UML steps it up for Homecoming

ANYA GLUSHKO
Features Editor

October's Homecoming Week brings University of Missouri-St. Louis's traditions and rituals to life on campus. The first event to kick off Homecoming Week is Associated Black Collegians' annual Step Show. The Step Show is a significant part of African American culture.

"It was a culture-based event," Condie Stevenson, sophomore, mathematics, said. "Every generation adds its own twist to it. It's never the same."

UML's Associated Black Collegians step team was in charge of the event, which featured the D-9 (previously known as the Eleven Nine), historically black fraternities and sororities. Competing teams included Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta.

The seventh annual Associated Black Collegians Homecoming Step Show set the pace of events for UML's Homecoming Spirit Week. This year's show was a success, with attendance nearly exceeding the auditorium's capacity at about 500 attendees.

"The show in a very interesting experience," Cecil Clay, junior, public relations, said. "Watching videos on YouTube is very different and is not as interactive."

There were six hours of Associated Black Collegians comedians. Each step team brought its own style and performed with energy.

"It was flashy, but it was fun and entertaining at the same time," Karlene Kildrow, sophomore, English, and one of the Associated Black Collegians step leaders, said. "The audience shouted and cheered for us. They acknowledged our mistakes, but they were very supportive for all of the teams."

(continued on page 9)

Improvised Shakespeare makes fun

CATE MARQUIS
Editor-in-Chief

Last November, the improvisation Shakespeare Company appeared onstage before the two-thirds-full house on Friday dressed in loud-front puffy skirts, black kepi pants and brightly-colored stockings that suggested Elizabethan styles while also looking a bit improvised.

Blaine Swan, the troupe's creator and director, explained the basic premise of the evening's entertainment. Using only a suggestion from the audience, the troupe would create an entirely improvised play in the style of William Shakespeare using the language of the Bard. The troupe bowed in unison at the mention of the playwright, setting the tongue-in-cheek tone for the evening: "If you ever wonder where the story is going, do we," Swan said.

The suggested title for the Sept. 28 show was "Chicken Belts and Brains." The troupe withdrew briefly from the (continued on page 6)

Using only a suggestion from the audience, the troupe would create an entirely improvised play in the style of William Shakespeare using the language of the Bard.

The latter is a graduate of Webster University's Conservatory of Theater Arts, while Bland is a two-time improvauty winner. Swan noted that it would be the play's world premiere - and its final performance - all in one evening. He promised that the play and the characters would be created on the spot. "If you ever wonder where the story is going, do we," Swan said.

The suggested title for the Sept. 28 show was "Chicken Belts and Brains." The troupe withdrew briefly from the (continued on page 6)
The Undercurrent

Are you voting in this year's election? Why or why not?

"No. I don't like my options." — Tabitha McCullers, sophomore, biochemistry

"Yes, a ringing yes. Having studied the Constitution, I know it is essential that people vote." — Benjamin Uchitel, professor, Honors College

"Yes, but I don't like either of them." — Scott Lewis, freshman, biology

"Yes, because it is my duty as a citizen." — Lindsay Meyer, freshman, undeclared

Your weekly calendar of campus events.

**Your weekly calendar of campus events.** "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be in by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before publication. First-come, first-served, listings may be solicited for length and style. E-mail listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

**Catholic Volunteer Network speaker**

Learn more about volunteer organizations that serve kids, the homeless or others, or involve travel, groups that need you for the summer or for a year, at the Catholic Newman Center. 5-6 p.m. for information, contact Rachelle Simon 314-516-3865.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4**

National Student Day

Celebrate National Student Day at campus location, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. with refreshments and 35% discount on UMSL clothing and gifts. Winner of National Student Day contest, which recognizes student community involvement, will be announced. For information, contact Stephanie Eade at 314-516-3865.

**Eastern District Court of Appeals**

The Eastern District Court of Appeals travels the state of Missouri to give students and the general public a chance to witness court proceedings. Court in session 10 a.m. - noon at the Catholic Newman Center; 5-6 p.m. for information, contact Rachelle Simon 314-516-3865.

**Housing activities**

A whole day of housing activities, including Greek, Roman Volleyball (fraternities and sororities vs. all others, 3-5 p.m. at Oak Hall volleyball court), Chili Supper (chili and rice, right after midnight at Oak Hall, 5-6:30 p.m.) and Lip Sync Competition (5 - 9 p.m. at MSC, Plate House). For information, contact Housing Counseling at 314-516-3291.
Homecoming is "Here & Now"

Sharon Pruitt
Managing Editor

Homecoming Week will kick off on Oct. 1 with the Homecoming Kickoff Fair. The fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the lawn of the Thomas Jefferson Library located on North Campus. The fair will include food and games for students in need for all the festivities Homecoming has to offer. At 8 p.m. that night there will be a free screening of the film "Brave," also on the Jefferson Library lawn. Free snacks will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to bring their own blankets or lawn chairs to better enjoy the event.

Voting for Homecoming King and Queen will also begin on Oct. 1, along with Bonner Wars. As part of Bonner Wars, participating student organizations will decorate banners according to the Homecoming theme of "Vines & New," with judges selecting a winner on Oct. 5. All banners will be displayed on the Millennium Student Center Bridge throughout Homecoming Week.

On Oct. 2 there will be a blood drive in the MSC Century Rooms from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Canned goods can also be donated in addition to or in lieu of blood. From 9 to 11 a.m. that day will be the "Midnight Breakfast" on the Oak Lawn, where Tritons and their friends can enjoy biscuits with gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage.

On Oct. 3 student organizations and campus departments will show their pride at Banner Wars, which will be held at noon in the MSC Century Rooms. The winners will be displayed on the women's and men's soccer teams and participating table of ten. Tickets are available in the Office of Multi-Cultural Relations at 314-516-6607.

Homecoming Dinner and Dance will take place Oct. 6 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., the dinner begins at 7 p.m. and dancing will be from 8 to 11 p.m. Tickets are $30 per person or $55 per couple and include buffet dinner and dance. Tickets are available at the MSC Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will be sold until Sept. 28 or until sold out. Tickets are limited.

The Lip Sync Competition will take place Oct. 7. Preregistered student organizations and teams will square off against each other to show off their own choices of music in the Pilot House. The annual Homecoming Tailgate will take place Oct. 5 in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center, Parking Lot M from 3:30 to 5 p.m. This event will feature the Homecoming soccer games. UMSL’s women’s and men’s soccer teams will take on Lewis University at the Don Dallas Soccer Field. The women’s game will commence at 5 p.m.; the men’s, at 7 p.m.

The open portion of the Homecoming theme of "Vines & New," will continue Oct. 6 with "Hog Hall," a traditional game of Hog Hall where Tritons and their friends can enjoy loin. The Homecoming Dinner and Dance will be held at noon in the MSC Century Rooms.

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Genomics Symposium is new turf for UMSL

CATE MARQUIS
Editor-in-Chief

Seniors about genomics are common on the St. Louis University and Washington University campuses, both of which have medical schools, and particularly in the Wash. U campus, which took part in the Human Genome Project. But on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus they were generally absent — until this past week.

The Symposium on Genomics was presented by the Biochemistry and Biotechnology Program at UMSL on Sept. 28 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the auditorium of Stadler Hall. The event offered students and faculty three seminars on the topic of genomics.

As noted in the announcement of the one-day symposium, "genomics is an area of genetics that involves the study of the genomes or full genetic content of organisms." The breakthrough of the sequencing of the human genome and the technology spawned at the beginning of the 21st century ushered in two more new viruses named MW and STL, the sequencing of the human genome and the discovery of viruses with known cause, as well as those with no known cause, the said. Wang presented three examples from his research of novel viruses that were discovered by using genomics.

Wang's first example focused on a virus associated by a group of researchers with a disease in a tiny worm. The study revealed that the virus is a favorite of genetics researchers. Wang said that the virus is so common in healthy populations that it has implications for treatment of those undergoing transplants or those with compromised immunity. Wang's second example focused on a virus associated with acute diarrhea, astrovirus, and the discovery of a virus in a tiny worm, C. elegans. Wang noted that diarrhea, while not a threat in developed countries, is a significant problem in developing countries, causing many children to die of dehydration. "...40 percent of acute diarrhea cases have no known cause," he said. Wang also took the opportunity to inject a little humor into his presentation. "I wanted to show that people can be very happy working on diarrhea," Wang said, drawing a big laugh from the audience.

Wang's third example focused on the discovery of a virus in a species that was not even known to harbor viruses, the nematode C. elegans. C. elegans is a genetically simple nematode that has no known immune system but is a favorite of genetics researchers. Wang looked at wild nematodes found on lettuce in French orchards. An expert in studying the species on fruit helped Wang by identifying sick worms so that Wang's lab could determine whether or not they were infected with a virus. The study led to the discovery of the first virus ever found in the species.

Wang's three studies were striking examples of the power of genomic techniques. "We are now being taken for a really fun ride, a roller coaster ride," Wang said. "I don't think we have ever had a genomics seminar here before." Shelby Marsh, junior, biochemistry and biotechnology, said. Marsh said that he was very happy to be able to attend. He was apparently not the only person on campus excited about the genomics symposium, as the audience nearly filled the auditorium.

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Photo by Kessy Park/The Current
PBS’s ‘Washington Week’ comes to UMSL

CATE MARQUIS

Editor-in-Chief

Washington Week” drew a near-capacity crowd to the Blanche E. Tourell Performing Arts Center’s Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall for a taping of two shows of the long-running Public Broadcast System TV news program. The program is broadcast locally on KETC/ Nine Network (TV Channel 11) on Fridays.

“Washington Week” was taped Sept. 29 starting at 3 p.m. One of the shows taped was the regular half-hour broadcast, the year’s third “road show” taped outside their Washington D.C. studio which was shown that night at 7 p.m. Rather than the usual Fields Center audience, this show was a special election themed “town hall” in which about 400 members posed questions for the panelists to be broadcast later.

Both programs are available now on the program’s website, www.pbs.org/wamc/washingtontownhall.

The show’s host and moderator is journalist Gwen Ifill, calling her “use of the nation’s most accomplished journalists.

“Of course we approached the 2012 election. It is important to have reliable news sources. Washington Week is one of those reliable sources,” Ifill said. “This is the biggest crowd ‘Washington Week’ has ever had,” Ifill said, speaking of the “road show.”

You have shown why St. Louis is known around the country as the best market for public media. —Galmiche running PBS program.

For the regular program, the panel discussed the impact that early voting might have, noting that polls that take a snapshot of how voters feel before election day take on a new meaning when some of those polled were already voting. They also discussed how the candidates were doing in swing states and how Todd Akin’s remarks placed the Missouri senate race unexpectedly in the spotlight.

The audience was treated to a short video, capturing some highlights of the ring-


Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

It is widely known that the increase in global warming and decrease in air quality is due to our dependence on dirty energy sources like coal and oil. Therefore we owe it to future Missourians to take action and voice our support of the clean and sustainable energy sources that are readily available to us in the state of Missouri.

Missouri is capable of taking leadership and generating, through the use of wind turbines, energy that would not only provide jobs and energy locally but also energy for export nationwide. Wind energy currently provides 2200 jobs within Missouri, and the reduction in coal use means we’re not releasing 780,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide into our air each year.

If Senators McCaskill and Blunt want to see healthier citizens and a healthier community, they must extend the wind power production tax credits before they expire at the end of this year. Their support will ensure that future generations will have a cleaner, greener and healthier Missouri.

Ashaka Dalai

Washington University student

To the Editor:

Missouri needs to prioritize bringing innovation, job creation and sustainable living to its citizens. Wind energy for Missouri not only provides a renewable source of clean power, but also ensures long-term economic opportunities that can give us the local jobs and financial support our state needs.

Missouri’s natural wind resource could provide over nine times the state’s current electricity needs. With manufacturers in place and local jobs secured, using wind power to build a healthier and more efficient Missouri is easily attainable. However, Missouri’s wind energy industry will suffer a crippling blow if Congress doesn’t extend the renewable energy production tax credit that expires at the end of this year.

By renewing the clean energy tax credits, Senator McCaskill will help Missouri build a future that supports local production, provides sustainable power alternatives and ensures a cleaner, healthier state for all Missourians.

Sincerely,

Sara Molinsky

Intern, Environment Missouri

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The Current

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In theaters Friday, October 5

Louis Abourezk (L) and Phylicia Jourdan (R)

Photo by Cate Marquis/Current

To the Editor:

I think you have identified the really problematic issue at the cornerstone of the middle-class. —Karen Kosky in response to her question. "If there is a sleeper issue that will emerge in the next four years, it’s student debt.

I’m not sure it’s a ‘sleeper’ issue," Hill said. "Regular people like my young baby boy are talking about it now."

"Because I am a student in the grad program and I was undergrad, I see that the students that are coming out of high school and going into college, that’s their number one concern. How am I going to afford college?" Jourdan said, "And for me it’s, ‘How can I afford to pay back what my college degree has cost me?’ So student loan debt is ahead of the same, if not past, credit card debt in this country. And, you know, a lot of people who can’t afford to pay their credit card bills can’t afford to pay their student loans back either."

The dancing wrapped up at about 4:30 p.m. with a big round of applause from the crowd and Hill coming into the dispersing audience to great kudos in particular. Among those present at the event was Louis Abourezk, district staff member for U.S. Representative Clay. "I am here as a guest of Boeing, the biggest employer in the First Congressional District," Abourezk said. "Congressman Clay also asked me to come and be with his friend Gwen Hill. She wrote a book and mentioned his name in it, so they have had a good working relationship for a long time in D.C."

Abourezk said that the event was great. "I wish we had more like it," he said.
There is something grandios e "Magic Chairs." That album, their most ambitious without bringing a symphony in tow or forging their own music around their influence. For the first time in their career, Efterklang sounds as if they are forsaking the swell ing orchestral maneuvers of "Magical Chairs." There is no indication that their sale U.S. tour date for "Pirates" album was inspired by an expedition to the same name, it is not only natural that "Pir a mida" should be a cold and ironic affair, just as Kraftwerk's "Autobahn" and "Trans-Europe Express" carry a existentialist soundtrack to Europe's mass-transit, largely because they never would achieve even a fraction of that group's chart success, their melodies become减速.

With the backdrops of "Magical Chairs" in mind, "Pir a mida" sounds like a deliberate retaliation to the accusations of pop-finessless, indeed, nothing here is particularly conventional in the convergent versions. Most of "Pir a mida" is less than labyrinthic and passionless, largely forswearing the sweeping orchestral maneuvers of "Magical Chairs." Three tracks, the four "Pir a mida" was more of an influential place for me, just because it was a quiet little town with pretty little hills and pretty little places to be. It's also a very lovely place, and that's where a lot of my music comes from. It's a great place to get quiet and get fooled and a bunch of songs. I always thought a lot of things in a way that makes you smile and not think...I've never really a part of a scene, and I think that kind of messes me up a little bit, because I'm not really in this for the popularity. Sometimes I just feel I don't really believe I belong anywhere, but I guess because of that I don't really have to prove anything to anybody.

"Pir a mida" is a demure, mannered take on experimental rock, one that skirts the experimentation in favor of a deliciously cinematic ambiance.

The Improvised Shakespeare Company (continued from page 1) "If you ever wonder where the story is going, so do we."—Swen stage before Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. Swen delivered a prelude for a play about star-crossed lovers. For me, that's the point of playing them, trying to get a sense of the mood and the mood...I've never really a part of a scene, and I think that kind of messes me up a little bit, because I'm not really in this for the popularity. Sometimes I just feel I don't really believe I belong anywhere, but I guess because of that I don't really have to prove anything to anybody.

Swen was with the band's new drummer, so he moved around a lot. I just feel I constantly need to be moving. That kind of theme throughout my life, a lot of time alone and wandering, helps me feel that world-weariness the music includes. It's a great place to get quiet and get fooled and a bunch of songs. I always thought a lot of things in a way that makes you smile and not think...I've never really a part of a scene, and I think that kind of messes me up a little bit, because I'm not really in this for the popularity. Sometimes I just feel I don't really believe I belong anywhere, but I guess because of that I don't really have to prove anything to anybody.

The Improvised Shakespeare Company plays with words.

As in Shakespeare's time, all the female roles were played by men. Unlike Shakespeare's time, no effort was made to cast men who looked or dressed the part...
November 9 and 10

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Advanced Registration Required.
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They gave their hearts into academies and cultural centers. The main concert from a well-forgotten 19th and Nuckols, graduate, preview presentation held came to this decision because of my students' hard work. staccato notes meant to create and suspend feelings of music written by Russian and German composers in the Kuehler's performance of Prokofiev's "I. The musicians powerful imagery in their minds. People all around the globe can enjoy the same music, because it can be understood without words. Music is a universal language.

Award-winning University of Missouri–St. Louis piano students Tom Winkler, junior, piano performance; John Nichols, graduate; Halla l. Stockhouse, piano; and Daniel Dickson, senior, music, played a glistening presentation of their musical trip to Russia.

The students will visit Samara, Moscow and Voronezh with their teacher, Alia Voskoboynikova, director of keyboard studies and teaching assistant professor of music. They will perform concerts at state music academies and cultural centers. The main concert will be held at the Samares Theatre of Opera and Ballet.

The musicians will also study with Voskoboynikova's own teachers. "I left Russia 16 years ago and now I am going back," Voskoboynikova said. "Of course I feel very emotional. I came to this decision because of my students' hard work. They gave their hearts into that."

On Wednesday night the Recital and Lecture Hall in The Music Building was filled with the sounds of classical music written by Russian and German composers in the 19th and 20th centuries. The piano concert featured staccato by some of the most well-known composers of the "Golden Era" and beyond. These composers included Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Prokofiev, Brahms and more.

The concert opened with welcoming comments by Dr. James Richards, interim dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and Dorothy Kaberg, president of the St. Louis–Samar City College. "The goal [is] to promote Russian culture in St. Louis and different exchanges between Samara and St. Louis," Kaberg said. "We have been testing and sending numerous medical, government and cultural delegations between Russia and the USA."

Each musician gave a brief introduction before beginning his performance. "I would love the musicians talked about the history of each piece," Brett Linsay, junior, music, said. "That really added to the experience." Most of the selections lasted about 20 minutes or more.

The students had to memorize highly demanding, and technically challenging pieces. "It comes easy for me," Kateskin, senior, music performance, said. "I don't pursue memorization. I work in techniques and musicianship."

Aside from remarkable memory, the students also proved their skill and experience through professional posture and driving energy. They truly gave themselves over to this performance. "I feel passionate about it [playing]," Winkler said. "I am going into it and loving it every minute."

Some of the pieces reflected on the war and the hardships in Russia at the time, but they also had light notes of hope that left a lasting impression.

"Russian style of playing is very unique," Kateskin said. "It is noted for having a deep singing tone, just like a song."

Many of the words required a combination of various techniques. Such techniques included excessive use of tremolo, pedaling, and legato effect for harmonies. Another technique featured dissonant, choppy, quick staccato notes meant to create and suspend feelings of distress and achieve a powerful finale at the end. With such a challenging contrast of styles, listeners could get a taste of Russian culture and its ambiguous spirit.

Kateskin's performance of Prokofiev's "Sonata No. 6 in C Major" contained many thematic reprises that became increasingly exciting as the pianist's steady flow across the keyboard with force and driving dynamics. A multi-octave range and a flowing legato effect for harmonies.

Daniel Kuehler after a performance at UMSL earlier this year impressively exciting as the pianist's steady flow across the keyboard with force and driving dynamics. This caliber of [Kuehler's] performance is achieved when a great composer's works are interpreted by a great musician," Eric Garber, senior, music, said.

"Tastefulness of Two Russian Themes" was performed as a duet by Winkler and Voskoboynikova. "I will be pretending to be an orchestra," Voskoboynikova said before she sat by the piano to accompany Winkler. "An upright piano and a grand piano side by side to produce a flowing legato effect for harmonies."

Photo byErrorException/Œaarned hands. The multiple melodic representation complemented one another, creating a huskier side of background and melodic harmonies. Winkler has played for 18 years, three of which he spent practicing with this teacher.

"I was always resistant to learn the right way, but Alia showed it to me," Winkler said. "Stage fright is my number one problem. All you can do is to keep performing. Practice in front of my family and friends. How excited I am about going to Russia. I get to play with their Symphony Orchestra, and I think that my music is elite."

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**Violence Awareness Project seeks stories**

LAERT HALL

Staff Writer

Are you a woman who is concerned about the direction that your relationships with men are taking? Are you often dealing with sexual harassment, stalking, abuse, or damaging and sexist comments?

Violence Awareness Project seeks volunteers to share stories about unhealthy relationships and verbal aggression. She will transcribe the stories with the purpose of creating a script on the topic of relationship violence. Stories will be performed at UMSL and at schools and agencies around St. Louis. The goal is to put an end to violence and oppression against women.

ALBERT NALL

Staff Writer

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Carbone-Lopez specializes in intimate partner violence prevention and narrative research. She will conduct research and interviews along with Dr. James Linsin, psychologist and coordinator of outreach at UMSL Health, Wellness and Counseling Services.

"The interviews will be done with the broader purpose of educating on relationship violence as well as support for victims of violence," Carbone-Lopez said.

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Violence Awareness

(continued from page 8)

Volunteers who participate in the project will be asked about their experiences and backgrounds. Their testimonies will be recorded and transcribed for the script. The names of participants will not be revealed; instead the stories will be incorporated into characters identified by pseudonyms that will exclude identifying information. In some cases, multiple subjects may be combined to create a fictional scene. Volunteers will have the right to review and request edits to the recordings.

According to Linsin, the need for funding to take the show on the road will depend on how well the monologues are received when they are performed at UMSL in spring.

Volunteers will have the right to review and exclude identifying information. In some cases, multiple subjects may be combined to create a fictional scene.

In this time, there are no grants or budgets for the UMSL Violence Awareness Project. However, the project is carried out by volunteers.

The departments where the monologues will be performed may donate space. However, the project is not far along on the need for sponsorship, Linsin said.

For information on how to volunteer or be interviewed for the Awareness Project, contact Carbone-Lopez at 314-516-5671 or carbone-lz@umsl.edu. If you or somebody you know is involved in relationship violence, call Health, Wellness and Counseling Services at 314-516-5671.

...at this time, there are no grants or budgets for the UMSL Violence Awareness Project.

UMSL Violence

Homecoming Step Show

(continued from page 7)

Kappa Alpha Psi scored third, Delta Sigma Theta came in second and Delta Kappa Alpha Psi took first place.

Delta Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity played around the Michael Jackson family theme. They started with a comic introduction that turned into real action. Steppers combined sleek turns with sharp steps and stomps. All of the moves were synchronized and professionally done.

The steppers were performing with such passion and energy that their legs flew off several times. Triggering several shouts of approval from the excited crowd.

"They (the steppers) always get the crowd involved... It’s a very energetic vibe," Craig Morris, junior, graphic design, said.

It was refreshing to see Kappas in the competition," Danyl Harrell, sophomore, business and English, said. "The Alphas and Deltas always do their thing, so I wasn’t surprised to see them win first and second place. However, I do hope to diminish the Kappas’ performance, because they were also great. I’m also really proud of the ABC Step Team for putting in the work. I know they

energy in the building was almost like fire. The energy from the crowd was so contagious. We have been trained from practice because we worked very hard for the whole month, but as soon as we get on a stage there was a rush of adrenaline.

The atmosphere at the show was highly energized, as the audience and the steppers generated vitality.

Dancers in the Homecoming Step Show prepared day and night for the performance, so it was great to see all of their hard work pay off.

Many of the step teams practice hard during the year between each step show.

"It is a showcase of hard work, dedication, creativity and unity," Associated Black Collegians stepper Christian Cerdhi, junior, graphic design, said. "... The

students in the Homecoming Step Show...

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Opinions

COUNTERPOINT

American women have the right to breastfeed in public

In the U.S., 44 of the 50 states affirmed the right to nurse in public. In three states, public breastfeeding is exempt from local or state laws. The state of Missouri mandates that surgical centers and hospitals provide obstetrical care as well as information on breastfeeding. Only three states fail to protect mothers who nurse in public. It is likely that many universities have yet to develop a formal policy on public breastfeeding, as such issues are easily evaded. However, despite the laws protecting them from prosecution, mothers who nurse in public often incur negative repercussions. The American women have become accustomed to strictly sexualized images of women’s breasts; few Americans have actually witnessed a breastfeeding mother. In America, public breastfeeding is seen as an anachronistic practice.

American women have the right to breastfeed in public without incurring public attention.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention states that breastfeeding rates for American infants are at 56.3 percent to 6 months. In contrast, the breastfeeding rates in Denmark and Sweden, respectively, are at 73 percent and 72 percent at 6 months. Supporters of the right to breastfeed in public without attracting adverse attention point out that in the international community, it is typical for groups of young mothers to observe mothers breastfeeding without a single sign of indignation or disgust.

The concept of nursing freedom necessitates the viewing of women’s breasts as a symbol of devotion, nurturant and love for a baby. Public breastfeeding deserves to be recognized as a beautiful and natural act. It is time for Americans to bring an end to the shame and taboos of breastfeeding in public.

Breastfeeding is one of the most natural things between a mother and her baby. But we must also respect the impact that breastfeeding has on our culture. In Europe, there are defined statues and nude beaches all over the place. In this country, however, people are not as willing to expose themselves, and when they do they feel incredibly out of place.

For most people, the question has nothing to do with supporting breastfeeding. It’s your body, do what you want with it. But a public place is not your living room. People don’t want to see you breastfeeding your baby, and they should not have to.

The bottom line here is that breastfeeding in public is 100 percent available. There is no reason for anyone to expose herself around other people who are not trying to do the same. If anyone wants to enjoy a relaxing day out, they should not have to.

Unsolicited Advice column

Should we settle for imperfection?

Holly Filippino
Opinions Editor

People make mistakes. Nobody is perfect, and nobody can be perfect no matter how hard they try. That’s all good when it comes to accepting individuals for who they are or forgiving someone for mild slights. But in esteemed professions or people who hold significant roles, perfection is not too much to ask. Skid marks in the road, a lot of responsibility cannot fall back on the imperfection of surgeons or anyone else.

There are some people who just have to get it right every time. People in esteemed professions or people who hold a lot of responsibility cannot fall back on the imperfection of the human race. They are expected to deliver. I’d like to see the reckless driver of a loaded school bus dare to defend himself by saying, “I hit someone!”

The New York Times recently published an article titled “When Surgeons Leave Objects Behind.” What? No. Please collect every last sponge and scrub that you insert into our bodies, surgeons. That is why every patient and insurance company pays you and your liability insurance company thousands of dollars. We pay you because we trust you not to drop the various instruments of surgery inside our bodies before you see us up. It’s too difficult for any licensed surgeon, variance needs to grab him by his white coat, pull him aside and inform him that he has entered the wrong profession. It doesn’t really matter how simple it is to remove the inclusion to get those lost sponges, that rubber glove, those clamps. Surgery is something that people rightfully expect to be performed perfectly every time. Nobody should have to worry about surgeons’ medical gaffes or worry that everything else will be gone under the hole.

Even on some considerably less significant issues, perfection is not too much to ask. Did marks in underwear? There is no excuse for that, especially when another person is kind enough to do the laundry. It seems like a small problem, but someone might defend it by claiming that “nobody is perfect.” But if anyone is so imperfect that they cannot manage to wipe themselves, the smallest punishment they deserve is to be forced to wash their own alarmingly filthy clothes. Underwear should look the same when it is put on. Everyone should aim for that small standard of perfection.

Please wipe thoroughly.

The Great Lecture Series

An Insider’s Perspective on Complex Healthcare and Securities Investigations and Prosecutions

Wednesday, October 10, 2012
Program: 5:30-6:30 PM
Reception: 6:30-7:15 PM
Milikin Student Center, Century Room

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Claire H. Schein is a partner at Thompson Coburn LLP in the firm’s Business Litigation practice group.

She concentrates her practice in health care fraud and abuse, False Claims Act litigation and government contracts.

Schein’s practice includes representing and advising hospitals, health plans, service areas, nursing homes, physicians and physician groups.

Coopeators:

College of Arts and Sciences
UMSL Alumni Association
UMSL Executive Leadership Consortium

Umsl
A letter to the editor

An Open Letter to Chancellor George.

This is my third year at UMSL as a student in the College of Education. From what I’ve seen in St. Louis schools, the reputation of our university provides itself in the community as an institution that puts forth very qualified and effective teachers. I promise to work hard and to live up to that reputation in the coming years. I am writing to you today with regards to the good name of our school and its association with a company known throughout the Appalachian region where I’m from.

Earlier this month you accepted a gift of $750,000 from Peabody Energy to upgrade two engineering labs on campus. In return for this gift, Peabody was given the naming rights for our Environmental Engineering Laboratory. As a longtime resident of West Virginia, I have to tell you that if you want to see Peabody’s size of environmental engineering, then come and look at the coal over spotters and the mountaintops that have been blown apart. As my family traveled to West Virginia over Labor Day, we drove through a dust cloud drifting off Peabody’s surface mine in Lynwood, N.C. The visible dust that draped the trees for several miles around the 40-mile marker of I-84 was a sight that I’m not at all enamored with.

Studies conducted by West Virginia University have linked this particular matter containing sulphur and silica to microvascular dysfunction, which could explain the increase of cardiovascular disease in areas close proximity to mountaintop removal sites. These coal companies unapologetically plant silica and sulphur into the air while allowing lead, silica, arsenic, and other known toxins to seep into the river systems. The one bit of environmental engineering that these companies seem to be proud of, their coal, involves blindly injecting the heavy water used in the cleaning process into abandoned, unsealed mining. Several Appalachian communities have been part of medical monitoring systems as a result, and these financial costs have been in the millions due to the contaminated water table that thousands of West Virginians rely on for drinking, cooking and boiling. Of course, we cannot put a price tag on the many people who have died of these illnesses.

Now Peabody’s Energy could not put their name on an environmental engineering lab to bypass me. As far as UMSL’s engineering department is concerned, I really wish you would have found a more appropriate means of keeping the lights on. As your student, I must ask you to return the money to Peabody Energy and perhaps allow the schools to use it for the persons that they are about to be paid for by the United Mine Workers of America. I would like to think that $750,000 is an unfair price for the integrity of our institutions. Any students or faculty members who are interested in working with me on this issue should contact me at davidscott@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
David Scott
Senior, Elementary Education

Student Abroad column
Observations of the Japanese

RACHELLE BRANDL
Staff Writer

I have now been in Japan for two weeks. I’ve been constantly busy getting ready for the school year. I’ve also explored a small portion of the city and learned a few things about the local culture.

Japanese people are very reserved. On train rides, no one will talk to or approach anyone if they think they’re being rude. The Japanese mentality calls for hiding one’s own business, as confrontational situations are uncomfortable for all present. If you do end up talking about uncomfortable issues such as politics or religion, you can be sure that the person you are talking to will make sure they are watching every fellow passenger. For example, when you eat with friends, Japanese custom dictates that you do not pour your own drink; it is expected that those around you will be pouring your cup to make sure that it does not become empty. I’ve seen schoolchildren on the train give up their seats to older men or women after noticing them board the train. Much of this may have to do with the Japanese group mentality as opposed to the individual mentality that we carry as Americans.

But this does not mean that all Japanese are kind and friendly, some carry a blatant racism against foreigners. There have been one or two incidents out of which we’ve been unharmed, and many workers will not call us to frequent their stores. However, the majority of people do not mind foreigners, though the blatant xenophobia perpetuated by the few is tolerated by all.

A final observation for this week: Japanese people are very fit. Being small and skinny may be in their genes, but the Japanese people are constantly on the move... Japan is also not a flat country. From my own experiences in riding a bike here, the Japanese build with the land instead of against it, and this can result in numerous twists, turns and surprisingly steep hills.

This doesn’t mean that strangers will outright ignore you. People have not or always ready to help with directions when asked or will explain over the hot weather if they catch you fanning yourself. The Japanese love very tall people like my friend Goto, who is a fellow dorm resident. Random people will approach him on the train or in the supermarket and explain over his height and east look him.

Japanese people are always ready to help around them. It may be that no one talks on the train, but you can be sure they are talking to or approaching anyone if they think they’re being rude. The Japanese mentality calls for hiding one’s own business, as confrontational situations are uncomfortable for all present. If you do end up talking about uncomfortable issues such as politics or religion, you can be sure that the person you are talking to will make sure they are watching every fellow passenger. For example, when you eat with friends, Japanese custom dictates that you do not pour your own drink; it is expected that those around you will be pouring your cup to make sure that it does not become empty. I’ve seen schoolchildren on the train give up their seats to older men or women after noticing them board the train. Much of this may have to do with the Japanese group mentality as opposed to the individual mentality that we carry as Americans.
J U S T A C O U P L E D R I F T E R S
Christian Kessler

JUST A COUPLE DRIFTERS
Christian Kessler

Christian Kessler

BRAIN DEAD
Zach McDaniel

BRAIN DEAD
Zach McDaniel

Michael Ceratops

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

CRYPTOGRAM

CRYPTOGRAM

MIXTAPE MUSE
Greg Hartl

MIXTAPE MUSE
Greg Hartl

MIXTAPE MUSE
Greg Hartl

SIMPLY BEAGLE
Lee Sellers

SIMPLY BEAGLE
Lee Sellers

SIMPLY BEAGLE
Lee Sellers

C R Y P T O G R A M

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GBRGWUGJ. — QZUU PNQVGM

GBRGWUGJ. — QZUU PNQVGM

Couldn’t you be doing something better with your time right now?

No, Beagle, there is clearly no better use of anyone’s time than reading the Current. Bad dog. — The Mgt.