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.
Demolition plans delayed after community objects

SIMONE KIMBLE
STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri–St. Louis’ summer plans to demolish their first dormitories on campus, which was also slated for demolition in 2014–2015, have changed. The fate of the old Alumni Center, a historic home at the corner of Natural Bridge and Strobridge at the entrance of North campus, which was also slated for demolition, is less clear but demolition this summer appears to be on hold.

A March 22 article in the Post-Dispatch revealed plans by the university to demolish several unused buildings on the campus, including these historic ones, because it would be too costly to renovate them. The Sisters of Charity had sold the convent buildings to UMSL in 1993 but the buildings are no longer in use.

The demolition plans brought objections from people in the surrounding Bel-Nor neighborhood. Dan Riley, a Bel-Nor resident, started a petition to save the former Incarnate Word Convent and the Alumni Center, which attracted supporters from around the St. Louis area.

On April 14, university officials met with members of the North County community who had expressed concerns about the planned demolition.

Bob Samples, associate vice chancellor of advancement for university communications, stated in a Post-Dispatch article on April 16, that the university “would hold off on demolition of the old convent site and issue a request for proposals to see if individuals are interested in renovating the facility and putting it to a positive use.”

“We listened to people, we listened to the petitions and responded accordingly,” UMSL Chancellor Thomas George said.

“We decided that we’re going to basically put it up for sale. If there is a buyer out there who would like to buy it, and they are going to have to fix it up and put it to a good use, we’d be open to that,” Chancellor George said. “So we’ve got probably up to the next half year to see if there’s interest, if there is a buyer. We’re not going to sell the land, we would rent the land, but we would sell the facility.”

The Current

HUNG NGUYEN
MANAGING EDITOR

STUDENT ACTIVITY BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

The Student Activities Budget Committee recommendations for the 2014–2015 academic year have been submitted to and approved by Vice Provost for Student Affairs Curt Cournoyer and Chancellor Thomas George.

Of the $966,629.93 requested, SABC recommended budget allocations of $498,256 and $5,000 in service fee allocations. Student organizations were notified in mid-March and SABC heard individual appeals from late March to early April.

SABC is comprised entirely of student volunteers headed by SGA Comptroller, Daniel Armistead. After student recommendations are made, they are reviewed by the Vice Provost for Student Affairs who then presents them to the Chancellor for final approval.

STUDENT ACTIVITY BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Minority Student Nurses Association
REQ: $1,825.00 | REC: $7,000.00 | SF: $3,190.00
Missouri Optometric Student Association
REQ: $4,225.00 | REC: $6,275.00
Muslim Student Association
REQ: $11,980.00 | REC: $1,825.00
National Art Education Association
REQ: $3,029.00 | REC: $1,825.00
National Optometric Student Association
REQ: $3,870.00 | REC: $2,825.00
Opera Ensemble
REQ: $9,920.00 | REC: $3,975.00
Order of Omega
REQ: $145.00 | REC: $750.00
Pan-African Student Association
REQ: $7,585.00 | REC: $7,500.00
Pantheletic Council
REQ: $20,755.00 | REC: $4,525.00 | SF: $195.00
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
REQ: $2,458.00 | REC: $7,754.00
Philosophers’ Forum
REQ: $7,920.00 | REC: $2,310.00
Physics & Astronomy Club
REQ: $795.00 | REC: $725.00
Pi Kappas Alpha
REQ: $11,000.00 | REC: $4,250.00
Pier–Laclede Honors College Student Association
REQ: $3,350.00 | REC: $3,460.00
Political Science Graduate Student Association
REQ: $9,895.00 | REC: $5,975.00
Pre-Dental Society
REQ: $1,980.00 | REC: $800.00
Pre-Med Society
REQ: $2,485.00 | REC: $1,850.00
Pre-Vet & Ecological Society
REQ: $4,352.00 | REC: $1,570.00
PRIZM
REQ: $7,887.78 | REC: $6,887.00
Psi Chi
REQ: $5,830.00 | REC: $1,500.00
Psychology Graduate Student Association
REQ: $6,375.00 | REC: $4,600.00
Public Policy Administration Student Association
REQ: $1,420.00 | REC: $500.00
Residence Hall Association
REQ: $24,212.49 | REC: $3,800.00
SEMPA – The U
REQ: $8,000.00 | REC: $1,570.00 | SF: $4,000.00
Sigma Pi
REQ: $9,895.00 | REC: $4,310.00
Sigma Tau Gamma
REQ: $7,920.00 | REC: $2,037.00
Society of Future Engineers
REQ: $610.00 | REC: $350.00
Student Government Association
REQ: $55,770.00 | REC: $44,500.00
Student Investment Trust
REQ: $10,000.00 | REC: $5,000.00
Student Nurses Association
REQ: $2,300.00 | REC: $1,590.00
Student Social Work Association
REQ: $13,191.83 | REC: $4,500.00
Students Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity
REQ: $7,280.00 | REC: $4,675.00
Tai Sigma
REQ: $1,800.00 | REC: $1,300.00
UMSL Instrumental Ensembles
REQ: $6,200.00 | REC: $1,460.00
University Program Board
REQ: $326,148.00 | REC: $258,449.00
University Singers
REQ: $14,400.00 | REC: $5,510.00
Vietnamese Student Association
REQ: $4,000.00 | REC: $1,950.00
Young Activists United
REQ: $2,757.00 | REC: $800.00
Zeta Tau Alpha
REQ: $9,800.00 | REC: $4,600.00

Totals
REQ: $966,629.93 | REC: $498,256.00 | SF: $5,000.00

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ONLINE
at www.thecurrent-online.com
The 2013-2014 academic year at the University of Missouri-St. Louis contained numerous construction projects, the conclusion of UMSL's 50th Anniversary celebration, and a number of notable student-led events. Below is a recap of some of the year's top stories.

UMSL's 50th anniversary was a year-long celebration that began with the kick-off gala, held at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on February 1, 2013. The entire campus community took part in the celebration, and the momentous year included the unveiling of a Jubilee quilt, countless events hosted by a variety of departments and organizations on campus, and the release of two UMSL-themed books: "First, a Dream: Reflections for a Golden Jubilee 1963-2013," edited by Ron Gossen, chief marketing officer and senior associate vice chancellor of marketing and communications, and "A Photographic History of the University of Missouri-St. Louis: The First Fifty Years," by Blanche Touhill, PhD, former UMSL chancellor.

The "Jubilee Symphony," commissioned for the occasion and composed by Barbara Harbach, professor of music, music history, music composition and harpsichord, was performed by the University Symphony Orchestra on October 9, 2013.

UMSL's 50th Anniversary Jubilee drew to a close with UMSL Jazz Ensemble's "Jazz for the Holidays" concert on December 2 at the Touhill.

However, for the first time in its nearly 50-year history, The Current, UMSL's student newspaper, was denied funding by the Student Activities Budget Committee (SABe). The Current was first notified of the committee's decision in mid-March; the appeal, held in early April, was also denied. On April 21, The Current's executive board met with UMSL administrators and deans to discuss the future of The Current. Though plans are still in the discussion stage, the university agreed to forgive the remainder of the paper's debt and supply it with a new sustainable funding source.

Construction on the new Science Learning Building began on October 29, 2013. The new academic building will add approximately 75,000 square feet to the science complex and will house teaching labs currently held in Benton and Stadler halls.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new campus Recreation and Wellness Center took place on November 21, 2013. The building will include a three-court gymnasium, fitness and recreation pool, three-lane running track, a wellness center, four group fitness rooms, strength and cardio training rooms, and other amenities. The 94,000 square-foot facility will be located south of the Millennium Student Center, in the space formerly reserved for parking lots C and D.

On November 1, 2013, the Office of Academic Affairs sent a campus-wide email announcing the forthcoming closure of the Ward E. Barnes Library. The library is set to close on May 17, 2014. Upon closure, the library's books will be divided and relocated to either the Thomas Jefferson Library or an off-site storage area where they will be retrievable upon special request.

The 22nd annual Founders' Dinner celebrated UMSL's 50th anniversary birthday party and was held on September 19 at the Ritz Carlton. The program recognized the outstanding leadership and notable charitable acts of UMSL students, alumni, faculty and donors and concluded with the Distinguished Alumni Award, awarded to six notable alumni on behalf of the UMSL Alumni Association. Chancellor Tom George was also recognized for his ten years of service as chancellor.

On May 5, 2014, the Office of Academic Affairs sent a campus-wide email announcing the forthcoming closure of the Ward E. Barnes Library. The library is set to close on May 17, 2014. Upon closure, the library's books will be divided and relocated to either the Thomas Jefferson Library or an off-site storage area where they will be retrievable upon special request.
UMSL’s annual Mirthday carnival supplied a much-needed study break for the campus population. On April 16, the north entrance parking lot of the Millennium Student Center was filled with fun and games, thanks to the efforts of the University Program Board, who plan and host the event every year. Carnival rides, food trucks, and a DJ booth kept the energy up for the duration of the event. A popular attraction, the booths manned by student organizations and campus departments provided opportunities for students to learn more about how to get involved in campus life while earning prizes. The day concluded with a B.O.B. concert at the Touhill, with heavily discounted prices available for students.

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 first book ever printed in the United States, “The Bay Psalm Book: Property of the Old South Church in Boston” was exhibited at UMSL’s Mercantile Library on September 13 as part of a nationwide tour to raise awareness of the book’s existence and generate interest for the upcoming auction. This honor was extended to the university by Sotheby’s, a New York-based auctioning agency known for its highly valuable international artifacts.

This year marks the first year that UMSL Homecoming has been held in February since 1974. The 2014 Homecoming Dinner and Dance was held on February 8 at the Union Station Hotel in Downtown St. Louis. This year’s theme was “Forever Red and Gold” and the Homecoming Committee raised $10,000 from 19 sponsors in support of the event. Adam Delgado, junior, liberal studies, was crowned Homecoming King, and Homecoming Queen went to Marissa Steimel, senior, communications.

In 2013, UMSL played a significant role in the St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF) by hosting film screenings and free campus events from November 15-21. 2013 was the first year that UMSL had been a major venue at the festival. The portion of SLIFF that was held at UMSL, “Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia,” focused on films from countries that were once part of Yugoslavia. The program was curated by Rita Caspo-Sweet, PhD, associate professor of media studies. The series of events were co-sponsored by University of Missouri Research Board and the UMSL Office of International Studies and Programs, in conjunction with Cinema St. Louis, the presenter of SLIFF.

The UMSL Sports Hall of Fame held their 2014 induction ceremony on February 7 at the Archview Ballroom of the St. Louis Hilton at the Ballpark. Harry Schroeder of UMSL Athletics served as master of ceremonies. Six individuals and two teams joined the ranks of elite UMSL athletes: Greg Bierling, Baseball (2000-03); Steve Buckley, Men’s Soccer (1971-72); Dan Chinnici, Baseball (1993-97); Kevin Missey, Men’s Soccer (1970, 1973-74); Coach Beth Goetz, Women’s Soccer (1998-2007); Frank Cusumano, Men’s Basketball (1980-84); Triton baseball team (1977); and UMSL women’s soccer team (1981 and 1982).
The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's golf team finished fourth place out of fourteen in the Great Lakes Valley Championships on April 27 at the Amherst Golf Club in Waterloo, Illinois. The tournament lasted two days. The Tritons carded a 646 (328-318), finishing fourth place after standing in seventh place after the first round. Illinois Springfield finished first with a 614 (304-314) followed by Southern Indiana (317-310 - 625) and Drury (313-325 - 638). Taylor Hoag, sophomore, marketing, contributed for the Tritons with a 152 (75-77).

The Triton could do no wrong through being hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. The next two runs for Illinois Springfield came from a fly out and a walk with the bases loaded. Paul Richmond, senior, media studies, and Michael Budka, senior, physical education, contributed for the Tritons with three hits apiece.

UMSL softball defeated the Bellarmine Knights 3-2 in the GLVC Tournament winner's bracket final on May 3 in Peoria, Illinois. The Tritons gained a 3-0 lead after the fourth inning thanks to Jenna Boudreau, junior, nursing, and Alex Stupek, freshman, nursing. Runs for Illinois Springfield came through being hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. Paul Richmond, senior, physical education, contributed for the Tritons with three hits apiece.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball team defeated Truman State (3-2) on May 1 in Springfield, Missouri. The Tritons defeated Truman State in the first and seventh innings. After scoring one run in the first inning and one run in the top of the fifth through nine hits, the Miners had no answer.

The Tritons defeated the Miners 12-1 through nine innings. The Tritons could do no wrong on offense, scoring all twelve of their runs in four innings. One of their runs in the eighth inning was off of Timothy Lois, senior, marketing, stealing home plate. In the second game, the Tritons fell to the Miners 1-3 through 13 innings. After scoring one run in the first inning off of Michael Budka, senior, physical education, single hit, the Tritons would not find home plate again. Missouri S&T scored one run in the top of the third, and the game remained tied at 1-1 until Missouri S&T brought two more runs through the plate in the top of the 13th.

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UMSL men's tennis lost to the #25 Indianapolis Greyhounds 5-5 in the second round of the NCAA Midwest Regionals on May 3 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Tritons were defeated by five matches in singles competition, and won one out of three matches in doubles competition. Tim McCarron, junior, international business, contributed for the Tritons defeating his singles competitor 6-2, 6-2. Also contributing for the Tritons were Tim McCarron, senior, accounting, and Nils Mueggenburg, junior, international business, who teamed up to win their doubles match 9-7. With the loss, the men's tennis team's season comes to a close.
### POINT: Promote healthy eating

Taxing unhealthy foods and subsidizing healthier foods would help promote a healthier diet. Fast food is cheap, but is cheap healthy? Fast food, including the most popular fast food restaurant, McDonald’s, may be convenient and inexpensive, but does anyone really know what is inside the “food” we love to eat? Obesity is a major issue in the United States. Obesity can be defined as a “medical condition in which excess body fat has accumulated to the extent that it may have an adverse effect on health, leading to reduced life expectancy and/or increased morbidity.”

Tax Bell is known for letting their meat air for days uncovered in a large bucket to thaw out. Once it has thawed out, the employees heat it up and serve it to hungry customers. No one really knows what goes on behind the scenes when unhealthy foods are produced. Yes, they may taste good, but the “food” that we consume could quite frankly be anything mashed together in a machine. The creators of these foods don't care about our health, they only care about the money in our pockets. Adding an additional tax to unhealthy foods would serve as a wake-up call to the American people. Not only are they hurting themselves by purchasing and consuming unhealthy, fatty foods, but they are supporting a system in which profit is prioritized over health.

Many college students may not stop to consider the damage they’re doing to their bodies by choosing to eat unhealthy foods. People find it much easier to just go through a drive through; McDonald’s is cheaper and easier to access than a home-cooked meal, but that convenience comes at a high cost. Those who eat dangerously fatty foods will have to deal with the consequences of their decisions later on in life.

Unhealthy, fatty foods are extremely cheap and convenient; changing that would discourage the purchase of such items. Putting extra taxes on unhealthy foods would make a huge difference in America's national health trajectory.

### COUNTER: Don’t tax “unhealthy” foods

Taxes “unhealthy” food is not a good idea. First of all, it is hard to identify the source of rampant obesity in America. It is the sugar, as many advocates of diets such as Atkins, Paleo, and South Beach, among others, would tell you! In reality, the “food” that we consume could quite frankly be anything mashed together in a machine. The creators of these foods don't care about our health, they only care about the money in our pockets. Adding an additional tax to unhealthy foods would serve as a wake-up call to the American people. Not only are they hurting themselves by purchasing and consuming unhealthy, fatty foods, but they are supporting a system in which profit is prioritized over health.

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### STAFF EDITORIAL

Five reasons you should compost

Previously only found in organic farms and hippie backyards, compost has now burgeoned into a full-blown trend for city dwellers and suburbanites alike. Compost is a highly nutrient rich soil that is produced by the decomposition of organic matter such as leaves, grass, and plant-based food scraps. It occurs as a natural process in the environment and can be sped up by humans for use in gardens.

So why exactly is compost so great?

1. Reduces landfill waste. 25% of landfill waste is made up of food and lawn scraps. These types of waste should decompose over time but do not because all of the waste is so heavily compacted. By throwing all of your apple cores, orange peels, grass clippings and other biodegradable organic waste into a separate bucket, you can cut down your share of taking out the trash by 1/4. You don’t even have to do loads of work; you merely take it outside and make a pile of the organic waste in a bucket or compost bin.

2. Saves money. Americans are the third largest consumers of chemical fertilizers in the world, consuming tens of millions of tons annually. All of this chemical fertilizer use amounts to approximately thirty billion dollars every year. While chemical fertilizers result in short-term success with larger, faster growing crops, the growth is unsustainable. Using compost to create a naturally nutrient rich soil results in a more long-term success. The crops may not grow as quickly or as big, but they will grow without requiring pounds of synthetic chemical fertilizers to be added annually, saving billions of dollars.

3. Reduces harmful emissions. The heavily compacted trash in landfills leave no room for oxygen to decompose the food and lawn scraps. Not only do these scraps not decompose, but anaerobic conditions result in the emission of methane fumes, a greenhouse gas more toxic to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. By cutting back on sending one ton of organic waste to landfills, you are cutting back on emitting 1/3 of a ton of toxic gases.

4. Conserves water. Added compost to soil increases its water holding capacity by building stronger root systems in plants, reducing evaporation and improving infiltration. This prevents runoff from occurring, as well as decreasing the amount of watering needed. Using composted soil with regular soil with added fertilizers can decrease the amount of water needed by about 30%, which in turn also saves money.

5. It's easy. There are only four things you need to remember when composting: brown, green, water, air. Composting is all about ratios and letting nature do its work. The brown is the carbon based ingredients, such as dead leaves, straw, hay, woodchips, etc. The green is the nitrogen based ingredients, such as grass clippings, weeds, most kitchen scraps, etc. The key is to maintain a ratio of about 6 to 1 of brown to green matter.

The health of the compost is also dependent on how much water is in it; it should only ever be damp, never wet or dry. The final factor, air, is also very simple: make sure that the pile is not compressed down and allows air to circulate throughout. In order to ensure that circulation occurs, give the pile a brief mixing every few days.

### Want to be heard

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Hey readers, sorry we haven’t been very active this semester. Our teachers have really been running us ragged.

As college students, we’re sure you understand how stressful it can get sometimes. We’re trying to do better next semester, Right, Nathan?

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