

The Current

THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS

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News From All Over

New radar system may revolutionize mapping methods

PROVO, Utah (U-WIRE) — A small radar system flown by plane that was developed by a BYU department may soon replace traditional mapping techniques, such as surveying.

The BYU Microwave Earth Remote Sensing Laboratory, part of the College of Engineering and Technology, is within a few weeks of test flying their newest radar system called YINSAR.

YINSAR, BYU Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar, will send out electromagnetic pulses at a rate of 1,000 cycles per second.

Two receiver antennas pick up the returning pulses at different times. The extra antenna make it possible to measure the change in elevation while mapping an area.

David Long, principal investigator of YINSAR, said there are many advantages to this radar system.

"It has applications to mining, highways, municipal areas, forestry, land management and use by geologists and archaeologists," Long said. "Surveying is more expensive and cannot be done as often. YINSAR is quite inexpensive, can be flown any time of day and during any season of the year."

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Prime minister, state legislator are honored at graduation ceremony

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
staff writer

A speech by a former Canadian prime minister was among the highlights of UM-St. Louis' commencement ceremonies held at Kiel Center on May 16.

Brian Mulrone, who served from 1984 to 1993 as prime minister of Canada, is known for his contributions to the 1988 Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States and the 1992 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) among Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

Mulrone spoke to graduating students about the importance of education. He quoted words spoken to him at the time of his own graduation.

"A good education does not provide you a standard of living, it provides you with a standard of life," Mulrone said.

Mulrone went on to talk about change, and to highlight some things he said do not change, which he described as "attractive anachronisms." Among them he included a sense of tolerance, friendship, family and the importance of doing a task well. Mulrone emphasized the importance of cooperation among nations when confronting problems.

"The truth is that little can be accomplished anymore without international cooperation because of the very nature of our problems," Mulrone said. "No nation, no matter how powerful, can solve its difficulties alone."

Both Mulrone and Sue Shear were pre-



photo by Stephanie Platt

Chancellor Blanche Touhill (left) and Professor Lawrence Friedman present an honorary degree to Representative Sue Shear at the UM-St. Louis commencement ceremony at Kiel Center May 16.

sented by Chancellor Blanche Touhill as recipients of the honorary degree of doctor of laws.

Shear, a retiring member of the Missouri House of Representatives is considered a

leader of the modern women's movement in America. She was the original sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment in Missouri. The University plans to rename its Institute for Women in Public Life in Shear's honor.

Board approves \$20 million U Center contract

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
staff writer

The Board of Curators has voted to approve a construction contract for the University Center.

According to official documentation, KCI Construction Company has been selected to build the new center for a cost of \$20,544,000.

That includes the "base bid" for the facility and a number of other features, including 12,302 square feet of shell space on the first floor, escalators, a bridge linking the building to Lucas and Clark Halls and food service equipment.

According to a description of the center included with the proposal the curators voted on, the facility will include space for a variety of functions, including offices for student organizations, lounges, study space, admissions, academic advising and student financial aid.

"The center will provide a 'one-stop' service location for students, faculty, staff and visitors," the proposal said.

According to the proposal, construction of the 168,400 square foot facility is scheduled to be completed in March 2000.

Rankins victory confirmed in recount

BY ASHLEY COOK
staff writer

A recently completed recount of the votes for this year's Student Government Association election followed a student grievance and a computer tallying problem.

Patrick Aaron Grove, who lost a close race for vice-president to incumbent Mike Rankins in April, had requested the recount.

"It was a very close election and there were about 70 or 80 votes that had to be hand-counted, and I thought, 'I guess I have a chance,'" Grove said.

Grove lost to Rankins by 16 of the 880 votes cast in the vice-presidential election.

Grove, who said he was unable to attend the recount due to work, was satisfied with the recount results.

"Rankins actually had two votes go in his favor," Grove said.

Steve Bartok, chief justice of the student court, said that some of the votes in the original election had to be counted by hand.

"The computer rejected 126 ballots where the student ID numbers were too far to the right," Bartok said. "These were cross-checked by hand in the registrar's office."

According to SGA election procedures, Scantron forms

Second grievance prompts dispute over court e-mail, filing process

are used as ballots, with the voter's ID number filled in by the election staff member at the polling site.

Bartok said that the computer problem had been taken care of and would not affect next year's election.

"I specifically asked the people over there [in the computer center] to write up a formula for the computer to read the numbers and letters no matter where they are located," Bartok said. "That is in the computer and it will be there for next year."

GRIEVANCE PROCESS UNDER SCRUTINY

The student court met in April to review the policy concerning the filing of election grievances.

Steven Wolfe, who ran uncontested for graduate school representative, filed two grievances by e-mail with the SGA. Barb Collaso, SGA treasurer and member of the election committee, had earlier said that grievances were not SGA's responsibility, and that she did not forward Wolfe's e-mails to the student court.

Wolfe said that he had not received an acknowledgement of his grievances from the student court.

"I have gotten no response on either one, and the honest truth, I don't expect any response," Wolfe said.

The office of the student court cannot receive e-mail since it does not have a computer.

"Since [the student court] has their own office, they should have their own e-mail," Wolfe said. "Maybe that's why I filed the grievance, to find a loophole."

Mike Rankins, vice president of the SGA, responded in an e-mail to Wolfe's grievance concerning the lack of a ballot box at the Honor's College, saying that staffing the poll proved to be impossible.

"This attempt also fulfilled the requirement described in the election rules," Rankins said in the e-mail to Wolfe.

Wolfe stated that he never received an e-mail response from Rankins.

Rankins also said in the e-mail that if Wolfe felt like there had not been due process in attempting to staff polls that he should "pursue a grievance regarding this matter."

Bartok said that the student court never received the Wolfe grievances, and that forwarding grievances through e-mail is impossible due to the lack of a computer.

"We are trying to get [grievance] forms set up, but I don't know how much longer that is going to be," Bartok said. "Our next goal is to get a computer."

U buys Daughters of Charity property

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
staff writer

UM-St. Louis has closed on the purchase of the Marillac Provincial House from the Daughters of Charity.

Reinhard Schuster, vice chancellor of administrative services, said the deal, which was completed June 3, involved the purchase of seven buildings occupying 27.4 acres of land for a cost of more than \$7 million.

Schuster said the University was considering a number of uses for the property. He said that one possibility was to continue the University's master plan, developed in 1993, to move all academic activities to the north campus, and use the south campus as a residential area.

Other options Schuster mentioned included using the land for the Pierre Laclède Honors College, moving the administrative services offices, or possibly relocating the elder care unit, since its existing location will probably be demolished as part of the redesign of the nearby highway.

"There's no end of possibilities," Schuster said. Schuster described the \$7,086,000 cost as a "discounted" price. According to an appraisal prepared by the Hunstein Company, the market value of the property was \$8.5 million. Schuster said that the Daughters of Charity sold about 8 acres of property included in the appraisal to the City of Glen Echo. He said that property, for which the municipality paid a price in excess of \$200,000, had limited access and was not particularly desirable to the University.

Additionally, Schuster said that the \$7 million figure includes a lease agreement, allowing the Daughters of Charity up to four years to vacate.

see Acquisition, page 3

Legislature sends Performing Arts Center funding to Governor

BY BRIAN DOUGLAS
staff writer

The Missouri House of Representatives has voted to approve an additional \$23 million for the proposed UM-St. Louis performing arts center which, if approved by governor Mel Carnahan, will bring the state's total contribution to the project to \$40 million.

Bob Samples, head of university communications, said the total cost of building the facility is estimated at \$50 million.

"It's approximately a \$50 million budget for the whole project, with 40 million from the state, 10 million in private sources," Samples said.

The \$23 million for the center was part of a \$185 million state capital improvements budget passed by the House, as reported in the Post-Dispatch on May 8.

Samples said that, if Governor Mel Carnahan approves the contribution, one of the next steps would be to finish securing the necessary funds.

"We're still making presentations and speaking

to private donors," Samples said. "That's an ongoing campaign."

Samples said the University currently has approximately \$3 million in private donations, but more funds may already be in the works.

"We're very optimistic we'll be announcing gifts to the building over the next several weeks," Samples said.



An artist's rendering of the proposed performing arts center.

Samples said that once the money is in place, the project would take approximately two years in construction.

Samples said that there is also some designing still being worked on. He said that the build designs, which construction companies actually bid on, were now being done.

Samples said that these designs contain more technical information, such as wall thickness, wiring and materials.

"The curators have already approved the schematic design. What follows the schematic

see Center, page 3

Amy Lombardo, features editor
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Features

Summer classes force inner child to grow up

Ever since I was about six years old, I have looked at the summer months as a time to be free from scholastic activity. It should be a time to play, to have fun, and to reject responsibility in any form.

Those carefree years ended abruptly when I entered high school. My parents introduced me to the foreign concept of "summer employment." I was suddenly obliged to fit a job into my busy schedule of sun tanning and hanging out.

But the work was far from strenuous. I handed out golf balls at Tower Tee and mowed a few lawns with ChemGras. It wasn't the kind of stuff that I brought home with me at the end of the day, if you know what I mean.

After I graduated high school, I also graduated to full-time status in the job market, at least from May until August. I continued to forget about school, however, until the bell rang again in September, metaphorically speaking.

Eventually, the time for change came about. I was having a rather difficult time passing a certain class, which I'll call 'College Algebra'. After withdrawing for a third time, I decided that drastic measures were necessary. I enrolled in a summer course.

I believe that this marks for me the beginning of my adult life and the slow death of my undisciplined youth.

I registered for practical reasons. I needed to pass this class to graduate. I needed to devote a lot of time to this subject since it is not my strong suit. A summer course would allow me to take the course without the distractions of other classes. Pretty mature logic, eh?

Well, it worked. My inner child is a bit disappointed that this reasonable and well-thought out process didn't fail miserably, but the adult in me is quite pleased that I conquered the math and ended up with a B+.

And so I began to explore the new world of scholastic productivity in the summertime.

This year, I took an even bigger plunge. The algebra class had been a mere three hours, and only met three days a week for an hour. This time, I accepted the challenge of 15 hours in ten weeks, and so far I'm winning the battle. (Knock on wood.)

Perhaps some of you also have that pesky little foreign language requirement lurking around your schedule. As a Mass Communications major, I bear that responsibility. I also happen to be a transfer student, and I find myself running out of semesters before graduation. In order to graduate on time, I had to think fast.

As luck would have it, I happened to overhear a conversation in one of my classes about a course offered here at UM-St. Louis called Intensive Spanish. I looked into it and the curriculum offered all 15 foreign language credits in one summer, or ten weeks. Spanish was filled, so I signed up for French.

The class meets Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 12:15pm. We have a chapter quiz every three days. It's only the third week of class, and yet I already feel confident that I could travel to Paris, introduce myself to strangers, order a meal, give someone directions, and tell random French people about myself, my family and list specific items I have in my room.

The class is intense (hence the name Intensive French), but the instructors, Sandy Harris and Nancy Durbin, are very helpful and very patient. It's a good thing too, because there is an extremely large amount of information to learn in a very short period of time.

I realize that I could have never completed a course like this one a few years ago. It's hard for me to admit, but I'm actually enjoying it. I suppose this is all part of growing up.

The kid in me is still counting the days until it's finished, though.



AMY LOMBARDO
Features Editor

COME ONE, COME ALL!

Annual Gypsy Caravan provides bargains and fun for everyone

BY AMY LOMBARDO
staff writer

When one generally thinks of shopping at UM-St. Louis, the typical items of interest might be books, notebooks, pens, pencils and other scholar-type necessities. This Memorial Day, however, the campus was filled with an incredible variety of treasures available for purchase.

The 26th annual Gypsy Caravan took place on May 25, running from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Over 600 sellers from all over the United States set up their stands full of goodies for collectors, buyers and lookers.

This is not the average rummage sale. Not only is it big in quantity, it's also big in variety.

The selection of furniture, antiques, clothing, toys, jewelry, and hand-crafted items was large. Furniture ranged from high-chairs to hutches, bed frames to tables, patio to garden to wooden chests. There were antique mirrors, furniture, silverware, quilts and dolls. There were also hand-made ethnic dolls, furnished doll houses and wagons. Miscellaneous items included woven baskets, plants, stained glass, wind chimes, musical instruments, purses and various collectibles. And this is just to name a few.

The caravan isn't just about shopping for unusual and unique things, it's also about eating some interesting cuisine. The food stands offered some standard favorites like barbecue (bratwurst, hamburger, shish kebabs), ice cream and sub-sandwiches. There was also Sugar Korn (sort of like caramel popcorn), egg rolls and ravioli available.

The North campus area began to be fenced off and organized on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. Sunday, at 8:00 a.m., the vendors were let in to start the set-up production. Even working all day, the process picked up again on Monday at 1:30 a.m. until about 7:00 a.m.

The Gypsy Caravan is sponsored by the Junior Division of the St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association and by Famous Barr.

Tammy Laws is the assistant director of volunteer activities for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra.

"(The Gypsy Caravan) started 26 years ago at Northwest Plaza. As it grew we moved on to the Arena," Laws said. "This is our fourth year at UM-St. Louis."

Laws said that the caravan plans to return to UM-St. Louis for some time.



photo by Stephanie Platt

David and Joannie Castle of St. Peters browse through a selection of Russian dolls at last month's 26th annual Gypsy Caravan. The event is celebrating its fourth year at UM-St. Louis.

This year the event went smoothly, and even the natural elements cooperated.

"It's kind of been an outstanding joke. We mention the Gypsy Caravan and people ask, 'Well, is it going to rain?'," Laws said. "The interesting thing about this year is that the weather was perfect. That hasn't happened in a long time."

The Gypsy Caravan proceeds benefit the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra education and outreach programs. This

year the fund-raiser collected \$178,000, that's \$38,000 more than last year. It totaled 40,000 people in attendance, beating last year's number by 10,000 participants.

The large crowd and numerous vendors took up a lot of space. But parking wasn't a problem. Off-campus parking was provided, as well as a shuttle transport service to and from one's vehicle.

"It was one of our best years so far," Laws said.

UNDER THE CURRENT

compiled by Erin Stremmel/staff photographer

If you were a cartoon character, who would you be and why?

"I would prefer to be Roger Rabbit because not only is he well-liked by everyone (except Dr. Doom) but he also gets Jessica Rabbit."



-Paul Hackenberger
Senior/Communication w/emphasis in theatre



"Rafiki (Lion King) He's intelligent, humorous, and a little bit kookie. He makes everyone laugh."

-Kelly Scher
Senior/Business

"Scooby Doo --get to eat scooby snacks and always solves the mystery."



-Jason Hershberger
Business/Finance major



"Tasmanian Devil-- He's F*#@!i crazy."

-Jason Nasrallah
Architecture major

"Answer is Coyote. Creative and persistent to kill Road Runner."



-Ziad Nasrallah
Junior/E.E. major

English professor will be missed by many

BY LISA M. PETTIS
special to the Current

There is a void in the English Department at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Professor Charles "Chuck" Larson, 54, passed away, May 10, due to liver complications.

Jane Williamson, chairperson of the English Department had worked with Larson since he came to UM-St. Louis.

"He had been having problems with his liver, but he taught up until the end of March," Williamson said.

Ellie Chapman, a friend and colleague of Larson, recently wrote an article about him.

"Larson grew up in the small Nebraska farm town of Wausa," Chapman said. "He studied at Carleton College at Northfield, Minnesota, and after earning a master's degree and doctorate from Indiana University at Bloomington, he joined the UMSL faculty in 1970. He was chairman of the English department from 1979-82 and again from 1988-94."

As a professor at UM-St. Louis, Larson specialized in 17th-century English poetry and the works of John Milton. However, Larson did not confine his talents and abilities to the English Department.

"He was presiding officer of the university faculty in 1995-96 and interim director of the College Honors Program in 1983-84," Chapman said. "He was a member of the Milton Society and the Modern Language

Association."

Larson was also known for his kindness and willingness to help others.

"He was terribly kind. He always had time for people," Williamson said. "He was genial, just a good-natured person. He gave good, friendly advice, and was a fine teacher and scholar."

A memorial service was held for Larson on May 15, in the Convocation Hall of the Pierre Laclede Honors College.

Chapman said the body was cremated.

"Richard M. Cook gave the eulogy," Williamson said. "The room was filled. There were people standing around the walls."

"Among the survivors are his wife, Deborah Aldrich Larson, who also teaches in the English department, and a son, Andrew Larson, of Oceanside, Calif.," Chapman said.

The family has set up a scholarship fund at UM-St. Louis for students studying English.

"The memorial fund is a good way to remember him because he cared about the students," Williamson said. "People have already started contributing to the scholarship fund."

Larson lived a short life, yet he touched many. However, there still remains a void in the English Department at UM-St. Louis.

"We're missing Chuck," Chapman said.

Movie Review

Buoyant 'Hope' gives life lesson

Hope Floats
Running Time: 110 min.
Rated: PG-13

Hope Floats is not really a typical love story. The men portrayed are not that lovable or romantic. Instead the real story is of the relationship between mothers and daughters. Sandra Bullock plays the role of Birdie Pruitt, who has returned home to Mama with her daughter Bernice after her marriage publicly falls apart.

Mama, (Gena Rowlands), and the grandchildren Bernice and Travis, (Mae Whitman and Cameron Finley), are memorable and enjoyable roles. There are several well acted scenes involving these characters. However, the movie tries to develop a wide range of emotions and characters resulting in a jerky story line. This leaves underdeveloped questions such as the whereabouts of Birdie's sister, Travis' mother, and her unexplained circumstances. The audience is left jump-

ing between emotions rather than fully developing the drama, the denial, the anguish of a destroyed marriage and the healing that family can provide.

Don't expect Harry Connick Jr. to bring any of his on-stage persona to the movie either. He doesn't sing and tries to look cute with an unshaven and crummy appearance. The town gossip is that his character, Justin Matisse has recently returned home because he was too slow. Its not explained if that meant at work or mentally. All the viewer knows is that his hormones are running at a faster pace.

Sandra Bullock's character helps you realize that you do not live your high school personality throughout your life. Getting a grip on the real personality of Birdie Pruitt is difficult but then that's the real point of the movie. How do all ages of women cope? Hope Floats helps ponder that question.

-Stephanie Platt

UM-St. Louis' Yahng named to athletic position at SLU

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff writer

Four years of hard work has paid off for Chuck Yahng. He was recently named assistant sports information director at St. Louis University.

Yahng has been the SID at UM-St. Louis for the past two seasons. He had gained both experience and contacts in his years of running the department.

In his tenure at UM-St. Louis Yahng has represented the university at the NCAA basketball championships, the Atlanta Olympics, and the 1996 College World Series.

"The College World Series was a great experience," Yahng said. "The entire environment and atmosphere was great. I'm really going to miss Coach (Jim) Brady and his program.

"I'm also going to miss athletic director Pat Dolan," he said. "She has been the best boss to work with. She gave me a lot of freedom and was always willing to work with me."

Perhaps the best part about the position at UM-St. Louis for Yahng was the people. He had made many friends during the four years.

"I'm going to really miss this place," Yahng said. "I have made a lot of really good friendships with everyone from the coaches, trainers and student athletes. I'm only going eight miles away so it isn't like I will never be able to visit."

The hopes of leaving a mark on the department are also a thing Yahng hopes he accomplished.

"I want people to remember for good or bad that I tried," Yahng said. "I always tried to give it my all and hopefully that was good enough."

One of the biggest advantages to the SLU job is more time at home. At UM-St. Louis it was Yahng's job solely for every sports stats and bit of information. At SLU he will work mainly with volleyball and baseball.

"It feels like I have been to 500 games at UM-St. Louis," Yahng said. "It was fun though. At SLU I will be able to concentrate on one team at a time and give them all of my attention."

AQUISITION, FROM PAGE 1

The University gains immediate control of Seton Hall and the Administrative Building. The other buildings, including the Marillac and Villa Buildings, a chapel and two garages, will come under the University's control later.

Don Driemeier, deputy to the Chancellor, said the buildings had been wonderfully maintained.

"That's what makes it such a prized piece," Driemeier said.

Driemeier noted that this was the only tract of property between St. Vincent's and Natural Bridge not owned by the University.

"It was natural for us . . . to look at it with a great deal of positive feeling," Driemeier said.

Schuster said that the Daughters of Charity had begun subdividing their property as enrollment dropped in the early 1970's.

Correction

In issue 923, Cristina Green's named was misspelled. We regret any confusion this error may have caused.

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Golf coach resigns

BY KEN DUNKIN
staff writer

After 18 years as the head golf coach Jim Niederkorn has resigned.

Niederkorn held the head coaching position longer than any other person. He had produced one NCAA Division II All-American, two All-District players and six all-conference players. He had been moderately successful.

He resigned in mid-May. Earlier

this year he had opted for early retirement at Pattonville High School where he had taught for many years.

Niederkorn will continue his work as Tournament Director for the Gateway Section PGA in Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois. He is chairman for the Bogey Hills Invitational.

The search for a new coach will begin immediately.

CENTER, FROM PAGE 1

designs are build designs," Samples said.

Samples said the performing arts center will benefit "students, particularly in the majors of music, art, communication and now the rejuvenated theater program that they're starting in this fall."

Samples said the center would also benefit all students by providing them with greater access to cultural activities.

"It would support efforts to bring culture to North County, which is really an under served area as far as culture goes," Samples said.

Students and faculty had raised some concerns about the center's ability to support itself. Samples said that projected figures for the operating costs of the facility were expected later this year.

"A private consultant has been hired to produce an operating cost estimate for the facility and we should receive that sometime this summer," Samples said.

There had also been concerns about the center's ability to draw crowds to fill the seats. Samples said that performances, not buildings, draw crowds.

"I think that the campus community will be amazed at the type of performances that will be put on there," Samples said.

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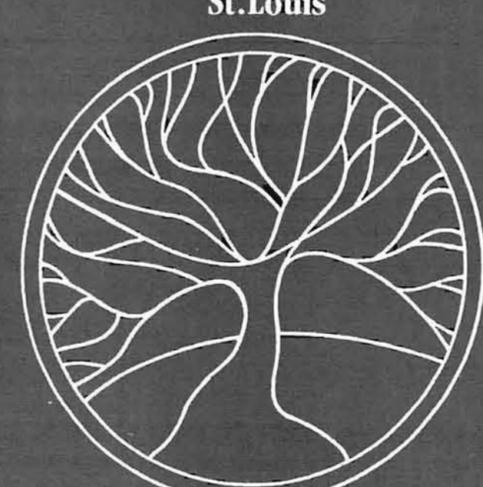
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