HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

The echo of excited voices emanated out of the JC Penney auditorium on September 26, as faculty and staff filed in to take their seats for the State of the University Address. The annual event showcases the success of the university, with awards issued to worthy University of Missouri-St. Louis affiliated recipients. Hundreds of guests were in attendance and listened attentively to the address. Applause was offered eagerly for each award recipient, as well as for especially impressive university statistics revealed in the presentation.

Glen Cope, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, offered a warm welcome to the audience before introducing Chancellor Thomas George. The Chancellor began his State of the University speech with “Rankings, Awards and Other Near Stuff,” in which he listed the various points of UMSL excellence, particularly in national recognition. According to Academic Analytics, UMSL faculty rank third in the nation for public universities. “Index of universities with fewer than 15 doctoral programs shows us right behind William & Mary,” the address explained.

The presentation highlighted the financial affordability of UMSL, citing a Washington Monthly “Best Bang for Your Buck” list that ranks UMSL 56th nationally. UMSL is one of only three Missouri universities with the distinction. According to the Online College Data Base, UMSL is one of under twenty colleges in the state to reach the 25-30 club, identified as a read tuition of under twenty-thousand dollars and an average initial salary of over thirty thousand dollars.

After Chancellor George offered recognition to distinguished athletes and alumni, he outlined his campus goals for the future. His strategy statement is to increase the annual number of completed degrees by 20 percent by 2018, estimating out to around 3600 degrees. He stressed the importance of student retention and degree completion, as well as increased academic enhancement and approved campus expansion projects.

The Recreation and Wellness Center breaks ground this month, with the Science Learning Building set to begin in November. Both buildings are projected to open in 2015. Cunzars approved a Phase I concept of Anheuser-Busch Hall, a 46,000 square-foot structure with classrooms, faculty offices and social areas. Groundbreaking is anticipated next year, with matched funds sought for the project.

After thanking the crowd, Chancellor George turned the stage back over to Provost Cope, who introduced new faculty members and employees of the month. She encouraged applause for the former honorees and new employees as they stood for recognition. Awards were then offered to faculty and staff with over 25 years of service to UMSL. The Gerald and Dianne Gitner Excellence in Teaching Award was given to Stephanie DiPietro, assistant professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

The event concluded with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence granted to five professors and three staff members for their exceptional dedication to research, teaching and service. Of note was Service award winner Richard R. Rosenfeld, Curators’ Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.

“This win makes him a triple crown winner,” Provost Cope said. “He has previously won the award for both Research and Creativity and Teaching.”

The ceremony was concluded with a brief closing and thank you before guests gathered in the lobby for the reception.

“I think it’s wonderful to be able to get together and celebrate the university like this,” Patricia Zahn, Community Outreach Manager of Academic Affairs and winner of the May 2013 Innovation and Creativity Employee of the Month award said.

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Jubilee Flashback compiled by Albert Nall

The Current has been a part of UMSL since 1966. In honor of the campus’ 50th anniversary, we are reprinting articles from years past. This story originally ran on September 30, 1996. For more Jubilee Flashback, visit our website at thecurrent-online.com.

What ever happened to St. Louis born actress Linda Blair? On September 30, 1996, Monica Senechal, staff member of The Current, reported that Blair was in St. Louis at the Darkness Haunted Theme Park at Johnny Brock’s Dungeon to chat with fans and sign autographs. The theme park is in historical Soulard in Downtown St. Louis. Blair is originally from Kirkwood.

Blair is a child actress who is best known for playing the possessed child Regan in the 1973 film ‘The Exorcist.” Blair was a newcomer to acting at the time, starring at age 6 as a model. She appeared in an obscure soap opera, “Hidden Faces,” on NBC in the late 60’s and appeared in her first film, “The Way We Live Now,” in 1970.

Blair would do The Exorcist II: The Heretic in 1977. Blair also starred in “American Revolution.” In my historical inquiry class we read a book about [Henry Shrapnel], a self-fulfilling prophecy...

In many ways, her depiction of troubled youth in film became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

WANT THE FULL STORY? READ MORE AT THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

THE UNDERCURRENT By Matthew Gianino

WHAT’S THE MOST INTERESTING THING YOU’VE LEARNED THIS SEMESTER?

DAEJAH MARTIN
Sophomore, Psychology

“I learned that UMSL has really cool people. My RA Tia talks to me about everything. She’s always there for me.”

MARVIN ANDREW LEWIS
Freshman, Music Performance

“The value of singing when it comes to playing an instrument, if you can sing it, you can hear it, if you can hear it, you can play it.”

AARON KRAVISH
Sophomore, History

“I thought it was interesting that the word ‘shrapnel’ came from an officer in the American Revolution. In my historical inquiry class we read a book about [Henry Shrapnel].”

MON 79 HI 62 LOW
TUE 83 HI 66 LOW
WED 84 HI 68 LOW
THU 82 HI 68 LOW
FRI 73 HI 57 LOW
SAT 65 HI 50 LOW
SUN 68 51 LOW
Dr. Touhill signs books at Mercantile

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Dr. Blanche Touhill hosted a book signing at the Mercantile Library on September 25. The book, titled "A Photographic History of the University of Missouri-St. Louis: The First Fifty Years," shows the history of UMSL at a glance through black and white campus footage alongside written accounts of each chancellor. Attendees were invited to purchase the publication at the event, and sit for a short chat with the former chancellor as she penned personalized dedications on the inner cover page. Coffee and gourmet cheese was served on the Arts Center, hosts regional and international productions from a variety of creative backgrounds. While never a musician herself, Dr. Touhill has always been a proud supporter of the arts. "It's important to be well-rounded," Dr. Touhill said.

"A Photographic History of the University of Missouri-St. Louis: The First Fifty Years" is available in the UMSL bookstore and Amazon.com.
Professors defeat students at Honors College Trivia Night

ANYA GLUSHKO
STAFF WRITER

Trivia Night has been a Pierre Laclede Honors College tradition for the past five years, kicking off the beginning of a new academic year. This event is organized each year by the Pierre Laclede Honors College Association (PLHCSA).

The Trivia Night was held on September 26 at 7 p.m. in the Provincial House Museum Room. Ten professors and over a hundred students attended the event.

"The [Trivia Night] is still early in the year and it allows people to get together, meet new friends, and have a good time. What makes this event a success is the fun atmosphere. It is a chance for everyone to relax from homework, have a good time, spend time with friends, and try to win prizes," Ashley O'Neal, sophomore, biology, PLHCSA secretary, said.

There were seven rounds and each featured ten questions. Based on each correctly answered question, a team earned one point. There were also multiple-guess questions which could be used to correctly answer a question that the team did not know the answer. The competitive environment of Quizzes from Literature, Lines from Movies, Themed Songs, Horror Trivia, Disney, Faces of UMSL, and St. Louis History.

"We plan to continue this for as long as we can, as long as it continues to be a successful event. I would suggest people participate because it's a fun event that allows you to compete against professors. Not a list of other events allow you to get that kind of interaction with your professors," O'Neal said.

The professors won for the first time in three years. At the end, they decided to give the prizes to the second place team.

"The professors enjoy the event tremendously, even when they lose, as is the case most years. It's fun to work with students outside of a classroom setting, and we love seeing students' enthusiasm for campus life, and we really love seeing how involved and motivated Honors College students are in terms of making UMSL a campus with enriching extracurricular opportunities for students," Dan Gehr, assistant dean and associate teaching professor of the Honors College and PLHCSA advisor, said.

Trivia Night, along with other PLHCSA events, helps to raise funds for a charitable cause each year. This year PLHCSA events will aid the Ronald McDonald House.

"All PLHCSA events provide wonderful social opportunities for students from both the Honors College and the campus as a whole...It's a success due to both the incredible effort of the PLHCSA officers in organizing and staging the event and because of the terrific students at UMSL who come out to participate and have fun while supporting a good cause," Gehr said.

The popularity of Trivia Night has grown over the past years. It went from around fifty participants in its beginning to over a hundred.

"I thought the event was awesome. It was great getting to meet new people and competing against the professors, even though they won...I really enjoyed answering the questions on the Faces of UMSL category. In the group I was in, if we didn't know who someone was, we put a celebrity name down instead. Morgan Freeman was against other students, carry Noble, freshman, criminology and criminal justice, said.

"I attend trivia nights regularly, and what I find very memorable about this event is just how well it stacks up with trivia nights put on by groups outside of a campus setting. This event is just as well staged and professionally presented as trivia nights that routinely charge at least $20 per seat, but it's free and 100% run by Honors College students...It's an opportunity to have fun, compete vigorously," said.

"You won't be allowed into the trivia room without knowing your trivia knowledge, and make sure that your college experience is rewarding on levels beyond strictly academic pursuits...It's an extremely well-prepared and popular program. And it should be part of PLHCSA's slate of social events for many more years to come," Gehr said.

Host of ‘Catfish’ speaks at UMSL

KARLYNE KILLEBREW
STAFF WRITER

New Schulman, host of MTV’s "Catfish," came to speak at the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus on September 27. By 7 p.m., over 400 people gathered to hear Schulman share stories about his journey through life, internet dating, and the world of television. The event was held in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center.

Rows of chairs packed the place to wall with intrigued faces with Schulman situated front and center on the stage, a protection screen behind him.

The term "catfish" refers to someone who creates a fake online profile and deceives others into entering romantic relationships. The notorious box last year on Notre Dame linebacker Manti Teo is famous example of the cruel social media trend. Contrary to the common assumption that he came to give tips about how to avoid being catfished, Schulman instead gave the audience an entirely different perspective on how to interpret the show. He shared his personal anecdotes about dealing with insecurity in himself as well as others.

The Nev personas people love to watch weekly on MTV was born after multiple failures and phases. Until he began photography and freelance film making, Schulman was the stereotypical pan-amorous pseudo-aristocrat who dabbled in multiple art forms but could never find his niche. He has been a dancer, a violinist, dance photographer, and as he candidly states, "a jerk.

Schulman believes "it's all the little things that we've tried along the way" that help us pave our personal road to success.

He credits his independent film "Catfish" as the little push that got the ball rolling on the eponymous reality series. The film was based on his encounter with a girl he formed an online relationship with, only to find she was lying about her identity.

After meeting the young lady he received as "beautiful," Schulman knew he wanted to help people who were suffering from insecurities and relegating themselves to living behind a computer screen and false personas. Contrary to common perception, the purpose of the show isn't to catch a catfish, but to see one free.

"People use the internet to escape their unhappiness and insecurity," Schulman said. In order to have a fulfilling life outside of the cyber-world, he suggests students "think about how you want to spend your time and where you want to invest your energy...Don't get lost in the world [online]."

Schulman's presentation was like a meet-and-greet mixed with a motivational pep-talk. The event proved to be an inspirational session to help people feel more comfortable with themselves. "I hope to walk myself out of a job," Schulman said. His goal is to get people out of hiding and away from fear.

After he wrapped up his speech, Schulman allowed audience members to ask questions. The questions uncovered information about a book currently in the works and perhaps motivational speaking tours in the future. His use of his passion to improve a problem that he deeply cares about is not going to stop anytime soon.

The audience loved him for it. Anquonette Talafero, junior, media studies, described him as "...very down to earth. He said a lot of things that made me think about my life. I will say besides everything that is great about Nev, he is kind of long-winded."

Clearly, Schulman's words made an impact on attendees.
TOUHILL REVIEW

Improv Shop performs wacky style of humor at Touhill on September 25

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

St. Louis’ own Improv Shop purposely ramped their wacky and wild style of comedy at the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Fox Theater at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on September 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. A troupe performed before a crowd of about 200 people.

Tom Martin, a theater professor at Saint Louis University whose background includes experiences in the improv world and a guest monkologist for the event, his experience includes such venues as the Repertory Theater of St. Louis, the Shakespeare Festival St. Louis and The Muny. Martin opened the show with a Chicago-style monologue that was rooted in the non-talented themes of 1970s-style bed shops, posters and waterbeds.

A team of performers from the Improv Shop then appeared on stage. Martin joked if it was a form of improv-style comedy with a great display of freeform ideas that took the audience into a time-warp.

A couple of the skit routines included an across-acting portrayal of an 8-year-old child who went to the bank for a loan and a husband who wanted to make love to his wife in the form of a boxer. Or it was “Bazman,” Bruce Wayne, a ninja warrior or all of the above.

(Killing people, whether it was intentional or accidental, was a recurring (and redundant) line in the act. “We just killed somebody, and this will haunt us!” performers intoned, along with the rhetorical question of “Should we go ahead and kill the guy?”)

This routine may have crossed the line (depending on the interpretation of a 9-11 society) with “Sit down; we are not going to kill you right now!” and “I am not going to kill you; the bomb will — hold him down.”

The concept of improvisation is the taking of a random idea and creating a dialog or story based around it, typically in front of a live audience. With great finesse and timing, ideas and thought are turned upside down. Is the purpose of improvisation to entertain, tell a story or to shock, or both? Contemporary improvisation takes its cues from varied institutions from vaudeville to television shows such as “Saturday Night Live” and “Whose Line Is It Anyway?”

The cast for the performance consisted of Steve Vance, Megan Kenny, Jacob McGuire, Melanie Petr, Ranjan Khan, Larry Paul, David Imler, Steve Rainer, Lance Cox and Andy Sloey.

Detailed biographies of the actors can be found at theimprovshop.com. Founded in 2009, the Improv Shop holds classes in performing for students of all experience levels at 6:00 Oakland Avenue. The next Improv Shop at the Touhill will be held on December 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets prices are $11 in advance and $15 the day of the show.

For more information about Improv Shop classes or its events, call (314) 459-5732.

TV REVIEW

Fox TV outdoes itself with comedy “Brooklyn Nine-Nine”

LATWUANNA TROUPE
STAFF WRITER

Fox has outdone themselves this time with the new line up of shows that are launching this fall. Among the many is “Brooklyn Nine-Nine,” a comedy that debuted last week based in a New York Police Department precinct.

“Brooklyn Nine-Nine” is a show that will grab your attention immediately. The show stars Andy Samberg as Jake Peralta, who is bilious as the guy who doesn’t have to work too hard to get by in the squad room.

The third episode premieres on October 1, at 8:30 p.m. ET/PT on Fox TV. It will provoke a gut wrenching laugh from some and an immediate chuckle from others.

The episode that debuts on October 1 will be “The Slump” and it is a must-see. In the episode, the “slump” is reality for Detective Peralta, as he is experiencing trouble in closing his cases. This leads him to get creative in his efforts to get off desk duty and try to find ways to get back into the action.

“Brooklyn Nine-Nine” also brings a cast of diverse talents to the screen. Andre Braugher, who portrays Captain Ray Holt, has a gift for sarcasm and will keep the audience laughing. Captain Ray Holt is the new commanding officer who wants all of his officers and detectives to work hard and follow the rules. He seeks drive and accuracy from his detectives so that they can get better results. He provides discipline to the squad and is looked up to, which brings the best out of the officers.

The cast line-up continues with Terry Crews as Sergeant Terry Jeffords, Anjelica Fumero as Detective Amy Santiago, Joe Lo Truglio as Detective Charles Boyle, Stephanie Beatriz as Detective Rosa Diaz and Chelsea Peretti as Gina Linetti. Even though the policemen have their weaknesses within the group, they must work together to achieve a common goal of solving as many cases as possible. It’s clear that the motley crew of officers will continue to grow and show their strengths throughout the season. The characters have a great rapport and work well together, the cast seeming as if they’ve been acting together for years.

What makes this show likable is the relatability of its characters, many of whom possess attributes that you see in those around you. Someone may be a social outcast, someone may lack a sense of humor, or someone may be socially inept like Detective Boyle, gives unexpected responses to questions like Gina Linetti or is overly cocky like Detective Peralta.

Each character is unique and each one brings life to the show in their own way. The directors chose a great cast that hold their own in every scene. Their wit and attitude towards each other give the show that special quality that other shows are lacking. The storyline and dialogue are entertaining throughout each episode. It’s not difficult to see that this show was created to stand out among the other shows it will be competing with this fall it’s sure to hold its own and be the topic of many water cooler conversations.

“Brooklyn Nine-Nine” will be a great addition to Fox this fall as a show that adults will enjoy. The show is not recommended for children but teens between the ages of 13 and 18 would be a suitable audience. As the show catches its stride, hopefully the ratings will bring it more popularity leading, eventually, to a second season.

GAME REVIEW

Grand Theft Auto V is completely addicting

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

Rockstar Games announced to the world that they were going to release Grand Theft Auto 5, also known as GTA V or Grand Theft Auto V, on October 25, 2011. This release became a reality on September 17, 2013 for PlayStations 3 and Xbox 360.

Grand Theft Auto V is the newest edition to the Grand Theft Auto series. Each game stars a man going through his own story and the player has to do whatever it takes for the character to succeed in his goals. This is the norm for the series but for the brand new game, GTA V, Rockstar Games wanted to go a little out of the box from what players were used to.

In the new game, the player gets to play as three characters instead of one. To make these transitions as smooth as possible, the lives of these three players interweave or overlap in one time or another. Though this approach may sound difficult, it plays out excellently. The transitions through the game is by a story being told to actually controlling the character, are as smooth as watching a movie.

Aside from the transitions, the game reveals a slow-motion feature that only happens when the player is driving the character around. If one almost gets into a car accident or needs to change the radio station, the slow-motion feature comes into play. It is a real benefit for the player because, too often in the old GTA games, if the player was driving fast and did not see something coming it resulted in a massive car accident which led to mission failure.

The best part? With all these updates, there’s one that beats all the graphics. Though it requires about 8GB of data, it’s worth it. The game begins with a movie-like feature starting each of the main characters. Once you start the actual gameplay, you're met with the same realistic graphics. It's as if the movie aspect of the game continues from the features into the gameplay. It’s truly extraordinary.

Don’t worry; if the reason you’re a GTA fan has to do with the intense violence, language, action, and humor of the game, this new version has plenty to spare. The radio station has also been updated with new stations and talk shows to listen to as well.

The creators deserve a round of applause. The game will never leave you bored, since you have so many characters to play at, which means double the missions compared with what players got in previous versions of the game.

The new GTA V is also much longer than its predecessors, in part because they created an extended gameplay experience. Each story is extended a lot more than a regular GTA story would be.

When it comes to the GTA franchise, either you like it or you love it. Get your mind set on gaming and grab the new Grand Theft Auto 5.
Tennis Tritons battle Eastern Illinois

MATTHEW GIANINO
STAFF WRITER

Few team sports compare to the individual battle that is tennis. One hand and a racket will get you on the court, but it takes much more to survive the match. On Friday, the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's tennis team hosted the Panthers of Eastern Illinois in the final match of the fall schedule.

The match began with an introduction of the players and a customary shaking of hands. A five-minute warm-up followed where the two teams lightly hit balls to each other, demonstrating sportsmanship and building familiarity. After all, the goal of collegiate sports is not to destroy your opponent, but to learn what it means to be a good person.

Abiding by the honor system, with coaches from both sides serving as referees, the competitors used scorecards to record the progress of their own match. The day began with three doubles matches played concurrently, and a singles match taking place on the far court. When the doubles matches concluded, the Panthers' chant of "1-4 Blue" revealed the score. They led the Tritons two wins to one.

A tennis match lends itself to frequent and impassioned displays of emotion; the players experience the thrill of victory and agony of defeat after every single point. One such point occurred at the height of the doubles matches, as an UMSL player cursed his racket for failing him at a crucial time. So began a stretch of games in which the competitors celebrated their wins and cursed their faults, acutely aware of the increasing importance of each successive strike.

The proceedings, though sparked with emotion and themselves a fine display of athleticism, paled in comparison to the grueling struggle of singles play. The singles matches forced the players to run the length of the court and strike the ball with whatever precision and timing they could muster. The matches began as a battle of positioning and skill, evolved into a campaign of endurance and will.

Whereas the doubles matches were about finding holes in the other team's positioning, the singles matches were predicated on the ability of one player to force his will on his opponent through brute strength. Players painted the lines with forehand winners, reserving backhanders for defense or desperation. The players no longer expended the energy to cheer breathless celebration is limited to a single pump of the fist.

A thought of UMSL supporters sat on the home bench and encouraged their heroes by name. One such hero was Tim McLarty, junior, international business, who showed minimal signs of fatigue. McLarty did not slouch or hang his head after a rally, and when the ball was in play he was in the middle of the court planning his next tactic. At one point, he congratulated his opponent on a well-placed shot, appreciating the game itself, but also realizing that tennis is an opportunity to learn. Exerting energy in a controlled and efficient manner, with the poise and unbreakable spirit reminiscent of a young Roger Federer, McLarty defeated his opponent.

McLarty's effort was not enough to save the Tritons. They fell to the Panthers by a score of 6-3.

Tritons prevail, despite tough week

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's soccer team defeated the Indianapolis Greyhounds 1-0 at Don Dallas Field on September 22. Hannah Kaloupek, sophomore, criminology and criminal justice, scored the lone goal of the game for the Tritons, off of an assist from Brooke Barczewski, sophomore, communication.


Men's soccer lost to the Indianapolis Greyhound 0-4 at Don Dallas Field on September 22. Triton Goalie Jeremiah Cooper, sophomore, physical education, managed 6 saves. Tyler Collico, sophomore, business administration; led the team with 4 shots while Blake Herman, freshman, undecided, was the only Triton to have a shot on goal.

Women's golf placed 9th out of 18 at the Indianapolis Fall Invitational in Camby, Indiana on September 22. The Tritons team posted a score of 466. The Ferris State team placed first with a score of 615, followed by Indianapolis and Ashland Tech. Triton Taylor Hoog, sophomore, marketing, earned all-tournament honors, finishing in 8th place individually, with rounds of 80 and 73. Bailey Hopper, junior, finance, placed 29th individually and Daniella Vicosi, senior, business administration, tied for 53rd.

Men's tennis lost to the Eastern Illinois Panthers 3-6 at the UMSL Tennis Courts on September 25. Tim McLarty, junior, international business, and Dario Vidiare, freshman, business, teamed up to win the Tritons sole doubles match 8-6 - McLarty also won in singles 6-1, 6-4 along with Harry Heyburn, junior, international business, 6-4, 6-6, 6-3.

Women's soccer lost to the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers 0-2 in Kenosha, Wisconsin on September 27. The Triton's Brittany Harbaugh, senior, nursing, and Hunter Waggoner, sophomore, elementary education, each had a shot on goal for the Tritons.

Men's soccer lost to the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers 0-1 in Kenosha, Wisconsin on September 27. Matt Barrus, senior, international business, led the Tritons with 3 shots, putting 2 shots on goal.

Women's volleyball defeated the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers 3-2 at UMSL on September 28. Chelsea Burrus, senior, nursing, led the Tritons in kills with 12, while Lindsey Meyer, sophomore, business, and Anna McNally, senior, communications, led in assists with 21 and 20, respectively.

Do you like writing about sports? If so, consider applying for the position of Staff Writer at The Current. Send a resume and writing sample to thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
POINT: U.S. prisons are a joke

In the interest of human rights and rehabilitation, the concept of punishment has been lost. We, as a society, do not have to resort to storing wrong-doers as if we still live in biblical times, but that doesn’t mean we should live on the opposite end of the spectrum either, offering prisoners better resources than many average citizens have access to. We’ve all heard the stories of desperate men who commit minor acts of theft specifically because they want to be sent to prison and receive the kind of health care available to prisoners. When that happens, it’s clear that something is wrong not only with our health care system, but with our prisons as well. Murderers and rapists should not be better off than average citizens.

On top of that, our prisons are too corrupt. Thanks to crooked types in every level of corrections work, in many cases it is far too easy for convicts to continue illegal activities while behind bars. When prisons have become uncontrolled dens of sins, what’s the point anymore?

Anyone who has ever watched “Russia’s Toughest Prisoners” is familiar with Black Dolphin Prison. It’s a story often heard: desperate men sentenced to prisoners. Russians prisons have reached Inception-levels of imprisonment techniques, and I, for one, will not be satisfied until all maximum-security prisoners in this country are kept in laboratories upon layers of cages, like a Matryoshka doll of steel bars and justice.

If you can’t do the time, then don’t do the crime. It’s as simple as that. Cliché as it may be, how can we expect people to obey the law if the punishment for doing otherwise is not an effective deterrent?

COUNTER: U.S. prisons are too tough

Someone once said that the measure of a man is not how he treats those equal to him, but those below him. When we imprison other human beings, it is important that we, as a society, keep a tight grip on our own humanity. It is easy to resort to barbarism, especially when it can appear justified, but what good does that ultimately serve?

Anyone who thinks that U.S. prisons aren’t tough enough obviously hasn’t looked into the practice of solitary confinement (otherwise known as “segregation” or, in some cases, “Security Housing Units,” or SHU). There is nothing humane about keeping a human being locked in a room with no windows for 22 to 24 hours a day. In extreme cases, prisoners have been sentenced to live out their sentence in solitary confinement for years on end, even decades. That kind of treatment is a far cry from the image of a well-fed, easy-shocked prisoner that many conjure when arguing that inmates in U.S. prisons are treated too well. In reality, no one in prison is having a good time. The loss of freedom is punishment enough, one that can not be escaped through any creature comfort like decent meals and movie nights.

Prisons should not seek to punish, but to rehabilitate. There is absolutely no point to punishing a man for twenty years only to throw him back into society, a beaten and even more brutal animal. It is in the best interest not just of those imprisoned but of everyone that those who commit violent crimes be taught the error of their ways in the hopes that they will return society at the end of their sentence a better person.

It is easy to call for blood when we read about the terrible crimes that are committed in the world today. However, when all is said and done, you must ask yourself one thing: would you rather be trapped in a room with a violent person who was met with only more violence, or with one who was met with patience and taught how to treat others with kindness?
NEWS@NOON

SHOULD WE PUT A PRICE ON CARBON?

Join The Current, the student-run campus news source, for free pizza and discussion at News at Noon: Should We Put a Price on Carbon?

Dr. Lea-Rachel Kosnik, Associate Professor of Economics, will introduce the topic and then lead a student-centered discussion.

"News at Noon" is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussions about current events, co-sponsored by The Current and the New York Times, with support from the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Student Life at UMSL.

LOCATION MSC: CENTURY ROOM C
TIME OCTOBER 9TH, 12:15-1:30 P.M.