Governor Nixon announces summer jobs program

On October 30, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon announced a new 2015 summer jobs program to employ 2,000 low-income youths from St. Louis County and City.

The announcement was made by the governor at the St. Louis County Metropolitan Education and Training Center (MET Center) on October 30. The MET Center is a job training facility that serves the St. Louis area. The governor spoke about how an individual's first job is important to learning basic skills that will last throughout their career. Nixon followed up saying that, "for many young people, especially those in low-income communities, access to these kinds of meaningful job opportunities is limited." Providing these opportunities is the end-goal for this new summer jobs program. The program is open to young people between the ages of 16 and 21 years old, who live up to one hundred eighty-five percent of the federal poverty level.

In St. Louis, the federal poverty level varies by the number of individuals in the household but runs from $11,670 annually for a single person to $40,090 annually for a household of eight. One hundred eighty-five percent of these levels is $21,589.50 and $74,166.50, respectively.

The program will be pricely funded with federal capital through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The TANF program began in 1996 and provides funds for low-income families with dependent children. This availability of TANF money is the result of improved economic conditions. TANF resources are available for low-income families under 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Further funds will be available through the federal Workforce Investment Act and Community Development Block Grant. The new summer jobs program will utilize $5.9 million of federal funds to employ up to 2,000 youths in $8 an hour, 30 hours a week jobs. The $5.9 million sounds like a great deal of money but compared to the overall problem of youth unemployment, it is just a beginning. Assuming little-to-no overhead costs, $5.9 million distributed in such a fashion will last 12.3 weeks with each participant earning $240 per week before taxes.

Dance Professor Kumanomido inspires many

When lecturer and assistant dance professor Mariko Kumanomido is not at the University of Missouri—St. Louis teaching dance classes, she can be found teaching dance to children, dancing for different dance companies, or working at Tani Sushi Bistro.

Kumanomido started dancing when she was 8 and asked her mom for dance lessons. "I did not always want to be a dancer because I did not see it as a real job but I always loved dancing," said Kumanomido. As she grew older, she danced at The Studio St. Louis and then went to a more prestigious ballet school, the Alexandra School of Ballet, when she was thirteen.

She then left for college and realized what she was really passionate about. "I went to Washington State University for college and then realized that I wanted to do nothing but dance and so I went to University Missouri Kansas City because they had a very prestigious dance program and conservatory," said Kumanomido. Later on, Kumanomido received a scholarship to The Alley School and moved to New York City.

Kumanomido started at UMSL in the fall of 2013. "I always wanted to teach because growing up I always admired my teachers," said Kumanomido. Teaching children is a lot different than her classes with her college students but she enjoys it just as much. "Teaching kids is probably the most humbling part of my week," said Kumanomido, "it reminds me that dancing isn't always about perfection. It's about movement and expressing yourself and having fun."

Kumanomido can be considered an inspiration because of how she carries herself as a dancer, and how dancing has changed her outlook on life.
MSC evacuated

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

On November 5, at approximately 2 p.m., an alarm sounded in the Millennium Student Center building. The PA system announced an emergency and instructed occupants of the MSC to evacuate. As students waited outside for about 30 minutes, emergency medical service crews, along with the fire-department inspected the MSC. Building maintenance staff cleared the way for people to return to the MSC, and events at that time resumed as scheduled. According to Benard Diggs of the building maintenance department, someone was playing around and it triggered the alarm system.

Campus Crime Report

KAT RIDDLE
NEWS EDITOR

The clergy of the Greater St. Mark Family Church organized a meeting the night of November 6, for the Ferguson process at the church. A University of Missouri—St. Louis student was attacked after attending this meeting. According to KSDK, about 40 minutes into the meeting, someone pointed out that a young man, who has been live streaming from the protest, had his cell phone and camera out. Several people reportedly attacked him.

Chris Schafer, senior, business administration, says he was punched in the head, kicked in the ribs and stomach. He suffered scrapes and bruises, and says he knows those injuries could have been much worse in his interview with KSDK.

He was reportedly pushed out of the meeting and pushed to the ground before another group from the meeting protected him, allowing Schafer to flee to a Walgreens down the street. Someone called 911 and he was taken to the hospital where he posted a video online giving an update on his condition and the situation. Schafer told KSDK that he never recorded the meeting or posted the meeting online.

In addition to the incident, the University of Missouri—St. Louis Student Center. On November 5, an UMSL staff member recovered their stolen wallet with $50 missing from it. On November 6, another cell phone theft was reported in Oakland Residential Hall. In addition to the thefts, a dispute between students was reported on November 3.
Public opinion, along with the explanation for the shortages of women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, was the topic of discussion given by Professor Bettina J. Casad, assistant professor in the department of psychological sciences. The lecture by Professor Casad took place in the Student Government Association Chambers in the Millennium Student Center building on November 5 from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Pizza and beverages were served. A reprint of a newspaper article by Natalie Angier published on September 2, 2013, was distributed at the event. The dialog with one of the monthly “What’s Current Wednesday?” discussion series that is co-sponsored by “The Current” and “The New York Times.” Editor-in-Chief Anna Glushko, junior, psychology major, moderated the event.

Professor Casad was introduced by Lynn Staley, associate teaching professor of English, who is a member of the organizing committee with Student Life and Communities Outreach & Engagement at UMSL. According to Casad, there is a lot of progress for women in disciplines such as biology and other subfields represented in STEM. However, Casad noted that there are different and lower levels of representation for women in fields such as computer science, physics, and engineering. Casad addressed what she felt was the misconception by industry professionals that “women are choosing not to go into the STEM fields” by pointing out the scarcity of American engineers compared to other countries.

“My argument is this: the sciences and engineering is critical for economic, foundational, and competitive success in a global economy. If there are not enough engineers in the United States, we will be at a disadvantage,” Casad said. According to Casad, there is research that sends a message regarding diversity in the STEM fields. “A diverse and skilled workforce is more effective when it comes to such factors as race, gender and life experience. There is more creativity among a diverse workforce than more homogenous teams, and this is good for scientific innovation and the bottom line,” Casad said.

The downside of STEM that was discussed by Professor Casad at the lecture is the cultural socialization, especially among ethnic minorities, that may discourage women from entering into technology. “Among the factors that result in women not entering in the STEM field, or changing their major, include encountering people in college who do not look like them. Also, women are often attracted to fields where they can help others, which is often cited as a greater value than entering into the sciences,” Casad said.

Jaleah Williams, graduate, higher education, changed her major from a STEM field. “A diverse and skilled workforce is more effective when it comes to such factors as race, gender and life experience. There is more creativity among a diverse workforce than more homogenous teams, and this is good for scientific innovation and the bottom line,” Casad said.

The downside of STEM that was discussed by Professor Casad at the lecture is the cultural socialization, especially among ethnic minorities, that may discourage women from entering into technology. “Among the factors that result in women not entering in the STEM field, or changing their major, include encountering people in college who do not look like them. Also, women are often attracted to fields where they can help others, which is often cited as a greater value than entering into the sciences,” Casad said.

Jaleah Williams, graduate, higher education, changed her major from a STEM field. “A diverse and skilled workforce is more effective when it comes to such factors as race, gender and life experience. There is more creativity among a diverse workforce than more homogenous teams, and this is good for scientific innovation and the bottom line,” Casad said.

The downside of STEM that was discussed by Professor Casad at the lecture is the cultural socialization, especially among ethnic minorities, that may discourage women from entering into technology. “Among the factors that result in women not entering in the STEM field, or changing their major, include encountering people in college who do not look like them. Also, women are often attracted to fields where they can help others, which is often cited as a greater value than entering into the sciences,” Casad said.

Jaleah Williams, graduate, higher education, changed her major from a STEM field. “A diverse and skilled workforce is more effective when it comes to such factors as race, gender and life experience. There is more creativity among a diverse workforce than more homogenous teams, and this is good for scientific innovation and the bottom line,” Casad said.

The downside of STEM that was discussed by Professor Casad at the lecture is the cultural socialization, especially among ethnic minorities, that may discourage women from entering into technology. “Among the factors that result in women not entering in the STEM field, or changing their major, include encountering people in college who do not look like them. Also, women are often attracted to fields where they can help others, which is often cited as a greater value than entering into the sciences,” Casad said.

Jaleah Williams, graduate, higher education, changed her major from a STEM field. “A diverse and skilled workforce is more effective when it comes to such factors as race, gender and life experience. There is more creativity among a diverse workforce than more homogenous teams, and this is good for scientific innovation and the bottom line,” Casad said.

The downside of STEM that was discussed by Professor Casad at the lecture is the cultural socialization, especially among ethnic minorities, that may discourage women from entering into technology. “Among the factors that result in women not entering in the STEM field, or changing their major, include encountering people in college who do not look like them. Also, women are often attracted to fields where they can help others, which is often cited as a greater value than entering into the sciences,” Casad said.

Jaleah Williams, graduate, higher education, changed her major from a STEM field. “A diverse and skilled workforce is more effective when it comes to such factors as race, gender and life experience. There is more creativity among a diverse workforce than more homogenous teams, and this is good for scientific innovation and the bottom line,” Casad said.
Center for International Studies hosts screening of Natsanat

CULLEN WILLIAMS
STAFF WRITER

The Center for International Studies at the University of Missouri—St. Louis, along with the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professorship in African/African-American Studies, co-sponsored a screening and discussion of the award-winning short documentary, "Natsanat," with Cheryl Halpern, the film’s director and producer. The event was held November 5, on the third floor on the Social Sciences and Business Building (SSB) at UMSL.

A small group of students and visitors gathered in SSB 331 to personally hear from Halpern and to ask her questions regarding her work during the film, as well as her current work in filmmaking. Halpern stated that her involvement in political and social justice lead her to be an advocate for gender equality, which inspired her to document the women of Ethiopia during the reign of the Derg.

Halpern also shared with those in attendance the personal family loss by the Nazi Regime during the Second World War, which encouraged her to bring the story of these women to the attention of the public. She knew that she could not keep quiet when shown the cruelty these women endured.

The film, although only 25 minutes in length, documents the struggle and triumph that the female Ethiopian freedom fighters endured under the Derg Regime. The Derg came into power after overthrowing Haile Selassie in the mid-70s, leading to a civil war which claimed the lives of over a million Ethiopians.

The film shows the cruel and inhumane treatment of women and children who lived during this period. Villages throughout the country were pillaged and thousands of women and children were murdered and raped because of their gender. It was these actions that caused the women of Ethiopia to stand up and fight for freedom, democracy and equality.

The women documented in the film have since gone on to inspire change throughout Ethiopia—serving in the Ethiopian Parliament and doing other political and social work to continue to bring change to their country.

After the viewing, Halpern stated that many of the countries where genocide has been prevalent have since become countries that have embraced and championed women in major political roles. In fact, Rwanda and Ethiopia are both countries that have more women in roles of political power than the United States.

The film has gone on to win awards at the Canada International Film Festival, Moontance International Film Festival, International Black Film Festival in Nashville, and the E. Desmond Lee Africa World Documentary Film Festival, as well as being nominated for the Audience Award at the San Francisco DocFest.

The film can be viewed for free at http://hq-creative.net/post/natsanat/

Dance Professor Kumanomido inspires many

JACQUELINE IRIGOYEN
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1

"Dance has taught me to always find my center and to stay true to myself," said Kumanomido. "Growing up as a dancer, I was criticized a lot by teachers and other people but my love and passion for this art always brought me back and got me to where I am today," she further explained.

There are so many people who work jobs they hate just to get the paycheck that they want or because what they want to do is not realistic as far as the real world goes. For Kumanomido, between all her teaching, and working at Tani Sushi Bistro, she is always on the go. While it may seem exhausting, when you have passion for and are dedicated to something like she does, it never really seems like just a job or just another day at the office. "There is a quote that I love that my friend Jen Medina told me once and it goes, 'when you dance from your heart, you cannot fail,'" Kumanomido said.

Kumanomido worked hard to be where she is today and did not let the money aspect stop her from doing what she wanted. She has proven how far passion and dedication can take you.
The Arianna String Quartet performed four works from various classical composers in front of a packed house on November 7 at 8 p.m. in Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center’s Lee Theater. The concert, titled “Beethoven and Klein,” included a performance by oboe master Alex Klein. Each of the pieces showcased a distinct element of the quartet and oboe.

The Arianna String Quartet consists of four members: John McGrosso on lead violin, Julia Sakkavos on second violin, Joanna Mendosa on viola, and Kurt Baldwin on cello. The quartet formed in 1992 and has been critically acclaimed as one of the best chamber ensembles in America.

Guest artist, Alex Klein, is considered one of the most talented oboe players in the world and has taught at Northwestern University and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. The first song performed was Mozart’s “Oboe Quartet in F Major K. 370.” Mozart wrote the piece when he was 24 years old and working with oboe prodigy Friedrich Ramm. The piece itself was written for a quartet, which means that the second violin sat out for the particular song. Mozart’s writing created a masterpiece quartet to showcase the talents of Ramm. He succeeded, showing off the amazing skill of the young oboe player and creating a lasting masterpiece for the instrument.

Following the Mozart piece, the quartet performed Amand Donat’s “Nocturno and Capriccio for Oboe and String Quartet.” Donat’s piece echoed a darker and more haunting theme that captured the intensity in the string section, while the oboe melodically moved in and out of the piece. The Capriccio then created an amazing sound of layered weaving, in which each of the instruments moved in and out of the spotlight, creating a beautiful melodic section, which faded into conclusion.

After the intermission, the group opened with Benjamin Britten’s pieces titled “Phantasy.” The piece was written for violin, viola, cello, and oboe and, in this instance, the lead violin sat out. Perhaps the most eccentric piece performed through the night, Britten opened “Phantasy” with a march sound and dive into an intense, military sound that made use of plucking and sharp, deliberate notes. The cello opened the piece alone, creating an amazing sense of tension, which continued through the entire piece.

Beethoven’s “Quartet in F Major Op.135”, his last full piece written before his death, concluded the show. Rather than following Beethoven’s regular form of grandiose musical landscape, Op.135 is a more minimalist piece. The second and final movements of the piece especially stood out as being quite unique and engaging. The second creates an element of extreme intensity in which three of the string instruments drum out a bit of noise while the lead violin dances over the top, creating a unique contrast that was quite memorable. In the final movement, Beethoven drew his inspiration from the phrase “Must be left” and listeners can clearly hear the instruments asking this question throughout the movement. As a whole, the piece worked as an amazing final act from the master composer.

One of the most notable features of the evening was the pre-concert segment. Before the show, the performers all took the stage to discuss each of the various pieces they were planning to play throughout the evening. For viewers who were not familiar with classical performance, it was a refreshing experience, which allowed each composition to be outlined and explained. It was plain to see that each of the performers had a passion for their work and for teaching others about what they do.

The Arianna String Quartet provided an enjoyable evening of music, which became more than just a concert performance but a kind of learning experience, allowing an accessible entrance point for viewers to delve into chamber music. The excellent musical performance made for an unforgettable concert experience.

UWMSL teams with SLIFF for program on woman film pioneer

Two University of Missouri-St. Louis professors, one in music and one in film, have teamed up for a special screening event at the 2014 St. Louis International Film Festival, which takes place from November 13 to 23.

The free special event at SLIFF, “A Tribute to Alice Guy-Blaché,” is co-sponsored by the Music Program and was organized by Dr. Rina Cases-Sweet, associate professor of media studies, Alice Guy-Blaché, the first woman director and possibly the first to direct a narrative film, had an enormous influence on early cinema yet was forgotten for years.

The highlight of the event is a screening of Alice Guy-Blaché’s 1906 silent film epic “The Birth, Life and Death of Christ” with live musical accompaniment. Composer Barbara Harbach, curators’ professor of music and director of Women in the Arts at UMSL, wrote an original score for the silent classic, which will be performed as live musical accompaniment by members of the St. Louis Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. James E. Richards, professor of music and associate dean of Fine Arts and Communication at UMSL.

The free screening takes place at the St. Louis Art Museum on November 16 at 2:30 p.m. The program also includes a new multimedia piece on Guy-Blaché’s life and career, created by Caspo-Sweet and video artist Zlatako Conic, an introduction of the film by Caspo-Sweet and post-film discussion.

Screenings of silent films with live musical accompaniment has become a standard in many film festivals and films series, including SLIFF, with musicians releasing the chance for the audience to compose and perform the soundtrack for classic films. The live music adds a dimension to the screenings that increases audience enjoyment and understanding of silent films.

UMSL has had an ongoing connection with SLIFF for many years and Caspo-Sweet has a special part of that. Last year, UMSL served as one of the festival’s venues, hosting events for a sidebar focused on films and filmmakers from the former Yugoslavia.

Dance St. Louis, which makes the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on the UMSL campus their performance home, is co-sponsoring a sidebar at SLIFF called “Dance on Film.” The program features seven free screenings, including “Tribute to the Nicholas Brothers” on November 22 at 6 p.m. at Webster University’s Moore Auditorium, “Taps or Die, about African-American choreographer Derrick Grant’s efforts to revive the classic American dance style known as tap, on November 22 at 8:30 p.m. at Webster University and a documentary on ballet legend Rudolph Nureyev, “La Passion Nureyev,” on November 18 at 8:30 p.m. at Plaza Frontenac Cinema.

This year, the festival has a special focus on African Americans, in light of the events in Ferguson, with a sidebar called “Race in America: The Black Experience.” Highlighting includes the special “The Digital Diaspora Roadshow,” in which community members share family photos and discuss them on November 23 at 3 p.m. at the Nine Network, next to UMSL, in Grand Center. The documentary “Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People” will be shown November 22 at 7 p.m. at Washington University in St. Louis.

A full listing of films, special events (many free) and ticket prices at SLIFF this year is available at their website, www.cinematoulou.org.
There was plenty of action on the Triton athletic scene this past week. In Indianapolis, Felix Kusnierek, freshman, engineering, brought home the first two individual titles of the season in the 200 yard butterfly and the 500 yard freestyle. Kusnierek also finished second in the 200 yard freestyle. The Tritons had 9 second place finishers, with Matt Borges, freshman, business administration, Anson Tam, freshman, biochemistry, and the relay team of Fernando Robledo, freshman, engineering, Felix Kusnierek, Anson Tam, and Mladen Senicar, freshman, biology. On November 15, both the men’s and women’s swim teams head off to Liberty, Missouri to take on William Jewell University.

Women’s Volleyball finished out their regular season on the road. On November 5, the Tritons went across the river to take on McKendree University, where USML took a tough loss of 3-2. Jory Siebenmorgen, sophomore, studio art, scored a stunning 21 kills for the Tritons, followed by Haley Brightwell, senior, business administration, and Carly Ochs, junior, accounting, with 10 kills each. The Tritons were able to bounce back on November 7 when USML Volleyball traveled to Quincy University and posted a 3-1 win over the Hawks. Gina Peze, freshman, nursing, stepped up, scoring 14 kills for the Tritons, followed by Siebenmorgen with 12. Emily Bragaw, senior, elementary education, and Lindsay Meyer, junior, economics, rallied 23 digs apiece.

To close out the regular season on November 8, the Tritons endured one more loss at the hands of Truman State University with a final score of 3-1. In this game, Hannah Miller, junior, graphic design, brought in 12 kills for USML, followed by Lexi Rogers, sophomore, communications, who scored 10. Later this week, Volleyball heads off to the Great Lakes Valley Conference tournament from November 13 to 15. USML Men’s basketball had an early season exhibition game versus the University of Missouri on November 8 in Columbia, Missouri. The Tritons came out strong after the first half with an 11 point lead over Mizzou of 25-11. The Tigers were able to make a comeback and win with a final score of 77-54. Kevin Swanson, junior, fine arts, led the Tritons with 15 points followed by Tre Ogles, junior, liberal studies, with 13. The Tritons start off their regular season next Saturday against Grand Valley State in Quincy, Illinois as part of the Great Lakes Valley Conference/Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Challenge.

Triton Women’s Basketball opens their season up on November 14 in Bayarron, Puerto Rico, in the Puerto Rico Classic. Next week, they will host the USML Classic on November 21 and 22 in the Mark Twain Athletic and Fitness Center. Teams in the tournament this year include Maryville University, Minnesota State, and Lincoln University.
Social Comparison: are you measuring your ability to others around you?

ABBY NAUMANN
STAFF WRITER

Unless you are the type of narcissistic weirdo who get up in the morning and put your pants on one self-obsessed leg at a time, you have probably been in a class or study session and had the sinking feeling that everyone else in that room is smarter than you. I know I have! This gut-churning realization comes from a totally normal psychological process called social comparison theory. Social comparison theory, first proposed by Leon Festinger in the 1950s, states that people evaluate themselves and establish their self-worth by comparing themselves to others. We do this constantly. We compare how well dressed, educated, wealthy, athletic, and well-liked we are. A common example occurs in sibling rivalry when siblings quarrel over who is most successful. Social comparison is important because it enables us to learn about ourselves through our environment. It is partly how we understand what it means to be a good person or simply human. You might evaluate yourself differently if, say, you were raised by a pack of wolves, in which case you might think poorly of yourself because you are the worst at howling or ripping caribou flesh apart with your teeth.

However, the type of social comparison I am talking about is academic. It is easy to look around in a class full of bright students and feel like you are the dimmest bulb, especially at the college level. College brings together students from extremely diverse backgrounds, with all sorts of different levels of education. Some high schools excel in teaching the sciences, while others offer quality studies in grammar or literature. Although programs like Common Core are aimed at leveling the playing field, it is not yet a reality that all students come to college knowing the same material. College may be the first time you have been slapped in the face with this type of upward social comparison.

And I will be honest, it hurts, especially if you are the type of student who has always excelled in your previous environment. But here is the thing – you are not worthless. It is not your fault if you have never been exposed to Chinese, or taught the APA style of writing papers before. It is normal if you feel a little dejected, but others having an advantage does not take you out of the game. It means you have to work harder. I implore you not to let this type of social comparison lead you to give up on your dreams or to think of yourself as unintelligent.

Next time the professor passes back exams and your classmates sneak glances at each other's scores, do not panic. No matter what you earned, you are on your way. After all, there is no award for getting an 'A' on the first day. It is all about where you finish at the end of the semester. If you stumble along the way, you are all the better for it. You are learning about yourself, and after all, is that not the best kind of education there is?

If readers are interested in additional information, visit http://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/social-comparison-theory.

Technology affects people negatively too

TIFFANEE ARTHUR
STAFF WRITER

Technology continues to advance the way modern society runs. There are a ton of gadgets continuing to hit the markets that improve the daily lives of our society. Science and technology has reached a height that no one from the 50s could ever imagine.

Society continues to use technology to its advantage and now is dependent on using such machines every single day, so much that humans cannot seem to live without them. This has changed the way that humans interact with one another, and even how humans take care of themselves.

Here are some ways that the overuse of technology has negatively affected society:

1. Lack of social skills
   The prevalence of media outlets, such as video games and social media sites like Facebook, causes people to lack experience speaking on a face-to-face basis. This can result in a loss of being able to read body language and social cues. This is also dangerous when it comes to children who spend a lot of time on the Internet and are still developing these social tools.

2. Poor sleep habits
   People get so engrossed in technology that it keeps them from going to sleep. This can be from binge watching the latest Netflix series or simply reading Facebook status all night. The constant wave of information can make it very difficult to shut the brain off, which keeps the user from falling asleep. This can cause all sorts of health issues.

3. Lack of privacy
   The Internet is known for giving out all sorts of information to anyone. There are websites that can track a person's phone number and location of residents in a click of a button. Viruses and other forms of malware can infiltrate the computer and steal all sorts of information such as credit card and social security numbers.

4. Deceit
   People lie, but it is so much easier to do it on the Internet. A lot of Internet users never bother to dig deeper, to find out who they may be talking to, or what they are reading online.

5. Lack of empathy
   The constant stream of violence on TV, movies, and live leaks can cause people to become desensitized to any type of destruction. Normalizing harmful situations in society is not actually normal. It creates lack of empathy, which then changes the way the world is viewed.

6. Neck and head pain
   Constantly looking down at devices can cause neck and back pain. Over time it can cause the neck to lose its natural curve. Eyestrain can also occur. This causes headaches and blurred vision.

7. Constant distraction
   By constantly focusing on a device instead of focusing on the here and now, there are times that people miss out on opportunities. There is also a rise in the number of injuries that occur because of people texting while walking or driving.

These are just some issues that can occur when society relies too much on technology. As a changing society, it is important to recognize these and other impacts of quickly developing technology that affect our lives, whether for good or bad.
"Contrast" is a mix of pluses and minuses

TIFFANEE ARTHUR
STAFF WRITER

The electronic game "Contrast" is an artistic design puzzle game made by independent developer studio Compulsion Games. In "Contrast," the player must solve puzzles that require movement between a 2D physical world and a 2D shadow world. The player can also manipulate objects in the 3D plane and take them to the 2D plane. This helps the player to see certain objects and new areas. There are things to collect which are simply called "Collectables," which gives you more of an insight on the characters that are introduced. "Contrast" is available for Xbox 360, Xbox One, PS3, PS4, and Windows.

The game is set in a strange 1920s noir setting, where people are represented by "shadows." The main characters Dawn and Didi are the only characters that are not shadows. The player controls Dawn and her imaginary friend Didi, a little girl with a curious mind who is determined to help her family out in any way she can. Together they set off in helping Didi's family with some very unfortunate situations.

The game play mechanics utilize both 2D animation (like the old school Super Mario Bros.) and 3D perspective. This makes for some interesting puzzle designs. The ability to shift to the wall and use the shadows of the surrounding area to navigate from place to place is very unique and creative. The player must be able to take advantage of the shadows and use them.

The character designs are also very creative. Dawn looks like a circus acrobat and fits very well with the world she is placed in. Didi has an almost circus look as well. The town looks as if it is based on 1920s Los Angeles, yet when wandering around, there are pieces of floating landscape in the distance and an unexplained misty void. It is as if the districts are floating in mid-air. Overall, the town is lifeless, which is fine due to the mysterious nature of the game.

The camera view in this game can get clunky. It usually happens when it switches between 2D and 3D. There are times when the player can get stuck due to the camera's inability to locate the player at all times. This can lead to all sorts of frustrating situations where it is impossible to complete a puzzle and the player has to reload and start over again.

There are also parts where the game can glitch out and render the player powerless. Some players would have to restart their systems because the game refused to reload a save.

The game sound is lackluster. There is no music that plays in the background and when there is music, it is not very memorable. This may be because it might distract the players from the overall atmosphere of the game, but having music in situations' ambience could be beneficial.

Overall, the game is interesting and different. Some of the puzzles are very unique and take advantage of the main elements of the game's ability to switch between 2D and 3D. Players can tell that the developers took time and used a lot of creative thought when it comes to the puzzles. The story is also a plus. The player will be interested to know how and why Didi's family is the way they are and how she ultimately solves their issues. However, with many glitches and a disjointed camera, it fails to give a perfect experience to the player.

GRADE
C+

SUBURBAN HEIGHTS
APARTMENTS
THANK GOODNESS
SUBURBAN HEIGHTS IS SO AFFORDABLE!

SPECIAL RATES FOR UMSL STUDENTS ONLY!

RENT STARTS AT
$525/MO

• Washer/Dryer Inside Every Apartment
• All Brand New Interiors and Appliances
• Gated Community
• Key Card Gates
• Air Conditioning
• Dishwasher
• Cable Ready
• Internet Included
• Water, Sewer & Trash $25 per month
• Emergency Maintenance
• Small Pets Welcome

To schedule a tour, call (314) 546-4034 or email suburbanheightsonline@gmail.com. Learn more at www.suburbanheightsonline.com. For more updates follow us on facebook at facebook.com/SuburbanHeightsApartments.