UMSL celebrates memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Touhill

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Community members came together on January 20 to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. The program, titled "Is Dr. King's Voice Still Speaking Today?" included guest lectures, faculty performances and scholarship awards inspired by the ongoing memory of Dr. King. The event was sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, with co-sponsorship by the African American Alumni Chapter, African American Alumni Chapter, Coca Cola, Division of Student Affairs, Omega Psi Pi International Honor Society in Education, St. Louis Public Radio 90.7 KWMU, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Sigma Beta, Student Government Association, University Program Board, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Admission was free and open to the public.

The program opened with a greeting from Deborah Burris, Director and Chief Diversity Officer of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity. Burris encouraged members of the audience to be inspired by the speakers and performers of the afternoon. She co-directed the celebration to Dr. Nelson Mandela before turning the stage over to Jasmine Huda, anchor and reporter for KMOV-TV. Huda served as Mistress of Ceremonies at the event.

After briefly addressing the audience, Huda introduced the Coe Brilliante Presbyterian Church Men’s Chorus. Chorus director Dwayne Beggs encouraged attendees to sing along as the chorus sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Following the performance, Huda introduced Chancellor Thomas George, who extended his welcome to attendees. After the Chancellor’s address was a dance, titled "If I Can Help Somebody." The piece was performed by Kimberly Phillips, senior, theater and dance, and choreographed by Jennifer Medina, assistant professor of Theater and Dance.

The guest speaker at the event was Wes Moore, host of "Beyond Belief" on the Oprah Winfrey Network and author of the New York Times Bestseller "The Other Wes Moore." Moore is an author, youth advocate, Rhodes Scholar and Army veteran. His lecture drew from the work and philosophy of Dr. King, emphasizing social unity and service to fellow man.

A spoken word performance, entitled "Letter to Dr. King," was presented by the University of Missouri–St. Louis students Aliesha Patterson, senior, undeclared, and Gustavo Diaz Perez, senior, music. The powerful performance paired Patterson’s passionate speech with Perez’s soulful song.

Charles Piller, past president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Epiphil Lambda chapter, presented awards to the two recipients of the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship. Shawantelle Fisher, junior, education, and Breana Lawson, senior, psychology, read their winning essays to the audience, receiving thunderous applause.

A dramatic presentation, titled "The Mountaintop," was performed in front of a video screen with powerful imagery ranging from Dr. King’s speeches to footage from Hurricane Katrina. The performance was directed by Jacqueline Thompson, assistant professor of Theater, Dance and Media Studies.

The Coe Brilliante Presbyterian Men’s Chorus closed out the celebration with a performance of "We Shall Overcome" with the audience.
THE CURRENT ONLINE

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent, or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

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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

By Stiyun Zhang

CAMERON NUNN
Sophomore, Physics

“To survive the winter.”

CARL MANGANELLI
Sophomore, Computer Science

“To get used to this school because this is my first semester here.”

KATIE SOEDER
Senior, Communications

“I’m graduating, that’s the number one goal in the semester. And I’m also doing an internship this semester. My second goal is to do well in my internship, and help spread the word about UMSL.”

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE SEMESTER?

MON 25 HI
TUE 21 HI
WED 37 HI
THU 43 HI
FRI 36 HI
SAT 41 HI
SUN 36 HI

LOW
LOW
LOW
LOW
LOW
LOW
LOW

5 LOW
12 LOW
28 LOW
23 LOW
30 LOW
23 LOW
23 LOW

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Lead singer Brendan Urie of Panic! At The Disco
**NEWS BRIEFS**

*New UMSL scholarship helps students graduate amidst Pell changes*

Effective in the 2012-2013 school year, the Federal Pell Grant lifetime limit was reduced from 18 semesters to 12 semesters or from nine to six school years.

While individual Pell amounts have not changed, aid was effectively cut off for long-term students who had reached the maximum. With no grandfathering process, the new policy left some projected 100,000 students across the nation on the verge of graduation without any federal aid and a whopping tuition bill.

UMSL has initiated a new scholarship, the Senior Degree Completion Program that has helped six recipients in fall semester of 2013. To be eligible, the student must: (1) have exhausted federal and state aid, including loans; (2) be making Satisfactory Academic Progress with a 2.0 cumulative GPA; (3) be working on his/her first bachelor’s degree; and (4) be within 30 credit hours of degree completion. Preference will be given to students within one semester of graduation with 15 credit hours or less remaining in their program.

*UM system president pushes for tuition freeze in 2014*

Last week, Governor Jay Nixon proposed increased spending in higher education of more than $80 million, with major allocations for STEM and mental health needs. Nixon, however, is calling on Missouri schools to not raise tuition for the 2014-2015 school year.

Tim Wolfe, president of the UM system, has agreed to make the recommendation to trustees, who may vote on the issue this week.

Some anxiety remains as the Legislature has not yet decided on Nixon’s proposed measure.
KMOX host Charlie Brennan speaks at economic lecture

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Brennan expressed his love for the city of St. Louis in the form of a casual lecture in local history. He shared stories of the area's notable men and women whose lives and work made a lasting impact on the world. Brennan's speaking points ranged from well-known St. Louis celebrities to overlooked influential locals in the fields of politics, music, aviation and economics.

The lecture began with Brennan discussing the disputed date of when St. Louis was founded. While the specific calendar date is debated, what is certain is the age of St. Louis founder Auguste Chouteau, who was a mere 14 years old when he first arrived to the city in February 1764. "There's a lot about St. Louis that you don't learn in school," Brennan said.

Notable locals mentioned in Brennan's hour-long lecture ranged from Twitter founder Jack Dorsey to Bear literature legend William S. Burroughs. Brennan claimed Charles Lindbergh, the St. Louisan who first flew across the Atlantic, was effectively the first live media superstar. A little gentle ribbing was included in Brennan's lecture as he mentioned Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the founder of the city of Chicago, Illinois. Point du Sable, a Missouri native who also died here, inspired the baseball fan in Brennan, who joked, "the founder of Chicago would rather live and die in Cardinal Nation."

"My point is, if you've got it, flaunt it," Brennan said before taking questions from the audience. He mentioned many instances of deeply impoverished locals, many of them orphans, defying odds and achieving widespread success within their lifetime. He emphasized how "humble beginnings went on to create great things."

Brennan has served St. Louis at KMOX for 25 years. Known for his passion for St. Louis, Brennan's work has received widespread recognition. For five years in a row, he has been named "One of the Most Influential St. Louisans" by the St. Louis Business Journal. St. Louis Magazine called Brennan one of St. Louis' 50 Most Powerful People.

Brennan has been involved in many community-oriented campaigns. One recent initiative successfully raised medical benefits for blind Missourians. In 2012, Brennan recruited enough volunteers to plant flowers along area highways. To commemorate St. Louis native and "Father of Rock-n-Roll" Chuck Berry, Brennan and his listeners raised over $100,000 in 2011 to erect a statue in Berry's honor.

Brennan has engaged listeners in political causes, as well. In 2011, he urged listeners to call Missouri Governor Jay Nixon to stay the execution of death row inmate Richard Clay. In an act that surprised the nation, Brennan and his supporters swayed Nixon's decision. Clay appeared on KMOX afterward to thank Brennan and his listeners.

Brennan hosts his radio show every weekday on KMOX from 8:30 to 11 a.m. He uses his airtime to facilitate discussion on local and national issues.

Hypnotist Josh McVicar enchants students at Pilot House

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

Students were under the spell of hypnotist Josh McVicar as he performed his trickster routine at the Pilot House on January 23. Some giggled as Mickey and Minnie Mouse made out. Others saw images of their parents in a state of bliss, rapture, and excitement. A group of giggly students danced to Mickey Cyrus' "We Can't Stop." They even did Michael Jackson impersonations and went into a 1970's time warp.

McVicar is a certified hypnotist with over 10 years of stage experience. A member of the National Guild of Hypnotists, McVicar applies his extensive training to aid his clients in achieving goals ranging from smoking cessation and weight loss to stress and anxiety management. His venues range from Applebee's to major corporations.

McVicar described the concept of hypnosis as aiding the mind's ability to learn. Elements of hypnotism include listening, seeing and feeling. McVicar claims that within a two-hour period, the hypnotic process can take a participant into a deep subconsciousness that results in a feeling parallel to receiving a full night of sleep.

"You cannot be hypnotized against your will, nor will you not be induced into doing anything mortifying or demeaning," McVicar said. He comments on how hypnotism is a commonplace practice. "Many of you have been hypnotized many, many times before," McVicar said. "Whether you have lost your sense of direction on the road, or you are immersed in reading a book or an assignment."

McVicar presented the audience with an uproarious and side-splitting show. The event was enhanced by the immediate audience interaction, quick wit, and explosive surprises brought about by the intensification of McVicar's voice. A large group of students readily responded to McVicar's call for volunteers and clamored to the stage. McVicar put them into a deep trance with the cadence of his voice, repeatedly chanting "sleep" alongside soothing background music. The impact of his voice made its way to audience members seated at a back table.

When McVicar awakened the volunteers, everything and anything was fair game. The volunteers rushed out into the audience to help Peter Pan save Tinker Bell from an evil villain. Some participants had to explain why they were driving 95 miles an hour in a 50 mile per hour zone to a police officer played by McVicar. "I had to go poop," one volunteer responded.

The volunteers became wildlife biologists who invented exotic animal hybrids ranging from tiger-squirrels to elephant-monkeys, each with odd sounds. Later, volunteers expressed their hidden preens in members of the audience they were familiar with. "Why don't you just call me" one woman cried to her friend in the crowd.

For more information on Josh McVicar, visit mcvicarism.com. You can also keep up with McVicar on Facebook and Twitter.
GALLERY VISIO

‘All That Becomes Death’ art exhibit opens at Gallery Visio

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

Gallery Visio hosted the opening reception of their newest exhibition, “All That Becomes Death,” on January 23. Students and faculty enjoyed a light buffet lunch as they viewed the works of St. Louis artist Peter Seay. The collection featured seven untitled mounted pieces and a dichromatic video projection.

The gallery space was packed for the opening, with curious viewers who snacked on spinach dip and baked desserts as they chatted with fellow attendees. Others stood closely to the artwork as they asked Seay questions. His responses to direct inquiries about his pieces were intentionally ambiguous, as was evident by the collection’s curator essay.

Instead of the usual string of paragraphs explaining the artist’s intent, Seay accompanied his exhibition with a list of cryptic clues. Of the nine puzzling hints, Clue 5 made the most sense in relation to the exhibit. It read “They dance on the ceiling position (56),” ambiguously interpreted to represent the projected media piece.

The black and white footage that played on the wall featured a masked figure with a similar shadowy silhouette overlapping it. The visual layering created an eerie, ephemeral effect. Every few seconds, the position of the figures would change slightly, causing viewers to take a closer look at the footage. Many observers questioned if the image had changed at all, creating a collective sense of shared doubt while viewing the installation.

Seay’s printed pieces consisted of a single female figure photographed repeatedly in slightly altered positions. The photographs were printed on matte paper, layered with a dozen other images, each varying only slightly from the next. These images were then pulled to a plywood board and mounted on the gallery walls. The superimposition created a strange effect, reminiscent of a peripheral image or a song with a slight slip.

The overwhelming comment overhead was, “They dance on the ceiling position,” whether or not the images differed from one another. For instance, two unprocessed pieces that faced each other seemed identical, until inspecting the slight differences in hand position and wardrobe composition. In some portraits, the figure seems to defer only in the stitching of her jeans or how her hair lay over her shoulder.

One uncut piece seemed to stand alone upon initial inspection. Closer examination of the print showed a stack of paper underneath. With Seay’s permission, viewers carefully lifted each sheet to reveal additional images similar to the first with only minor distortion.

Seay mentioned the importance of selection of space to his work. He spent three days working on the exhibit in the gallery. Instead of bringing in finished pieces, Seay photographed his subject on location, and prepared each piece within the gallery space. This element introduces a deeper connection to the physical creative environment. This link was further strengthened in another untitled piece in the center of the room, where Seay hung the thick paper mat he used to prepare every paper component of the collection.

Seay commented on the intentionality and the process of producing fine art for a wide audience. He affirmed that his creative impulse was focused on this process, more so than the finished product. He mustered for a moment over an idea he usually employs in his paper installations, where he leaves the large scraps of sliced paper on the floor as they fall. The mess would have further emphasized the effort Seay put into his work within the gallery space.

“All That Becomes Death” will remain at the Gallery Visio until February 19. For information on gallery hours and upcoming events, visit the gallery in-person, or online at stlgov.edu/galvisio. More of Seay’s artwork can be found at petersonny.com

TOUHILL REVIEW

‘Wizard of Oz’ ballet spins magic on Touhill stage

CATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

Children in fancy dresses turned out in force for a charming, kid-friendly "Wizard of Oz" ballet at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on January 24 and 25. The dance presenting organization Dance St. Louis brought Memphis Ballet's production based on the popular L. Frank Baum favorite.

"The Wizard of Oz" books have been the inspiration for adaptation in several forms but the classic movie with Judy Garland is the inspiration for the baller. Fans of the movie are certain to be charmed by this light, sweet dance version.

The Touhill's Anheuser-Busch Hall was packed for the Saturday afternoon matinee, with about half the audience made up of children and the rest parents, grandparents, and friends. Take the boys and girls dressed for a trip to a live performance, several girls were also dressed as Dorothy.

In dance, the story is told by movement and music. In this case, that music is appealing, major-chorded sounds by Benjamin Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Gustav Holst. The choreography by Steven McMahon tells the story well, with sweet, sometimes comic dancing and a sprinkling of pantomime. Props and silhouettes projected on the backdrop create an appealing setting.

Dorothy was danced by Julie Niekraa on Saturday afternoon, who danced with girlish energy as she frolicked in the yard of her Kansas farmhouse before the tornado whisked her off to Oz. Auntie Em (danced by Stephanie Mei Ham) and Uncle Henry (Daniel Russel Cooke) embodied domestic warm and parental concern when Dorothy goes missing before the approaching storm. Byn Gilbert portrays Miss Gulch with straight-backed, nose-up posture and twitchy movements, an effect both scary and funny. Rafael Ferreras Jr. was magically silly in his two roles, the traveling magician in Kansas and, later, the Wizard of Oz. Virginia Pilgrim danced the role of Glinda the Good Witch with lightness and fairy-princess appeal. The Munchkins who send Dorothy off to see the Wizard were played by a children’s troupe, who are as pure as they could be. The same children also dance as citizens of the Emerald City, along with adult dancers.

The comic dance highlights of the show are Dorothy’s companions on the Yellow Brick Road, which is not surprising considering the cast of the film. Scarecrow, played by dancer Ray Bolger in the movie, is danced by Travis Bradley with energetic high leaps and wobbly legs, topped by a winning smile. Dylan G-Bowley adds touches of modern, popping-and-locking to his dance portrayal of the Tin Man.

The most comic and livelier performance came from Kendall G. Britz Jr. as the shaggy-mane Cowardy Lion. These four dancers were the heart of this delightful performance. Another stand-out was Crystal Brothers, who danced the role of the Wicked Witch, with style and high leaping power. A green spotlight on the dancer added to her aura, as did a fabulous green and black costume.

Ensembles pieces were among the most charming. The Poppies the Wicked Witch tends to slow down Dorothy and her companions were portrayed by ballerinas in lovely yellow-orange tutus. Male dancers in white portrayed the Snow that Glinda the Good sends to counteract the effect of the sleep-inducing effect of the poppies. The scene was one of the prettiest and most pure ballet in the production. The Flying Monkeys were delightful as well, with arms bent and shoulders hunched forward as they menaced Dorothy and her friends.

The overall effect of Memphis Ballet’s "Wizard of Oz" was magical, light-hearted and charming, a perfect introduction to classical dance for any child.
Campus Recreation offers athletic opportunities for UMSL students

KARLYNE KILLEBREW
STAFF WRITER

The 2014 spring semester is loaded with recreational opportunities for University of Missouri-St. Louis students. There are many options to accommodate busy schedules. Participants can choose to be part of a seasonal league, compete in a one night tournament, or simply attend an exciting afternoon adventure. Included below are some examples of existing UMSL intramural teams.

Coed Volleyball: Participants play in a league on teams of 6. From February 5 until April 14, games will be held on Mondays in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center from 7 to 10 p.m. January 30 is the registration deadline.

Basketball: This is also a league sport played with teams of five. Both a male and female division exist and the season will run from February 11 to April 15. Games are Tuesdays nights from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. The season will run from February 11 to April 15. Games are Tuesdays nights from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. The deadline for registration is also January 30.

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IS COLLEGE A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY?

POINT: There are better ways to get ahead

The idea that a college education is a prerequisite for success is antiquated and ignorant. In this day and age, self-directed learning is easier than ever. Long gone are the days where books and information were only easily accessed by the wealthy. Anyone with an internet connection or a library card can increase their knowledge on just about any subject, if they're willing to put in the time and effort.

More and more top-tier universities are offering free distance learning courses. This means that just about anyone can sign up for an online course on a variety of subjects. These free courses allow participants to watch lectures (sometimes live), follow along on a course of scheduled readings, and engage with the course material in a hands-on way. College is not enough on its own. Employers don't care that you went to college; what matters is the skill set that you can bring to the team. There are many ways to build your own unique skill set without going into debt and paying hundreds of dollars to take classes that have nothing to do with the career you're seeking.

High school graduates should foresee college (and the beginnings of what is almost certainly to be pointlessly and prodigiously dead) in favor of getting their hands dirty. Get experience in the fields that you want without paying for it: apply for entry-level positions or volunteer at as many places as you can. You may not be making very much money, but at least you won't be spending money you don't have by taking out loans in order to finance an internship (a process that is, essentially, paying to work for free).

Real-life experience and self-directed learning is the way of the future. It's time that the next generation of leaders disentangle themselves from the financial and emotional trap of higher education and seek their own success.

COUNTER: College is worth every penny

It's a well-known fact that college costs a lot; both in terms of money and time, but is it really worth the risk? Of course. It's true that money and time rules a lot of society as we know it, but one thing that we really shouldn't worry about when it comes down to those two factors is education. Going to college makes it easier to learn, have new experiences and build your own unique skill set. Scholarships and grants are available to help students pay for college. Financial aid is also a huge benefit. It can provide students with the money they need in order to cover some of the costs that the school won't. With that, and grants becoming more readily available to students, the cost of college doesn't have to be so great.

Having an education is a privilege. When you've gone from kindergarten to middle school to high school, why wouldn't you want to see how far you can go in your education, and how far you can travel in your career with the help of a degree?

A lot of people underestimate the value of a college experience. By going to college, students are able to get their hands on a variety of opportunities that can positively shape their character and future, such as internships and study abroad experiences. Studying abroad helps students to expose themselves to other languages and cultures in a safe, secure environment. Internships provide students with experience in the fields in which they wish to work, giving students a closer glimpse of that dream job they've always wanted.

College is also flexible when it comes to time. Many go for the online experience because they don't have the time to physically go to school, making it a great option for non-traditional students. For those who physically go to college, course offerings tend to be flexible, making it easier to work your class schedule around other responsibilities.

Of course, many see money as an obstacle but the truth of the matter is that money is always going to be an obstacle in life. Why not use the money you have for something greater that will benefit you in the end? College is the ultimate investment in yourself and your earning potential.

With a college education, you increase your intelligence and have experiences that may help you see the world in a different light. This can make life more enjoyable for you. Ultimately, however, investing in a college education means that, statistically, you're more likely to make more money than you would without a degree. So how can money or even time be an issue, when a college education means that, in the future, you'll be able to come by both of those things more easily?

DANYEL POINTDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

As the years have passed, America has embraced music from many different cultures. We are all used to different kinds of music such as Indian, Spanish, Japanese, and more. Even so, one pop culture trend has had our ears at attention: Korean music.

Korean music is known to a variety of Americans as Kpop, but the genre involves more than just pop music. Kpop influences vary from pop to rock, hip hop, and R&B. So how has this particular culture grabbed hold of so many of our attentions?

It could be fact that though a fair amount of Americans don't know what the artists are saying in their lyrics and their music videos are enjoyable to look at. They're creative and, most of the time, out of the ordinary, which is great for attracting attention. For those who take the lyrics that are being performed, it's clear that the lyrics are very descriptive and poetic. Even the dance moves do a great job of portraying what the lyrics are trying to get across.

For instance, the very well-known Kpop artist Psy is known for the song “Gangnam Style.” His lyrics described how he likes to party and hang out. Gangnam is a wealthy neighborhood in South Korea and throughout his song, you can see that that's how he's decided to live it up. His video was completely entertaining, with entertaining dance moves, funny scenes and upbeat music. What's not to like?

There are many other reasons why Americans, even after “Gangnam Style,” are so interested in Korean music. Many Kpop artists collaborate with American acts: for instance, Psy has collaborated with Snoop Lion and 2ne1, a Korean girl group, has worked with Will.i.am.

Korea does a great job of promoting American music. Kpop artists regularly perform covers of popular American music during their concerts, ranging from Michael Jackson and the Black-Eyed Peas.

Oftentimes, American music can be heard in the background of many Korean films and television shows. Kpop artists also have concerts in America; this benefits the fans they already have here, but also gives them the opportunity to attract new listeners.

Kpop artists work so hard to produce their music and have made it prosper it's only natural for people to learn to love something beyond what they've used to, when given the opportunity.

Korean music has done an excellent job at influencing Americans, but many should still remember that though Kpop is one of the big trends of today, there is still more music from various cultures that may spring into the spotlight as well. Hopefully, this is just the beginning of many changes to come.
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**Sasha & Nathan**

**IN: HAPPY NOT-SO-NEW YEAR!**

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**-NEWS@NOON-**

**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