JUBILEE YEAR IN REVIEW
A Recap of UMSL's 50th Anniversary

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This week:
• More comics, including the latest installment of “Tomervision”
• A Preview of the Touhill Holiday Season

Jubilee Flashback by Albert Nall

The Current has been a part of the University of Missouri—St. Louis since 1966. In honor of the campus’ 50th anniversary, we have spent the last year reprinting articles from years past. With the end of the UMSL’s Jubilee celebration, The Current would like to present a final retrospect of the events that have resulted in the former Bellerive Country Club being purchased by the Normandy School District and eventually becoming an individual campus of the University of Missouri system.

We would like to thank Linda Belford, Senior Manuscript Specialist, University Archives, for digitizing the archives that the Jubilee Flashback has utilized. We would also like to thank the university community for commemorating this special anniversary with The Current.

On November 23, 1960, the first edition of the Tiger Cub was published as the student newspaper of the University of Missouri-Normandy Residence Center. The first newspaper staff had to share an office and equipment with the Normandy High School Courier due to the great expense they would have incurred by purchasing a separate press (not to mention printing costs). With a ceremony on September 15, 1960, the new Normandy Residence Center was opened and classes began the following day at 8:30 a.m. A total of 205 students enrolled in the Normandy Residence Center, of which 91 were from the Normandy School District.

READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLE AT THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

THE UNDERCURRENT

By Siyun Zhang

JASON FLOWER
Accounting, Freshman

"I read the chapters and I try to go to study groups with other students."

JING LIANG
Communication, Graduate

"I just have one final exam, and the other one is the paper, so I don’t have too much left in the final week."

MARY REISS
Communication, Graduate

"I don’t have any finals. I’m preparing for my paper."

HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR FINALS WEEK?

MON 55 Hi
TUE 59 Hi
WED 49 Hi
THU 35 Hi
FRI 27 Hi
SAT 28 Hi
SUN 26 Hi

37 Low
46 Low
29 Low
21 Low
13 Low
14 Low
18 Low
The groundbreaking ceremony for the new campus Recreation and Wellness Center took place on November 21, 2013, at 12:30 p.m. The ceremony was moved indoors due to the Nor’Easter, located in the Millennium Student Center, due to inclement weather.

A project that began in the spring of 2012 by two self-motivated student-government leaders, Jericha Selby, BS criminology and criminal justice 2012, and Steven Brockman, BS business administration 2013, has turned into a huge success. The two launched a three-day student referendum that initiated the need for construction and funding for the $36 million center.

"This was a phenomenal opportunity to be a part of," Selby said. She stated that the new center will be an additional wellness facility for the students and will increase student involvement.

At the end of the ceremony, the 14 dignitaries, including Tim Waltz, President, University of Missouri System, Wayne Good, President, UM System Board of Curators, Louise, UMSL mascot, and others, posed proudly for photos, each with shovels and bright red helmets.

In order to fund the center, students will pay an additional $19.25 per credit hour for a maximum of 12 credits per semester. In the future, fundraising may become an option, due to the increase of cost per credit hour. Turnout could lower the fee, or even add more projects for the center.

"The center will relieve pressure of the Mark Twain building," University of Missouri-St. Louis Chancellor Tom George said.

The 94,000 square-foot facility will be built onto the space of parking lots C and D, located south of the Millennium Student Center, which will cause the loss of a number of student parking spaces. However, George promised there will be enough spots, though students may have to walk farther than usual. There has not been a set date announced for the closing of the affected parking lots.

Cannon Design, a firm that specializes in health-care, corporate-commercial facilities, and education, has been chosen as the architect for the center.

The building will include a three-court gymnastics, fitness and recreation pool, three-lane running track, a wellness center, four group fitness rooms, strength and cardio training rooms, and other amenities.

Miriam Roccia, assistant dean of students, is excited about the opening of the center.

"It excites me [that this center] will be the hub of campus life," Roccia said. Roccia believes that it will increase campus engagement, along with being a much-needed investment for students.

Starting on December 3, in the North Campus parking garages, an informational event will be held in order to educate the campus about the closing of parking lot C and D due to the construction that will take place. From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., MSC North, MSC South, and West Drive parking garages will have people handing out refreshments and great giveaways as well.

With the start of construction will come a new program for students around campus called, "Hash-Tag Serious Rockstars." On social networks including Instagram and Facebook, students will have the opportunity to send hash tags and the winners will receive a "rockstar parking" spot for a week. This program will last for the two year construction.

On December 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Nosh, there will be additional giveaways that will provide information on "Hash-Tag Serious Rockstars.

For more information on the new Recreation and Wellness Center, visit www.checktherec.umsl.edu.

St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank hosts student debt forum

On November 18, 2013, the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank Center for Household Financial Stability hosted "Generation Debt: The Promise, Perils and Future of Student Loans," an event exploring the causes and implications of student debt.

Representatives of private industry, bank officials, economists, and academics attended the event. They were grappling with some of the issues surrounding the growing student loan debt and its implications for the American economy.

According to Charles Gascorry and Bryan North, economists at the Federal Reserve, student loan debt now exceeds both credit card debt (670 billion) and auto debt ($10 billion). Federal student loan debt amounts to about $3,185 per capita.

"More students are entering college, and more of them are having to take out debt. For many, without student loans, or even credit cards, there would be no college education," said Rohit Chopra, the keynote speaker for the event and student Ombudsman in the newly minted Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

A panel entitled "What We Know About Student Loans in the Eighth District and Nationwide," explored the scope of the student debt issue. It consisted of senior economists at the Fed and Caroline Ratcliffe, a fellow of the Urban Institute.

Cost is a key barrier to access. The cost of attendance for a four-year public university has nearly tripled since 1983. From 2000 to 2011, the number of Stafford loan borrowers almost doubled and the average amount borrowed has increased by 55%. Average student loan debt now stands at over $26,500, though many students with less in loans were stranded with far more.

The total outstanding student loan debt exceeds 1 trillion dollars. At the same time, financial regulations have eased and the amount of credit card debt and private loans have also increased.

Economists attending the conference agreed that this debt will have spillover effects that may harm the national economy. William Emmons, a Senior Economic Advisor at the Center for Household Financial Stability, argued that if students are too burdened with debt, they will have a hard time taking out mortgages or starting families. Their level of debt and consumption will be lower as well and likely remain that way for many years to come. The net effect of this will drag down the United States economy.

The increasing student loan disbursements over the last several years, however, do not correlate with increased graduation rates. It does, however, correlate with increasing levels of defaults. Those most at risk are students whom do not successfully complete college or have dropped out with the intention of returning.

Minorities and low-income families are at most risk of defaulting on their loans. These demographics are much more likely to depend on student loan debt to finance college than white families, which have on average six times the wealth of minority families. Large loans may have a more negative impact on college graduation rates amongst racial minorities. The panelists stated that debts above $10,000 dollars among the bottom 75% of income distribution decrease completion rates.

One solution to the growing real solution for many to attend and complete college. More information about these programs can be found at save2milliondebts.com.

Income-based repayment programs are another solution. These programs are designed to limit student debt payments to make them more manageable. The amount of payment may increase or decrease based on changes in family size and income on a yearly basis. In 2010, President Obama signed into law an income-based repayment plan that lowered the worst payments to 10% of annual income.

Officials like Vicki Jacobson, Director of the Center for Financial Counseling at the University of Missouri—St. Louis and Marilyn Landrum of the Missouri Department of Education, a default prevention specialist, argued that students need to be informed at the front end of college as to what their return on investment will be for a particular major.

Read the complete article at thecurrent-online.com!
JUBILEE YEAR IN REVIEW

From the official Jubilee Kick-Off Party on February 1 to the last Jubilee concert, scheduled for December 8, the University of Missouri-St. Louis has been celebrating its 50th anniversary in style in 2013. Here is a recap of some of the year's biggest Jubilee events.

CELEBRATION BEGINS WITH JUBILEE KICK-OFF GALA

The University of Missouri-St. Louis began its year-long 50th anniversary celebration with the Jubilee Kick-Off gala, held on February 1 at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Frank Cusumano, UMSL alumnus and sports anchor at KSDK, served as master of ceremonies, as attendees were treated to a look back through UMSL's history with a program that honored key figures in the founding of the university. Chancellor Tom George, Timothy Wolfe, president of the University of Missouri System, George Paz, chairman and CEO of Express Scripts, and Wayne Goode, chair of the University of Missouri Board of Curators, were among the many notable speakers.

Following the program was a reception that featured the music of the Fabulous Motown Revue and a fireworks display. The upper tower of the Touhill was lit up for "UMSL Light Up The Night," an addition to the night's festivities sponsored by the UMSL Department of Theatre, Dance, and Media Studies.

QUILT COMMEMORATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Jubilee Quilt, a community quilt handmade by UMSL alum Rachel Houston, was unveiled on September 12 in the Nosh. The quilt commemorates the 50 years of service and community and academic presence that UMSL has held in the region since its founding in 1963. The quilt was created with the idea of gathering personal memorabilia from the last 50 years. Everyone from students, faculty, alumni, and staff were invited to participate in the process by donating memorabilia to be used in making the face of the quilt.

FOUNDERS’ DINNER CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Students and alumni celebrated the Jubilee in style at the 22nd annual Founders Dinner. The celebration was held on September 19 at the Ritz Carlton in St. Louis. Thousands of well-dressed guests attended the sold-out event, which celebrated UMSL's 50th anniversary birthday party. The conference hall was decorated from floor to ceiling with gold and red balloons. At the center of the main foyer stood a massive birthday present tower, surrounded by red tote bags bearing the UMSL insignia.

A formal four-course dinner was accompanied by a program that recognized the outstanding leadership and notable charitable acts of UMSL students, alumni, faculty, and donors. The event concluded with the Distinguished Alumni Award, awarded to six notable alumni on behalf of the UMSL Alumni Association.

A highlight of the night, Chancellor Tom George was also recognized for his ten years of service as chancellor.

"UMSL at 50: The African American Contributions" was held on November 7 in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theatre of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. Sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the African American Alumni Chapter, the Associated Black Collegeians, and the Black Faculty and Staff Association, "UMSL at 50" honored African American faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community leaders who have contributed to UMSL's rich history.

The program included an awards ceremony, performances by the ABC Steppers and Brian Owens and Trio, and a short presentation titled "The Spirit to Rebuild," which portrayed the African American struggle at UMSL in its early years.

"A Photographic History of the University of Missouri-St. Louis: The First Fifty Years" shows the history of UMSL using photos taken through the years. Touhill participated in a book signing at the Mercantile Library on the UMSL campus September 25. The book took nearly two years to complete, and incorporates black and white campus footage alongside written accounts of each chancellorship.

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Concerts celebrating the 50th anniversary abounded in 2013 but a highlight was the world premiere of a new symphony commissioned for the occasion. "Jubilee Symphony," composed by Barbara Harbach, professor of music, music history, music composition and harpsichord, and performed by the University Symphony Orchestra, debuted on October 9 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. Its three movements celebrated aspects of UMSL and its history. The first movement, "Bellerive," honored the university's past and the campus' beginnings as the former Bellerive Country Club. The second movement, "Mirthday Fiesta," celebrated its present and international diversity with a homage to the annual spring carnival. The third movement, "Tritons Rising," looked to its future through its mascot, the Triton.

The "UMSL in Glass" sculpture, located on the Millennium Student Center lawn, was unveiled on February 6. Preceding the unveiling, the Student Government Association partnered with Student Life and the Jubilee Committee to host a bonfire just outside the MSC, in an effort to help the university and its students celebrate the occasion. The Advertising Technique class of Kristy Tucciarone, PhD, associate teaching professor, advertising, and advising coordinator at UMSL, first came up with the idea of a commemorative statue. After meeting the approval of the Jubilee Committee, the glass wall was completed by Glass Blocks of St. Louis.

One of the most anticipated projects celebrating UMSL's 50th anniversary was "First, A Dream: Reflections for a Golden Jubilee 1963 - 2013." The book was edited by Ron Gossen, chief marketing officer and senior associate vice chancellor of marketing and communications. The project included contributions from faculty and staff, as well as current and former students. Photos found in the publication range from classic shots found in the university archives to contemporary shots by campus photographer August Jennewein.

The UMSL Gospel Choir's "Spring Jubilee Concert" was held on May 2 in the Touhill E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater. The evening began with a performance by the Praise and Worship team, who gave the audience a taste of what was to come. The UMSL Gospel Choir performed twelve selections that evening, including "The Lord's Prayer," "This is the Day," and "Hosanna." The choir was led by director Monte Chambers and Tiffany Thompson, secretary of Gospel Choir, gave a brief history of the organization.

One of the most lavish Jubilee performances was "Carmina Burana," performed by Nashville Ballet and presented by Dance St. Louis on February 22-24 at the Touhill PAC. MADCO, UMSL's dance troupe-in-residence, opened the program. "Carmina Burana" featured dancers in inventive and sometimes huge costumes performing on stage in front of a chorus of singers from UMSL University Orchestra and Singers, the Bach Society of St. Louis and the St. Louis Children's Choirs, who sang composer Carl Orff's stirring musical setting for medieval poems exploring the cycle of life, fate, loss, hypocrisy and love. Vocal soloists included soprano Stella Markou, associate professor of music and director of vocal studies.

The last Jubilee event of the year will be the UMSL Jazz Ensemble's "Jazz for the Holidays" concert on December 8 at 3 p.m. in the at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center's Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. The concert is free and open to all. The UMSL Jazz Ensemble will perform under the direction of Jim Widmer, as will Vocal Point conducted by Jim Henry, and the University Orchestra conducted by Robert Howard.
UMSL's backcourt tandem of Michael Weber, senior, and Emilie Ewing led the Tritons to a victory over the Grand Valley State Peacocks 75-61. Weber scored 21 points, while Ewing contributed with 14 and 13 kills. Jessica Zavora!, senior, business administration, and Jordan Shanklin, junior, business administration, each contributed 15 points, 4 assists, and 2 steals. Michael Weber, senior, liberal studies, contributed with 15 points and one block.

UMSL's women's volleyball lost to the Lewis Flyers 0-3 on November 23 in Ramoncillo, Illinois. Through set scores of 25-21, 25-18, and 25-20, the Flyers cruised to victory in the GLVC quarterfinal. Earlier in the tournament, the Tritons defeated the Robert Morris Springfield Eagles 99-70 on November 23 in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. The Tritons were on fire taking a 55-35 lead at the half and never looking back, shooting 55.2 percent from the field. Besides the strong shooting, six different Tritons scored in double digits with the Tritons' great play, shooting 55.2 percent from the field.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's basketball team fell to the Upper Iowa Peacocks 78-81 on November 19 in Fayette, Iowa. The UMSL Tritons finished the first half leading the Peacocks 45-29, but Upper Iowa would not go away. With under nine minutes in gameplay and facing a 68-57 deficit, the Peacocks rallied back to secure the lead with 2:04 left on the clock, narrowly beating the Tritons. Darian Canham, senior, communications, led the Tritons with 16 points, 3 assists, and 2 steals. Michael Weber, senior, liberal studies, contributed with 15 points and one block.

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Do you like to write? Are you interested in sports? Become a staff writer at The Current in 2014!

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POINT: Extended holiday hours benefit businesses, employees, and shoppers

The holidays are right around the corner, and that means great savings, holiday-themed music, family gatherings, and, of course, shopping. Due to the fact that the holiday season is upon us once again, retail hours for many businesses both large and small are being extended. I have been working in retail since I was 16 and still continue to do so to this very day so I’m used to working extended hours, but this year retail business have run with a completely different program of how they are doing things.

In the retail industry, extended hours will undeniably do better business because there are so many last minute shoppers who wait until the last minute to buy gifts and other things they may need for the holidays. Starting earlier and closing later is helpful for customers who may have an unpredictable schedule and can’t get away to shop until late at night. Extended retail hours give those people the option to come in and grab whatever they need. This in turn proves to customers that their favorite businesses can be counted on to come through, which helps the store build up a loyal base of satisfied customers.

Extended holiday hours are also great because shoppers can catch amazing sales. Companies like Target, Macy’s, Nordstrom, and Best Buy know that days like Black Friday are huge money-making opportunities because customers will get up at the crack of dawn, if not earlier, to catch once-a-year amazing deals. By offering extreme discounts, consumers are more likely to buy something money-wasting if the items on their shopping list and businesses turn a bigger profit.

Extended hours are not only beneficial for last minute shoppers, but for workers as well. The more hours an employee works, the more money they can earn: some jobs even pay their employees time and a half around the holidays. These extra funds can go toward helping employees provide for their families, during the time of year where extra income can be a blessing.

Businesses let you get more for your money during this time of year by extending their shopping hours and offering great deals that are too hard to pass up. Luckily for shoppers and workers, it is a win-win situation.

COUNTERPOINT: Last year, businesses may have opened after “dinner time” (around 7 or 8 p.m.); this year, many stores had the audacity to open on Thanksgiving morning and will undoubtedly do better business because there are so many last minute shoppers who wait until the last minute to buy gifts and other things they may need for the holidays. Starting earlier and closing later is helpful for customers who may have an unpredictable schedule and can’t get away to shop until late at night. Extended retail hours give those people the option to come in and grab whatever they need. This in turn proves to customers that their favorite businesses can be counted on to come through, which helps the store build up a loyal base of satisfied customers.

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Affordable items make the best holiday gifts

The staff writers have different opinions on whether extended holiday hours are beneficial or harmful. The current staff writer, Eric Elleby, argues that extended holiday hours benefit businesses, employees, and shoppers. On the other hand, the counterpoint writer, Dannyel Poindexter, believes that extended holiday hours hurt every business. This debate highlights the different perspectives on the impact of extended holiday hours on the economy and society.
The Current is now hiring for the 2014 Spring semester. Contact us at thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu or 314.516.5174 for details.

Have something to say about the campus, The Current, or topics relevant to students at UMSL? Write a letter to the editor: thecurrent@umsl.edu

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