Hung Nguyen wins ACS award, more

RACHELLE BRANDEL, 
STAFF WRITER

Hung Nguyen, junior, chemistry, was given the prestigious Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award by the St. Louis section of the American Chemical Society on April 15. The award is given annually to one outstanding student on each of several university campuses in the St. Louis area. Nguyen was chosen by faculty as the award winner at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"I am very honored and grateful to receive recognition by both the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and to be entrusted with financial support for my work by the College of Arts & Sciences," Nguyen said.

Nguyen graduated from the Gateway Institute of Technology, which is now Gateway STEM High School, as valedictorian of his class with a 4.3 cumulative GPA. He was a member of the National Honor Society and Gateway Renaissance.

Nguyen is currently working toward a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and a Bachelor of Arts in English and is a member of the Pierre Laclede Honors College. He is also opinions editor for The Current.

Nguyen received a second award that evening, as well.

"That second award was the UMSL College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Award, a grant capped at $1,000 for undergraduate research, based on the submission of a written proposal and meeting academic criteria. Dean Yeboh e-mailed me at around 4:45 p.m. on April 15 congratulating me on receiving the grant the night of the Awards Banquet for the Junior Award, but I did not know I had won until my mentor told me that night at the awards banquet. I was awarded the maximum amount of $1,000," Nguyen said.

"I was ecstatic when I found out from my mentor that I had also received the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Award in addition to the Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award I was getting that same night. It was validation for a lot of hard work I’ve committed myself to in the past two years and a great motivator for the years to come," he said.

Nguyen has won multiple awards, including the St. Louis Urban Debate League’s Debater of the Year Award, the College Board Advanced Placement Scholar Award (2010 and 2011), the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s List (2012-2013), the Pierre Laclede Honors College Dean’s List (2012-2013), the UMSL Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry Award (2012), the St. Louis Section American Chemical Society Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award (2013) and many more.

Nguyen is a member of many honor societies, services and clubs. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Golden Key International Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and the American Chemical Society. He is the public relations officer of the UMSL Undergraduate Chemistry Club, the Student Government Association representative for UMSL Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow, the National Chemistry Week committee chair for the UMSL Undergraduate Chemistry Club, a member of the Creative Writing Club, secretary for the UMSL Pre-Med Society and the Gateway STEM High School assistant policy debate coach. While at UMSL, Nguyen has been a research assistant and research intern for Dr. Stephen M. Holmes.

Holmes has supervised Nguyen for almost a year and a half in the laboratory and classroom at UMSL.

"Based in part on his maturity and quick mastery of laboratory and data analysis techniques, I encouraged [Nguyen] to attend UMSL, and he has been a tremendous asset to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and university," Holmes said.

"Hung is an excellent and conscientious student with the unique ability to apply basic chemical principles to new and difficult synthetic chemistry. Within my laboratory, he quickly mastered a range of experimental techniques and has been able to understand and problem-solve a variety of conceptually difficult chemical projects, often doing a better job than graduate students with more experience," Holmes said.

According to Holmes, Nguyen has modified a series of undergraduate laboratory experiments and adapted them for use in undergraduate high school teaching. Nguyen has presented one project titled "Synthesis and Characterization of Binary p-Toluenesulfonates Optimized for Secondary and Post-Secondary Education" and has one submitted publication to date in the journal "Inorganic Chemistry." A second will soon be submitted to the "Journal of Chemical Education."

"I rank Hung as the best undergraduate research student I have worked with to date, despite the short duration of our relationship," Holmes said.

Nguyen has also undertaken two additional projects. The first was useful for determining the chemical reaction conditions for atom-selective fluorination chemistry, which may lead to modified pharmaceuticals. Nguyen will be working on his latest project, "Systematic Study of Photoreponsive Structure-Property Relationships in Cyanometalates," over the summer.
What's Current

"What's Current" is the weekly calendar of UMSL campus events and is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication: first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. Email event listings to thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Bleacher Bash Food Drive: Cans 'Til We Can't
Help us collect cans for Pegolatie Family Support Center's Food Pantry, noon - midnight, at Student Life in Millennium Student Center today and tomorrow. Prizes go to individual, department & student organizations that donate the most. Winners announced at Bleacher Bash at Tritons game Wed. For information, contact Ashlie Rogers at 314-516-5291.

Monday Noon Series: Stories of Riches Lost and Found From the Ozarks
Sue Hinkel shares stories of resourceful native Ozark families. 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. in 402 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Kicks off annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival, which runs May 1-4, 2013. For information, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Sigma Xi Seminar
Prof. Peter Marino, Department of Sociology, UMSL-St. Louis present a talk based on his recently authored book "Getting the Holy Ghost: Urban Ethnography in a Brooklyn Pentecostal Tongue-Speaking Church," 2 - 3 p.m. in 217 Clark Hall. Sponsored by the UMSL-St. Louis Chapter of Sigma Xi. For information, contact Kristin Streit at 314-516-5366.

International Trivia Night
Think you know a lot about the world you live in? Come and find out. 4 - 6 p.m. in MSC Pilot House. Beverages and prizes included. Sponsored by Hispanic Latino Association Virtuosa Student Association China-America Center Chinese Student Association Japan-America Student Association Indian Student Association. For information, contact Dayanna Nieto Tafur at 314-620-6995

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: The Story of Salisa Luster
Every year, an average of 307,754 people are victims of sexual assault. Hear one mother's story of her daughter's assault, 6:30 - 8 p.m. in 315 MSC. Mature audiences. For information, contact Ashlie Rogers at 314-516-5291.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Bleacher Bash
Come out and cheer on the UMSL Tritons Baseball Team as they take on McKeendre, 1 - 3 p.m. at South Campus baseball field. Free food, free giveaways and fun. For information, contact Ryan Kelson at 314-516-5291.

'Tarnation! An Evening with the Filmmaker
Presentation of award winning documentary followed by Q&A with filmmaker Jonathan Cavenett. 5:30 - 8 p.m. in J.C. Penney Conference Center Room 101. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., film at 6 p.m. Light refreshments. Sponsored by The 50th Jubilee Committee School of Professional & Continuing Studies Missouri Institute of Mental Health. For information, contact Rita Askins at 314-877-6454.

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Free Hugs
UPB is giving out Free Hugs! Find a person with a Free Hugs Shirt and ask for a hug. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in various locations. For information, contact Kate Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Multicultural Spring Festival
Office of Multicultural Relations offers a cultural experience intended to educate, impact, and promote cultural awareness. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in MSC North. Appreciate various cultures through food, song, dance and resource opportunities. For information, contact Office of Multicultural Relations at 314-516-6807.

Annual Psi Chi Lecture in Psychology
Annual Psi Chi Lecture in Psychology by Dr. Richard Harvey, 4 - 5 p.m. in Weisman Auditorium, Center for Trauma Recovery, on South Campus. Talk is titled "Organizational Identity and Piing." Harvey is an Associate Professor at St. Louis University with research interests in both Industrial-Organizational Psychology and Social Psychology. For information, contact Jean Mayo at 5393.

Spring Jubilee Celebration Concert
95th year Jubilee Spring Concert by UMSL Gospel Choir, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill PAC Lee Theatre. For information, contact Erica Staelin at 314-516-5291.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Undergraduate Research Symposium
Undergraduate Research Symposium is a great opportunity for students in any discipline to present their research, scholarship or creative works in poster, oral, or other presentation formats just as they would in a professional conference, noon - 3 p.m. in MSC. For more information, email umuirl@umsl.edu or contact Ella Staelin at 314-516-5291.

7th Annual St. Louis Fine Print, Rare book & Paper Arts Fair
Mercantile Library hosts this event, 6 - 9 p.m. in J.C. Penny Building. Running through Sunday, May 5. Mercantile members $40 each/2 for $70. Non-Members $50 each/2 for $90. For information, contact Valeri Curtis at 314-516-6740.

Arianna String Quartet: Voices of Spring concert
Concert by ASQ, 6 p.m. in Touhill PAC Lee Theatre. Featuring new music and is followed by the world premiere of "Spring," and is in collaboration with Uni-Visions, "Viving the Moment," and "The Story of a Scientist," is a four-day spring extravaganza at more than 25 area locations. The grand finale takes place at the Touhill, 7:30 p.m. in MSC North. For information, contact Kendra Perry at 314-516-4604.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Translating Science into Economic Development
Seminar sponsored by the St. Louis Institute of Nanoscience & Nanotechnology and the Missouri Plant Science Institute of Missouri University of Science and Technology. For information, contact Krista Perry at 314-516-4626.

ST. LOUIS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL GRAND FINALE 2013
The 36th annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival is a four-day spring extravaganza at more than 25 area locations. The grand finale takes place at the Touhill, 7:30 p.m. in Weisman-Busch Performance Hall. Features the best national as well as regional storytellers. More than 95 events and over 50 storytellers converge on various historic sites, including the Arches District, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Historical Society, Missouri Botanical Garden and multiple

Campus Crimeline

AUTO ACCIDENT LEAVING THE SCENE - LUCAS HALL
April 29 - 1 - 2 a.m. UMSL Police are investigating a reported accident – no parties identified, investigation continuing.

THIEFT FROM SOUTH CAMPUS PARKING GARAGE
April 29 - 1 - 2 a.m. UMSL Police issued a Clery Warning, with video stills of the suspect and this information: At approximately 9:30 p.m.

Correction:
In the March 11 issue, an article on comedians Chad on the Features page should have been labeled as a review. The Current regrets the error.

UPB is giving out Free Hugs! Find a person with a Free Hugs Shirt and ask for a hug. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in various locations. For information, contact Kate Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Theft from South Campus Parking Garage
April 29 - Reports of two unoccupied vehicles being taken: a brown leather jacket and a GPS unit. The suspect left the parking garage at approximately 9:30 p.m. with the items shown and another shoulder type bag. The owner of the vehicle contacted Campus Police after discovering the damage to his vehicle at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2013.
UML celebrates Earth Day

RACHELLE BRANDEL

University of Missouri-St. Louis celebrated the national holiday Earth Day on April 22. The University Program Board threw an eco-friendly event called Plant it for Earth Day in honor of the occasion. Thankfully, the sun made an appearance, and the UBFP set up a table on the Millennium Student Center patio, where they had dirt, pots, water and a wide variety of different seeds for students to choose from. The selection ranged from lettuce and tomatoes to sweet peppers.

"Planting is good for the Earth and can relieve stress," Scott Morrissy, senior, communications and Spanish, said.

Planting one's own food is a great way to save money and can brighten up one's surroundings when entering or exiting vehicles and to report any suspicious activity. "We are always reminding everyone to not leave items visible in their cars," McEwan said.

Crime

A theft occurred in the South Campus Parking Garage on April 25 at approximately 9:30 p.m. An unoccupied vehicle was broken into, and a backpack, brown leather jacket and GPS unit were stolen by an unknown suspect. Videos from surveillance cameras captured images of the suspect leaving the parking garage with the stolen items and another shoulder bag approximately 9:45 p.m. The owner of the vehicle reported the theft to campus police after discovering damage to his vehicle at 7:30 a.m. on April 26. Surveillance photos of the suspect were released to the campus community on April 26 as part of a Clery Timely Warning sent campus-wide by Campus Safety & Security. According to Sergeant Tom McEwan of the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department, surveillance cameras, though not monitored 24/7, are able to be reviewed; occasionally photos can be retrieved from the footage. In the Clery release, campus police urged the campus community to be mindful of their surroundings when entering or exiting vehicles and to report any suspicious activity.

'Celebrating the Arts' turns ProHo into gallery

SIYUN ZHANG STAFF WRITER

For one week, the Provincial House doubled as an art gallery, proudly displaying the work of University of Missouri-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. Paintings, photography and sculptures were displayed throughout the halls of the Pierre Laclede Honors College. Details of the artwork have remained a valuable showcase for anyone who has remained a valuable showcase for art majors or affiliated with art on either an academic or professional level, so we have works featured by artists that range from biology majors to criminology majors and psychology majors — we are open to people who are not necessarily art majors. Kayryn Dierksen, freshman, English, submitted five pieces of her work to the show. "Trying to capture the characters in the painting is the most difficult thing that you can do and something worth trying for," Dierksen said, adding that it took her about two to 10 hours, depending on the painting, to finish the work. According to Dierksen, artwork largely reflects the artist's personality, especially in subject matter and style.

Included in the show was a special section where art work from the artists of Achievements Unlimited, a nonprofit organization to help disabled adults, was displayed. "They use paint to help the disabled adults express themselves," Friedline said, adding that they work together to create the paintings, taking turns adding different textures and colors. "It teaches them different things and lets them express themselves." Brenda Faulkner, junior, nursing, helped set up the event. "The pieces of art are all very amazing. They're all different genres and styles," Pauley said.

"The Arts provide an opportunity for anyone who has passion for art to share their work and receive recognition," the art show has remained a valuable showcase for emerging talent at UMSL.
Research and Innovation Week focuses on mental illness

RA CH ELLE BRANDEL
STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri-St. Lou is "R e p l a y " Week spon so red in part by the Missouri Institute of Mental Health and the Office of Research Administration presented a screening of the "acade my Award-winning film "Silver Linings Playbook." The film was shown in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall of the Blanche M. Touhill Per for m ing Arts Center on April 23 at 3:30 p.m.

The film was chosen because of its focus on two mental health issues: bipolar disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The film was fol lowed by a talk back session with Dr. Jason Campbell and Dr. Joe Parks, director of the MIMH. It was the second of two films shown that day for Research and Innovation Week.

The first film was "Lake Wind f url," a locally-made film about interactions between duel, hard-of-hearing and hearing people that is set in a post-apocalyptic world. The sponsor described the film as follows: "Told with humor and emotion, this film takes an authentic look at three different generations of hearing and deaf people. While navigating through this tale of awareness and survival, both hearing and deaf will realize how critical effective communication is to our collective survival." The screening was followed by a question-and-answer session with clinical psychologist Dr. Felix Vincents of the MIMH.

"Silver Linings Playbook" is the story of a former teacher Pat Soli no, who moves back in with his parents after spending some time in a mental institution. Pat continues to try to win back his wife, who left him while he served his time in the mental institution after beating up a fellow teacher. While trying to repair his shattered life, he meets Tiffany, who is trying to repair her own life after the death of her husband. The two rely on each other as they slowly overcome their problems and together perform in a dance competition. In the end, a little innocence is redis covered, turning the story into a romantic comedy.

"Silver Linings Playbook" is both raw and fast paced as the viewer is drawn into Pat's manic episodes of bipolar disorder. From throwing a book out the window when he disagrees with the ending to constantly talking in a rambling way, his behavior almost scares the viewer crazy. But in the moments when even Pat cannot handle the uncontrollable speed of his mind and emotions, the viewer realizes that he is as trapped as they are and begins to empathize with the situation.

As the movie progresses, the viewers begin to realize the meanings of previous actions and discussions and slowly start to feel companion toward Pat, Tiffany and their friends and family. What seemed to be simply annoying and crazy acts in the beginning slowly begin to be understood as efforts to reach those around them. After the movie ended, many viewers decided to simply leave instead of staying for the question-and-answer session and missed out on being able to better understand the movie. Campbell and Parks both agreed that the movie had accurately portrayed bipolar disorder and Pat also mentioned in the movie that the movie was focusing on the disorder and treatment or focusing on the patient's recovery. Campbell believed that the movie had shown the entire wavelength of bipolar disorder and had primarily focused on the mania side without showing depression. Often people with bipolar disorder will have longer bouts of depression than their manic episodes last, much like crashing on the couch after working out for a long time.

The movie's main character Pat also mentions in the movie that taking the medication made him feel foggy and slow, and he did not like it, even though he was more productive and content when he was taking it. "Mania is like driving over the speed limit," Parks said. "After going that fast for a long period of time, going the speed limit feels very slow, even though it feels regular to the rest of us."

In the film, after Pat began dancing with Tiffany and slowly building a new life, he slowly began to get better and toward the end of the film the viewer became more and more interested in the outcome of his life and where he was headed. "The ending was satisfying," Parks said. "Once he found something that worked for him, like the dancing, he was able to use every thing available to him and succeeded in recovering."

"Silver Linings Playbook" was an overall accurate portrayal of bipolar disorder and OCD and gave a raw, in-your-face feeling to the audience. The comedy helped to ease the intensity and tension that comes with such a serious issue but still allowed the viewer to come closer to the issues than they had previously dared.

International Photo Contest shows glimpse of world at Visio

RA CH ELLE BRANDEL
STAFF WRITER

Starting April 25, Gallery Visio will be showcasing the eighth installment of its International Photo Contest. The exhibit, organized by the University of Missouri-St. Louis International Studies and Programs, will be running until May 8, displaying photographs taken all over the world by UMStL students. There are photographs from study abroad trips to Japan, France, Turkey and the Czech Republic, to name a few of the countries.

The winner this year was Natalie Robard, senior, modern language, who went to France in November. Her picture, "Le Taillle Jaune" ("yellow star"), was taken in Normandy, France. It shows a book hidden in shadow with a strip of sunlight slicing across the open page. The light catches the yellow of the star on the bottom of the page, almost as if the viewer is getting a glimpse of something much larger than it may seem. The shadow seems to hide a harsh reality that the light is trying to bring into focus.

Second place was awarded to Haley Cole, junior, psychology, whose picture, "Balloon in Turkey," taken in Cappadocia, Turkey in May, shows colorful hot air balloons rising into a bright blue sky. The bright colors in the sky contrast with the more subdued, earthy colors of the ground and pointed rocks that jut from the Turkish valley. The landscape reminds the viewer of the Turkish past, care and past homes in the jutting rocks, while the balloons rising into the sky suggest the people and culture rising into an ever-changing future.

Third place was given to Erica Osborn, sophomore, studio art, for her photograph, "Upwards Prague," taken in Prague, Czech Republic in July 2010. The photograph shows a boat sailing softly down a canal with buildings lining both sides as it passes. It makes the viewer feel as if there are exciting and unknown things just around the corner, the boat slowly gliding into the mystery.

The three winners took home cash prizes and had their photographs displayed in Gallery Visio. Other works were given honorable mention. An "Upwards Glass" by Ralph Jenkins II was taken underneath the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France when it was lit with a golden light in the nightime. Cole also took an honorable mention for her photograph showing colorful Dutch shoes hanging from a wall. The color and patterns are as unique as the shape of the classic Dutch wooden shoe.

Frank L., a research investigator, chemistry, presented a photograph named "Homestead Round," which depicts an aerial view of Fuji from his airplane as he returned to the United States, Melanie Zamach, research assistant, submitted a photograph "Purple Firenze, Firenze," which shows a hilltop village in Italy.

International Photo Contest shows glimpse of world at Visio

Jubilee Flashback

ALBERT NALL
HISTORIAN

The Jubilee Flashback has been published weekly since 1976. The current issue is re-printing articles from our archives.

This article originally ran on April 29, 1976.
There’s a reason why Will Sound is referred to as "more than music." It’s not just because of the group’s eclectic and wide-ranging music styles or their ability to incorporate various art forms into their performances. It’s because of the group’s philosophy that music is just one element of a larger performance experience.

The group’s mission is to create a unique and immersive experience for their audience, one that goes beyond the confines of a traditional concert. They believe that music is a tool for storytelling, for evoking emotions, for creating a sense of place and time. But they also believe that music is not enough. They need more. They need visual elements, they need movement, they need text, they need everything.

That’s what makes them so special. They are not content with just playing music. They want to create an experience that is more than just listening. They want to create an experience that is felt, seen, heard, touched.

And they do it with such skill and finesse. They are masters of their craft, and it shows in every performance. They are able to take a simple song and turn it into a complex, multi-layered experience. They are able to use music as a tool to tell a story, to evoke emotion, to create a mood.

It’s not just about the music. It’s about the whole experience. It’s about creating something that is more than just entertainment. It’s about creating something that is truly unique, something that is unforgettable.

That’s why Will Sound is such a force to be reckoned with. They are not just a group of musicians. They are artists. And they are creating something truly special.
UMSL Math Club presents:
MAY PROBLEM OF THE MONTH

Problem:
It's time for finals! Three mathematics professors, Professor Ace, who teaches algebra, Professor Carter, who teaches calculus, and Professor Mixed, who teaches a section of both algebra and calculus, need copies of the algebra, calculus and a mixed stack of finals, respectively. The office assistant makes copies of the algebra and calculus finals. The office assistant then places a stack of algebra, a stack of calculus and a stack of mixed finals in the professors' mailboxes. However, all three stacks have been incorrectly placed. Your job is to correctly place each stack in the correct professor's mailbox. What is the minimum number of finals you will have to remove from the mailboxes (and which boxes?) to make the decision on where each stack needs to be moved?

April Problem solved by: Joe Koester, Tom Li, Susan Novak and Mike Young.

Submit your solution to the May Problem of the Month by May 10. Winners will be announced on the next Problem of the Month. Prizes available. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel, 329 ESH.

The Current
APRIL 29, 2013
www.thecurrent-online.com
Public transportation system should expand

The US should expand its public transportation system.

Many other countries throughout the world have public transportation systems that extend to the cities and highly populated towns of their country. This allows the majority of the population to use public transportation, freeing up roads and using less gas and other limited resources. Emergency vehicles would be able to respond quicker when they have fewer cars on the freeway and pass around. This would also be a more eco-friendly option for the Earth and would lower the amount of traffic accidents. Drunk driving would no longer be a problem when people can simply hop on the train and ride it home.

Many worry that furthering the public transportation system is not needed. The idea of investing more in public transportation may be well meaning in theory. However, let’s look at this more closely. Those who support increasing federal spending on public transportation believe that this for the smokescreen on this. This is as a campaign pledge in theory. However, let’s look at less gas and other limited resources. This more closely. Those who support increasing federal spending on public transportation would lower the amount people can fewer cars on the freeway to weave and pass around. This would also be a more eco-friendly option for the of traffic accidents. Dnmk driving Emergency vehicles would be able to respond quicker when they have more funding authority and not a source of increase in public transportation and wasteful spending of the stimulus due to fraud. This will increase the US national debt to 1.5 trillion with no new tax revenues and no new jobs. Even with Obama’s best intentions, increases in public transportation will fail because of dysfunction and a piecemeal approach to investment that will make the costs too prohibitive.

Public transportation system should not expand

The idea of investing more in public transportation may be well meaning in theory. However, let’s look at this more closely. Those who support increasing federal spending on public transportation believe that this will create the 2 million new jobs that President Barack Obama promised as a campaign pledge in 2008. Backers claim that agglomeration or mass economies, as they are called, are supposed to mean higher urban rent for office space in metropolitan areas with public transportation. We need to be careful that we do not fall for the snake oil on this. This is very high on the promises and the exaggeration of benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that was enacted early in Obama’s presidency, with public transportation being a priority.

The items promised by Obama that accompanied the American Recovery Act included the creation of a $60 billion bank to fund such projects. First of all, the bank is no more than a funding authority and not a source of revenue for transportation. Obama has tried to create this new banking institution and failed, with the $30 billion that he requested being rejected by Congress.

Getting back to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this is no more than grants to local and state governments to do regional projects. None of this goes back to the federal government. The intent of the Obama administration was to leverage $50 billion of private investment in real pork barrel spending on high-speed trains that none of the states really need. Instead of working on increasing efficiency and clean energy as Obama pledged to do, the federal government is getting at best empty promises from private industry about their commitment to public transportation and wasteful spending of the stimulus due to fraud. This will increase the US national debt to 1.5 trillion with no new tax revenues and no new jobs.

Even with Obama’s best intentions, increases in public transportation will fail because of dysfunction and a piecemeal approach to investment that will make the costs too prohibitive.
Softball Tritons seek victory in playoffs

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team has used their pitching, defense and timely hitting to achieve their goal of winning three games out of four and played to win 33 games against 11 losses total.

UMSL appears to be an offensive juggernaut in 2013. UMSL's offense has scored 123 runs more than their opponents. That makes 201 runs total for UMSL against the average of 76 runs for our competitors.

UMSL has a chance to record the second highest number of victories in school history; the school record remains at 44-29 in the 1995 season under Kris-Tripps. Under Head Coach Brian Levin, UMSL has a 58-45 record in the two previous seasons.

That is not the only positive development for UMSL this season. UMSL erased the losing 16-18 conference record they accumulated in the Great Lakes Valley Conference last season. This season, UMSL has won a school record of 24-4 conference games.

UMSL recorded 30 wins for a season for the eleventh time in the program's history. Levin won 30 games for the second time, which is only to be expected from the 2011 GLVC coach of the year.

Lead-off hitters Jena Bou-dressa, sophomore, nursing, and Katie Schultz, freshman, elementary education, are first up to bat and fast to get on base, setting the table for run producers in the middle of the line-up. UMSL has produced a versatile line-up that can play small ball, sacrificing to advance or score runners, hit and run or slug the ball into the gaps for extra base hits.

The trio of Haleigh Jenkins, senior, physical education (.364 batting average, seven jack, 35 ribbies, .532 slugging percentage); Ashleigh King, senior, elementary education (.348 batting average, five home runs, 20 ribbies, .518 slugging percentage); and Katie Wood, sophomore, biology (.254 batting average, four home runs, 25 ribbies, .425 slugging percentage), along with Madison Zbaraschuck, sophomore, communications (.352 batting average, 10 steals, 42 ribbies, .613 slugging percentage); and Brianna Butler, sophomore, childhood education, means that UMSL has no automatic outs in the line-up. UMSL can defeat opponents either with the long ball or play small ball by advancing runners, to score runs.

UMSL scored a season-high 17 runs against Lindenwood, was blanked in the first game against Truman State and then exploded for eight runs, scored 11 runs against the University of California-San Diego, scored 10 and then 15 runs in a doubleheader sweep against Maryville, scored 11 runs against Harris-Stowe, scored nine against Delta State and produced 16 runs against Southern Indiana.

Butler and Zbaraschuck are impact players for UMSL and are counted on to deliver runs when scoring opportunities arise, but Jenkins, King and Wood provide protection so opponents can not pitch around them.

Winning in the playoffs requires execution, solid defense and dominant starting pitching capable of shutting down the opposition. Good playoff teams exploit opponents' mistakes.

The object for UMSL in the GLVC playoffs, as Jim Valvano said about the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, is to survive and advance. UMSL will have to play fundamental softball, moving runners into scoring positions, playing solid defense, receiving solid starting pitching behind the 1-2 pitching duo of ace left-hander Hannah Perryman, freshman, criminology, and right-hander Brittni Chapman, sophomore, undecided, and having timely, opportunistic hits. That formula produced 33 wins and counting this season.

The St. Louis Fine Print, Rare Book & Paper Arts Fair

May 3, 4 & 5
J.C. Penney Building
30 Dealers
Historic Photographs, Fine Art Prints, Rare Books, Maps, & More!
Friday Preview Party 6-9 pm
$50 per person / 2 for $90
Saturday, 10 - 6 / Sunday, 11 - 5
$5 per day or Students w/ID $2 per day
Sunday admission includes demos by
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Paper Birds Studio
Daven Anderson Watercolors
INFO: printfair.umsl.edu / 314-7240
Presented by the St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri - St. Louis

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