

Mirthday

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Jerry McCrave, Carl Hoagland, Vanity Gee, Joel Hollinger, and Anne Bartin created the documentary "How the Debt Crisis Impacts UMSL."

CATE MARQUIS/ THE CURRENT

UMSL documentary on student debt

CATE MARQUIS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The message of a new documentary on student debt, "How the Debt Crisis Impacts UMSL," which was created by students at University of Missouri-St. Louis, was that borrowing for college should be approached with caution.

The documentary debuted at the Student Debt Film Festival on April 16 in Marillac Hall on South Campus. The film was the last in a monthly series on student debt presented by Young Activists United St. Louis, UMSL Chapter and the Dean's Committee on Social Justice.

Alice Floros, senior, history education, is inter-campus coordinator of Young Activist United St. Louis. She and faculty sponsor, Dr. Carl Hoagland, teaching professor and Emerson Electric Endowed professor of technology and learning, were on hand to moderate the post-screening discussion.

Hoagland's class created the short documentary. Jerry McCrave, graduate, adult education; Joel Hollinger, senior, adult education and Anne Bartin, graduate, adult education, contributed to the script. Vanity Gee, sophomore, media studies, served as video editor.

Hoagland described Floros as the "energy behind the film series." As

Floros mentioned, student debt in this country exceeded credit card debt for the first time last year. Young Activists United St. Louis, UMSL Chapter, is sponsoring a "Twitter rally" on April 23 to mark the anniversary of student debt reaching \$1 billion nationally. More information is on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Young-Activists-United-St-Louis/137168796345975.

"How the Debt Crisis Impacts UMSL" brought a local focus to the issue. The documentary opened with news footage of a recent incident in downtown St. Louis in which a college student shot his financial adviser and then himself. Both survived, but the event brought the student loan crisis to local attention.

The documentary offered interviews with present students and recent graduates at UMSL and other local universities. Also featured in the film was Alan Byrd, dean of enrollment, who was present for the screening.

The film noted that while credit card debt, debt built up from extravagant lifestyles or even gambling debt can all be wiped out in bankruptcy, student loans cannot. It also noted that some student loan payments now rival mortgage payments, an enormous burden for someone just starting out.

After the screening, the audience

of about 20 formed a circle for a discussion on the topic. Many participants suggested that education on student loan debt begin early, in high school or even in grade school.

One of the attendees was Courtney Hayes, junior, English, who was also a candidate for Student Senate in last week's election.

"I was happy with the outcome of the film. I was really excited to be a part of it," Hayes said. "One thing I took away from it [was that] it seemed like students are having to adjust to the changing tide, and there's not much demand for the government to change anything or for the people who run the [student loan] system to change anything, I think. We're kind of having to pay the price for something we didn't cause. It's not really fair ... something needs to change with student debt."

"All the conversation so far fixes responsibility on the student," Dr. Bob Bliss, dean of the Honors College, said. "The student has some responsibility, [but] there are other areas of responsibility you can focus on. The university could organize itself a little more efficiently." Bliss' comment brought agreement from other faculty in the room, but it brought some qualifications as well.

"At any public institution, you have to keep access and

affordability in the front of whatever you do," Byrd said. Byrd said that it was important to look at the net costs and what federal and state financial aid provides. "As a university, you have to supplement [loans] to make sure you make your school affordable for your demographic."

Byrd noted that UMSL has many lower-income students.

"Right now, net cost is well over \$36,000, when most of our students don't make over \$25,000," Byrd said. "We have to do our part to close that gap so students can actually work their way through on a work-study job."

When asked by another faculty member if Byrd thought faculty understood this, he replied, "Probably not."

"I often find myself in a room with faculty who were full-time college students who didn't work. The number one job in college was to learn, and it is difficult for them to understand you have people who have other responsibilities, where they can't just put everything on the back burner and concentrate on school," he said.

Hoagland, Floros and others involved in making the film hope to show it again on campus, possibly in classes. They are also considering ways to distributing the documentary more widely.

Youth Violence Conference discusses safety

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

The Youth Violence Prevention Conference took place on April 11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the J.C. Penney Conference Center. Speakers discussed victimization and strategies for reducing adolescent aggression. Research findings from St. Louis and other cities were also presented in order to identify the level and type of abuse and harassment occurring in the community and in schools. Evidence-based policies and programs for violence education were also discussed.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, youth violence is described as a public health epidemic. The CDC website cites statistics from the FBI that state that homicide is the second leading cause of death among youth aged 10-24 in the U.S. Violence is also mentioned as a major cause of non-fatal injuries among youths. In 2009, a total of 650,843 young people aged 10-24 were treated in emergency departments for non-fatal injuries sustained from

assaults.

According to Stephanie DiPietro of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at University of Missouri-St. Louis, the Youth Violence Prevention Conference has been held for the last 12 years.

"The department chair of [the Department of] Criminology and Criminal Justice has organized this conference every year, and the interest is campus-wide and has been developed and maintained over the years. The conference has received many favorable reviews," DiPietro said.

"There's an opportunity for individuals to learn about crime prevention issues that are of interest to them as professionals and members of the local community at this conference," DiPietro said.

"More than 200 people attend the conference, including students, faculty, youth workers, law enforcement, teachers, counselors and others," Finn-Aage Esbensen, an E. Desmond Lee professor of youth crime and violence in the criminal justice department at UMSL, said.

Esbensen stated that youth violence comes in many shapes and runs the gambit from bullying to gun homicide to suicide.

"Youth violence impacts not only the immediate victim and offender, but the surrounding community, be it the neighborhood or school, the extended family or friends," Esbensen said.

Esbensen said that while youth violence rates are lower than they were in the 1990s, youth violence remains a social problem.

"This conference seeks to share information about some specific issues in youth violence and to familiarize attendees with some strategies for preventing or intervening to reduce the problem," Esbensen said.

Speakers at the conference included DiPietro; Dan Isom, a retired City of St. Louis police chief, now a professor of criminal justice at UMSL; Chris Melde from the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University and Allison Payne from the Department of Sociology at Villanova University.

From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.,

DiPietro spoke on "The Risk and Resilience of Youth Violence in Immigrant Communities."

"My hope is to dispel some popular misconceptions about the alleged criminality of immigrants," DiPietro said.

Isom addressed the audience from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on many issues facing the law enforcement community. "There is no secret that there are strong prejudices toward law enforcement that are directed toward the institution of criminal justice by a community," Isom said. Still, Isom did not suggest that the community is as polarized on criminal justice as may be projected by the media or politicians.

"I don't believe there is a large divergence in terms of my colleagues in the criminal justice department. We all have different perspectives and opinions. However, we also are in agreement around many of the core issues and best practices regarding youth violence prevention," Isom said.

Isom stated that gun control, school security and mental health services are all community decisions

that need to be acted upon to increase safety in school. Isom remains optimistic and believes that compared to other environments, schools are still safe havens for students.

"Violence is a small portion of the problem with all schools. Setting clear expectations for students, certain and impartial enforcement of rules, police officers and police departments working in a support role to schools [and] anti-bullying strategies are all ways in which we keep students safe," Isom said.

Isom also addressed the misconception about what appears to be a lack of people in the community who want to make a difference.

"Professionals and volunteers do tend to work within the narrow perspective of their individual opinion of what works or doesn't work in law enforcement. Still, the people who have the ability to work with and through the paradigm of other partners and stakeholders in a common purpose will have the most success in effecting good outcomes for children," Isom said.

Israeli Culture Week celebrated

RACHELLE BRANDEL
STAFF WRITER

The Jewish Student Association celebrated its newest event, Israeli Culture Week, starting April 15. The JSA only recently became an active group on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. Fall 2012 was the association's first semester as an active UMSL group, and since then, the group has set out to quickly make themselves known to the student population. The JSA picked April 15 to begin their Israeli Culture Week because it is also Israel Memorial Day. April 16 also happens to be Israeli Independence Day, and the association could not think of a better week in which to celebrate Israeli culture.

On Monday, members of the JSA hosted a table on the Millennium Student Center bridge, handing out water, candy and information about their club. They also informed

students about the exciting events happening later in the week.

On Tuesday, Martin Rochester, professor of political science at UMSL, held a discussion titled "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict at 65: Will it ever end?" in the third-floor meeting rooms of the MSC. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict became violent around the 1920s and continues to this day. Historical grievances and recent events have led some to believe it is impossible for them to settle their differences.

On April 18, the JSA welcomed Israeli folk dancer Rachy to UMSL. Rachy, a famous Israeli-style dancer, demonstrated and led Israeli dances that evening, bringing an exciting close to the week of events.

The JSA wanted not only to promote Israeli culture on campus through Israeli Culture Week, but to seek out fellow students who might like to join. As they are still a new organization, they

want to encourage all those who are interested in joining and to introduce themselves to those who may not yet know them.

The JSA also holds other events, such as their Chocolate Seder. A Seder is a ritual performed by those in the Jewish faith, and it involves a retelling of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt. Participants also partake in food and drink that hold additional symbolism. UMSL's JSA considers their Chocolate Seder to be a more laid-back take on the event. It is a fun, festive and unique way to celebrate an important historical, cultural and religious holiday. The JSA also celebrates the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and hopes to hold many more events in the near future.

The JSA can be contacted through their Facebook page, UMSL JSA, and can also be contacted by email at umsljsa2012@gmail.com.

UMSL research fair showcases student work

KARLYNNE KILLEBREW STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri-St. Louis's graduate school collaborated with Sigma Xi and hosted their annual Graduate Research Fair on April 15. From 4 to 5:30 p.m., attendees were able to explore the exhibition and pick UMSL graduate students' brains.

Spread around the Millennium Student Center's third-floor rotunda and spilling into the Century Rooms were multiple science fair-style presentation boards detailing participants' theses, the accompanying research, their conclusions and the numerous possibilities for which those conclusions laid a foundation.

The presentations, as well as the presenters participating in the event, came from multiple disciplines of study: social sciences, humanities and education, as well as the physical and life sciences. Visitors were provided with programs listing the various fields of study, projects and presenters, as well as a brief summary of each project and directions as to where they were stationed.

A look around the rotunda yielded everything from images of complicated chemical structures and scientific, multi-syllabic words to in-depth analysis of the effects of social structures on individuals and communities as a whole.

Listening to presenter Allen Shamow, graduate, criminology, who presented "Crime and the Protestant Dream," one could see how research can draw connections between unlikely sources and perhaps use such knowledge to repair any social malaise that has erupted as a result.

On the other hand, it can potentially cause issues with some. "[Some] people think I'm attacking their religion. I'm not attacking

their religion," Shamow said. The research is a comparison based on the major principles in "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" and some of the root causes of crime in the nation.

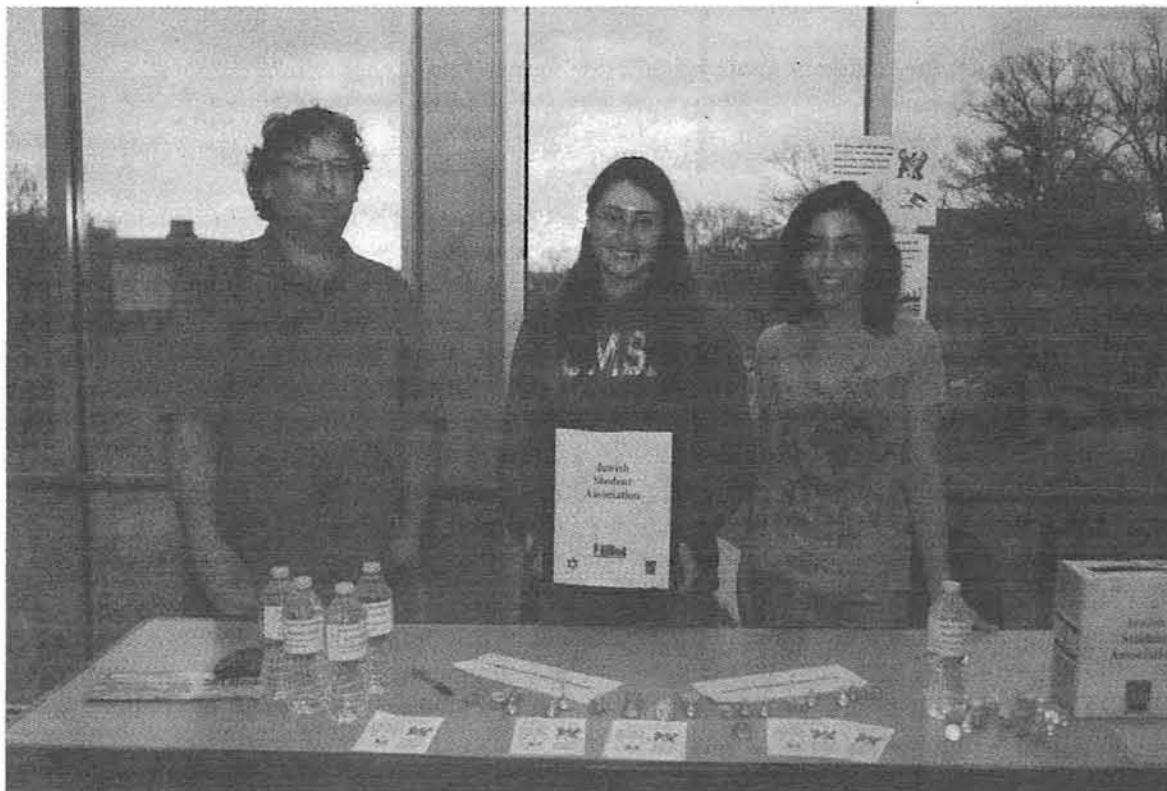
The Graduate Research Fair was an example of how research, the driving force behind many large-scale, nation-impacting decisions, has the power to divide, unite, destroy or improve.

Graduate students Dongxue Zhao, Gang Wang and David Peaslee, all of whom are pursuing doctorates of philosophy in physics, presented a collective effort concerning the improvement of hydrogen energy storage. When asked to give a brief, simplified synopsis of their project, Zhao, Wang and Peaslee said, "We're trying to characterize sodium-aluminum hydride to improve its efficiency in storing hydrogen in transportation and fuel cells."

Zhao, Wang and Peaslee had been working on their particular project for two years and said that they were excited to finally present their work. Opportunity for presentation is a big issue within the graduate studies community. Many people work tirelessly researching topics that they find interesting and useful to society but cannot seem to connect with like-minded individuals easily.

Dr. Judith Walker de Felix, dean of the graduate school, has been hosting this event annually since 2002. "There's so much good research out there. Students don't have a way to find out what others are doing," Walker de Felix said regarding the purpose of the fair.

The UMSL graduate school and Sigma Xi partner yearly during Missouri Graduate Schools Week to host the Graduate Research Fair and help to eliminate that problem.



JSA members Deborah Medintz, Sydney Daniels and Jess Reisner staffing table.

SARAH MYERS/ THE CURRENT

Annual UMSL Mirthday celebration once again a hit



The Mirthday celebration in full swing.

RACHELLE BRANDEL
STAFF WRITER

On April 17, University of Missouri-St. Louis held another successful Mirthday. While the weather report had sparked concern about thunderstorms and rain, the day ended up being bright and sunny, if just a little humid. The Mirthday shirts this year were royal purple with an unwound cassette tape that spelled out "Mirthday" on them.

The carnival rides were a blast, and the funnel cakes were a hit with a large number of students. Many people won candy, along with little goodies displaying useful club information, when they played the games set up in each booth. The cotton candy was sweet, and some people needed the sugar rush to get the courage to wear the snakes in the booth next door. Many people found the international photo booth to be lots of fun and enjoyed

SARAH MYERS/ THE CURRENT

games such as the bean bag toss and balloon pop while learning about UMSL clubs.

At 4 p.m., Mirthday attendees and workers packed up their things and grabbed a quick bite of dinner before attending the Grouplove and Neon Trees concert in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Capitol Kings, the opening band, played popular radio hits and succeeded in getting the crowd in

the mood and on their feet. Grouplove then performed songs from their first album, including the popular "Tongue Tied," and a few songs from their newly finished second album. The lights and music were loud and intense, and the band jumped and danced around the stage, completely energized by their songs. Their song "Lovely Cup" reminded a few in the crowd of Brittany's song "My Cup" from the television show "Glee." The song "Slow" had much of the crowd swaying to the slow and hypnotic rhythm and voice of singer Hannah Hooper. The crowd was on their feet and having a good time, if a little blinded by the intense and numerous strobe lights. In the middle of their show, drummer Ryan Rabin got out a snare along with some light-up drumsticks and dazzled the crowd with some astonishing drum skills.

When the Neon Trees performance began, the crowd went wild. The lead singer's mike lit up with white lights, and the band opened with their hit song "Animal." Tyler Glenn seemed to be paying homage to Michael Jackson as he performed moves like the moonwalk and balancing on his toes while

sporting bedazzled socks over black dress shoes. He then took it down a notch and sang an acoustic version of "Animal" while playing piano. Toward the middle of the show, Tyler called everyone down to the front of the stage, wanting everyone on their feet and rocking out hard to the music. Tyler's devil-may-care attitude showed as he stuffed his mike into his pants, fell asleep on the stage and then woke up with enough time to give the crowd the bird. He even heckled the crowd a little, saying that he hated when people sat while his band played and commanding everyone to stand or leave. Tyler may not have realized that Mirthday can be tiring.

The group's last song, before they continued with two encores, was another favorite, "Everybody Talks." The band knew how to work the crowd, and where Grouplove had seemed to emulate the dirty grunge bands of the 1990s, Neon Trees' futuristic clean-cut sound seemed more modern and fresh.

The day then ended, with another successful Mirthday under UMSL's belt. Students can now look forward to the end of the semester and hope for another successful Mirthday next year.

Symphonie Fantastique brings fine music to Powell Hall

ANYA GLUSHKO
FEATURES EDITOR

There is nothing like the relaxing night in a St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, with its roaming sounds of percussion and strings, late Victorian architectural style and audience decked out in extravagant outfits. On April 13, the University Program Board provided an opportunity for students to get away from studies, stress and work and spend their night at the Powell Symphony Hall in downtown St. Louis. The bus left Provincial House at 7 p.m. and took about 20 students to experience St. Louis's symphonic concert.

The concert featured works from Rossini, Paganini and Berlioz, and the program was conducted by Yan

Pascal Tortelier. Tortelier began his musical career as a violinist at the age of 14. He has a conducting history at Orchestre National de Capitole de Toulouse, the Ulster Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Sao Paulo Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Academy of Music in London.

The concert opened with "L'italiana in Algeri Overture." The tune started quietly with only strings, later developing into an explosion of sound from the whole orchestra. The theme was followed by the woodwinds and rolling percussion. The program continued with "Violin Concerto No. 1 in D major, Op. 6," which included allegro maestro, adagio and rondo: allegro spiritoso

movements. This piece featured a unique timing: quick chords, trills and double-stop thirds. The musicians handled this challenge with great professionalism, showing their stamina and ability to play synchronically as one body. This trilogy consisted of rhapsodic flights, dramatic accents from trombones and double basses and multiple solos by various string and wind instruments. The work was passionate and driving, but at the same time, it contained a significant amount of precision and discipline.

After intermission, the Symphonie Fantastique brought a grand finale to the evening. Its movements included reveries, un bal, scene aux champs, marche au supplice and

songe d'une nuit du sabbat. This work was heavily inspired by the music of the Romantic era. However, Berlioz took it to a completely new level. He created a new form of art for the twentieth century.

The first movement bore only a small resemblance to the sonata form. The second movement, featuring two harps, was similar to a waltz and combined sophisticated romantic ball music and other innovative styles that strove to portray the composer's own life. The third movement was meant to convey the artist's despair and concealment. The fourth movement featured the climax of the work and conveyed the march style and commanding beats of a percussion drums. The

final movement turned into an intense alternative to the main theme that was voiced by a shrill clarinet and portrayed demolition and wickedness.

Augustin Hadelich included cadenzas composed by himself and about 20 minutes of perfectly memorized and sophisticatedly performed solo playing. He played the work with exceptional use of accents, energetic movements and application of various styles and techniques. Paganini with Hadelich has won the Gold Medal at the International Violin Competition of Indianapolis, Lincoln Center's Martin E. Segal Award, an Avery Fisher Career Grant and the Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship.



UMSL Students and faculty members gather on front lawn to mourn the death of Dr. King.

Students, Faculty Mourn King's Death

On Monday, April 8 UMSL students and faculty members participated in a memorial service in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

The 96 participants formed a ring and meditated a minute in silence. Then they sang such songs as "We Shall Overcome," "Freedom Now," and "Blowin' in the Wind."

The service was held at noon on the lawn in front of the Administration Building.

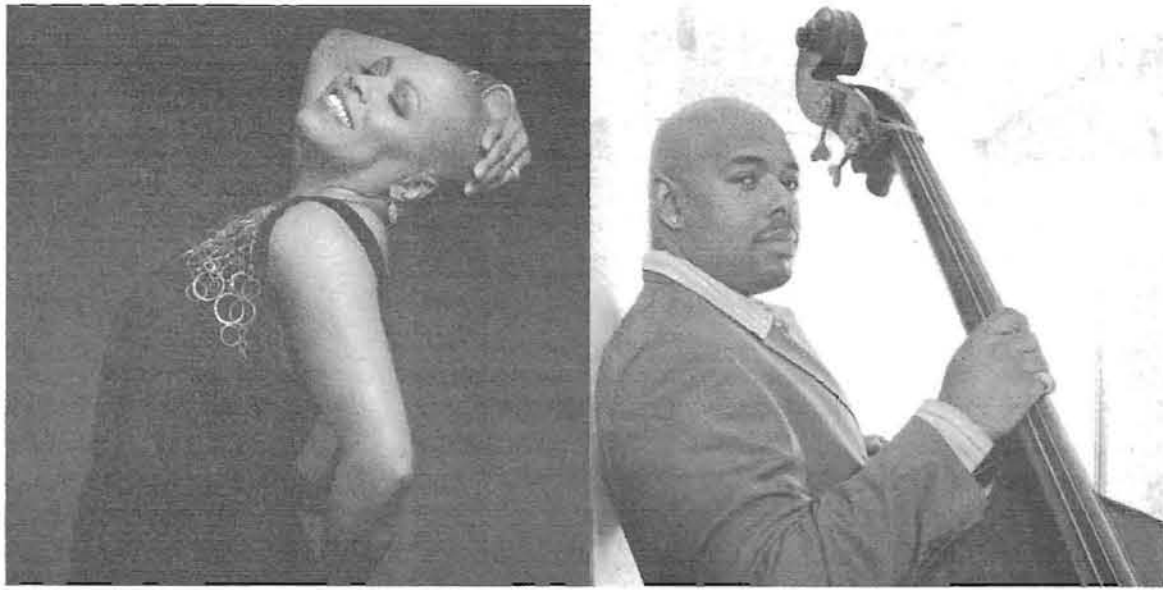
Jubilee Flashback

ALBERT NALL HISTORIAN

The Current has been part of the university since 1966. For the campus' fiftieth anniversary, we are re-printing selected articles from our archives. This article originally ran on April 25, 1968.

Martine Luthre King was assassinated on April 8, 1968. The university held memorial service on April 8 but this story did not run until April 25.

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Monterey Jazz Fest on tour.

COURTESY OF TED KURLAND ASSOCIATES

Monterey Jazz Festival brings modern jazz legends

PAUL PEANICK STAFF WRITER

The annual St. Louis Jazz Festival presented the Monterey Jazz Festival, celebrating its fifty-fifth anniversary before a packed house in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 19. A sextet of jazz masters had gathered to deliver a stunning performance.

University of Missouri-St. Louis's Jim Widner, associated teaching professor of music, and his Big Band delivered the opening punch. Part emcee, part conductor, Widner led members of the UMSL jazz ensemble to deliver their renditions of classics like John Coltrane's "Impressions," Pat Metheny's "It's just Talk" and Doc Severinsen's "Tomorrow Night." Widner also showcased a few solos from some of his own projects.

By the time Widner and his ensemble left the stage and smoky maroon, orange and violet hues bathed the vaulted stage and auditorium, the audience was alight. But Widner's purpose was just to prepare the audience for the multiple salvos of classic jazz to come.

Three-time Emmy award-winning singer/songwriter Dee Dee Bridgewater stepped out onto the stage in an emerald gown as the lighting lifted just a little. Possessing a wide range and an eerily spectral timbre, her voice is at times almost narcotic. As a performer, she is

witty, timeless and mercurial.

Bridgewater joined double bass master Christian McBride, a world-renowned double bassist considered a prodigy since before his studies at the Julliard School of Music. At 40, Bridgewater's experience of almost three decades as a bassist has honed that young prodigious skill. Watching him onstage, the translation of thought into sound is so exquisite and perfect that it can bring tears to one's eyes.

Pop jazz pianist Benny Green sat poised on the grand piano. A modern jazz great, Green frequently teaches jazz at workshops around the U.S. and is a regular composer.

Bridgewater introduced the rest of the group.

"This next player is a true jazz great, a living legend. Please welcome super, super bad drummer, Lewis Nash!" she said.

Lewis Nash was jazz magazine's "Most Valuable Jazz Player" in 2009. Nash has one of the longest discographies in jazz and can play in almost any genre.

Joining him and rounding out the sextet was accomplished saxophonist, composer and author of over 15 albums Chris Potter and up-and-coming trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire.

The group of musicians, seething

with synergy in one of the great jazz capitols, St. Louis, blew the roof off the house. The sassy, husky voice of Dee Dee Walker led many of the tunes.

Opening with "Let the Good Times Roll," Walker's beautifully haunting voice filled the hall, floating on a cascade of notes from the other musicians. Nash then played a brilliant drum solo before Walker led the audience through Billie Holiday's classic "East of the Sun (And West of the Moon)."

Walker, Ambrose and Nash briefly left the stage to showcase the rhythm section. Nash, Green and McBride played a harrowing series of rhythmic pieces before Walker returned to sing "A Child is Born," a song composed by her own mentor, jazz legend Thad Jones.

As the world-famous musicians left the stage, the lights dimmed, and Green played a delicate, moving piano solo. One wanted to languish in those notes forever under the dim violet lighting. But at last all returned, and Bridgewater closed the show with, "The Gospel according to Billie (Holiday)."

An emphatic standing ovation followed, and together, the six greats took bow after bow. It was truly a night to remember.

ALBUM REVIEW

'The Terror' a break from Flaming Lips' colorful indie-pop

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
 A&E EDITOR

Grade: C+

Even nearly three decades into their storied career as the reigning heads of the freak scene, a new release from the Flaming Lips is still a galvanizing proposition. A group that thrives on unpredictability, their prolific output has seen them gradually evolve from acid-fried psychedelic rock to the signature brand of whimsical indie pop that characterizes their most celebrated works, "The Soft Bulletin" and "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots."

Never content to rest on their laurels, the Flaming Lips created an album that marks another dramatic departure in sound for the fearless freaks. Coming off their 2009 space rock odyssey "Embryonic," "The Terror" is a subdued, down-tempo suite of electronic mood music, its lack of indie pop energy and arena-sized choruses seemingly a direct challenge to the "race for the prize" crowd.

Early hype for the album focused almost as much on the unconventional promotional material used to announce its release as on the music itself. Promotional materials included skull-shaped USB drives that contained limited edition rarities and advance singles from the album were deposited at select Flaming Lips shows, quickly becoming a coveted collector's item. Despite the lack of hype over the new tracks, "The Terror" is well worth the four-year wait since the group's last proper studio release, excluding last year's collaboration album "The Flaming Lips and Heady Fwends." "The Terror" demonstrates a much greater sense of focus (and headiness) than the entertaining but inconsistent "Fwends," a concept album oriented around existential

fears of mortality and ruminations on the human condition, heavy themes even for dyed-in-the-wool indie rockers like the Lips.

In keeping with its intense subject matter, "The Terror" is a lush, atmospheric listen. The album opens with the pulsing hum of "Look... The Sun Rising," a track whose fractured beats and distant, echoing choruses provide a fitting introduction for the rest of the album. The record often resembles an especially emotive Boards of Canada, its sumptuous, washed-out production recalling the latter group's 2002 release "Geogaddi." Affable mastermind Wayne Coyne plays a decidedly more subtle role throughout the album, his vocals functioning more as an extra layer in the dense production than a vehicle for his typically witty and colorful lyrics.

Subtle almost to a fault, "The Terror" is far more concerned with creating an absorbing, album-length experience than individual highlights. Still, the greatest moment on the album might be the churning, formless "You Lust," the dark, enigmatic lyrics of which make for one of the stirring tracks the Lips have released in years: "You got a lot of nerves/A lot of nerves to f*ck with me/Better kill your emperor/Because you know you're just like me/You lust, you lust, you lust." This is clearly not the same band that slightly over a decade ago was singing about an intergalactic warrior who karate chops evil robots.

More skeptical listeners may readily dismiss "The Terror," but it is best viewed as an emotionally provocative statement. It is the most un-pop release Coyne and company have attempted since their four-disc foray into music concrete, "Zaireeka," and more inspired than the group has sounded in years.

ASQ welcomes new violinist

ANYA GLUSHKO
 FEATURES EDITOR

University of Missouri-St. Louis's Department of Music welcomed a new member to the Arianna String Quartet. Violinist Julia Sakharova performed with pianist Alla Voskoboinikova at the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

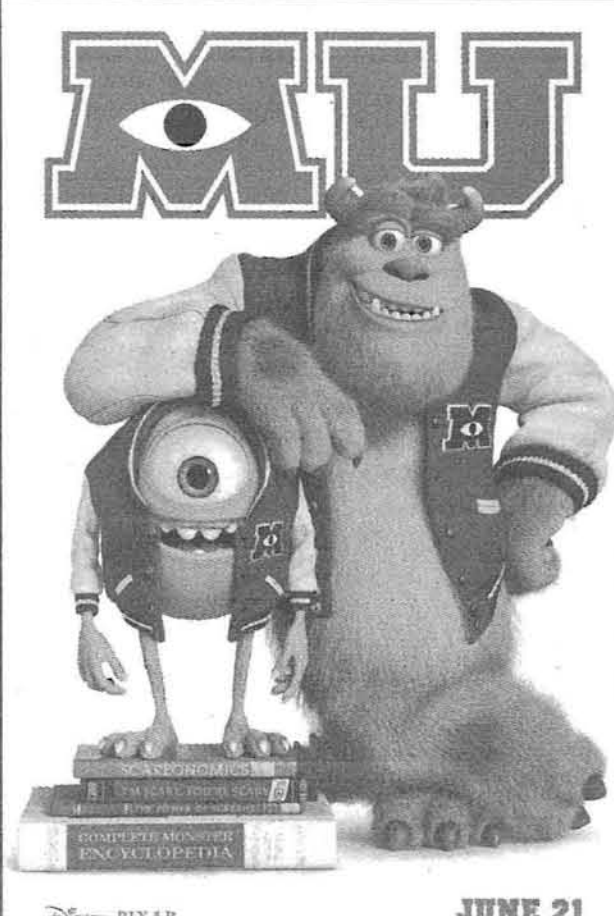
The first half of the concert featured the works of Richard Strauss and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, featuring "Sonata for Violin and Piano in E-flat Major, Op. 18," "Melody, Op. 42" and "Valse-Scherzo, Op. 34." The delightful sounds of the violin paired with the soothing melodies of the piano left the audience in awe. Both soloists' techniques were filled with sophisticated style and finger movements. Voskoboinikova and Sakharova's duet was well-rehearsed, and the timing was very precise.

Sakharova's musical genius was first recognized when she made her debut at the age of 8 with the Moldova Symphony Orchestra. After that, she performed throughout Russia, Western and Southern Europe, Japan, South America and the U.S. Sakharova won several international awards and competitions, among them the Jeunesses Musicales Montreal International Competition, the Olga Koussévitzky Award for Strings and the Juilliard and Oberlin Concerto Competitions. She played with Moscow

State Orchestra, Caracas Philharmonic, the Iowa Orchestra and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

Sakharova holds three degrees in violin performance. She is currently a teacher and a mentor, and her students have won numerous awards and competitions, including the Lois Pickard Scholarship Competition with the Alabama Symphony and the American Protege International Piano and Strings Competition.

After the intermission, compositions from Sergei Rachmaninoff, Bohuslav Martinu and J.S. Bach were performed. Their works included "Trio elegiaque No. 1 in G minor" for piano, violin and violoncello, "Three Madrigals" for violin and viola and "Concerto for two violins in D minor, BWV 1043." In the second half of the concert, Voskoboinikova and Sakharova were joined by Kurt Baldwin and Clay McKinney on violoncello, Joanna Mendoza and Benjamin Dickson on viola and John McGrosso, Ashley Dickson, Octavia Sydnor, Abigail Stahlschmidt and Katelyn Hamre on violin. The musicians worked together in tandem to create the wonderful expressions of descending and ascending sounds, charming harmonies and powerful minor scales that are trademarks of Russian classical music. The instruments complemented each other, creating a gentle melody and taking the audience to the stupendous world of reposed instrumental variations.



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The Salute to Business Achievement Awards honor former UMSL alumni

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

The 2013 Salute to Business Achievement Awards presentation and reception took place on April 16 in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The event was sponsored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Alumni Association in the College of Business Administration.

The ceremony and reception recognized alumni of the College of Business Administration who have demonstrated exceptional personal and professional accomplishments in the university, their professions and their communities. There was a buffet table of refreshments and drinks along with a table of varied literature about UMSL's business programs.

After an introduction from Joseph Freund, president of the College of Business Administration Alumni Chapter, Martin Leifeld, vice chancellor for university advancement, spoke, standing in for Chancellor Thomas George.

"A total of 20,000 graduates from the College of Business Administration are empowered by an UMSL education. The Salute to Business Achievement Awards stands for outstanding contribution to service and leadership across the community," Leifeld said.

Leifeld also spoke regarding the "I Choose UMSL" campaign, which was established by the marketing and communications division at UMSL in September. "There are not enough billboards to honor the best of the best business students at UMSL who deserve to be on a billboard. This is what the Salute to Business Achievement Awards is about," Leifeld said.

Dr. Keith Womer, a professor in the College of Business Administration, was the next speaker. He said that the business school is quite efficient at managing resources. "The budget in the College of Business Administration has been cut for six years in a row. We do not survive cuts, but excel in spite of them," Womer said.

Clint Zweifel received the first award of the night for outstanding public service. Zweifel is the forty-fifth state treasurer for the state of Missouri. He was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. He graduated from Hazelwood West High School in 1992 and was the first member of his family to attend college. He graduated from UMSL with a bachelor's degree in political science in 1996 and has a master's degree in business administration from UMSL.

Zweifel said that the mission of UMSL did what he hoped it would by preparing him for life in general, which was a transformative experience. "We all care about UMSL, and in that sense we are all a part of public service in making a case for our university," Zweifel said.

The other honorees were Lindsey M. Brooksher, who received the Rising Star Award; Stephen G. Hamilton, who received the Distinguished Career Achiever Award; Joseph W. Rottman, who won the Outstanding Leader Award; and Richard S. Waidmann, who won the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

Brooksher, the director of external financial reporting for Brown Shoe Company, Inc., thanked the teachers, mentors and supervisors who guided her academic career at UMSL.

Waidmann is the president and chief executive officer of Connectria, which is a host of IT technologies

that provides technology solutions to client companies. At a young age, he wanted to be a stockbroker but said that there were three barriers that stood in his way. "I did not come from a wealthy family, I did not have [a master's in business administration] and I lacked the mandatory sales experience in the industry," he said. Waidmann was able to enter the stock brokerage field for the sales experience he needed and described his education at UMSL as being pivotal to his success.

Rottmann is the director of the International Business Institute and an associate professor at UMSL. Rottmann said that he was lucky to have been led and pushed by true leaders, from Chancellor Donald Driemeier to Chancellor Blanche Touhill, who projected great style, passion and enthusiasm. His relationships with former professors Tom Eyssell and Womer continue to this day. "Success comes not because somebody led; it's because everybody pushes," Waidmann said.

Hamilton is the president and chief operating officer at CSI Leasing, Inc., a contractor for the industrial leasing of equipment. Hamilton said that his companies and the dedication of UMSL graduates — many of whom are employed by CSI Leasing — have led to his success.

The final, unexpected award of the night, the Salute to Business Achievement Award, was presented to Womer.

The next Breakfast and Networking program will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Government Association Chambers in the MSC. For more information about this and other events in the College of Business Administration, contact Celeste Marx at 314-516-4738.

NEWS BRIEF:

Nguyen wins chem award

Hung Nguyen, junior, chemistry, was awarded the Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award by the St. Louis section of the American Chemical Society on April 15.

The award is given annually to one outstanding student on each of several university campuses in the St. Louis area. Nguyen was chosen by faculty as the award winner at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Nguyen is undergraduate research assistant for Dr. Stephen M. Holmes, associate professor of chemistry. Hung is also a Student Government Association representative for Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow and a public relations officer/historian for the Undergraduate

Chemistry Club. In addition, Hung is Opinions editor at The Current.

"I am very honored and grateful to receive recognition by both the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and to be entrusted with financial support for my work by the College of Arts & Sciences," Nguyen said. "I was ecstatic when I found out from my mentor that I had also received the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Award in addition to the Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award I was getting that same night. It was validation for a lot of hard work I've committed myself to in the past two years and a great motivator for the years to come."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Why Medicaid Expansion Benefits UMSL

Have you ever been so sick you couldn't go to school? Have you worried about finding a job after graduation? Full expansion of Medicaid in Missouri is great step forward because it provides affordable care for more Missourians in addition to thousands of good new jobs for our state.

Expanding Medicaid coverage to 138% of the poverty line is good news for Missouri's students. According to former UMSL student, Lindsay Robinson, "the average age of UMSL students, both undergraduate and graduate is 27.5. For students who will be off their parents' insurance at 26, Medicaid will be the key for the next generation of healthy Missourians." But don't take our word for it: smart scholars do their research. In November, the University of Missouri School of Medicine released a report

on Medicaid expansion's economic impact. They estimate a total of 22,000 new jobs by 2020, which they note is "similar to adding the total workforce of Missouri's 10 Fortune 500 companies in the state." As a student looking to graduate next year, I know that a decently paying job will be key to paying back my student loans.

Take action on this issue by contacting Representative Courtney Curtis, the elected official in whose district UMSL resides, at courtney.curtis@house.mo.gov. Tell him that fully expanding Medicaid is both the right and the smart thing to do.

Alice Floros
Undergraduate, History Education
President, Young Activists United-UMSL

The Current

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STAFF OPINION:

'House of Horrors' case hidden to protect image of abortion

RACHELLE BRANDEL
STAFF WRITER

Many have probably not heard about the "death doctor" before. Kermit Gosnell, better known as the "death doctor," was an abortion provider in Philadelphia until January 2011, when he was arrested and charged with eight counts of murder. One patient died while under his care, and seven newborns were allegedly killed after being born alive. He is now on trial for first and third degree murder, illegally prescribing drugs, illegal abortions, medical malpractice and corruption.

Gosnell's employees were unlicensed, unqualified and unsupervised, yet were misrepresenting themselves as qualified clinicians to patients. Some did not have high school degrees but were still allowed to administer anesthesia and perform abortions. Workers were trained to manipulate ultrasounds in order to fraudulently record gestational ages, resulting in many illegal late-term, third-trimester abortions, with hundreds of fetuses believed to have been fully viable.

Women were given the labor-inducing drugs in the middle of the day and forced to wait until late in the evening for Gosnell to arrive, resulting in many women delivering babies into toilets. Abortions were performed by inducing labor then snipping the spines of the babies after they left the mother's womb. These practices were considered standard and routine at Gosnell's clinic.

He also performed abortions on minors. One girl, 15, accompanied by a relative, decided she didn't want the abortion. Gosnell

allegedly ripped off her clothes and restrained her against her will by tying her legs to the stirrups. When she regained consciousness 12 hours later, she found that the abortion had been performed against her will.

One woman, 28, had to return to the clinic four days after an abortion because of intense pain hindering her from walking. Ultrasounds showed that fetal remains had been left in her womb, which Gosnell suctioned out without anesthesia.

The most well-known story is that of Karnamaya Mongar, a 41-year-old refugee from Bhutan, who was given a lethal dose of anesthesia and painkillers and subsequently died. The Pennsylvania Department of Health never acted when they were informed of Gosnell's involvement in her death.

State officials had not visited or inspected Gosnell's practice since 1993, even after Delaware County's medical examiner alerted them that Gosnell had performed an illegal abortion on a 14-year-old who was 30 weeks pregnant.

The conditions of the clinic were extremely unsanitary, with blood, animal feces, urine and other noxious fluids and waste covering the floor. Police found months-old fetal bodies and parts being stored in "jars, bags and jugs." Almost all of the clinic's lifesaving and monitoring equipment was broken, and workers were re-using disposable supplies. During an interview with FBI agent Jason Huff, Gosnell, who had just performed an abortion, was said to eat his dinner while wearing his "bloody latex gloves," which had "some holes in them," as testified by agent Huff.



And yet many people have yet to hear about this case. The lack of media coverage is appalling, considering the facts. Many remember Caylee Anthony, in 2011, whose story and mother's trial were broadcast on the news outlets 24/7. Yet this was the murder of one girl. Surely the murder of one woman, at least seven babies and the mistreatment of countless other women deserve the same amount of airtime. This story should be front-page news, but it is mostly found in opinions columns. Melinda Henneberger from the Washington Post said the reason this story was not on the front page is because "the only abortion story most outlets ever cover in the news pages is every single threat or perceived threat to abortion rights ... The effect is one-sided coverage."

As humans, we should be disgusted that this story is being hidden simply so that abortion might not be seen in a bad light. Every person I know, whether they be pro-life or pro-choice, would agree that Gosnell's actions were acts of murder and greed and would never want this story hidden in order to push an agenda. Which is the more criminal act: Gosnell's "House of Horrors" or the media's attempt at sweeping the dirt under the rug?

COLUMN *The Chopping Block*

The mis-education of the American writer

HUNG NGUYEN OPINIONS EDITOR

I used to hate writing essays. Lab reports and scientific papers were a breeze. The essay was, and still is, a totally different animal. They were long, and they took time, time I could have spent with friends or doing whatever else I fancied doing. I believe these initial impressions were a product of how writing was taught to me as a child. In high school, I did not feel like anything was gained by penning a term paper on the reasons for the Eurocentric modern age or how Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle" demonstrated the historical nativism and rich-poor class struggles that characterized the immigrant experience.

Writing consisted of methods that made, as I later found out, a quite rewarding act into work that seemed to have no personal reward. The problem with how writing is taught, a topic of long-standing debate, is that it is a purely mechanical, instrumental means to an end: to communicate some snippet of information or argument to a reader. At its core, this is an accurate, global statement of the situation: a writer sits down to write, and when he or she is done, the reader reads the finished product to retrieve the information the writer imparted to the page.

But the process of writing is minimized, reduced to mystery and mystification, from that viewpoint. For each writer, as for each person, there is a set of ritualistic steps that leads to a finished draft. But on sitting down, a process of thinking undoubtedly takes place. The writer considers how to effectively write sentences and words and where to strategically position punctuation and quotations in



order to convey the complex constructs of his or her mind.

The rewards in this process are the interrogation and exploration of an idea. Writing is a means of physically manifesting the thoughts and concerns of the writer. The subject of contemplation must be sustainable and substantive; its very life depends on it.

How a writer proceeds to logically construct an elaborate argument spanning several pages and the arguments chosen are revealing and distinctive to him or her. But during that time, the intensity with which a writer can interact with his or her subject is highly personal, and the product of that exchange is what gets written on the page. It is the necessitated interaction with the subject matter that catalyzes a sense of relevance to the individual. A writer is asked to partake in a conversation about what he or she feels is relevant about a topic, about which arguments are plausible and which are implausible.

If the act of writing is also taught and characterized as a pathway to cognitively process the information, then it becomes clear that it is not merely a series of mechanical steps to convey information. There is something in it for the writer, too. It is an activity in self-discovery and an extensive mode of critical thinking.

STAFF OPINION:

Media outrage over Justin Bieber's Anne Frank comments a reality of celebrity

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Throughout his career, Justin Bieber has been a source of controversy everywhere he goes. His misdeeds run the gambit from altercations with the paparazzi and various threats to controversial remarks about the U.S. health-care system and sexual attitudes.

The most recent controversy with Bieber involves the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Anne Frank was a German Jew who fled with her family to Amsterdam after Germany fell under Nazi control during the Holocaust, when Jewish citizens were captured and transported to concentration camps. While in

Amsterdam, Frank and her family secretly hid in an apartment annexed by the Nazi police. After two years, the family was captured in a Nazi raid of the apartment. They were transported to the Westerbork Transit Camp in the Netherlands, where Anne, her mother and her sister died from a typhus epidemic that killed 17,000 prisoners at the camp. Frank is most known for her diary, which she kept from the age of 13 to shortly before her capture and death, documenting her experiences of the Holocaust. She is considered by some to be a symbol of the Jewish Holocaust itself.

This brings us back to Bieber, who was in Amsterdam for a concert. While exploring the city, he

visited the Anne Frank House. In the guest book at the house, Bieber wrote the following: "Anne was a great girl. Hopefully she would have been a believer." The reason why the comment in the book evoked online ire comes down to a couple of interpretations.

It is actually possible that Bieber is indeed the preening, conceited and narcissistic rogue that the media makes him out to be. Many parents, if their child had behaved in a disrespectful and impertinent way toward such a tragic historical event or figure, would have taken their youngster aside and given him a lesson in world cultures that he would remember for the rest of his life.

He would have been truly repentant by the time his parents got through with him.

But perhaps this is what the Bieber controversy is really about: a despondent demeanor, which the young superstar hides so well under that tough hide. Does it ever really occur to anyone that Bieber and his parents are of German heritage and descendants of that tragic legacy? Further, does anyone know that it was the Canadians and key victories in World War II in the Netherlands that set up British troops to liberate the camp where Anne Frank died? This is a very important part of Bieber's Canadian heritage.

This is the difference between most survivors of the Holocaust

and Justin Bieber: the general lack of a deepened experience between him and his single mother, who worked menial jobs to support the singer's prodigious ambitions. It would not surprise anyone that Bieber wrote the comments that he did in the guest book at the Frank House because he knows that anything that he writes or says will be taken out of context. Bieber has nothing to lose with a media that will sensationalize the most trivial detail of his personal experience. Many may indeed have a right to be disheartened by a young man who is finally realizing that this is the price that he and his family have to pay for his celebrity.

Perryman and Luce deliver for UMSL softball

LEON DEVANCE
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team has followed the softball axiom that dominant starting pitching and timely hitting produces wins.

UMSL followed that axiom to win a close pitching with Quincy starter Wendy Macias to win 1-0. Game one starter Hannah Perryman, freshman, criminology, tossed a complete game, allowing Quincy three hits.

The big hit was delivered by pinch hitter Allyson Luce's, junior, physical therapy, fifth-inning solo homer. UMSL collected three hits as Katie Rutledge, sophomore, elementary education, and Haleigh Jenkins, senior, physical education, both singled.

The split, according to the UMSL website, gave UMSL a 29-11 overall record and a 20-4 conference record. Quincy is now 16-26 overall and 11-17 in the Great Valley Lakes Conference Western Division.

However, win number 29 will have to wait, as Quincy bounced back to secure a 2-1 victory in 10 innings. UMSL never got the big hit, as they left two runners in scoring position in the ninth inning.

Quincy senior Lauren Francis limited UMSL to two hits through four innings. Quincy then grabbed

a short-lived 1-0 lead as UMSL committed two errors. Quincy senior Monica Gray reached on the first error. Francis then helped herself as she singled to right field. Gray advanced to third and then scored on an UMSL throwing error.

UMSL quickly got the run back as Brianna Butler, sophomore, education, reached on an infield single. Katie Wood, sophomore, biology, then grounded out as Butler moved to second. She then advanced on a wild pitch. Luce, the game one hero, squeezed Butler home as she reached on a fielder's choice.

And that's where things rested until the fatal tenth inning. This time Gray led off and stroked a double to right field. Sophomore Emma Topps followed with a single to score Gray with the game-winner as Francis closed the door on UMSL.

Head Coach Brian Levin said that UMSL played two good games against Quincy.

"Our defense was pretty good today against Quincy. We made the routine plays, and I believe we turned three double plays against Quincy. Except for the two errors in the second game which cost us a run, we did a good job on defense ... Both Perryman and Brittini Chapman pitched to their strengths and got outs. Perryman was effective in getting pop-ups, and Chapman pitched to contact well," Levin said.

While the pitching and defense



Madison Zbaraschuk records the out at home.

gave UMSL a chance to sweep the twin bill, the offense lagged against Quincy.

"We got nothing from the offense. We were not disciplined enough at the plate because we were swinging at pitches that were out of the strike zone," Levin said.

Perryman insisted that she wanted to establish a tempo of throwing strikes.

"I just wanted to hit my spots and make the ball move. I threw a lot of curves that rose and fastballs. I did not have my good stuff today, so I relied on my catcher. Madison

[Zbaraschuk, sophomore, communications] is a great catcher because she helps me when she is behind the plate. Madison snags the balls when I throw one high, and she frames pitches well. And Allyson picked the perfect time to hit her home run," Perryman said.

While Perryman was stringing zeros together, Luce said that she just wanted to positive impact for her team.

"I got one at bat in the opener, and I knew the team was counting on me, so I did not want to disappoint them. I thought I plugged the

LEON DEVANCE/ THE CURRENT

gap, but then I saw my first base coach's face. She was smiling and clapping and said 'good job,' and that is when I knew it was out. I was so excited, and I could not wait until I got home and celebrated with my teammates," Luce said.

Levin said that UMSL has one goal every weekend: to put wins together.

"We have eight regular season games left. We want to win every series we play where we get three wins out of four games. So far, we been pretty successful with that formula," Levin said.

Mirthday Photos

SARAH MYERS/ THE CURRENT

