

## UMSL Opera Theater brings futuristic take on 'The Mikado' to Touhill stage

CATE MARQUIS  
A&E EDITOR

The music students and faculty of University of Missouri–St. Louis' Opera Theater staged a splendid, hilarious production of the Gilbert and Sullivan comic operetta "The Mikado" on March 14-15 in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

UMSL Opera Theater has been good from the start, with productions sung by talented vocal music majors, guidance from faculty and professionals associated with St. Louis' world-acclaimed Opera Theater and clever, inventive staging and costumes. From the beginning, the troupe has taken classic works and injected new energy and a sense of crazy fun with their eclectic, resale shop costumes and playfully comic staging.

The Lee Theater was nearly packed for the Saturday night performance. For the Mikado, a story written by a Victorian Englishman but supposedly set in Japan, the students scored an immediate hit with their "neo-Geisha-punk" costumes, a mix of tee shirts featuring sushi ads or "I (heart) Japan," metal-embellished boots, crazy wigs and kimonos.

The Mikado's story focuses on two star-crossed lovers, wandering minstrel - er, rhythm guitarist-Nanki-Poo (sung by tenor Chaston McPeck, senior, vocal music education), who is really the Mikado's son in disguise, and the beautiful Yum-Yum (soprano Devin Kemp). Yum-Yum is the ward of Ko-Ko (baritone Brandon Smith, senior, vocal music education), a cheap tailor who unexpectedly was elevated to Lord High Executioner of the Japanese province Titipu, who plans to marry his now-grown ward Yum-Yum. The love story drives the action but the real star is the comic lead, Ko-Ko.

In a little gender-reversal, the



RYAN BROOKS/THE CURRENT

The UMSL Opera Theater's performance of "The Mikado" utilized inventive costumes and props

Mikado, the emperor of this ersatz Japan, was sung by mezzo-soprano Rebecca Siefert, senior, vocal music education, while the role of Nanki-Poo's aging spurned fiancée Katisha was sung by tenor Gustavo Perez Diaz, senior, vocal music. Katisha is the reason Nanki-Poo fled the court, an aggressive gal who is as bloody-thirsty as she is ugly, but she has some great dramatic arias, which are moving and magical as

sung in Diaz's bold, lush voice.

The comic action aided by a cast of colorful characters. Pooh-Bah (baritone Adam Stefo) is Ko-Ko's right-hand man, a nobleman who holds every other office in Titipu and is more than willing to be "insulted" by bribes. Yum-Yum's friend Pitti-Sing (mezzo-sopranos Andrea Lair, sophomore, vocal music education, on Saturday and Rachel Sexson, junior, music, on

Friday) is enamored of the snobby Pooh-Bah. The major characters are rounded out by nobleman Pish-Tush (tenors Thomas Edler, sophomore, vocal music education, on Saturday and Mason Scott, sophomore, vocal performance, on Friday) and another of Yum-Yum's friend Peep-Bo (sopranos Yaoyao Chen, senior, music, on Saturday and Carrie Walther, graduate, vocal music education, on Friday).

All the singers were winners but there were a few special standouts. Brandon Smith was a comic delight as Ko-Ko, a part he also sang well. Soprano Devin Kemp thrilled with some soaring trills, but the biggest vocal fireworks were provided Diaz as the ugly Katisha, who sings a plaintive dramatic arias and Stefo as Pooh-Bah, who booms out some delightful self-praise as the nobleman on the take.

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS STUDIES

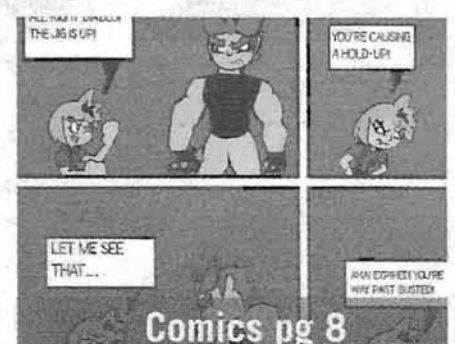
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**THE CURRENT ONLINE**



More photos of "The Mikado"

Visit [thecurrent-online.com](http://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.

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

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**THE UNDERCURRENT** *By Siyun Zhang*

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SPRING BREAK?**



**RAVEN MCNEIL**  
 Sophomore,  
 Communication

"I'm going to L.A. [for a] photoshoot."



**ALEX HODGES**  
 Senior, Criminology

"I'm going to play hockey."



**YUE YAN**  
 Junior, Accounting

"I will meet my friend in L.A. first, then we are going to Utah together."

MON <b>47</b> <sup>HI</sup> <b>31</b> <sup>LOW</sup>	TUE <b>63</b> <sup>HI</sup> <b>39</b> <sup>LOW</sup>	WED <b>57</b> <sup>HI</sup> <b>36</b> <sup>LOW</sup>	THU <b>65</b> <sup>HI</sup> <b>46</b> <sup>LOW</sup>	FRI <b>71</b> <sup>HI</sup> <b>39</b> <sup>LOW</sup>	SAT <b>60</b> <sup>HI</sup> <b>32</b> <sup>LOW</sup>	SUN <b>54</b> <sup>HI</sup> <b>32</b> <sup>LOW</sup>
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# Department of Military and Veteran Studies creates interdisciplinary learning opportunities

HUNG NGUYEN  
MANAGING EDITOR

As the war in the Middle East draws to a close, more and more veterans are returning to college, taking advantage of educational benefits granted through the recent GI bill. For the spring 2014 semester alone, the University of Missouri–St. Louis has 377 enrolled veterans with at least 7 pursuing terminal degrees, figures that are expected to climb in the coming months and years.

The University of Missouri–St. Louis, as part of a long-term effort to provide a smoother transition for veterans returning to school, has taken many actions, one of which was the opening of the UMSL Veterans Center last spring to concentrate and connect student veteran services through one office. Since then, in fall of 2013, the university established the Department of Military and Veteran Studies, an academic unit that now administers three programs: aerospace science, military science, and the newly-formed veteran studies program. The UMSL Veterans Center has been integrated with this office.

The department is headed by retired Lieutenant Colonel James Craig. Craig served in the army for 25 years, earning a Bronze Star Medal for combat service and six Meritorious Service Medals. He received his bachelor of science in

mechanical engineering from the United States Military Academy in 1993, a master of public administration from Harvard University in 2003, and a master of military arts and sciences from the U.S. Command and General Staff College in 2006. Craig has received appointments at the U.S. Pentagon, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of California, Berkeley, before coming to UMSL in 2013 to serve as the department chair and associate teaching professor.

“The next step in the process [of working with veterans and alleviating some of their issues] was this idea that the veteran experience is worthy of serious academic study, and that’s where this Department of Military and Veteran Studies comes from,” Craig said. “It is a new idea in academic circles. People have studied PTSD, people have studied the history, people have studied the public policy on veterans, but no one has done this overarching, multidisciplinary idea that veteran experiences can be studied a little more deeply.”

The new veteran studies program currently stands as a complement to students in various disciplines who may have an interest in serving veteran or veteran-affiliated populations.

Courses may count towards general education and are cross-listed with many departments, including history, psychology, social work, English and gender studies, among others. The first courses for the veteran studies program were offered this spring. Minors and certificate programs are pending

well as establish background on the American veteran experience.

The one-credit Veterans Transition Seminar is for veteran students who are new to UMSL but are ineligible for the First Year Experience courses. The course will focus on developing life and academic skills and connecting student veterans to their peers and the campus, as well as educating students on support services.

The three-credit Gender in the Military course will “examine the treatment of gender difference in the military and focuses on the complex intersection between military culture and social constructs of gender in the civilian world.” This course will be taught by Sally Ebest, PhD, director of the gender studies program, with guest lecturers who specialize on various topics. According to Ebest, the course will be structured into eight two-week units: (1) culture and the military, (2) masculinities, (3) sexual assault, (4) sexual harassment, (5) LGBTQ issues, (6) effects on veterans’ family, (7) disability and identity, and (8) global issues. The course will incorporate lecture, small group work, discussion, multimedia engagement through assignments and film presentations, and a final service-learning project.

“Most people are likely to either

know someone in the military or can have a family member in the military...so an informed public is really important because a lot of people have been really turned off by the military because of all this activity and these [cases of sexual] assaults,” Ebest said. “People need to realize why they happen, what can be done, [and also] just in terms of socialization. We raise our boys to be masculine and to be tough, and our girls to still be more or less, certainly less tough and certainly less masculine, which translates into not speaking up, not fighting for themselves necessarily.”

With both recent and past incidents of sexual assault, this course hopes to provide context and a forum for discussion on problems and impacts, including conversations about such incidents.

“From my understanding, there has been some reluctance from veterans to look further at some of these experiences,” Ebest said. “A lot of veterans just want to move on, but I do think it’s important for healing that they work through the experience that they’ve had and that they put them into a larger context...Hopefully, [the class] spurs them to some kind of activism, and if not, agency, that they can work to improve their lives and the lives of other people who have had these encounters.”

*“The department will offer three courses in the fall of 2014.”*

final approval from administrators.

The department will offer three courses in the fall of 2014: Introduction to Veterans Studies, Gender in the Military, a Veterans Transition Seminar, as well as Independent Study in Military or Veterans Issues.

The three-credit Introduction to Veteran Studies course will acquaint students with fundamental concepts, ideas, and approaches to veterans studies as

# Experts discuss Japanese economic recovery

PAUL PEANICK  
OPINIONS EDITOR

The University of Missouri–St. Louis, in partnership with the UMSL International Studies Program, The Japan America Society of St. Louis, The St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce, The Consulate General of Japan at Chicago, and The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), hosted the Kizuna Economics Seminar in room 202 of the J.C. Penney Conference Center on March 12.

The topic under discussion was the Japanese economic recovery in the wake of The Great East Japan Earthquake. The earthquake rocked Japan on March 11, 2011. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake was the most powerful to smite the nation, and the fifth most powerful quake in the world since recording began in 1900.

The disaster dealt wide scale death and destruction in Japan. There have been 15,884 confirmed deaths, and several hundred thousand residents

were displaced. Building damage included 127,290 buildings completely collapsed, with an additional 272,788 buildings partially destroyed. Japanese agriculture, manufacture, and fisheries were devastated. The tsunami destroyed 21,480 hectares of scarce Japanese farmland, over 83 square miles. Over 4 million Japanese households were left without power and over 1.5 million without clean water. The quake was the direct cause of the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant that has continued to leak over 300 tons of radioactive waste per day into the Pacific for the last three years.

As a result, foreign investment has been skittish about investing in Japan. Officials such as Akiko Nakagawa, the Director-General, Trade Fair Department, JETRO Tokyo, have argued that the dangers of radiation are much overstated. Nakagawa has been heading up efforts to restore

confidence in Japanese fisheries subsequent to the crisis. She invited foreign journalists to assist with business reporting to help dispel some of the rumors concerning the safety of the Japanese fish caught. Foreign chefs and food companies have also been invited to review data and take part in the effort to ensure food safety. Radiation testing and cleanup is ongoing.

Japan, in partnership with foreign investors and governments, particularly from the United States, has been working hard to find solutions and encourage investment. In the three years since the quake, much has been rebuilt. Today, thanks to efforts by the Japanese Ministry of Reconstruction, the number of refugees has decreased from 470,000 to approximately 280,000 people. Many people are still living in temporary housing as the Japanese government, aided by donations and volunteers from abroad, continues to

build public housing for those displaced. Japanese agriculture, manufacturing, and jobs are also making a comeback. Japan is taking a strong initiative on getting women in particular into the workforce.

Japan is the world’s third largest economy, and the gateway to the fastest growing economies in Asia, so called “emerging markets,” the largest two of which are India and China. Ichiro Sone is the Chief Executive Director of JETRO Chicago. He oversees activities designed to facilitate trade and investment between Japan and 12 mid-western states.

In an optimistic talk, Sone spoke highly of the accomplishments and reforms of current Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe.

The goals of Prime Minister Abe include promoting mega Free Trade Agreements, such as the Transpacific Partnership (TPP), subsidizing foreign investment into Japanese business, balancing

the Japanese national debt, and ending deflation.

Areas targeted for future reform include electricity system reform, jobs reform and medical reforms.

Japan hopes that its new growth strategy will improve infrastructure, bring in more funds and activate more human resources, vitalize foreign direct investment into Japan, and to drastically strengthen the government’s framework for attracting foreign business investment. This will be accomplished largely through deregulation, simplified statutory procedures, tax breaks and financial incentives such as interest rate compensation for reconstruction projects.

In order to maintain the advantage over emerging economies in the making of FTA, officials agreed unanimously that the U.S. and Japan must work together to leverage their technological and capital advantages.

# Disaster preparation event offers survival advice to students

HEATHER WELBORN  
FEATURES EDITOR

If a tornado touched down today, would you be prepared? Have you planned for the possibility of a sudden emergency or natural disaster? Are you currently capable of keeping yourself and your loved ones safe until help arrives? These and other emergency readiness concerns were addressed at the Disaster Preparedness event on March 11 in the Nosh of the Millennium Student Center. The awareness campaign was organized by the department of Health, Wellness, Counseling and Disability Access Services at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Dozens of disaster preparation pamphlets were available to students who stopped by the display tables set up on the Nosh stage. The documents, developed by government organizations like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security, offered clear instructions on how to survive immediately after disaster strikes.

Large three-panel posters displayed lists of items to consider including in an emergency

preparedness kit. Photos of backpacks were diagrammed for students to better understand how to pack essential items for use in a variety of worst-case scenarios.

Based on the documents offered, emergency planning can be broken down into three essential steps: plan, prepare, and learn. The United States Department of Homeland Security's Ready campaign asks citizens of all ages and abilities to assemble an emergency supply kit, develop a family emergency plan, and acquire more information of different emergencies that can occur, as well as how to respond to each. Disaster prevention offers a small bit of certainty to citizens surviving in an uncertain world.

The Department of Homeland Security advises that every American keep basic supplies on hand to survive for a minimum of three days after an emergency occurs. Consider where you live and your individual needs, as well as those of your loved ones, as you plan and prepare.

FEMA has issued a supply list that includes the basics of surviving after sudden disaster.

Students are encouraged to use this list as a bare-minimum foundation of preparedness, building upon it according to the specific needs of their family. The list includes water for drinking and sanitation, at least one gallon per person per day for a minimum of three days. For example, a family of four would store twelve gallons of water in their emergency kit.

Include non-perishable food provisions for three days, such as dried beans and rice, canned goods, ready-to-eat meals and bars, and a can opener. Food should be packed in a waterproof container to protect against the elements. Families with infants should include formula or baby food with bottles. Pet owners should include food and water for their furry loved ones as well. FEMA also recommends a first aid kit, prescriptions (including a spare pair of glasses or contacts), a whistle to signal for help, a radio and flashlight with extra batteries for each, and a face mask to prevent against airborne contaminants. For sanitation, bring toilet paper or moist towelettes, travel sized toiletries like shampoo, soap and

toothpaste, and plastic bags for disposal. Families of infants should have ample diapers packed.

Pack a local map, warm clothes and traveling shoes, extra blankets or sleeping bags, and heavy-duty plastic or tarp and duct-tape to waterproof a temporary shelter. Consider packing extra cash or a credit card. Basic tools such as a multipurpose utility knife that has pliers and a mini-saw tool are also recommended.

Where to keep your disaster kit is as important as what to keep in it. An emphasis on ease of availability is essential to accessing your emergency kit when disaster strikes. Officials advise a full kit to keep at home, with additional smaller kits to keep in cars and at work or school.

Kathy Castulik, health educator at UMSL University Health Services, supervised the event. Actively involved in disaster relief efforts for FEMA and The Red Cross, Castulik offered interactive demonstrations to students, advising what to consider when developing a disaster kit.

As she detailed an array of

emergency scenarios to keep in mind while packing items, Castulik reminded students that prior preparation alleviates a lot of the anxiety associated with disasters and emergencies. "Preparing does not give a false sense of security," Castulik said, adding that emergency kits "help you survive until you can get to where you need to be."

Castulik encourages students of all ages and abilities to develop an emergency plan and kit as soon as possible.

"It's never too late to prepare," Castulik said.

Castulik offers on-campus consultation to individuals and groups for emergency readiness. She also offers additional educational resources to students, from diabetes and nutritional information to CPR instruction and free, confidential HIV testing. For more information on the services Castulik provides, contact her directly at [castulik@umsl.edu](mailto:castulik@umsl.edu).

To learn more about disaster preparation and emergency planning, visit [health.mo.gov](http://health.mo.gov), [ready.gov](http://ready.gov) and [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

# Math Club hosts annual Pi Day celebration

HEATHER WELBORN  
FEATURES EDITOR

The Math Club hosted its annual Pi Day celebration in the Nosh of the Millennium Student Center on March 13. Students stood in a sizable line to participate in numerically based activities for free t-shirts commemorating the event.

Pi Day is observed across the nation each year on March 14, a date that coincides with the pi shorthand of 3.14. The celebration raises awareness of the importance and relevance of math in everyday life. Pi Day has increased in popularity in recent years, notably on social media. Pie eating is among the most popular and accessible ways to celebrate.

Math Club members handed out t-shirts to students who took a shot at guessing how many pieces of circular candy filled a small glass jar. Pencils bearing the many integers past pi's decimal were offered to participants, as well. A few dedicated students took a shot at reciting as many post-decimal digits of pi as they could from memory.

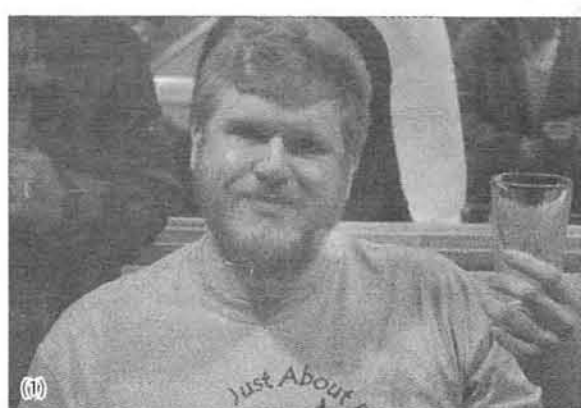
Pi is defined as the ratio between the distance around and across a perfect circle. The mathematical constant is used to calculate an array of scientific data, ranging from circular area to spherical

volume. Because pi is an irrational number, it goes on infinitely after the decimal, without pattern or repetition. According to [piday.org](http://piday.org), over one trillion digits of pi have been calculated past its decimal point.

Club member Brian Pickens, junior, electrical engineering, followed along a multi-sheet print-out of pi decimal expansion as Omar Ismail, freshman, computer science, made his attempt. Ismail reached an impressive 697 digits before stopping, without error. He said he studied pi decimal expansion for about a month on his tablet as practice. Last year's winner made it upwards of 800 integers.

At 12:30 p.m., a handful of students participated in a pizza-eating contest. Students were instructed to eat as many slices of cheese or pepperoni pizza as they could within 3.14 minutes. The pizza had to be consumed a single slice at a time, crust included. Sean Horan, graduate, mathematics, won the competition after eating four slices. Horan was awarded an etched glass from Pi, the upscale pizzeria known for its deep-dish style and local ingredients.

Nilla Bartko, graduate, mathematics, and club member



1) Pizza eating contest winner Sean Horan, grad student, math, holding his prize

2) Omar Ismail, Freshman, Computer Science, reciting 697 digits of Pi 3) Students compete in pizza-eating competition

assisting with the event, says Pi Day is an excellent way to showcase the lighter side of math to students. Bartko discussed the relevance of pi to the sciences, saying that most

biological processes with wave and periodicity can be expressed with pi. In trigonometry and above, angles are expressed as radians, derived from pi, instead of degrees.

"Pi is essential to how we communicate and use angles in engineering," Bartko said.

HEATHER WELBORN/THE CURRENT

THEATRE REVIEW

'Soups, Stews and Casseroles' gets sentiments right, history wrong

CATE MARQUIS  
A&E EDITOR

The topical new play "Soups, Stews and Casseroles: 1976" debuted as the Repertory Theater of St. Louis' Studio production (The Rep), for a run through March 12-30 on the Webster University campus. Directed by Seth Gordon and written by Rebecca Gilman, "Soups, Stews and Casseroles 1976" is set in Monroe, Wisconsin, a small town whose major employer, a family-owned cheese factory, has just been bought by a large national company. Worries about layoffs and the possibility of the plant closing are the talk of the town, and also the topic that housewife Kat (Nancy Bell) and her older friend Joanne (Susan Greenhill) talk about in Kat's kitchen as they work on the town's annual recipe book.

Kat is worried about the prospect of her factory-employee husband Kim (Vincent Teninty) being laid off, while fiery, out-spoken old liberal Joanne speculates on the economic impact on the town if its largest employer should close. When Kim comes home, he and Kat talk alone about her worries

but, surprisingly, he tells her he would be relieved to be free of a job that he has grown to hate over 19 years. But with only a high school education, Kim is unsure what else he could do to support his wife and bright teenage daughter Kelly (Emma Wisniewski) who hopes to go to college. Besides, Kim is committed to supporting his co-workers and their union.

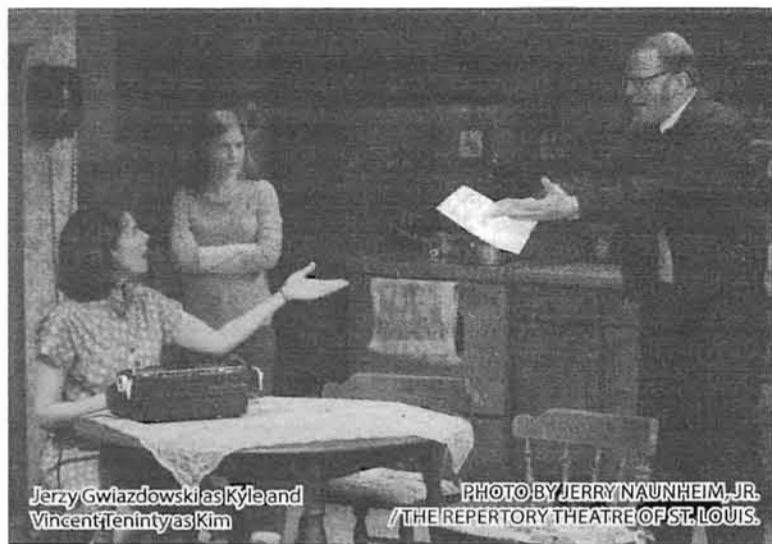
The plant's union representative Kyle (Jerzy Gwiazdowski) is much admired in town as the "good" son who returned home after college to support his suddenly-disabled father. Rounding out this cast is Elaine (Mhari Sandoval), the wife of an executive the new company has brought in from Chicago.

The cast is very good. Bell is appealing as good-natured Kat, and Teninty's Kim is the embodiment of the dependable working stiff. Greenhill is terrific as plain-spoken Joanne, who always says what she thinks with comments that are often as funny as they are pointed. Sandoval as the colorful Elaine

is a fast-talking, hard-drinking Chicagoan, who charms her way into Kat and Kim's life. Elaine introduces new ideas and taps into unspoken ambitions. Her effect on the family is both liberating and destructive. Wisniewski is likeable as Kelly, a good girl who's ready to stretch her wings.

The single set captures the '70s era look perfectly, as do the period costumes. The scenes capture the quiriness of small town life and evoke the era in a charming, warm and comic way. This is an excellent drama that deals with complex issues of family loyalties, economic realities and ethical dilemmas in a realistic way. While the acting is excellent and the topic worthy, the play's one flaw is trying to exist in two different time periods at once.

Despite '70s decor and fashions, it is clear that the concerns of this worthy drama are really those of the 1980s, the era that gave us the terms "layoff" and "downsizing." In 1976, the most troubling economic issue was a persistently high inflation



Jerzy Gwiazdowski as Kyle and Vincent Teninty as Kim PHOTO BY JERRY NAUNHEIM, JR. / THE REPERTORY THEATRE OF ST. LOUIS.

rate. Unemployment was low, stores were filled with American-made goods, and small family-owned manufacturers were common. Certainly big companies bought smaller companies in the mid-'70s, but that did not automatically spark fears that people would lose their jobs or the plant would close. When Reaganomics traded '70s double-digit inflation for '80s double-digit unemployment, it launched the era of outsourcing, union-busting and the rise of merger-and-acquisition companies that bought up smaller family businesses, laid off

employees, broke unions, and then sold off the new "leaner, meaner" company or its assets. The historical facts place this story squarely in 1982, not 1976.

If a playwright is going to place a story in a particular era, it helps to get the history right. If this play could be re-written to place it in the historically correct era, it would be a nearly perfect drama. All the dramatic elements are there, and the story explores the subject matter with honesty, clarity and human truth. If only it had the courage to put the story in the right decade.

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# Basketball season draws to a close at UMSL

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

When the final seconds ticked away in the NCAA Midwest Regional on March 14, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team walked off the court with a loss, and a bittersweet end to a remarkable season. The Tritons fell 64-69 to the Lewis Flyers at the O'Reilly event center in Springfield, Missouri.

The Tritons fought hard and were within sight of victory, leading 33-27 going into the intermission. But Lewis came back with a hot hand in the second half, shooting 58 percent from the field compared to the Tritons 43 percent. The Flyers chipped away at the Tritons lead and were able to overcome it with six minutes remaining in the game, going up 54-53. UMSL regained the lead briefly by one point with four minutes to go before Lewis took over again for good.

With 1:30 left in regulation and Lewis up by a 63-60 margin, the Tritons resorted to fouling to try and regain the lead. Unfortunately, the one that they were fouling would not miss from the charity

stripe. Lewis's Jamie Johnson made all six of her free throws within the last minute, thwarting the Triton effort and doling out a tough loss in the regional game.

Though the Triton women were sent home early, their season was not any less remarkable and spectacular. This year marks the second time they have ever made an appearance in an NCAA tournament since 2000. In addition, the 21-8 record the women accrued is the second most wins in program history.

Like the Triton women, the men's basketball team also has much to be proud of this season. Their team was considered an "upset" bid coming into the postseason with a mediocre 15-11 record. The Triton men proved that they belonged and fought until the final whistle.

In the first round of the GLVC Tournament the Tritons easily handled Missouri S&T Miners, walking away with a 103-79 win. It was the following GLVC quarterfinal game against Wisconsin-Parkside that proved the true test for the Tritons, and ended up sending them home early.

On March 7, the UMSL men's basketball team lost 70-79 to the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana. Like the women's final performance of the season, the Triton men could see victory at halftime. The Tritons led by a 30-26 margin going into intermission.

In the second half the Ranger's productivity skyrocketed. They increased their field goal percentage from 30 percent in the first half to 64 percent in the second, including going 18 of 19 from the free throw line. The Tritons also improved their productivity, but by a smaller margin than Wisconsin-Parkside, increasing their shooting from 44 percent in the first half to 54 percent in the second. In the end, the game came down to the final minutes and crucial free throws.

The Tritons maintained the lead 64-61 with 5:27 left in the game before giving it up to Wisconsin-Parkside with a Ranger's layup. The Rangers new lead was 66-64 with 4:46 remaining, before eventually extending their lead to 70-65 with 1:28 to play. From there the Tritons



Aereon Smith drives to the hoop for the Tritons in the Mark Twain Center.

repetitively fouled in attempt to chip away at Wisconsin-Parkside's lead. However, the Rangers went 9 for 10 from the free throw line within the last minute of play, effectively denying a Triton upset.

The Triton men and women basketball teams walked away from the NCAA Midwest Regional and the GLVC Tournament before

making it to the championship game, but can consider their seasons enormously successful. Both teams exceeded their expectations and went down fighting hard. The Triton women made program history; the men refused to accept mediocrity. Championship or not, it was a great basketball season for UMSL.

## 2014 LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET

**Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond? Is there an event that has been particularly impactful? Nominate them now!**

NOMINATION DEADLINE:

**Friday, April 4 by 5pm**

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

**[umsl.edu/studentlife](http://umsl.edu/studentlife)**

AWARDS BANQUET:

**Monday, April 28**

**MSC Century Rooms, 6:30-8pm**

### INDIVIDUAL AWARD CATEGORIES:

Student Leader of the Year,  
Faculty/Staff Advisor of the Year,  
Rising Leader, Student Advocate,  
Greek Student Leader of the Year,  
Outstanding Service to the Community

### ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM CATEGORIES:

Organization of the Year, Best Overall Program,  
New Organization of the Year, Most Innovative Program,  
Best Cultural Awareness Program, Best Sustained Program,  
Best Campus Community Building Program

**POINT** **COUNTERPOINT**

**IS THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SYSTEM OUTDATED?**

**POINT: The American education system is not the real problem**

The American education system is certainly not outdated. The American education system is the backbone behind the greatest economic powerhouse the world has ever known. Schools teach kids and young adults how to follow a plan, behave in society and get along with each other. They teach math, reading, speaking, and all the skills necessary to function in modern society.

If anything is wrong, attitudes are wrong. Today, kids have the entire world literally at their fingertips with the Internet. However, it may be that very fact, the way that the Internet satisfies instant gratification, that is eroding the natural curiosity of our youth. While more computers, tablets, and mobile computing are incorporated into the education system, if anything, we should be weary of how we apply those technologies.

Perhaps there is a problem with the modern attitude. And if so, parents play a major role in that. Parents need to instruct their children to dream, and support those dreams. Children must be

pushed to curiosity to understand the value in wanting to increase their knowledge.

Teachers must be held accountable when they fail to perform. A performance report should dictate who advances and who is let go. A teacher should be like a boss, placing reasonable challenges in front of a student, and if a student fails, then he/she should be held back. To do anything else will erode the quality of adults we are raising. Some people get held back or left behind; it is the reality of life. We cannot sacrifice society by allowing anyone, even the unprepared, to move forward.

America still produces more millionaires every year than any other country in the world, and a big part of that is education. Children and young adults in poor countries are doing more with less and somehow we think it is our education system that is broken. If anything, it is our culture that is broken.

**COUNTER: The American education system is due for a revolution**

The American educational system is little changed in hundreds of years. In fact, the same can be said of education the world over for the most part. Education is an industrial process, designed in the age of sailing to teach reading, writing and arithmetic. The system is designed to produce "good workers," but not even by modern standards. Times are changing so rapidly with technology now that the key skill in being able to succeed in the 21st century will be the ability to learn, unlearn, and relearn new skills. Flexibility, adaptability, creativity; these are the powers that create your innovators, your geniuses.

Sir Ken Robinson, a prominent educationalist, has argued that "schools are educating children out of their creativity," and in many landmark talks has spoken extensively on the stagnation of education in modern society. Anyone wanting to learn how schools are outdated, vestigial entities need only start by researching him.

What schools are in need of is not reform but revolution. Not all

children learn at the same speed, or even the same concepts within the same class at the same speed. Some children will learn task A faster than another, and others vice versa. That all children end up at the same level upon the end of the class or term is what matters. And for that you need individualized learning, small group learning, and copious amounts of technology. The old method of lecture, write, memorize, repeat is not inspiring. It is, in fact, quite boring and a large part of what is stifling our economic and educational prowess in the world today. Schools should foster curiosity with a broad curriculum and encourage individualized learning. Fostering curiosity requires paying teachers more, and focusing on more high quality training and development. Much of our educational system fosters conformity, compliance and standardization. We must recognize that education is organic, not mechanical. Our educational system does not prepare students for 21st century jobs.

**SCIENCE MATTERS**

**Spring and love chemistry is in the air**

**CATE MARQUIS**  
A&E EDITOR

Last week, in the spirit of Spring, this column discussed - what else - the chemistry of falling in love. But after you fall in love, what about making love last?

Falling in love is easy - people do it every spring (and other times). But staying in love involves chemistry, too. In last week's column, we looked at some of the "rules of attraction" and the chemistry of falling in love. While people are drawn to someone who shares their interests and values, there are biological factors too. To say two people have "chemistry" is surprisingly close. There are physical traits that people generally find attractive - regular facial features, clear skin, nice teeth, shiny hair, small waists in women and broad shoulders in men - but it is worth noting that these traits are also associated with reproductive fitness and health.

Touch also matters. Men and women subtly give off hormones, which can be exchanged through hand holding, kissing, and pheromones. They are detected subconsciously through our olfactory system; these, too, play a role in falling in love.

Those are some general rules. When it comes to specifics, we have a tendency to fall for someone who shares our interests and background. But "opposites attract" also has something to it.

A study published in Psychological Science in 2007 found evidence that we have a tendency to fall for someone who has a different immune system - a

different major histocompatibility complex (MHC) genotype. There's an adaptive reason for the appeal of the different, as genetic diversity creates new possibilities in offspring, as well as reducing the chance of rare but harmful genes being expressed when each parent contributes a copy of the same bad gene, something more common with inbreeding and in small populations.

Once in love, couples are in a state of euphoria and emotional turmoil. There are similarities between people in love and those in a panic attack. Their higher levels of dopamine are associated with pleasure, norepinephrine with euphoria and a racing, heart pounding sense of excitement. There is a boost of the neurotransmitter phenyl ethylamine, which, like its chemical cousin amphetamine, is associated with energy and desire.

Eventually, this euphoric state calms down, and levels of dopamine and norepinephrine return to normal. This is when couples reassess if they truly have things in common and really like each other as people. If the answer is yes, a new set of chemicals come into play to deepen the relationship.

Now we move into the long-term phase of the relationship. Changing levels of oxytocin and vasopressin can lead to strengthening attachment in a relationship. Oxytocin is a nurturing hormone, a chemical associated with childbirth that

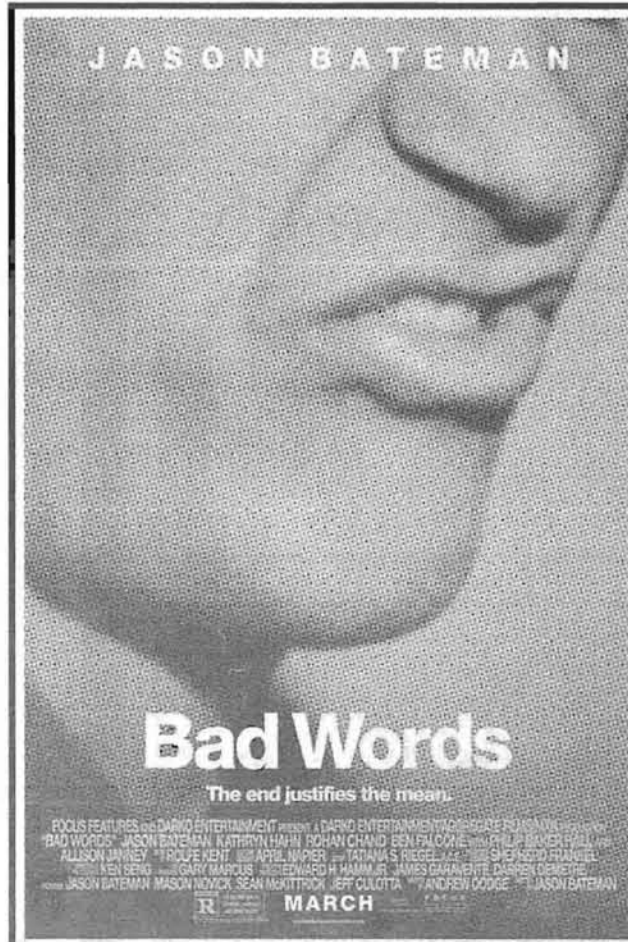


is also released when a mother breastfeeds. It is thought to contribute to bonding between mother and child. Oxytocin is released by both men and women in response to cuddling and touching, and is associated with the ability to maintain social relationships. Interestingly, it is also released during orgasm.

If you are in a long-term relationship, there are ways to bring back a fading spark, or keep it from fading. One is to add novelty, even some risky business, to your activities. Trying a new activity or even a new restaurant can bring a jolt of dopamine back. Another way is more passionate kissing, to bring back that boost of testosterone, and more touching and cuddling, to stimulate the release of the affectionate, bonding chemical oxytocin.

For gay/LGBT couples, the rules of attraction might be different but it seems a lot of the other chemistry that brings and keeps couples together is similar.

Shared dreams, tastes, and values keep couples together but the chemistry of love helps too.



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Are you planning to graduate this semester???

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# UMSL 2014 May Commencement MAY 17 & 18

Each ceremony will be approximately 1 1/2 hours long. **No tickets required.**

SATURDAY, MAY 17  
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

10 A.M. - College of Nursing  
- College of Fine Arts and Communication  
- School of Social Work  
- Master of Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Optometry  
(Touhill Performing Arts Center)

SUNDAY, MAY 18  
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

2 P.M. - College of Education

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration  
- UMSL/WUSTL Joint Undergraduate Engineering Program  
- Missouri University S&T-Engineering Education Center

Don't miss the  
**GRAD FAIR!!!**

Wednesday, April 2  
& Thursday, April 3  
UMSL Bookstore, 209 MSC  
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

- Purchase your cap, gown and tassel; order or purchase announcements; look at class rings.
- A \$10 late fee will apply to all attire purchased after Friday, May 2.

Visit the UMSL commencement website at [www.umsl.edu/commencement](http://www.umsl.edu/commencement) for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with GradImages™.