Homecoming is just around the corner. The change from an October celebration to a February Homecoming has not put a damper on student enthusiasm; ticket sales continue to rise. This year also saw an increase in applications for Homecoming court. According to Jessica Long-Pease, director of Student Life at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, court candidates will have their first introductions during the Homecoming kick-off event, held on the first floor of the Millennium Student Center on February 3 at 11 a.m.

This year’s candidates for Homecoming King are Adam Delgado, junior, liberal studies; Tyler Brookman, senior, international business and marketing; and Devin Thompson, senior, accounting. Candidates for Homecoming Queen are Briana Lawson, senior, psychology; Hope Ganter, senior, business marketing; Marissa Steiner, senior, communication; and Taryll Merrinweather, senior, accounting. Voting starts online at https://umslo.org/궨/homecoming?qid=2 on February 3 at 11 a.m. and will be open until Friday, February 7, at 11:45 p.m.

New events have been added for this year’s Homecoming week. Events such as the Window Painting Competition and 5K Run provide students with a hearty helping of competition, fun, and prizes. A variety of service projects will be held throughout the week; participation is open to all students, staff, faculty and alumni. With these added activities, the Homecoming Steering Committee hoped to encourage giving back more than ever before. “You’ll see many events that are focused on helping the community that UMSL calls home, as well local non-profit organizations that have had an impact on our students,” said Long-Pease. Canned goods donations will go to the Pagelode Family Support while the blood donations from this week’s blood drive go to the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center.

Wondering how “Forever Red and Gold” became this year’s Homecoming theme? According to Long-Pease, “Forever Red and Gold” is all about pride in the university and school spirit. “As we continue to grow our Homecoming week, we want to encourage our alumni to come home to UMSL and connect with our current students,” said Long-Pease.

During Homecoming Week, student organizations have the opportunity to battle it out and compete for prizes. An action-packed week leads up to the Homecoming Dinner and Dance, held at St. Louis Union Station Hotel, on February 8 at 6:30 p.m. Check out the schedule below for a listing of the week’s activities that are sure to connect Tritons old and new in UMSL pride.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am a proud UM-STL alum and I am disheartened by the decision to close the Barnes Library. I just talked to alumni association yesterday and they told me that for the first time, all student residence halls were full. More and more students over the last few years are choosing to live on campus. Our school is growing!!!! I believe in the near future New Hall will need to build more residence halls.

All of this, and we are talking about closing one of our beautiful libraries!!! This cannot happen. We need this library now more than ever if we want to keep our University growing!! What will become of this building, another vacant boarded up building?:)

They need to re-think this decision. Please don't let them close the library!!

Jason Fisher, UMSL Alum

NOW HIRING!

The Current is now seeking students to fill a number of positions. These positions are available on a volunteer basis or for internship credit. Applications are available on our website at thecurrent-online.com. Please submit completed applications to 388 Millennium Student Center or thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu to be considered for open positions. For more information, contact us at thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu.

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THE UNDERCURRENT

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF HOMECOMING?

JALLON FORIAS
Junior, Mathematics

"I'm a visiting student from Brazil. This is my first year at UMSL, I don't know about the homecoming."

STEPHANIE WYATT
Junior, Anthropology

"Dressing up!"

YUAN YUAN
Senior, International Business

"Fancy dining and crazy dancing! Everybody can be freestyle while dancing!"

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THE CURRENT ONLINE

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This week:
- Full coverage of Metropolitan Nikitis Lulias' visit to UMSL
- Comics and games
- Weekly polls

Comic by Mike "MR" Nash

THE UNDERCURRENT

By Siyun Zhang

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MON 34 HI
TUE 30 HI
WED 27 HI
THU 18 HI
FRI 27 HI
SAT 31 HI
SUN 23 HI

14 LOW
* 21 LOW
* 18 LOW
9 LOW
18 LOW
14 LOW
7 LOW
Senior Degree Completion Program provides funds to UMSL students without financial aid

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

University of Missouri—St. Louis is currently accepting applications for the Senior Degree Completion Program. The initiative provides scholarship funds to UMSL students nearing graduation. Seniors who meet the program criteria are encouraged to apply. Financial aid awards are still available for the Spring 2014 semester.

The privately funded tuition program assists senior-status students who have exhausted all other forms of financial aid. The scholarship helps students who require immediate tuition funds in order to complete their degree. Eligible students must be within 30 hours of completing their first bachelor’s degree. Preference is given to seniors within 15 credit hours of graduation.

Additional application requirements include completion of the FAFSA for the 2014-2015 academic year, and Satisfactory Academic Progress with at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA. Qualifying seniors must fill out an application and attach a copy of their graduation plan. Applicants must also include a short essay explaining why they no longer qualify for financial aid, such as federal- and state-issued grants and loans.

Chancellor Thomas George examined the broader context of the senior scholarship.

"In the state of Missouri, we have about 700,000 people who have not completed their degree," Chancellor George said. "Within the greater St. Louis region, it's about 400,000." That statistic caught the attention of the St. Louis regional chamber, who gathered various higher education institutions to address the issue of degree completion.

Chancellor George said the chamber’s original goal was to have 75,000 people finish their associates or baccalaureate degree.

"THE PRIVATELY FUNDED TUITION PROGRAM ASSISTS SENIOR-STATUS STUDENTS."

“We have a number of students who are not completed, for whatever reason, most of it is financial," Chancellor George said. "That's why we came up with this program, to help seniors complete their degree.”

The Senior Degree Completion Program has success last semester. According to Chancellor George, of the thirteen students who received the award for the Fall 2013 semester, twelve finished their degree and graduated. The Chancellor says this student participant success advertises the program more than any other factor.

"Donors are very excited about this," Chancellor George said, pointing out that many of the financial contributors are community members. "A lot are alums. They want to see students from their alma mater succeed." Alan Byrd, Dean of Enrollment Services, offers understanding to students who have maxed out their financial aid options.

"We have a lot of transfer students," Byrd says, adding that the Office acknowledges the many challenges students face in paying their tuition. "They have to switch schools, they lose a lot of classes, they have to work as they go to school, they run out of financial aid, and that really puts their backs against the wall."

Byrd calls the scholarship an "opportunity for us to help those students with the financial support they need to finish their degree." Byrd says the goal is to ensure students have the ability to graduate.

"This scholarship is making a huge impact in terms of giving students that last semester or that last year to wrap up their degree," Byrd said.

The Senior Degree Completion Program application can be found at umsl.edu/financialaid. Applicants will be notified within three weeks of submitting all the required documents if they were accepted into the program. Students interested in applying for the scholarship is encouraged to make use of available on-campus resources in assembling the requisite documents.
The first annual Diane Touliatos Endowed Annual Lecture in Greek Historical Studies was held in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms on January 27. Put together by the Hellenic Government-Karakas Foundation Professorship in Greek Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, those in attendance welcomed Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias, theologian and distinguished Greek scholar. Many notable UMSL figures, including Chancellor Tom George, and Dr. Diane Touliatos, Curator/Professor of the music department, were in attendance.

Dr. Touliatos earned her Ph.D. in historical musicology and is a University of Missouri Curator/ Distinguished Professor in the UMSL Department of Music. She has been a leading advocate of an Endowed Greek Studies Professorship. She and her husband Gus Miles, local businessman, spearheaded the fundraising initiative to make it a reality. They worked together directly with Chancellor Blanche Toulioll.

"Diane has been a faculty member since 1979. She is the author of six books, and over 65 peer reviewed articles. She has received many important grants. She really has achieved worldwide acknowledgement in her field. We are very proud to have her here," Chancellor Tom George said.

Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias, the speaker, soon arrived. The Metropolitan is the Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, California. A native of Tampa, Florida, he has lived and traveled around the world. He attained his Master in Divinity in Thessaloniki, Greece in 1982, prior to studying Russian in St. Petersburg. In addition to Russian, The Metropolitan speaks Greek, Latin and Japanese. He was consecrated a Hierarch in the Greek Orthodox Church and named Metropolitan of Hong Kong and South East Asia in 1997 before achieving his present post in 2007.

The Metropolitan, an expert in Greek Historical Studies, delivered the lecture. Entitled, "The Greeks in Asia: Myths and Realities of the Hellenic Influence in the Far East," it chronicled the mythological reality of the Hellenic peoples, their origins in Alexander the Great, and their struggles spanning the age up into modern times.

Indeed, there are references to the Hellenes and Hellenic people in a variety of texts in Eastern Asia. Lulias argued that while most people think of the migration of Greeks as being that to the new world, the real Greek migration was to the east.

"I went to the Far East to become the first Metropolitan in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. While there, not only did my attitude change, but I was allowed to absorb knowledge about things I had never heard of before," Lulias said. "It was interesting that people in Asia were speaking to me about my heritage and my people."

The Metropolitan spoke of the Kolage people. The Kolage stayed in Asia after Alexander of Macedon returned to Greece.

"There are parallels between the mythological story and religious trends among the Kolage to that of the Hellenes," said Lulias. "It's a wonderful thing that we Greeks have these roots and ties, the outcome of social interaction and intermarriage from the time of Alexander."

The first great bridge between Greece and Asia was the Persian Empire. Alexander is hardly ever mentioned in Indian literature, but it is known that he went there, at least as far as the river (Ganges).

"The Greeks have always been a business-minded people, and great missionaries. Greek colonies have for centuries dotted the Black Sea, great cultural centers. Because of Ottoman Rule and the oppression of the Greeks, said Metropolitan Lulias, the Greeks chose to avoid that region and colonize elsewhere. During the years of Turkish occupation, the Greeks traveled to London, Romania, and Russia, among other places.

Read the full article at thecurrent-online.com.
Artistic filmmaker Zlatko Cosic titled his art exhibit at Gallery 210 on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus “Still Adjusting.”

Which raises the question, “Still adjusting to what?” The artist addressed as much in his gallery talk at the exhibit’s opening reception on January 25.

The short answer is his experiences escaping from the Bosnian war as a young man and life as a refugee in St. Louis, as Cosic told the overflow audience that packed the Gallery 210 lecture hall. It is a lot to adjust to, but Cosic’s journey took him to a scholarship and visual arts degree from Washington University and a career as an artist and filmmaker. It is a tale Cosic tells with a sense of the absurd and dry humor, both in his talk and through the art exhibit at Gallery 210, on display through April 5, 2014.

“Still Adjusting” is an installation of several video works. Some are large projections on the white walls of Gallery A and others on mid-sized video screens. The lights are dim in the gallery, apart from a couple of spotlights, to better see the videos. One spotlight falls on a pedestal in the center of the room, which contains the one collage, “Identity Artifacts,” which Cosic created from documents he collected as he navigated his escape from the Bosnia war. Eerie, slow, vaguely technological music plays in the gallery, creating an unsettling effect.

The works in Cosic’s exhibit reflect the experiences he described in this lecture. The focus on nationality and religion during the war left Cosic with a preference of avoiding such labels, embracing the more generic term Yugoslavia, a now vanished country.

The two videos just within the gallery reflect two sides of Cosic’s experience. “While Standing I Wonder If” is a black-and-white still image of the artist standing on a forested hill. Suddenly, the still image moves, ramping straight up in slow motion, a movement the artist associates with the feeling of freedom. The other work, “Only the Chimney Remains” is a split-screen collage of images from his childhood, family videos, images of ruined abandoned buildings and peaceful natural scenes. The title comes from Cosic’s father, who said that when a house is bombed, only the chimney remains.

Two of the videos have narration and music, which gallery visitors use headphones to hear.

One intriguing large video installation, “Temporary Graffiti: Banja Luka - St. Louis,” is a pair of videos projected on adjoining walls in a corner of the gallery. On one wall, there are images of St. Louis architecture and familiar sites, particularly the Bevo Mill area at the heart of St. Louis’ Bosnian neighborhood. On the neighboring wall are images of Cosic’s native town Banja Luka. Images alternate between those that show contrasts between the two places and those where it is hard to tell which is which.

Another striking installation is “Without a Number,” a pair of projections on either side of Cosic’s native town Banja Luka. Images alternate between those that show contrasts between the two places and those where it is hard to tell which is which.

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UMSL softball faces season of huge expectations

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

On February 14, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team will play their first game of their 2014 season. And as it turns out this year, they are good. Really good.

The Triton team went 41-13 last season, winning its first ever GLVC championship. The 41 wins are the second most accrued in a single season in the team's history. With the success of the past season comes high expectations for this year, shown through the votes for UMSL softball from Division II head coaches across the country.

In the 2014 preseason poll by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, voted on by 16 Division II head coaches representing each of the eight NCAA regions, UMSL's women's softball team is ranked 18th nationally.

Even though the expectations are great, the Tritons have the ingredients for success, considering what they accomplished the previous year. Eight starting players will be returning this year, along with a very solid pitching lineup including 2013 GLVC pitcher of the year Hannah Perryman, sophomore, criminal justice.

Unfortunately for Triton fans, we have to wait to see the high caliber team in action.

The home opener for the Triton softball team is slated for March 6 versus Southwest Minnesota State. The game will take place on the UMSL Softball field at 3 p.m., and begins a long and steady lineup of home games throughout the month of March.

As always, games will be free for UMSL students. For more information regarding the team roster and schedule for the 2014 season, visit umsltritons.com.

UMSL basketball teams looking to go from good to great

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's and women's basketball teams have had difficulty finding their rhythm the past two weeks. They are not playing poorly, but rather having trouble finding the necessary means to win the games that matter the most.

The past few games results have ranged from the UMSL Tritons being defeated by less than a few points, to the Tritons blowing their opponents away. Consequently, the Tritons are searching for the ingredients that will take their records from good to great, and become a post-season threat.

Women's basketball faced a hard 60-59 loss to #18 Quincy on January 18, which was followed up by a nail-biting 71-74 loss at #9 Drury on January 23. Since then, the Triton women have cruised to wins against their past three opponents, defeating Missouri S&T and William Jewell soundly, and pulling off a narrow 60-57 win over Rockhurst in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center.

Men's basketball headed to the Bentonville Classic Tournament in Arkansas where they will face six opponents in a three-day span from February 14 through February 16. Next the Triton men travel to the Teri Mathis-Zenner Memorial Tournament March 1 through March 2 in Joplin, Missouri, facing four different opponents.

"EVEN THOUGH THE EXPECTATIONS ARE GREAT, THE TRITONS HAVE THE INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS."

The Triton men's basketball players wearing "Play 4 Kay" breast cancer awareness shirts meet with officials and Rockhurst players on Saturday, February 1.
**LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING:**

What's on your game-day menu?

HEATHER WELBORN

FEATURES EDITOR

I don't care who won the Super Bowl, as long as I get a layer dip and chicken wings in me. Is that selfish of me? It’s football, about food I don’t think so. There are so many elements that go into sports viewing, especially a championship game. Sure, the main focus of last Sunday was the football itself, but how many of us were sitting alone at home, accompanied only by the glow of the television? That doesn’t sound celebratory at all.

Watching sports is best experienced as a group activity. You have some friends over, or you visit your folks for their big screen, or meet up at a sports bar. However you do it, watching football is enhanced by the accompaniment of other fans. The atmosphere thickens, conversation becomes louder and easier, and the viewing experience becomes the more intense and interactive for fans. As you watch the game, your mouth begins to grum and you ask, “This is the element of sports viewing that interest me the most, and forms my inquiry of you this week: what are you eating while you’re watching the game?”

Perhaps nostalgia inspired my fascination with meal planning for get-togethers. I couldn’t tell you offhand the teams that faced off in the first Super Bowl I remember or what the final score was, but I can describe the sausage and cheddar biscuit pinwheels my mother made that day in vivid detail. Or that my first Super Bowl in St. Louis, the Rams versus the Patriots, was so perfect, but not as memorable to me as my stepmother’s slow-cooker jelly meatballs and little smokies.

What fascinates me about planning a party menu is how open-ended the process is. As an adult and head chef of my household, I usually use the internet to research game day food options. It’s an awful feeling to remember to make “the perfect dish” as I’m pushing my grocery cart through the parking lot, so I got inspired early and weigh each potential dish against its culinary competition. I look at the popular dishes posted on recipe search sites and home cooking blogs, the most requested or higher-rated options. Recipes with viewer comments are the best, as user suggestions have made all the difference in many of my attempts at cooking.

As I plan my menu, I make a conscious decision to define the scope of my meal planning. A challenge many cooks face is the desire to make edible stadiums out of meatballs, which becomes expensive and difficult to coordinate in the kitchen. I try to envision the party as I plan and gauge how simple or elaborate my food options need to be to keep my guests satiated.

Wings, dips, chill, and brownies were at the top of the game day recommendations I encountered online this year. Easy to execute, relatively quick to cook and well-liked by diverse crowds. You may want to keep it simple and stick to the slow-cooker options, like sloppy joes or slow cooked soda pork.

Throw the ingredients in, turn it on, cover and forget about it until your guests arrive. Open a bag of bus and let guests help themselves.

Party platters are another option for low maintenance planners, and are ultra inexpensive if you buy the components separately versus purchasing a pre-made platter.

Get some celery, some dip, some deli meat and a block of cheese, maybe some olives and shove it all on a plate. Looks fancy and works great as finger food. You can easily get sucked into the assembly of these platters, however. There are ambitious chefs who have constructed elaborate edible stadiums out of snack food.

Food makes any event the more desirable to attend. When you host your next viewing party or attend a friend’s, consider making a quick dish to share with your fellow viewers. Good food adds a much appreciated texture to get-togethers, and sometimes is more memorable than the original motivation behind the occasion.

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**COUNTER:** Foreign languages are a waste

Full-time students sign up for at least 12 credit hours per semester. That’s four 3 credit hour classes. In addition to that, most students have a full-time job, or at least one part-time job, not to mention extracurricular activities and personal responsibilities. The idea that universities are forcing students to take (and pay for) even more courses that are not related to their major is infuriating.

Becoming proficient in a foreign language isn’t something that you can really do with chosen alone — it takes a lot of outside work and time spent immersing yourself in the culture. While many students would love to practice their French or hone up in their Spanish, we do not live in an economy where we can afford to do anything that isn’t essential. Students don’t have time anymore for fun classes, neither with the extra jobs they have to take on just to pay for the courses related to their major.

Requiring foreign language proficiency for students attempting to earn a Bachelor’s Degree adds unnecessary stress to individuals who are probably already close to their breaking point. These days, to be competitive in the grad school and work worlds, you’re already expected to supplement your full course load with daunting extracurriculars, in addition to spending their summer and winter breaks working unpaid internships while simultaneously solving world hunger and curing cancer in their spare time. It’s also an exclusionary practice. Non-English speaking individuals, who are juggling careers and families, should not have to learn a foreign language just because they want to change careers.

After graduations, many students will not even retain the rudimentary grammar rules they had shoved down their throats for three semesters. This is assuming they reach any kind of proficiency at all. Foreign language proficiency requirements waste everyone’s time and money. Plenty of students would probably love to learn a foreign language, but we’re not superhuman. Give us a break already.
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**Sexual Assault in the Military**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014  
**Time:** 12:15 to 1:30  
**Location:** Century Room C, third floor of MSC  
**Presenters:** Jim Craig, Associate Teaching Professor and Chair of the Department of Military and Veterans Studies, with Pamela Dorsey, Sexual Assault Prevention Program Director, Scott Air Force Base

**Lunch:** Pizza for the first 25 attendees

"News at Noon" is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussion 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.