

January 31,  
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# The Current

Your source for campus news and information



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The latest in sports

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

## Wellness Center vote is postponed

Referendum had been planned for Spring '05

BY PAUL HACKBARTH  
Co-News Editor

A proposed Wellness Center for UM-St. Louis would provide students another building for their recreational activities. However, the referendum to vote on the expected \$25 million project has been postponed.

In September 2004, the Brailsford & Dunlavey Company unveiled a plan to students, faculty and staff at UM-St. Louis to build a Wellness Center on campus.

Thomas Helton, freshman, political science, and chairman of the Wellness Center referendum committee, said the Wellness Center would be a social activity center, not just a gym.

"It will give a chance for people who live on campus to participate in student life," he said.

D'Andre Braddix, sophomore, criminology, is another member of the student referendum committee, which consists of about seven to 10 members. Braddix said, "[The Wellness Center] would keep us up with other universities, it would help get students to this campus and it would help retain students because it has a social aspect to it."

The Wellness Center that students and faculty chose would include an instructional kitchen, a larger swimming pool, juice bars, more recreational activities and conference areas for Health Services. The Wellness Center would host student-based recreations, not University-sponsored activities.

The proposed Center would also offer an alternate place for students to participate in recreational activities instead of the Mark Twain gymnasium.

However, the referendum to vote on the proposed Wellness Center has been postponed.

"The committee chairman made the decision to postpone the referendum. It was a collective decision, but he ultimately made it," Braddix said.

Helton said, "The main reason for postponement was that we felt, as the committee, it was important for students to have the time to make a fair decision."

Scott Bopp, senior, international business, and president of the Student Government Association, was involved with the planning of the Wellness Center. "I was a part of the focus groups that looked at the various choices for the Wellness Center and determined which direction to go."

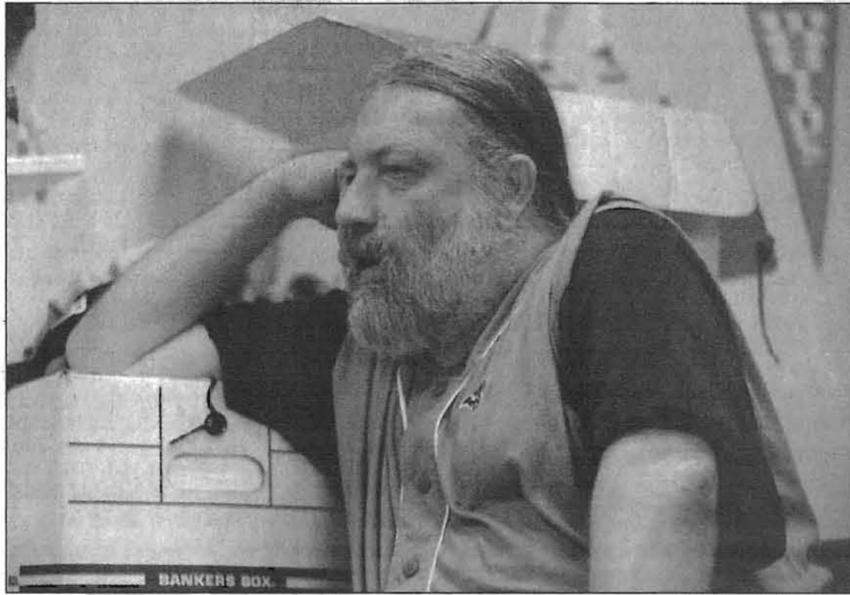
Bopp said the committees wanted to take time to answer some questions first. "We want to take time to educate students in a non-biased way," he said. "We wanted to look into details and look at all of the options for funding to lessen the burden on students."

Braddix said, "Reactions are mixed right now. Some people are adamantly against it. Some people are not."

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"They can use their weapon of choice, except for a chainsaw. Personally, I think it's cool...but my wife put her foot down..."

- Professor Bob Bursik



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Bob Bursik, Curators professor of criminology and criminal justice, says he will cut off his long hair if it will help raise money for victims of the recent tsunami in Asia. The shearing will take place on Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. in a public display at the Blueberry Hill restaurant on Delmar.

## Criminology prof. vows to clip ponytail to aid tsunami victims

BY PATRICIA LEE  
Co-News Editor

A UM-St. Louis professor is getting national attention for his creative way of helping tsunami victims thousands of miles away.

Bob Bursik, Curators Professor of criminology and criminal justice, has decided to donate one of his best-known accessories to help rebuild Sri Lanka.

In his neighborhood in University City, Bursik is often known as "Ponytail" Bob, but that waist-length ponytail will be gone next month.

In fact, he has offered to let the person who gives the largest donation cut off his hair.

"They can use their weapon of choice, except for a chainsaw," Bursik said. "Personally, I think it's cool... but my wife put her foot down on it."

The hair-cutting will take place on Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. in the street corner display window of Blueberry Hill.

Bursik came up with the idea after one

of his close friends and fellow professor in the criminology department, Jody Miller, started raising funds to help rebuild the village of Unawatuna.

This was a special cause for Miller because her husband is from Sri Lanka. They also lost a close friend who was one of the village patriarchs.

"It is personally very distressing to see the images, speak with family and friends, and know that so many places and people we hold dear are, facing so much destruction," Miller said.

They initially started raising money for the victim's family, but they hope to also raise enough to rebuild other facets of the village. "The family lost their livelihood," Miller said.

Miller and Joel Glassman, director of the Center for International Studies, are also working together on another campus-wide effort to help rebuild schools in Sri Lanka.

Bursik thought the ponytail idea would generate interest as something different.

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### Where to donate:

- CCJ Dept.  
325 Lucas Hall
- Blueberry Hill
- HSB
- All Star Tattoo
- Cicero's
- 3rd Generation
- Fitz's

Or, mail to:  
'Ponytail' Bob's  
Tsunami Relief  
7224 Delta Ave.  
St. Louis, MO  
63117

## SGA approves new election rules

SGA also seeks to form new committee to review student fee increases

BY BECKY ROSNER  
Managing Editor

After a two-and-a-half hour meeting and discussion on Friday afternoon, the Student Government Association assembly unanimously passed the new election rules.

The meeting included a lengthy discussion about the changes that were made to the election rules by the Election Committee. Members of the assembly were asked to review the changes and come to the meeting with any questions or concerns about these revisions. Scott Bopp, SGA president, said his main priority is, "to have an election that is not contested."

Packets were passed out at the previous SGA meeting and any questions and

concerns were also raised at that time. Clarification of designated polling places was a suggested addition to the rules, as well as endorsement policy and vote counting issues.

A copy of the rules was put on the computer screen for those who did not bring their paper copies, and changes to the rules were made live via the computer screen. The rules were then discussed section by section, with people voicing their concerns about the various sections as they came up. At least a couple of concerns were expressed for several sections.

The assembly was then asked to vote on these changes as the suggestions were brought to their attention. Some things that were revised in the rules included the monitoring of polling places, and a cap was put on the amount of money students may spend on their campaign. A single runner may only spend \$1,000, while a slate or party is limited to \$1,200.

see SGA, page 12



Scott Bopp

SGA President whose own election in Spring 2004 was contested

Bopp says his main priority with changing election rules is "to have an election that is not contested."

## KWMU radio remembers Mike Sampson

Host of 'St. Louis on the Air' and 'Cityscape' was laid to rest Thursday

BY PATRICIA LEE  
Co-News Editor

On Thursday, Jan. 27, a week after his death at the age of 53, KWMU host Mike Sampson was buried.

Sampson worked at KWMU for more than a decade and had volunteered at the station for several years before that. He was the regular host for two KWMU talk shows, "St. Louis on the Air" and "Cityscape."

According to Patty Wente, KWMU director and general manager, he was an important part of the station. "I think that when people get involved in public radio, the impact goes both ways," Wente said. "There's [also] an impact on the listeners."

Since Sampson started hosting those shows a couple years ago, his audience grew significantly. "In order to attract an audience, you have to have something to offer them," Wente said. "He just kept bringing increased intensity to the program."

Wente attributed his popularity to his knowledge and quick wit. "Most of the listeners are college educated... you can be as funny as you want, but if you don't have the intelligence, pretty soon, you're going to know if he knows it or not."

In KWMU's annual report, Sampson had talked about the popularity of "St. Louis on the Air."

"A good topic will matter to more than a handful of people," Sampson had said. "A good topic will be broad enough to fill an hour of radio time



Michael Pelikan/The Current

Mike Sampson talks with guests after a taping of "St. Louis on the Air" in October 2003. Sampson passed away Jan. 20, at the age of 53.

and spark questions or comments."

Wente compared Sampson to Johnny Carson in that they were both quick-witted and had a wide diversity of intelligence. "It's no coincidence that Johnny Carson died the same week as Michael Sampson," she said.

When he was hired by KWMU, Sampson hosted a classical music program, and then he hosted the

see SAMPSON, page 3

## Competition may not improve job performance, psychologist tells UMSL

BY BEN SWOFFORD  
Staff Writer

Thomas D. Fletcher explained that in America the conventional wisdom has always been that with more competition, the worker becomes more productive. However, Fletcher, a potential UM-St. Louis professor, has findings to show that this wisdom may be incorrect.

The Department of Psychology at UM-St. Louis sponsored a colloquium entitled "Interpersonal Competition in the Workplace," featuring Fletcher, on Friday, Jan. 21.

The colloquium presented Fletcher's study on workplace competition. Fletcher worked on that project while he was a doctoral candidate at Old Dominion University. It was part of an Internet Technologies work force study funded by the National Science Foundation.

The colloquium process is used by UM-St. Louis to hire professors in each department of the University.

"[Fletcher] is a candidate for an industrial organization psychology position. This is one part of general introduction and evaluation process," Psychology Professor Miles

Patterson said.

"In any department you have what's called the colloquiums, when [candidates] present their own individual work," Miles said. "It is part of a larger, couple-day event with faculty meetings, dinners and meetings with the dean of the department."

Fletcher's presentation dealt with competition in the work force.

"When I say competition what does it mean? It means for me to win you have to lose," Fletcher said. "In most competitive arrangements when there is one winner there are a bunch of losers."

Fletcher focused on competition in three aspects of the work place: salary, task performance and job dedication, and how perceived notions of competition affected the outcomes.

First he asked if the salary to competitiveness ratio was changed by increased workplace competitive climate. He found no correlation.

Secondly, Fletcher asked if task performance was affected by increased competitive climate. He found no effect on task performance.

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# Bulletin Board

**Put it on the Board:**  
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m. every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)  
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Put it on the Board! Call 516-5174 for details or email [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)

## Tues. Feb. 1

### Author to discuss 'State of Black Men'

Kevin Powell, activist and author of "Who's Gonna Take the Weight?: Manhood, Race, and Power in America," will hold a discussion about "The State of Black Men," how social, political, and economic issues impact the black community. Vickie Newton, news anchor at KMOV (Channel 4), will moderate the discussion, which will include a question-and-answer session. This discussion will be held from 6:30-9:30p.m. in the Century Rooms at the Millennium Center, UMSL. This program is free to the public. For more info call 516-4833. Sponsored by the Office of Student Life, Associated Black Collegians, and University Program Board.

## Tues. Feb. 1

### Robert Ford Fiction reading

Novelist Robert Ford to read from work at UMSL. The book reading will be held in the auditorium of Gallery 210, at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information please call 516-5976 or visit the center for humanities @ <http://www.umsl.edu/~cfh/>

## Tues. Feb. 1

### African Burial Grounds in New York City

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis will co-sponsor "African Burial Grounds in New York City" at 7p.m. at the Missouri Historical Society at Lindell Blvd. and DeBaliviere Ave. in St. Louis. The event is free and open to the public. Call 516-6021 for more info.

## Wed. Feb. 2

### "Women Impressionist Artists"-Women in the Arts

Professor Susan Waller will discuss how women impressionists Mary Cassatt, Berthe Morisot and Eva Gonzales negotiated the prevailing stereotypes of femininity as they established artistic careers. The lecture is part of the Women in Art Lecture Series, which is sponsored by UMSL's yearlong Women in the Arts celebration.

## Wed. Feb. 2

### Job Search Strategies Workshop

This workshop will teach job seekers about important techniques such as networking, utilizing Internet resources for your job search, and provide additional information about the general job search process. This free workshop is held in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in

person at Career services.

## Thurs. Feb. 3

### Chamber music by women composers- Women in the Arts

Faculty and students from the Department of Music will be playing rarely heard music composed by women during the period of 800 to 1600. The concert will take place at 7:30p.m. at the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater, Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center, UMSL. The concert is free and open to the public. For more info call 516-7776. Sponsored by Women in the Arts.

## Thurs. Feb. 3

### Resume Writing Skills Workshop

Whether you are seeking an internship or a full-time position, a marketable resume is a necessity. This workshop discusses appropriate resume formats and content and creating cover letters. This free workshop is held in Career Services, 278 MSC and is open to current UM-St. Louis students and alumni. Advance registration is required; call 516-5111 or enroll in person at Career Services.

## Fri. Feb. 4-5

### Grease

The leader of the pack meets the bobby-sox sweetheart and proves once and for all that rock 'n' roll is king when "Grease" rolls into town. One of Broadway's longest-running musicals, "Grease" continues to be one of America's favorite shows thanks to its hits. The play will take place at the Touhill Performing Arts Center, Fri., Feb. 4 at 8 p.m., and Sat., Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## Fri. Feb. 4

### "Statehouse Sisters"

Missouri Sen. Rita Days, St. Louis County, and Missouri Rep. Ester Haywood, Belleve Acres, will discuss "Statehouse Sisters: Celebrating the legacy of the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm" at noon in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Center at UMSL. The event is free and open to the public, sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life at UMSL, Office of Multicultural Relations at UMSL. Call 516-6807 for more info.

## Fri. Feb. 4

### Sig Tau 'Mardi Gras' party

The men at Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity are hosting a Mardi gras party Friday night. The party will start at 10p.m. and be held at the Sigma Tau Gamma house at 8660 Natural Bridge Rd. located next to Popeye's. ALL UMSL students are welcome. For more info call Joe, 428-5431.

## Fri. Feb. 4

### CD Release Concert

The Nuclear Percussion Ensemble is St. Louis' one cutting edge world music percussion ensemble. Tradition and innovation converge as Nuclear Percussion Ensemble invoke music of five continents with their original rhythmic alchemy. Listen as they interpret music of guinea, Nigeria, Egypt, Cuba, Brazil, USA, Germany, Bulgaria and Indonesia through a playful sonic kaleidoscope. The concert is at Forest Park Community College, 5600 Oakland Ave. For info call 644-9386 or 644-9769.

## Sat. Feb. 5

### Delta Zeta Open House

For anyone interested in joining a sorority, come to the Delta Zeta Sorority House (on South Campus) from 1:00-5:00 p.m. For more information call Martha at (314) 389-7274.

## Sat. Feb. 5

### UMSL Professor to discuss findings on Trojan War

Michael Cosmopoulos, Professor in Greek Studies, will hold a lecture on "Searching for Kings of the Trojan War: Myths, archaeology, and the UMSL dig in Greece." The lecture will be at the St. Louis County Library headquarters, 1640 Lindbergh Blvd. at 5 p.m. There is a second talk at Missouri Historical Society on Feb. 13 at 3p.m. The program is free and open to the public. Call 516-6241 for more info. Sponsored by the Center for International Studies and the Department of Anthropology.

## Sat. Feb. 5

### Classic Car Show

A classic car show featuring a "Greased Lighting" look alike will take place 12-2 p.m. before the matinee of "Grease." The show will be held at the eat Entrance of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. For more info call 516-4949.

## Sat. Feb. 5

### Shakespeare festival

At the invitation of the Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, international star of stage, screen and television, Susannah York, will perform her solo show "The Loves of Shakespeare's Women." In her show, Ms. York portrays many of Shakespeare's colorful female characters: from Juliet to Mistress Ford, from Isabella to Constance. Proceeds from Susannah York's performance will benefit the festival's year-round education programs. The event is being generously underwritten by US Bank Charitable Foundation, Minneapolis, MN. The performance starts at 7p.m. in the Touhill PAC. For more info call 516-4949.

## Sun., Feb. 6-7

### Ariana String Quartet- Russian Splendor

The Arianna String Quartet, the quartet-in-residence-at UMSL, will perform "Russian Splendor" at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. and at the Sheldon Concert Hall on Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. The following pieces may be included in the program: Mozart: String Quartet in C Major, K. 515 Tchaikovsky: String Sextet, "Souvenir de Florence", Op. 70 with guest artists Mathias Tacke, Richard Young, and Marc Johnson, of the Vermeer Quartet. For more info call 516-4949 or 516-5818.

## Tues. Feb. 8

### Lerone Bennett Jr. to discuss historical insights

Lerone Bennett Jr., executive director of eboni Magazine, will discuss "Historical Insights into Black America" at 7p.m. at the JcPenney Conference Center at UMSL. Bennett is a social historian and author of nine books. The event is free and open to the public, and sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Relations. call 516-6807 for more info.

## Tues. Feb. 8

### Texas Hold Em Tournament

Free entry. Feb 8. 7:30 p.m. at the Provincial House Museum Room on S. Campus. Limited number. Contact 5125 or 5326. Having free snacks. First prize is \$150 gift certificate. 10 winners. For beginners, training session at 7 p.m. Sponsored by Campus Recreation.

## Wed. Feb. 9

### New York artist to discuss his life and work

New York artist Jim Hodges will discuss his life and work. Hodges is an artist who transforms ordinary objects into works of art, often using natural forms as metaphors for human fragility and the essence of existence. The discussion will take place at the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Touhill Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. The program is free and open to the public, for more info call 516-7194.

## Wed. Feb. 9

### Screening of short films- Women in the Arts

Alice Guy Blache was the first woman to direct films and own her own film company and production unit. She also was one of the first people to make the transition to fiction from documentary films. She directed and produced more than 1,000 films, 22 of which were features. The films will take place at 3p.m. at Gallery 210 in the auditorium. For info call 516-7776.

## Thurs. Feb. 10

### The Ins and Outs of St. Louis Population

## Migration: An Update

David Laslo, Director of PPRC's MIDAS unit, will provide updated research from his work examining the movement of population in and out of the St. Louis region. The analysis, using the latest county-to-county migration data from the IRS, gives an indication of the region's economic health as well as various social, demographic and economic trends. Come find out who's living in and leaving St. Louis! SSB 427 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free and open to all interested. For info call 516-5273.

## Thurs. Feb. 10

### Irish-American Poets-poetry reading

Irish-American Poets Natalie F. Anderson and Peggy O'Brien will be reading poetry at 12:30p.m. in 331 SSB at UMSL. The reading is free and open to the public and is sponsored by Smurfit-stone Endowed Professorship in Irish Studies at UMSL and the Center for International Studies. For more info call 516-6495.

## Fri. Feb. 11- March 4

### ITC labs teach free classes

The Instructional Computing Labs will again be teaching 1-hour classes on several topics. These courses will be held February 11-March 4. These classes are free to UMSL students, staff and faculty. Topics include: Viruses & Spyware, Word Basics, Powerpoint Basics, Excel Basics, Web Page Building/HTML, CD Writing, File Management, and UNIX/Macintosh. These classes are designed to help the users become familiar and comfortable with these topics, as they are needed for class work, homework, projects, or teaching. For more info call 516-6061 or visit <http://www.umsl.edu/~iclabs>

## Sat. Feb. 12

### Ariana String Quartet- Beyond Words

Learn how the quartet makes the instruments speak, sing, and dance, bringing the music to life. The quartet will perform at 2p.m. at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. For more info call 516-4949.

## Sun. Feb. 13

### Love Letters

Love Letters is a bittersweet story of a lifelong love kept alive through letter. This two-person play by A.R. Gurney has been a hit both on a off Broadway and now you can see it free at 2 p.m. in the JcPenney Conference Center at UMSL. Senior Theater is sponsored by the UM-St. Louis College of Fine Arts and Communication, and Continuing Education & Outreach.

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ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

## Campus Crimeline

The following criminal incidents were reported to the UM-St. Louis Police Department between Jan. 22, 2005 and Jan. 28, 2005. If readers have information that could assist the police investigation, they are encouraged to call 516-5155. Campus police provides this information as a public service. Remember, crime prevention is a community effort!

### Jan. 25, 2005 - Stealing Over \$500 from CCB.

The victim stated that between 11:45 am and 12:10 p.m. person(s) unknown took his laptop computer from his insecure office.

### Jan. 25, 2005 - Stealing Over \$500 from the Mark Twain Gym.

Victim stated that several items, including his cell phone, wallet and some clothing, were taken from an insecure locker between 12:15 p.m. and 1:15 p.m.. Some of the items were found nearby, but the wallet and its contents are still missing.

### Jan. 25, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500.

County Cab Co. called this department to report that a rider had amassed a large fare, and then did not pay. The offender rode the cab for several hours, and was last seen on campus. The suspect was subsequently found in the Millennium Student Center by officers after he stole a sandwich from the Nosh. He was arrested and charged with two counts of Stealing Under \$500. He was released pending warrant application.

### Jan. 28, 2005 - Stealing Under \$500 from Lot A.

Victim stated that between Jan. 27 2005 at 1 p.m. and Jan. 28, 2005 at 8:05 a.m. person(s) unknown removed her parking permit from her vehicle.

### Jan. 28, 2005 - Attempt Burglary from SSB.

Victim stated that he discovered pry marks on his door which apparently occurred between Jan. 27, 2005 at 5:15 p.m. and Jan. 28, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. Entry was not gained and nothing was reported missing.

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## Hiring: Ad Director

The Current is seeking a qualified candidate to lead a sales staff. Compensation: salary + commission.  
Call Mike at 314-303-2098 for more info.

**Police: 516-5155**

# Golden Key gets award for work on 2004 election

BY PAUL HACKBARTH  
Co-News Editor

Last October, Golden Key International Honour Society increased student involvement in elections by recruiting college students to become election judges. Golden Key recently received a \$500 award for their contributions to the election.

Golden Key and the Election Assistance Commission created a partnership to recruit college students to work as election judges and poll workers in last November's election.

One hundred and sixty-two Golden

Key chapters across the nation participated in the project called Help America Vote College Program. Of the 162 chapters, 21 of them won a monetary award for their efforts, including the chapter at UM-St. Louis, which was named the Central Region champion.

All of the chapters combined reached more than 350,000 students, but only 425 of them actually worked on Election Day at local polling places across the country. Golden Key recruited a total of 25 students from UM-St. Louis to be election judges last November.

Joe Garavaglia, senior, accounting,

and president of Golden Key, was surprised by their results. "We recruited more than we thought," Garavaglia said. "We didn't think students would be very receptive."

Jenny Heinz, senior, graphic design, and secretary of Golden Key, said the results exceeded their goals. "Initially, we thought we weren't going to get any at all," she said.

Each Golden Key chapter was evaluated based on criteria such as, the activities each chapter held, the results of their activities and the number of judges recruited. Also, judges looked at how effective each chapter was in getting results, including the number

of students trained and the number of students who actually worked at polling places. Collaboration and innovation within each chapter and marketing techniques to create awareness of recruiting election judges were other criteria.

Heinz explained that Golden Key submitted how they actually recruited election judges and poll workers. Last October, Golden Key set up a table in the Millennium Student Center to recruit judges. Interested students signed up for classes to be trained to work as an election judge.

Golden Key only accepted students who were available on Election Day to

work at the polls. "We didn't encourage students skipping class to become judges," she said.

"It's important for college students to get involved in politics and elections," Heinz said. "This gave them a chance to feel more involved."

The award money will go to Golden Key's education-focused service program. Each Golden Key chapter is required to perform a service program activity at least one time per year.

Garavaglia said that Golden Key usually hosts a school supply drive for a different local school each year. However, Golden Key is planning to

start a new program.

"This new program will have something to do with tutoring or mentoring. Our new service director is working to establish this program," Garavaglia said.

Golden Key's Readership Update said that this past year's efforts have made a difference in last November's elections.

Golden Key has helped the EAC build and develop the HAVCP, so college students can assist their local and state governments in the elections. Garavaglia said Golden Key's awareness program and partnership with the EAC would continue.

## Municipalities improve efficiency by working together, researchers say

BY DAN BAUER  
Staff Writer

The Public Policy Research Center at UM-St. Louis held a seminar on intergovernmental cooperation on Thursday, Jan. 27 in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Miranda Duncan, community development specialist for the UM-St. Louis research center, moderated the seminar.

Four panelists, including Terry Jones, political science professor from UM-St. Louis, spoke at the event. The seminar panelists discussed case studies of governments cooperating with neighbors to accomplish goals in a more efficient way.

This is happening with greater frequency in the St. Louis region as state and federal resources become scarce. One example of this cooperation is having a large municipal sewer district to cover different cities.

Michael Schoedel, city manager of Clayton, discussed ways in which Clayton has come up with ideas on intergovernmental cooperation. According to Schoedel, this is the best way to provide services in a more cost effective way for everyone involved.

Schoedel said, "Citizens are expecting the retention of high quality services without having to pay more in taxes for them."

An example of this cooperation would be the East Central Dispatch Center. This center was created for emergency services by the cities of Clayton, Maplewood and Richmond Heights. It provides a central location for police and fire dispatching, where resources are shared to make certain enough emergency response personnel are available for situations.

The city of St. Louis participates in a program like this. For instance, if a large fire occurs in Oakville and requires cooperation from different counties, the city will send fire per-

sonnel to cover the rest of St. Louis County.

Communities have also gone into purchasing supplies together. The cities of Richmond Heights and Clayton purchased salt for the winter months to gain a better price. This allows cities to buy supplies on an economy scale, which results in money saved for existing tight budgets.

Schoedel discussed the recent developments in Clayton. The mayors of Clayton and Richmond Heights have begun discussing a possible merger. This potential merger of the cities is in its beginning stages, but nothing is certain yet.

The seminar also looked at the specific way the St. Louis region has grown and the conduciveness it has created for these types of partnerships. Tim Fischesser, executive director of the St. Louis County League, put this into perspective.

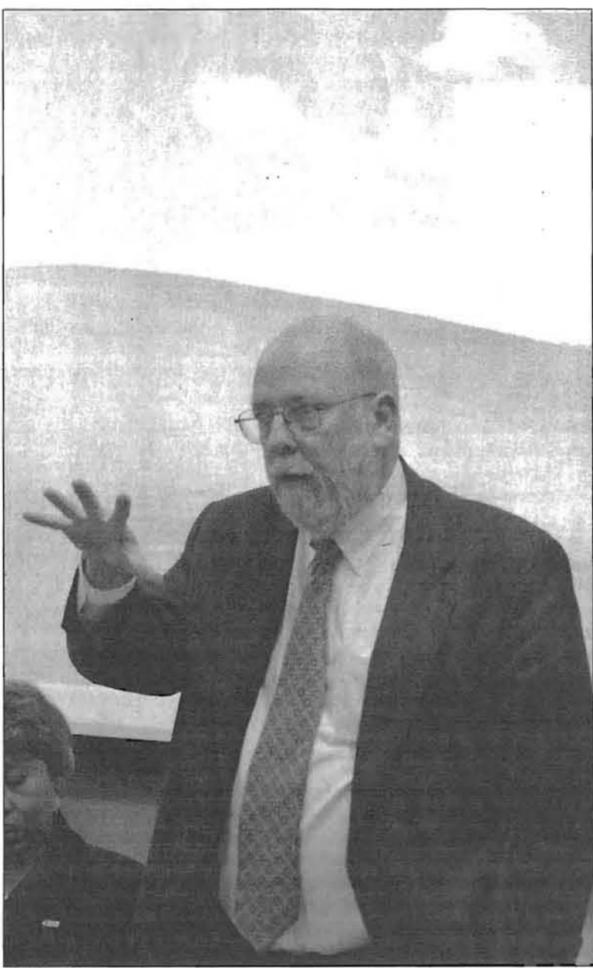
"St. Louis City froze their borders back in 1876. This created the formation of all the small cities that inhabit the surrounding area."

When the St. Louis region was compared to Kansas City, while St. Louis has decided not to expand, Kansas City continues to grow into four counties.

Fischesser discussed the importance of having a strong region along with strong communities.

"I don't know anyone that wants to live in a nice community in a bad region," Fischesser said.

Fischesser had a few ideas for regional stability and attracting more business and citizens to move into the St. Louis area. First, he mentioned the importance of maintaining and attracting new joint federal enterprise zones. Second, a recent trend showed closings in major trauma centers necessary for the area's stability. He encouraged everyone to write both state and federal representatives about these



Terry Jones, UM-St. Louis political science professor and author, speaks about "Collaboration by design: case studies in intergovernmental cooperation" on Thursday afternoon.

issues. Furthermore, the retention of Scott Air Force Base is a major goal. The Air Force base employs over ten thousand people, and the St. Louis region would suffer a major setback if the base closed.

Fischesser gave three general keys to the region's future success. First, he mentioned improving downtown St. Louis. Improving the image of the central business district would drastically enrich the St. Louis area. The next big idea is to attract more flights

to Lambert Airport, which may tie into an eventual increase in tourism.

Lastly, the St. Louis area has been losing companies every year. Fischesser pointed out that a large emphasis needs to be placed on attracting knowledge-based jobs. On this point, he explained that efforts have been made to tie technological employment close to St. Louis area universities like UM-St. Louis. However, whether these companies will produce the number of jobs needed for this area is uncertain.

## Feminist workshop examines religion's role in social change

BY BEN SWOFFORD  
Staff Writer

The Institute for Women and Gender Studies at UM-St. Louis sponsored an interfaith feminist workshop on Saturday, Jan. 22 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The event, titled "Women, Religion, and Human Rights: Promoting Social Change (Thinking Locally, Acting Globally)," featured a panel discussion, a keynote address and several breakout sessions. It was held in the Century Rooms of the Millennium Student Center.

Joyce Mushaben, director of the Institute for Women and Gender Studies, was one of the organizers of the event.

"The event first started in response to the Vatican's comment that feminism has been devastating to society," Nikki Dougherty, administrative assistant to Joyce Mushaben, said.

"Dr. Mushaben decided there was discourse, that women are working within communities of faith to change things globally," Dougherty said. "There are issues within the community to take care of. It's within faith that women are working, within the church for positive change."

The event also raised funds for a scholarship program the Institute is beginning to create.

Shaheen Sardar Ali, Professor of Human Rights and Law at the University of Warwick and Professor at the Faculty of Law in Pakistan's University of Peshwar, gave the keynote address of the event.

"I feel my voice is not an individual voice but the shared experience of many women who could not come and share their voice with you," Ali said.

Ali's speech focused on her time as a regional Minister of Health, Population Welfare and Women's Development in northeast Pakistan. She talked of how Islam had been misconstrued to suppress women in Islamic law and how she was able to affect positive change while maintaining her identity as a Muslim.

"Religious texts have been appropriated by successive generations of

male religious elite who took the texts and interpreted the laws to subjugate women, children and minorities," Ali said. "We need to go back and reappropriate the Islamic texts and include female experience in the laws."

Ali explained that her work created backlash that constantly questioned her faith. "While I was in government I tried to create an atmosphere where it was okay to challenge," she said.

Ali also said that questioning things did not make her a bad Muslim. "It is not Islam under threat but actually elitist male power that is under threat," she said. "I have the right to question and still be Muslim."

The panel discussion, entitled "Local Voices, Local Action" featured talks by distinguished professors, lawyers and others working locally on the front line of women's rights issues.

Panelist Janet Katzenberger, English teacher at Chesterfield Day School in St. Albans, gave a talk focusing on breaking down the walls people build around themselves and asserting a woman's place in society.

"Who wants to be tolerated? I don't," Katzenberger said.

All the panelist speeches focused on local work being done within faith communities to protect women's rights and help the poor.

"Two things the Catholics are good at are taking care of the poor [and] the other is education," panelist Maria Kenyon, a lawyer for the Catholic Legal Resources Center, which provides free civil legal help to the poor, said.

Kenyon also pointed out that women contribute immensely to the Catholic programs.

"If you look at Catholic Charity programs, who is in the trenches doing the dirty work? If you look at the schools who is doing the work?" Kenyon said. "It is the women who are doing the real work of the church."

Panelists and the audience also participated in three breakout sessions, "What the Good Book Really Says," "Multi-faith Reflections on Fundamentalism," and "Faith-based Community Action."

## NEWS BRIEFS



Caution tape blocks off a shattered window on the MSC bridge last week. Building Operations personnel said that a bird was the likely culprit for the break.

### Indonesian Student Association holds fundraiser for tsunami relief

The Indonesian Student Association held a fundraiser in the

Nosh from Jan. 24-26 to help tsunami victims in Indonesia.

According to the president of the Indonesian Student Association, donations would go towards the recovery and rebuilding effort in Indonesia.

"The donations would be helpful to recover and rebuild the facilities,

help the children who lost their parents, and provide clothes, medicine and food for the victims," Edhy Rahardjo, graduate student, business administration, said.

Funds collected go directly to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia. Donations are still being accepted. For more information on how to donate, contact Edhy Rahardjo at etr7bf@studentmail.umsl.edu.

### Student Life to hold blood drive as part of spirit competition

On Monday, Feb. 7, Student Life will hold a blood drive on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center from 1-7 p.m. The blood drive is a part of the spirit competition for homecoming week. All student organizations are welcome to attend and compete.

Members can sign in for each student organization they belong to. The organizations with the highest number of members participating and highest percentage of members participating will win points towards the spirit competition.

First place winners in each category will win 20 points, second places winners will receive 17 and third place winners will receive 14. All other participating organizations will receive 10 points. If an individual attempts to give blood, but cannot for any reason, that person will still receive points for participating.

The blood drive is also offering a canned food drive. An individual

must donate five cans to earn points.

Each member of an organization can only receive points for either giving blood or donating canned food items but not both.

### Music festivals at PAC invite more than 700 local students to perform

The Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center will host two music concerts featuring more than 700 students from local St. Louis middle and high schools.

Fourteen school districts and more than 100 schools in St. Louis will participate in the music festivals. The first concert, featuring about 400 students from local high schools, will take place on Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the PAC. The second concert, featuring about 300 students from local middle schools, will take place on Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the PAC. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Young Audiences, The Sheldon Concert Hall, Jazz at the Bistro, St. Louis Children's Choirs, Premiere Performances, Women in the Arts, Springboard to Learning and Prison Performing Arts will all perform.

The E. Desmond Lee Fine Arts Education Collaborative is responsible for organizing the concerts. Call 5365 for more information.

### PSYCHOLOGY, from page 1

Finally, he asked if a competitive climate affected job dedication. Once again there was no correlation.

This implied there were few instances in which a competitive climate is a "good thing." Fletcher also added, "there is no rationale for structuring workplace competition."

He was not sure of the broader implications on competitiveness in American culture, saying, "This is more of a philosophical debate than I have the answers for today."

The study surveyed 850 individu-

### SAMPSON, from page 1

morning drive show before becoming the host of "St. Louis on the Air."

While the station is mourning Sampson's death, the shows will continue to run. "The program will continue. We are looking at various options for replacements," Wente said.

Presently, Donn Johnson, director of communications for The Missouri Historical Society, and friend of Sampson, is guest-hosting "St. Louis on the Air." KWMU plans to use two-week guest hosts until they find a permanent replacement.

The other show Sampson regularly hosted, "Cityscape," is temporarily hosted by another KWMU employee, Steve Potter.

Police have not announced Sampson's official cause of death, but it did not seem to involve foul play. His body was cremated and the coroner's report should come out in about a week.

"He was very ill, he had a flu-like

symptom and he came in really, really sick on Tuesday. On Wednesday, he called in saying he didn't feel well at all," Wente said.

While the cause of death is still uncertain, Wente said that Sampson had suffered from diabetes.

On Thursday, Wente became worried when he did not call in and did not come in for work, which was extremely unusual. "I'm trying to think of days he even asked off, he loved the show," Wente said.

Deaths have hit KWMU hard in the last few years. Ironically, Mike Sampson was the person who temporarily filled in for Greg Freeman on "St. Louis in the Air" when Freeman died two years ago.

"This is an extended family," Wente said. "You get to know each other in a way that you don't know each other in a lot of other places. Whenever there's a death in the family, you're hard hit," she said.

# OPINION

## OUR OPINION

### Disconnection is insulting to tragedy victims and donors

In the last month, there have been campus-wide efforts made to help thousands of tsunami victims. To name a few, the Indonesian Student Association held a donation drive in the Nosh. Criminology Professor Jody Miller and



After such an enormous disaster, there has been an outpouring of generosity from some people. Unfortunately, donations will probably decrease over time, before the area has completely recovered.

Center for International Studies Director Joel Glassman are collaborating in an effort to rebuild schools in Sri Lanka. Bob Bursik, professor of criminology, has offered to cut off his trademark ponytail to help raise money to rebuild a Sri Lankan village.

People have different reasons for helping those who have been affected by natural disasters. For some people, the tragedy hits close to home. People have friends or relatives in the area, or they could have other personal connections where these types of tragedies occur.

For other people, volunteering to help is a way of showing they care about others. Regardless of the fact that the tsunami occurred thousands of miles away on another continent, we are all human beings, so it is something we should care about.

The effects of the tsunami have been devastating, killing thousands of people and leaving many more homeless, injured or orphaned. In some places, entire villages were wiped out. According to some estimates, as many as 143,927 people were killed, while another 146,718 are still missing.

Some people could not care less about the situation. They think it does not concern them because it did not directly affect them. Sadly enough, some people were cruel and insensitive enough to go beyond indifference and to actually mock the victims.

The nationally syndicated MJ Morning Show reported that a radio station in New York played a racist parody, "Tsunami Song" that made fun of the victims. Considering that New York was also hit hard in a different way four years ago, you would think that they would know better.

This incident is similar to some people's reaction to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. While numerous Americans were hurt by the tragedies of Sept. 11, others showed signs of happiness. Several web sites posted recipes for homemade bombs and sold t-shirts honoring Osama Bin Laden.

It can be hard for people to understand what others are going through until something happens to them. Anyone who feels disconnected from the recent tragedies should try to put themselves in another person's shoes and be more sensitive to others' grief. This does not solely apply to what happened in Asia. How many times have you heard someone say, "They got what they deserved," after an unfortunate incident?

Besides caring about those who lost their lives in the tsunami, people should be sympathetic toward the other problems this tragedy has caused. Imagine what it would be like to lose all of your belongings and have your house completely destroyed.

To put things into perspective, that would be about nine times UM-St. Louis' student population or about 48 times the number of people that died as a direct result of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

One of the other problems that some of the affected countries are facing is the enormous cost of rebuilding. It has been reported that it could take \$14 billion to rebuild the directly affected area.

We also should not ignore the problems in other parts of the world. How many people paid attention to what was going on in the Middle East before Sept. 11? Many people are still unaware of all the challenges Africa is facing with the AIDS epidemic and civil wars. Since we are part of a global community, events around the world do affect us. Try to pay more attention to what is going on around the world because it does matter. Tragedies should not be tolerated because of ignorance.

#### The Issue

While many people have gone to extreme lengths to aid tragedy victims, namely tsunami survivors, some people intentionally disconnect themselves from the tragedy through insensitivity or ignorance.

#### We suggest

Everyone should make a point to become more aware of situations that could benefit from compassion.

#### So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our website [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

### Internal balance is two-sided

Last Friday, I challenged my brain to endure a record number of responsibilities. By 4:30 in the afternoon, I had completed several extensive homework assignments, met with a vice chancellor and sat through a two-hour student government meeting. My head was ready to divorce the rest of me and run off to think about lighter issues.

The only reason my mind did not revolt is that I knew the weekend would restore balance to my life. I had signed up for the Newman Center's Awakenings retreat. Not only did the experience give my sanity a boost, it showed me the importance of finding a way to center myself.

Would you rather take a group test, or would you rather complete a quiz by yourself? Would you prefer to carry a 1,000-pound object solo, or would you rather lift it with other people assisting?

The point is that while you're able to manage all of these challenges on your own, having help makes the situation easier.



KATE DROLET  
Editor-in-Chief

Some people find comfort in spirituality. I identify with this method of balance; reaffirming my faith brings peace into my often-hecked life. The Awakenings retreat reminded me to use my religion for guidance when I find myself uncertain.

Not everyone subscribes to the same religion, but denomination is irrelevant. Whether you look to Buddha, Allah, Yahweh, God or another divine being, applying the tenants of your faith to real life can bring peace of mind.

Not everyone has chosen a religious life. We all have a source of personal serenity. If you can find that foundation, it will support you when schoolwork piles up, job schedules clash and life takes inconvenient turns.

"I can handle things," you might be thinking. "I'm strong enough already."

What I'm talking about is not a measure of macho. I can cope with life's obstacles without my spiritual foundation, but it's so much harder to handle alone.

Balance requires both internal and external factors. First of all, you need to get to know yourself. We've all heard the adage about wearing different "hats" or "masks." Your "job at the McDonald's fryer" mask looks much different than your "Friday night party" mask. Taking on different personas is sometimes necessary.

However, without a true understanding of your identity, it's easy to gain a closet full of personalities and still be lost inside of your own head.

Secondly, you have to get to know yourself through other people. People are usually the cause stress, but people can also serve as members of your foundation. I guarantee that a strong group of friends will improve your life, whether you believe in spirituality or not. Good people are necessary to cultivate a resilient center of balance.

Responsibilities are like people standing at the door waiting for my attention: some are frustrating, others are enjoyable and, in my case, I've invited them all in. I love the fact that my balance helps me retreat to another room and listen to the things I can't hear over regular noise.

Internal balance is not the Holy Grail: you do not have to spend a lifetime seeking it. A little quiet, personal time along with some genuine friends will show you where your own foundation lies.

### Depression is a serious disorder

Why is it that some people find enjoyment in putting other people down? All too often I see people around me being put down by other individuals.

The way I see it, there is no reason to make another individual feel like less of a person to make you feel better. The consequences of how that other person feels after you tear them down could be severe. I have seen and experienced the disrespect, with the person criticizing the other oblivious to what they are doing.

Things like this can lower someone's self esteem. Some people may even have self-esteem or confidence issues before an incident of this sort occurs. Acknowledging these defeats are detrimental to a person who already has problems, or can give someone issues who did not have any in the first place. Depression is sometimes the cause of these sorts of things.

It is a serious condition that many may overlook or not consider. Symptoms for the problem may also be less evident than one may think. The National Institute of Mental Health defines depression as, "A serious medical illness; it's not something that you have made up in your head. It's more than just feeling "down in the dumps" or "blue" for a few days. It's feeling "down" and "low" and "hopeless" for weeks at a time."

The reason I decided to write about this issue this week is because many people are unaware of the symptoms and problems caused by this illness. According to NIMH, about 19 million American adults are affected by this disorder. Symptoms include loss of interest in things that were once enjoyed, persistent sad mood, changes in diet or

weight, sleeplessness or over-sleeping, loss of energy and difficulty concentrating. Other symptoms may accompany the problem.

The disorder may be treated with medications or therapy, however, some do not respond to medications or treatment options. NIMH states, "Psychosocial and environmental stressors are known risk factors for depression." This leaves many college students in the risk group for the disorder. College students are known to be stressed and often over-committed.



BECKY ROSNER  
Managing Editor

There are many factors that could contribute to depression. Warning signs are not always obvious to the individual or the people around that person. Something could trigger the illness, or the condition could simply come upon someone with time or the input of stresses. If you think someone around you, or even you, could be struggling with depression, seek help immediately. The NIMH web site (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/nimhhome/index.cfm>) provides good information about symptoms, treatments and where to seek help.

Think about these things the next time you put a person down. You never know what kind of state a person may be in. Just remember that making someone else feel bad for something you are stressing or worried about is not the proper solution. Not everyone means to do it, but it does happen occasionally to everyone.

As far as depression goes, remember, it is a serious illness and affects many people. Some people may be embarrassed or unwilling to admit it, so be patient with someone who battles the illness. Most importantly, stay confident in yourself; the worst thing you can do is put yourself down.

### Editorial Board

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### LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 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). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

## What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've covered?

- Tragedies affect world
- Internal balance is two-sided
- Depression is serious

You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit the online forums at [TheCurrentOnline.com](http://TheCurrentOnline.com)

## Under Current

by Kevin Ottley  
Photography Associate

What should constitute a snow day UMSL?



Steve Rutter  
Freshman  
Computer Science

"If the majority of public and private high schools are closed, we should be closed. They base their decision on whether or not the boilers can keep the school comfortable so I think its an accurate judgement call."



Ryan Burgdorfer  
Freshman  
Civil Engineering

"If its bad enough that the shuttles can't operate, or if there's a foot or more of snow on the ground."



Jen Thomas  
Freshman  
Civil Engineering

"Once its too slick to drive, school should be cancelled. Accidents on the highways are enough to call a snow day."



Chris Holder  
Sophomore  
Graphic Design

"Snow! Any snow whatsoever! Two inches is enough to cover the highways..."



# FEATURES

**EDITOR**  
**MELISSA McCRARY**  
Features Editor

phone: 516-5174  
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the week's  
**best bets**

Tues. Feb. 1

Activist Kevin Powell discusses 'The State of Black Men'

Kevin Powell, author, activist, and star of MTV's original 'Real World' will speak from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Century Rooms of the MSC

Fri. Feb. 4

Ice Skating

Meet at the Catholic Newman Center, at 8200 Natural Bridge Rd. for a night of ice skating at Steinberg Ice Rink in Forest Park. Costs \$6 for adults to skate, with a \$2 skate rental. For directions to the Newman Center or further info contact Tracy Van de Rietat 314-385-3455 or cncumsl@aol.com http://www.umsl.edu/newman.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rosalie Ungria (left) keeps her eyes on the prize as she competes in the 'Blizzard of Bucks' competition held in the Nosh on Wednesday. Ungria defeated several other contestants for a chance to have 30 seconds in a chamber with \$500 flying around. She walked out \$150 richer. The event was sponsored by the University Program Board, as part of its 'Humpday Hoopla' series.

## Blizzard of Bucks whips Nosh into frenzy

BY MELISSA McCRARY  
Features Editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, some might have wondered why students were competing in a variety of crazy contests in the Nosh of the MSC.

From 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m., "Blizzard of Bucks," part of the Humpday Hoopla series sponsored by the University Programming Board and Office of Student Life, gave students the chance to take a break from their studies and participate in different contests to win cash.

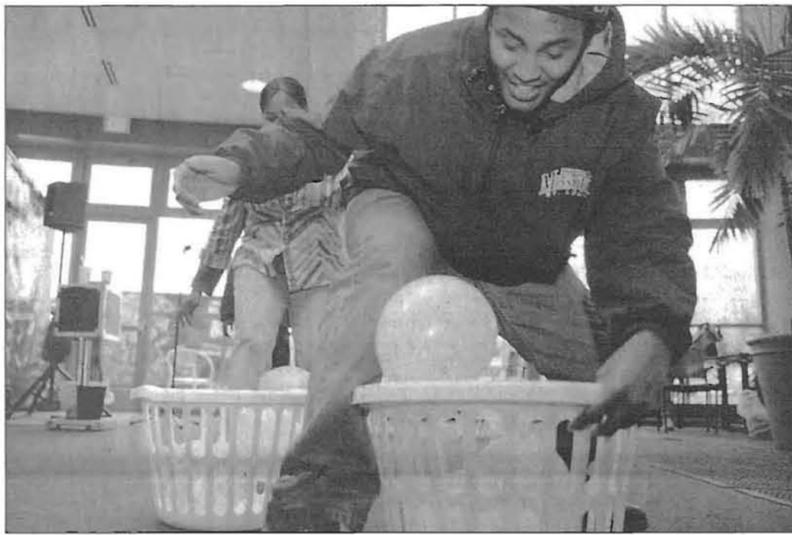
For the past four years, Humpday Hoopla, held occasionally on Wednesdays, has included different activities like golf long-driving, jousting, sumo wrestling, baseball fast-pitch, football bungee, tug-of-war and water balloon tosses. T-shirts, gift certificates, money, X-Boxes and Game Boys are some of the prizes awarded to contestants.

In the past, activities have been held outside in front of the MSC, but most of this year's events took place in the Nosh or the Pilot House.

This was not the first time that Blizzard of Bucks hit the UM-St. Louis campus.

This event consisted of three rounds of games and activities. Some of the activities included a relay race where students had to hold a balloon between their legs and get it into a bucket without using their hands. Phyllis Jourdan, senior, social work, took part in a contest where she had to dress up like a baby and drink a bottle of juice, competing with others on who could drink the juice the fastest.

Although Jourdan did not make it to the end of the contest, she won her contest and made it on to the second round.



Muhammed Lamotte, freshman, social work, concentrates during a no-hands race to transfer balloons from one basket to another, held on Wednesday

"It was fun and kind of reminded me of an old game show like 'Let's Make a Deal,' Jourdan said. "It was great entertainment and fun for the campus."

After each game round, the winner received \$15 and was able to advance to the next mission. The overall winner had the chance to go into the money chamber and collect as much flying money as they could.

Jill Henke, UPB Vice President, said that the event was an overall success. "Everyone cheered each other on as they tried to complete their challenging task. There was other crowd participation to get others involved," Henke said. "They asked members of the audience questions such as 'Who has chapstick?' and whoever would run up with it,

received \$5." About 12 to 15 students were actually brave enough to perform some of the humorous stunts of the contest. Over 50 other students crowded the Nosh, watching and giving the competitors support.

UM-St. Louis hosts many different activities and events throughout the year. Humpday Hooplas are just some of the campus events held for students. For more information concerning other activities, students can visit the UM-St. Louis homepage and calendar of events and *The Current's* weekly Bulletin Board section.

**For more photos:**  
Visit us on the web at  
[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

### Upcoming UPB events

- 'The Art of Kissing' on Wed. Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the Pilot House

- \$15 tickets for 'Grease' at the PAC on Feb. 4. On sale in the Student Life Office, 366 MSC.

## As tax time nears, the experts answer questions

BY MELISSA McCRARY  
Features Editor

It is that dreadful time of the year again: tax time. When driving to UM-St. Louis, students might have noticed some employees of Liberty Tax Service, located on Natural Bridge, dressed in Uncle Sam suits and holding signs about their tax services. This is just one reminder of another task that people will be facing in the next upcoming months.

Whether a person is a student, a parent, a home-owner or a business manager, all people with a career must file their taxes with the IRS. Those who are new to tax filing might find that they do not com-

pletely know how the tax system works and that this obstacle can be a tedious thing to complete.

Susan Hesser, Pulaski Bank Commercial Operations employee, said that it is important for people to understand how the tax system works and to give it time.

"The best advice is to be patient. It takes awhile and can be a long drawn out process," Hesser said.

There are many different steps of the tax filing process that people need to remember. The first step is withholding and filing a W-4 form. Part two of the process is filing return. Other steps of the process include finding out whether they have any tax deductions or tax credits.

Once a person receives their W-4 form from their employer, they must enter in the number of tax allowances that they want to claim. The number of allowances helps employers find out the amount of income tax to withhold from a person's paycheck. In most circumstances, people usually claim themselves by checking zero or writing exempt. In other cases, people might choose to claim their spouse or any of their dependents. The more dependents a person claims, the less taxes they owe to the government. Students who still live with their parents normally claim themselves, whereas their parents might claim them as dependents.

Students who have no deduc-

tions might find it easier to use tax telephone services. There are numerous ways that people can file their taxes. The Internet provides people with a variety of online tax services, e-filing and sometimes might be less costly or free to complete over the web. Going to a tax company, such as H & R Block, Liberty Tax and Tax Services, could be more costly in the long run.

Tax companies can charge a filer anywhere from \$50 to \$200. Computer software like TurboTax can help people file their own taxes at home and can be purchased from retailers like Office Max or WalMart.

see TAXES, page 7

## Business College & Beta Alpha Psi help low-income citizens file taxes

Beta Alpha Psi and the College of Business Administration at UM-St. Louis sponsors a free personal income tax service for low-income taxpayers and seniors through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

The V.I.T.A. program, coordinated by Professor Lindell Chew, gives business students with nine or more semester credit hours in accounting the opportunity to help

fill out tax forms at centers throughout the St. Louis community.

This program has been in existence since 1973. The V.I.T.A. overview says that the College of Business operates this service and that it continues to be the largest university-based personal income tax service in the region.

Benefits of V.I.T.A. include giving students a chance to work in a

professional atmosphere, applying hands-on experience with accounting, learning about tax preparation and receiving one college credit.

"This is wonderful P.R. throughout the community and gives students experience, while having fun," Jennifer Dennis, Department Assistant for the College of Business Administration, said.

Students involved with V.I.T.A.

must complete a six-hour tax preparation training workshop conducted by Professor Joseph Giljum.

This year's training workshop begins on Sunday, February 13, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 126 of the J.C. Penney Building. Complementary refreshments and a breakfast will be served.

Those interested in joining V.I.T.A., are urged to call Professor Chew at 516-5626.

## Pucker up for 'The Art of Kissing'

BY MELISSA McCRARY  
Features Editor

On Feb. 3, The UM-St. Louis University Program Board and the Office of Student Life will welcome Michael Christian, the award-winning author of "The Art of Kissing".

Christian will give an entertaining speech about his book, accompanied by a student demonstration in the Pilot House at 7 p.m.

The author received a Master of Arts degree in English at Boston University and taught English at Boston College for 14 years. Today, he is well-known not only for his four books about kissing and hugging, but also for lecturing at colleges across the United States.

### 'The Art of Kissing'

Feb. 3  
7 p.m.

Pilot House

"The Art of Kissing" event will discuss and show onstage 30 different types of romantic kisses such as the shy kiss, the French kiss, the Trobriand Islands kiss, the Eskimo kiss, the butterfly kiss and the upside down kiss.

Music, slides and live demonstrations will be used during this multimedia presentation.

Other topics to be included at the event are how to act on the first date, how to flirt, how to make a move on a person, how to approach someone, how to be more romantic, making yourself more kissable to the opposite sex, how to get over first kiss jitters, bizarre kissing customs from around the world and ways that people can be more romantic.

Jill Henke, UPB Vice President, described why they have chosen this event.

"We have seen this demonstration before at the NACA Conference. The show is great and the audience loves it," Henke said.

In 1997, Christian was voted Speaker of the Year by Pittsburg State University and was nominated in 2001 for Speaker of the Year by the National Association for Campus Activities.

He has gained popularity and fame from being covered in different national magazines and newspapers.

"Whoever said 'a kiss is just a kiss' didn't get his mitts on The Art of Kissing ... a detailed how-to book... this year's handy alternative to chocolates," Elle magazine said.

Besides giving numerous presentations and speeches at different colleges, he has also surveyed over 100,000 people about their kissing techniques.

The "Art of Kissing" event might give people more Valentine's Day spirit or might make them realize how well they already kiss.

## ESPN radio host talks about his days at UMSL

BY MELISSA McCRARY  
Features Editor

A former UM-St. Louis student, Dave Greene, has accomplished his dream of becoming a broadcaster; Greene is the Program Director for ESPN Radio (KSLG 1380 AM), St. Louis Sports Station, which launched in June of 2004.

Greene, who graduated in 1998 with a mass communication degree, said that he was really focused on his career in the broadcasting industry while he was a student in college.

"I interned with KFNS Radio and did play-by-play for the UMSL Men's and Women's basketball teams," he said.

Once Greene graduated he worked for a few years for a professional basketball team.

After progressing in the radio business for ten years, getting married and having a child, he decided that he did not want to travel as much as play-by-play jobs required.

"I realized the importance of being home as much as possible," he said.

Greene not only serves as Program Director for the station, but also hosts the morning show. The radio station is a local affiliate for ESPN radio and provides listeners with local and national sports talk.

Many of the classes that Greene took and the professors he met had a strong influence and impacted his life and career.



Dave Greene

ESPN radio  
broadcaster

# Visiting writer reads from her collection

### Phyllis Moore reads from 'Compendium of Skirts' at noon series

BY MELIQUEICA MEADOWS  
Staff Writer

Compendium is a fancy word for a collection or compilation of a number of items or a brief summary of particular field of knowledge. "A Compendium of Skirts" is a collection of short stories about the interesting and intriguing ideas floating around in the head of Phyllis Moore.

Moore is a published author and visiting fiction writer in the MFA program for the winter semester at UM-St. Louis. She recently spoke about her work at the Monday Noon Series sponsored by the Center for Humanities.

"The more I give up what really happened, the better the writing is," she said following a reading from her book, "A Compendium of Skirts," which was published in 2002 by Carroll & Graf.

Moore opened her reading with a reference to an essay, "The Decay of Lying," written by Oscar Wilde. "The only real people are the people that never existed," she said as she

stood before the crowd Monday. Moore said she has been pondering this question for the last 20 years and feels that the statement really speaks to the idea that no one we meet is exactly as they seem. Essentially we make up the person we fall in love with or our co-workers which may be why we are so utterly shocked when they do something that seems so "out of character" like lie, break up with us or even kill.

"A Compendium of Skirts" is a collection of short stories dedicated to the art of making people up. Yet even in that world of make believe, Moore tackles heavy subjects such as relationships, family estrangement and even death as in the case of "Rembrandt's Bones" in which a college professor grades a poorly written essay only to find that the student has died before she returns the failing paper. The pro-



Moore  
Author of "A Compendium of Skirts" spoke at the Monday Noon Series

fessor wrestles with what to do with the essay. Feeling that it would be too disrespectful to simply throw the essay away, she contemplates re-writing it and giving it the dead girl's bereaved parents.

With her witty and insightful writing, she is able to find unique and even surprising ways of looking at the occurrences of everyday life. What might pass by the average person, Moore picks apart in the smallest detail and through her writing, brings life and color to otherwise mundane and uninteresting facts of life. The short story "Big Pink and Little Minkie," which Moore read Monday, is, on the surface, about the morning commute of a woman on a Chicago bus. Phrases like "my ears blinked," which Moore uses in the story, draw the reader in and give the characters a vibrancy that would otherwise have been missed had she not used such unique and interesting phrases.

Most people can include people-watching among their list of favorite activities but Moore shows in "Big Pink and Little Minkie" that she has turned it into an art form. How many of us wonder where the people we share the subway, bus, shuttle or metro link with go after they reach their stop?

Not many can say they have pon-

dered the scenario to the extent of the character in this short story. Not only does she make observations based on the garments worn by two Russian women who ride the Chicago transit bus laden with bags from designer shops with her every day, she delves further into what their lives must be like when they are not on the bus. She observes the women and secretly envies their friendship and regal appearance.

As she rides the bus each morning, she makes note of the supporting cast of characters that share her daily morning commute. There is "Mother Man," so named because of a condition that causes him to shout those very words, or something close to them, at various intervals throughout the trip. Then there is "Boyfriend Historian" who unknowingly regales the group with an ever increasing list of past loves as she talks loudly on her cell phone.

What starts out as a comical look at the sometimes zaniness of everyday life and public transportation turns into a heart-warming story of good citizenship as the other bus riders come to her aide in a special way.

Moore's work has been published in Redbook, Georgia Review and Mississippi Review. "A Compendium of Skirts" is available at the UM-St. Louis bookstore.

### BURSIK, from page 1

"People have always known me with this hair, so it's a gimmick thing that we thought would generate some interest," he said.

The "gimmick" seemed to work well. According to Bursik, they have received inquiries from all around the country. In the first week of their fundraising drive, collection boxes throughout University City collected \$1,000.

Many of the local businesses in University City have been supportive of their efforts, serving as collection points for donations.

"These efforts speak to how much our community has been touched by the devastation of a tsunami," Miller said. She also said that there needed to be a sustained effort to help in the lengthy and expensive process of rebuilding communities. "My hope is that the UM-St. Louis community will be a part of this," she said.

Money raised goes directly towards helping a Sri Lankan village rebuild. Since there are no administrative costs, all of the donations go directly to one of the remaining families of the village, who is spearheading the rebuilding effort.

"Since we're really good friends, I offered to help out any way I could and I offered my ponytail," Bursik said.

Bursik has worn a ponytail since about 1993, but he said that giving it

up was not that difficult "for a cause like this."

"As long as I keep my tattoos, I'm fine," he joked. After he gets his ponytail cut off, he said he would probably be known as "Tattoo" Bob instead.

"Some people consider their bodies to be temples. I consider mine to be an amusement park, and every once in a while you change rides," Bursik said.

"He's had that ponytail for decades, it's a great and wonderful sacrifice," Miller said.

Having his hair cut off with a yet-unknown cutting instrument does not faze the professor.

"I was in a circus for three years," he said. "I ate fire, I swallowed swords, I had nails in my head, cinder blocks broken on my chest. This doesn't bother me at all."

After he gets his hair cut off, Bursik has not yet decided whether he would grow another ponytail. "That's a question that's intriguing a lot of people," he said.

Some people have suggested that he shave his head and get a tattoo of the solar system on his head, others have suggested growing it back or styling it. The only thing Bursik is sure of right now is that styling it is out of the question, "I'm not a fashion plate," he said.

### ESPN, from page 6

"All of the broadcasting classes I took were very beneficial. I also took several political classes with a professor named Sid Savan, who inspired me a great deal. It expanded my horizons away from sports, which was previously my only interest," Greene said.

Jim Singer, communications lecturer, said that he wishes the best of luck to anyone who is trying to pursue a broadcasting career.

"I am always happy to hear about people who break into the business and become a success story," Singer said. "It is a hard road."

On Tuesday, Jan. 25, Greene visited the UM-St. Louis's Introduction to Radio and Television Broadcasting class to announce ESPN's new

"Dream Job Promotion Contest" for students.

The station has partnered with McDonald's to give people who are interested in getting their voice on the air a chance to win a paid position. The selected winner will get paid to do their own sports talk radio show for 31 weeks. Applications for the contest can be found at [www.mcdonaldsstl.com](http://www.mcdonaldsstl.com) and are due by early March. Along with the application, people must submit a 2 to 3 minute audio sample. Contestants must be over the age of 18 and never have been paid to broadcast. Students are not required to be communication majors. Anybody who thinks that they have what it takes can give it a try. The person who presents

the best voice and radio personality will win.

"This is a great opportunity to give a new voice the chance to host their own sports radio show," Greene said.

For those not up to the challenge of the Dream Job contest, ESPN Radio has many different internships that work with sales, promotions, distribution, marketing and other departments, available for current students.

"Interns usually start out assisting our show producers, answering the listening lines and doing research for the local shows," he said. "Interns also get involved with our promotions department. We do a lot of remote broadcasts and are out in the community and assistance is always needed. It is a fun

way of getting to meet a lot of people. We always try and make sure that our interns get to see every side of the business that they are interested in."

The radio station takes six interns per semester.

Greene said that students should get involved in the industry that piques their interest.

"Get the proverbial foot in the door," he said. "It is the best advice anyone could ever give and those that take advantage of it will be the ones ahead of the game. Be relentless in your pursuit of an internship."

Students who are interested in interning with ESPN Radio or who would like to find out more information can visit [www.1380ESPN.com](http://www.1380ESPN.com).

### TAXES, from page 6

Filing status, age and income are all major determining factors as to whether a person must file a tax return.

Today, some students might find that it is hard to juggle one full-time or part-time job a year while attending college. It does not matter how many jobs someone has had, they only need to file one return for the entire year.

There are three different types of tax return forms: 1040EZ, 1040A and 1040. Each form has different categories, so it is important that workers find the form right for them.

A person's income can increase if they have received alimony, awards or cash prizes, bonuses from their employer, cost of living allowances, gambling gains and health insurance.

Some sources of income that are not taxable include: child support payments, military allowances, moving expenses reimbursements, scholarships or fellowship grants, welfare

benefits or workers' compensations.

Most people must have their tax returns and forms turned in and completed by April 15 unless they file for an extension with the government. All tax forms and extension forms can be found at many local libraries, along with additional help and tax instructions. Other information can be found online at sites such as [www.taxhelponline.com](http://www.taxhelponline.com).

Mark Schultz, St. Louis tax agent and investment financier, said that the earlier a person files the easier it can be and it is one less hassle that they must complete later.

"Don't procrastinate and ask questions about things that you do not understand," Schultz said.

While completing tax returns might seem like a difficult duty, some are rewarded with extra spending money, while others might have to fork some back to Uncle Sam.

### Something on your mind?

Write a letter to the editor: [current@jinx.umsl.edu](mailto:current@jinx.umsl.edu)

## It's ResuMania Week!

Monday, February 7, 2005 - Friday, February 11, 2005

Get your resume in shape now for the upcoming job fairs:

- UMSL Teacher Job Fair Friday, February 25, 2005
- UMSL Spring Job Fair Friday, March 11, 2005

*A professionally written resume will help you make a great first impression.*

If you have never had your resume professionally critiqued, or you are not happy with your current resume, this one-time, on-line service is just for you! Starting Monday, February 7, 2005 until Friday, February 11, 2005, Career Services invites you to submit your resume on-line at [resumemania@umsl.edu](mailto:resumemania@umsl.edu) so that one of our Career Specialists can critique it. Your resume will be critiqued and mailed to you within 24 hours!

Career Services  
278 MSC

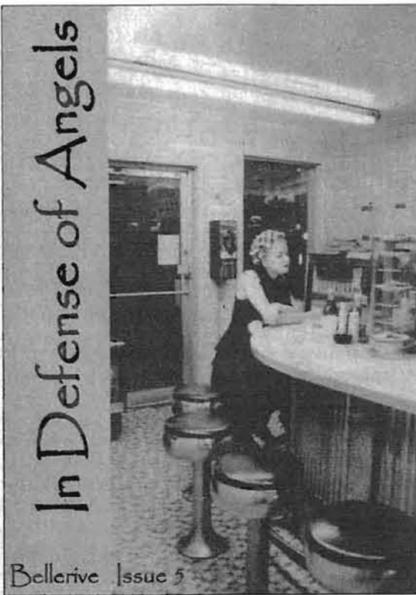
(314) 516-5111  
[www.umsl.edu/career](http://www.umsl.edu/career)

## The Panhellenic Association would like to extend a special congratulations to those women achieving 3.5 or above for the Fall 2004 semester:

- |                      |                  |                    |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Amy Banas            | Martha Gamble    | Abby Martell       |
| Lisa Blume           | Angie Gleason    | Kerri McKinney     |
| Emily Brown          | Alison Griffith  | Katie Mehner       |
| Erica Leigh Brown    | Erica Grus       | Kristina O'Keefe   |
| Katie Brown          | Laura Hepburn    | Stephanie Rawlings |
| Rachel Clark         | Ashley Holmes    | Miranda Ruegge     |
| Jaime Cole           | Kristin Howard   | Christina Stephan  |
| Katie Dalton         | Colleen Killian  | Rachel Smith       |
| Mandy Deidrick       | Kristin Kreidler | JoAnne Tinsley     |
| Christine Eccelston  | Joanna Ledford   | Brandy Waters      |
| Heather Finkenkiller | Jennifer Malone  | Rachel Wamser      |

## The UM - St. Louis Panhellenic Association would like to congratulate the following women for their outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2004 semester:

- |                     |                   |                |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Erica Lynn Brown    | Kelly Cushing     | Brittany Krupa |
| Virginia Bustamante | Jackie Dodge      | Kristen Kuehn  |
| Melissa Carpenter   | Emily Fishman     | Jessica Rand   |
| Monica Cervellione  | Stephanie Freeman | Ellen Schulte  |
| Katie Chitwood      | Ivetta Furman     | Megan Stock    |
| Kim Crews           | Rachel Greb       | Alicia Triplet |
|                     | Angella Grizzle   |                |



In Defense of Angels

Bellerive Issue 5

Bellerive Launch Reception  
Pierre Laclède Honors College  
Friday, Feb. 4, 2005  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Special guest,  
writer William Gass

Bellerive will be on sale  
\$6 per copy or two for \$10

Tours will begin at 12:30 celebrating our new Honors Anthropology Lab. This promises to be a very special day!

For more info, contact Nancy Gleason at 516-6629

# SPORTS

## Griffin scores 1000th point in R-men win

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis Rivermen basketball team split a pair of games recently. On Jan. 22 the team defeated Lincoln University 101-91, but then lost a home game against Kentucky Wesleyan on Jan. 27, 62-58. The win at Lincoln gave Rivermen forward Jonathan Griffin his 1,000th career point.

Griffin scored 31 points in the game, including 11 points in the first half, making him the 15th player in school history to hit the 1,000 point mark. Griffin also added another career high in the assist category, tallying 12 assists and coming just one short of the school record set by Bob Bone in the 1974-1975. He also added eight rebounds, coming just shy of a triple double.

As for the rest of the team, the night turned out to be a season high. The team scored more than 100 points for the first time this season, and four players scored in double figures. Joey Paul scored 16 points on 5-of-8 shooting, followed by Aaron Green on 6-of-9 shooting for 15 points, Chris Mroz with 14 points on 4-of-6 shooting and finally David Ward with 13 points on 5-of-9 shooting. Ward also contributed eight rebounds in the win.

The Rivermen also managed to shoot an incredible 59.3% from the field and 45.5% from three-point range.

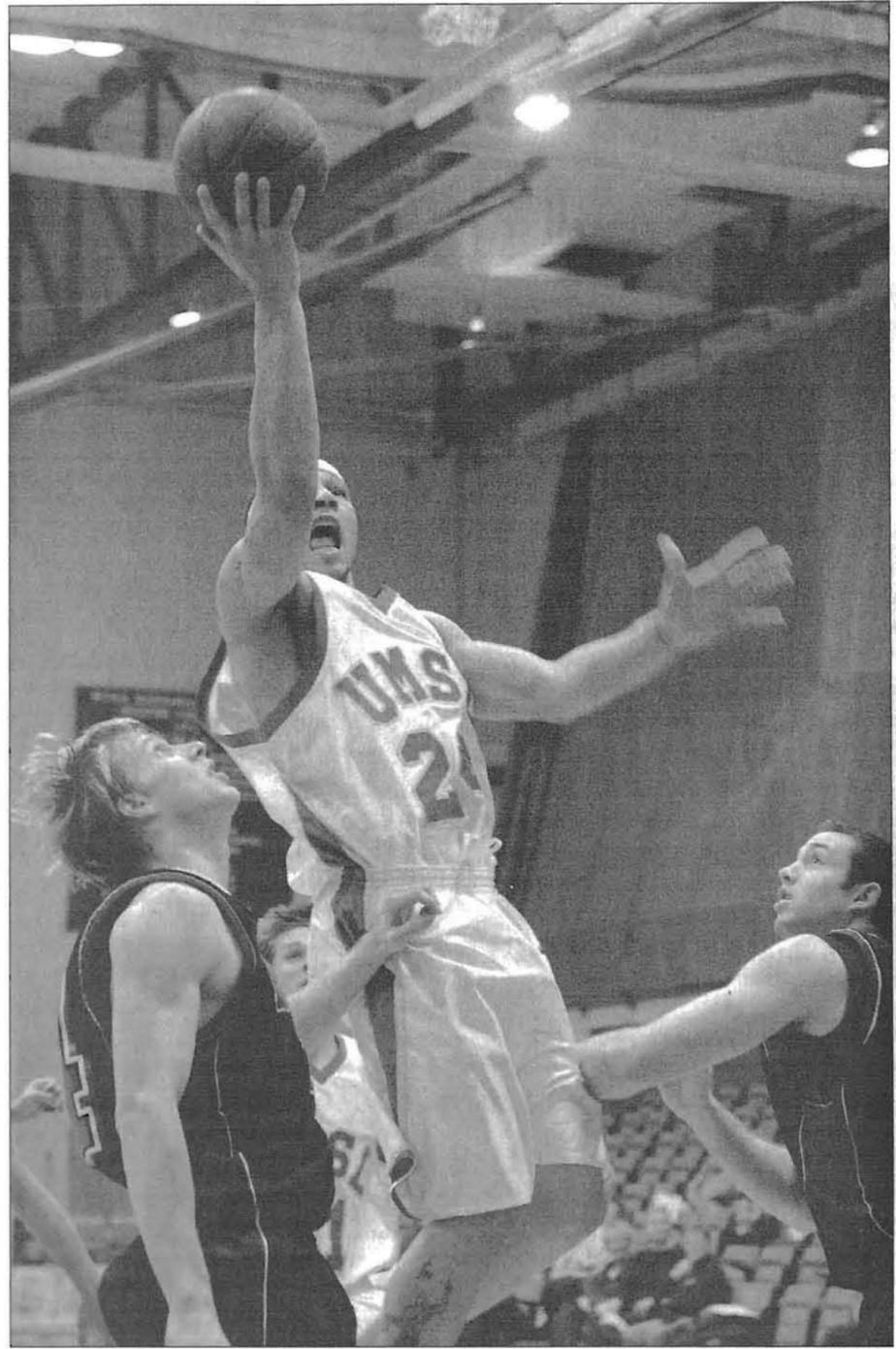
The team looked to be just as sharp against Kentucky Wesleyan on Jan. 27, but a couple of misses at the end cost the team the game. Forward Aaron Green commented on what hurt the team most: "First thing that comes to mind is that we had the game won, we just couldn't close them out. We had a great effort on defense and our offense

was working, we just couldn't close them out. Either way I would like to thank the crowd for coming out, I really appreciate people showing up to support us," Green said. The Rivermen started the game out on top, grabbing an early 12-6 lead. The Rivermen managed to increase their lead to 10 and with just three minutes to go in the first half led 27-17. A couple of late three-pointers by the Panthers brought the lead back to five, and the Rivermen entered halftime leading 31-26.

The Rivermen came out in the second half playing sharply and managed to extend the lead to 11 on a three-pointer by Sherome Cole with 12:36 left to play. The Panthers then began to chip away at the lead slowly and with just eight minutes to go the score stood at 43-42. The Rivermen regained the 11-point lead on a 10-0 run that was fueled by two Griffin three-pointers and a lay-up by Green. The Panthers wasted no time in countering with a 9-0 run of their own to cut the lead to just two again, 53-51. Another three-pointer by the Panthers gave them a 56-55 lead, but Paul answered with a three to put the Rivermen back on top.

The game's outcome came right down to the wire. With 1:47 left to play Ward was called for a foul, giving the Panthers two free-throws to tie the game at 58. The next possession Griffin missed a three-pointer, then followed with it with a foul, giving the Panthers another two free-throws. With 45 seconds left in the game Mroz missed a three-pointer, but Griffin pulled down the offensive rebound, giving the Rivermen a chance at the last possession of the game. The clock ran down to :10, and Griffin isolated his man with the

see RIVERMEN, page 9



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Rivermen guard Jonathan Griffin goes up big against the Bellarmine defense during the first half on Saturday at the Mark Twain Athletic Building. At Lincoln University on Jan. 22, Griffin scored his 1000th career point.

### EDITOR

JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

phone: 516-5174  
fax: 516-6811

## Handball is coming to UM-SL

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

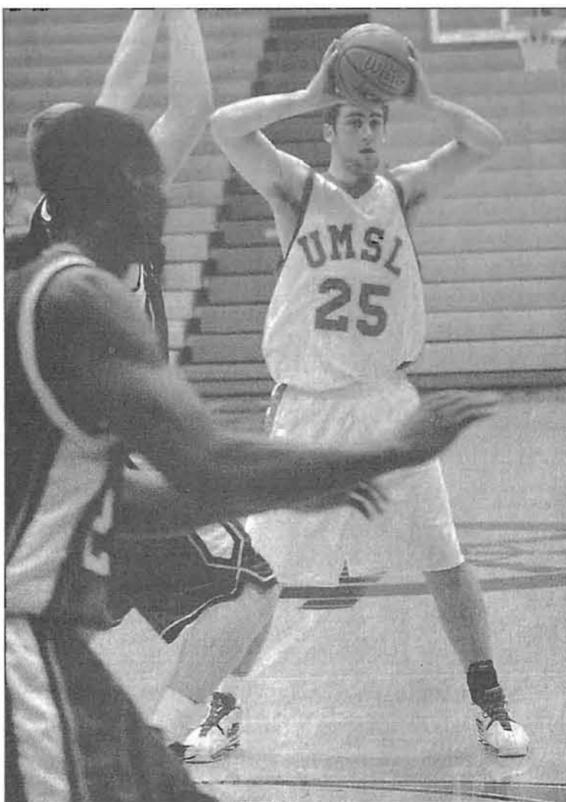
On January 27, a Rec Sports meeting took place to try and put together the first ever handball team here. The meeting took place to go over the specific league rules, team rules and rules of the game and was led by local U.S. Handball Association representative Lon Wilkens, a professor at UM-St. Louis.

The discussion panel went over several topics related to the sport. They talked about getting the team into a competitive league in the area that would compete against other local universities and colleges such as St. Louis University and the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Becoming a member of the team follows the same rules and guidelines as any NCAA sport would because it is a registered and recognized competitive sport at the university level. There is no limit as to how many people may join a team, but a good team size usually runs around 10-12 people. Students who do participate must also meet the NCAA minimum grade point average of a 2.0 GPA to be eligible and must also be a full time registered student with 12 or more credit hours per semester.

Organized practices are projected to be held about two to three times per week if possible but will vary to meet the schedules of the students.

see HANDBALL, page 9



File Photo: Mike Sherwin/The Current

David Ward is one of the new recruits to the Rivermen basketball team. He comes to UM-St. Louis from DeSmet.

## Hard work gets a re'ward' for freshman forward David Ward

BY DAVE SECKMAN  
Staff Writer

The men's basketball team has had its moments this year. From a close conference victory at Quincy University to Jonathan Griffin scoring the 1,000th point of his career, this year seems as if there is still more great things yet to come.

But before this season even started, the team went through a rigorous cleaning out process from last year's team, when they saw ten new players hit the court for this season's tenure. Out of those ten, a freshman was one of the top players coming to the team. David Ward, a local recruit of DeSmet High School, is one of 10 outstanding recruits that are leading the way for the Rivermen this season.

In high school Ward played four years for head coach Bob Steiner at DeSmet Jesuit High School where he led the team to a 21-8 record during his senior year. Over his last year Ward averaged 12 points and eight rebounds per game. After he was finished with his senior season, Ward left the school as the 7th-ranked all-time

### David Ward

- Freshman
- Forward
- 6'6", 235 lbs.
- Played four years at DeSmet for coach Bob Steiner
- Led team to 21-8 record during senior year
- 7th-ranked all-time leading scorer in DeSmet history

leading scorer in school history. Also, Ward led the team to two district championships during his career and a second place finish in the state tournament during his sophomore season. For his effort on the court, Ward was noticed as one of the top high school basketball players in the nation and was named a McDonald's All-American nominee.

Head coach Chris Pilz spoke about Ward and what he brings to the floor. "Dave is the kind of guy that can give

the force down low that we haven't had here in a long time. He has the potential to become one of the best players we have seen here in a long time and could potentially break a lot of records here before he graduates," Pilz said.

Now playing for the Rivermen, Ward has continued to excel on and off of the court. So far this year he has been hampered by an early season injury, but has come back strong since. Ward has started in 6 out of 17 games on the season and is averaging just over 19 minutes a game. He has shot phenomenally well from the floor, hitting on over 44 percent of the shots that he takes and also averaging 4.2 rebounds and 5.4 points a game to go with it.

Ward is the type of player that every opposing team should have their eyes on throughout the game when he is on the court. With his presence on the court the Rivermen should continue to see success throughout the remainder of the season and have a very legitimate shot at making it into the conference tournament at the end of the season.

## Assistant coaches bring talent, experience

BY BRYAN BOEDECKER  
Staff Writer

In every basketball program there are individuals whose contributions can go unnoticed to the public eye. Among these individuals are the assistant coaches who are an important component to any successful basketball team.

Here at UM-Saint Louis the men's assistant coaches should not be completely anonymous to people who follow the program. One of them led the team in scoring just three seasons ago and the other has been a part of the coaching staff for going on his 26th year.

Deryn Carter and Charles 'Chico' Jones both man the sidelines for the Rivermen, with more responsibility and impact than a casual observer

might realize.

No one knows this better than head men's basketball coach, Chris Pilz. "A head coach is only as good as his assistants," Coach Pilz said.

Coach Jones joined the Rivermen staff before the 1979-80 season. After 25 years as an assistant coach, he has become synonymous with UM-Saint Louis basketball. "When you think of UM-SL basketball Coach Jones has to come to mind," Coach Pilz said. "He is the anchor of our program."

In fact Coach Jones was part of the staff during both Coach Pilz and his fellow assistant Coach Carter's respective playing careers.

Coach Jones' main responsibilities as an assistant coach are helping with recruiting and on the floor coaching. His area of expertise with

the basketball program, however, is strength and conditioning, which he also considers his hobby.

Coach Jones believes trust is the most important aspect of the assistant coach/player relationship. "It's important for a player to be able to come to me and communicate things he might not be able to say to the head coach," he said.

In the midst of his 26th year watching over UM-Saint Louis men's basketball Coach Jones has experienced a lot in his coaching days. There is one season in particular, however, that stands out in his mind.

In 1987-88 the Rivermen won their conference tournament and proceeded to make it to the final 16 of the NCAA Division II Tournament. "That season was

especially gratifying, not just because of the success, but it was really a special group of guys that got along on and off the floor," Coach Jones said.

Just three seasons ago Coach Deryn Carter led the Rivermen with 16.7 points per game and was the roommate of Jonathon Griffin, junior guard and current leading scorer.

Coach Carter has admitted that the quick transition from player to coach has been difficult. "Seeing the guys out on the court you want to go out there and help them...you just miss playing the game," Coach Carter said. "But I'm happy with my decision to coach."

The decision to coach was not an especially hard one for Coach Carter to make. "I knew my playing career

wasn't going to be able to go much further and I wanted to stay around the game," he said. "I love it so I really had to stay around it."

Coach Carter points to his good relationships with the players as a key to his job. As for the rewards of his job Coach Carter says that is all taken care of by his players. "Seeing guys do what you asked them to do and succeed, walking into the locker room after a big win, that's what coaching is all about," he said.

Maybe the true importance of an assistant coach can't be measured by an outside observer. Coach Pilz, however, seems to be able to do just that. "Good people that are passionate about this program are what you need to turn this program around. And we have that here with Coach Jones and Coach Carter."

# Riverwomen score two wins, lose one

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY  
Sports Editor

The UM-St. Louis women's basketball team looks to be turning their season around. On Jan. 22 the team steamrolled Rockhurst University 81-55, and although they followed it with a loss to Oklahoma City, they bounced back to defeat conference foe Kentucky Wesleyan University 80-78.

The Rockhurst University Hawks played the Riverwomen close for one half. The Riverwomen jumped out to an early 8-3 lead and extended it to 18-12 seven minutes into the game. The Hawks then went on a 9-0 run over the next three minutes to lead 21-18. The Riverwomen regained the lead quickly, going on a 12-2 run of their own, pushing their lead out to seven. Rockhurst kept sticking around though, and ended the half closing the gap to 36-35.

The second half opened with the Hawks running off four quick fast-break points to grab a three-point lead. It was the last lead they would have. Kali Birkey and Iesha Billups spurred the Riverwomen to a 15-0 run, scoring eight and five points respectively. Leading by 12 the Riverwomen all but put the game away with another run, this time outscoring the Hawks 12-2. By the end of the game the lead was up to 26 and the Riverwomen cruised to victory.

Birkey led the team with 14 points and 10 rebounds and Courtney Watts had nine assists in the effort. Leslie Ricker added 10 points, three assists and three steals.

On Jan. 24 the Riverwomen were in action against Oklahoma City. Oklahoma City got up early 6-4, but then Birkey and Megan Alberts took over the game with a 10-0 run. Oklahoma City fought back to tie the game at 18, but the Riverwomen recaptured the lead with back to back field goals and a three-pointer. Oklahoma City managed to hit a

buzzer beater in the first half to cut the lead to three, at 25-22.

Watts kept the Riverwomen alive in the second half with a big three-pointer, spurring the Riverwomen to take a seven point lead, 34-27, with 15:08 remaining. Then the scoreless droughts that plagued the Riverwomen so often in the first part of the year came back to haunt them. Oklahoma City went on a 10-1 run over the next six minutes to take a 37-35 lead. Billups brought the Riverwomen back to 37-37 with a bucket, but then Oklahoma City went on an 11-2 run over the next four and a half minutes to grab a 48-39 lead. The Riverwomen were unable to get over the hump and Oklahoma City iced the game hitting their field goals in the end.

Birkey led the team once again with 18 points and nine rebounds and Ricker had another night reminiscent of Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko, getting six points, nine rebounds, four assists and three steals. She's only missing the blocks to complete the set.

Finally, on Jan. 27 the Riverwomen scored a huge upset over favorite Kentucky Wesleyan. The Riverwomen controlled the entire first half, although Kentucky Wesleyan was never far behind. On four different occasions the team cut the Riverwomen's lead to just one, the last coming with 6:30 left in the half. Crystal Lambert sparked the Riverwomen to a 6-0 run, driving the lane twice to score two quick lay-ups. The Riverwomen maintained the lead and went into the half up 32-25.

The Riverwomen extended the lead to 11 and held it for the first eight minutes of the half. Kentucky Wesleyan began chipping away at the lead and with the score at 59-48, the Panthers went on a 9-2 run to cut the Riverwomen lead to just two, then gained the lead for the first time in the game with just under three minutes to play, 63-62. The Riverwomen scored on consecutive possessions to get a

three-point lead, but the Panthers erased it with three-pointer to tie the game at 68. The Riverwomen had the last chance to win the game in regulation, but a jumper by Birkey hit the rim twice and rolled out, sending the teams into overtime.

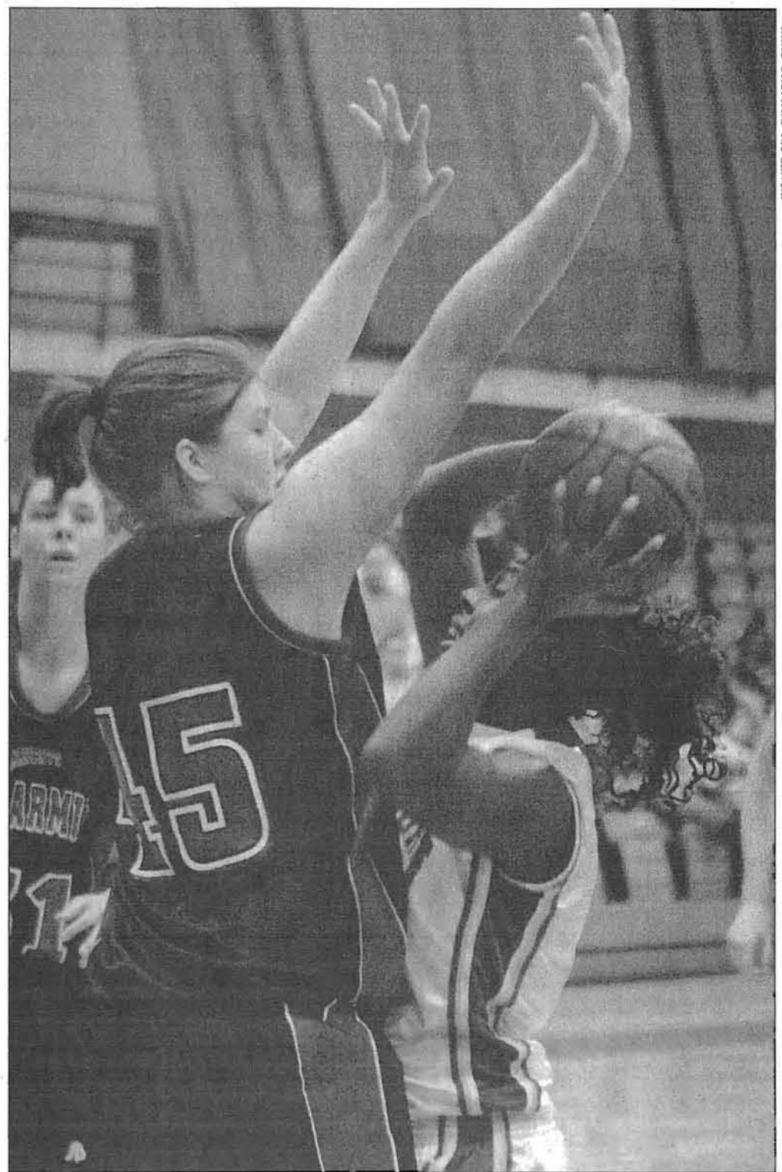
The teams traded leads for the first three minutes and with 1:20 left in the game Wesleyan managed to get a three point lead. The Riverwomen attempted a three-pointer of their own to tie the game, but missed it. Fortunately for the team Billups grabbed the offensive rebound and was fouled while scoring, giving the Riverwomen the three-point play they needed.

The offensive rebound was characteristic of what worked for the Riverwomen, according to guard Nikki Jerome. "The major difference was our rebounding. We got offensive boards from everyone, the posts and guards all contributed," Jerome said.

The Panthers turned the ball over with their final possession, and with a three second difference between the shot clock and the game clock the Riverwomen got the ball. Watts ran the clock down from the back court, then drove past her defender with a crossover. The Panthers came out to seal the lane, so Watts dished the ball to Ricker, who was waiting on the left wing. Ricker wasted no time in driving directly to the basket and pulling up to hit the 10-footer with just four seconds left in the game.

The Panthers missed their last attempt and UM-St. Louis pulled away with the 80-78 victory. It was an exciting victory for everyone, including Coach Lee Buchanan. "I was relieved and ecstatic and excited for the girls. We put a lot of time and preparation for the game, and when that pays off it is that much more special," Coach Buchanan said.

Birkey led the team with 23 points and nine rebounds and Courtney Watts added 15 points and six assists.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Iesha Billups, Riverwomen center, encounters tough opposition during the second half against Bellarmine on Saturday. The Riverwomen recently lost to Oklahoma City, but they beat the Kentucky-Wesleyan Panther and Rockhurst Hawks.

## Watts shines as point guard

BY BRYAN BOEDECKER  
Staff Writer

The point guard is arguably the most important position on the basketball floor. Maturity and leadership are crucial at this position for any basketball team to succeed.

So it may be a little surprising that 19-year-old freshman Courtney Watts is handling the position so well for the Riverwomen. In fact, she leads the team in assists and is second on the team in scoring.

"Courtney is the type of player that leads by example," head women's basketball coach Lee Buchanan said. "One of those players that her teammates have confidence in and people tend to follow her."

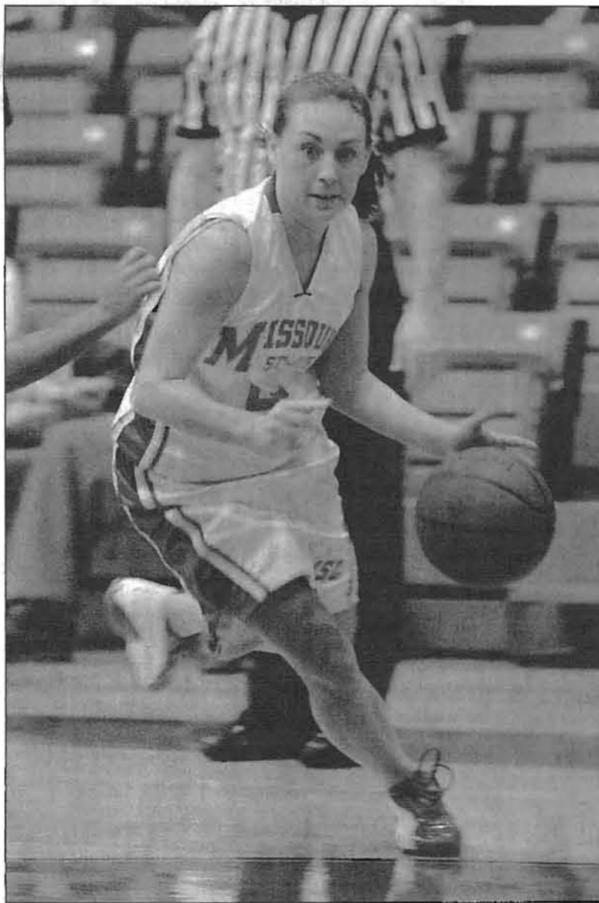
Watts is a native of Kentucky where she set her high school's record for assists, the most important statistic for a point guard. She came to the UM-Saint Louis program because she liked the atmosphere and thought she would fit in well here. Starting right away in college, however, was not exactly the plan.

When an injury to the previous starting point guard, junior transfer Nikki Jerome, forced her into the starting lineup against Wisconsin-Parkside, Watts seized her opportunity immediately, scoring 14 points and dishing out 7 assists in the game.

"I haven't found a reason to take [Courtney] out of the game...plus Courtney and Nikki are both flexible and have the ability to play at the same time," Coach Buchanan said.

The assumption is that starting at such an important position on the basketball floor would be a daunting task for any college freshman to handle. Watts, however, tries not to dwell on the pressures that may come along with the position. "I don't really think about it," she said. "I feel that all of my teammates have faith in all of the freshmen and confidence in me to get the job done."

A team's offense begins with, and relies on, the point guard executing it to perfection. The key to being a good point guard is mostly about getting your teammates more involved in the game. "You have to be willing to sacrifice to get other people open shots and communicate with your teammates on the floor," Watts said.



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Courtney Watts, freshman guard for the Riverwomen, works around a Bellarmine defender on Saturday. With six assists during the game, Watts improves her season total to 69.

Watts's quick rise hasn't been lost on her teammates either. "Courtney is a better leader than she gives herself credit for," Amanda Miller, a fellow freshman from Kentucky, said. "She is always playing and working hard so her success is not at all surprising."

As the Riverwomen struggle through the 2004-05 campaign, Courtney Watts and the rest of this year's freshman class provide hope for the future of UM-Saint Louis women's basketball. "We have a real young team and as we get more experience playing with one another I

think the success will come," Watts said.

"The whole freshman class this year is a key to this program's rebuilding process," Coach Buchanan said. "Anytime talented freshmen can play right away and gain this kind of experience it bodes well for the future of your program."

It is a rebuilding process for this year's team and if the immediate impact of Watts and the other five freshmen on the team is any indication, the future of Riverwomen basketball is as bright as ever.

### RIVERMEN, from page 8

ball at the top of the key, then with :08 left in the game he pulled up and shot another three-pointer. The Panthers pulled the miss down and ran the ball down the court to score one last time and capture the 62-58 win. Coach Chris Pilz was pleased with the effort. "It was a good ball game in front

of a great crowd. It hurt us that we only got to the foul line four times, especially when we are averaging 24 free-throws a night. We played very good defense, but late in the game they made shots when they needed to and we did not. For example, they were 4 for 25 from three-point range, and two

of those four came in the last couple of minutes of the game," Pilz said.

Griffin led the team with 19 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and four steals. Green contributed 13 points and Ward had ten points and eight rebounds. The team will be in action next on Feb. 3 at Indianapolis.

### HANDBALL, from page 8

Wilkins commented on the team. "We would love it if people would show more interest in the sport. It has grown a lot in the past few years and we would love to see it continue down that path," he said. "We are trying to increase the

number of players around and to offer a new type of cardiovascular workout for the student of the university."

The University is trying to set up organized matches against other college teams from around

the area in the near future. For information on handball and the team at the university, contact professor Wilkins at campus extension 6222 and visit the U.S. handball website at [www.ushandballassociation.com](http://www.ushandballassociation.com).

## The Panhellenic Association would like to extend a special congratulations to those women achieving 3.5 or above for the Fall 2004 semester:

- |                      |                  |                    |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Amy Banas            | Martha Gamble    | Abby Martell       |
| Lisa Blume           | Angie Gleason    | Kerri McKinney     |
| Emily Brown          | Alison Griffith  | Katie Mehner       |
| Erica Leigh Brown    | Erica Grus       | Kristina O'Keefe   |
| Katie Brown          | Laura Hepburn    | Stephanie Rawlings |
| Rachel Clark         | Ashley Holmes    | Miranda Ruegge     |
| Jaime Cole           | Kristin Howard   | Christina Stephan  |
| Katie Dalton         | Colleen Killian  | Rachel Smith       |
| Mandy Deidrick       | Kristin Kreidler | JoAnne Tinsley     |
| Christine Eccelston  | Joanna Ledford   | Brandy Waters      |
| Heather Finkenkiller | Jennifer Malone  | Rachel Wamser      |

## The UM - St. Louis Panhellenic Association would like to congratulate the following women for their outstanding academic achievement during the Fall 2004 semester:

- |                     |                   |                 |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Erica Lynn Brown    | Kelly Cushing     | Brittany Krupa  |
| Virginia Bustamante | Jackie Dodge      | Kristen Kuehn   |
| Melissa Carpenter   | Emily Fishman     | Jessica Rand    |
| Monica Cervellione  | Stephanie Freeman | Ellen Schulte   |
| Katie Chitwood      | Ivetta Furman     | Megan Stock     |
| Kim Crews           | Rachel Greb       | Alicia Triplett |
|                     | Angella Grizzle   |                 |

# A&E

**EDITOR**  
**CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER**  
*A&E Editor*  
 phone: 516-5174  
 fax: 516-6811

## PAC calendar

The spring semester at the Blanche Touhill Performing Arts Center is filled with concerts, plays and dance performances aimed to please every type of entertainment preference. The PAC offers discount tickets for students and faculty. For more information about events, visit [www.touhill.org](http://www.touhill.org) or call 516-4949.

**Concerts/Musicals**  
 Feb. 3: *Women in the Arts*  
 Medieval and Renaissance women composers chamber concert.

Feb. 4 - Feb. 5: *"Grease"*  
 One of Broadway's longest-running musicals makes a stop at the PAC.

Feb. 6: *Arianna String Quartet, "Russian Splendor"*

Feb. 12: *Arianna String Quartet, "Beyond Words"*

Feb. 16: *Vusi Mahlasela*  
 South African musician and vocalist will perform music with social and political significance.

March 4: *Arlo Guthrie*  
 1960s folk singer and son of folk legend Woody Guthrie

March 5: *Sharon Isbin with Arianna String Quartet*  
 Grammy Award winning guitarist to perform with UM-St. Louis Artist-In-Residence.

March 8: *UM-St. Louis Faculty Chamber Music*  
 Faculty members to perform at PAC.

March 9: *Yannatou and Salonico*  
 International singer and composer to perform Greek music.

March 10: *UM-St. Louis Jazz Concert*

March 14: *Zehetmair String Quartet*  
 Named for first violinist Thomas Zehetmair, this group performs music entirely from memory.

March 18: *Lunasa*  
 Irish music will be performed by this new quintet

March 19: *Adrienne Danrich*  
 Danrich is a native of St. Louis and an award winning soprano and featured soloist on the newly released recording of the opera "Only Heaven."

April 14: *East Winds Ensemble*  
 Masao Ishgure and Marco Lienhard perform modern and traditional Japanese music

April 15: *Cantus*  
 Male vocal chamber ensemble to perform classic and contemporary music

April 16: *Arianna String Quartet, "Life in Music"*

April 17: *Arianna String Quartet, "Cultural Odyssey"*

## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'Million Dollar Baby' has punch, but no knockout

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER  
*A&E Editor*

Wonder what Missouri ever did to Clint Eastwood? Or was it just poor little Theodosia?

What does Eastwood's new film have to do with a tiny town in Missouri? Despite its heavy hype, "Million Dollar Baby" has some troubling aspects. One of these is that director Eastwood indulges in some puzzling regional bullying by making Theodosia, Missouri, a tiny town on the Missouri-Arkansas border that caters to fishermen and tourists, the home town of his hillbilly boxer, Maggie Fitzgerald, and more significantly, her ghastly, stereotypically trailer-trash family.

"Million Dollar Baby" is a good news and bad news story. That little touch of meanness is one of the troubling elements that run underneath the Oscar-nominated film's emotionally powerful story of personal drive and human connections.

The film centers on an aging boxing trainer who runs a dingy gym in southern California, with the help of a janitor, one of the trainer's ex-fighters and his long-time friend, and a waitress from Theodosia, Missouri, who starts hanging out at his gym with dreams of being a boxer. The film tells us right away that Maggie Fitzgerald is from the lowest rungs of the Missouri boondocks, a trailer-trash hillbilly armed only with her ambition to be a boxer. The trainer brushes her off, wrestling with his own problems with his estranged daughter and his overcautious technique that keeps losing his most promising boxers to more aggressive promoters just as they are getting good.

The film has the components of success. It is a serious effort, with dark atmospheric photography and powerful acting, well directed. Yet despite the hype and the Oscar nominations, "Million Dollar Baby" is in many ways a film where the whole is less than the sum of its parts.

There are many positives about this film but some disturbing negatives. Here is a negative for this review:

Some films are best seen without any hints about the story, and "Million Dollar Baby" is one of these.

First I must warn you that there may be some "spoilers" in this review. I generally try to avoid "spoilers" and will not reveal all in this review either but there is a quandary with this film. Scrupulously sticking with a "no-spoilers" approach for this film would make for a very incomplete, and short, review.

Some of you may like the film more than I did, but come back and read the rest of this review after you see it, and think about these observations.

Without spoiling anything, it can be said that this is a very good, worthy film but not a great film, due to some

“  
**'Million Dollar Baby' does lionize individual striving and courage, but it buries this admirable impulse under other prejudices and stereotypes.**  
 ”

troubling subtext. It is, however, the best film director and star Clint Eastwood has done in awhile. It is stylish, powerful filmmaking, with a dark, gritty look. Hilary Swank's acting is superb, and worth the ticket alone. The scenes between Swank and Eastwood have palpable electricity. Roles by Eastwood and Morgan Freeman are well-drawn, if familiar and the banter between them is delightful and natural. The boxing sequences are emotional and even exciting, especial with the crowd response, but they are like those in many boxing films before it. Also like many other serious boxing films, it is a film of emotional highs and lows, but not a feel-good film.

"Million Dollar Baby" does lionize individual striving and courage but it

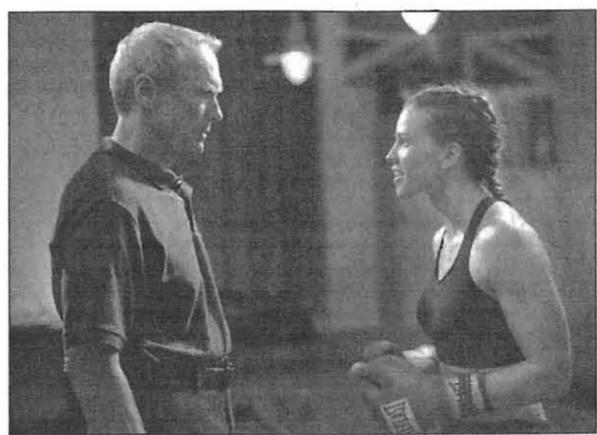
buries this admirable impulse under other prejudices and stereotypes. Maggie's awful Missouri relatives are cardboard characters that represent every negative stereotype you could conjure up for the terms "trailer" and "hillbilly," and Eastwood's periodic reminders that they are from Missouri seem basically unfair coming from a successful Hollywood star.

Regional prejudices and stereotypes are common. People in Chicago sneer at folks in southern Illinois, and both east and west coast dismiss the "big fly-over" in the middle of the country. Appalachian or Ozark hillbillies have long been the butt of jokes but Eastwood's use of a real town is puzzling. I have actually been in poor little Theodosia and honestly, it is a perfectly nice country town. Eastwood could have picked a farming hamlet that has few outside visitors but he chose a town that depends on tourist trade, at least from fishermen. It is easy to create these kinds of images and prejudices but much harder to erase them.

"Million Dollar Baby" is a worthy effort but the flaws undermine the strength of the film. One of the things I did not like was casting Missouri as the new stereotypical armpit of the country, replacing such predecessors as Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas. Oh boy. Another thing I did not like was the ending of the film. Here is where you stop reading to avoid the chance of a spoiler.

It is not only the unfair swipe at a small, rural town that might cause Missouri "Red State" folk to be displeased with this film. What happens in the film does make dramatic sense for the characters but it is still disturbing stuff, or worse.

As a boxing film, "Million Dollar Baby" says nothing new, as atmospherically stylish and skillful as it may be. The boxing film is one of the most overworked ideas of film, dating back to the silent era. "Girl Fight" did women's boxing first and better. Here, the female boxer is just used as a hook for the film, and Maggie's devotion to her trainer put me more in mind of the 1931 Wallace Beery heart-tugger "The Champ," as did other themes of the film. Many boxing films are inspiring underdog tales, like Sly Stone's



Hilary Swank and Clint Eastwood play principal roles in 'Million Dollar Baby.' The film portrays the struggles of a female boxer from a small Missouri town. Eastwood directed and acted in the film, and Morgan Freeman joined the star-studded cast.

"Rocky." The darker elements, inner demons, and bloody violence of a sport where people beat each other with their fists were explored in Martin Scorsese's quintessential boxing film "Raging Bull." The film also owes something to Buster Keaton's silent comedy "Battling Butler," which ends with a startlingly realistic fight scene, the film that prompted Scorsese to say no director understood boxing except Keaton. It even has elements of the Charlie Chaplin comedy "The Champion," where the gym dolt becomes a surprise in the ring, one of the first boxing movies.

With this extensive body of films, it is surprising that Eastwood found any freshness at all. Eastwood does find a bit of freshness in this well-mined film genre, but mostly it has wonderful acting performances. Hilary Swank is fabulous, and her character's inner strength and unflagging optimism is complemented by Swank's performance in the ring and gym, as she trained enough for the role not to need a double for the fight scenes. Her scenes with the haunted, doubting Eastwood are the emotional heart of the film. Frankly, her performance is most of what elevates the film. The banter between Clint Eastwood and Morgan

Freeman is both funny and completely convincing as two gruff guys who have worked side by side for more than twenty years, even if Eastwood's and Freeman's characters are surprisingly familiar. The voice over by Freeman is also familiar, recalling the tone of the much-superior "Shawshank Redemption."

In fact, in many critics' views, the film is not about boxing but about the choices these characters make.

Eastwood's grizzled trainer is a tortured soul who finds an unexpected bond with Swank's sunny, hard-headed boxer. The end of the film is disturbing, although it can be argued that it makes sense for these characters. The choices the characters make are going to spark controversy. However, the ending of the film and the choices made by the characters may stimulate discussion, which is what art should do.

Here's the sum up: Eastwood might be a favorite in Hollywood but his boxing picture does not measure up to Martin Scorsese's boxing classic, and "Million Dollar Baby" does not measure up against its Oscar rival, Scorsese's "The Aviator." Whichever way the Oscar vote goes, "Million Dollar Baby" is no first-round knockout.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### Service lacking at Maguey



El Maguey is a casual restaurant where families and friends can relax to the tune of Mexican music.

BY MONICA MARTIN  
*Staff Writer*

If you want to curb your craving for Mexican food but do not have a lot of money, visit El Maguey at one of their many locations around town.

My friend and I arrived at El Maguey on Sunday evening at 6 p.m. The restaurant was less than half full. We were unsure of whether to seat ourselves, so we waited to be seated. Finally a hostess came over and led us to a table in the non-smoking section.

A girl brought out our drinks and a basket of tortillas and a bowl of salsa to hold us over as we perused our menu. Drinks included soda, margaritas and beer. There were appetizers, enchiladas, steaks and burritos, among other things. After 10 minutes of looking the menu over, a man came over and took our order. I ordered a Burrito Mexicano, without sour cream. The burrito was 12 inches in length, with meat, lettuce, cheese and sour cream. My friend, who had already eaten, snacked on the tortillas.

While waiting for our food, we took in the restaurant. Mexican music wafted over the speakers. The walls were decorated with pinatas, colorful blankets and sombreros. The walls were yellow stucco and the booths were made of varnished wood. Each tabletop was deco-

rated with various pictures. Small lights hung above the tables. The restaurant was comprised of one large room and a bar. Upon first entering the restaurant, patrons were greeted with a small table decorated with dishes. Above the table were several posters. There was a view of the bar as well as the dining room. Diners were dressed casually as well as dressed up.

After a 10 minute wait, my food arrived. It was delivered by the same girl who brought out our drinks. The burrito took up the whole plate, and was covered with a brown sauce and cheese. However, after digging into my burrito, I found that the sour cream, which I had asked to be left out, was included. Because of the size of the burrito, I was unable to finish it and asked for a to-go box. After a few minutes of trying to get the attention of the waiter, I was able to get the check. The total came to just over 10 dollars plus the tip.

El Maguey is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Lunch is offered from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There are several locations, including Chesterfield, Manchester, O'Fallon, Downtown St. Louis and two locations in St. Charles.

Although the food was good, the service left much to be desired. For Mexican food in St. Louis, you can do better, but you could also do worse.



**El Maguey**  
 Chesterfield, St. Charles, Manchester, St. Louis City,

## PERFORMANCE REVIEW

### Local dance group graces Touhill

BY TANA ROGERS  
*Staff Writer*

Without pretentious point shoes and pirouettes, the Mid America Dance Company presented a variety of contemporary choreography with a recurring theme of balance. The dancers, always barefoot, held statuesque poses occasionally. Other times, they darted across the Lee Theatre stage during their performance on Friday, Jan., 28 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

In between, they danced, executing cutting-edge movements that expanded perceptions regarding modern dance.

The dancers began the showcase with a piece called "bop D bounce." The lighting played a big role in this piece, choreographed by Helen Myers. The black stage and costumes emphasized the color of the back wall. The initial orange and red tones changed to green. When the color changed, the music also transitioned to a jazzy, upbeat tune.

Although the dancers wore black, each outfit had a bright splash of neon green, pink, and/or orange. A swirl of color on a dancer's side accentuated the balanced poses. The dancers balanced on one leg with the other extended in front. They also bent at the waist and held one leg in the air at a high angle. Both of these poses created lines amidst the dance moves.

The next performance, Alicia Jonas' "Breakout," definitely broke the mold of choreographed dance. Many poses were reminiscent of yoga and Pilates. The various pastel colored tops paired with gray shorts further crafted the calming mood associated with yoga.

To counter this atmosphere, the dancers "ran" on their hands and feet like crabs. The performers even ran in circles lying down on their sides during this unconventional piece.

As the next performance seemed to call for, "Response!" elicited the most enthusiasm from the audience. Michael Thomas choreographed this section, and a voice summarized the performance as "seemingly dispersed compositions" before it began. The voice

### • Mid-America Company shatters traditional concept of modern dance

narrated what the audience should see which created a unique mood.

At times, a voice declared what a dancer was thinking. A male voice admitted, "I don't want to stand in the back and lift the girls." The dancers arranged themselves on the floor to support and lift a highlighted dancer.

For "Response!" the performers

“  
**The sound of their feet striking the stage while executing unified motions created a steady tempo which also stabilized this avant-garde piece.**  
 ”

wore multi-colored racing shirts with a solid bottom. In addition to the narration, robotic music played. At times, only beats blared from the speakers.

Although the percussion could have unsettled the audience, the dancers' swift, fluid movements alleviated the tension. The sound of their feet striking the stage while executing unified motions created a steady tempo which also stabilized this avant-garde piece.

After intermission, the company resumed the show with "Pulse" by Lindsay Hawkins. This bright, upbeat piece created a Latin feel. The female dancers flashed smiles as they strutted in their floral costumes.

At one point, three male dancers entered the stage to form three couples. The action froze with the three pairs at different places onstage producing a triangle. The lights dimmed except for a red background. The black shadows of couples against a bright red back-

ground in a dark theatre formed a romantic image.

After a short while, the background turned green and the dancers came to life to a tribal beat. This transition was very smooth and creative, creating anticipation. The moves matched the beat and the dancers swayed their arms and bodies.

"Just Because" followed. A lone guitar began and the dancers' moves, choreographed by Katie Van Dillen, accompanied the instrument. Only women danced during this performance and the moves seemed more traditional. The black uniforms complemented the graceful motions.

The final piece was also more traditional than some of the earlier ones. The dancers wore all white, flowing costumes for "Spectrum" by Todd Weeks. It began with the dancers walking along invisible paths around and beside one other. Classical music began, and instantly the background was illuminated with red.

The Vivaldi song from the "Diamonds are forever" ad brought forth a fury of movement. The dancers lifted one other and leapt. The music and the moves changed, but the execution was flawless throughout. In spite of bare feet, they spun to the music. The dancers maintained the theme of balance through these spins and during the lifts.

The Mid America Dance Company brought style to the stage with their contemporary choreography. They defied gravity and shattered the conventions of modern dance.

**Your source for PAC reviews**  
 Catch the shows you missed and relive the ones you caught



# Pocket Protectors Unite!

## UPB's Nerdfest brings out the nerd in us all



RIGHT:

Edward Tirado holds his first prize iPod mini proudly at the NerdFest contest held last Friday night in the MSC. Tirado beat all competition dressed as Planeteer Mah-ti (the heart guy) from the Captain Planet cartoon series.



Photos by Kevin Ottley/ The Current

UPB also sponsored a Chess tournament which occurred after the Nerdfest contest ended. Alex Kerford (right) emerged the winner after finishing undefeated in six games.

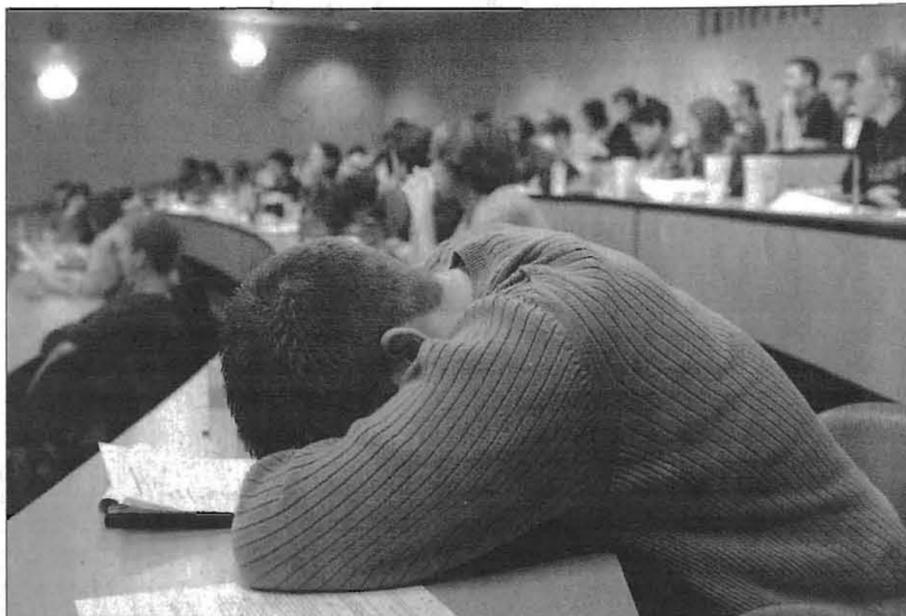
### WELLNESS, from page 1

Braddix said the referendum provides an impartial campaign. "It's not a 'Vote Yes' campaign. It's a neutral campaign," he said. Bopp said postponement was also necessary when the University Assembly, the governing body of the faculty and administrative staff, became unaware of the referendum committee's decisions. Bopp said, "Some members of the University Assembly had been on the committees, but were not brought up to speed and were surprised by the progress that had been made." He said while the vote is ultimately a student decision, he

respects what the University Assembly has to say. "We need their input and want support from the University Assembly," Bopp said. However, Braddix did not understand why certain faculty members were against the project since student fees would pay for the Wellness Center. He believes students have the right to determine how they choose to spend their fees. Concerns about an increase in student fees worry some students. Helton said one misconception is that student fees would increase this semester. "The fees wouldn't increase until the center was

opened," he said. Helton wants students to get all of the information to make an informed decision. Andreas Puente, senior, international business, and chairman of the infrastructure committee, named misinformation as the main reason for postponement. "Students weren't informed very well. We first need to clarify a few issues. We want to be consistent with the school's action plan," he said. The referendum committee hopes to let students vote on the referendum by the fall 2005 semester this year at the earliest.

### SGA APPROVES NEW ELECTION RULES, from page 1



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

As the lengthy debate over election rules dragged on at the SGA meeting on Friday, John Waterhouse, senior, electrical engineering, lays his head down to rest. Waterhouse represents the Society of Future Engineers

"I think everybody in this assembly would like to see a very good, well-run, efficient and uncontested election," Bopp said. "It would be the first time in a few years that we have had that." Also discussed was a new committee that has been formed, called the Student Fees Review Committee. They will be holding their first meeting on Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Office of Student Life, and the meeting is open to all students. The Assembly voted four new members onto the election committee. These incoming members include Alex Kerford, Jan Mayer, Davida Skannal and Dan Flees. Prior to discussion of the election rules, Bopp informed the Assembly that results from the newspaper readership program will be brought to

the next meeting. The trial period for this program lasts through this week. "If there are any questions or any observations, we are still looking for input," Bopp said. Another item discussed was Homecoming. It will be held during the week of Feb. 7 and events will take place throughout the entire week. Events will begin with banner wars on Monday and end with the basketball games on Saturday. Gloria Shultz, director of auxiliary services and the University Bookstore, is in charge of the parade and spoke briefly about this event. She invited any organizations interested in having a float to pick up an application in the Office of Student Life. Applications are due by Friday. Tickets for the dance are now on sale in Student Life. The dance will be held at the Airport Marriott on

Friday, Feb. 11. "[Ticket sales] are doing excellent, we will probably sell out this year and sell out ahead of schedule," Mindy McNabb, SGA vice president, said. "The tickets are \$20 for a single, \$30 for a couple or \$150 for a table." Last on the agenda was discussion of help for the tsunami victims. Jody Miller, associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, is working to set up an aid program. She would like to create a single tangible goal for the University, which could include adopting a school overseas. Right now they are looking to help reconstruct a school in Sri Lanka and possibly create long-term ties. Miller asked anyone interested in helping to contact her at jodymiller@umsl.edu.

*A Night on the Town*

UMSL Homecoming

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

*Monday, February 7:*  
 Blood Drive  
 MSC Third Floor from 1-7 pm  
 BMO Penny Wars  
 Nosh 10 am to 2 pm

*Tuesday, February 8:*  
 Homecoming Parade  
 Begins at South Campus Parking Lot U at 12:30 pm  
 BMO Penny Wars  
 Nosh 10 am to 2 pm

*Wednesday, February 9:*  
 Big Man On Campus  
 Pilot House at 1 pm

*Thursday, February 10:*  
 Powder Puff Football  
 Mark Twain Field at 1 pm  
 Tailgating  
 Mark Twain at 4:30 pm  
 Basketball Game  
 Women's Game vs. Lewis, Mark Twain at 5:30 pm  
 Men's Game vs. Lewis, Mark Twain at 7:30 pm

*Friday, February 11:*  
 Homecoming Dance  
 Airport Marriott at 7 pm

*Saturday, February 12:*  
 Basketball Game  
 Women's Game vs. SIUE, Mark Twain at 5:30 pm  
 Men's Game vs. SIUE, Mark Twain at 7:30 pm  
 Alumni Family Day

★ **TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**  
 \$20 single, \$30 couple, \$150 table of 10  
 Purchase tickets in Student Life, 366 MSC

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