

The Current

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UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

2014 UMSL HOMECOMING GUIDE

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

Homecoming is just around the corner. The change from an October celebration to a February Homecoming has not put a damper on student enthusiasm; ticket sales continue to rise. This year also saw an increase in applications for Homecoming court. According to Jessica Long-Pease, director of Student Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, court candidates will have their first introductions during the Homecoming kick-off event, held on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center on February 3 at 11 a.m.

This year's candidates for Homecoming King are Adam Delgado, junior, liberal studies; Tyler Brockman, senior, international business and marketing; and Devin Thompson, senior, accounting. Candidates for Homecoming Queen are Briana Lawson, senior, psychology; Hope Gassier, senior, business marketing; Marissa Steimel, senior, communication; and Taylar Merriweather, senior, accounting. Voting starts online at <http://umsl.orgsync.com/org/umslhomecoming/Royalty> on February 3 at 11 a.m. and will be

open until Friday, February 7, at 11:45 p.m.

New events have been added for this year's Homecoming week. Events such as the Window Painting Competition and 5K Run will provide students with a hearty helping of competition, fun, and prizes. A variety of service projects will be held throughout the week; participation is open to all students, staff, faculty and alumni. With these added activities, the Homecoming Steering Committee hoped to encourage giving back more than ever before.

"You'll see many events that are

focused on helping the community that UMSL calls home, as well local non-profit organizations that have had an impact on our students," Long-Pease said. Canned goods donations will go to the Pagedale Family Support while the blood donations from this week's blood drive goes to the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center.

Wondering how "Forever Red and Gold" became this year's Homecoming theme? According to Long-Pease, "Forever Red and Gold" is all about pride in the university and school spirit.

"As we continue to grow our

Homecoming week, we want to encourage our alumni to come home to UMSL and connect with our current students," said Long-Pease.

During Homecoming Week, student organizations have the opportunity to battle it and compete for prizes. An action-packed week leads up to the Homecoming Dinner and Dance, held at St. Louis Union Station Hotel, on February 8 at 6:30 p.m. Check out the schedule below for a listing of the week's activities that are sure to connect Tritons old and new in UMSL pride.

HOMECOMING WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVERYDAY THIS WEEK

HOMECOMING INFORMATION BOOTH AND PHOTO OF THE DAY LIVESTREAM
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER, 2ND FLOOR ROTUNDA
STILL HAVING A BIT TROUBLE FIGURING OUT WHAT'S GOING ON THIS WEEK OR SIMPLY WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOMECOMING IN GENERAL? VISIT THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE HOMECOMING INFORMATION BOOTH. FIND ALL THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS AND CHECK OUT AWESOME PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY FELLOW TRITONS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN GREAT PRIZES.

WHERE'S LOUIE MEDALLION HUNT

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. VARIOUS LOCATIONS, UMSL CAMPUS
THERE'S A HOMECOMING MEDALLION HIDDEN AROUND CAMPUS. FIND LOUIE BY SEARCHING FOR DAILY CLUES.

FEBRUARY 3

HOMECOMING KICK-OFF

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. THE NOSH
HOMECOMING IS NEAR SO WHY NOT JOIN THE HOMECOMING STEERING COMMITTEE AND YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS TO KICK IT OFF? THERE WILL BE LIVE MUSIC, FREE FOOD, AND AWESOME GIVEAWAYS, NOT TO MENTION INTRODUCTIONS FROM THE 2014 HOMECOMING COURT CANDIDATES.

WINDOW PAINTING & BONFIRE

7:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M. MSC BRIDGE AND PATIO
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND DEPARTMENTS CAN COMPETE IN THE WINDOW PAINTING COMPETITION AND ENJOY SNACKS AT THE BONFIRE! DEMONSTRATE YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT USING PAINTING SUPPLIES GIVEN TO DECORATE THE WINDOW SPACE ON THE MSC BRIDGE.

FEBRUARY 4

HOMECOMING BLOOD DRIVE

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. MSC CENTURY ROOMS
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL HOMECOMING BLOOD DRIVE, WHICH BENEFITS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER. IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO DONATE BLOOD, YOU CAN STILL BRING CANNED GOODS TO DONATE INSTEAD. UPON ARRIVAL, STUDENTS CAN SIGN IN TO REPRESENT THEIR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS; FIRST THROUGH THIRD PLACE RANKINGS GO TO THE ORGANIZATIONS WHO DONATE THE MOST. DONAT-

ING BOTH CANNED GOODS AND BLOOD WILL COUNT AS TWO PARTICIPANTS.

MINUTE TO WIN-IT COMPETITION

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. MSC FIRESIDE LOUNGE
READY FOR A LITTLE FUN AND A LOT OF PRIZES? STOP BY THE FIRESIDE LOUNGE AND COMPETE AGAINST OTHER STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MINUTE TO WIN-IT COMPETITION FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE.

SINK MY BATTLESHIP

6:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. MARK TWAIN GYMNASIUM POOL
KNOW THE BOARD GAME? WELL THIS ISN'T IT. VARIOUS TEAMS GET A CANOE, BUCKETS, AND A SHIELD. TRY YOUR BEST TO SINK THE OTHER TEAMS' BATTLESHIPS (CANOES) INTO THE POOL WHILE STAYING AFLOAT YOURSELF.

FEBRUARY 5

HOMECOMING CHILLI FEED

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. CENTURY ROOMS
IF YOU WANT TO ENJOY SOME CHILI, HEAD ON DOWN TO THE CHILI FEED WHERE FOR ONLY \$5.00 YOU CAN ENJOY FIVE CHILI RECIPES SERVED BY UMSL FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS. VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE AND SEE WHO WINS THE GOLDEN LADLE AWARD. PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE PAGEDALE FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER.

PANHELLENIC ASSOCIATION'S BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. CENTURY ROOMS
WHAT'S COMPETITION WITHOUT BEAUTY AND TALENT? STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS GET TO PICK ONE MALE OF THEIR CHOICE TO BE A PART OF THE ANNUAL UMSL MALE BEAUTY AND TALENT COMPETITION. JOIN YOUR FELLOW TRITONS AS MALE PARTICIPANTS COMPETE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: ACTIVE/SPORTSWEAR, TALENT, FORMAL WEAR, AND QUESTION & ANSWER.

ALMOST MIDNIGHT BEACH BASH

10:00 P.M. - 12:00 A.M. PROVINCIAL HOUSE MUSEUM ROOM
JOIN YOUR FELLOW TRITONS AND PARTY THE NIGHT AWAY.

FEBRUARY 6

PACK THE STANDS

5:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M. MARK TWAIN GYMNASIUM
TRITONS CAN HELP CHEER ON THE WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

THE AS THEY GO AGAINST THE SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE PUMAS DURING THIS 6TH ANNUAL EVENT. ENJOY SNACKS, GAMES, PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS. UMSL STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WITH UMSL IDS CAN ATTEND FREE OF CHARGE, ALONG WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 AND ALUMNI WITH ALUMNI PASSES. THE GENERAL ADMISSION PRICE IS \$7.

FEBRUARY 7

HOMECOMING DAY OF SERVICE

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. VARIOUS ST. LOUIS LOCATIONS
JOIN YOUR FELLOW TRITONS AND PARTICIPATE IN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS IN THE NEW UMSL HOMECOMING TRADITION OF GIVING BACK. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE LOCATIONS AND ACTIVITIES, VISIT THE HOMECOMING INFORMATION BOOTH OR [HTTP://UMSL.ORGSYNC.COM/ORG/UMSLHOMECOMING/EVENTS](http://umsl.orgsync.com/org/umslhomecoming/events).

RESIDENTIAL LIFE AND HOUSE REUNION

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. PROVINCIAL HOUSE MUSEUM ROOM
RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF MEMBERS OLD AND NEW WILL RECONNECT THIS YEAR. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. CONTACT RESIDENTIAL LIFE & HOUSING AT 314-516-6877 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FEBRUARY 8

UMSL HOMECOMING 5K AND TRITON TROT 1-MILE FUN RUN

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER
PUT ON YOUR RUNNING SHOES FOR THIS NEW UMSL TRADITION.

HOMECOMING DINNER AND DANCE

6:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. ST. LOUIS UNION STATION HOTEL
THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR IS HERE! INDIVIDUAL AND COUPLES' TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLINE AT [HTTP://T1NYURL.COM/UMSLHC](http://t1nyurl.com/umslhc). TICKETS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN THE MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER 2ND FLOOR ROTUNDA AND THE OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE, LOCATED IN 388 MSC. TICKETS COST \$20 PER INDIVIDUAL, \$35 PER COUPLE, OR \$200 FOR A TABLE OF 10.

UNSORTED BY WESLEY MIDDLETON

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. J.C. PENNY AUDITORIUM
CLOSE OUT HOMECOMING WEEK BY WATCHING THIS PLAYFUL PRODUCTION.

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THE CURRENT ONLINE



Comic by Mike "MR" Nash

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

- Full coverage of Metropolitan Nikitis Lulias' visit to UMSL
- Comics and games
- Weekly polls



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am a proud UM-STL alum and I am disheartened by the decision to close the Barnes Library. I just talked to alumni association yesterday and they told me that for the first time, all student residence halls were full. More and more students over the last few years are choosing to live on campus. Our school is growing!! I believe in the near future we will need to build more residence halls.

All of this, and we are talking about closing one of our beautiful libraries!!! This cannot happen. We need this library now more than ever if we want to keep our University growing!! What will become of this building, another vacant boarded up building :(

They need to re-think this decision. Please don't let them close the library!!

Jason Fisher, UMSL Alum

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 HOMECOMING?



JALLON FORIAS
 Junior, Mathematics
"I'm a visiting student from Brazil. This is my first year at UMSL. I don't know about the homecoming."



STEPHANIE WYATT
 Junior, Anthropology
"Dressing up!"



YUAN YUAN
 Senior, International Business
"Fancy dining and crazy dancing! Everybody can be freestyle while dancing!"

MON 34 _{HI} ● 14 _{LOW}	TUE 30 _{HI} * 21 _{LOW}	WED 27 _{HI} * 18 _{LOW}	THU 18 _{HI} ● 9 _{LOW}	FRI 27 _{HI} ● 18 _{LOW}	SAT 31 _{HI} * 14 _{LOW}	SUN 23 _{HI} ● 7 _{LOW}
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Senior Degree Completion Program provides funds to UMSL students without financial aid

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

University of Missouri—St. Louis is currently accepting applications for the Senior Degree Completion Program. The initiative provides scholarship funds to UMSL students nearing graduation. Seniors who meet the program criteria are encouraged to apply. Financial aid awards are still available for the Spring 2014 semester.

The privately funded tuition program assists senior-status students who have exhausted all other forms of financial aid. The scholarship helps student who require immediate tuition funds in order to complete their degree. Eligible students must be within 30 hours of completing their first bachelor's degree. Preference is given to seniors within 15 credit hours of graduation.

Additional application requirements include completion of the FAFSA for the 2014-2015 academic year, and Satisfactory

Academic Progress with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Qualifying seniors must fill out an application and attach a copy of their graduation plan. Applicants must also include a short essay explaining why they no longer qualify for financial aid, such as federal- and state-issued grants and loans.

Chancellor Thomas George examined the broader context of the senior scholarship.

"In the state of Missouri, we have about 700,000 people who have not completed their degree," Chancellor George said. "Within the greater St. Louis region, it's about 400,000."

This statistic caught the attention of the St. Louis regional chamber, who gathered various higher education institutions to address the issue of degree completion.

Chancellor George said the

chamber's original goal was to have 75,000 people finish their associates or baccalaureate degree.

"THE PRIVATELY FUNDED TUITION PROGRAM ASSISTS SENIOR-STATUS STUDENTS."

"We have a number of students who are not completed, for whatever reason, most of it is financial," Chancellor George said. "That's why we came up with this program, to help seniors complete their degree."

The Senior Degree Completion Program saw success last semester. According to Chancellor George, of the thirteen students who

received the award for the Fall 2013 semester, twelve finished their degree and graduated. The Chancellor says this student participant success advertises the program more than any other factor.

"Donors are very excited about this," Chancellor George said, pointing out that many of the financial contributors are community members. "A lot are alum. They want to see students from their alma mater succeed."

Alan Byrd, Dean of Enrollment Services, offers understanding to students who have maxed out their financial aid options.

"We realize that we have a lot of transfer students," Byrd says, saying his office acknowledges the many challenges students face in paying their tuition. "They have to switch schools, they lose a lot of classes, they have to work as they go to school, they run out of financial aid, and that really puts

their backs against the wall."

Byrd calls the scholarship "an opportunity for us to help those students with the financial support they need to finish their degree." Byrd says the goal is to ensure students have the ability to graduate.

"This scholarship is making a huge impact in terms of giving students that last semester or that last year to wrap up their degree," Byrd said.

The Senior Degree Completion Program application can be found at umsl.edu/services/finaid. Applicants will be notified within three weeks of submitting all the required documents if they were accepted into the program. Students interested in applying for the scholarship are encouraged to make use of available on-campus resources in assembling the requisite documents.

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The Lipper award is given to the group with the lowest average decile ranking of three years' Consistent Return for eligible funds over the three-year period ended 11/30/12. TIAA-CREF was ranked against 36 fund companies with at least five equity, five bond, or three mixed-asset portfolios.

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Sue Shear Institute's LEAD Program hosts Girls' Summit

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Participants of the Sue Shear Institute's LEAD Program hosted the 2014 Girls' Summit in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms on January 31. The event invited 90 young women from over a dozen local middle schools to University of Missouri—St. Louis for a day of leadership lecture and self-esteem activities. The summit was presented in part by The Sue Shear Institute for Women In Public Life at UMSL and the National Association of Women Judges.

The event offered young women an opportunity to interact with local professionals, who offered their encouragement and support of healthy life choices and academic ambition at an early age. Student participants worked as peer leaders at each table of girls, answering questions and facilitating activities. Participants were actively engaged in the lectures presented by community partners and goal-setting games at the event.

The event began with students finding the table whose number matched the one on their nametag. Once seated, girls who were initially shy began to open up with each other at the encouragement of LEAD peer leaders. With the schools all in attendance, the table conversation continued with an icebreaker activity. The first activity, Let's Imagine Your

Future, instructed girls to create a "vision board," an image collage promoting happiness and future thinking through multimedia expression. Girls eagerly worked on their vision boards, using magazine phrases, calligraphy, doodles and personal affirmations. Participants proudly showed their completed projects to girls at neighboring tables.

After a healthy snack of fruit and granola, participants gave their attention to the Keynote Address, given by Illinois Judge Laninya Casen. Casen is founder of "Diamonds in the Rough," a mentoring program that encourages young women to make positive life decisions. She has been recognized by the United Way of Greater St. Louis for her work in reducing teen pregnancy in East St. Louis, Illinois.

In her address, Judge Casen stressed the importance of higher education and personal responsibility. She shared her disappointment in one of her mentoring program participants, a young woman who went on to be featured on the popular cable television show, "Scared Straight." Her parting words encouraged participants to join her on the bench as professionals, instead of appearing before her as defendants.

Following the Keynote Address



Judge Laninya Casen addresses the crowd

was a self-esteem activity, "Shine Bright Like a Diamond." LEAD peer leaders helped girls at each table write a letter to themselves, focusing on what makes them unique and their plans for the future. After sharing their goals, girls sealed the letter up in an envelope to take with them.

Before a Subway box lunch, participants listened to guest speaker Rhonda Gray, Executive Director of Almost Home. Almost Home is a shelter for teenage mothers in St. Louis. Gray stressed the importance of making positive life choices and delaying early pregnancy. She shocked the

attendees as she mentioned one former shelter tenant, a thirteen-year-old mother of two. Gray had a young mother address the girls in the audience, who echoed Gray's sentiments of positive life choices, ambition, and education.

Following lunch was a small group session entitled "The Color of Justice." The session followed a speed-dating format, where women professionals rotated through each table to answer questions and share details about their careers.

The summit wrapped up with a presentation by Angela Lewis, a motivational speaker, author

and educator. Her speech drew from her book, "The Game Changing Assist: Six Simple Ways to Choose Success." Lewis involved the audience with her personal anecdotes and passion for basketball.

Ebony Williams, LEAD intern and event coordinator, called the LEAD program an excellent way for women to learn the unwritten rules behind professional conduct and leadership. She encourages women of any educational background to participate in the next LEAD session once announced.

Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias discusses Greeks in Asia

PAUL PEANICK
STAFF WRITER

The first annual Diane Touliatos Endowed Annual Lecture in Greek Historical Studies was held in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms on January 27. Put together by the Hellenic Government-Karakas Foundation Professorship in Greek Studies at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, those in attendance welcomed Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias, theologian and distinguished Greek scholar. Many notable UMSL figures, including Chancellor Tom George, and Dr. Diane Touliatos, Curators' Professor of the music department, were in attendance.

Dr. Touliatos earned her Ph.D. in historical musicology and is a University of Missouri Curators' Distinguished Professor in the UMSL Department of Music. She has been a leading advocate of an Endowed Greek Studies Professorship. She and her husband Gus Miles, local

businessman, spearheaded the fundraising initiative to make it a reality. They worked together directly with Chancellor Blanche Touhill.

"Diane has been a faculty member since 1979. She is the author of six books, and over 65 peer reviewed articles. She has received many important grants. She really has achieved worldwide acknowledgement in her field. We are very proud to have her here," Chancellor Tom George said.

Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias, the speaker, soon arrived. The Metropolitan is the Director of The Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkley, California. A native of Tampa, Florida, he has lived and traveled around the world. He attained his Master in Divinity in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1982, prior to studying Russian in St. Petersburg. In addition to Russian, The Metropolitan speaks

Greek, Latin and Japanese. He was consecrated a Hierarch in the Greek Orthodox Church and named Metropolitan of Hong Kong and South East Asia in 1997 before attaining his present post in 2007.

The Metropolitan, an expert in Greek Historical Studies, delivered the lecture. Entitled, "The Greeks in Asia: Myths and Realities of the Hellenic Influence in the Far East," it chronicled the romantic history of the Hellenic peoples, their origins in Alexander the Great, and their struggles spanning the age up into modern times.

The true Hellenic ties from Pakistan, India, into China, Thailand and Southeast Asia contain many myths and legends as well as truths. Metropolitan Lulias discussed and parsed fact from fable.

Indeed, there are references to

the Hellenes and Hellenic people in a variety of texts in Eastern Asia. Lulias argued that while most people think of the migration of Greeks as being that to the new world, the real Greek migration was to the east.

"I went to the Far East to become the first Metropolitan in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. While there, not only did my attitude change, but I was allowed to absorb knowledge about things I had never heard of before," Lulias said. "It was interesting that people in Asia were speaking to me about my heritage, my people."

The Metropolitan spoke of the Kolage people. The Kolage stayed in Asia after Alexander of Macedonia returned to Greece.

"There are parallels between the mythological stories and religious trends amongst the Kolage to that of the Hellenes," said Lulias. "It's a wonderful thing that we Greeks

have these roots and ties, the outcome of social interaction and intermarriage from the time of Alexander."

The first great bridge between Greece and Asia was the Persian Empire. Alexander is hardly ever mentioned in Indian literature, but it is known that he went there, at least as far as the river (Ganges).

The Greeks have always been a business-minded people, and great missionaries. Greek colonies have for centuries dotted the Black Sea, great cultural centers. Because of Ottoman Rule and the oppression of the Greeks, said Metropolitan Lulias, the Greeks chose to avoid that region and colonize elsewhere. During the years of Turkish occupation, the Greeks traveled to London, Romania, and Russia, among other places.

Read the full article at
thecurrent-online.com!

GALLERY 210

Gallery 210 hosts opening reception for "Still Adjusting"

CATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

Artist/filmmaker Zlatko Cosic titled his art exhibit at Gallery 210 on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus "Still Adjusting."

Which raises the question, "Still adjusting to what?" The artist addressed as much in his gallery talk at the exhibit's opening reception on January 25.

The short answer is his experiences escaping from the Bosnia war as a young man and life as a refugee in St. Louis, as Cosic told the overflow audience that packed the Gallery 210 lecture hall. It is a lot to adjust to, but Cosic's journey took him to a scholarship and visual arts degree from Washington University and a career as an artist and filmmaker. It is a tale Cosic tells with a sense of the absurd and dry humor, both in his talk and through the art exhibit at Gallery 210, on display through April 5, 2014.

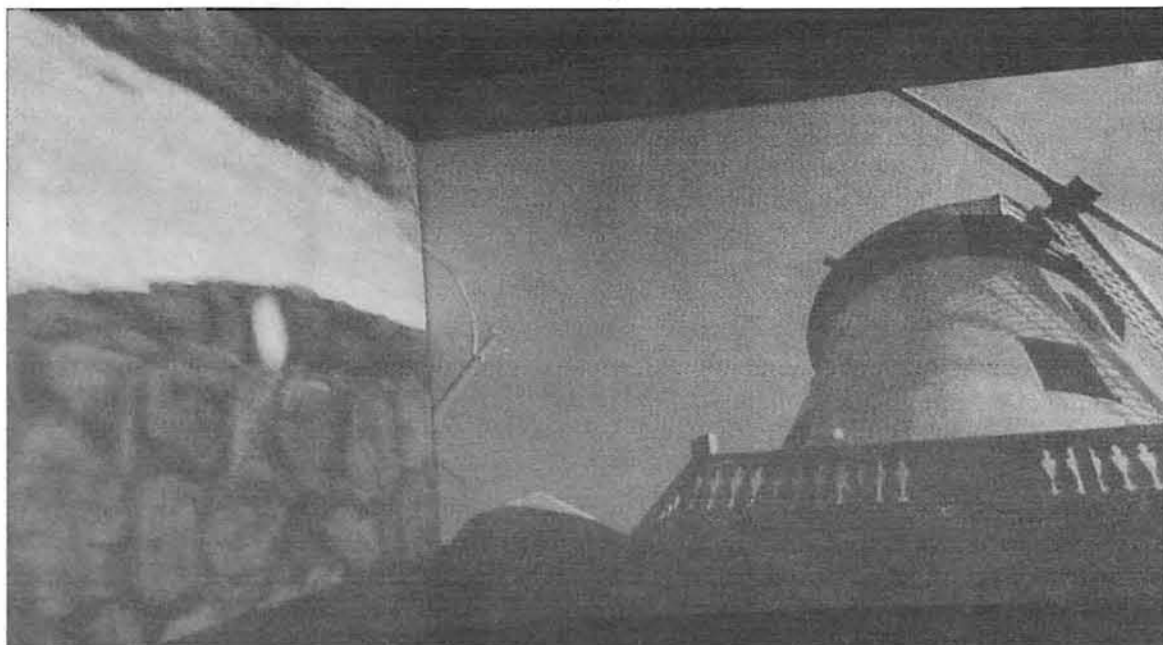
"Still Adjusting" is an installation of several video art works. Some are large projections on the white walls of Gallery A and others on mid-sized video screens. The lights are dim in the gallery, apart from a couple of spotlights, to better see the videos. One spotlight falls on a pedestal in the center of the room, which contains the one collage, "Identity Artifacts," which Cosic created from documents he collected as he navigated his escape from the Bosnia war. Eerie, slow, vaguely techno music plays in the gallery, creating an unsettling effect.

The works in Cosic's exhibit reflect the experiences he described in this lecture. The focus on nationality and religion during the war left Cosic with a preference of avoiding such labels, embracing the more generic term Yugoslavia, a now-vanished country.

The two videos just within the gallery reflect two sides of Cosic's experience. "While Standing I Wonder If" is a black-and-white still image of the artist standing on a forested hill. Suddenly, the still image moves, jumping straight up in slow motion, a movement the artist associates with the feeling of freedom. The other work, "Only the Chimney Remains" is a split-screen collage of images from his childhood, family videos, images of ruined abandoned buildings and peaceful natural scenes. The title comes from Cosic's father, who said that when a house is bombed, only the chimney remains.

Two of the videos have narration and music, which gallery visitors use headphones to hear.

One intriguing large video installation, "Temporary Graffiti: Banja Luka - St. Louis," is a pair of videos projected on adjoining walls in a corner of the gallery. On one wall, there are images of St. Louis architecture and familiar sites, particularly the Bevo Mill area at the heart of St. Louis' Bosnian neighborhood. On the neighboring wall are images of



From Top: "Temporary Graffiti: Bevo" and "Identity Artifacts" by Zlatko Cosic GATE MARQUIS/THE CURRENT

Cosic's native town Banja Luka. Images alternate between those that show contrasts between the two places and those where it is hard to tell which is which.

Another striking installation is "Without a Number," a pair of projections on either side of

a center wall in the two-room gallery. On one side, we see the view out the window on a house on a leafy rural road. On the other side of the wall, we see the view from across the street, looking at the window in the other view. The effect of one or

the other is peaceful, bucolic but taken together they are more unsettling. Cosic said the piece was inspired by the time Cosic hid in his parents' house, only able to look out that window, while their unfriendly neighbor across the street spied on them.

about last night

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UMSL softball faces season of huge expectations

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

On February 14, the University of Missouri—St. Louis women's softball team will play their first game of their 2014 season. And as it turns out this year, they are good. Really good.

The Triton team went 41-13 last season, winning its first ever GLVC championship. The 41 wins are the second most accrued in a single season in the team's history. With the success of the past season comes high expectations for this year, shown through the votes for UMSL softball from Division II head coaches across the country.

In the 2014 preseason poll by the National Fastpitch Coaches association, voted on by 16 Division II head coaches representing each of the eight NCAA regions, UMSL's women's softball team is ranked 18th nationally.

Even though the expectations are great, the Tritons have the ingredients for success, considering what they accomplished the previous year. Eight starting players will be returning this year, along with a very solid pitching lineup including 2013 GLVC pitcher of the year Hannah Perryman, sophomore, criminology.

Unfortunately for Triton fans, we will have to wait to see the high caliber team in action.

The women will head to the Bentonville Classic Tournament in Arkansas where they will face six opponents in a three-day span from February 14 through February 16. Next the team travels to the Teri Mathis-Zenner Memorial Tournament March 1 through March 2 in Joplin, Missouri, facing four different opponents.

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The home opener for the Triton softball team is slated for March 6 versus Southwest Minnesota State. The game will take place on the UMSL Softball field at 3 p.m., and begins a long and steady lineup of home games throughout the month of March.

As always, games will be free for UMSL students. For more information regarding the team roster and schedule for the 2014 season, visit umsltritons.com.

UMSL basketball teams looking to go from good to great



JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN/THE CURRENT

Triton men's basketball players wearing "Play 4 Kay" breast cancer awareness shirts meet with officials and Rockhurst players on Saturday, February 1.

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri—St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams have had difficulty finding their rhythm the past two weeks. They are not playing poorly, but rather are having trouble finding the necessary means to win the games that matter the most.

The past few games results have ranged from the UMSL Tritons being defeated by less than a few points, to the Tritons blowing their opponents away. Consequently, the Tritons are searching for the ingredient that will take their records from good to great, and become a post-season threat.

Women's basketball faced a hard 60-69 loss to #18 Quincy on January 18, which was followed up by a nail-biting 71-74 loss at #9 Drury on January 23. Since then the Triton women have cruised to wins against their past three opponents, defeating Missouri S&T and William Jewell soundly, and pulling off a narrow 60-57

win over Rockhurst in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center this past Saturday, bringing their record over the past five games to 3-2.

The women's record currently stands at 14-5 overall and 7-4 in GLVC play. In their division, the GLVC West, the UMSL women come in fourth behind Quincy, Drury, and Truman State.

Triton men's basketball has found themselves in a similar pattern to the women over their past five games, having accrued a 3-2 record since mid-January. They narrowly beat Quincy 75-72 on January 18 before being dealt a difficult 73-76 loss on January 23 by #5 Drury. The men's team then lost to Missouri S&T 79-85 on January 25, before going on to defeat William Jewell and most recently a sound defeat over Rockhurst on Saturday.

The Triton men stand at 12-7 overall, and 6-5 in the GLVC. In the GLVC West standings, the UMSL men's team falls in third

place behind Drury and Truman State.

While both of the Triton teams' records look solid at first glance, they are going to have to dig deep and win those close games if they desire to end up on top of the divisions. The majority of the recent losses have come at the hands of the respective league division leaders, who will show up again in GLVC tournament play. However, if the Tritons lose narrowly come tournament time there will not be a second chance.

February 6, the UMSL men's and women's basketball teams will host Saint Joseph's at the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center on Pack the Stands night. The women will tip-off at 5:30 p.m. and the men at 7:30 p.m. It will be an opportunity for Triton fans to pack the Mark Twain Center to the brim, which very well may be the missing push that the Triton teams need.

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POINT

COUNTERPOINT

SHOULD FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY BE A REQUIREMENT FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES?

POINT: Foreign languages are essential

Requiring students who are attempting to earn a Bachelor's Degree to become proficient in the foreign language of their choice insures that a university's graduates are well-rounded, cultured individuals. This is something that students should be thankful for. The ability to speak a foreign language will make you more attractive to employers in the extremely competitive world of graduate programs and "real world" jobs. When it comes down to it, proficiency in a foreign language just may be the deciding factor that lands someone else your dream job, or the last spot in your top-pick master's or PhD program.

Possessing knowledge of cultures other than one's own is also an important part of building character. When students take the time to study other cultures it shows that they have moved beyond teenage self-obsession and are now seeking knowledge of the greater world around them. Additionally, knowledge of and respect for other cultures can only improve international relations in the future. Requiring students to learn a foreign language is yet

COUNTER: Foreign languages are a waste

Full-time students sign up for at least 12 credit hours per semester. That's four 3 credit hour classes. In addition to that, most students have at least one part-time job, not to mention extracurricular activities and personal responsibilities. The idea that universities are forcing students to take (and pay for) even more courses that are not related to their major is infuriating. Becoming proficient in a foreign language isn't something that you can really do with classes alone — it takes a lot of outside work and time spent immersing yourself in the culture. While many students would love to practice their French or bone up on their Spanish, we do not live in an economy where we can afford to do anything that isn't essential. Students don't have time anymore for fun classes, not with the extra jobs they have to take on just to pay for the courses related to their major.

Requiring foreign language proficiency for students attempting to earn a Bachelor's Degree adds unnecessary stress to individuals who are probably already close to

another way that universities can insure their students and graduates have the ability to work with and respect those who are different from themselves.

Most importantly, foreign language proficiency requirements teach students to stretch themselves beyond their self-imposed limits. It shows potential employers and/or graduate programs that you can work hard and adapt when pushed into an area of study that may be outside of your comfort zone. Higher education is supposed to prepare its students for the real world, and when students choose which courses of study to pursue, this is what they should be considering. As we move toward a more diverse society, students can either move forward with the rest of the world and push themselves out of their cultural bubbles, or impede their professional and personal progress by holding on to what's comfortable and familiar. If students don't make it a priority to stay current and maintain a global perspective, their skill sets are bound to become outdated.

their breaking point. These days, to be competitive in the grad school and work worlds, you're already expected to supplement your full course load with dazzling extracurriculars, in addition to spending their summer and winter breaks working unpaid internships while simultaneously solving world hunger and curing cancer in their spare time.

It's also an exclusionary practice. Nontraditional students, who are juggling careers and families, should not have to learn a foreign language just because they want to change careers.

After graduations, many students will not even retain the rudimentary grammar rules they had shoved down their throats for three semesters. This is assuming they reach any kind of proficiency at all. Foreign language proficiency requirements waste everyone's time and money. Plenty of students would probably love to learn a foreign language, but we're not superhuman. Give us a break already.

LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING: What's on your game-day menu?

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

I don't care who won the Super Bowl, as long as I got some layer dip and chicken wings in me. Is that selfish of me, to make watching football about food? I don't think so. There are so many elements that go into sports viewing, especially a championship game. Sure, the main focus of last Sunday was the football itself, but how many of us were sitting alone at home, accompanied only by the glow of the television? That doesn't sound celebratory at all!

Watching sports is best experienced as a group activity. You have some friends over, or you visit your folks for their big screen, or meet up at a sports bar. However you do it, watching football is enhanced by the accompaniment of other fans. The atmosphere thickens, conversation becomes louder and easier, and the viewing experience becomes all the more intense and interactive for fans. As you watch the game, your stomach begins to gnaw at you. This is the element of sports viewing that interest me the most, and forms my inquiry of you this week: what are you eating while you're watching the game?

Perhaps nostalgia inspired my fascination with meal planning for get-togethers. I couldn't tell you offhand the teams that faced off in the first Super Bowl I remember or what the final score was, but I can describe the sausage and cheddar biscuit pinwheels my mother made that day in vivid detail. Or that my first Super Bowl in St. Louis, the Rams versus the Patriots, was so

perfect, but not as memorable to me as my stepmother's slow-cooker jelly meatballs and little smokies.

What fascinates me about planning a party menu is how open-ended the process is. As an adult and head chef of my household, I usually use the internet to research game day food options. It's an awful feeling to remember to make "the perfect dish" as I'm pushing my grocery cart through the parking lot, so I get inspired early and weigh each potential dish against its culinary competition. I look at the popular dishes posted on recipe search sites and home cooking blogs, the most requested or highest-rated options. Recipes with viewer comments are the best, as user suggestions have made all the difference in many of my attempts.

As I plan my menu, I make a conscious decision to define the scope of my meal planning. A challenge many cooks face is the desire to make twelve unrelated items, which becomes expensive and difficult to coordinate in the kitchen. I try to envision the party as I plan and gauge how simple or elaborate my food options need to be to keep my guests satisfied.

Wings, dips, chili, and brownies were at the top of the game day recommendations I encountered online this year. Easy to execute, relatively quick to cook and well-liked by diverse crowds. You may want to keep it simple and stick to the slow-cooker options, like sloppy joes or slow cooked soda pork.



Throw the ingredients in, turn it on, cover and forget about it until your guests arrive. Open a bag of buns and let guests help themselves.

Party platters are another option for low maintenance planners, and are ultra inexpensive if you buy the components separately versus purchasing a premade platter. Get some celery, some dip, some deli meat and a block of cheese, maybe some olives and shove it all on a plate. Looks fancy and works great as finger food. You can easily get sucked into the assembly of these platters, however. There are ambitious chefs who have constructed elaborate edible stadiums out of snack food.

Food makes any event all the more desirable to attend. When you host your next viewing party or attend a friend's, consider making a quick dish to share with your fellow viewers. Good food adds a much appreciated texture to get-togethers, and sometimes is more memorable than the original motivation behind the occasion.

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-NEWS@NOON-**Sexual Assault in the Military**

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

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

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