

# The Current

**UM-St. Louis out for 'Greatness'**

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THE STUDENT VOICE OF UM-ST. LOUIS SINCE 1966 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.COM | VOLUME 43; ISSUE 1286 | SEPT. 8, 2009

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JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## Guys, gals, grill and greet

Students were invited to the Welcome BBQ, which took place at the Catholic Newman Center on Tuesday.

## Fight close to Oak Hall ends in assault charges

► JESSICA KEIL & CHRIS STEWART

According to the police report, on Thursday morning, at approximately 12:30 a.m. an altercation in front of the Oak Hall dormitory occurred between a University of Missouri-St. Louis student, her boyfriend and more than one unnamed suspects.

The student and her boyfriend were both allegedly assaulted, leading to the boyfriend's admittance into DePaul Hospital for an ankle injury.

Conflicting reports from witnesses outside Oak Hall at the time report that the

incident occurred at the UM-St. Louis South Metro-Link station, or nearby, and not outside Oak Hall.

The female student, however, was seen lying on the ground outside the Oak Hall at 12:45 a.m. and two suspects were arrested for assault outside the dormitories by three campus police officers.

Arielle Brophy, freshman, biochemistry and biotechnology, lives on the first floor of Oak Hall. She witnessed the arrests.

"[The assault] happened at the Metro," she said.

See ASSAULT, page 4

## Federal stimulus distributed to UM System

► CHRIS STEWART  
Asst. Design Editor

On February 17, Governor Jay Nixon held a press conference in which he announced that Missouri would receive a portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. This was the same day that president Barack Obama signed the bill into law.

The ARRA, brainchild of the Obama administration, has been received with the

night-and-day partisan reactions that have marked public response to the administration since its beginning.

Budget allocations to the states by the ARRA (less than ten percent of the overall ARRA is portioned out directly to state governments to use at their discretion) specified as "Budget Stabilization Funds".

Missouri received a large portion of these funds designated for use in the repair and general maintenance of

Missouri's education system.

According to Governor Nixon's Transform Missouri Initiative website (transform.mo.gov), "The Federal Department of Education estimates Missouri's total allocation of these [education recovery] funds at \$921 million..."

For higher education institutions to access these funds, the responsibility falls on each educational school. They must take initiative to submit a proposal for how

much funding they believe they should receive.

The University of Missouri-St. Louis' Office of Research Administration's Sponsored Projects webpage (www.umsl.edu/services/ora/sponsored-projects/external-stimulus-opps-2009.html) includes a chart of the UM system's funding. This chart describes each campus within the system: the Columbia, Kansas City, Rolla, and St. Louis campuses, and the amount of funding each

has requested and received. The chart is updated weekly with the current page's chart having last been updated Friday.

The chart is organized by highest to lowest amounts proposed by each campus. UM-Columbia has requested the highest amount of funding: \$133,656,459. UM-St. Louis, conversely, has applied for the lowest amount of funds: \$36,224,836.

See STIMULUS, page 9

**WEATHER**

<b>MON. 80</b> <b>65</b>	<b>TUES. 79</b> <b>65</b>	<b>WED. 84</b> <b>67</b>	<b>THURS. 81</b> <b>62</b>	<b>FRI. 78</b> <b>62</b>	<b>SAT. 77</b> <b>60</b>	<b>SUN. 72</b> <b>55</b>
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# News

## Got a tip for us?

## Let us know.

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## New program to help disabled students' textbook search

► ANNA MARIE CURRAN  
*News Editor*

Students with print disabilities may be in for good news regarding their textbooks. The Association of American Publishers (AAP) and the Alternative Media Access Center (AMAC) have partnered to create the AccessText Network. According to the AAP, AccessText is a "comprehensive, national online database system" which will make textbooks more easily available to students who have print-related disabilities, such as blindness or dyslexia. While the University of Missouri-St. Louis is not a participant in AccessText, the database is constantly growing and includes 500 participating universities and 1600 institutions.

The current process for disabled students to ob-

tain their textbooks is much more complicated than the cross-referencing system AccessText proposes. In the current process, a student is required to purchase the textbook and keep their receipt as "proof of purchase" for the disability office. The disabilities office then makes contact with the publisher and asks for either a digital copy of the file (to save time) or permission to "chop" the book.

Scott Armstead, coordinator of Student Support Services at UM-St. Louis (an office that works closely with the Disability Student Services office on campus) said that chopping a book involves literally cutting the spine off of a book and scanning the loose pages into a computer. Armstead said that UM-St. Louis currently does not have enough people to do the process on campus so text-

books for students at UM-St. Louis are sent to facilities at the University of Missouri-Columbia (to whom UM-St. Louis pays a fee). Only after a book is chopped and scanned can it be converted to the form that the student requires. Depending on the facilities and amount of backlog, Armstead explained that this can be a lengthy process, and the books are often only used for one semester before becoming outdated.

"There's a lot of books that get scanned each semester," Armstead said, "and [we] put a ridiculous amount of work into getting these books accessible for students, and at the end of the semester, the publishers now are coming out with new editions."

While AccessText cannot prevent the jump to new editions each semester, it could at least make the amount of

work needed to convert the textbooks more manageable. Bruce Hildebrand, executive director for Higher Education for the Association of American Publishers, said that AccessText will allow participating members to gain access to the course files needed for disabled students with greater ease and efficiency. He said that AccessText will allow schools to complete the process at a greater speed, and that they will be able to keep track of the progress of each individual textbook.

Hildebrand said that the program is currently in its "beta phase" where it is free for participating universities. However, on July 1, 2010, there will be an annual membership fee implemented which will be \$375-\$500, depending on school size.

See ACCESS, page 2

## UM-St. Louis students score high in study

► JOYCE GATES  
*Staff Writer*

The Collegiate Learning Assessment, or CLA, is an annual study that measures teaching and learning at the freshman and then senior levels of undergraduate higher education, according to a University of Missouri-St. Louis August news release by Maureen Zegel of Media Services.

"We have received national confirmation of the quality of UMSL and we are thrilled with the outcomes of this achievement," said Judith Walker de Felix, associate provost for academic affairs and dean of the Graduate School.

Professor Tim Farmer of the UM-St. Louis School of Business said that 189 local

and national institutions also took part in the CLA sample study. "[The] CLA exam is an exam that requires a lot of writing," said Farmer. "Being able to write well is an important factor of [the student's] performance."

Of the 189 institutions, UM-St. Louis scored in the 95th percentile.

Besides UM-St. Louis, local institutions like Lindenwood University, Truman State University, and Missouri Western State University were calculated in the study.

"Right now we are testing some of the freshman [students], and in the spring we will do a sample of graduating seniors," Farmer said. According to Walker de Felix, the CLA "provides an authentic, stable assessment

for students to demonstrate performance in key higher order skills such as critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving and written communication."

She also said, "It requires students to answer open-ended realistic questions, as well as writing and critiquing arguments."

This is the second school year that UM-St. Louis has participated in the study, and within those two years, a change in the students' academic performance was noticed.

In the 2008-2009 academic school year, exiting seniors received a 95 total CLA score that was well-above expectations. This was a six percent increase from the previous year's seniors, who earned an 89 on the CLA. The en-

tering freshmen were not as fortunate in their overall percentile, but they were able to keep their 2007-2008 placement in the 90th percentile with a 2008-2009 scoring of 95.

According to the CLA website, over 400 institutions and over 165,000 students have participated in the CLA. Speaking of further academic success of UM-St. Louis students, Walker de Felix noted something else about the institution's seniors and freshmen: "After adjusting for ACT/SAT scores, UMSL freshmen and seniors scored better than 95-percent of students at participating institutions that included the University of Southern California, University of Georgia, and eight campuses of the University of Texas."

# Students warned about joining new honor society

► **BRIDGET RYDER**  
Staff Writer

When Robert Bliss, Dean of the Honors College at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, learned that the National Scholars Honor Society had extended its membership to a cat, he decided to caution students at the Honors College about joining an organization he said was "at least dubious."

He had received an e-mail from the NSHS that made him wary of the organization because, according to Bliss, "It looked like it had been sent out to five million people."

After investigating the background of the NSHS board members on its website, <http://www.magnacumlaude.org>, his doubts increased.

"Some [of the board members] had a somewhat tenuous relationship with academic respectability," he said, citing that many of the NSHS board members are medical doctors rather than faculty members of any ranked university.

"I don't doubt those credentials, they are who they are, they just aren't my dream team for the members of a national honor society," said Bliss.

After receiving an email from Phi Kappa Phi, an interdisciplinary honor society with a chapter at UM-St. Louis, he decided to warn students at the Honors College about joining the NSHS. The email informed him that Molly, the pet cat of Phi Kappa Phi's executive director, Perry Snyder, had been granted membership in NSHS.

Snyder had first become aware of the NSHS when members of Phi Kappa Phi at Louisiana State University received postcards in the mail inviting them to join the honor society. On behalf of the students, Snyder looked into the NSHS and learned they were a for-profit organization, not a 501(c)(3) non-profit like most honor societies. When he called the office of the NSHS he got a recording, but it did not allow him to leave a message. Finally, Snyder decided to submit his cat, Molly, for membership using an invented grade point average and school: the Louisiana Animal and Veterinary University. To his surprise, she was invited to join the NSHS. After he mailed Molly's \$85 membership fee, she was granted lifetime membership and received a pin and a certificate.

Snyder said, "There is no type of meaningful checking of academic records."

Prospective NSHS members apply via an online application. The bottom of the application states that it will be reviewed by the membership committee and then students will be notified if they have been accepted. As part of the application, students are asked to agree to the terms of the society's Honor Code.

The Honor Code states, "I will conduct my academic and personal affairs with the utmost integrity. I will honor myself and the tenants of the National Scholars Honors Society."

The NSHS calls this the Honor System.

Regarding Molly's acceptance, the president of the NSHS, Dr. Kevin Wakeman, MD, said, "Our application process and Honor Code are specifically designed to cultivate trust, respect, and integrity. Adopting a system which eliminates any uncertainty would nullify the requisite essence of an honor code. Fraudulent applications are the exception, not the rule. Given the responsibility and opportunity to display honor and integrity, students will."

# UM-St. Louis to unveil strategic plan: 'Gateway for Greatness'

► **JASON BECKRING**  
Staff Writer

The University of Missouri-St. Louis will unveil a new strategic plan, the Gateway for Greatness program, at the 18th annual Founder's Dinner. The dinner, to be held on Tuesday, September 22, will honor UM-St. Louis alumni and initiate the campaign.

The new program aims to hoist UM-St. Louis into the position of a foremost research university and a pinnacle of preference for undergraduate, graduate, and professional students. The mission of the university is to afford its students erudition and leadership excellence.

Chancellor Tom George explained that the Gateway for Greatness program will replace the existing Action Plan that was created in 2004 and expired in 2008. The Gateway for Greatness program will cover the next four years. "It was shared governance to the hilt. We involved the staff, the students, and the outside community," George said of the program.

According to the UM-St. Louis website, the plan is the required agenda of the UM-System and is embedded with the aspirations of the university.

"The plan has five goals and under each goal are strategic priorities and supporting initiatives with over 100 measures," George said, The

website describes five diverse strategies by which the campaign will propel UM-St. Louis into prominence.

First, the university is prepared to enhance the quality and delivery of learning on its campus. The university recognizes its competition and is primed to satisfy the various educational needs of its students.

The second approach will seek to maintain the university's already diverse student population, while also recruiting more students from varying cultures and backgrounds to ensure the university's superior cultural diversity in the state of Missouri.

The next advance of the campaign will be to enhance and promote innovative and significant research at the university. It will provide the same encouragement toward scholarly knowledge as well as create an inspiring artistic environment.

While already well known for its contributions locally, nationally, and internationally, the university is prepared to create more sustainable and beneficial programs that will leave a positive imprint on society.

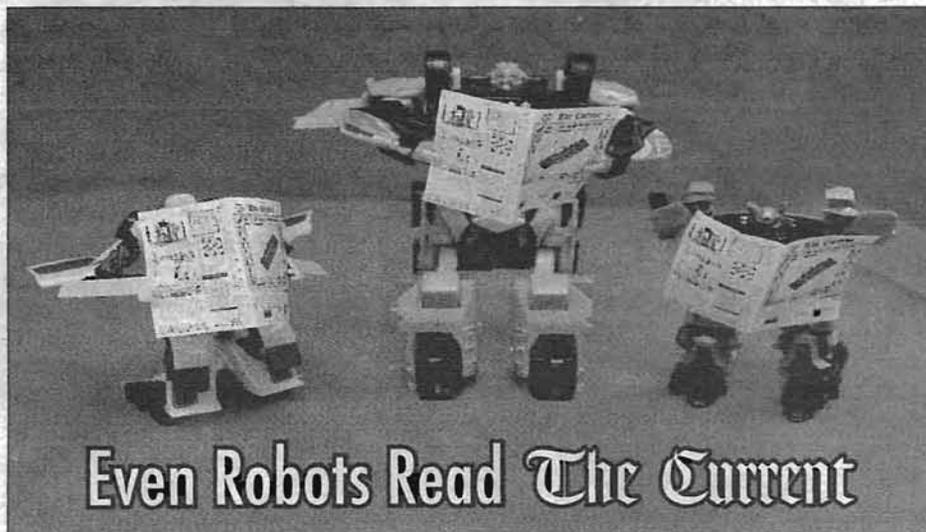
According to George, the Gateway for Greatness program will continue the university's quest to provide an affordable education to its students. UM-St. Louis also wishes to assure its donors that their investments into the university are utilized to

enhance the research, teaching, and learning on the campus in a sensible and suitable fashion.

The plan will find oversight from the University Assembly Budget and Planning Committee. The committee includes faculty, staff and students, and will regularly ask for updates: usually either late in the fall semester or early in the spring semester.

E. Terrence Jones, Professor of Political Science and Chairman of Budget and Planning, said the committee "is a way to monitor what progress is being made." Once the committee has submitted the progress report of the plan, it examines the report for any problems. "If we wanted to make a recommendation that something should be changed, or we had a criticism of something the administration was or was not doing, that would take a form of a resolution to the entire assembly for it to act on," Jones said.

These measures aim to maintain or increase private annual giving to \$25 million by June 2012, enhance technological infrastructure, increase external funding 10% annually, maintain or increase private annual giving to \$25 million by June 2012, increase undergraduate enrollment to 9,356 by 2012 and increase graduate students to 3,070 by 2012, among others.



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# Statshot

## UNDERCURRENT

Volunteering is a way to give back to your community with your extra time. Have you ever volunteered?



**Tom Dixon**  
Freshman  
Media Studies

"In high school, I was involved in National Honor Society and we did a variety of service projects. I haven't yet found something like that in college, but I'd like to."



**Amelia Buckley**  
Sophomore  
Nursing

"I have volunteered by doing political campaigning as well as helping out with Catholic Answers radio station."



**Dru Dickerhoff**  
Senior  
Accounting

"I, unfortunately do not have the time to volunteer."



**Jason Bowen**  
Senior  
Management

"I work full time and go to school, so unfortunately no time to volunteer."



**Thu Nguyen**  
Junior  
Accounting

"I volunteer for American Red Cross."

What about you? Sound off at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

## VERBATIM

"It's amazing to me the last time the president spoke to the nation's children was in 1991."

-Secretary of Education  
Arne Duncan

"She'll call me like, almost like a lame fish. Like I wasn't going anywhere."

-John Gosselin, speaking of his wife, Kate

"He fell down because of the type of movies he was doing. They were horrible movies."

-An LA-based talent agent about Ben Affleck

"We didn't know the Onion was not a real news site."

-Hasanuzzaman Khan,  
Associate Editor for a  
Bangladeshi newspaper

"Everybody take a deep breath, all your favorite comics remain unchanged."

-Joe Quesada,  
Marvel Comics Editor-in-Chief

"We spend a third of our life sleeping, and it seems so maladaptive; 'the biggest mistake nature has made,' scientists often call it."

-Dr. Jerome Siegel,  
University of California

"Blu-ray is a bag of hurt."

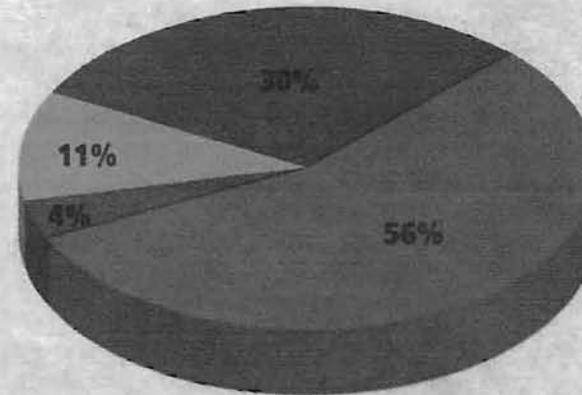
-Steve Jobs,  
CEO Apple Computers

"It wasn't aggressive or stalking people, and it maintained its natural respect for the wild."

-Captain Bill Hebner,  
Department of Wildlife

## POLL

What do you think of The Current's redesign?



- I like it; the new format is easier to read.
- I like the updated look.
- I don't care one way or the other.
- I hate it; bring back the old format.

### This week:

What do you think of President Obama's address to elementary schools?

Answer at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

## ASSAULT, from page 1

According to George Huebner, campus police, crime incidents that occur on the MetroLink platform are not within campus police jurisdiction.

"[Metro police are] a combination of city and county and they have jurisdiction on the train or at the platform," Huebner said.

Although the incident might have occurred on or near the MetroLink platform, campus police were called by a staff member with The Office of Residential Life and Housing at Oak Hall after the student's boyfriend entered the building to get help.

Huebner said that campus police are sometimes called to the MetroLink station because they are nearby and can get to the incident location faster than Metro police. Huebner could not however confirm or deny any details in the police report.

Brophy described her account of the event.

"I came downstairs and

this girl comes in crying. She looked like she had been punched in the stomach, and her boyfriend came out and took his shirt off looking really angry," Brophy said. "The cops took care of it though. They were really good."

The two suspects were arrested after the victim confirmed the person who hit her. One suspect was taken into custody for 3rd Degree Assault.

However, as confirmed from the victim and her boyfriend, a third person involved in the incident was not arrested with the other two.

The campus police report will be sent to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and a possible criminal warrant will be issued.

David Becker, freshman, business administration and resident of Oak Hall, spoke to the police to inform them of the possible third suspect. Becker was concerned with

keeping other Oak Hall residents calm.

"[The night that it happened] I was freaking out because I've never seen this sort of thing happen before," Brophy said "It makes people more aware that it's probably a bad idea to ride the Metro. I used to ride it by myself all the time, now I bought pepper spray."

Brophy also said that she would feel safe walking around South Campus with a group, but not alone.

"The parking lot [in front of Oak Hall] is just so dark, it'd be hard to see a crime happening," she said.

Becker said that UM-St. Louis students should not be afraid on campus.

"There is no reason to be scared at UMSL," he said "We have a good police force working here."

See the Crimeline on pg. 5 for the police report information released by UM-St. Louis campus police officer Lt. John Schupp.

Check out *The Current* on Twitter!  
[www.twitter.com/umslcurrent](http://www.twitter.com/umslcurrent)

# Crimeline

Monday, AUGUST 19, 2009

**Stealing Over \$500.00 - General Services Building**

Sometime between 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm on 8-30-09 two computers and one scanner were stolen from an office. The equipment was new and still in the box waiting to be installed. The department was open for business at the time however most employees were out of the office for training and only one employee was working and couldn't observe the entire office area from her cubical. The computers were entered into the computer database as stolen. There are no suspects to this incident.

**Property Damage - Observatory - Fine Arts Parking area**

Sometime during the month of August an exterior light cover and bulb were broken. The light fixture is attached to the Observatory. There are no suspects in this incident.

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

**Stealing Under \$500.00 - Parking Lot XX**

Sometime between 2:20 pm and 3:30 pm person(s) unknown stole the victim's MO State License plates from the vehicle while it was parked on Parking Lot XX on the South Campus. The license plates were entered into the computer database as stolen. There are no suspects in this incident.

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

**Assault Third - Oak Hall**

About 12:30 am a fight occurred outside of Oak Hall. Two victims (one UMSL student and her boyfriend) suffered minor injuries. Apparently all the parties came together for an unknown reason and met at Oak Hall. An altercation ensued whereby one of the suspects hit the female subject. The victim's boyfriend stepped in and was also assaulted by the same suspect. When UMSL Police arrived on scene all parties were still present. The suspect was taken into custody for Assault Third Degree. The victim did not require any medical attention and her boyfriend was transported to DePaul Hospital where he was treated for a minor injury to his ankle. This report will be sent to the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorneys Office for review of the charges and possibly the issuance of a criminal warrant.

**Property Damage/Stealing Over \$500.00 - Millennium Student Garage South**  
Sometime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm person(s) unknown broke into two vehicles parked in the Millennium Student Garage South. Both vehicles were entered by causing damage to the driver's side door lock. One vehicle had a CD/Stereo system stolen from inside, and the other vehicle had nothing taken.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning these, or any other incidents should contact the Campus Police. It is very necessary for everyone to lock their doors when they are out. Even if it is only for a minute or two, a simple locking of the door will prevent most thefts from occurring. As a reminder, please report any suspicious people or activity to the UMSL Campus Police immediately by calling 911 if it is an emergency, or the main number of 314-516-5155.

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# Sports

## VOLLEYBALL

# Volleyball swats away MoBap in home opener

► **CEDRIC WILLIAMS**  
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team made its home debut last Tuesday at the Mark Twain Building against cross-town rival Missouri Baptist University.

The night proved a smashing success, as the Tritons defeated the Spartans 25-18, 25-13, 25-23, for a three-games-to-none sweep in a non-conference contest.

"We definitely have the ability to be crisp and effective," UM-St. Louis head coach Trent Jones said.

"Our execution needs to be better though. Some of the players haven't played a lot, we're young. Sometimes you have to help them get

motivated."

Outside hitter Liz Cook, junior, had a match-high 11 kills and eight digs to lead the Tritons.

While teammate Kelsie Rankin, sophomore, added eight kills and 10 digs in a match where UM-St. Louis out-hit Mo Bap 42 kills to 28, with a .228 hitting percentage for the Tritons against a .082 hit percentage for the Spartans.

"I think we could've played better," Cook said. "I think we were a little nervous because this was our first home game. Next home game, we'll play a whole lot better hopefully."

Both teams started the match a little jittery, trading points for a 9-9 tie early

in the first game. But that's when Cook went to work and got her team going.

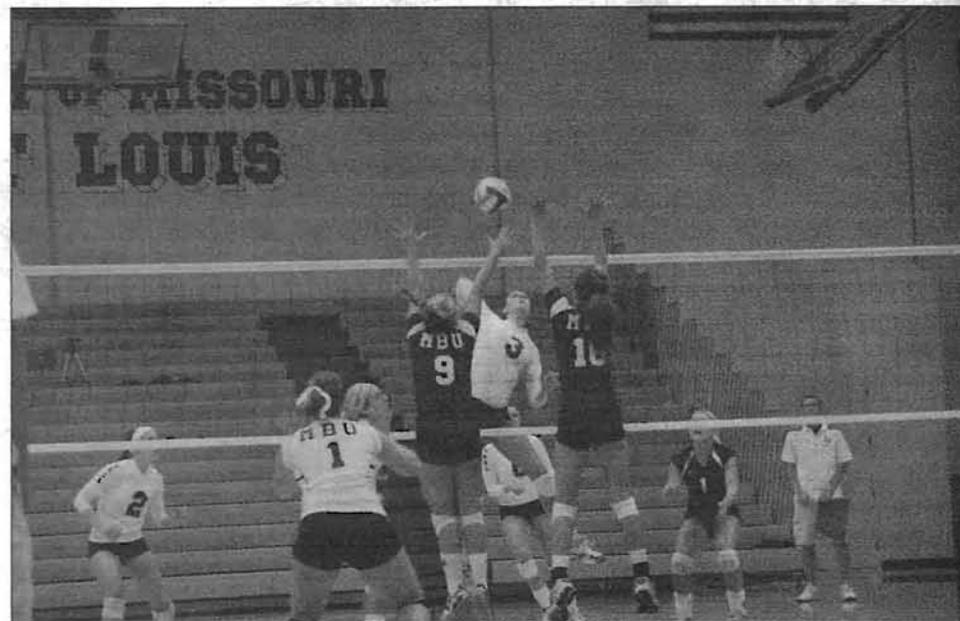
First, she put away kills on consecutive smashes from the left side.

Then, she helped set up teammate Weslie Gaff, sophomore, for a kill and a block that helped UM-St. Louis grab the lead for good at 13-9. Cook finished off the first game with a smash from the right side that gave the Tritons a 25-18 win.

In a second game where UM-St. Louis never trailed, it was Rankin who got the Tritons off to a hot start.

She blasted home three kills in the first six points to

See VOLLEYBALL, page 9



AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

UM-St. Louis' womens volleyball defeat MoBap at home opener Tuesday at the Mark Twain Building.

# Women's soccer falls to No. 5 Grand Valley in season opener

► **ANTHONY PADGETT**  
Asst. Sports Editor

On Friday afternoon the season officially began for the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's soccer team. The Tritons traveled to Allendale, Mich., to face off against No. 5-ranked Grand Valley State.

Unfortunately, the day did not go so well for UM-St. Louis which lost the match, 8-2.

Despite the lopsided final score, things started out well for the Tritons. Maggie Gabris, senior, gave UM-St. Louis an early lead when she scored a goal in the game's fourth minute, on a header off a pass from teammate Amy Fox, senior.

The Tritons lead would be short-lived though, as eight minutes later Alyssa Mira of Grand Valley State tied the score with her third goal of the season.

Grand Valley State would go on to score two more goals before halftime and have a comfortable 3-1 lead.

Grand Valley State would continue to keep the pressure on in the second half. The Lakers scored three more goals before the Tritons would score again.

Caitlin Farrow, senior, international business, netted her first goal of the season for UM-St. Louis in the 62nd minute. But Grand Valley State would go on to tack on two more goals before the end of the match.

While it was the first game of the season for the Tritons, it was actually the third game of the season for Grand Valley State, which improved to 2-0-1 with the win.

Hannah Sayre, sophomore, played all 90 minutes of the game and recorded 10 saves while allowing the eight goals.

UM-St. Louis had only eight shots the entire game while Grand Valley State had 37, and 24 of their shots came in the second half.

As for fouls and offsides, the Tritons fared much better.

The Tritons had only one offsides call all game while Grand Valley State had six. Grand Valley State also had six fouls called against them,

while the Tritons showed better discipline, had only four foul calls, and of which were in the first half.

It is important to remember that this was only the first game of the season for the Tritons, and there are still 16 games left, 13 against conference opponents.

Fortunately, Grand Valley State is not in the Great Lakes Valley Conference and the Tritons will not have to face them again for the remainder of the regular season.

Despite the loss, the Tritons were still able to walk away with a few positive notes. The team kept a cool head and kept the fouls to a minimum, and did not commit any fouls in the second half.

Scoring was a weakness for the team last season as they were shutout ten times but after scoring two goals in their first official game of the season it appears as if scoring may no longer be a problem. The two goals that the Tritons scored against Grand Valley State were the first two goals that the No. 5 team in the country had allowed this season.

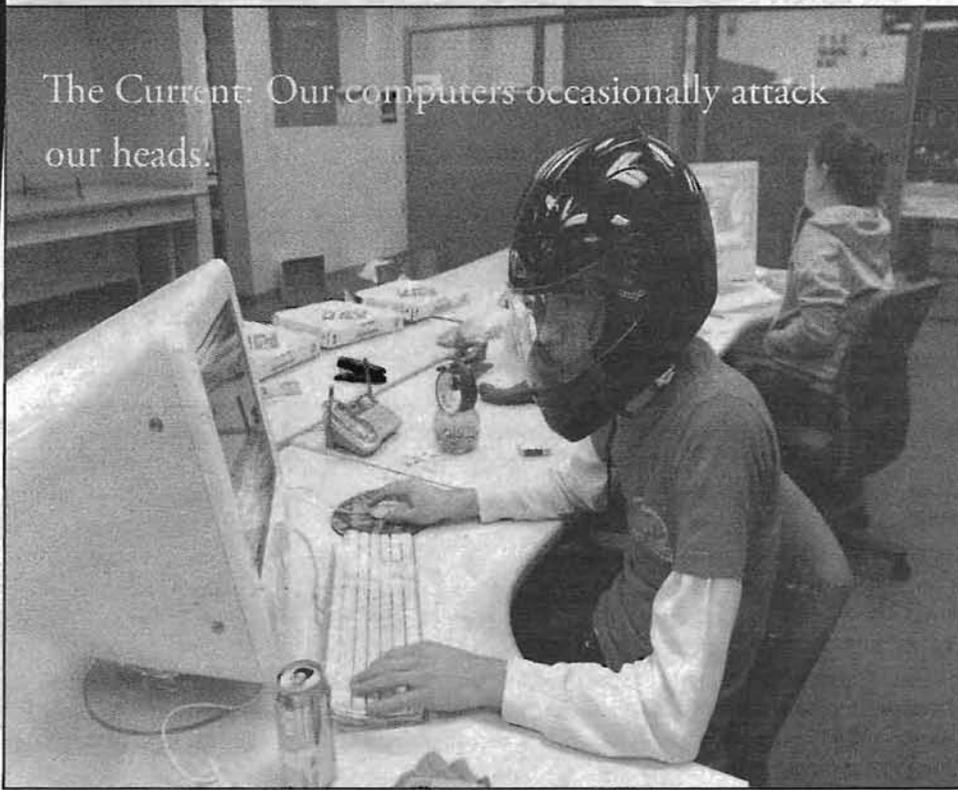
UM-St. Louis will return to action on Friday, Sept. 11, at 5 p.m.

That evening the Tritons will be playing at Don Dallas Field against conference rival Saint Joseph's, and every Triton fan should be in the stands supporting them.



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**WOMEN'S GOLF**

**Clara Vila takes top spot in opener**

► **ANTHONY PADGETT**  
Asst. Sports Editor

The On Thursday, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's golf team finished their first match of the fall golf season at the Maryville Women's Fall Warm Up at the Aberdeen Golf Club located in Eureka.

The match took two days to complete and if the Triton team can build upon their success, then it could be a truly promising season.

UM-St. Louis finished fourth in the season opener with a score of 329, 41 strokes over par.

Rend Lake Community College took first place with a team score of 317.

Lindenwood University took second place with a team score of 319; while Maryville University, which hosted the match, took third place. Maryville University broke its personal record for the 18-hole course, 348, which it set the previous year with a score of 325.

The Tritons were only four

strokes from tying for third place.

The team is in position this season to compete at every match they play, and could easily make the Great Lakes Valley Conference playoffs at the end of the spring season.

Individually, Clara Vila, senior, psychology, placed first at the match and won medalist honors.

Vila, who comes to UM-St. Louis from Spain, shot 37 on both days to give her an overall score of 74, just two strokes over par for the course. Vila edged out Maryville's Kayla Eckelkamp by one stroke to earn the medalist honors.

Other Tritons posted respectable scores as well. Amie Koerner, senior, shot an 81 (42-39) and tied for 12th.

Chelsea Kellogg, freshman, nursing, shot an 88 (44-44) and tied for 27th. Leslie Fischer, snior, psychology, senior, shot a 93 (46-37) and tied for 36th.

Newcomer Brittney Rogers, freshman, chemistry, shot an 86 (42-44) and tied

for 18th in her Triton debut.

UM-St. Louis will participate in six women's golf events this fall.

The Tritons will return to the course this weekend to play in the Drury Fall Shootout, hosted by Drury University, at the Rivercut Golf Course in Springfield, Mo.

The following weekend, UM-St. Louis will play in the Ray Wright/Screaming Eagles Classic, hosted by the University of Southern Indiana, at the Cambridge Golf Club in Evansville, Ind.

One of the major events of the fall season is the Midwest Shootout/GLVC Preview, which will be played September 26 and 27, at the Annbriar Golf Course in Waterloo, Ill.

In October, the Tritons will host the UM-St. Louis Triton Invitational at Gateway Golf Links in Madison, Ill. That event will be played October 5 and 6.

See GOLF, page 9

*Current Co-ed*

Covering  
the  
student  
body  
since 1966

UMSL always welcomes transfer students, especially when they are as attractive as this issue's Current Co-ed. She is Brigitta Sanocki, a freshman. Brigitta, who is majoring in German and French, was born in Germany. The pretty brown-haired green-eyed co-ed is a transfer from Forest Park Junior College.

Photo by Don Pearline



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CEDDIE SAYS...

# I'm ready for some Triton Football

► CEDRIC WILLIAMS  
Sports Editor

Ceddie says..... Football sure is fun here at UM-St. Louis.

That's right, contrary to popular belief, we do have football here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

And no, I'm not talking about those slick "football Ts" they sell in the bookstore every fall.

You've probably seen them. They come in different colors and have a picture of what a UM-St. Louis Triton tackle football helmet would look like—if we had a team—with the words "Undeclared since 1963" emblazoned on them.

I love the "football T." I have three of them, but as cool as the "football T" is, that's not the campus football I'm talking about.

What I am talking about is the Campus Recreation Flag Football League.

The games are played every fall right here on campus, and

if you've had occasion to witness even one of these contests then you already know--this stuff is some of the best on-campus sports we have.

Campus Recreation Flag Football is a seven-on-seven limited-contact league that plays its games on Tuesdays on the recreation field next to the Mark Twain Building.

I've tried to research the league and I haven't been very successful, so I'm not sure how long the league has existed.

However, I do know that the last two seasons were a lot of fun, and that participants take the league very seriously.

The teams have cool names like the Midwest Maulers, #1, and the Optometroids. Some of these teams practice. Some teams actually call plays during the game. Other teams run designed offensive

and defensive sets.

It is a lot more organized than you might imagine.

There are frat boy teams too. The Sig Pis have won the league title three years in a row and have a fierce rivalry with the Sig Taus and the Pikes—especially the Pikes.

There's always major drama whenever the Sig Pis take on the Pikes in anything, but watching those guys do battle on the football field is the ultimate. It's hilarious and compelling at the same time.

It is not just the games that are interesting to watch either.

The pre-game atmosphere for nearly every Campus Recreation Flag Football game is as intense as the final minutes before an NFL game.

No seriously—it is. These guys take these games very seriously.

Guys are stretching, meditating and warming up with their ipods on, just like the pros do. I get it, though. You gotta get your mind right for the game.

There's no hitting or tackling, but that doesn't mean there's no contact. I saw one guy get completely blindsided on a crackback block last year. Everybody went "Ooooooooo!" when it happened.

But that's football, UM-St. Louis-style. You gotta love it.

There's also a lot of trash-talkin' during these games, sometimes before and after games too; that stuff is always so much fun.

I got to live the Campus Recreation Flag Football experience up close the last two years.

I played in the league and I have to admit I was as nuts about it as anybody else.

Two years ago I was on the free agent team. We were a bunch of guys who signed up to play as individuals but didn't have a team to play on.

None of the other

teams needed any add-on guys so they put all us free agents on the same team.

We lost our first two games, but we got better and won four straight to make the playoffs.

Then we upset the Pikes—who had beaten us the first time we played them—to advance to the Flag Football Super Bowl.

We played a great first half in that championship game too. We led 20-6, but our magic ran out in the second half, and we lost to the Sig Pis 22-20.

Last year I volunteered to captain the free agent team. Unfortunately not enough free agents signed up to play, so I didn't get to be captain.

I did get picked up, "signed" if you will, by the Sig Pis, who were short on players.

We lost our first game but won every game after, including a 32-19 win over the Midwest Maulers in the Super Bowl to win the championship.

That's right. I was part of a championship-winning UM-St. Louis football team, and I sport my Campus Rec Champions T-shirt with great pride.

It is as close to a Super Bowl ring as I'm ever gonna get, but I am still quite proud of it.

So proud that I encourage all my Triton brethren, male and female, with any lingering gridiron dreams, to visit the Campus Recreation website and sign up to play some football this fall.

The deadline for sign-ups is September 10, and the games start on September 15, so you gotta move fast if you wanna play.

Who knows, maybe you could become part of the great UM-St. Louis football tradition.

Remember, Triton football is undefeated since 1963.

MEN'S SOCCER

# Bruised but not broken

► JOYCE GATES  
Staff Writer

You win some, you lose some.

It may seem like an over-used cliché, but for the University of Missouri-St. Louis men's soccer team, that motto stood true at their recent season opener against Truman State.

The Tritons traveled to Kirksville last Sunday but were unable to get anything past the Truman State goalkeeper, losing their first game of the season 2-0.

Truman State made their first goal four minutes into the game.

Bobby Larkin, a junior midfielder for the Bulldogs, slipped a header past Triton goalkeeper Tim Boruff, sophomore, to give Truman State a 1-0 lead.

"I think our weakness right now is obviously starting the match off with better intensity," head coach Dan King said.

"I, as well as the team, was disappointed in giving up an early goal in the first

four minutes of the game."

"If you come out flat [in our conference]," Kyle Wogtech, outside wing, junior said, "You'll get scored on in the first couple of minutes."

The score stayed that way until midway through the second half when Truman State forward Andy Chapman notched his first collegiate goal on a shot that went over Boruff's shoulder and into the back of the net in the game's 68th minute.

"Playing behind on the road is pretty hard to do," Ryan South, senior, business administration, said.

The Tritons were outshot 19-7 in the opening game.

"There were good things to take away [from the opening game]," South said. "We played great team defense [and] we have a lot of guys that can score. We just need to give them the ball."

King believes there are even more positives to take from UM-St. Louis' first game of the season.

"After we gave up the goal, we stayed with it,"

King said. "We didn't get our heads down."

We kept working, trying to do things that we do in practice."

The Tritons first home game of the season will be Friday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m. against Great Lakes Valley Conference rival St. Joseph's on the Don Dallas field.

On Sunday, September 13, UM-St. Louis will host Wisconsin-Parkside for another GLVC contest. Kick-off that day is 2:30 p.m.

All UM-St. Louis students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the matches. Admission is free with your UM-St. Louis ID.

King believes fans that attend will see a Tritons team that is worth watching.

"[They're] a team that's going to fight hard," said King. "They take pride in playing here, and they work hard every day. When [fans] come out to see us play, they're going to see some guys that really care about the game and what they're doing."

## How to make a pirate hat by: The Current

1. Take the front page of The Current



2. Fold the corners of the paper down to the center



3. Fold up the bottom edge



4. Flip the paper over and fold up the bottom edge



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**VOLLEYBALL**, from page 6

set the tone for what would become a rather easy 25-13 UM-St. Louis win.

In the final game of the match, it was Cook who once again starred for the Tritons. The 5'10, superstar from Kansas City, collected seven of her 11 kills, including a brilliant stretch where she put away five of seven points to help UM-St. Louis take a 13-7 lead.

Mo Bap eventually rallied to tie the third game at 23, but Gaff and transfer setter Samantha Martley, junior, biology, smashed home consecutive kills to put the match away.

"We have a lot of depth," Cook said, "and a lot of people playing a lot of positions well. So we should improve a lot by the end of the year."

The Tritons head into this week's action with a 6-3 overall record, after splitting four matches over the weekend at the Towne Place Suites Classic, a tournament hosted by the University of Findlay in Ohio.

UM-St. Louis won its first match in Ohio, three games to one over Hillsdale, but lost its second match, three games to none against the host school Findlay.

On Saturday evening, the Tritons knocked off Lake Superior State three games to one before falling to unbeaten and nationally ranked Wayne State three games to two.

The Tritons will return to action this coming weekend when they travel to Warrensburg, Mo. to play in the Central Missouri State University Tournament.

The Tritons will play two matches on Friday and two more on Saturday, concluding with matches against No. 17-ranked Pittsburg State and No. 12-ranked Central Missouri State.

UM-St. Louis' next home match is Tuesday, Sept. 22, when the Tritons will host Division III No. 5-ranked Washington University at the Mark Twain Building at 7 p.m.

"We had a nice crowd out here tonight," Cook said, after the Missouri Baptist match. "But hopefully, we can get even more [fans] to come at the next match."

**GOLF**, from page 7

UM-St. Louis will conclude its fall season the following weekend at the Lewis Team Championships, hosted by Lewis University, at the Prairie Bluff Golf Course in Lockport, Ill.

**STIMULUS**, from page 1

These proposals' reasons are not given for the disparity in funding, other than basic difference in size and the logistical ramifications of such differences.

Also unexplained is the difference between the amounts of requested funding that have actually been awarded. Of the \$133,656,459 million requested by UM-Columbia, approximately 10% (\$14,009,299 million) has been awarded to the campus. Of the \$36,224,836 million requested by UM-St. Louis, just under 4% (\$1,387,133) has arrived in the hands of campus administrators.

The proposal submission

process is multi-leveled and there are various points at which the decision to allot certain campuses funds are made.

The recovery initiative's official website is <http://www.recovery.gov/> where information on the flow of ARRA funds can be found, as well as charts and maps that offer representations of various' states investments made with their ARRA funding.

To download and view the ARRA bill in its entirety, either in text or .pdf format, go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ5/content-detail.html>.

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# Science

## Electrifying collaborations at the Center for Neurodynamics on campus

► **CATE MARQUIS**  
A&E Editor

The Center for Neurodynamics was the first science research “center” on campus, but few students know much about it. Like many University of Missouri-St. Louis research programs, it is better known elsewhere.

“A few years ago, before Frank Moss retired, he was going to all sorts of international meetings, and everybody was saying, ‘Oh, my, it’s Frank Moss from the Center for Neurodynamics!’ And then he would come home to St. Louis, and nobody would know who he is,” said Sonia Bahar, director of the Center for Neurodynamics.

Some students wonder, “What is neurodynamics, anyway?”

“Basically, it is how information is getting processed in the brain. The nervous system dynamically adapts to stimuli and there is processing and analyzing of all the sensory data that is coming in,” said Michael Hoffman, research assistant professor in biology at the Center.

The field straddles biology and physics. The Center for Neurodynamics is a multidisciplinary research center and is headed by Bahar, who is an assistant professor of biophysics in the department of physics and astronomy. The Center is currently building new collaborations with other departments such as psychology and philosophy.

“The Center goes back to a collaboration between Dr. Frank Moss in physics and astronomy and myself,” said Lon Wilkens, professor of bi-

ology and co-founder of the Center. “We began to collaborate on the effects of ‘noise’ on the system’s operation and whether noise can be beneficial, or [if it] always degraded the signal.”

Wilkens and Moss discovered that a certain amount of “noise” in neurosystems actually improved detection of signals, something referred to as stochastic resonance. It was the first time it has been demonstrated in biological systems, according to Wilkens.

One research subject was the paddlefish, a relative of the sturgeon found in the Mississippi River. “We are the biology part of the Center and I am working on the paddlefish electrosensory system,” said Hoffman, who works in the lab founded by Wilkens, who retired from teaching but continues to do

research. “It is a sensory system that only some fish and some amphibians [have], but no mammals, no land vertebrates, have. It is a special sensory system used underwater.”

“All animals in the water actually have a weak electric field around them and many fish can detect their prey by this electric field,” Hoffman said, “pretty much like a metal detector.”

“The physicists are more interested in the nonlinear dynamics of the brain,” he said. “Nonlinear means that you don’t have a one-to-one relationship of input and output, so if you have some stimulus coming in, then the nervous system would respond in a certain way, but if you increase the stimulation, then the nervous system would behave differently than what

you would expect. It is the nonlinear dynamics that [are] really interesting in the nervous system, as opposed to technical systems, computer programs and so on.”

The Center has 11 ongoing research projects. Some projects build on previous work, while newer ones include the imaging of seizures in the brains of rats and optical perception and processing.

“We are branching out in some other biological but not necessarily neural directions,” Bahar said, including a project that uses computational methods to look at food foraging behavior in the paddlefish. Another project looks at changes in visual perception in people, including soldiers, with minimal brain injury. One student working on this is Roxana Contreras, the

UM-St. Louis student who was detained in Russia last year. The eye-target synchrony project requires subjects to visually track an object moving across a field. Remembering a few words helps normal subjects do the task better but not the injured subjects. The study may help in diagnosis of minimal brain injury, said Bahar.

Wilkens and Moss made another discovery about paddlefish, which are also known as shovel-nose catfish. The shovel-nose catfish has a long extension from its forehead but no one really knew why the protuberance is there. They showed it was really a sort of antenna for the fish’s electrosensory system, not something for digging in Mississippi mud as their name suggests.

## Nanoscience discovers new method for disease testing

► **AARON HOLDMEYER**  
Staff Writer

In the William L. Clay building, home of the the Center of Nanoscience, Keith Stine, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, sits surrounded by books and papers that have served him well. Stine, along with Olga V. Shulga, a postdoctoral associate, Kenis Jefferson, graduate student and Alexei V. Demchenko, UM-St. Louis professor of chemistry and biochemistry, has discovered a “faster and less expensive way to identify diseases,” which they have been working on since the spring of 2007. Their findings were released in a study named “Simplified Immunoassay on

a Porous Support.”

In this study they explain that they have developed an alternative to the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test, the basic detection process for prostate cancer. In the original test, a plastic plate was used to hold two antibodies. Bound together, the first antibody would collect a sample of blood while the second antibody, with an attached enzyme, would detect traces of abnormalities.

To explain how they improved this process, Stine said, “What we have done is replaced the plastic plate with a nanomaterial, which is a sponge like form of gold ... Gold has the advantage of being inert, so you can attach molecules to the surface in a very controlled way.” Mol-

ecules that serve as indicators for certain health problems could be placed into these structures. A second improvement allows them to avoid the use of two antibodies; with their method only one is needed. Stine said, “That also reduces the number of steps required to carry out a determination, so it should save time.”

Stine also said that this new method is not only relegated to the confines of prostate examinations but could also be applied to the entire medical field. Stine said, “If you have a test ... for example, when you go get a blood test for a certain ... biomarker, which could be an indication of disease or of health, we want to use this as a method for being able to detect the biomarker

and detect its concentration in a sample.” Biomarkers are a huge field of study and Stine’s work is only a small fraction. Stine said, “The biomarker field is very large and there’s many biomarkers already known, many being discovered every week.”

The current debate on the benefits of using PSA tests for screening prostate cancer pushes the need for improved testing, and discoveries and research like that of Stine and his group are definitely at the forefront. He said, “It’s a different sort of feeling when you have something that could have an impact on the public in a general sense, as opposed to other kinds of publications or discoveries that are ... purely intellectual accomplishment.”

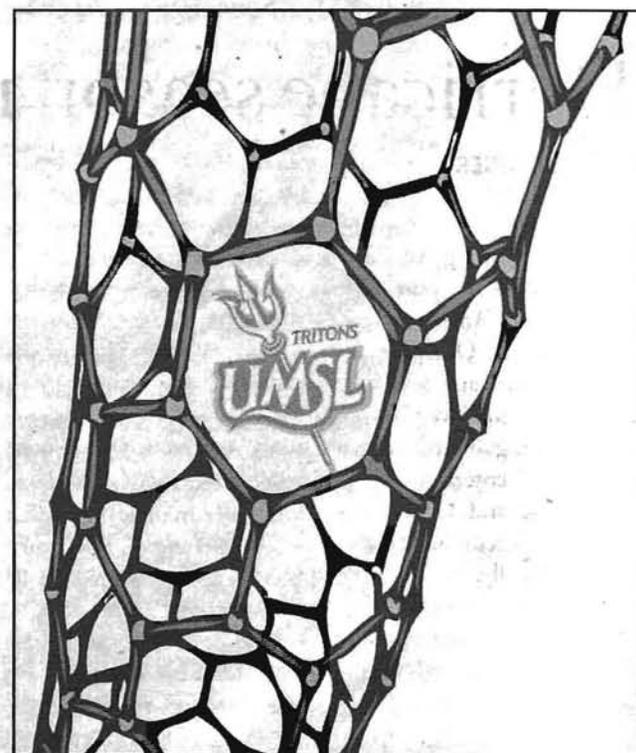


Illustration by ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT

# Lea-Rachel Kosnik's knowledge combines environment and economics

► **CATE MARQUIS**  
A&E Editor

Lea-Rachel Kosnik, assistant professor of economics, works in a field bearing the name 'environmental economics.'

"Environmental economics, some would say, is an oxymoron," Kosnik said. Actually, she explained, it is the study of natural resources in the environment and how to balance maintaining those natural resources with productive use.

"It is trying to balance both preservation and use, and how to optimally do that," Kosnik said. "It is all about sustainability."

"Some of the research I am doing is looking at renewable energy sources and any potential the United States has to develop those," Kosnik said. Basically, producing enough energy from domestic sources to meet current consumption while doing more for the environment, she noted.

Kosnik has been teaching here since 2004. "I got my bachelors degree from University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and then I did a Fulbright for a year in Turkey,"

she said. "(I) got my masters and PhD at UCLA and I did a post doc at Montana State."

In Turkey, she studied the environmental impact of building several hydroelectric dams.

"Turkey actually has 98% of the headwaters of the Euphrates River within their geographic borders and almost 50% of the headwaters of the Tigris. They are oil poor, one of the only nations (in the region) without oil, but they are very water rich," Kosnik said.

Her research interests include environmental economics, public and regulatory economics, and behavioral economics.

She has taught courses in environmental economics, microeconomics, macroeconomics, cost-benefit analysis, public choice and industrial organization.

She has a love of teaching, inspired by her economics mentor. "The professor I took a class with was very engaging and very approachable," Kosnik said. She is teaching Microeconomics for Policy Analysis this semester and Environmental Economics next semester.

Kosnik is one of the speak-

ers at the "Global Climate Change" course being taught through the Continuing Education department at the St. Louis Zoo. She will speak on October 29 about "Global economic changes: natural resources use and sustainable development in face of climate changes."

Kosnik will explain concepts like cap-and-trade but she also expects to talk a little about her research on renewable energy.

She was also one of the presenters at the Missouri Energy Summit, sponsored by the University of Missouri System and held in Columbia, Mo., earlier this year. She spoke of small hydro power.

"Most people, when they think of hydro power, think of dams like Hoover or Coolidge or some big dam, but there is a category of hydro power called small hydro power," Kosnik said. Small hydro projects can be very small, 30 megawatts or less, but enough to satisfy the needs of a small village, she said.

"The key is that they don't include a dam," Kosnik said. Instead, they are usually on a river. It uses a weir, which diverts water, instead of a dam. "The water flows through it,



Illustration by ZACHARY JAMES KRAFT

there is no reservoir behind it, so it is extremely benign on the environment," she said.

"Small hydro power is a very environmentally-friendly form of energy generation. There are no carbon emis-

sions," she said. "It is also an entirely domestic resource. You don't have to worry about imports or national security concerns or fuel price fluctuations, so it is a resource with a lot of extra benefits."

Kosnik found abundant

potential for small hydro in Missouri. "There are hundreds of these sites," she said.

"There are incentives to be involved in these industries besides what is good for the environment," she said. "Jobs and profit."

## Hurricane season means more than Missourians know

► **ERIK BRUNER**  
Staff Writer

The beginning of September marks the peak time of the North American hurricane season. Officially the Atlantic hurricane season is from June 1 to November 30, but according to the National Hurricane Center, 54 percent of Atlantic and Gulf Coast hurricanes occur in September, historically.

The term hurricane is specific to waters surrounding North America, while the term typhoon is specific to

the Pacific Northwest. Tropical cyclones, which encompass hurricanes, typhoons, and all other tropical cyclonic storms, form most frequently this time of year because a few weeks after the warmest period of the summer, ocean temperatures coincide perfectly with active periods in atmospheric circulation.

While, for the most part, landlocked states have little to worry about in the event of a hurricane, Midwesterners can sometimes feel the effects. Depending on the size and direction of the storm,

the warm, moist air can be propelled long distances over land and mix with cold fronts to create severe weather conditions thousands of miles away. In 2003, the relatively weak tropical storm Grace pushed so much moisture into the air over North America that severe flooding was reported in Indiana, Maryland, and southeastern Missouri. During the devastating Hurricane Katrina in 2005, three counties in Kentucky were declared disaster areas because of flooding from the storm's residual effects.

All too familiar with tornados, Missourians sometimes misconceive hurricanes and tornados to be similar phenomena, and that their only differences might be location and time span. However, the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory says that, while both formations are atmospheric vortices, they have little else in common. According to AOML, "Tornados have diameters of the scale of hundreds of meters and are produced from a single convective storm. A tropical

cyclone, however, has a diameter on the scale of hundreds of kilometers and is comprised of several to dozens of convective storms."

Vertical wind shears, a given vertical column of air with changing wind directions throughout, are crucial to the formation of tornados. They are masses of air with a concentration of rotating air. On the other hand, these vertical shears are detrimental to the formation of tropical cyclones, which need consistent wind directions and air temperatures to form.

According to the book "Atlantic Hurricanes" by G.E. Dunn and B.I. Miller, an Australian forecaster in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was the first person to give a hurricane a personal name. He would assign hurricanes names of politicians he didn't like: "By properly naming a hurricane, the weatherman could publicly describe a politician (who perhaps was not too generous with weather bureau appropriations) as 'causing great distress' or 'wandering aimlessly about the Pacific.'"

# Swine flu and you

## WHAT IS SWINE FLU?

Source: CDC

Swine Flu, or more accurately H1N1, is a newly noticed strain of the influenza virus that has been a seasonally contracted disease throughout history.

H1N1, despite its pet name, is actually a mutated hybrid of human, swine, and avian strains of influenza. Typically, these strains are associated only with their carrier species and do not cross over to others.

One of the reasons H1N1 is the cause of such alarm is because it is a typically non-human strain that has recently mutated into a virus that humans can contract and rapidly spread to others. Thus doctors have no prepared method for inoculation similar to vaccines currently offered for standard North American influenza.

Influenza itself, like many viruses, is often not responsible for fatalities, but rather it leads to other immune-attacking diseases such as pneumonia which are more deadly.

The flu, if treated, is generally not fatal.

Some groups, however, are more vulnerable, like pregnant women, children and those who are already immunocompromised.

A vaccine is currently in development in the United States in hopes that it will be ready before any possible major outbreaks, which typically occur in winter months.

## Where has H1N1 been hiding?

*H1N1 and its cousin strains did not just appear in 2009. The strains that combined to form it have been active and known for decades. Viruses nearly identical to the current H1N1 have probably existed among swine populations for around ten years.*

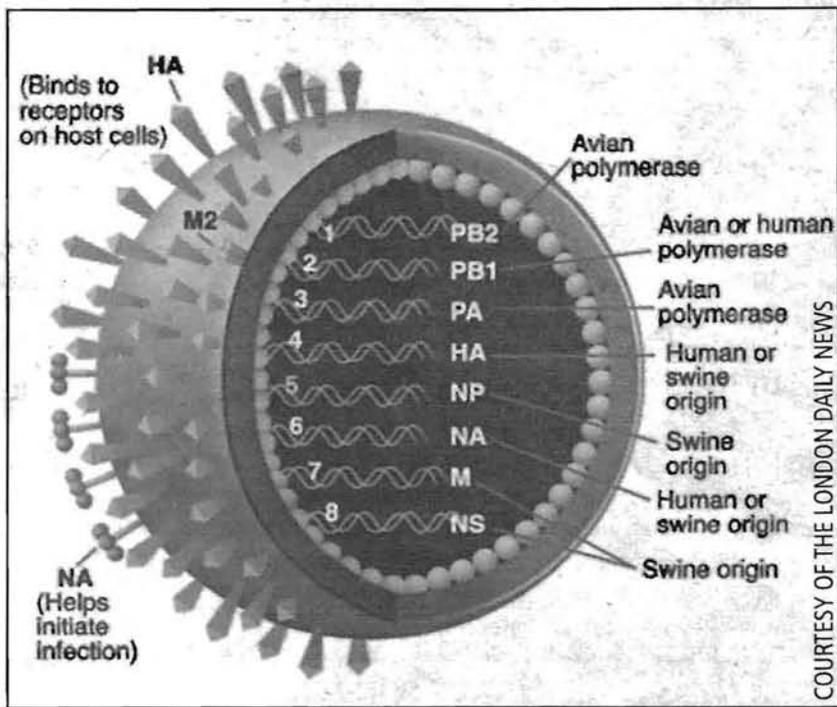
**1976:** After an outbreak in Fort Dix, New Jersey, a swine flu scare occurred, along with a rush to pre-empt an outbreak. A movement that made it to Congress pushed for immediate emergency measures to develop a vaccine. A moratorium was eventually placed on the vaccine's development when reports surfaced suggesting that the vaccine had serious negative side effects, including paralysis.

**1980-1986:** Isolated cases, some even fatal, occurred in America, but none cleared the embarrassment of the 1976 \$135 million preparation for a non-existent epidemic.

**April 25, 2009:** In the spring, swine flu in Mexico begins worldwide scare after more than 100 fatalities are reported.

**April 27, 2009:** The World Health Organization raises its pandemic alert to Phase 4.

**September 2009:** Two-thousand Washington State University students contract swine flu in the first two weeks of school.



An H1N1 virus cell indicates the multi-faceted origin of this particular mutated virus. Genetic coding from human, avian, and swine influenza are all represented.

## TRACKING THE GENETICS

- Swine flu potentially originated in parcels of the current H1N1's DNA makeup. These parcels have been traveling around in various strains of swine influenza, possibly for decades.
- In America, the dominant strain of swine influenza also contained genetic elements of human influenza as well as avian influenza. In such a case, what is known as a "triple reassortment" strain is created.
- This strain was once again combined and mutated when it came into contact with the Eurasian swine influenza strain, which was mostly swine influenza with traces of avian influenza DNA.
- When the Western and Eastern multi-strains combined, the current H1N1 strain was formed, capable of incredibly rapid transmission, making it difficult to develop a vaccine.

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

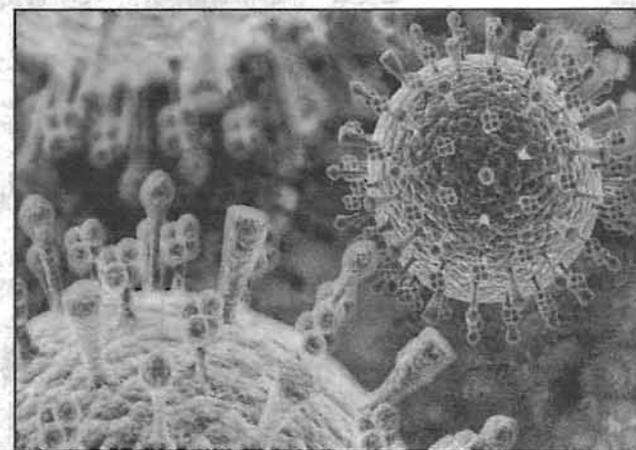
Source: CDC

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu and include:

- fever
- cough
- sore throat
- body aches
- headache
- chills and fatigue

Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu.

In the past, severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with swine flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.



COURTESY OF THE LONDON DAILY NEWS

## TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

Source: CDC

### General precautions

There are everyday precautions to take to stay healthy. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.

Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way. Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

Influenza is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through the coughing or sneezing of infected people.

If you get sick, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

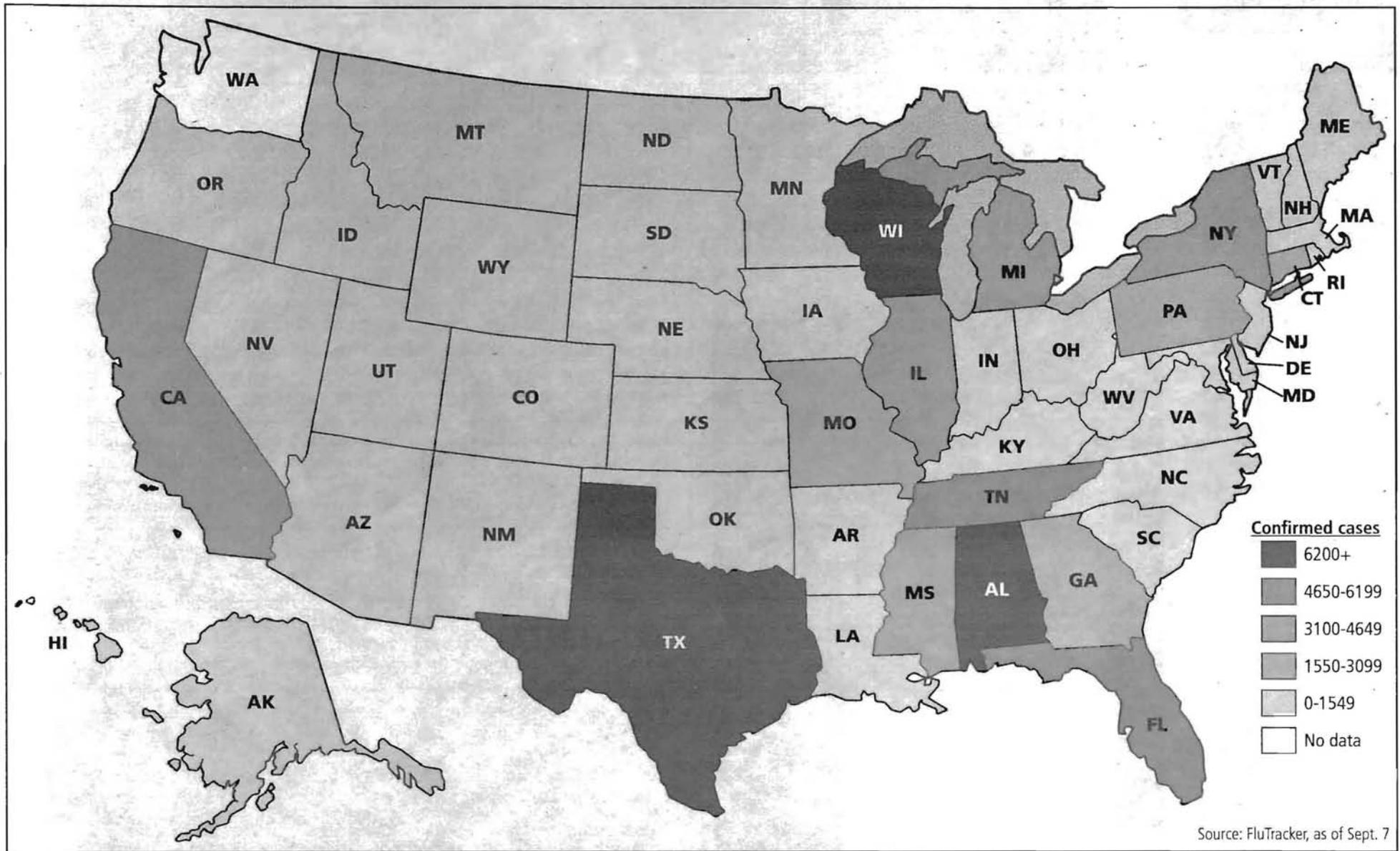
### What UM-St. Louis is doing

Marie Mueller, nurse practitioner in University Health Services, has said that the university has been placing hand sanitizers in the dorms, focusing in high traffic areas next to entryways and elevators.

Students in the dorms will also be given masks and thermometers.

If a student is found to be infected with H1N1 in the dorm, they will be separated from other students and food will be brought to them.

**CONFIRMED INFECTIONS BY STATE**



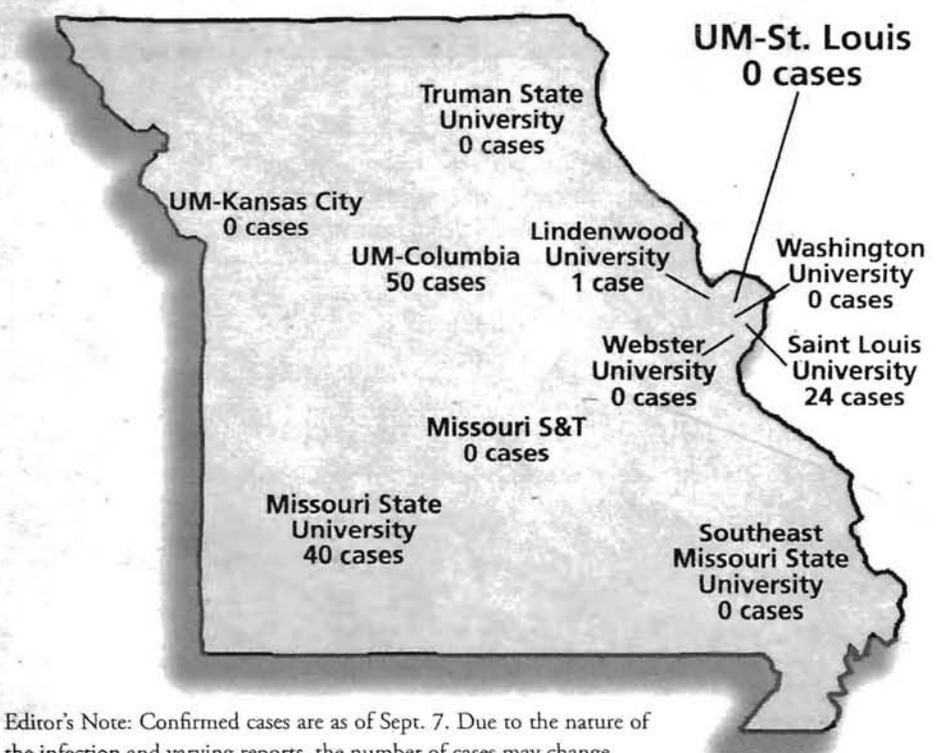
**TOP 10 MOST INFECTED COUNTRIES**

Source: FluTracker

-  1. United Kingdom  
116,951 confirmed; 46 deaths
-  2. United States  
85,688 confirmed; 544 deaths
-  3. Australia  
32,415 confirmed; 128 deaths
-  4. Mexico  
27,490 confirmed; 337 deaths
-  5. Germany  
17,192 confirmed; 0 deaths
-  6. Spain  
13,846 confirmed; 17 deaths
-  7. Chile  
12,331 confirmed; 104 deaths
-  8. Thailand  
9,794 confirmed; 124 deaths
-  9. Canada  
9,516 confirmed; 44 deaths
-  10. Japan  
7,770 confirmed; 8 deaths



**CONFIRMED INFECTIONS BY UNIVERSITY**



# Features

## Safe Zone promotes a safer campus through education

► NICK BISHOP  
Staff Writer

Born in 1992, the Safe Zone program offers university students a way to gain knowledge and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) issues.

The first Safe Zone program was created at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

On April 23, 2004, the University of Missouri-St. Louis held its first Safe Zone training session, and since then the number of people participating in the program has grown to 140.

The Safe Zone program at UM-St. Louis directs students, faculty, and staff who have questions or concerns about sexual orientation to a variety of resources for information.

Most of the participants are not professional counselors, nor are they experts in LGBTQ issues. They cannot help people further than their position allows, but they can direct people to a location or person who can give them the information they are looking for.

In addition to being the "middleman" for those seeking information or help, Safe Zone participants are visible LGBTQ allies that are non-judgmental about issues of sexual orientation. All Safe Zone allies attend a three hour training session that informs participants about what the Safe Zone program is and what it means to be a visible LGBTQ ally. The program is not meant for people who are just generally sup-



MATTHEW HILL / THE CURRENT

portive of sexual minority issues, but more specifically for those who want to be a supportive and affirmative resource to connect information seekers with other resources.

After the training session, the new Safe Zone members receive Safe Zone buttons and stickers that are used to show people their dedication to the issues of LGBTQ people.

These materials are used to publicize their affiliation with the program and to let those seeking assistance know their stance on sexual minority issues.

The goal of the Safe Zone

program at UM-St. Louis is to reduce heterosexism and homophobia on campus and offer visible support that reduces the anxiety of LGBTQ people.

"Overall, what we're wanting to do with Safe Zone is to promote a campus environment that is a more affirmative and welcoming place for everybody, regardless of sexual orientation," Dr. Jamie Linsin, Psy.D., a counseling psychologist at Counseling Services on campus and director of the Safe Zone program, said.

See SAFE ZONE, page 17

## Counseling Services assists students through confidential sessions

► JEN O'HARA  
Staff Writer

Stress can create issues for people within their families, at school, and in their personal lives. In college, feelings of stress may increase while students simultaneously work and try to maintain a decent grade point average. Some students must accomplish this while living away from home for the first time, or while raising children.

At the University of Missouri-St. Louis, students are provided with an option for on-campus counseling. Counseling is available for any student or faculty member who requires assistance with anything from low motivation to sexual assault cases.

"We get a very wide range of issues," Sharon Biegen, director of Counseling Services, said. "We have people who are homesick, people who have broken up with someone or have family problems, or sometimes those who are just having a difficult day. Some have a history of abuse, rape or sexual assault."

"I think counseling is important because it gives you the opportunity to talk with someone who is objective

and to gain a new perspective," Jamie Linsin, counseling psychologist and coordinator of outreach, said. "I think being able to talk about problems out loud is really helpful in itself."

Not only is counseling available for those who feel they are in need, but also for those who feel like family or friends are in need. Counseling Services encourages those who know someone who might need help to make a referral to the counseling department. In addition, if a student or faculty member is unsure how to act, speak, or approach someone in need, Counseling Services encourages that person to make a phone call to the department for advice.

On average, Counseling Services sees over 100 people per week. The service is strictly confidential, and information from any session will not be released without the written consent of a client.

The UM-St. Louis Counseling Department is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., and on Fridays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The initial counseling session is free, then \$10 for each session thereafter. For faculty, the

charge is \$25 after the initial session. However, counselors will not turn anyone away. If a student or faculty member is financially strained, he or she may speak with a counselor to negotiate pricing.

UM-St. Louis counseling is not available on the weekends or in the evening. If students or staff need immediate services at these times, they are instructed to call Life Crisis Services at 314-647-4357, Behavioral Health Response at 314-467-6644, or Campus Police at 516-5155 (911 on campus).

Counseling at UM-St. Louis is considered short-term counseling. If a counselor feels that a client would be better served elsewhere because of an extreme problem or the length of counseling sessions needed, the department consults and refers their client to outside sources.

For more information about UM-St. Louis Counseling Services, students and staff may visit the department's website at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/counselor>, or they can search "counseling services" from the UM-St. Louis home page.

# Students kick off semester with classic game of kickball

► **BRIAN CRAYCRAFT**  
Features Editor

Most people have played kickball at one time or another, and on Thursday, September 3, some of the students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis were able to indulge in the childhood favorite once more. Around 2 p.m., students gathered together on

the upper soccer field and divided themselves between team Residential Life (students of campus housing) and team Life Eye (optometry students).

Team Residential Life led off the first inning, but was not able to score; team Life Eye was more successful and brought in a few runs in their

half of the inning.

During the middle innings, Life Eye pulled ahead of Residential Life by a score of 7-2. In the sixth inning, Residential Life toughened their defense enough to hold their opponents scoreless for the frame, and in their half of the inning came from behind to tie the score at 7-7.

In the seventh inning, Residential Life was not able to break the tie in a game that had become a nail-biter. In their half of the seventh, it looked as if Life Eye would not be able to score any runs either, which would have taken the game to extra innings. But just as team Residential Life was about to dis-

cuss their kicking lineup for extra innings, Life Eye kicker Angel Husher kicked in the team's winning run, bringing the final score to 8-7 in favor of Life Eye.

"It was a fun break from studying," Carla Labuda said of the intramural kickball game. "It's a great way for us to get together," added team-

mate Jake Hayward.

After the game, members of both teams were rewarded with souvenir water bottles, and members of Life Eye also received shirts emblazoned with the words "Camp Recreational Champion."

Read more at  
[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

## Career Services hosts open house

► **BRIAN CRAYCRAFT**  
Features Editor

Students walking by the bookstore in the Millennium Student Center last Wednesday may have found themselves thinking of a movie theater as the smell of popcorn and nachos wafted through the area. What they were experiencing was the ambiance of the Career Services Red Carpet Premier Open House, where the lure of free movie-style food helped bring Career Services to the attention of University of Missouri-St. Louis students.

Students who walked into Career Services in MSC 278 were greeted by members of the staff who were quick to offer them nachos, popcorn, and lemonade, and to enter them in a drawing for free movie tickets. The food was set up in the computer lab, and prospective clients enjoyed a free lunch.

Career Services is promoting September as Career Month. Workshops and events during the promotion are meant to get students engaged in planning their careers and finding jobs and internships. The open house is just one in a series of events during Career Month.

"The open house is for students to get acclimated to our office. They can preregister for the job fair on Sep-

tember 11, and get activated on our online system," Teresa Balestreri, Career Services director, said.

However, appearing in person at the office is not the only way to become a client.

"We have an online registration process now. Students used to have to come into the office to register on our system, but they can get going from our home page now. But I would definitely encourage everybody to come in and speak to a coordinator," Balestreri said.

Kelli Knight, Career Services coordinator, was waiting just inside the entrance to greet visitors to the open house. She offered some information about what coordinators do at Career Services.

"We are the bridge between students and employers, to bring them together for internships and full-time jobs through workshops, job fairs, networking events, and speakers," Knight said.

"Career Services provides real-life help for folks, because we teach a lot of skills that they will be able to use throughout their lives. We teach students how to write resumes, and how to do interviewing well. We teach them how to do a job search," Rachel Boehlow, Career Services coordinator, said. "We get a lot of students who

come in. We're busy. We have appointments and walk-ins, and there are always students in our computer lab."

Career Services offers assistance not only to current UM-St. Louis students, but also to graduates of the university. Boehlow has some advice for students and graduates who are seeking employment.

"One of the things that folks need to work on hard, and a lot, is their resume. If you spend a lot of time looking for a job, but you are not putting out quality application materials, you are probably not going to get a job. People should target their resumes and cover letters, and put out a good picture of who they are, so the employer can see the match between them and the position," Boehlow said.

Career Month continues for the rest of September, and the coordinators spent some of their time at the event telling attendees about upcoming events.

"We have a job fair preparation workshop coming up a couple days before our job fair on September 11, and we also have an interviewing workshop. We are also doing resume critiques in The Nosh. We are having a workshop or two every week this month," Knight said.

Career Services presents ...

*UMSL Fall Internship & Job Fair 2009*



Friday, September 11, 2009  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm | Mark Twain Building

To pre-register and for the list of employers attending the job fair, please visit: [careers.umsl.edu](http://careers.umsl.edu)

Admission is free only for current UM-St. Louis students and alumni who pre-register by Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

Admission for UM-St. Louis students and alumni who do not pre-register is \$5.00 at the door and for non-UM-St. Louis job seekers is \$10.00 at the door.

Career Services | *Your Key to Success!*  
278 Millennium Student Center | (314) 516-5111  
[careerservices@umsl.edu](mailto:careerservices@umsl.edu) | [careers.umsl.edu](http://careers.umsl.edu)



# The Center for Student Success makes website more 'student friendly'

► SEQUITA BEAN  
Asst. Features Editor

In the spring of 2008, students in Dr. Vicki Sauter's Management of Information Systems class decided it was time for the Center for Student Success to make their website more student friendly. As a part of a class project, the students made a plan for the site based on things they thought students should have access to. Using their suggestions, the Center for Student Success has a new web page, a new layout, and more content to assist students throughout the school year.

Some of the new features

on the site include academic resources and a directory of tutors and resource labs on campus. There is a listing for almost every subject offered at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and each listing includes contact information for the tutors and labs offering assistance.

Lorraine Simeone, assistant manager for the Center of Student Success, manages and updates the website regularly to keep up with the changing availability of academic resources. "Every semester the information [on the academic resources page] changes, so I'm [currently] updating it for the fall,"

Simeone said.

For students taking online classes, Simeone added a page of points to consider when choosing an online course. "There is information you should know before choosing an online class, [such as] the time involved, and having 'netiquette.' Some things you see in print can take the reader aback, so you have to be careful what you say online," she said.

There is also a link for students to take a study skills self-assessment questionnaire. According to the web site, each section of the questionnaire helps students examine an academic skill

area and gives general ideas of their ability in that area. The questionnaires take less than ten minutes to complete.

"At the end there is a score given along with suggestions on how to improve. They are designed to help students figure out what they need to work on," said Simeone.

After clicking on the study skills self-assessment link, students are required to enter their SSO ID and password before they can begin the questionnaire.

The Center for Student Success can only see that the student has logged in, not their scores on the assessments.

The new web site also has information about career assessment tests such as the SIGI<sup>3</sup>, Strong Interest Inventory, and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. These assessments help undecided students choose a career path.

Academic resources from other universities can be found in the "Online Resources" tab. These resources include links for managing time and money, a GPA calculator, math resources, and study aids.

"There is a little link on here called 'Quizlet' that allows students to create their own flash cards online. The student can team up with an-

other student from their class and study with online flashcards," said Simeone.

Information about the Campus Testing Center is also on the website.

Students can find information about scheduling testing appointments along with advice on what to bring to the test.

The Center for Student Success is located in room 225 in the Millennium Student Center.

For more information about their website, student success workshop dates, and academic resources available, visit their website at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/css>.



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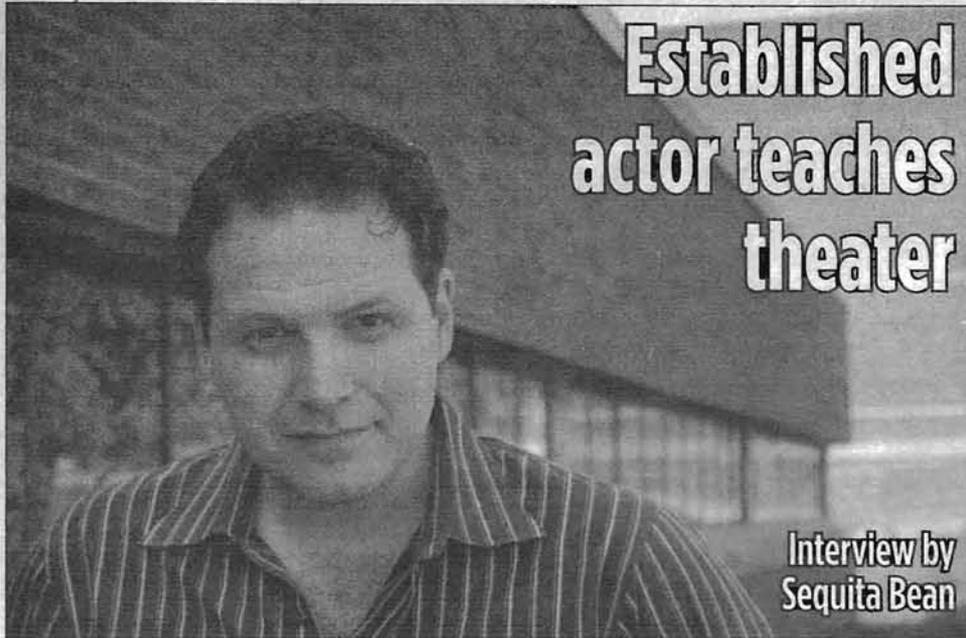
# Spotlight

## Who Should Be Our Next Faculty "Spotlight?"

You Tell Us!

www.thecurrentonline.com thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

### Established actor teaches theater



Interview by  
Sequita Bean

AHMAD ALJURYED / THE CURRENT

*Assistant visiting professor of theatre Jason Cannon knows the entertainment industry very well. Not only is he an established actor, playwright, producer, and director; he also cofounded the Kevin Kline Awards, an organization that honors local theater, artists and productions. Cannon is proof that success can be achieved right here in Saint Louis.*

*The Current: What got you interested in acting?*

Jason Cannon: My family moved a lot when I was a kid growing up. I ended up in Lafayette, Indiana, my sophomore year of high school. I had an extra period to fill in my schedule and my mom and my counselor both suggested forensics. I was very confused. I was like, "Police science?" They both said, "No, it's public speaking!" So, I took forensics my sophomore year and I got on the speech team because that was required. Through all the people on the speech team, I met the theater kids and I kind of fell in with that group.

*TC: What play was your favorite to work on?*

JC: If I had to pick one that was incredibly fulfilling it would be Hamlet, which I produced and directed. My wife was cast as Ophelia, which was her dream role. A week before we opened, my actor playing Hamlet had to drop the show because his doctors found nodes on his vocal cords. He wasn't allowed to speak, much less perform Hamlet. I happened to be the right age and gender for the production we were doing and my co-producer said to me, "We've spent all of our money. You have to do it." I had four rehearsals, and it ended up being an incredible run. My cast really pulled through for me. It wasn't just directing, but as a theater artist it was one of the most fulfilling and terrifying experiences I have ever had!

*TC: Was playwriting something you have always wanted to do or did it come with the territory?*

JC: I started out as an actor, then I came to realize that I don't always get cast in what I want, so I got into directing. As a director I get to cast myself in what I want to do and have control. Then I realized, as a director I don't always get to pick the shows I want because I have to rely on the

producer. I started producing, then I realized I couldn't find any scripts I like. Then I thought, "Write your own!" I've been lucky enough to be commissioned to write plays.

*TC: What made you want to start teaching?*

JC: Theater is one of the best educational tools. Nothing in the world improves a student's self-esteem, confidence, and ability in other classes [like] tackling a monologue and speaking in front of an audience. In the classroom, when you see the student who has been shy all semester get up on stage and scream, yell, and cry in a brilliant monologue, it's an amazing feeling of fulfillment. It is about being a part of something bigger than yourself.

*TC: Why did you choose UM-St. Louis to teach?*

JC: I was very fortunate this opportunity opened up when I was looking for a job. I also came to [UM-St. Louis] because I knew some people that worked here. I went to the Touhill, which is a gorgeous facility, and I thought, "Wow, I get to work in that space?" Most professional companies in town don't get to work in spaces as nice as the Touhill.

*TC: What advice do you have for students wanting to break in the business?*

JC: The biggest piece of advice I have is you have to want it so bad. If there is anything else you can do and be happy, go do that. Very few people make their living just acting or directing. Most people who are in theater have day jobs and act at night. If you have to be in this business to be happy and fulfilled then do it. Have no shame. Knock on every door and whatever opens, leap through it.

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## A&amp;E



## Extract

Directed by Mike Judge

Starring: Jason Bateman, Ben Affleck, Kristen Wiig, Mila Kunis, JK Simmons

COURTESY OF MIRAMAX

Fans of "Office Space" remember Mike Judge's transition to live-action as a monumental success. The film created a solid following for Judge by using an almost fluid transition of sketch-like humor that never quit. Its dialogue, which caused tear-inducing laughter, was so good that viewers were enticed to see the movie over and over again in order to hear the same lines by its oddball characters.

"Extract," Mike Judge's newest film, is no "Office Space," but it doesn't mean it is not a great way to spend your time.

Despite Judge's return to the workplace that was the cultivating ground for "Office Space," here he takes the perspective to the other side of the office: the boss's. At first, this seems like a bad move. As much as "Office Space" relied on boss hatred, one would think that Judge's passion for sticking-it-to-the-man runs too deep to give the protagonist reigns to the guy writing the checks.

Jason Bateman, who seems to be in just about everything these days, takes the task and should not be underestimated. However irritating he might be at first, it is only a set up for the wonderful

deconstruction he succumbs beginning with the accidental consumption of a horse tranquilizer. His performance might be somewhat surprising to anyone who hasn't had the pleasure of seeing an episode of "Arrested Development." In the film's best and probably only truly unforgettable scene, Bateman is convinced to smoke marijuana and is harassed for being paranoid and gullible. During this scene, Bateman will undoubtedly make you laugh as his reasonable fear and anxiousness is palpable.

But that's as far as any connection to this character will go.

Much like "Office Space," "Extract" flourishes on the many quirky, cartoon-like characters that can be injected into a film.

As funny as these characters usually are, it is disappointing that so many of them must be one-dimensional. Mila Kunis is best known for "That 70's Show," the voice of Meg on "Family Guy," and her role last year in "Forgetting Sarah Marshall." As talented as she may be, here her ability is extracted to convey the role of a character with nothing much more than a pretty face and an ability to turn idiotic men

into saps. Ben Affleck, whose character is basically that of the neighbor in "Office Space," handles his job fine, but, again, hardly leaves an imprint.

This world of thin-layered live-action cartoon characters isn't always a bad thing.

It can be argued that "Office Space" used basically this same formula, as did the little known, but wonderful "Idiocracy."

Yet, those movies had a quality that made them feel bold.

It almost feels like something is really being taken for granted here. There are a lot of people ticked off about being out of work and corporate bailouts, etc. What better time than now—on Labor Day weekend during an economic recession—to release Mike Judge's return to the office? Only it feels like Mike Judge's passion for work-related tyranny and revenge has been reduced to the depth of a comic strip.

However, if that means little compared to just a simple, funny movie, Mike Judge's "Extract" is worth the while. The film is decisively funny. Only, maybe for old time's sake, try skipping out on work to go see it. **C+** --Mark Webber, Staff Writer.

## What's your favorite movie in theaters?

Let us know!

www.thecurrentonline.com/messageboard

## Also in Theaters

**Halloween II.** Does anybody remember Rob Zombie? Anyone? The perpetually dreadlocked growl-metal maven (born Robert Cummings, because you asked) is best known for "Dragula," a song that that guy in highschool who was always hosting LAN parties listened to before and after caffeine-fueled quote-along viewings of *Blade II*. Rob Zombie proved with *The Devil's Rejects* that he can make a unique, savage, ugly, kinetic horror movie. With his remake of *Halloween II* he proves that he's still got the "ugly" part down. Not just bad but brutal and mean-spirited to an offensive level. And yes, again, we liked *The Devil's Rejects*. **F** -- *The Current's Secret Movie Insider*. Read our review at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com).

**Shorts.** Roberto Rodriguez, Tarantino's pal and "Grindhouse" collaborator, has a bizarre habit of alternating bone-crunching mayhem (*Sin City*, *Planet Terror*) with cheery, effects-heavy children's flicks (*The Spy Kids* series). This is certainly a testament to Rodriguez's artistic dexterity—could anyone else follow the testicles-melting-off (no, really) *Planet Terror* with a goofy put-it-on-for-the-kids-while-the-adults-drink-beer flick about magic shorts? Unfortunately, *Shorts* is the least inspired, the least catchy, and the most dispensible of Rodriguez's films. Kids, to be sure, will still be delighted; but considering the fact that our generation is yet to see a "kids' film" of the inspired and elegiac quality of "Beauty and The Beast," this is a good thing or a bad thing. **C** -- *The Current's Secret Movie Insider*.

**All About Steve.** The latest in the it-would-be-stalking-in-real-life genre of romantic comedies is imbued with a particular bad taste as Sandra Bullock's manic, ridiculous stalking of Bradley Cooper parallels her insistence in haunting us in audience-land long after we thought we'd dumped her. But all metacinema philosophy aside, this is an awful, horrible film. **D-** -- *The Current's Secret Movie Insider*.

**Inglorious Bastereds.** (Still) Our pick of the week. Quentin Tarantino's love letter to the unapologetic violence of exploitation films of the '70s via a revenge-fantasy version of World War II. Elegant, inventive, and unmissable. **A+** -- *The Current's Secret Movie Insider*. Read our review at [www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)

**Taking Woodstock.** Ang Lee continues adding to his surprising portfolio by following *Lust, Caution* (which, in turn, had followed *Brokeback Mountain*) with the nostalgic, breezy *Taking Woodstock*. Centering around a story loosely based on true events, the film offers an unseen angle on the much-made-of event. Possibly the best non-documentary film about Woodstock. Oh hell, probably even. **B-** -- *The Current's Secret Movie Insider*

**The Final Destination.** The fourth in the mortally popular series proves that it is time for the digressive quality of sequels theory to finally be accepted as a law. Actually, it's technically a prequel, and no, not the one where we learn about Death's wild and poignant teenage years like we were hoping. Instead it's pretty much the same old story, which has pretty much been beaten, er, to death.

Some improbably skinny and tanned bright young things manage to escape death, this time at a Nascar-esque event (previous films have opened with airplanes, amusement parks, etc.) An unexplained moment of supernatural foresight allows one nubile character to see impending doom, and he effectively saves his friends from it. Personally, we suspect that the origin (wisely never delved into in the films) of this vision is Death, who, it turns out, enjoys playing with his food.

It is a fun premise that the first film (and moments of the second and even third) plundered for some spectacularly creative set pieces. Freed from the bonds of *Killer Chases Victim*, the filmmakers are free to create elaborate Rube Goldberg-like cause and effect sequences that lead, inexorably, to someone's head/torso/neck/groin being impaled/exploded/stuck/smashed/charred. Gene Siskel's famous "Is this movie more interesting than watching the same actors having lunch?" rule comes to mind. **D** -- *The Current's Secret Movie Insider*

# An interview with Iglu and Hartley

► **INTERVIEW BY ANNA MARIE CURRAN**  
News Editor

After their recent concert here at the Firebird, *The Current* sat down for a chat with Iglu and Hartly band members Jarvis Anderson and Sam Martin.

*The Current:* How did you guys come up with the name?

**ANDERSON:** The name of the band came from ... basically I was "DJ Iglu" through high school on to college ... I produced hip hop music. Also, I met Sam in college and he called himself "Hardly Dark" which basically means he's not black. So then we agreed on a change and it was "Hartly Dark" ... so then we just shortened it down to "Iglu and Hartly" because we got tired of saying "Hey we're DJ Iglu and Hartly Dark." So basically, long story short, we became Iglu and Hartly.

*TC:* What's the most "rock star" thing you've done?

**MARTIN:** What does that mean? What is the most irresponsible, stupid thing we've ever done? Does that mean irresponsible and drunk? 'Cause we were in college and that was a lot of irresponsible drunkness. How about skinny dipping in the Swiss Alps?

**A:** No, that's just a gay kind of band-thing we did. There were a couple girls but there weren't enough [to go around].

*TC:* What's the craziest thing a fan has ever done for you?

**IGLU & HARTLY:** Gotten a tattoo, gotten our tattoo, actually like [15] fans [have

gotten] this tattoo on their bodies, but we like it. It's really not even crazy because we know how cool it is. Yeah so that's a cool one. We'd like to see more of that, but realize that you are tattooing yourself with one of the best things that's ever been created.

*TC:* Who are your influences?

**M:** Honestly, when I saw Sugar Ray play MTV Spring Break I was like "Man it'd probably be really cool to be in a band..."

**A:** Yeah, they really epitomized that. By the way, can I give a shout out to my boy Luke Walker for producing the new Sugar Ray album?

*TC:* What kind of music do you guys listen to when you are just driving or relaxing?

**A:** If I'm driving then you're going to listen to a lot of soul music, a lot of old-school number-one hit soul music.

*TC:* If you could tour with any band who would it be?

**I&H:** Honestly our kind of thing is [that] our shows are really just about letting loose, having a great time getting everyone involved. We've played with some great bands, I mean [we played with] Cage the Elephant who is doing really well right now. We're just going to have a good time and really let it go.

*TC:* Is there anything else you want to say to fans or potential fans?

**I&H:** I want everyone to be aware of our next single that we just shot a video for—it's amazing. The single is called "Dayglo" and you might be able to hear it on the radio pretty soon in the states.

## J. Holiday's 'Round 2' flies under the radar, deserves 3rd round

J. Holiday's 2007 hit "Bed" swept the R&B, Pop and Billboard Top 100 Charts. His debut album, "Back of My Lac," debuted on the Billboard Top 100 albums charts at number 5, selling 105,000 copies.

His sophomore album, "Round 2," has slid in under the radar despite being a much more solid album.

The album begins with his first single, "It's Yours." The track features many of the same elements that contributed to the success of "Bed." It is heavily laden with electronic keyboards and strong bass. The song's simple chorus, "Grab my body baby/hold my heart don't break it/It is yours" seems to be enough to hook

any music lover's ear. Unlike "Bed," J. Holiday has an opportunity to display his vast vocal range and smooth runs throughout the song. It is surprising this tune did not go over better as far as radio play. Its moderate tempo makes it fun to listen to but is still reminiscent of the R&B groove that is his claim to fame.

The next track on the album, "Fall," is about a woman who makes him fall for her against his will. "Fall" is one of the stronger tracks on the album. It slows down the upbeat pace of the album and has far less electronic elements than his other tunes. On the other

hand, "Don't Go" sends the album on a decline, as the song is very cliched. Although it is a decent track, listening to it is like listening to the same old love song.

"Wrong Lover," featuring Rick Ross, is absolutely worth a commercial release. This song's moderate tempo is a fresh twist on the classic topic of stealing a woman from her

boyfriend. His melodic way of saying "I just can't let you escape/I'm gon' have to repossess you babe" over piano and the ad-libs of Rick Ross is more than enough to rock a jazz club. It exemplifies the direction in which J. Holiday should take his music. His sultry, seductive voice flutters across the bars of the chorus

in this song.

"Sing to You" follows, and borrows from other R&B hits, quoting R.Kelly's "Bump 'N' Grind," Joccei's "Freakin' You," and The Dream's "Falsetto," making it less than impressive. It contributes to one of the continuous drawbacks of the album, which is its inability to provide the listener with something new.

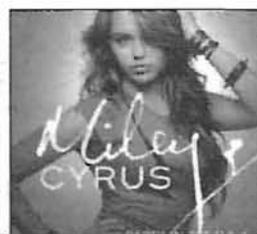
The strongest track on the album is undoubtedly "Lights Go Out."



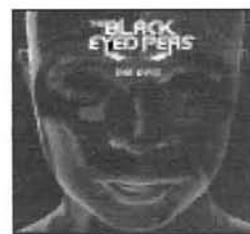
J. Holiday  
"Round 2"

See J. HOLIDAY, page 20

## ITUNES TOP 20 DOWNLOADED SONGS



**01** Party in the USA  
Miley Cyrus



**02** I Gotta Feeling  
Black Eyed Peas

**3/Down**  
Jay Sean

**9/Hotel Room Service**  
Pitbull

**15/Boom Boom Pow**  
Black Eyed Peas

**4/Run This Town**  
Jay Z

**10/Fallin' For You**  
Colbie Caillat

**16/Love Drunk**  
Boys Like Girls

**5/Whatcha Say**  
Jason DeRulo

**11/You Belong With me**  
Taylor Swift

**17/I Will not bow**  
Breaking Benjamin

**6/Use somebody**  
Kings of Leon

**12/Say Hey (I Love You)**  
Michael Franti

**18/Fire Burning**  
Sean Kingston

**7/Good Girls go Bad**  
Cobra Starship

**13/Obsessed**  
Mariah Carey

**19/21 Guns**  
Green Day

**8/She Wolf**  
Shakira

**14/One Time**  
Justin Bieber

**20/Big Green Tractor**  
Jason Aldean

## Early drinking can pay off at Happy Hours around town

► NICK BISHOP  
Staff Writer

'Happy hours' are a part of American culture, a way to sit and socialize rather than sit and steam in rush-hour traffic. For students 21 years of age and older, it is an easy way to relax over a few drinks with friends, even if it is in the middle of the week. The drinks are cold, the music is chill, and the people are hot. Happy hours are one of my favorite things.

Most happy hours start around 4 p.m. and usually end around 7 p.m. They do not last very long because by the time happy hours are ending, people are coming in to spend their evening, and their money, eating and drinking.

In St. Louis, there are some hot spots to go and relax for happy hour. Some of the best happy hours are not necessarily the places one would go to spend an evening but that have cheap drinks and, a lot of the time, a different atmosphere than they do during the evening. Some happy hours have cheap but unsavory drinks, while other

places may have good drinks but not good deals. This writer has researched (unwillingly, of course) a few good places for some tasty drinks and great deals.

Bar Louie in the Central West End, off Maryland Avenue, is more of a sports bar with a variety of televisions tuned in to different sports games. There are two bars in the place and a lot of space. They also play a variety of music and a really delicious menu. They have happy hour every day of the week except Saturday but better deals are offered Monday through Friday, with \$2 draft beers and \$5 cosmos, martinis and margaritas. Happy hour lasts 4-7 p.m. with no cover charge.

The Old Rock House is a downtown bar that books concerts and shows, offering not only good and cheap drinks but also entertainment. Their happy hour is Tuesday through Friday, 3-7 p.m. and offers a variety of specials including \$1 Bud family draft, \$2 Bud family bottles and \$2 well drinks. They have a decent menu and even offer VIP rooms to rent.

But keep in mind, although there are not covers every night of the week, on nights where there is a show you may have to pay a cover of up to \$13.

The Drunken Fish in the Central West End is a place to get some good drinks at a cheap price. Happy hour here is Monday through Friday 5-7 p.m. The drink specials are good, like half-off of most signature martinis and \$3 domestic bottles. However, the food is only mediocre, and \$1 sushi nights (only available at the bar) can be hectic, so be wary.

Look into the various specials that are available during the week for a great time, whether you are looking to relax or party it up. You can go out during the early evening to hit up some happy-hour specials at a diverse selection of bars, grills, restaurants and clubs.

No matter where you go, or when you drink, always find someone to be your designated driver. Ask a non-drinker to drive, or take turns with a friend. Whatever you do, do not drive tipsy, for your safety and that of others.

It paints a portrait of a hard work week and the stresses everyone can relate to. The heavy base and soft snare gives it that sexy, baby-maker element that R&B lovers are sure to appreciate. J. Holiday also exploits his classic vocal training on this track. The background vocals on this track mount the crescendo that envelops

J. HOLIDAY, from page 19 the listener into crashing into the lead vocals. Drenched in true tones, this song is sure to set the mood when it is time to commence adult activities.

However, "Make that Sound," "Forever Ain't Enough," and "I Tried" are not the greatest songs. They all resemble each other in sound and do not end the album on a high note. "Home-

less" is the sexy singer's attempt at social commentary, but it is a corny ending to an otherwise decent album.

J. Holiday has an astronomical vocal talent, which makes the album "Round 2" pretty good.

It definitely has more noteworthy tracks than most albums being made these days. **B-** --*Afion Anderson.*

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AFTER ALL IS READ AND DONE,  
PLEASE RECYCLE!

-YOUR FRIENDS AT THE *The Current*

# World's greatest detective gets world's greatest game

► **ANDREW SEAL**  
Staff Writer

The last time a good Batman video game came out was in 1993. "Batman Returns" was based off of the movie of the same name. Since then, 12 more games based on the Dark Knight have been released and every single one (with the possible exception of Lego Batman) has been terrible.

However, it looks like the World's Greatest Detective's luck has changed with the release of "Batman: Arkham Asylum" for the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360.

Developed by Rocksteady and published by Eidos, "Arkham Asylum" is, quite simply, the best superhero game to date. And Batman doesn't even have super powers.

Instead, he relies on his wit and his fists to get him

out of sticky situations. "Arkham Asylum" combines the best of both worlds. Gadget-wise, there are Batman mainstays such as the Batarang and grapple gun, but also new ones, like explosive gel and the Sonic Batarang. As for fists, the game uses Rocksteady's FreeFlow combat system.

FreeFlow sends Batman effortlessly from bad guy to bad guy, using the Dark Knight's fists, legs, knees and elbows to battle his foes. When the player can nail all the timings, it looks like an incredibly deadly ballet. The control scheme is easily one of the best this generation, let alone for a superhero game.

Speaking of superheroes, "Arkham Asylum" is a reunion for some real life heroes. The game's voice cast features Kevin Conroy (Batman), Mark Hamill (Joker)

and Arleen Sorkin (Harley Quinn). Those names should be instantly recognizable to fans of the Batman cartoon from the 90s—it's the same cast. For a generation of Batman fans, Hamill's Joker laugh is unforgettable. The developers hit upon genius by having him reprise his role as the nefarious clown.

In "Arkham Asylum," the Joker is up to no good again. From within the Asylum, he orchestrates a night of mayhem and chaos, intending to destroy Gotham City once and for all. To assist him, he recruits the help of several iconic Batman villains such as Bane, Mr. Zsasz, Scarecrow and Killer Croc. The plot was penned by Emmy award-winner Paul Dini, so you know that Rocksteady means business.

Unfortunately, even with all this good, there is some



COURTESY OF EIDOS INTERACTIVE

Rocksteady's FreeFlow combat system makes fighting hordes of enemies a breeze.

bad. The game's camera is not quite what it could be—it sometimes moves a bit too slowly or doesn't reveal enough of the action. Losing a high score multiplier by getting hit from an unseen enemy is aggravating. As epic

as some of the boss battles are, others are downright disappointing. The last battle in particular is not very impressive—the player can see it coming from a mile away. On top of that, the battle is too simplistic, and the finale

doesn't stack up against some of the earlier boss fights.

These things are relatively minor, though. The overall quality and polish of the title outweigh the negatives.

See **BATMAN**, page 26

# Our Opinion

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board. Signed opinions articles reflect the opinion of the author and not necessarily those of The Current.

## ARRA funding leaves UMSL in the dust

University of Missouri St. Louis once again seems to be taking a back seat to Mizzou in the University of Missouri system's scramble for funds.

Back in March, along with the other three schools in the UM system, UM-St. Louis created a "wishlist" of projects that they would fund if granted the money by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) from the Obama Administration.

One of the items on this list were renovations for the Benton Stadler science complex, a project that has repeatedly had its much needed funds ripped out from beneath it time and time again (this being no exception).

On their wishlist, UM-St. Louis asked for \$36,224,836 a small sum in comparison to UM-Columbia's \$133,656,459, UM-Kansas City's \$44,045,457, and MS&T's \$35,620,219. While it is understandable as to why UM-St. Louis would ask for a smaller allotment of money, (after all it is a smaller school) it is peevish that UM-Columbia received a greater percentage of their proposal granted.

UM-Columbia was awarded \$14,009,299, just around 10% of what they asked for while UM-St. Louis received \$1,387,133-less than 4%.

As an example of the complications arising from this disparity in funds, the Benton Stadler situation is telling.

The much-needed project was hit with a perfect storm of setbacks when its renovations were first postponed for logistical reasons and then when the chance to finally get around to it came,



Illustration by Zachary James Kraft

economic belt-tightening rendered this virtually untenable.

Now when once again the opportunity for renovation would finally seem to have arisen (could there be a better time for this project than when the federal government has just provided us with funds?) we are once again put in a potentially tight position by the fact that our funding requests are seemingly at the bottom of the UM system list.

There is, of course, much more that goes into something as large of an undertaking as the Benton Stadler renova-

tions, nor do we know the details of why funding choices are being made (it may prove reasonable in any number of ways) it is simply that we appear to be getting, as Marilyn Monroe would say, the fuzzy end of the lollipop.

Considering other ways in which we play second fiddle to Mizzou, this is another disheartening link in a chain of events that has led to a capable, increasingly accomplished, and

See ARRA, page 24

## A president visits school children, and other horrifying events

U.S. presidents have done it before.

Ronald Reagan spoke to school children to welcome them back to school, encourage them to study and to stay in school. George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush all spoke to school children at some point in their presidency.

So why is the President of the United States speaking to American school children now a controversial event?

Suddenly there is an uproar about the President doing something that at another time would be regarded as a puff piece, a near photo op, the kind of event that might

have had to struggle for coverage in the media.

A segment of the political spectrum, including some members of the Republican Party, are up in arms about the idea of the duly-elected President speaking to school children.

Stranger yet, the media are covering it as big news.

Frankly, in another time, this kind of absurd stance would have been met with laughter by the majority of the American people. But we are not laughing now.

Sure, those who are outraged by this non-event can exercise their free speech. But to look to the past for a moment, if Ronald Reagan

spoke to school children, it is hard to imagine that many people, even those who did not care for his policies, would have gotten worked up about that kind of speech.

Even if a few did protest, (and for all we know, it may have happened) it is even harder to imagine the media covering that.

It is even hard to imagine Bill Clinton, who was dogged by opposition factions throughout his presidency, seeing more than a few protestors for such a speech and, again, certainly no media frenzy.

Every speech by a president brings out some kind of protest from some political

faction but what is different about this one?

Here are a few facts: President Barack Obama plans to speak, via a 15- to 20-minute Web cast on Tuesday over the Internet, on C-SPAN and by satellite, directly to the nation's school children about persisting and succeeding in school.

Obama, as a man born to modest circumstances who did well in life thanks to education, and as a parent, might find this a topic that has special meaning for him.

Meanwhile, Jim Greer, chairman of the Florida Republican Party, was quoted as saying he was appalled that taxpayer dollars were be-

ing used to spread President Obama's "socialist ideology."

Did we miss something here? Doing well in school is "socialism?" Isn't it taking "personal responsibility?"

One has to wonder if those outraged now would be as angry if the president giving the speech were a member of the Republican Party.

If George W. Bush had faced similar outrage from political opponents over giving a back-to-school speech to American children, wouldn't they be urging the protestors to respect the office, if not the man?

And if George W. Bush did want to make a speech to school children about staying

in school, we would defend him as well.

As for "socialist ideology," note that Obama is a member of the Democratic Party, not the socialist, communist, or any other political party.

He is center-left among members of his party, and with Democrats, he has disappointed more liberals and progressives than "centrists." And remember, he was elected by a majority of American citizens.

But there is one political fact that cannot be denied about President Barack Obama: he is not a Republican.

Maybe that's the real issue?

# Viewpoints

## Kill the Bill: Performance Rights Act

Back in February of 2007, a little bill called the Performance Rights Act was introduced into Congress.

Politicians dithered about it for a few weeks and then forgot about it in the midst of bigger goings-on—namely, the 2008 election.

But now in 2009, The Performance Rights Act is back and gathering supporters. It is a bill that would require local radio stations to compensate musicians whenever their music is played on air.

It is only fair, right? Musicians deserve to be compensated.

At least, that is what the record companies would have you believe.

The Performance Tax Act is what it should be called. This bill will kill local radio as we know it.

For over 70 years, local radio stations around the country have been playing songs on air virtually free of charge.

Sure, some royalties are paid out to songwriters, but that's because songwriters are generally not as well-known or as well-paid as the musicians who sing their songs. On top of that, a fee is assessed to stations that stream their broadcasts online.

And that is the way it should be. Each week, over 230 million listeners nationwide are exposed to new musicians, new bands and new songs for free, courtesy of local radio.

And heck, being the big-hearted people that they are, local radio does not even charge musicians and bands for the airplay.

But now the tables have

turned. Musicians like Bono, Sheryl Crow, will.i.am and Billy Corgan have testified in front of Congress that they need this extra money.

Bono is worried that the million dollars per concert he is making will not be enough for him in this failing economy, and rightly so. I mean, even multi-million-dollar musicians need a little economic stimulus, right?

It is "fair compensation," the recording industry says. I call it biting the hand that feeds you.

There is no excuse for musicians and the recording industry to turn their backs on their longtime partners and friends like this.

I am a DJ at the U, the University of Missouri-St. Louis' student-run radio station. The Performance Tax

Act force The U to pay more fees than we already do.

On top of that, the increased record-keeping would be incredibly labor-intensive—possibly more than a student-run station could handle.

Here's what I propose: local radio has the upper hand in this matter.

They don't have to play any music at all—they're not required to. In fact, if this act is passed, many stations will probably either go out of business or have to switch to a talk-only format.

Instead, local radio should treat the recording industry like an advertiser—after all, isn't that an essential part of radio airplay anyways?

They should start charging bands and musicians the same fees advertisers are

charged.

All of a sudden, hearing that new Incubus song on the radio takes on a new dimension—called payola.

Payola, by definition, is the illegal practice of accepting some form of payment from recording companies in order to play specific songs on the station's broadcast.

What musicians and the recording industry is asking for is essentially reverse payola.

This will force local stations into dire straits, either reducing the amount or variety of songs they play, or shutting their doors.

It is time to fight back and tell the recording industry to quit being so greedy.

Local radio stations are still the nation's the number one promotional vehicle for



Andrew Seal

music, and robbing from Peter to pay Paul will only hurt everyone involved.

If you want to stop this from happening, get in contact with Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill.

Tell them that you oppose the Performance Rights Act.

*Andrew Seal is a staff writer for The Current.*

## The balancing act of collegiate life

One of the important factors contributing to student success, in my opinion, is balancing school, work and relaxation.

I think that if one of these ingredients to the recipe of a healthy life in college is lacking, the imbalance is bound to cause some stress and dysfunction.

I personally think it took a while for me to figure this out but still struggle with it now.

I think I have gotten much better at the balancing act, but there is always room for improvement.

Time management is the key to success. If we all had 48 hours in a day, we could do more. Unfortunately, we only have 24 hours in a day,

so time management is the key to a balance of the three aspects of college life.

Post-secondary education is obviously the most important aspect of the average college student's life. It is why we are here at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

I think a manageable amount of credit hours is a very important aspect of college life and key to the balance on the education side of things.

When a course load is too heavy, it is almost a guarantee that something is going to suffer, whether that is grades, work or the time we use to recharge our batteries. However, I also think that a semester that is too light can

be a problem as well.

In addition to prolonging a student's stay at UM-St. Louis, a light schedule throws a wrench into the system and creates a gap in a student's timeslot that needs to be filled.

All too often, the gap is not filled with relaxation and recharge-time, but a waste of time. Twiddling your thumbs isn't the way to get ahead in a career, or life itself.

Work is another key to a balanced collegiate life. Without working we would have no money.

In theory, not working sounds great. But the real question is this: how can we go out and have fun when we're completely broke?

As an adult you need some kind of income, even if you are living with your parents. I personally think that most people who would quit their job to spend more time on their over-ambitious school schedule would spend more of that time relaxing than actually jumping into their gargantuan course load.

Working too much, on the other hand, is also a bad idea. When taking on a large amount of hours at work your academics are bound to suffer.

If your academics don't suffer, surely your recharge time will be cut down, leaving the possibility that your health could be affected as well.

When there is so much on my plate life can be overwhelming, but the key to combating this is finding ways to recharge my batteries.

When school and work seem like daunting tasks to complete, I know it is time to get out and do something. Some people re-energize themselves by sitting at home and watching television, while others recharge by going out with some friends.

Now I am not by any means advocating that someone go out three nights a week because his or her schedule is too difficult.

What I am saying is that sometimes we need to get away from the work of school



Nick Bishop

and jobs and relax a bit.

It will keep us healthy, sharp and more optimistic about finishing the semester.

*Nick Bishop is a staff writer for The Current.*

**"Be careful. Journalism is like crack cocaine." —Dan Rather**

# Viewpoints

## Is paid parking on campus fair?

► **JEN O'HARA**  
Staff Writer

College is expensive. Not only do students pay for classes, but also fees for dormitories and food plans, computer technology, athletic fees, performance arts, health, student services, and student organizations.

Even an application fee is required for mere consideration of acceptance. On top of all that, students at the University of Missouri-St. Louis are required to pay a pretty hefty price to park on the campus.

Parking on UM-St. Louis' campus currently reigns at eighteen dollars per credit hour. For those of us at the minimum full time rate of twelve credit hours, the cost averages to \$216 per semester.

It is understandable that parking fees are good to have because the money can be put toward parking-lot maintenance. But \$216 is too excessive. Most of us are giving an arm and a leg just to get higher education, living on Ramen Noodles and water for four years.

Other universities in Missouri have parking fees as well. However, I would be more willing to pay theirs. Missouri State University's parking fees are \$76 for the entire academic year. At the University of Central Missouri parking fees fall at an even \$50 per semester.

Even better, Truman University charges \$50 for the

entire academic year! Local community colleges, such as Florissant Valley Community College, allow their students to park for free.

The Office of Transportation here on campus says that, besides parking lot maintenance, most of the money is dispersed throughout the university schools.

I do not have a problem with that myself, but why not put that amount into our tuition fees instead?

Especially since only those who have to drive to campus are paying extra for university school funding. Those who are commuter students get slammed with just another fee in addition to their tuition.

Take a case where a student does not have the privilege of owning a car until mid-semester. Students, regardless of the fact that they would not use a permit for the entire semester, must pay a full-semester permit fee.

On the other hand, if a student's car breaks down in the middle of the semester and it is no longer operable, the Office of Transportation offers a partial refund.

If we are able to obtain a partial refund for our car breaking down mid-semester, then why can we not acquire a permit mid-semester for a partial parking fee price?

Not only does parking affect students, but also our faculty from outside agencies.

Full-time faculty members pay \$62 a month which is a



Jennifer O'Hara

little over \$250 a semester, while part-time faculty pay \$31 a month to park, which averages out to over \$124 a semester. This alone would deter me from teaching at said institution if I were a professor.

To UM-St. Louis' credit, I do think parking permits in general should be required. If nothing else, to weed out those who do not even attend UM-St. Louis from those who have to get to class every day.

Also, I agree in charging by the credit hour. After all, it wouldn't be fair to someone only taking three credit hours to pay the same price as someone taking 18 credit hours. They would be using the parking lot much less than those who use the parking lot every day, all day.

However, it would be great to see a dramatic decrease in parking permit prices. It is an over-excessive payment expected of students or staff who may not have that much extra in their pockets to begin with.

► **JASON BECKRING**  
Staff Writer

An army of goodwill is conquered easily when the restrictions of that force are strict and severe.

A promise came forth in the recent campaign to elect a new commander in chief. This pledge sought to encourage benevolence amongst the populace.

The assurance illustrated an accord between the outstretched fingers of generosity and the nation's willingness to provide compensation for those efforts. An education grant would be awarded to those who would donate their time and sweat to the community.

This sounded like a grand idea; it would not only reward the participants for their labors, but simultaneously, it would strengthen their bond with the community and promote charity across the nation.

However, the dilemma is unveiled when the plan is investigated. The harmony of man and his nation sings in the favored ear of the latter.

The army shall be recruited through the ranks of the AmeriCorps program. Described as a homeland Peace Corps, the initiatives and ideals of the program are commendable; however the rules and regulations are firm and specific.

This corps is not one that will benefit all, nor many.

The award would present the student with more than

\$5,000 and with this they could choose to pay their current tuition or even opt to lessen the debt of their outstanding loans.

They would enjoy a life of seven years in which they could use this award. However, there is no free money in the world and whatever money there is, is only available twice.

The government begins to eliminate the prospective participants and save dollars that they might have spent by placing these heavy restrictions on the applicants.

All service work must be completed through the AmeriCorps program whether in a full-time position or possible part-time arrangement; a student cannot simply perform service hours when or wherever they wish, or at their own leisure; all efforts and placement would be controlled and assigned by AmeriCorps.

This is not what excited me as a student during the election. This is not the handshake I felt.

These restrictions instantly eliminate the majority from receiving any aid for their efforts. What is to become of the student who volunteers assisting the elderly?

Why is the sweat of a volunteer in a community garden not the same monetary weight as those who join the AmeriCorps program? It is a promise kept, but a promise altered.

It is a counterfeit pledge to



Jason Beckring

assist only those who can forfeit their time and location in their entirety.

The Learn and Serve bill will increase service opportunities by elevating AmeriCorps' available positions from 75,000 annually to 250,000 by 2017.

These new AmeriCorps positions will spotlight education, health, clean energy, veterans, economic opportunity and other national priorities.

These are grand statistics and projections, but there are more hands that are eager to help. There are more projects that would appreciate the extra help that a true government accord could offer.

The army of goodwill is merely an illusion presented to the eyes and ears of the nation to tempt them into charity.

I guess the same can be said for the public as we write our charity off on our taxes.

Are our fingers giving or grabbing as we lend a hand from ourselves? Is this a contradiction of help?

ARRA, from page 22

and ever-growing institution being stuck behind its peers based solely on size. UM-St. Louis has proved time and time again that we deserve the funds just as

much as any other institution.

With our international business program nationally ranked, our optometry school one of the few in the

nation and other specialty programs creeping up to gain recognition as well, what must UM-St. Louis do to gain the well sought-after, well deserved funds the uni-

versity requires to continue to serve its students and faculty at such a high caliber?

It looks like for now, UM-St. Louis is going to have to look elsewhere for funds

since it seems to be on the wrong end of the UM system totem pole.

Hopefully with time, UM-St. Louis will be given its rightful place as a well

respected and dedicated university worthy of just as much if not more funding than Mizzou. Until then, we will keep proving our place through quality education.

# Got an opinion on their opinion?

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# Columns

## RAINBOW RANTS

# The Gayly Grind

► **AMY BELLM**  
Staff Writer



Amy Bellm

Historically speaking, the coffeehouse was a meeting place to discuss politics and policies. It was a sort of town meeting place for men to come and share their views while learning from those around them.

Mokabe's, a coffee shop in South City, has the same feel. It has that neighborhood-coffeehouse feel of the past, where political issues are discussed and debated.

These issues range from queer politics to the anti-war movement.

Mokabe's opened in 1992 in Kirkwood, Mo., but did not quite fit in with its surroundings. In the summer of 1994, owner Mo Costello moved the shop to South City across from Tower Grove Park.

The South City area is one of much diversity—be it race, economic status or sexual orientation—and Mokabe's fits in nicely.

There is an obvious mission of Mokabe's other than just being a coffee shop.

"When Mokabe's opened," Costello said, "there was no GLBT community center. We kind of filled in that gap."

There was a need to stay historically true and allow politics to prevail. It is also pretty hard to meet people in places other than bars. Mok-

abe's has served that purpose for many people in the community.

There was also a need for a safe place for the GLBT community to gather.

"In spite of what the vision has been from the get-go, the greatest compliment I get is that 'I'm really comfortable at your place.' We've wanted a safe place, for not only the gay community but also the trans community. We have a safe place for the gay and deaf community.

We have people who have just gotten sober who have found this to be their safe place. Safe and comfortable," Costello said.

Looking for a gay-friendly place to do your homework? Seeking out a place to sit and chat with friends while drinking coffee and eating great food?

Well you have found it in Mokabe's.

## FOREIGNER'S CORNER

# Bleaching for beauty: cultural perceptions of what is attractive

► **SOFI SECK**  
Photo Editor

Around the world, the media have set standards on what makes a woman beautiful and sadly, many women feel the need to change themselves to be more beautiful.

If memory serves me correctly, it's called the Hypodermic Syringe Effect Theory, and it is how many politicians, such as Hitler, get the masses to do something they would not normally do.

I come from a place where many women dye their skin to be lighter. The chemicals in the dyes seem to eat away at their skin, and make them extremely sensitive to sunlight.

These are women who live in a country where the sun is always shining, and even with that knowledge, they still use these products.

I truly believe that it is not a self-hating thing. Think of it this way: why do women wear bras, or put all sorts

of chemicals in their hair?

Or more similar: why do some white people tan when they know that it can cause skin cancer?

It is simple: they believe they look better tanned. It is not because they hate their breasts, skin, or hair—it is because they want to achieve "perfection" in beauty. But who defines beauty?

Well, it is safe to say that the definition of beauty varies from culture to culture. Some cultures certainly find lighter skin to be more beautiful, but the majority of this is because of the media.

Skin bleaching does not merely exist in Africa.

I am African but I know for a fact that all around the world women are putting chemicals on their skin to make them lighter and brighter.

Africans, Asians, South Americans and women all around the globe are all victims of this trend.

Believe it or not, it even

happens in the United States.

In the Middle East, bleaching products fly off the shelves as many try to look more like Bollywood stars.

Just two years ago, Shahrukh Khan (arguably the most famous Bollywood actor of all time) was in a television advertisement promoting a skin-lightening cream for men.

The advertisement showed Khan giving the cream to a darker man who had no luck with girls, and within weeks the man changed into a more confident, popular and lighter-skinned person. These kinds of ads just perpetuate the notion that lighter is better.

Personally, I would never put a product on my skin to make it lighter.

I think this reflects the views of my generation of Africans, but for those who still do it, I urge you to re-examine your views on your skin.

There are many advantages that your skin



Sofi Seck

grants you biologically, and you should appreciate it.

I hate to sound like a cliché, but you are all beautiful, no matter what color you happen to be.

Destroying your body to look more aesthetically pleasing is pointless.

You have to admit, it is a bit ironic that we live in a world where lighter people want to be darker, darker people want to be lighter and those in the middle constantly feel out of place.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In response to your column, "Be Careful Before You Jump on the Vegan Bandwagon" (August 31, 2009), I would like to clarify some of the information detailed in Afton Anderson's piece. Contrary to what Anderson writes, it has been widely concluded that making the transition to a vegan diet is recommended for people of all ages. The results are so clear, in fact, that Dr. Dean Ornish (a leading researcher in the field) concluded that a "vegan diet is the most powerful protection against chronic disease we can offer our children."

Across the board, foods derived from animals contribute to virtually every major health issue in recent history. The flesh of chickens and turkeys is packed with cholesterol. Similarly, a major 2008 Harvard study found that men who eat lots of eggs are at significantly higher risk of death and were more likely to suffer from heart disease and stroke. This is not to mention the millions of eggs sold every year that carry salmonella. Fish flesh contains cholesterol.

See **VEGAN**, page 26

Kristen Lopez Eastlick's August 31st letter to the editor calling in to question the number of uninsured in the United States is a blatant case of misdirection, self-plagiarism, and astroturf politics. In her letter, Ms. Eastlick fails to disclose the fact that she is a paid lobbyist for the Employment Policies Institute, which is a front for Berman & Co., a Washington, DC public affairs firm which lobbies for various industries, according to Source-watch.org.

This might be a case of a concerned citizen who just happens to be a DC lobbyist, except that a Google

search of various phrases in her letter turn up at least four cases of similar letters in other publications (and the Current's letter to the editor is not one of them). A Google search for the phrase "a new study by Dr. June O'Neill" links to letters by Ms. Eastlick which use similar phrases in the Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times, the Hutchinson (MN) Leader, the Chicago Daily Herald, and the Vail (CO) Daily. In the last case she does identify herself as a "Senior Economic Analyst" for the EPI.

See **LOBBYIST**, page 26

Want to stick to people's brains? The Current is taking applications for Assistant Editor positions. Send a cover letter and resume to [thecurrentjobs@gmail.com](mailto:thecurrentjobs@gmail.com)

# Classifieds

Classified ads are free for students, faculty and staff. Other rates vary. To place an ad, please send your ad (40 words or less), your name, and student or employee number to thecurrent@umsl.edu, or call 516-5316.

## 100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Graders/Tutors Wanted

A west county Mathematics and Reading learning center is hiring part-time graders/tutors helping children ages 3 to 15. We offer flexible schedule, fun and rewarding working environment. Interested candidates please call 636-537-5522.

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### Moving Sale.

Furniture including: Computer Desk, Mattress, Bed Platform, rattan chair set, Bicycle, etc. The prices are reduced by 60% from the original. Please call: 314-480-2977 for detailed information.

**Your classified ad here!** *The Current* is happy to offer classified ads for all your selling needs, including textbooks, clothes, pets, computers and much more! If you need to sell it, sell it here! Call 314-516-5316 or e-mail thecurrent@umsl.edu to place your ad today!

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## 700 MISCELLANEOUS

**FREE AEROBICS!** Aerobics & Spinning classes are FREE, SEPT. 8-12 at the Mark Twain Rec Center! Check the Campus Recreation website for a schedule and more info- [www.umsl.edu/services/recsport](http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport).

**BOWLING ANYONE?** Join Campus Rec's BOWLING DOUBLES League (Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00PM, Sept 16-Oct. 21) at nearby North Oaks Bowl. Only \$2/week for 3 games. 2 people per team. Register in the Rec Office, 203MT, 516-5326.

**CAMPUS RECREATION!** COME PLAY WITH US! UMSL Intramural COED VOLLEYBALL, SOCCER (Indoor & Outdoor), and FLAG FOOTBALL Leagues. To play, sign up in the Campus Rec Office, 203 MT. Deadline is Thurs, Sept. 10.

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ACCESS, from page 2

"Even right now, in the beta phase, they are able to reduce the number of hours that people spend on all of this stuff, which is a major cost reduction for them," Hildenbrand said. "It could cost \$375 to convert one

book."

Hildenbrand said that one reason the program is so important is because it is "what the students need." According to Hildenbrand, the longer students have to wait to get course materials, the fur-

ther they can fall behind in the first critical weeks of class periods. "[AccessText] gets the materials in the hands of the students who need it, quickly and efficiently," Hildenbrand said.

LOBBYIST, from page 25

In no case does she disclose that she is paid to issue such communications.

The substance of Eastlick's argument relies upon citing a "study" which can be found here: [http://epionline.org/studies/oneill\\_06-2009.pdf](http://epionline.org/studies/oneill_06-2009.pdf). It must be noted that this document can only be found on EPT's (i.e., Berman & Company) web site. This is not a peer reviewed study and does not appear to have been submitted to any reputable scholarly journal. Furthermore, it utterly fails to address the problem of the underinsured, or those who may be insured but are not

entitled to assistance due to being disqualified for having a pre-existing condition.

One has to ask what type of concerned citizen takes it upon themselves to write similar letters on the same topic to newspapers in North Carolina, Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois, and Missouri? This is a classic case of "astroturfing," the technique by which paid shills, such as Ms. Eastlick, obfuscate their true financial interests and connections in order to simulate true "grassroots" concern.

The website, [bermanexposed.org](http://bermanexposed.org) lists a biography of Ms. Eastlick that points

out that "she has been cited as everything from director of policy analysis to chief administrative officer, and has been linked to the Center for Consumer Freedom, the American Beverage Institute, the Employment Policy Institute, the Center for Economic and Entrepreneurial Literacy, Activist Cash, and the Employee Freedom Action Committee. Eastlick is a frequent editorial writer and Berman spokesperson."

Since Ms. Eastlick is such an avid reader of *The Current*, I wait for her response with bated breath.

VEGAN, from page 25

and saturated fat, yet it has no complex carbohydrates or fiber at all. We cannot ignore these trends. If we are serious about ending the epidemic of food-related deaths in this country—and really bringing the obesity crisis under control—we must start by

shifting toward a healthy and humane vegan diet. Small changes are always a step in the right direction, but with so many delicious and cruelty-free alternatives available today, such as vegetarian barbecue "riblets" and vegan pizza, it's never been

easier to add years onto your life—and cut inches off your waistline—by going vegan. For more information, visit [peta2.com](http://peta2.com) to request a free copy of PETA's "Vegetarian Starter Kit" as well as stickers and a DVD.

# Comics & Puzzles

## Margaret & Hooray by Cody Perkins

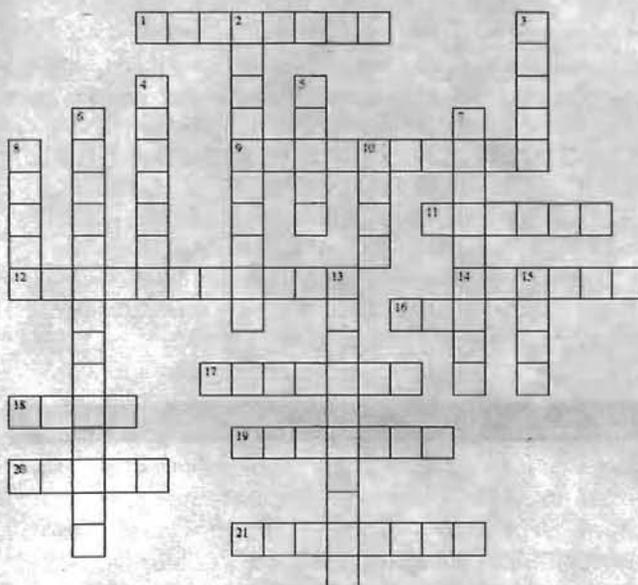


## Good Guys by Phil Freeman



## CURRENT CROSSWORD

Science (1900-2009)



### ACROSS

- Computer that, in 1997, defeated the world champion chess player.
- Rumored pseudo-hoax "break-through" in the late 80's. Think nuclear reactions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Theory, a proposed theory to describe subatomic physics via the big bang.
- Physics professor at head of the Manhattan Project.
- Telescope that first suggested that the universe is expanding
- Life-coding substance first described in the 20th century.
- Revolution cosmic origin theory introduced in early 20th century.
- Unwanted e-mails, a less-than-desirable part of modern technological life.
- Name of material in microchips.
- The first widespread hybrid vehicle.
- "\_\_\_\_\_ Man," a claimed missing link skeleton that turned out to be a hoax.

### DOWN

- Medical breakthrough substance discovered in mold.
- Now ubiquitous artificial textile material invented in 1935.
- Bodily material isolated in 20th century to aid those with "sugar disease."
- Crippling disease all but eradicated in developed countries by the end of the 20th century.
- Groundbreaking "The \_\_\_\_\_ of Dreams" introduces the subconscious and psychoanalysis to health sciences.
- Noth Carolinian city where the first motorized airplane flight took place.
- Formerly one-ninth of our cosmic family, as of 2007.
- Company that introduced the first assembly line in 1913.
- Einstein's super duper important theory.
- Niels \_\_\_\_\_, along with Ernest Rutherford detailed atomic structure for the first time.

## CURRENT HOROSCOPES

**♈ Aries**  
(March 20 - April 19)  
This is a week for change, but you should be able to handle it on your own terms. Just take your time and be flexible. New opportunities are headed your way.

**♉ Taurus**  
(April 20 - May 20)  
Don't over-extend yourself. Make sure the time is right before you start working on a big project, and give yourself plenty of chances to relax.

**♊ Gemini**  
(May 21 - June 21)  
Take advantage of the good luck you'll be experiencing. Don't waste time this week. Instead seek out new and interesting experiences.



## CURRENT SUDOKU

by Gene Doyel

9		5		6	1
7	6		8	2	4
		4			3
1	2	6			
4		7	5	2	8
			4	5	6
8			3		
	7	1	8		3
	4			5	9

Dedicated to C.K.

Difficulty: ★ (Easy)

## CURRENT CRYPTOGRAM by Matthew Hill

Find the original meaning of the message below. Each letter shown stands for another letter. Break the code for the letter A, you will have all of the As in the message, and so on. (Hint: R=V)

JARAN CK WCWEJOP W  
OEYEHEWS SDAJ ZAWPD  
EO KJ PDA HEJA

The first student, faculty or staff member to bring the solution (along with who said it) to *The Current's* office will receive a free Current T-shirt!

# What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events. "What's Current" is a free service for student organizations. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Priority is given to student organizations; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu). No phone submissions. All listings use 516 prefixes unless noted.

## Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 8

**Effective Studying: Facts and Myths about Memory** Learn more about how memory works and some tips that can be put into practice to improve recall. Find out about effective techniques for note-taking, goal setting for studying, concentration, reading a textbook, and test-taking skills. Located at 255 in the MSC-Center for Student Success, from 4:30 PM to 5:15 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 5300.

**It's About Time! (Management)** Learn how to improve grades, improve your quality of life and divide time between work and recreation. This workshop will help you examine how you spend your time and how you might be able to become more efficient in your role as a student. Located at 255 in the MSC-Center for Student Success, from 5:30 PM to 6:15 PM. For more information contact Chad Hoffer at 5300.

**Flag Football Tryouts/Practice** Have you always wanted to play football, but just don't know how to organize a team? This is your chance. Just show up at the Mark Twain Intramural Field at 2:00 PM, ready to play, and compete for one of the "Free Agent" teams. All skill levels accepted. Games begin September 15.

## Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 9

**Resume Critiques in the Nosh** Lights, camera, action . . . ready to be discovered by employers? A marketable resume will help you obtain the part. Visit us on location in the Nosh any time between 11 & 1 for resume assistance. This event is part of our September Career Month series. For more information contact Career Services at 314-516-5111.

**Health Disparities: Understanding the Role Race Plays** Local panelists will present research on health disparities in the St. Louis region and discuss how to address them at this Community Partnership Project seminar. Join us in 126 JCP Conference Center from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. For more information call Kara Lubischer at 314-516-6392.

## Thursday, SEPTEMBER 10

**It's About Time! (Management)** Learn how to improve grades, improve your quality of life and divide time between work and recreation. This workshop will help you examine how you spend your time and how you might be able to become more efficient in your role as a student. Located at 255 in the MSC-Center for Student Success, from 8:30 AM to 9:15 AM. For more information contact Career Services at 314-516-5111.

**Communicating Effectively In College** Are you sabotaging relationships with your professors? Do you fully participate in the classroom? Effective communication skills and participation are both critical in college. Understanding faculty expectations is a key to your success and intentional participation will yield great rewards. Learn how to facilitate effective communication with professors in a variety of situations and learn about the benefits of classroom participation. Will be held from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM in the 255 in the MSC-Center for Student Success. For info, call Chad Hoffer at 314-516-5300.

**Flag Football Tryouts/Practice** Have you always wanted to play football, but just don't know how to organize a team? This is your chance. Just show up at the Mark Twain Intramural Field at 3:00 PM, ready to play, and compete for one of the "Free Agent" teams. All skill levels accepted. Games begin September 15.

**Read more event listings online at**  
**[www.thecurrentonline.com](http://www.thecurrentonline.com)**



JENNIFER MEAHAN / THE CURRENT

## Visitors 'exposed' to art

One of the many visitors of the "Exposure 12" gallery on August 27th, viewed a piece of art created by former Um-St. Louis instructor Bill Kreplin. "Exposure 12" is the first fall exhibition of the season at Gallery 210, and contains paintings and other works of art by artists Bill Kreplin, Jamie Adams and Kit Keith. The Exhibit is open now until October 10.

## Friday, SEPTEMBER 11

**UMSL Fall Internship & Job Fair 2009** Discuss internship & employment opportunities with employer representatives. Admission is free only for pre-registered current UMSL students and UMSL alumni - you must present your admission ticket at the door. Pre-registration deadline is Tuesday, September 8, 2009. Click on Job Fairs at <http://careers.umsl.edu> to see a list of companies attending and to pre-register. Admission and for UMSL students/alumni who do not pre-register is \$5.00 at the door and for non-UMSL job seekers is \$10.00 at the door. Will be held in the Mark Twain Center from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

**Staff Management Issues in Nonprofit Organizations** This course addresses fundamentals of staff supervision; selecting, hiring, evaluating, and terminating staff; and legal issues that affect these procedures. Will be held from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM in the 335 Social Science and Business Building. For info, call Ashley Paterson at 314-516-5974.

## Saturday, SEPTEMBER 12

**Tennis Tournament** Tennis Anyone? This fun tournament is sponsored by Campus Recreation for players of all skill levels. Matches will be played at the Mark Twain Tennis Courts beginning at 9:30am. Divisions will include men's & women's singles (advanced, intermediate & beginner). Open to students & fac/staff. Entries are still being accepted. Call the Rec Office, 516-5326, by 2:00pm Friday, Sept. 11.

**IC Short Course - Adobe Photoshop Basics Sessions** This course is designed to teach you the basic beginning steps of Adobe Photoshop. Learn how to use this application for image editing and more that may be required for classes, your job or for your own website purposes. Topics include: opening an image, merging images, adding text to an image, copyright responsibilities, personalize your photographs, improving the colors of an image, etc. Two sessions will be held, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the 134 Social Science and Business Building.