions here, there is no course on this important current issue of global climate change,' and I have put together one," Parker said. "So he had already, at that stage, come up with the basic idea. And his idea was that there is no one person in St. Louis who has all this information and is capable of teaching a well-rounded good course that approaches all the perspectives. His idea was to invite speakers who, amongst them, had all this expertise. He actually needed a faculty person to sort of be the front person for it and invited me to be that person, since I was generally familiar with the topic and had a connection with the Zoo."

Read more online at www.thecurrentonline.com

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Dr. Kurt Schreyer

► INTERVIEW BY MARK WEBBER
Staff Writer

The Current: What is your impression of the University of Missouri-St. Louis in regards to its students, faculty, and facilities?

Kurt Schreyer: UMSL students have impressed me with the way in which most of them are "in the driver's seat" (if you will) of their education. They know how many credits they need, what electives they want, and so forth. While I find them to be very busy most of the time--juggling school work, a job and family responsibilities--I'm happy to work with any student who wants to be in my class.

TC: What is your impression of Saint Louis? What do you like best about Saint Louis? What don't you like?

KS: My wife and I recently bought a house and we're very happy to call St. Louis our home. I love the pride that people have in their neighborhoods and in the city; it's rather infectious too. I've lived all over the country--from Florida, to Idaho, New York, to Colorado--and I think St. Louis is special.

TC: What do you think are important attributes of a good student?

KS: I've taught at several different institutions, public and private. I find that what makes the best student is not necessarily intellectual ability--it's often simple time management skills and personal initiative. Are you a self-starter? Do you anticipate upcoming assignments and the work that will be required to complete them? The best way to manage these demands is to ask yourself a simple question that will help you to prioritize your obligations: namely, "What is the best possible use of my time right now?" Sometimes the answer to that question will be "write the Shakespeare paper I've been putting off," but sometimes the answer will be "Go hangout with my friends and decompress after a hellish Shakespeare exam."

TC: What do you expect from students who take one or more of your courses?

KS: What I do not expect is for them to have ever read Shakespeare before or to like his works. Read the assignments ahead of time, come to class prepared with thoughts and questions. Did I mention reading the assignments?

TC: What do you think are important attributes of a good instructor?

KS: Students tell me all the time that my enthusiasm for the material helps them to enjoy it as well. I'm proud of that. In Shakespeare's time there were tremendous debates about how to properly educate young people, but one thing that all could agree on was that pleasure and enjoyment were crucial to learning. I'm not the smartest Shakespearean, but I definitely love what I do and I want to let the students see that.

TC: Describe your teaching style in your own words.



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

Dr. Kurt Schreyer, Assistant Professor, English Department with "Will in the World" by Stephan Greenblatt.

KS: My pedagogical approach to the material depends on class size and type. Most of my undergraduate Shakespeare classes are somewhat large--around thirty-five students--and so a lecture style, I find, is most suitable. That said, however, I do take a very "Socratic" approach to my lectures; there is a lot of Q&A interaction between myself and the students. My detailed PowerPoint presentations help to facilitate these exchanges. One of my colleagues recently observed that I called on more than half of my students during one class session. I was delighted to hear that; I never force students to participate, but I make every effort to prompt them to do so. For example, I offer study questions on each play that we read to guide their reading as well as to catalyze further inquiry.

TC: Why do you choose to make the Renaissance strange rather than familiar?

KS: As a young high school teacher several years ago, I was desperate to get my students to like Shakespeare as much as I did. So I often drew comparisons between his plays and popular TV shows, movies, and music. At some point, however, it occurred to me that this approach might have the opposite effect. At some level it begs the question: "If Shakespeare is just like my favorite movie or sitcom, then why do I need to take this class?" The result, is that they tune out. I have found--as I myself continue to learn more about the culture of sixteenth-century England--that highlighting the differences between our own times and the age of Shakespeare leads a student to wonder, "Why did they do that? Why did they believe that?" Familiarity often breeds boredom; strangeness has therefore become my goal--that's where learning begins.

TC: Can you tell us anything about the current book you are writing?

KS: Drama was being performed in England for centuries before Shakespeare came on the scene: plays in Latin as well as English, religious plays, folk plays, processions, university performances, church interludes. Despite this rich dramatic heritage, many twentieth century literary historians were very reluctant to explore similarities between Shakespeare's plays and his medieval precursors. My book hopes to join an exciting new wave of scholarship seeking to find continuities and discontinuities across the Medieval-Renaissance divide. It argues that Shakespeare borrowed certain stage props, architecture and practices from earlier medieval drama even as he disparaged those old plays as amateurish and rude.

TC: Have advice for students after college?

KS: Don't be afraid of the future or the unknown. Seek the advice of those you admire and respect, then listen to your heart and let the adventure begin, always knowing that your weaknesses can become your strengths if you work at them.

TC: Have any advice for incoming freshmen?

KS: Don't fret if you come in "undecided" about your major. First year courses are deliberately designed to be a kind of salad bar where you can pick and choose until you make up your mind.

Once you do, focus and make your studies your first priority. Also, don't be afraid (as I was) to knock on your instructor's door and seek out their advice.

Studying abroad with UM-St. Louis

► SEQUITA BEAN
Asst. Features Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis students do not know that there is a place on campus that can take you almost anywhere in the world. Whether you want to sip wine in France, enjoy Osu's vibrant nightlife in Ghana, or try Skyr in Iceland, this place can help you get there while simultaneously earning school credit along the way.

This little known place on campus is the Study Abroad Office.

It is located at 261 Millennium Student Center in the Center for International Studies and is the resource center for all things about studying abroad.

"We offer more than 80 different programs in 40 different countries so the selection can be overwhelming at first glance," Jenny Bazzetta, Study Abroad Coordinator said.

These programs include semester and academic year sessions for students wanting to spend 6 to 9 months abroad.

There are also programs for students who cannot commit to programs longer than a few weeks.

"We offer a variety of faculty-led programs, which are a perfect fit for students who can only allot two to three weeks to study abroad during the summer or winter intersession.

These programs are unique in that they are group programs with 10-30 participants, primarily from UM-St. Louis, and a UMSL faculty leader provides some or most of the academic instruction during the trip," Bazzetta said.

This summer, the center offered programs in South Africa, China, France, Spain, Germany, Greece and Ireland.

Intermediate level Spanish language students are able to participate in the Costa Rica



SEQUITA BEAN / THE CURRENT

Tourist and locals passing each other on the streets of a small town in France.

Top 5 Must-haves for Traveling Abroad

- 1. International power adapter:** This is extremely important because American electronics do not work in foreign outlets.
- 2. Your laptop:** This is the easiest and cheapest way to stay in contact with your friends and family. If you won't have internet access where you are, bring DVDs to keep yourself entertained on boring days.
- 3. Pocket language dictionary:** Some international places have many Anglophone habitants, but sometimes you will need help from someone who only speaks their native language.
- 4. Maps:** Maps make sightseeing easier, especially if you will be walking or taking public transportation to your destinations.
- 5. Digital Camera:** For capturing the memories.

program taking place this upcoming winter intersession.

For those who may be concerned about the costs of studying abroad, Bazzetta

says students are often surprised at how affordable it is.

Read more online at www.thecurrentonline.com

MyGateway and MyView: online student services

► BRIAN CRAYCRAFT
Features Editor

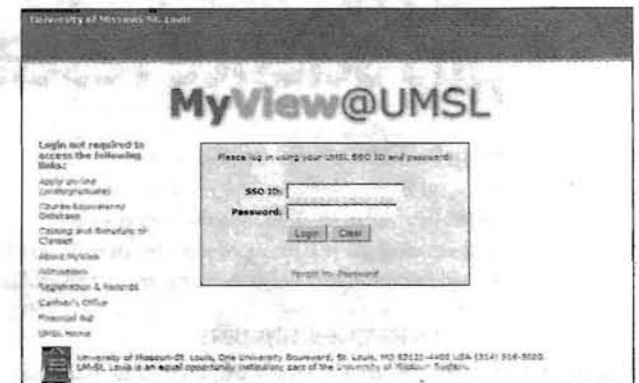
Two online services are available at the University of Missouri-St. Louis that all new students will need to become familiar with. The first is MyGateway, an online course management system that also contains the student email program, and the second is MyView, a source for student records such as class schedules and enrollment information.

MyGateway is your online connection to the classes that you are enrolled in. Many students use it every day. Professors can post documents on MyGateway such as the course syllabus and assignments, and students can use MyGateway to check their grades for assignments or be a part of group chat sessions. MyGateway is also where students send and receive email.

MyView, on the other hand, is not for daily schoolwork. It is the website where you can check your class schedule, register for or drop classes, pay your tuition and other fees, or check on the status of financial aid.

To access MyGateway and MyView you will need an SSO ID, or Single Sign On, plus a password. You will also need your SSO ID and password to log on to any of the computers in campus computer labs.

Jaime Lincoln is an Admission Advisor who often speaks to prospective students about the MyView website. "Immediately after applying at UM-St. Louis, new students will receive an SSO ID letter in the mail. The letter contains the SSO ID and a temporary password," Lincoln said. "When you log on with the temporary password, the system



will walk you through the process of creating a new permanent password."

If you have your SSO ID but for any reason do not have your temporary password, you will need to activate your account online. You will need to do this from home or with the help of a member of the support staff in one of the campus computer labs.

To activate your account, go to <http://gatewayid.umsl.edu>, the homepage for SSO, and click **Activate Your Account** on the left hand side of the page. On the Activate Your Account screen, enter your SSO ID along with the other required information, and create a password. Your password must be at least eight characters long, and contain three of the following four requirements: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, a number (0-9), and a symbol (? , ! _). An example of a password with all four requirements would be "Pa\$sw0rd."

Your SSO ID is used for your campus email address. For example, if your email address is trcn92@umsl.edu, your SSO ID is trcn92. Enter your SSO ID and password in the proper fields on any page that asks for your login information.

The website for MyGateway is <http://mygateway.umsl.edu>. For MyView, it is <http://myview.umsl.edu>. An easy way to get to My-

MyGateway Login

Security Information

SSO ID

Password

Login

Logging in acknowledges agreement to [acceptable use policy](#).

Gateway or MyView is from the university's homepage at www.umsl.edu. That web page address is easy to remember, and it is also the page that opens automatically in the Internet browsers on computers in the campus computer labs. From the university homepage, simply click on the link for MyGateway or MyView underneath the University of Missouri - St. Louis banner at the top of the page.

Both MyView and MyGateway contain more information and services than could possibly be covered in one brief overview.

Technology is an important tool for UM-St. Louis students, and you can find out more about computer resources on campus by visiting the Information Technology Services homepage at www.umsl.edu/technology, or by clicking the Technology link at the top right of the UM-St. Louis homepage.

Science

Campus science research focuses on neurodynamics, nanoscience

► CATE MARQUIS

A&E Editor

The University of Missouri - St. Louis campus features not only a variety of academic departments, but an array of institutes or centers that focus on interdisciplinary research, community services, and teaching in fields ranging from cultural to scientific.

Center for Neurodynamics

The Center for Neurodynamics started out as a collaborative effort between biologists and physicists working to unravel neurological puzzles at the boundary of the two fields of study. Founded by Lon Wilkens, Frank Moss and Steve Lehmkuhle in 1996, the CNS since then has expanded its work into other areas of complex dynamics in biological systems.

"The main project the Center was working on in its first few years was, basically, using non-linear dynamics, popularly known as 'chaos theory,' to analyze how neural systems work," said Dr. Sonya Bahar, Director of the Center for Neurodynamics. "They did a lot of work on how the crayfish senses its environment and they worked with this very unusual fish, the paddlefish, which is native to Missouri and lives in the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers."

The fish has a long snout, the paddle, that has sensors that detect electrical activity in the water, to allow it to find its prey in murky, muddy water.

"Much like we have electrical activity that electrocardiograms detect," Bahar said.

Moss, Wilkens and Lehmkuhle not only worked out how that system worked but how background electrical "noise" actually enhanced the process.

"A little bit of multi-tasking helps," Bahar said.

Bahar is not only the Center's director but also one of

the campus' rising stars, recognized at a young age for her groundbreaking research. Bahar is Assistant Professor of Biophysics in the Physics and Astronomy Department.

The idea of how some optimal level of "noise," stochastic resonance, actually enhances an animal's perception has been extended to human studies.

"What the Center has been interested in more, in recent years since I came back as faculty, has been brain imaging, in the mammalian brain, so we are looking at how seizures spread in the rat brain. We are also collecting data from human brain imaging from other universities to study," she said.

The CNS still uses non-linear dynamics but now it is applied to mammalian systems. One study looks to help people with brain injury, where diminished perception is thought to be linked to loss of ability to detect that enhancing noise.

The CNS is forming new research partnerships with the Psychology Department, working on studies of brain and sensory systems.

"Probably the next decade of work is, more and more, going to lean towards human imaging. There are several people in the Psychology Department who are involved in various types of human imaging, and the next step for the Center is going to be to integrate with that work, bring that into the Center and think about new directions."

Center for Nanoscience



Courtesy of August Jennewein

The Center for Nanoscience focuses on practical applications for the science of the very small. It aims to advance "nanoscale" science and technology while contributing to the economic growth of the area.

"We want to try to build a presence of nanoscience, nanomedicine in St. Louis, that will draw together industry and laboratories like the Danforth Plant Sciences Center, the Botanical Garden the various colleges and universities, to foster practical applications and also the education of a work force" said Dr. George Gokel, CNS Associate Director of the CNS. The Director of the CNS is Dr. Jingyue "Jimmy" Liu.

Like Neurodynamics, the Nanoscience center is interdisciplinary. CNS began as the Center for Molecular Electronics, which is still part of its work, but the scope has been expanded, particularly towards the biological and energy end.

CNS is located in its own building, the William L. Clay Building, which houses a variety of high-tech equipment. There are facilities for mass spectroscopy, scanning and

In the science arena, there are three research centers: The Center for Neurodynamics, the Center for Nanoscience and Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center.

Each center has a different mission and fields but all extend the scope of campus research into the larger world. For some, the research takes place on campus at dedicated labs with specialized equipment but for others, it largely is done in places far away, out in the field.

World Ecology Center

While both the Nanoscience and Neurodynamics centers focus on the very small, the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center can be said to focus on the very large. The World Ecology Center's work is the study of ecosystems and species around the world and conservation. Originally called the International Center for Tropical Ecology, the World Ecology Center's work often focuses on the tropics. The World Ecology Center serves as the academic program for its partner institutions, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Saint Louis Zoo, provides support for graduate students doing research in those fields.

"Our major function at the Center is to provide support to the graduate program in Biology, so we recruit students from all over the world. These next couple weeks, of course, the students are going to start coming in and we have one coming in from Bolivia, another one from Nigeria, one from Papua New Guinea. That just gives you a sort of flavor of the sorts of countries where we are working. So it really is a world ecology center."

"What I have seen, over the past fifteen years, is a real increase in the quality of the graduate students we attract," he said. "And that is a reflection of the kind of faculty we have, at the university, at the Garden and the Zoo."

The bulk of the Center's research takes place in distant locations like rainforest re-

search stations in places like Belize. Dr. Patricia Parker, one of the World Ecology Center's faculty and also a senior scientist at the Saint Louis Zoo, leads research at a facility in the Galapagos Islands, an instance of collaboration with the Zoo.

"We work obviously very closely with the Missouri Botanical Garden and their faculty. They have over 50 PhD students working there and they, of course, can't give degrees at the Botanical Garden, so that is why this has been so successful," Osborne said. "We provide the graduate students who assist the faculty at the Botanical Garden."

Although some research takes place far away, the center published its Field Notes and newsletter so you can keep up on the work.

The other two research centers do some public events but the World Ecology Center has a whole public education and outreach side in addition to its research. The new course "Global Climate Change," being offered at the Zoo jointly by the Zoo and this university, is an example of this kind of effort on the Center's part.

Annual events include the day-long Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum offered at the Zoo in the fall.

The Conservation Forum explores a single topic through a series of exhibits and workshops and wraps up with a dinner and keynote speaker.

Tech

Virtual conference room on campus could lead to virtual classrooms

► **JESSICA KEIL**
Editor-in-Chief

With its enormous high definition screens and surround sound audio, the Cisco TelePresence conference room uses the latest in digital technology to create, as closely as possible, the feeling of being in the same room as others in a different city.

Planning began in late fall of 2008 for the room and it opened to the public in May. The room is located in University Center Rooms 60/61.

"The room consists of three 65" high-definition plasma screens, CD-quality audio, pre-positioned cameras and microphones, and

similar physical environments (furniture layout, lighting, wall colors...), [so] you forget you're hundreds of miles away from conferees across the virtual table," Kenneth Voss, director of computing services said.

Currently, all UM-campus- es have a TelePresence room. Therefore, if a student, staff, or faculty member books the room, they can conference with Columbia, Rolla, Kansas City or all three at once.

The idea for the room came from Gary Forsee, UM President, who originally brought up negotiation with Cisco and ATT who donated goods and services. Voss said Forsee donated \$1 million of

his own money as well.

The hope for the room from people like Voss or Forsee is that it will in effect save money for the University by reducing travel and increasing productivity.

The room functions like this: it is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and use of the room should be for University purposes. The conferencing tables all have microphones built in and laptops can be plugged in to every seat in order to share documents or web pages with the group on a smaller screen at the front of the room. Meetings can be scheduled the same way any other meeting would be

scheduled through Microsoft Outlook and can be scheduled over a year in advance.

"It will probably be booked pretty solid," Voss said.

Brian Huxtable, system administrator for the technology and learning center, checked out the room in order to advise others in his department on how to use it.

"It reminds me of [the TV show] 24," he said. "The image was really clear and there is always a slight lag."

Mike Votaw, senior, computer science agreed with Huxtable and was impressed by the room. He only sited one problem.

"Switching out and off

[between rooms] is confusing," he said.

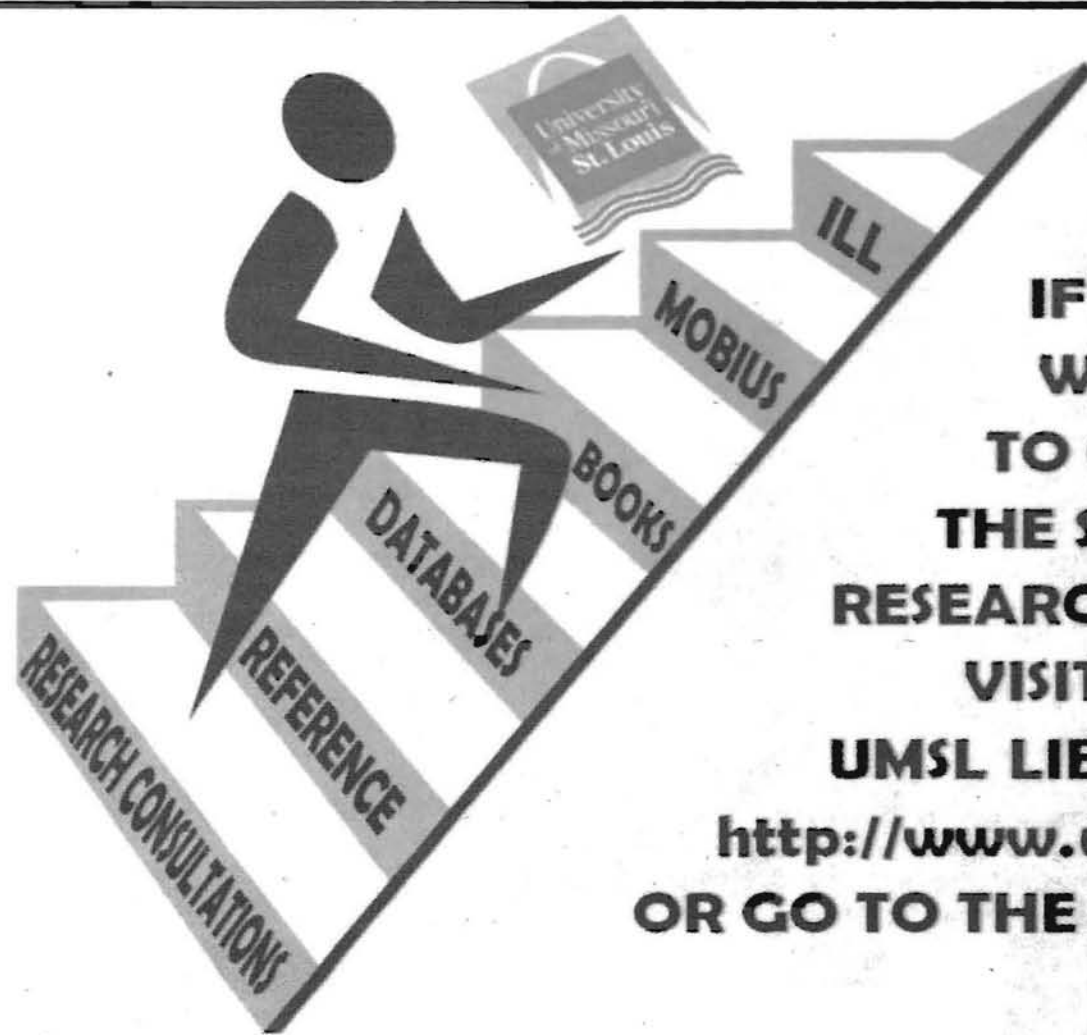
Votaw was referencing how the screens in the front of the room switch perspectives depending on who is speaking and where. If for instance someone speaks from Kansas City and the screen is showing Columbia, the view will switch to Kansas City. All of the rooms on the four campuses are painted and structured identically, so when the screen view switches, only the inhabitants and their belongings change.

The TelePresence room has the technological ability to connect to any other TelePresence room, even if it is not structured identically.

Therefore, by the end of the month the room can be used globally.

The room is ready for use by anyone with an account at the UM-System and conferences in the room have already begun. By the end of the year the room should be able to connect to older technologies such as Policom, though the image quality would be worse.

Academic use for the room is a possibility for the future, which will essentially make it possible for teachers to teach courses in more than one city in a single semester. For now however the room is simply a conference room, not a classroom.



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Health

Suicide prevention on campus

► **MARK WEBBER**
Staff Writer

Ten years ago, the Surgeon General was called into action in order to assess the reality of a mounting public health issue: suicide. By this time, the statistics of suicide-related deaths in the United States were astounding and the number of lives that were being lost to suicide was rivaling that of homicide and HIV. According to the 'Stop a Suicide organization,' 30,000 people a year successfully commit suicide in the United States. Of these, 90% had a diagnosable mental illness that could be treated with drugs or counseling. Suicide.org even states that in the U.S., suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students. A 2008 American Psychological Association press release stated that, "...at an average college with 18,000 undergraduates, some 1,080 undergraduates will seriously contemplate taking their lives at least once within a single year." According to the SAS organization, "...70% of those who die by suicide tell a loved one or show warning signs before their death." A

few of the warning signs that a suicidal person may demonstrate are: observable signs of serious depression (pessimism, desperation, sleep problems, etc.), increased alcohol and drug use, taking unnecessary risks, unexpected rage or anger, giving away prized possessions, and impulsive purchase of a firearm or other apparatus for killing oneself (check out www.afsp.org for a more thorough list and for more detailed information about suicide). If you observe these signs in someone else, or if you have suicidal thoughts yourself, there are places you can go to for help.

The University Health, Wellness, and Counseling Center (UHWC) is located in Room 131 of the Millennium Student Center. This office offers knowledgeable staff and several pamphlets ranging in topics from the HPV virus, depression, antibiotics, and student insurance.

Private and confidential meetings with a professional counselor are also available. "The counselors at the University Health, Wellness, and Counseling Center are generalists. Any four of our senior staff are profes-

sionally equipped to tackle any issue," James Linsin, Psy.D., Counseling Psychologist/Coordinator of Outreach at the UHWC said. According to Linsin, the UHWC is the place on campus to go and get information on the options available to those that are dealing with any and every issue.

The issue of suicide is no exception. Linsin encourages all students and staff members to visit the UHWC at any time that they feel overwhelmed, isolated, depressed or stressed.

The main thing to do when confronted with a friend or loved one who is having suicidal thoughts is to be there for them. The University of Texas at Austin Counseling and Mental Health Center says that, "It's better to feel nervous and awkward sitting with a grieving friend than to not sit there at all."

A few websites that offer a lot of information on both sides of the suicide issue, whether it be suffering yourself or having a suicidal friend are: www.umsl.edu/services/counselor/emergencies, www.hopeonline.com, and www.survivorsofsuicide.com.

Questions?

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Business

UM-ST. LOUIS' CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY

20 years post-graduation, Debbie Douglas founded her own business

► INTERVIEW BY JESSICA KEIL
Editor-in-Chief

Deborah Douglas graduated from UM-St. Louis in 1973 with a major in accounting. She got her CPA two years later and went to work for a large accounting firm for 18 years. When she hit the 19th year she split from the firm and started her own: The Douglas Group. The Douglas Group sells companies to other companies, locally, nationally and occasionally internationally.

"I am a big believer of what business people do," Douglas said. "I think they are the heroes of the American economy, I mean they create jobs, better goods and services, opportunities for people to grow and they do so many good things. And we help them cash in on what is in many cases, a lifetime's work. [And] by selling really well, so that they are secure for ever more, we have done a good thing."

Douglas is also the author of the recent book, "Ripe: Harvesting the value of your business." She sat down for an interview with *The Current* in her office in Frontenac.

The Current: So what was your experience at the business school at UM-St. Louis?

Deborah Douglas: It was great. I was a participant in something called the UYA (University Year for Action) program, I don't know if that is still there... [Through the UYA] I was the assistant chief financial officer for the City of Kenlock for two years. I ended up working a ton of time there for a couple of years but it was a good experience.

TC: Did you always know exactly what you were going to do for work when you graduated from UM-St. Louis?

DD: No I really thought I wanted to be a partner in one of the CPA firms which I did become. I was an audit partner [for Touche Ross & Co., a Big Eight CPA firm] and I became that firm's director of merger and acquisition activities. [It] was a multi-functional group, I was audit tax and consulting professional that would work in any buy or sell transaction in St. Louis. I was working a million hours.

TC: And then you decided you wanted to work less?

DD: No but I decided I wanted to focus more of my time on the merger and acquisition work because that's what I really loved. And I had several audit clients and it is kind of hard to escape that. So I still had the audit client responsibilities as well as all of the merger and acquisition stuff and that was heavy. Plus, CPA firms can't accept contingent fees and I wanted the opportunity to work on a contingent fee basis. We make a lot more money than in a CPA firm charging hourly rates.

TC: So is that when you decided to found The Douglas Group?

DD: I did. When Touche merged with Deloitte I was a part-

ner, I was director of merger and acquisition activities, and it was kind of a one-time chance to walk away and compete. So I just didn't sign the partnership agreement. And the firm was receptive to that. They said that if anyone wants to make a move this is your chance. I kind of tentatively raised my hand and that worked out really well. That was 19 years ago.

TC: What is the primary function of The Douglas Group?

DD: We sell companies. The employees here are all support functions to that sale of companies. We have people who do research about finding who the best strategic fit is for one of our seller clients. We have people who develop financial exhibits about our clients. So they have to have a pretty good accounting/financial background to do that. We spend a tremendous amount of time negotiating the structure of the deal so you get pretty competent with legal documents and that's kind of fun. We have closed... about 95% of the deals we have taken. In our industry that is really great. We also do a lot of homework also to find the buyers. It's really our biggest job. For one single client we might talk to as many as 200 buyers and we have in-depth conversations with all of them.

TC: So do the companies you sell come to you?

DD: Yeah, although we should be more proactive about going out and finding them.

TC: Have you noticed the recession affecting companies you work with?

DD: Well, in the buy/sell arena one thing that is kind of odd that people don't know is that there are a lot of buyers out there. There is still so much baby boomer money that is out in the marketplace that needs a home. The stock market is volatile and uncertain and not feeling very secure to people so there are buckets of money going into these private equity funds and there are very aggressive buyers. Now on the other hand we don't have as many sellers as we usually do. We have had I think three sellers in the past eight months who, after they have hired us and after we've begun, said 'can we wait? We're not doing so well.' But for a company that is stable right now, not declining, the market is really good.

TC: What advice would you give UM-St. Louis students on getting a job?

DD: Well I haven't thought about that particularly recently but I'll tell ya the best hires that I have done over the years have in many cases been young people who have come to me. You know, when they call or write or they do all of the above and they tell me what their interests are, what their aptitudes are... Also I think that you do so much better when you are working in an area that you love a little bit. One of the things that UMSL students have as an attribute that they should make the most of is that UMSL has a lot of students who have worked their way, part way through school who are a little bit more



ANH NGUYEN / THE CURRENT

Deborah L. Douglas, UMSL alumna, businesswoman and founder of the Douglas Group, a private investment banking, merger acquisition, and corporate diversitures company.

driven, maybe a little bit more self-motivated I think then the average college student (Pull quote?). When I get a resume I always look what else have you done in your life? Have you gotten a little bit of experience somewhere?

TC: What is the secret to success?

DD: I think part of it is getting passionate about what you do. Doing something that you believe has a purpose and is meaningful to you, that really helps. At my company we have a very incentive oriented business. I like the fact that we don't profit hugely until our clients do. We have had at least one million dollar plus bonus in the last six or seven years. Those are big bonuses. Those are because we usually got a client ten million more than he thought he would get... We are real tenacious, real stubborn, real determined to get it done for our client.

TC: Wow, so, is The Douglas Group hiring?

DD: Not at the moment too much, but we probably will be within six months.

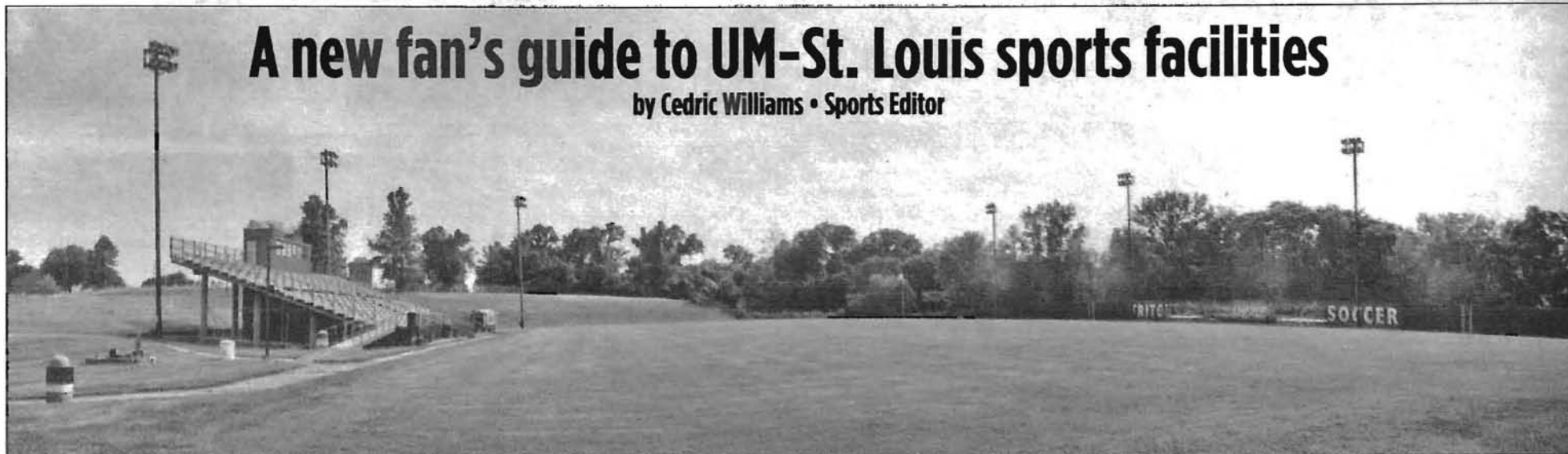
Sports

What's your favorite UM-St. Louis team?
Let us know:

www.thecurrentonline.com thecurrent@umsl.edu

A new fan's guide to UM-St. Louis sports facilities

by Cedric Williams • Sports Editor



ANH NGUYEN / THE CURRENT

Don Dallas soccer field is located on UMSL North campus, right behind the Mark Twain Recreation Center. Originally built in 1970 as an intramural field, the soccer field was named Don Dallas Soccer Field in 1993 in honor of Don Dallas, who built the first UM-St. Louis soccer program and coached the team for 23 years.

As we approach the start of the new NCAA Division II sports year, it occurred to us that many students on campus, especially the new students, might not know much about the facilities where our University of Missouri-St. Louis sports teams play their home games.

Attendance was up for UM-St. Louis sports last season, but that does not mean everyone knows where to go or what to do if they want to attend a UM-St. Louis home game; you may be one of

those people.

Admit it, if you need to give a professor directions to one of UM-St. Louis' sporting venues to pass a class, could you do it? Some probably could. Most probably could not. So we thought it a good idea to provide our readers with a little info about all the facilities our Tritons call home.

Mark Twain Building

UM-St. Louis' Mark Twain Building, which is

located on North Campus near Express Scripts on Mark Twain Dr., was built in the fall of 1971 to serve as the host facility for UM-St. Louis' intercollegiate athletic teams as well as other campus recreational and intramural activities.

The gym at the Mark Twain Building, which serves as the home court to the UM-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams and the UM-St. Louis volleyball team, can accommodate up to 4,736 fans and includes

two levels of bleacher seating. Chair-back seating is also available on the arena's lower-level north-side.

The court itself was recently upgraded and replaced in 2006. At that time, the court was named Chuck Smith Court, after UM-St. Louis' first athletic director and men's basketball coach.

Other recent upgrades include improvements to the arena's lighting and sound system as well as the addition of a new, four-sided scoreboard which hangs directly

above half court.

The Mark Twain Building also serves as host for a variety of sporting events outside of UM-St. Louis athletics, including MSHSAA boys and girls high school basketball tournament games, and served as the home gym for the St. Louis Skyhawks of the United States Basketball League in 2002.

Don Dallas Soccer Field

UM-St. Louis' Don Dal-

las Soccer Field, considered one of the top college soccer facilities in the country, is located on North campus behind the Mark Twain Building.

The complex features a permanent seating structure for up to 1,350 fans, complete with restrooms and a press box. The field is lit to allow for night games and has a sound system and electronic scoreboard for fan enjoyment.

See **FIELDS**, page 16

GLVC Adds Two New Schools for the Upcoming School Year

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

The new school year always brings about a number of changes for collegiate sports teams. Players graduate, and transfer in and out, and incoming freshman always make a new season interesting.

But some of the most anticipated intrigues heading into the coming UM-St. Louis sports year will come from some new opponents the Tritons will face.

Two schools have been

added to the Great Lakes Valley Conference, which UM-St. Louis competes in. Maryville University in Chesterfield and the University of Illinois-Springfield were formally accepted for membership into the GLVC last January and will begin competing against other GLVC schools this year.

"The Great Lakes Valley Conference is pleased to welcome both Maryville University and the University of Illinois at Springfield to the league," Jim Naumov-

ich, GLVC Commissioner said. "Both institutions boast outstanding academic and solid athletic programs and are well positioned to make a successful transition to NCAA Division II."

Maryville, one of the oldest private institutions in the region, was founded in 1872 and has an enrollment of over 3,400 students and offers more than 50 undergraduate degrees.

The University, whose teams are the Saints, was a charter member of the St.

Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) and has competed in the NCAA Division III conference since the 1990-91 academic year. The Saints captured 34 league titles in the SLIAC, the second-most in the league since its inception, including championships in men's golf, women's basketball and women's softball last season.

Maryville sponsors 13 sports—all of which are sponsored by the GLVC—including all seven core sports: men's and women's soccer,

men's and women's basketball, volleyball, baseball and softball.

Maryville also fields teams in men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, and men's and women's cross country.

UI-Springfield is located in the Illinois state capital and will be centrally located in the GLVC.

It was founded in 1969 as Sangamon State University and currently offers 21 undergraduate degree programs and over 20 graduate

programs. In 1995, the institution became a campus of the University of Illinois and it currently boasts an enrollment of 4,700 students.

UI-Springfield's sports teams are the Prairie Stars and competed in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics as an independent until the 2002-03 academic year when they joined the America Midwest Conference.

See **COMPETITION**, page 17

MEN'S SOCCER

New faces join men's soccer

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis men's soccer coach Dan King recently welcomed five new players to the Tritons soccer program.

The five players—Alex Agne, Jordan Bruce, Adam Giesgh, Alex Malloy, and Peter Ottolini—all have local ties and became official members of the program when formal practice for the coming season began last month.

Agne, Giesgh, and Ottolini—who signed national letters of intent with UM-St. Louis last March—come to the Triton program after standout careers as junior college players. Bruce—who also signed in March—and Malloy come to UM-St. Louis after stellar high school careers.

"I am very excited about our incoming class," King said. "They all know how to play their positions well and will help make us a better team."

Agne, a former Edwardsville, Ill. High School standout was named the National Junior College Athletic Association Region 24 Forward of the Year last fall at Southwestern Illinois Community College (SWIC).

Also a two-time first team all-region honoree, Agne combined for 31 goals and 11 assists at SWIC while also serving as a two-year captain.

As a prep star at Edwardsville, Agne was a two-time first team all-conference selection and a two-time pick to the all-sectional team. He also was named to the all-state team as a senior and was twice selected as his team's Most Valuable Player.

"Alex has all the tools a good player needs to be successful," said King. "He's a hard worker and has the ability to score in different ways."

Giesgh, a goalkeeper and Agne's teammate at SWIC last season, earned NSCAA and NJCAA all-region honorable mention honors in 2008. As a freshman, he earned second team all-region honors.

Giesgh was a prep standout at Belleville East High School, where he was named first team all-conference and earned all-metro honorable-mention honors as a senior. He was also selected to the all-sectional team.

"Adam has good size for a goalie and has good hands," King said. "He also possesses a strong work ethic."

Bruce was a three-year letter-winner at Hazelwood West High School as a winger. He earned first team all-conference honors as a senior and as a junior and was a second team selection as a sophomore.

Bruce also earned honorable mention all-metro honors as a junior and was selected team MVP as a senior.

"Jordan is a quick and athletic player who knows how to break down a defender in a one-on-one situation," King said. "He also has the ability to score the big goal when needed."

Ottolini was a two-time second team adidas all-region honoree at center back at Lincoln Land Community College.

He was also twice named Defensive Player of the Year on his team and was selected MVP last fall.

Ottolini earned second team all-state honors as a senior at Gibault High School, where he was also a three-time all-region and all-sectional team pick.

"Peter is a player that dominates in the air," King said. "He also has great dominance in defending on a one-on-one play."

SPORTS COLUMN

New gig, new season: major reasons to get pumped for UMSL Sports

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

I don't know about you guys, but I am totally pumped up for each of the coming Triton sports seasons.

I'm having a lot of fun in my new gig as the Current's Sports Editor. We're off to a fun start and I expect it to stay that way all year.

New gig aside, the main reason I'm so stoked for Triton sports this year is I expect to see marked improvement from every one of our on-campus teams.

Last year certainly had its great moments.

The best of which might have come when the Triton inline hockey team rolled its way to the National College Roller Hockey Association Division 1 national championship. University of Missouri-St. Louis, behind three goals & two assists from P.J. Tallo, knocked off archrival Lindenwood University, 5-3, to win the program's first national title.

Back here on campus, the Triton softball team went 36-19—the second most wins in UM-St. Louis history—while earning the program's first NCAA tournament bid since 1989, and claimed the Great Lakes Valley Conference regular season conference championship, with a league-best 18-4 record.

Tennis standout Andi Dimke went 23-3 as UM-St. Louis' number one singles player, earning himself the GLVC Men's Tennis Player of the Year award. Dimke also posted a 3.98 GPA in the classroom, earning him the GLVC Men's Tennis Scholar-Athlete of the Year award as well.

The women's tennis team, led by then-freshman Pujitha Bandi, who went 17-8 last season to earn all-GLVC

honors, garnered its first berth in the GLVC Postseason Tournament since '03-'04.

The Triton volleyball team went 23-8, the program's most wins since 1995, and just narrowly missed earning an NCAA tournament berth. Still, UM-St. Louis claimed the GLVC's West Division crown and had three players—outside hitter Elizabeth Cook, middle hitter Weslie Gaff, and graduated senior Lisa Brinker—selected to the all-GLVC team.

Gaff in particular had a standout season. She was both the GLVC Volleyball and American Volleyball Coaches Association Midwest Region Freshman of the Year.

And Liz Cook, as it happens, is my favorite current UM-St. Louis athlete. I called her "Superstar" during a class we had together last year because I knew what a sought-after player she was in high school when she was one of the top volleyball players in the Kansas City area.

Liz is my fave UM-St. Louis athlete right now because she laughed at all my stupid jokes during that class we had together, and when the professor wasn't looking, she even chimed in with a few barbs of her own—including a few I can't share. No doubt, volleyball season is going to be a whole lot of fun this year.

And finally, I was at the Mark Twain Athletic Building the night the men's basketball team pulled off its glorious comeback against then unbeaten and number two nationally-ranked Bellarmine University, 70-69.

The Triton men played a scintillating second half that night, but never actually led until then-freshman point guard Beaumont Bea-

sley made a brilliant dribble, drive, and dish play to since-graduated senior Alex Jackson, who made an easy layup with two seconds left to win the game.

What a thrill last year was! And I can't wait to get it going again this year.

The first UM-St. Louis team to take the field/court this year will be the volleyball team. I expect they're going to finish what they started last year, and win the GLVC title this year.

The men's & women's soccer teams get started in early September, followed by the men's & women's golf & tennis teams. One thing about these Tritons is they proved themselves tough opponents to face in GLVC last season.

Come wintertime, coach Chris Pilz and the men's basketball team will look to improve on that program's first winning season in four years. While the women's basketball team might be the most intriguing UM-St. Louis team to watch this year.

Women's basketball coach Lisa Curliss-Taylor's Tritons lose only one senior from a youthful squad that took its lumps last year, but is ready to give some back this year. The program picked up a number of top recruits in the off-season and seems poised to make a giant splash in the GLVC this season.

Similarly beaten up last season, but working to beat back this season, is the Triton baseball team. That group loses only five seniors heading into the spring, but already players from the team can be found at the Mark Twain Athletic Building getting ready for the season.

This is all very exciting, and now that the off-season is finally over, a pumped-up fan like me can finally say, "Let the games begin!"



FIELDS, from page 14



ANH NGUYEN / THE CURRENT

UMSL Baseball field is located on South campus, in front of the College of Optometry. The baseball field was newly built in 2006.

In 1991, UM-St. Louis decided to honor and pay tribute to former head coach Don Dallas by officially naming the stadium after him. Dallas built the UM-St. Louis soccer program from scratch and coached the team for 23 years.

He led UM-St. Louis men's soccer to 236 wins, 16 NCAA Tournament appearances and in 1973 won the school's only NCAA National Championship to date.

UM-St. Louis Tennis Courts

The UM-St. Louis Tennis Courts are also located next to the Mark Twain Building, which provides easy access to locker room facilities and the training room.

The courts were most recently renovated during the summer of 2005, which included a complete court resurfacing, new fences and wind screens. One unique feature to the UM-St. Louis tennis courts is that the playing surfaces are painted red to match the university's school colors.

UM-St. Louis Softball Field

The UM-St. Louis Softball Field is technically located on North campus, but not exactly in an area most would see on their daily trips to campus. The softball facility is located a little further down University Boulevard off Rosedale Drive across from the Fine Arts Building.

The \$500,000 modern softball facility features its own parking lot, concession stands, restrooms, an enclosed press box and seating for up to 500 fans.

At field level, the facility includes dugouts for each team, an equipment storage facility, outdoor batting cages near both dugouts, and an infield tarp to protect against inclement weather.

The newest addition to the facility is a large, wooden gazebo for cookouts and gatherings, which was added prior to the 2001 season.

UM-St. Louis Baseball Field

UM-St. Louis's newest facility, the UM-St. Louis baseball field was completed in the spring of 2009 and is located on South Campus. The facility features covered bleacher seating for up to 200 fans behind home plate with ample room for lawn chairs on either side.

Like the softball facility, the baseball field features an elevated press box with a modern sound system and scoreboard. The full-size electronic scoreboard—which sits in right field—also features a digital display. Field level amenities include covered dugouts and bullpens for both teams.

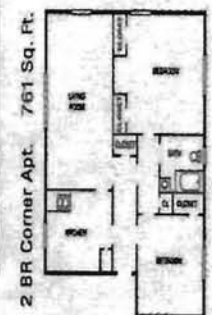
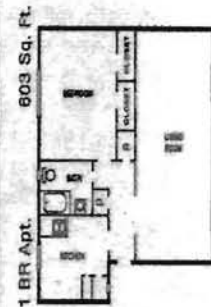
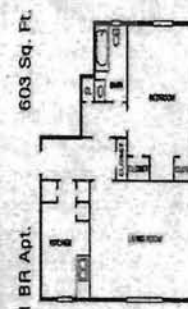
Although construction of the baseball field was completed last year, the UM-St. Louis baseball team never actually got to use the facility because of drainage problems after a major storm. UM-St. Louis administrators are confident though that the baseball field will be ready to go when the team begins play in spring 2010.

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VOLLEYBALL

Jones back to lead Triton volleyball

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**
Sports Editor

University of Missouri-St. Louis head volleyball coach Trent Jones will enter his second season as lead man of the program, hard-pressed to top his first.

Last year, Jones led UM-St. Louis to 23-8 record, the first 20-win season for the Tritons since 1996. The Tritons also had a record-breaking season within Great Lakes Valley Conference play, winning the GLVC's West Division title with a 14-3 record, the first division title and most league wins ever for any UM-St. Louis volleyball team.

For his efforts, Jones was named the GLVC Volleyball Coach of the Year. Additionally, UM-St. Louis outside hitter Weslie Gaff was named GLVC Freshman of the Year and American Volleyball Coaches Association Midwest Region Freshman of the Year.

Both return to the Tritons this year with hopes of achieving even greater things, including winning the conference title and earning the program's first NCAA Tournament berth under Jones.

Prior to his time as UM-

St. Louis's head coach, Jones worked four seasons as an assistant coach for national powerhouse Washburn University of Topeka, Kan.

During Jones' four seasons as an assistant at Washburn, the Lady Blues compiled a 129-23 record and qualified for the NCAA Tournament every year. In 2007, Washburn made its school's first ever NCAA Final Four appearance, eventually losing to national runner-up Western Washington University.

At Washburn, Jones' primary role was as head recruiting coordinator. But he did assist in all aspects of the program, including comprising game-plan strategies and on-court training.

Prior to being hired at Washburn, Jones served as a volunteer assistant coach for the University of Kansas volleyball team from 2002-04. He also served as head junior varsity coach Graceland University from 2001-02.

A native of Lee's Summit, Mo., Jones graduated from Graceland in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history with an emphasis in civil rights. Jones played his college volleyball at Columbia College and Graceland

University.

He was a freshman on the 2000 Columbia College team that won the NAIA national championship. Following the season, Jones transferred to Graceland where he played three seasons as a defensive specialist before moving into the coaching ranks.

Jones and the Tritons will begin their second season together, August 28 and 29 when UM-St. Louis travels to Memphis to play in the Cristian Brothers University Invitational Tournament.

The CBU tourney is the first of three invitationals UM-St. Louis will play in this season. On September 4 and 5 the Tritons will play in the Findlay University Tournament in Ohio. The following weekend, September 11 and 12, UM-St. Louis will travel to Warrensburg, Mo. to play in Central Missouri State University's volleyball event.

The first chance for Triton fans to get a look at this year's volleyball squad will come at the team's home opener, Tuesday, September 1 at the Mark Twain Building. That night, UM-St. Louis will host cross-town rival Missouri Baptist University in a non-conference contest at 7 p.m.

COMPETITION, from page 14

UI-Springfield earned a strong reputation in NAIA athletics, capturing three national championships in men's soccer, while producing a national presence in several other sports. The Prairie Stars will compete in 10 sports, all sponsored by the GLVC.

UI-Springfield's men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, softball and volleyball teams are all ready for competition this year, and the university is expected to add baseball by the 2010-11 academic year to fulfill the GLVC core sports requirement.

"The support of the Presidents, athletic directors, staff, administration and coaches at each institution, as well as the schools' geographic locations in the current footprint of the league, are all positive factors cited by our confer-

ence members when considering their applications for membership," Naumovich said.

"We look forward to including Maryville and UIS in our 2009-10 schedules and wish them the best of luck in the GLVC."

The GLVC was established in 1978 and is one of the largest NCAA Division II conferences in the country, currently sponsoring championships in 17 sports. The addition of Maryville and UI-Springfield to the GLVC brings the conference's membership to 15 teams from five Midwestern states.

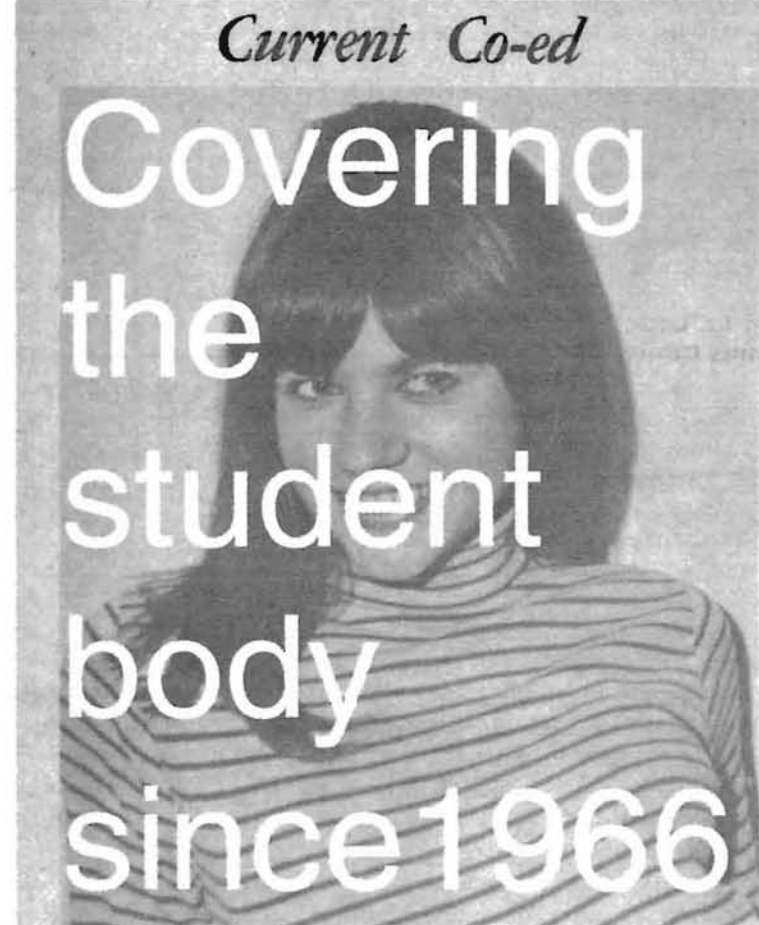
The current members of the GLVC are: Bellarmine University (Louisville, Ky.), Drury University (Springfield, Mo.), Kentucky Wesleyan College (Owensboro, Ky.), Lewis University (Romeoville, Ill.), Missouri University of Science & Technology (Rolla, Mo.), Northern

Kentucky University (Highland Heights, Ky.), Quincy University (Quincy, Ill.), Rockhurst University (Kansas City, Mo.), Saint Joseph's College (Rensselaer, Ind.), University of Indianapolis (Indianapolis, Ind.), University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, Ind.), University of Wisconsin-Parkside (Kenosha, Wis.), and UM-St. Louis.

Although the two new institutions will begin regular season GLVC competition this year, UI-Springfield will not be eligible for postseason competition until 2010-2011, and Maryville will not be allowed to compete for postseason championships until 2011-2012.

Those delays in postseason eligibility coincide with those institutions' eligibility for NCAA Division II championships as each is completing reclassification to NCAA Division II.

**The Current
welcomes this
year's new
student athletes
to campus!**



UMSL always welcomes transfer students, especially when they are as attractive as this issue's Current Co-ed. She is Brigitta Sanocki, a freshman. Brigitta, who is majoring in German and French, was born in Germany. The pretty brown-haired green-eyed co-ed is a transfer from Forest Park Junior College.

Photo by Don Pearlne

A&E

Touhill presents world-class performances

► **CATE MARQUIS**
A&E Editor

Concerts, ballets, modern dance, plays, comedies and more: These are a few of the performances that take place at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

Right here on campus, students have access to one of the area's premier performing arts venues. Students get discounts and sometimes it's even free.

This architecturally-beautiful performing arts space is situated on a high point, right next to the Millennium Student Center, with lovely vistas of the most scenic side of campus from the spacious lobby. The Touhill has two theaters: a smaller, more casual theater called the Lee Auditorium, and the grand, elegant Anheuser Busch Hall.

The Touhill season offers a variety of arts and entertainment choices for students, faculty, staff and the general public. The program runs from stand-up and ensemble comedy, to operas, plays, dance, symphonic music and lots of jazz. The Touhill is the place for a variety of campus arts and entertainment, including the Mirthday concerts in April.

There is university music at the venue all year. Besides being the home for the university's artists-in-residence Ariana String Quartet, the University Choir, Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble, guest musicians run the musical gambit. The university's Center For International Studies continues to offer its International Performing Arts program at the Touhill with dance and music from around the world--great stuff you are unlikely to see anywhere else in town.

The Touhill schedule has



AHMAD ALJURRYED / THE CURRENT

The Touhill Performing Arts Center on North Campus at dusk.

been announced for the 2009-2010 season but new performances are added throughout the year. The Touhill website, <http://www.touhill.org/home.php>, lists all the shows--updated as things are added--and has all the details on times and ticket prices. Ticket prices vary with the program but many programs are free and students get discounts for tickets. Every student should check out at least one program at this beautiful facility.

But you want to know about what you can see there and about those discounts and free performances. Here is a quick look at some of this year's highlights:

Comedy

The Touhill is building a comedy reputation, and that continues with Lily Tomlin (October 3) and Steven Wright (November 14).

The Second City Comedy Improv troupe returns April 30 and May 1.

Dance

The Touhill has become the home for Dance St. Louis, the area's top dance presenting organization. This outstanding program brings the best in dance from ballet to contemporary and folk, by the best in dance companies from around the whole. If you have never attended one of these or do not know much about dance, this program is a revelation. This year, MADCO (Modern American Dance Company)--now artists-in-residence on campus--makes the Touhill its home, too, so dance is everywhere - lucky us!

Theater, Opera and Other Performances

Performances this year include Chinese acrobats Golden Dragon Acrobats: Cirque d'Or (September 26) and magician/Illusionist Mike Super (March 6). Opera includes "O Pioneers!" (October 9-10), a new opera by UM-Saint Louis' Barbara

Harbach, "La Bohème" (October 21) and "La Traviata" (January 16) by Teatro Lirico D'Europa, and "Brundibar" (November 19 and 21) by Opera Theater of Saint Louis. The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players return with "H.M.S. Pinafore" (February 20-21).

Music

Some of this year's highlights are concerts by some music legends. Among these are Irish musicians The Chieftains (March 2), New Orleans' The Neville's and Dr. John (February 19), country music's George Jones (November 21), jazz pianist Jim Brickman (February 6), and swing/pop music's Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (September 18).

Classical music concerts are also impressive, with Amsterdam Cello Octet (October 11), Cypress String Quartet (November 1) and Philadelphia Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra (March 28).

What's around UMSL?

► **AFTON ANDERSON**
Copy Editor

Are you one of those complaining about being bored on campus and not having anything to do?

The cities of Ferguson and Normandy have heard the plea of the students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and decided to do something about making sure they are accessible to the campus at large. There are many restaurants, stores and bars that surround our metropolitan campus and many of them give discounts to UM-St. Louis students.

To many UM-St. Louis students, there is a lot more to the word 'station' than where you catch the Metro Link or where you catch the Metro Bus. Penn Station, near the intersection of Lucas and Hunt and Natural Bridge, is a favorite of UM-St. Louis students. Inside, you will find the walls plastered with love notes from various campus organizations. Another well-kept secret is Maid-Rite, which makes everything from burgers and fries to their unforgettable 'cheese curds.' They also make delicious Godfather's Pizza with the craziest toppings anyone can conceive.

Of course the Ferguson farmer's market is a wonderful place to spend your Saturday morning. Along with the local fruits and vegetables you can buy to support the local farms and stimulate the economy, there are a number of different activities going on to start the school year off with a bang. On August 15, the Boeing Jazz band will be playing from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. August 29 will feature Kamp's Peach Orchard

Sample Fest at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to enter their favorite home-made pie, cobbler or mousse in the contest and there will be cash prizes awarded. September 19 the market will host the Ferguson Live Well Health Fair from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There will be various activities for all age groups.

Mudear's Finest Herbal Product is also in Ferguson serving anyone who loves a good Health Food Store. It is located at 10306 Edgewood Drive. Mimi's Subway Bar and Grill is a good place to have great food and a beer if you don't want to go to a restaurant chain. Marley's is tucked away on the South Florissant Road and offers the same vacation from big box restaurants. Percy's Sports Bar and Steak, and The Junkyard Bar and Grill are other Ferguson classics worth visiting. The Whistle Stop on Carson Road is famous for wraps, salads and desserts.

For those needing furniture for their new Mansion Hills apartment, Value Village Thrift Department store provides UM-St. Louis students with affordable home goods and furniture. Although much of it is used, they sometimes have new or gently-used items. They also run many different specials and promotions on top of their already low prices. They provide professional customer service and have merchandise ranging from televisions to dishes from various charitable organizations and wholesalers. From restaurants to stores and bars, Ferguson and Normandy are on the rise.

St. Louis' hip neighborhoods have much to offer

► **NICK BISHOP**
Staff Writer

St. Louis has a few neighborhoods that can be considered anything but boring. People who have lived here their entire lives can always learn something new about one of our neighborhoods. These young and chic barrios of our city can always surprise by the diversity of things to do when you know where to look. So instead of sitting at home alone, get out of the house, call your best friend or that guy or girl who's number you got last week and go out and experience something new and exciting.

The Central West End (CWE) is one of the most trendy and stylish zones of the city, where it almost seems like a city within a city. With living, shopping, dining and even entertainment all in the same walkable area, the Central West End is an attractive place to live or visit. This neighborhood is bordered by Highway 40, Kingshighway and Washington Avenue. Its location is very desirable, being close to Forest Park and minutes from downtown.

There seems to be an innumerable amount of things

to do in the CWE like getting a coffee at Coffee Cartel or catching a movie at the Chase Park Plaza. There is definitely a nightlife in the CWE that is poppin' even on a Tuesday, like at Bar Louie who has a burger and beer Tuesday special.

There is also a variety of places to go depending on your scene, like the Irish bar, Llewellyn's Pub or one of the city's best gay bars--the Loading Zone--where they have Showtune Tuesday.

Another cool barrio of St. Louis is the Delmar Loop. Located, well, on Delmar, of course, in University City, this area is a hipster paradise where you can go and relax in a chill environment. The Loop is densely populated with a variety of entertainment venues.

Blueberry Hill is a historic restaurant/bar/music venue that offers not only wacky decorations but cheap drinks and some really cool St. Louis music history. It is almost a St. Louis tradition for musicians and other celebrities to stop by Blueberry Hill where you can view countless celebrity photos and autographs. There are a couple of other music venues in the Loop like The Pageant and Cicero's,

and there is the unique and historic Tivoli Theater where you can see indie or foreign-language films.

There are also lots of cool shops where you can get new or second-hand clothes, or shops like Sunshine Daydreams where you can get things like incense and tobacco smoking products. A couple of St. Louis' favorite tattoo and piercing studios are on the Loop such as Iron Age and House of Ink. Vintage Vinyl is one of the city's oldest and most successful second-hand music stores, and has been located on the Delmar Loop for three decades.

The Grove is another entertainment district that is quite well known to the GLBT community.

Located southeast of Forest Park and down the Manchester strip, there are quite a few bars that are well-known to those of us in the gay community such as Novak's, Attitudes, Just John's and Ernie's 32°. In addition to drinks, many of the establishments in the grove have really good food. Atomic Cowboy, Agave, La Dolce Via and El Mundo Latino are places located in the Grove where you can get a tasty bite to eat.



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

The Delmar Loop in University City, named one of the ten best streets in America.

Don't let the gay-friendliness of the Grove put you off: the bars and restaurants in this area are not just for GLBT persons, but for anyone who is interested in a good drink, a game of pool or some great dinner.

Many of these places--such as Novak's, Agave and Ernie's 32°--have outdoor patios where you can relax, chat with friends and enjoy yourself for a relaxing night

out. I highly recommend this area for going out for drinks with friends.

Other great neighborhoods and entertainment districts around town include the Maplewood downtown area--with the amazing Monarch and other restaurants--South Grand and Webster Groves' downtown area. Souldard, our oldest neighborhood, has music, restaurants, bars and of course the

Souldard Market--a popular destination for fresh produce, meats and spices--in the great French historic area that hosts Mardi Gras and Bastille Day every year. Laclede's Landing downtown and Westport Plaza in Maryland Heights also offer plenty of bars, plus theater and comedy shows at Westport. St. Charles historic district has old-fashioned charm and plenty of restaurants.

Forest Park features much more than just a zoo

► **NICK BISHOP**
Staff Writer

Since its opening in 1876, Forest Park has been one of the most treasured public assets in St. Louis.

Being one of the largest urban parks in the U.S.A., it is 500 acres larger than New York's Central Park. With so much history, Forest Park also has a lot of entertainment to offer. Museums, trails for biking and other kinds of unique attractions are scattered around the large scenic landscape of one of

St. Louis' favorite hot spots. Centrally located off Highway 40 and bordered by Skinker, Lindell and Kingshighway, there are a variety of Metro stops you can take to visit this cool location.

A favorite zone for children and adults alike in Forest Park is the St. Louis Zoo, which houses an exquisite collection of fauna for all to view. Continually being augmented and improved since its opening in 1891, our Zoo contains exhibits that are quite impressive. The newest exhibit--one of which

this writer is still waiting to see--is the stingray exhibit at the Caribbean Cove, where you not only view the small stingrays but actually touch them in the aquarium where they are housed. In addition to the sting ray exhibit, the Children's Zoo is another hands-on place for children and adults who like to experience more direct interaction with animals.

Forest Park is also packed with cultural institutions, including the St. Louis Art Museum, the Missouri History Museum and the Muny.

You can read more about the Art Museum in the "Art Museums and Galleries" article and the History Museum and Muny in the "Special Attractions" article but you might want to note that one of the best places to eat in Forest Park is Meriwether's in the History Museum which has a lovely view of the park too.

The St. Louis Science Center is another cool attraction that offers its visitors an educational excursion. The Science Center's Discovery Room is full of areas that contain experimental and

hands on learning for children ages three to seven that introduces them to fundamental scientific knowledge that can jumpstart their interests in the sciences. The Science Center is not just for kids; adults can have a blast there too. The OMNIMAX shows a variety of captivating films on the four-story domed screen daily. There are also a variety of temporary exhibits on display that come and go year round.

The Boathouse is a historic treasure in St. Louis that has been enjoyed by gen-

erations. Although it used to be just a boathouse on the Post-Dispatch Lake, it is now rebuilt and includes a restaurant and boat rentals. The restaurant menu includes a variety of hearty meals like fish and chips and Boathouse baby back ribs.

Other old favorites in the park, especially as wedding locations, are the Jewel Box greenhouse and the World Fair Pavilion.

Lastly, in early summer, Forest Park becomes the site of the annual St. Louis Shakespeare Festival.

St. Louis is where it's art

► **STACY BECKENHOLDT**
Copy Editor

St. Louis: Sports center, Gateway to the West and home of toasted ravioli. This great city of the Midwest has a myriad of offerings to its loyal residents and visiting friends, not the least of which are a variety of venues for art. Whether it's a small interior gallery run by passionate local artists or 100 plus acres in a park-like setting, there is certainly something for even the pickiest art connoisseur and enough variety to satisfy the wildest desires of every Gemini.

Indoor locations

Celebrating its 130th birthday this year, the St. Louis Art Museum is undoubtedly the most well-known location for all things art in St. Louis. Opening as the St. Louis School and Museum of Fine Arts, it moved to its current location in Forest Park after the 1904 World's Fair. It houses some of the world's greatest art from a variety of eras and locations, the most popular of which may be the Ancient Egyptian mummified remains of Amen-Nestawy-Nakht from 900 B.C. The museum is always free and special exhibits—which require admission—are always free on Fridays. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with hours extended to 9 p.m. on Friday. The website is www.slam.org. Located in Historic Sou-

lard in downtown St. Louis, The Soulard Art Market and Contemporary Art Gallery—also known as the SAM Gallery—specializes in showcasing different local artists' work nearly every weekend; over the course of a semester you could see as many as 16 different shows. Their website excitedly announces that on September 6 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. it will be a rest stop for cyclists participating in the annual Tour of Missouri.

In celebration of this special honor, the SAM Gallery will open "SPOKED!" a bicycle-themed art show, on Friday, September 4 with a free reception from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. They have a weekend of fun, free events to follow so be sure to check them out. Regular hours are Friday 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The website is www.soulardartmarket.com.

Other art museums include the Contemporary Art Museum of St. Louis, in Grand Center, and the Pulitzer Foundation for Art.

Outdoor Locations

Laumeier Sculpture Park is one of two major outdoor art venues. Situated on 105 acres, visitors can enjoy short or long walks while viewing more than 70 original pieces of art created by artists from all over the world. Leashed

pets and picnic baskets are welcome. Open every day except Christmas, hours are 8 a.m. to sunset. The website is www.laumeier.com.

Another outdoor art venue is the City Garden located in the heart of downtown St. Louis. From sunrise to 10 p.m. visitors can stroll amid a mixture of art, plants, architectural design and even a video wall. The Terrace View serves breakfast, lunch and dinner every day but Sunday. The website is www.citygardenstl.com.

Alternative Spaces

The ever-changing, ever-growing City Museum is a definite must-see. The brainchild of sculptor Bob Cassilly, he and several artists take found objects from the city—such as chimneys, bridges and airplanes—and creatively construct indoor and outdoor playgrounds—aptly named Monstro City (think monstrosity)—and redesigned architecture. Begun 12 years ago, regular visitors are always treated to something new as Cassilly's work may never cease. Additionally, the 600,000 square-foot former shoe factory has four locations to purchase light meals and drinks. Open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission starts at \$12 for visitors age three and up with extra charges for the World Aquar-

ium and The Roof. Tickets are just \$10 Friday and Saturday after 5 p.m.

Just a stone's throw from the Anheuser Bush Brewery off Highway 55, the Venice Cafe may not be a museum or gallery of art, but diners will walk away with more than full bellies after a visit to this eclectic restaurant-bar.

Sweet and spicy Caribbean food and ice-cold beverages pale in comparison to the interesting mix of trash-turned-treasure such as old bottle caps, tiles, baby dolls, license plates, lighters, cell phone and beads which adorn every available inch of space.

Described by one blogger as "Alice in Wonderland on acid," the Venice Cafe is sure to keep conversation lively. If the sights are not entertainment enough (and we truly doubt it) live music and a fortune teller will certainly add to the experience. Hours are Monday through Saturday 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. The website is www.thevenicecafe.com.

The Craft Alliance, in the Delmar Loop, and Third-Degree Glass Factory, further east on Delmar, offer classes in their arts and crafts, plus artists and craftsmen doing other forms of the arts.

Whether you are a lifelong St. Louisan wanting to learn about the world or a world-traveler wanting to learn about St. Louis, a trip to any of these or other distinct venues of art are sure to satisfy.



If Uncle Sam was on Facebook, Twitter and had his own website, he wouldn't have to keep pointing his finger at everyone to get thier attention.

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Movies and special theatres near campus

► **CATE MARQUIS**
A&E Editor

Whether you love the art of cinema or just want to see that latest blockbuster, there are movie theaters for you near campus. Most Hollywood movies are shown in multiple theaters owned by big theater chains.

The point is to see the latest hot movie, not a special venue. But some movie theaters are special venues, with unique or historic architecture, upscale concessions and even films that are exclusive runs. Next time you go to the movies, you can make the theater part of the entertainment.

Lucky for us, movie theaters of all types are just a short drive away.

The Tivoli Theatre

This restored historic

movie theater is a visual treat even before you see the movie. The restored 1925 movie house has been converted from a single screen to three screens but in a way that preserved the beauty of this classic movie palace. Everywhere you look are delightful details, starting with the old style movie marquee with globe lights and the plush historic lobby.

The lobby is filled with great classic film memorabilia and old movie posters, generally with a St. Louis link. Originally, there were vaudeville shows before the movie, and the stage is still there at the front of the big main theater. The whole theater is filled with architectural embellishments and details. Go early so you can take a good look around.

The Tivoli Theatre is part of the Landmark Theatre

chain and shows the best in independent films, foreign films and even a few locally made films. Most are exclusive runs. It is the venue for the annual St. Louis International Film Festival. In the summer and fall it runs a midnight show series, with anime, cult films and edgy stuff.

Concessions are great. The Tivoli offers gourmet snacks, teas and coffees, and even wine and beer.

Hi Pointe Theater

The Hi-Pointe is actually older than the Tivoli and retains its old-time movie marquee and box office. Inside, the theater was redone several times, the last time in the early 1960s.

The retro look has its appeal though and the lobby is filled with old movie photos



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

The Tivoli, a theater in The Loop, University City.

too. Inside, the theater has one big screen, very comfy plush seats and the best sound system in town. This local independent theater has

first-rate concessions, gourmet snacks and beverages. The movies are big hits as are a few indie films, offering style and popular movies.

For Cate's full listing of theaters, check thecurrentonline.com.

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The Current

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Our Opinion

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board. Signed opinions articles reflect the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of The Current.

The State of Health at UMSL

The state of health at UMSL is a good one. The health services are headed up by a nurse practitioner that has a doctoral degree, and the insurance is provided by the Chickering Group.

To learn more about the healthcare rates, etc., go to www.aetnastudenthealth.com. This site should give you a thorough look into what UMSL has available to us.

Of course, the clinic that we have here is ambulatory and sees students by appointment or even walk-ins. They perform such procedures as immunization, sexually transmitted disease tests, and weight check, in addition to the women's wellness exam.

If you don't have any health insurance at all, it is highly recommended that you at least study what UMSL has to offer to all enrolled students. You really never know when illness may

hit, and ultimately, you are responsible for your own well-being.

For many of us, our parents' insurance claims on us run out when we're past the age of 22. This leaves us with the option of either not having healthcare, or paying (sometimes dearly) for health care.

UMSL's option for healthcare is reasonable. It is hard to be without any medical attention during those in-between years.

It is encouraged for all students to at least have yearly exams, and if you are a female it is important to have gynecological exams.

For those of us that simply can't afford healthcare under any circumstance, it is very important to take care of yourself – but even when you take care of yourself you should set aside a few days out of a year and get to know a doctor be letting him/her

know what all of your concerns are.

There may be some community organizations that could hook you up with a doctor for a lot less money than what you usually would be paying out of pocket. It is a great idea to further explore such community organizations and take advantage of the services that are available for you.

Looking on the bright side, President Obama's agenda includes Universal Healthcare, so maybe if we hold out a little longer something good will happen for those seeking healthcare coverage.

Until then, use the services that are on your front door step, being Aetna through UMSL or community-based organizations that are looking for exactly someone like you to help, and more often than not, use a sliding scale, or are even free.

This is what people have been saying on our message boards...

"My condolences go out to the family and friends of this person."

-LIN on the suicide on campus.

"There is nothing wrong with americans being upset about his death and the media talking about it."

- JP on the coverage of Michael Jackson's death.

National Scholars Honor Society does no honor to scholars

The Internet is a wild and woolly place, and computer users face genuine hazards such as viruses and spyware that they must diligently guard against.

There are also plenty of scams that seek to separate you from your money instead of controlling your computer.

You must face your inbox every day with a healthy dose of skepticism; muzzle your curiosity and don't open attachments from people whose name you do not recognize. Do not click "Yes" when a website claims that your computer is infected and offers to scan your hard drive, because you are saying "yes" to installing spyware on your computer. Do not take checks or money orders from people who want you to send money out of the country while you hold the check.

Since we are all university students here at *The Current*, we find the National Scholars Honor Society (NSHS) particularly annoying.

On its homepage at www.nationalscholarshonorsociety.com, the NSHS describes itself as "a private and independent academic honors organization dedicated to encouraging, recognizing, and rewarding high academic achievement in all areas of study." Unfortunately, there is no academic achievement required to join the NSHS, and according to our sources, a cat named Mollie has been accepted for membership. All that was needed for Mollie to join this group of scholars was \$110.

The NSHS makes no bones about its selection criteria: there are none. The NSHS states quite clearly on its website that it requires no pre-approval based on GPA. The requirements for membership are laughable: accept an Honor Code pledging personal integrity, and complete an application for membership. Oh, yes, and send \$110.

By carefully searching the NSHS website, we

have discovered the benefits to membership. New members receive the National Scholars Membership Document, "a prestigious parchment document for members to frame and display." The NSHS assures its new members that "this certificate is our pinnacle of collegiate awards, serving as the standard for measuring academic success." Members also have the right to list membership on resumes and applications.

If you list membership in the NSHS on your resume, the only thing you are telling employers is that you are gullible. The National Scholars Membership Document and a dollar will get you a small cup of coffee.

The NSHS does claim to be handing out some scholarship money, and we hope that this is true. Nonetheless, we think you should keep your \$110, and check with your academic advisers before you spend any membership money on scholarly organizations.

"Expose the Tobacco industry for the killers they are !"

- SAS on the possibility of a smoking ban on campus.

Make your voice be heard. You can go to www.thecurrentonline.com and comment on every article in this and past issues.

Opinions

The pains of residential living at UMSL

► **NICK BISHOP**
Staff Writer

Living on campus can be very appealing to new students at UMSL, but it's not all as amazing and great as it seems at first. Living on campus has pros and cons like anything else. I think every new student on campus should be well-informed about all the consequences of living on or off campus, then weigh out the costs and benefits before making their decision.

I think the pros of living on campus are very appealing, especially at first. Living on campus makes getting to class so much easier, especially those 8:00AM classes when you really don't feel like driving to class. In addition to proximity, living in a building full of other students lends its way to opportunities meeting people who have the same career paths and interests as you; you can even meet people

while living on campus that you would have ever met or approached in other circumstances. This promotes experiencing new things and meeting people that are different than you.

Living on campus isn't as perfect as it may seem. The price to live on campus is substantial. For the 2009-2010 nine-month academic year, it costs \$732 per month including the required meal plan. That's pretty expensive if you think about it. For that price, you could get an apartment on your own. Better yet, if you know one other person, you could get a roommate and save even more. In addition to the price, living in the dorms requires you to give up a small amount of freedom for the greater good. There is a strict limit to the amount of times a visitor can stay overnight. The last time I checked, it was two times per semester. That is

nothing if you have a significant other that you want to bring home for some boom-boom. I mean, if you're paying that much money to live in this cramped room, don't you think you should have the freedom to bring people home when you want? Yeah, you have people you share the dorms with, but I ask how is that different than an apartment building? It isn't.

With the limitation of overnight visitors, the constant oversight by your RA and the fact that UMSL is a dry-campus, it can feel as if you don't have control of your own living situation. The RAs can be a little uptight when it comes to the rules, which is understandable because their paid-housing is on the line when you break the rules. Enough is enough. Sometimes you need to breathe a little, and being a person over the age of 21 living in the dorms can be a pain in the ass

when it comes to drinking. I remember being 22, living in the dorms and being reprimanded for drinking on my birthday. *Lame.*

Not everything about living on campus is perfect. It's far from it. Living on campus was the option I took my first year at UMSL. It worked out well for me, meeting many new people while having loads of fun. However, the dorms have become much more secure and strict since the first year Oak Hall opened, creating more hassles to deal with and more hoops to jump through. Personally, I see more cons than pros to living on campus. Paying so much to live in the dorms, I would like to get a little more freedom than they're willing to give you. For that reason, I say campus living is a pain, and if you have another option, look into it! If not, at least you're out of the parents' house!

A fuller downtown area in Ferguson

► **PAUL MAGUIRE**
Staff Writer

If one were to travel around the country with the intent of visiting college towns, one would find something very interesting; many college towns have a trendy, well established strip of storefronts as an attractive downtown area. Many believe the college experience has not only to do with education, but also the fun to be had in the districts off campus. This is why a classy, enjoyable strip seems necessary.

In St. Louis, Washington University has the Delmar Loop. If you are a WashU student looking for some live music, a meal, a drink or even just a place to sit and people watch, as you puff a hookah, the Loop is the place to go. Likewise, if you are a student from St. Louis University, all you need to do is roll your bicycle a mile south on Grand. There you will find bars, cafes and dance floors galore.

Also, if you are a Webster University student, just a short stroll on Big Bend takes you to a nice, full, relaxing downtown area. Here you can have coffee or check out instruments at the local music shop.

So, why not embrace a fun, trendy downtown in which University of Missouri-St. Louis students can hangout and get a cup of Joe? Why not put effort toward a strip in Ferguson? Heck, if Miz-zou can have a nice, happenin' downtown, then so can we.

First, with a fuller downtown area near campus, students would not have to travel

such far distances. The Loop is close to six miles away, while South Grand is around eleven miles away and Webster Groves is a whopping thirteen miles from the UM-St. Louis campus. This is not to mention Kirkwood, Brentwood, and Maplewood, all of which have great downtown strips, and all of which are at least a thirty minute drive.

Second, a good downtown would allow for UM-St. Louis students to have more job opportunities close by. Whether you bartend, sling coffee, work retail or just want to get your band a good gig at a fun bar, a downtown with variety would provide the employment you desire. This way, instead of trudging through a job in order to make ends meet, one would have more of a chance to find a well paying enjoyable job. This would in turn enrich one's college experience and add variety to one's resume.

Third, a better downtown would give UM-St. Louis students more opportunities to be active in the community surrounding the campus. Instead of only focusing on what is good, what is bad and what needs to change within the confines of campus life, students would be apt to get out and join others in Ferguson. Clubs could be formed intermingling students and residents. Organizations would crop up, including a variety of people, building neighborhoods and maybe even giving some helpful life experience beyond the classroom. This would make the students at UM-St. Louis more ready for the real world upon graduation.

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Test preparation

► **AFTON ANDERSON**
Copy Editor

After getting my scores for the American College Test (ACT), I took a big sigh of relief. I thought I had finished the most important test of my life. Now that I am about to graduate from college, I realize that the ACT was not the test that decided my fate. I am faced with a new challenge: the MCAT.

Fifty years ago, finishing high school was a high achievement and it was perfectly normal to enter the work force expecting to bring in the kind of revenue that will support a family. Around twenty years ago, it seemed everyone could go to college with new government backed loans and credit. Now, it seems that even managers at fast food restaurants have collegiate degrees and more must be done to ensure that we can enter the professional world. Last year, the job outlook was not that great for our nation and UMSL students alike. After I researched the graduates who did have jobs, I noticed a few things they had in common. Many successful graduates had undergraduate degrees that were mathematics based and/or they were graduates from professional schools.

One of the differences between high school and college is that in high school, we are drilled about what is going to come next. We are taught skills in school that are going to help us excel on the ACT. We have all had that teacher who says, "I'm doing it like this because it's going to be this way when you get to college." Where is that now? Why is there nothing in our curriculum that helps us to do well on professional and graduate school entrance exams? Once you have decided to go on to professional school or earn a graduate degree, it is up to the you to

ensure you have the skills to master the GRE, GMAT, MCAT, LSAT, and every other test of that nature. Unless, of course, you go to one of these private and/or small universities that give their students the competitive advantage on these tests.

A little birdie told me that there are schools that have been prepping their students hardcore for competitive tests like the MCAT and the LSAT for years. Ingrained in their curriculum are courses with names like "Foundations of Chemistry" or "Fundamentals of Law and Logic" and are really just glorified names for MCAT prep or LSAT prep. These students at these universities take these courses during the last few semesters of their collegiate career. When that test comes up, they are ready. They get that 39 on the MCAT or that 171 on their LSAT. This is nothing like the ACT. This is the test that may decide whether I'm going to be a surgeon or flip burgers. Okay, not flip burgers. You get my drift.

A post-baccalaureate program is designed to help you get into professional school after you have already graduated. They are most prevalent for people trying to go to law or medical school. Some drawbacks are: they can take months or even years to complete, they are few in number meaning you will likely have to move, and you have to pay full tuition at that institution to attend. I don't have a problem spending an extra year or two in school. For many UMSL students with families and full time jobs, that just is not an option.

What else can we do to get ahead? We could just pay \$2,000 dollars to do these preps on our own. I say UMSL needs to step up their game and start doing it for us, too. Their secret is out now.

► **DAPHNE DROHOBYCZER**
Opinions Editor

I do not consider myself an extremist fundamentalist Jew or anything, but growing up I was always interested in learning Hebrew because my parents had private discussions in Hebrew that I could never comprehend. For many years, I tried to teach myself Hebrew and eventually reached a place where I could read Hebrew, albeit very, very slowly. UMSL does not offer Hebrew courses, and I am here to say that putting a Hebrew course into action would have many benefits. Those who would choose to learn Hebrew may also be interested in Near Eastern studies, another area that UMSL has not developed fully when considering the courses in History that are consistent.

I realize there is a miniscule percentage of Jews on the campus, but take this for a case – you don't have to be Muslim to learn Arabic. UMSL has some incredibly flourishing departments, so it would be optimal for us to follow UMSL's momentum into unchartered territory, as is such, Hebrew. We could lend a hand in the responsibility of Americans learning languages other than English by offering a language that many students have the curiosity for.

Also, a Hebrew course may attract more international students, especially from Israel or from cities in Europe largely populated by Jews. Of course, the classes would be open to everyone, and having Hebrew classes at a state school is not unheard of. If anything, they make the language program stronger. I am sure that including Hebrew in the curriculum would make academics stronger here, and would open up a whole new category of students who would

Hebrew

find attending UMSL appealing. Hebrew also has its Jewish languages counterparts – Yiddish and Ladino. If Hebrew was included in the course catalogue, then students taking Hebrew could form Yiddish and Ladino clubs. Yiddish is basically the German dialect used by Jews and Ladino is the Spanish dialect used by another set of Jews, both for centuries but in different places.

UMSL has so much to offer students in the way of languages – we have Arabic, Japanese, and even Greek. Having Hebrew available to students at UMSL would open up an incredible set of new possibilities – from courses on religion to courses on the middle East, to great interfaith discussions. It may even affect the diversity of the UMSL environment. Basically, including Hebrew at UMSL could shed a whole new light on the availability of courses offered and cultures explored at UMSL. With Middle Eastern studies being the hot topic at this moment, there is no doubt that students could put their lessons in Hebrew, Arabic, and perhaps Middle Eastern and Religious studies to use in the real world.

Having Hebrew courses established at UMSL would serve as a catalyst to greater and broader things. It would open admissions to students who have a primary goal to learn Hebrew and simultaneously be an attractive option to students who have entered and are looking for a Middle Eastern language.

It would eventually create not only the need, but the desire from students and faculty to have Middle Eastern and Religious studies. These fields are truly fascinating, and although you can have a taste of it from the History Department, full departments in these areas is optimal.

Global Climate Change

► **CATE MARQUIS**
A&E Editor

The University of Missouri-St Louis is offering a new course, "Global Climate Change," through the Continuing Education department which points the way for other new science courses UM-St Louis might offer in the future.

The strengths of the campus' science faculty and resources like the Center for Neurodynamics, the Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center and Center for Nanoscience offer tremendous opportunities for UM-St. Louis to create unique and compelling science courses.

Multi-disciplinary science is where some of the most interesting research is taking place. What's more, these areas where science disciplines overlap often have practical applications. While the sciences are traditionally divided into fields like biology, chemistry, physics and so forth, nature itself makes no such distinctions. When addressing practical challenges, drawing on all fields can offer new solutions and breakthroughs.

Here are a few other interesting ideas for new science courses:

World Ecology: The Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center is already leading the way with this idea by co-sponsoring this new climate change course. This center is a bit different from the others in that it already has a public outreach and educational function. It has a global reach and serves as an academic branch for the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Zoo. Why not a course that surveys of topics in world ecology or focuses on current ecological "hot spots?"

Neurodynamics: In the real world of nature, there are no boundaries between

sciences. What are the physics involved in neurological functions? This already cooperative and multi-disciplinary science center has gone from a collaborative overlap between biology and physics to one that now has overlaps with psychology research and medicine. There is potential in practical cures and pure research, so why not introduce students to that world?

Nanoscience: Nanoscience is the study of the very small, a multi-disciplinary area with overlaps in physics, imaging and computer science. Who would not want to know a bit more about tiny tools that might do big things? This center is doing this work, so why not a course to introduce students to what this area of research is all about.

Pandemics and World Health: Everybody is talking about swine flu, so why not a course in pandemics of the past that also explores the public health tools we have now to meet this challenge? The university offers a course in virology but putting the whole thing in a global and practical context could be enlightening.

History of Science: If our campus does not offer this course now, it should. The roles of science in world history as well as the sequences of scientific discoveries and evolution of technologies are essential foundations for being an informed citizen in a democracy.

Evolution: It is a foundation of biological science but many non-biologists seem unaware of the mountain of scientific data underpinning it. Since this is a frequent topic of public discourse, and creationists often like to say "let the debate begin," a course like this could provide a rational, calm forum for a comparison of data and civilized debate to take place.

Got an opinion on their opinion?

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Let us know.

Columns

RAINBOW RANTS

It's all in the family

► **AMY BELLM**
Staff Writer

"What is your favorite part of being gay?" This question was asked of me recently, and the answer came easily. I love the idea of community: a community where not only strong social connections are drawn, but one where a social movement is key. With the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots this past June and pride events nationally celebrating the accomplishments made by the gay liberation movement, how could you not partake?

Just to be clear, the queer community is not just about drinking copious amounts of alcohol and dancing to booming electronic beats long into the night. It is not some kind of orgy-filled experimental commune. Sexual liberation plays only small role in the overall movement, and that role must have grown tired in the 70s and 80s. Now, because of the above mentioned statements, don't assume that the gay scene is no fun, because it's a ball (disco perhaps). Being able to go out to place where one can hold their lover/boyfriend/girlfriend's hand or show some sort of public affection with no implications like a heterosexual couple, is a definite benefit of the gay scene. This gay scene I refer

to includes bars, yes, but also gay-friendly coffee shops, restaurants, neighborhoods, etc.

The pride events, celebrated worldwide are key to this idea of community. The pride events in different cities, although seemingly different (amount of people attending, certain events held, the parades...) have the same message: to gather the lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, queer, and straight allies together with a sentiment of hope and celebration. The events show that we are a community that bands together for both a good fun time and as a movement to be reckoned with.

St. Louis, for example, holds their pride event every year on the last weekend of June in Tower Grove Park with a parade that shoots down South Grand. If you are feeling like you don't know many gays, or maybe you don't think St. Louis is home to a large gay community, come out (really) to this event.

Why do you think gays refer to other gays as "family?" It is the community brewing and coming together. We are there for each other, as one would be for their own siblings, to enjoy each other's presence and to fight for each other, to stand together. We're in this one together.

FOREIGNER'S CORNER

Internationals welcome

► **SOFI SECK**
Photo Editor

AMERICANS: Imagine going to a new place, thousands of miles away from home. Imagine having to learn a new language, a new culture, being away from your friends and family for months and even years at a time. This is what international students deal with everyday.

Believe me when I tell you that being an international student is not easy, so please help make our transition a little easier by better understanding what we go through and being a little more sensitive to our situation.

Please understand that just because we don't speak and understand English perfectly, that does not make us unintelligent or illiterate. Most of us speak 3 or more languages and study incredibly hard to get to where we are.

Please understand that it is very hurtful when people react negatively to you simply because you have an

accent. An accent should never discredit a person's opinions and ideas.

INTERNATIONALS: I'm not going to lie to you, being an international student is not as easy at all. You have to be willing to work harder than most to get to the same level academically simply because of the language barrier.

No matter how hard you worked on your English back home, you will face limitations on vocabulary. The difficulties of understanding the mixture of slang into normal speech makes it more challenging to be able to participate fully in a conversation. Don't let this get you down.

I was lucky enough to go to high school here. Even then, it took me years to be comfortable enough to speak and interact with Americans. Do not let that stop you from trying. Don't worry about your accents, don't worry about sounding stupid, just relax and try your best. If you do not understand something, simply

ask for help.

Do yourself a favor; be ready for anything and everything to go wrong. Don't assume that you'll be able to find the perfect job right away, and don't give up when you don't. Times are hard so be sensible about your money.

Although you probably will find a job here, it might take a while. Try and be reasonable with your money.

Your culture shock might be a little deeper if you came from an educational system that is completely different from the one where you move.

Don't freak out, you will find that after living here a couple of weeks, you should be completely used to it. If you are not, the people at the international office would be more than happy to assist you. That is what they are there for, so don't hesitate to stop by and ask for help.

In fact, those rules go for everything. If you find yourself in need of help, use the resources that UMSL

provides. If you are feeling overwhelmed, the counselor at the health center would be more than happy to talk to you about it. If you are finding the language barrier to be too much, we have tutors and ESL classes that can help you out with no problem. That is what they are there for, so use them if you need them.

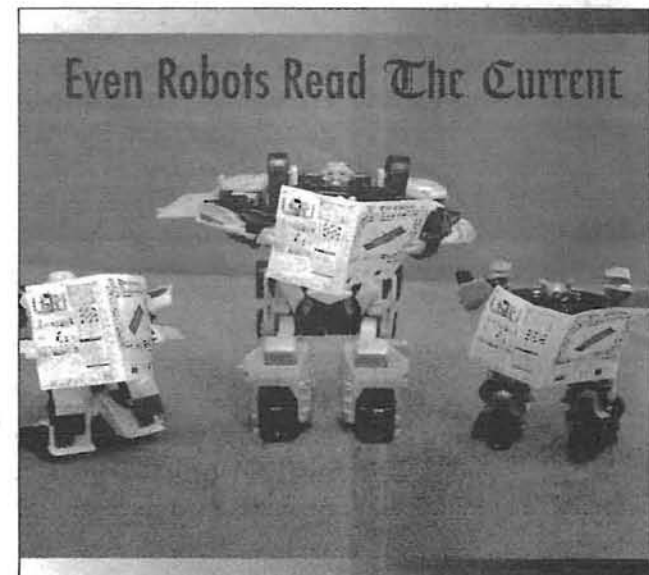
Finally, do not be afraid to be you. Americans do not bite. They are actually very friendly and funny people and if you give them a chance, they will give you one. Go for it, make some new friends, and try new things. That is what being international is all about after all.

If you do all of this with an open mind, you will leave this experience with so much more than you could have ever imagined. You will meet people who will change the way you see life, you will learn more than you ever thought you could, and you will grow incredibly as a person.

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SAFETY, from page 2

UM-St. Louis will have its third re-accreditation at the end of this year.

"It's a good feather in the cap of a police department," Schupp said. "[Chief Roeseler] thought we could show the university that we are a professional police department as well as the rest of the community."

According to Schupp, many people are unaware that the Police Department at UM-St. Louis is a fully accredited and certified police department. Schupp explained that the UM-St. Louis' Police Department has all

the powers of arrest, does the majority of their own investigations and crime scene processing, and has their own dispatching facilities.

Schupp explained that if a student is on campus and needs to dial 911, they should dial it from either a red phone—which will automatically dial the campus Police Department—or to dial the Police Department directly at (314) 516-5155. Schupp explained that when a student has an emergency on-campus and they dial 911 instead of the UM-St. Louis department, it can take lon-

ger to dispatch an officer to assist them.

"It creates a delay," Schupp said. "In an emergency situation a couple of seconds can be a big deal."

More information about the UM-St. Louis Police Department and crime statistics can be found online at their website.

Editor's note: University Police crime statistics were requested for this story and the request was denied. Due to time constraints the statistics have not yet been obtained, although the request will continue to be made.

FUNDING, from page 2

These initial plans for construction were halted as the economy of the nation collapsed.

As the state wades in economic turmoil with the rest of the nation, it is forced to weigh limited resources and dispense them based upon true need. The ailing economy and a transfer of power to the newly elected Governor Jay Nixon halted renovations to Benton-Stadler Hall. The office of the governor issued a release on February 13 stating: "that his administration's review of the MOHELA project list is complete. The review was needed because MOHELA has failed to make its payments to the state. The projects will be suspended until MOHELA makes additional payments or additional funding sources

can be identified." On June 25, Nixon vetoed the Missouri House of Representatives Appropriations bill Hb22 that sought to be the additional funding source.

UM-St. Louis fell seventh on this list of top priority. St. Louis Post Dispatch journalist, Kavita Kumar reports that Governor Nixon's Communication Director Jack Cardetti informed that "the projects that were well underway and that were able to be completed got the green light today". Among the institutions that received funds were Harris-Stowe State University's Child & Parent Education Center (\$9,252,803) and Linn State Technical College's Heavy Equipment Technology Building (\$4,393,526).

University of Missouri

System officials announced on July 16 that \$332 million in bonds were issued for university projects, however Benton Hall was not among those that would receive money.

When asked if the recent record-setting fundraising accumulation of \$26.9 million may be potential funding for the Benton-Stadler expenses, University Chancellor Tom George clarified that the money was most likely already allotted for something else.

"Donors usually give for a specific purpose, such as the Scholarship Excellence program and not for budget concerns," said Chancellor Tom George, "[but] UMSL is among the top priorities in the state. I am optimistic we will eventually get it."

SGA, from page 3

"We have already contacted the deans and they are all really on board they are really excited about it," Ritter added.

One thing that Ritter is "really excited" about is the new SGA logo, which she

created in June. Ritter said they believed the old logo was outdated.

"The new logo is more eye-catching," she said "it is very simple and it is easy to read, explains what SGA is and is a little more user-friendly."

While Ritter worked on the logo, Meyer, senior, business major, began coordinating and planning the 2009 homecoming festivities. This year, homecoming will be two days longer than last, starting on September 25, a Friday and concluding on

October 3, a Saturday.

"It's two days longer because of the way the soccer games fell," Meyer said.

Another difference in this year's homecoming concerns spirit points. The points will probably be awarded on a percentage scale, therefore

giving larger student organizations no advantage over smaller organizations.

"RHA has so many people so they always win the spirit award," Meyer said "They do a great job but I just feel bad for the smaller organizations that do have people show up

for everything but don't win because they are smaller."

Yet when asked what their biggest focus is for next year, the three unanimously agreed that it would first-and-foremost be the needs of UM-St. Louis students.

What do the current Missouri state treasurer ***Clint Zweifel***, Post-Dispatch writer ***Jeremy Rutherford***, former Mayor of St. Louis ***Vincent Schoemehl*** and local sports-casters ***Frank Cusumano & Kevin Slaten***, all have in common?

**They went to UM-St. Louis...
and all worked for The Current.**

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What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Priority is given to student organizations; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu. No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

Wednesday, AUGUST 12

Nonprofit Organization Board Member Legal Issues. For current and aspiring nonprofit organization board members covers board member duties, liabilities, and legal protectors. The class will include a discussion of the Missouri Bar's goals for attorney pro bono work and whether pro bono goal can be satisfied by board. Cost: \$25, J.C. Penney Conference Center, One University Blvd. For info call Stephen Smith at 5948.

Friday, AUGUST 14

New Student Orientation. A one day program for those admitted as undergraduate students for Summer 2009 and Fall 2009. You will receive information and resources you will need as you start your UMSL experience. Please visit the orientation website to register. Millennium Student Center, 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM. For information contact Yolanda Weathersby at 5460.

Saturday, AUGUST 15

Beginning Teachers Assistance Program Conference. This conference for new kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers includes discussion groups, workshops, and presentations that focus on the particular needs of early career teachers. Attendance meets a requirement for advancement in state certification. Cost: \$35, J.C. Penney Conference Center, 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM. For more information contact Mattie Lewis at 5655.

"The U" New DJ Orientation. The U is looking for new DJs for the Fall Semester. No experience required. Attend this orientation session for more information. 314 MSC, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. For more information contact Keith Robinson at 1888.

Monday, AUGUST 17

2009 TA/RA Professional Development Conference. This two-day conference is open to all new and returning graduate teaching assistants and research assistants campus-wide. J. C. Penney Conference Center, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more info contact Dr. Sally Barr Ebest at 5544.

Tuesday, AUGUST 18

2009 TA/RA Professional Development Conference. This two-day conference is open to all new and returning graduate teaching assistants and research assistants campus-wide. J. C. Penney Conference Center, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. For more info contact Dr. Sally Barr Ebest at 5544.

Friday, AUGUST 21

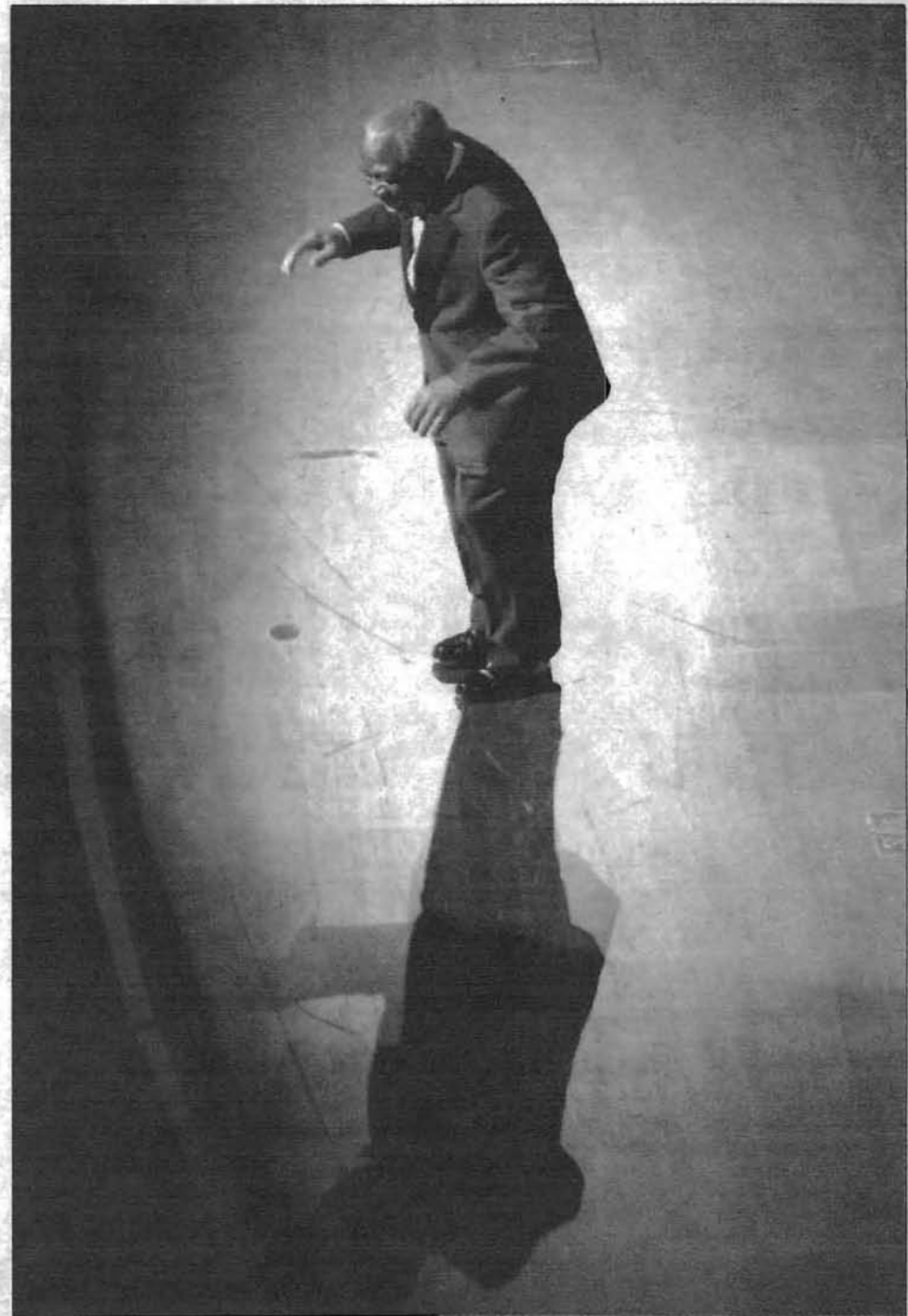
Part-time Faculty Orientation. This half-day program is designed for part-time faculty, including graduate students, who are teaching at UMSL for the first time. Located at 106 CCB, 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. For more info contact Peggy Cohen at 4508.

Saturday, AUGUST 22

Part-time Faculty Orientation. This half-day program is designed for part-time faculty, including graduate students, who are teaching at UMSL for the first time. Located at 106 CCB, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. For more info contact Peggy Cohen at 4508.

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Additional listings available at thecurrentonline.com



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All That Tap

Ardie Bryant performing at All That Tap XVIII Saturday at the Touhill Performing Art Center. Mr. Bryant has been a tap dancer most of his life and has performed with artists such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Duke Ellington in venues such as the Apollo Theater and Carnegie Hall. Most-recently he has been seen in commercials for AT&T and Budweiser.

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