

Pierre Laclède Honors College hosts annual pool tournament

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

The Pierre Laclède Honors College hosted its annual Get Felt pool tournament on February 13. The informal get-together gave attendees a chance to mingle and unwind with fellow students before Valentine's Day. The event, held at 7 p.m. in the 3rd floor Villa North Lounge, was organized by members of the Pierre Laclède Honors College Student Association (PLHCSA, pronounced plixa).

A crowd of students grew steadily as the event progressed into evening hours. Players shed their heavy coats in search of pool cues and the tournament sign-up sheet. A large poster board displayed team brackets and matched up two-person teams against each other. Winning teams qualified for an array of prizes ranging from flash drives and horror movie anthologies to water bottles and a digital camera.

Small groups of students chatted excitedly amongst each other over plates of free pizza, courtesy of PLHCSA. Others hunched over pool tables to practice their shots before their first match. The atmosphere was friendly and easygoing, with students introducing themselves to each other often overheard.

Students eased the embarrassment of poor shooting by inexperienced players with laughter and reassurance. Tables frequently erupted into cries of disbelief after lucky shots were sunk unexpectedly. Many of the participants brought their personal pool cues to the tournament, attesting to student interest in the event.

Dominic Margherio, junior, criminal justice, is the Student



1) Students mingle at annual Honors College pool tournament 2) Morgan Houston, Sydni Davis, Jordan Farhat and Adrianna Rist 3) Farhat takes a shot

Government Association representative for PLHCSA and helped facilitate the event.

"[Get Felt] definitely goes back at least five years," Margherio said, noting that pool tournaments hosted by the Honors College have historically seen large student turnouts.

Hosting a pool tournament made sense to PLHCSA organizers.

"It's winter," Margherio said. "We don't want to do anything outside." He mentions student usage of the pool tables in Oak Hall and other spots on South Campus as the initial inspiration

for the event. "It's a little provocative, but not too risqué, I don't think. It's a little fun, a little play on words," Margherio said, addressing the tongue-in-cheek event title.

Margherio hoped to see at least twenty teams of two participate in the tournament.

"There's a lot of people here who know how to play," he said. "We have a lot of pool sharks."

PLHCSA members encourage students to attend their upcoming on-campus events, which are always free and open to all students.

"PLHCSA events are laid back," Margherio said. "We just like to have fun."

Regarding Get Felt, his reasoning is simple and straightforward.

"It's Thursday, most kids don't have class on Friday, so it's a chance to unwind, relax, have fun with other students and meet new people."

Upcoming PLHCSA events include Casino Night, where students are given fake money to exchange for prizes at the end of the evening. Casino Night will be held on March 12 at 7 p.m. in the

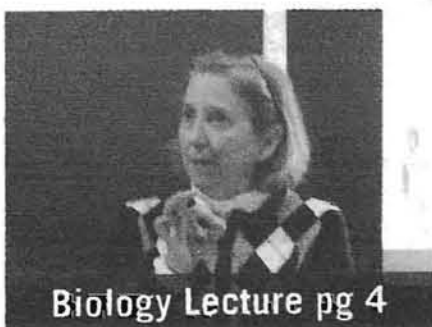
Provincial House's Multi-purpose Room.

"It's poker for college kids who aren't old enough to gamble yet," Margherio said.

In April, PLHCSA will host Battle of the Bands, their largest event of the semester. Students are encouraged to attend as well as participate.

"Anybody can play in that. We're looking for any experience level," Margherio said, adding that the goal of the event is for people to have fun and listen to music.

INSIDE



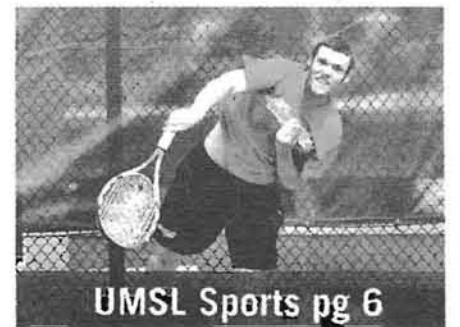
Biology Lecture pg 4



Agricultural Innovation pg 4



Winter's Tale pg 5



UMSL Sports pg 6

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THE CURRENT ONLINE



Tomervision by Mike "MR" Nash

Visit thecurrent-online.com for exclusive online content.

This week:

- Comics
- Weekly polls
- More information on Spring 2014 "News at Noon"
- The Current is having a recruitment party! Be the first to know all the details when we post them online.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

GET INVOLVED

Do you have a tip regarding a story? Have a correction to report? Do you have a question or comment for our staff? Contact us at thecurrenttips@umsl.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

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

NOW HIRING!

The Current is now seeking students to fill a number of positions. These positions are available on a volunteer basis or for internship credit. Applications are available on our website at thecurrent-online.com. Please submit completed applications to 388 Millennium Student Center or thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu to be considered for open positions. For more information, contact us at thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu.

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THE UNDERCURRENT By Siyun Zhang

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE WINTER OLYMPICS?



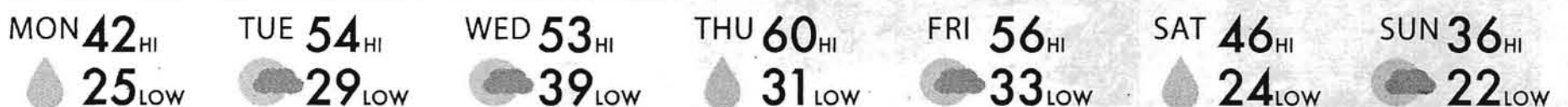
NOUR SALMEEN
 Senior International Business
 "The opening ceremony."



SHUYI HUANG,
 Senior International Business
 "The speed skating, because the player Li Jianrou won the first gold for China."



STEVEN LEBLANC
 Junior, Media Studies
 "The opening ceremony. I like to see the different things that people do with the torch."



UMSL to host National History Day Competition for young students

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri—St. Louis will host the annual National History Day Celebration and Competition (NHD) for Region V of Missouri on February 22. Competing this year are 227 students, from grade school to high school, who will come together with various research on history topics to fit the annual theme, “Rights and Responsibilities in History.”

Peter Acsay, PhD, is an associate teaching professor of history at UMSL. According to Acsay, NHD is run by the State Historical Society of Missouri. The St. Louis region joined in the national program in the 1980s, with the first few years being hosted by St. Louis University. It was later moved to the State Historical Society of Missouri. Since 2002, this historical

program has been sponsored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis's History Department, the Advanced Credit Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Office of Admissions. This program is the only national history competition in the United States.

As the Region V Missouri National History Day coordinator, Acsay is impressed with the quality and dedication of the research that has gone into multiple student entries. Teachers throughout middle and high schools wanted a program that would engage students in better appreciating history and advancing their skills for future use.

“With some concern that younger people’s sense of history is being lost, NHD counteracts that

and engenders a love and respect for history,” Acsay said. The program is said to boost student confidence and knowledge-base by helping them acquire academic research, writing, and critical thinking skills.

The top three students competing from Region V will advance to the state competition held on April 26 at the University of Missouri-Columbia. From there, the best will move on to compete with students across the nation at the national finals rounds held in June at the University of Maryland-College Park.

With so many students included in this year’s contest, the entries also reflect such diversity. Entries include a paper titled “Forgotten Rights, Forgotten Race: The Armenian Genocide,” a

performance on Indian boarding schools, an exhibit highlighting animal rights, a documentary about the 19th Amendment and women’s rights, and a website focused on Curt Flood and baseball’s reserve clause. There are many more topics to be presented at the competition, with the participation of students from Jefferson, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, St. Charles, and Lincoln counties.

With 181 entries, the high schools include: Cor Jesu Academy, Crystal City High School, Mehlville High School, Pattonville High School, St. Pius X High School (Festus). And the grade/middle schools include: Bernard Middle School (Mehlville), Brittany Woods Middle School (University City), The Classical Academy

(Troy), Crestview Middle School (Rockwood), Our Lady School (Festus), St. Margaret of Scotland School (St. Louis City), St. Raphael the Archangel School (St. Louis City), St. Richard School (St. Louis County) and Westview Middle School (Review Gardens).

“You can see the excitement as students make the transition from passive ‘consumer’ history to active ‘producers’ in history,” Acsay said. “Many students get to grow from this opportunity. There are even some who graduate from college with this knowledge still inside their minds. They use it for future careers in education, the media, et cetera. Many even credit the National History Day program with their upcoming success.”

-NEWS@NOON-

Sexual Assault in the Military

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 | **Time:** 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Century Room C, third floor of MSC

Presenters: Jim Craig, Associate Teaching Professor and Chair of the Department of Military and Veterans Studies, with Pamela Dorsey, Sexual Assault Prevention Program Director, Scott Air Force Base

Lunch: Pizza for the first 25 attendees

“News at Noon” is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussion about current events, co-sponsored by The Current and The New York Times, with support from the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Student Life at UMSL.

The Current
UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

Informational event held on Agricultural Innovation Prize

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Students attended an informative event on February 13 at the J.C. Penney Conference Center Summit Room. The event promoted student participation in this year's Agricultural Innovation Prize.

Free food was served as attendees listened to speakers from the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center (DDPSC). The presentations included information on the competition, as well as a brief overview of contemporary agricultural challenges and contest submission requirements. Students also received tips on how to write effective business plans.

The Agricultural Innovation Prize is a competition open to any undergraduate and graduate student in any academic background. Students who wish to make a global impact through novel agricultural methods are encouraged to participate.

The nationwide contest seeks inventive student ideas within specific facets of the food system. These areas include agricultural production, distribution and aggregation, food processing and manufacturing, consumer and institutional preparation, resource and water recovery, and land access, suitability and soil.

To compete for this year's Agricultural Innovation Prize, students are required to form teams and develop a unique business plan

that addresses modern agricultural challenges in society. Team plans should focus on improving global food systems and large-scale living standards for the world's increasing population.

The top four teams will be awarded \$25,000 for their winning business plans. The grand prize winning team will receive \$100,000 to develop their agricultural idea.

Judging criteria includes creativity and originality, long-term viability and financial feasibility. Student teams are encouraged to collaborate with technology and industry professionals while developing their plan. At least half of team participants must be students for the team to enter the competition.

Students are free to incorporate students from other colleges and disciplinary fields into their teams. Collaboration with international students is also allowed. While there is no participant limit in teams, students are cautioned against involving more than five people, as it complicates communication and travel.

Chancellor Thomas George introduced the first speaker. James Carrington, PhD, is the president of DDPSC. Carrington gave an overview of the competition and offered a wide range of project development ideas, including water and soil conservation and



Michael Elliott, PhD, associate professor of marketing and director of undergraduate business programs addresses students

utilization of big data. Carrington also emphasized the importance of increasing the access of modern farming methods to underdeveloped nations. For tech-savvy participants, he suggested the development of mobile applications that assist farmers in supply chain management and distribution logistics.

Michael Elliott, PhD, is an associate professor of marketing and the director of undergraduate business programs at UMSL.

Elliott conducted a small-group presentation on developing an effective business plan, including risk evaluation and conservative market analysis techniques.

Student teams must submit their business plans no later than February 28. Submission requirements include a two-page business proposal, a short abstract of the business plan, and a ten-slide presentation. The top 25 teams will attend the final round at the University of Wisconsin-

Madison in April. There is no entry or competition fee.

The Agricultural Innovation Prize is powered by 40 Chances. Funding comes from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture. For more information on the competition, visit agprize.com. For assistance with business plan development, visit businessmodelgeneration.com

Biology lecture looks at muscle clocks and disease

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Dozens of biology students attended an hour-long lecture by Karyn Esser, PhD, on February 11 in Research Room 121. Esser is Director at the University of Kentucky Center for Muscle Biology. She presented unpublished information regarding her ongoing research on circadian clock activity in skeletal muscle.

Skeletal muscle is the largest internal organ in animals. Sometimes called striated muscle due to its striped appearance, skeletal muscle makes up nearly half of total human body weight.

Within all biological tissues, including skeletal muscle, lies a system of molecular clocks. These clocks, called circadian clocks, function as biochemical time-keepers. As the environment changes, circadian clocks sense external time cues, primarily levels of daylight. This sensory ability

allows the body to respond to a 24-hour light cycle.

Circadian clocks regulate an array of internal biological rhythms as they respond to changes in light. Clock activity allows the body to coordinate expression on the behavioral, biochemical and physiological level. Because circadian clocks exist in every part of the body, they can elicit a response to light in a tissue-specific manner, with different areas of the body reacting in different ways.

The circadian clock is deeply linked with our most basic cellular metabolic processes, and like skeletal muscle, is affected by aging. Altering this clock in skeletal muscle has dramatic effects on the structure and function of muscle in adult mice. Mice without the clock genes in their skeletal muscle experienced a significant level of alteration in muscle structure and

force capacity.

There is a well-established link between loss of skeletal muscle mass and chronic disease, specifically metabolic and cardiovascular dysfunction. Due to its abundance and essential biological function, defects in skeletal muscle structure and function results in a decreased quality of life, increased risk of disease, and even death.

Though much evidence exists connecting muscular health and overall health, there are few scientific studies examining the importance of maintaining skeletal muscle size and function in adulthood.

Esser's research seeks to provide insight to the role circadian clocks play in skeletal muscle performance and preservation. Her lab at the Center for Muscle Biology seeks to address the lack of treatment options for muscle wasting and

weakness.

Esser interacts with researchers and clinicians spanning multiple fields of specialization, allowing for an integrated approach to biomedical research. Her lab focuses on determining the molecular foundation that governs skeletal muscle size in healthy and sick individuals. She also examines the function and gene expression of circadian rhythm factors in skeletal muscle.

Research like Esser's is accomplished in part by the utilization of new techniques to study and treat muscle weakness. In her studies with mice, her team can achieve specific tissue genetic modification, resulting in a test subject with a predetermined genetic composition. For example, mice can be engineered to lack the molecular clock genes in skeletal muscle so Esser's team can make

direct experimental observations.

The goal of Esser's research is to gain a clearer insight into how circadian rhythm in skeletal muscle contributes to skeletal muscle disease in humans. Specifically, Esser's team focuses on determining the time cues that control the normal expression of core clock genes in skeletal muscle.

Esser also examines how these core clock genes regulate muscular molecular targets, and how they influence the development of disease in human systems. She focuses predominantly on diseases of the heart and metabolism, as well as the aging process.

Esser's research can ultimately lead to more effective strategies in disease prevention and rehabilitation methods. Her work is funded in part by the National Institute of Health.

FILM REVIEW

Uneven 'Winter's Tale' had potential for magic but fails to take flight

GATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

Author Mark Helprin's 1983 novel "Winter's Tale" is a magical tale set in an alternate reality New York at the beginning of the 20th century, where a master builder is working on a bridge that will join Earth to the heavens, but which also depends on the alignment of a series of events involving a magical horse, a orphan thief and a beautiful young woman dying of consumption. The book has been acclaimed for its mix of humor, magic and romance, popping up on lists of the best novels of late 20th century.

The movie "Winter's Tale," however, is a mess. It gets a lot of the tragic romance right, but it leaves out most of the overarching story that puts that in context. The bridge builder, a major character in the book, is entirely absent. The book, and frankly this fine cast, deserved better.

Screenwriter Akiva Goldsman, who also wrote "A Beautiful Mind," makes his directorial debut with a script he adapted from the novel in a film he also co-produced. As director, Goldsman does surprisingly well, but he is an Oscar winning screenwriter, which makes his screenplay for this flawed film all the more puzzling. The director assembled a fine cast indeed, including Colin Farrell, Jessica Brown Findlay ("Downton Abbey's" Lady Sybil), Russell Crowe, William Hurt, Will Smith and Jennifer Connelly. The cast's

performances give the uneven film its moments of enjoyment, along with splendid art direction - costumes, sets, locations - which add touches of true magic, despite the disappointing script.

Colin Farrell plays orphaned thief Peter Lake, who has had a falling out over matter of conscience with his mentor gang leader Pearly Soames (a seething, scar-faced Russell Crowe). The imaginary turn of the century New York stylishly evokes the feeling of "Gangs of New York" and the countless American immigrant tales. After eluding Soames and his black-suited henchmen, with the help of a white horse with magical abilities, the thief decides to hit a few more wealthy homes before leaving town to hide out from Soames. Breaking into a mansion, Lake encounters a beautiful young woman dying of consumption, who fearlessly offers him a cup of tea and a little sympathy. Smitten, the encounter changes everyone's lives.

Jessica Brown Findlay as Beverly Penn in Edwardian finery looks like she just stepped off the set of Downton Abbey, her former gig. Findlay again plays a tragic aristocrat falling for a working-class hunk, but there the parallels end. She is perfect as this fragile, kind-hearted soul and the romantic chemistry between her and Farrell, whose thief melts into sweet shyness when they meet, is



JESSICA BROWN FINDLAY as Beverly Penn and COLIN FARRELL as Peter Lake in Warner Bros. Pictures' and Village Roadshow Pictures' romantic fantasy adventure

PHOTO BY DAVID C. LEE

perfect as well. John Hurt plays Beverly's protective but thoughtful father, who is also a man who sees beneath the surface of things. With Beverly's little sister Willa quickly embracing him, Lake is faced with both a chance to change his life and the immediate heartbreak at Beverly's fatal diagnosis.

If the film had built on this foundation, the result could have been magical but the choice to bring in some of the novel's pre-steampunk fantasy while leaving other parts unexplained makes for a confusing mess. The story hints at a struggle of good and evil, and vague references to links between stars and souls. The brutal Crowe

is referred to as a demon and meets with Lucifer (Will Smith, playing the devil with effective restraint) in a shadowy brick edifice. But little of the why of this is explained or well-worked out, and the opposite side of this battle of good versus evil is missing, apart from Lake himself. Crowe and Smith work hard to wring the most out of these roles, as do Farrell, Hurt, Findlay and Connelly, in a jump into the future later in the film.

It is the confusing, incomplete script, with too many strange events without much to explanation that sinks this film's potential. One cannot fault the actors, who squeeze more fine performances

out of these intriguing characters than one expects given the messy script. The acting is framed in beautiful, atmospheric settings, with lovely moody photography of gritty, dark-brick New York streets, the icy beauty of the family's upper New York country estate, the rooftop tent where the dying girl sleeps, even the Brooklyn Bridge where a battle takes place. The film creates a feel of period and mysterious appeal but, despite a few magical scenes, the whole is less than the sum of the parts.

"Winter's Tale" is a missed opportunity to make a marvelous film out of a magical novel and wonderful cast.

TOUHILL

'A Night At The Movies' was a treat for film lovers

Valentine's Day came a little early when the Blanche M. Touhill's Lee Theater hosted a perfect date night for movie lovers with "A Night At The Movies" on February 11 at 7 p.m. The St. Louis Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Jim Widner, director of jazz studies and teaching professor of music at University of Missouri-St. Louis, played big band arrangements of romantic movie music such as Henry Mancini's "Moon River" from "Breakfast at Tiffany's." If that was not romantic enough, the evening also included Mancini's theme from "Days Of Wine and Roses" and Marvin Hamlisch's "The Way We Were," as well as "The Pink Panther" and James Bond movie themes.



Led by bassist Jim Widner, the St. Louis Jazz Orchestra performed A Night at the Movies in the Lee Theater at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, February 11th. The orchestra played themes from The Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast, and The Pink Panther, along with a selection of tunes from other popular films.

PHOTO BY RYAN BROOKS

UMSL tennis teams back in action

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri-St. Louis basketball season is in full swing. It is possible in all of the excitement to have overlooked one of our strongest sports teams making its return to action? Men's and women's tennis is back in competition.

The UMSL Triton men's and women's tennis teams are starting the second part of their 2013-14 season. After a brief beginning of the season with three competitions each in September, the teams took a five month hiatus over the winter

season. They return to the courts this month to continue with a lengthy remaining schedule.

The Triton men's tennis team will be picking up February play with a 0-1 record from the first half of the season, a 3-6 loss to Eastern Illinois at home on September 25. The team will then continue the second half of their season facing Bellarmine on February 23 in Elsah, Illinois, and returning back to St. Louis to take on Harding the following day on February 24.

The women's tennis team has already gotten a jump on the second half of their season. On February 1, the Triton women fell to Saint Louis University 0-9 at the Sunset Tennis Center in St. Louis. Then on February 9, the Tritons traveled to Elsah, Illinois and defeated Bellarmine through a 8-1 victory. The Triton women's record currently stands at 2-1, and they will finish this month's competition against Harding on February 24.

Fortunately for UMSL tennis

fans, both the men's and women's teams will have a long string of home games at the UMSL Tennis Courts in March. Both Triton teams will take on Springfield, Illinois on March 7, and will play a combined 11 more games at home before traveling to Tampa on March 23.

Coach Rick Gyllenborg and his tennis teams will look to capitalize on their return to action with solid wins, helping lead to the overall goal of tournament and postseason success.

The Triton tennis teams may have snuck in on the UMSL sports scene this February with light play, but come March they will have a constant stream of matches with little down time, at the center of Triton fan's radars. If you have time, consider attending a game at the UMSL Tennis Courts. The weather will finally be enjoyable outside, and we can support our Triton tennis teams into postseason success.

2013-14 Triton Men's Tennis - Remaining Home Schedule			
3/7	Illinois Springfield	UMSL Tennis Courts	1:00 PM
3/8	Southern Indiana	UMSL Tennis Courts	12:00 PM
3/14	Lewis	UMSL Tennis Courts	2:00 PM
3/15	Northwest Missouri State	UMSL Tennis Courts	11:00 AM
3/17	Emporia State	UMSL Tennis Courts	12:00 PM
3/19	McKendree	UMSL Tennis Courts	2:00 PM
3/28	Truman State*	UMSL Tennis Courts	2:00 PM
3/30	Drury*	UMSL Tennis Courts	10:00 AM
4/9	Washington University	UMSL Tennis Courts	4:00 PM
4/12	Rockhurst*	UMSL Tennis Courts	10:00 AM
4/14	Lindenwood	UMSL Tennis Courts	3:30 PM

2013-14 Triton Women's Tennis- Remaining Home Schedule			
3/7	Illinois Springfield	UMSL Tennis Courts	1:00 PM
3/8	Southern Indiana	UMSL Tennis Courts	12:00 PM
3/14	Lewis	UMSL Tennis Courts	2:00 PM
3/15	Northwest Missouri State	UMSL Tennis Courts	11:00 AM
3/17	Emporia State	UMSL Tennis Courts	12:00 PM
3/19	McKendree	UMSL Tennis Courts	2:00 PM
3/20	Maryville*	UMSL Tennis Courts	3:30 PM
3/28	Truman State*	UMSL Tennis Courts	2:00 PM
3/30	Drury*	UMSL Tennis Courts	10:00 AM
4/12	Rockhurst*	UMSL Tennis Courts	10:00 AM

Tennis, softball take home wins for the Tritons, while basketball struggles

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's tennis team defeated the Bellarmine Knights 8-1 on February 9 in Elsah, Illinois. The UMSL Tritons won all three of their doubles matches and out of the six singles matches played, only lost one. Leanne Cantalupo, junior, civil engineering, played exceptional for the Tritons, defeating her opponent through set scores of 6-0 and 7-6. The Triton women's tennis team record stands a 2-1 after the win, and will return home on February 24 to host Harding.

UMSL men's basketball lost to the Bellarmine Knights 59-72 on February 13 in Louisville, Kentucky. The game proved to be close in the first half with 6 lead changes until Bellarmine took control after halftime.

The Knights made 53 percent of field goals and in the second half outscored the Tritons 20-6 in the paint, helping maintain their lead. Tylor Wimbish, junior, liberal arts, led the Triton offense with 21 points and 7 rebounds. Femi John, senior, business administration, and Darian Cartharn, senior, communications, contributed with 10 and 11 points, respectively.

UMSL women's basketball defeated the Bellarmine Knights 68-65 on February 13 in Louisville, Kentucky. The score was very close throughout, the game being decided in the last minutes of game play. With the game tied 65-65 going into the final seconds, Hazaria Washington, senior, communications, made a layup

and an ensuing free throw putting the Tritons up 68-65 with three seconds left on the clock. The Knights had no response. Tierra Snow, junior, social work, had a double-double for the Tritons off the bench with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Washington finished with 21 points, 7 rebounds, and 5 steals.

UMSL softball defeated the Southern Nazarene Crimson Storm 8-2 on February 14 in Bentonville, Arkansas. UMSL Head Coach Brian Levin attained his 100th career win in the Triton victory. Jena Boudreau, junior, nursing, contributed for the Tritons with two home runs and four RBIs. Immediately following the game against Southern Nazarene, Triton softball took on the Fort Hays State Tigers and walked away with a 2-0 victory.

Katie Wood, junior, criminal justice, contributed with two hits and one RBI.

The following day, February 15, UMSL softball took on the Northwest Oklahoma State Rangers and the #1 Central Oklahoma Bronchos in Bentonville, Arkansas. The Tritons defeated Northwestern Oklahoma State 9-3 through solid offensive play. Brianna Butler, junior, elementary education, contributed with two home runs and four RBIs for the Tritons. UMSL softball did not fare as well against #1 Central Oklahoma, falling 0-4 in a shut-out.

UMSL men's basketball lost to the #22 Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles 58-75 on February 15 in Bentonville, Arkansas. The Tritons could not

contain the Screaming Eagles offense, who shot 49.1 percent (27-55) from the field and 53 percent (8-15) from behind the three point line. Tylor Wimbish, junior, liberal arts, contributed for the Tritons with 14 points and 6 rebounds.

UMSL women's basketball lost to the Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles 57-69 on February 15 in Bentonville, Arkansas. The lady Tritons struggled shooting the ball, only making 31.7 percent (20-63) from the field and 21.1 percent (4-19) from behind the three point line. Kelly McGovern, junior, special education, led the Tritons with 17 points.

POINT

COUNTERPOINT

ARE UNPAID INTERNSHIPS UNFAIR?

POINT: Internships are an opportunity

Internships are an opportunity for students to gain first-hand experience in the fields they would like to enter. Having a chance to shadow and learn directly from someone who has the career that you want is an amazing opportunity. There has been some amount of controversy surrounding unpaid internships lately, but college students should remember that the world owes them nothing. In today's competitive job market, work opportunities are not guaranteed, so why complain about an opportunity that many are not afforded?

Internships are an opportunity to learn. Internships are not like regular jobs – most of it involves teaching and learning, in an exchange where the interns gain more from the partnership than the company does. Internships are an opportunity to learn about the job you want and to practice the basics of it. Why should companies pay students for a job that they are not even fully equipped to perform?

Internships supervisors also

have to spend time instructing and correcting the “work” that interns do, usually in addition to their own responsibilities. Often, interns even have the opportunity to gain mentors during their internship period; this is a priceless opportunity to gain even more valuable guidance. Mentors and supervisors take time out of their own work schedule to help the next generation succeed. Students should focus on all that they stand to gain from these arrangements.

A sense of entitlement is running rampant among college students. It is this attitude – that they should be making the big bucks before they even have any experience in the field they are trying to enter – that gives college students a bad name. There is value in paying one's dues. If students are determined to succeed, an unpaid internship is an opportunity to be taken advantage of. It proves that you are a go-getter and willing to do the work that other people are not. Take an unpaid internship and do well enough to prove that you are deserving of a paid position.

COUNTER: Unpaid internships are a scam

It is high time higher education let go of the outdated notion of what college students are: 18-23 year-olds with disposable income from mom and dad and no responsibilities beyond studying and partying.

Participation in internships often take as much time from one's schedule as a part-time job would. That means less time for studying and classes and, for many students, full-time jobs and families. For many nontraditional students, working for free is simply not an option. These days, many students have multiple jobs and families of their own to take care of, either in the form of aging or sickly parents or children who are dependent upon them. They should not have to risk not being able to take care of their families in order to get a leg up in the field they are working so hard to enter.

Internships often require students to work between 20-35 hours a week. This means that students would have to devote a good chunk of their schedule to an unpaid activity. It is not unheard of for students toiling away in these unpaid positions to even take on extra work to cover their living expenses while trying to manage classes, part-time jobs, and the “opportunity” they are

supposed to be grateful for.

Unpaid internships are exclusionary in nature. When you can not afford to work for free and get a foot in the door, that makes it even harder to begin a new career in certain fields. When industries require newcomers to work for a period for free, it is clear who those opportunities are really reserved for (hint: not the working class).

Unpaid internships persist because the free labor benefits the companies who offer them. No matter how these organizations dress up the job descriptions, it is not about offering students a leg up, it is about saving money. Higher education should not support a system that takes advantage of students by requiring them to ‘pay their dues’ in order to get their degree.

College students are already taken advantage of by universities who squeeze out every nickel and dime in the form of parking fees and outlandish book prices. Now we have to contend with companies who act as if fetching coffee is a privilege. Everyone who works is entitled to earn a fair wage. Stop the exploitation – fight for your rights by fighting against unpaid internships.

SOCIETY NOW**Gender inequality still affects us today**SIMONNE KIMBLE
STAFF WRITER

Gender inequality has been a social problem for centuries and it needs to be put to an end. If people in the world forever choose to live by the “guidelines” of gender inequality, then the line that separates men and women will forever be thick.

Sexism supports a social pattern wherein men are viewed as being better than women. I see something completely wrong with this theory because I believe that everyone is created equally.

Another factor that complicates the issue of gender inequality is marriage. Who has more benefits when a man and a woman get married? Although it may seem as if it is equal, it is not. Once a man and woman get married, it seems as if the man is in control and takes control of everything. Some women (not all, but many) believe that it is their duty to take care of their husband, the children, and maintain the household while the man is working to support the family. Those who believe that this is the “right way” to have a successful marriage make it hard for others to see that men and women are equal. On Twitter, I follow a man who believes that it is a woman's “job” to cook and clean for her husband. One of his recent tweets stated, “If you are a woman that does not know

how to cook or clean, you will never find a husband and you are worthless.” Although we are all entitled to our own opinion, the sad part about was that over thousands of women agreed and “retweeted” the comment that was made.

Most students attend college in the interest of bringing in a good income later in life and having a successful career, right? Well, why would gender have to be a factor in pursuing a career in something that they went to school for years to study? Even though nothing is ever said, men are known to make more money than women. A woman I knew from high school worked the same job and the same amount of hours as one of her co-workers, who was a male, but yet he made more money than she did. She was upset, but there was nothing that she could say or do without risking her job.

The United States believed that women should not work at all around a century ago. Even though we have come closer to equality, there are still many people that believe that certain careers and jobs are made just for women or just for men.

Furthermore, when a man is being assertive, he is looked at as a strong, confident individual. When a woman is being assertive, she's viewed as controlling and self-centered.



Women should have the right to have power just as much as men without being looked at as a callous, bitter person.

Men cannot survive without women and women cannot survive without men; it is a well-known fact. Without men, how can a child be conceived? And without women, how is a child actually born? Each gender greatly impacts the other's lives, but many fail to realize this.

Why is gender inequality such a huge issue? Instead of working together to improve the world, why does it seem as if people are trying to make every situation a battle of the sexes? The problem is that people, especially men, cannot accept the fact that it is possible for men and women to be equal. Gender inequality is slowing decreasing, but to this day, women are still looked at as less than men.

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