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Dr. Stephen Holmes, Hung Nguyen and Dr. Ziad Ramadan, chair of the St. Louis section of the American Chemical Society, as Nguyen is presented with the award.

PHOTO BY JIM O'BRIEN

**Hung Nguyen wins ACS award, more**

**RACHELLE BRANDEL**  
STAFF WRITER

Hung Nguyen, junior, chemistry, was given the prestigious Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award by the St. Louis section of the American Chemical Society on April 15. The award is given annually to one outstanding student on each of several university campuses in the St. Louis area. Nguyen was chosen by faculty as the award winner at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"I am very honored and grateful to receive recognition by both the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and to be entrusted with financial support for my work by the College of Arts & Sciences," Nguyen said.

Nguyen graduated from the Gateway Institute of Technology, which is now Gateway STEM High School, as valedictorian of his class with a 4.3 cumulative GPA. He was a member of the National Honor Society and Gateway Renaissance.

Nguyen is currently working toward a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and a Bachelor of Arts in English and is a member of the Pierre Laclede Honors College. He is also opinions editor for The Current.

Nguyen received a second award that evening, as well.

"That second award was the UMSL College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Award, a grant capped at \$1,000 for

undergraduate research, based on the submission of a written proposal and meeting academic criteria. Dean Yasbin e-mailed me at around 4:45 p.m. on April 15 congratulating me on receiving the grant the night of the Awards Banquet for the Junior Award, but I did not know I had won until my mentor told me that night at the awards banquet. I was awarded the maximum amount of \$1,000," Nguyen said.

"I was ecstatic when I found out from my mentor that I had also received the College of Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Research Award in addition to the Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award I was getting that same night. It was validation for a lot of hard work I've committed myself to in the past two years and a great motivator for the years to come," he said.

Nguyen has won multiple awards, including the the St. Louis Urban Debate League's Debater of the Year Award, the College Board Advanced Placement Scholar Award (2010 and 2011), the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's List (2012-2013), the Pierre Laclede Honors College Dean's List (2012-2013), the UMSL Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry Award (2012), the St. Louis Section American Chemical Society Outstanding Junior Chemistry Student Award (2013)

and many more.

Nguyen is a member of many honor societies, services and clubs. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Golden Key International Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and the American Chemical Society. He is the public relations officer of the UMSL Undergraduate Chemistry Club, the Student Government Association representative for UMSL Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow, the National Chemistry Week committee chair for the UMSL Undergraduate Chemistry Club, a member of the Creative Writing Club, secretary for the UMSL Pre-Med Society and the Gateway STEM High School assistant policy debate coach. While at UMSL, Nguyen has been a research assistant and research intern for Dr. Stephen M. Holmes.

Holmes has supervised Nguyen for almost a year and a half in the laboratory and classroom at UMSL.

"Based in part on his maturity and quick mastery of laboratory and data analysis techniques, I encouraged [Nguyen] to attend UMSL, and he has been a tremendous asset to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and university," Holmes said.

"Hung is an excellent and conscientious student with the unique ability to apply basic

chemical principles to new and difficult synthetic chemistry. Within my laboratory, he quickly mastered a range of experimental techniques and has been able to understand and problem-solve a variety of conceptually difficult chemical projects, often doing a better job than graduate students with more experience," Holmes said.

According to Holmes, Nguyen has modified a series of undergraduate laboratory experiments and adapted them for use in undergraduate high school teaching. Nguyen has presented one project titled "Synthesis and Characterization of Binary p-Toluenesulfonates Optimized for Secondary and Post-Secondary Education" and has one submitted publication to date in the journal "Inorganic Chemistry." A second will soon be submitted to the "Journal of Chemical Education."

"I rank Hung as the best undergraduate research student I have worked with to date, despite the short duration of our relationship," Holmes said.

Nguyen has also undertaken two additional projects. The first was useful for determining the chemical reaction conditions for atom-selective fluorination chemistry, which may lead to modified pharmaceuticals. Nguyen will be working on his latest project, "Systematic Study of Photoresponsive Structure-Property Relationships in Cyanometalate," over the summer.

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# What's Current

"What's Current" is the weekly calendar of UMSL campus events and is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject "What's Current." No phone or written submissions.

## MONDAY, APRIL 29

### Bleacher Bash Food Drive: Cans 'Til We Can't

Help us collect cans for Pagedale Family Support Center's Food Pantry, noon - midnight, at Student Life in Millennium Student Center today and tomorrow. Prizes go to individual, department & student organizations that donates the most. Winners announced at Bleacher Bash at Tritons game Wed. For information, contact Ashlee Roberts at 314-516-5291.

### Monday Noon Series: Stories of Riches Lost and Found From the Ozarks

Sue Hinkel shares stories of resourceful native Ozark families, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. in 402 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Kicks off annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival, which runs May 1-4, 2013. For information, contact Karen Lucas at 314-516-5698.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 30

### Sigma Xi Seminar

Prof. Peter Marina, Department of Sociology, UM-St. Louis present a talk based on his research & recently published book "Getting the Holy Ghost: Urban Ethnography in a Brooklyn Pentecostal Tongue-Speaking Church," 2 - 3 p.m. in 217 Clark Hall. Sponsored by the UM-St. Louis Chapter of Sigma Xi. For information, contact Keith Stine at 314-516-5346.

### International Trivia Night

Think you know a lot about the world you live in?! Come and find out, 4 - 6 p.m. in MSC Pilot House. Beverages and prizes included. Sponsored by: Hispanic Latino Association Vietnamese Student Association China-America Corner Chinese Student Association Japan-America Student Association Indian Student Association. For information, contact Dayanna Nieto Tafur at 314-620-6995

### Sexual Assault Awareness Month: The Story of Salisa Luster

Every year, an average of 207,754 people are victims of sexual assault. Hear one mother's story of her daughter's assault, 6:30 - 8 p.m. in 315 MSC. Mature audiences. For information, contact Ashlee Roberts at (314)516-5291.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

### Bleacher Bash

Come out and cheer on the UMSL Tritons Baseball Team as they take on McKendree, 1 - 3:00 p.m. at South Campus baseball field. Free food, free giveaways and fun. For information, contact Tegan Klevorn at 314-516-5291

### 'Tarnation': An Evening with the Filmmaker

Presentation of award winning documentary followed by Q&A with filmmaker Jonathan Caouette, 5:30 - 8 p.m. in JC Penney Conference Center Room 101. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., film at 6 p.m. Light refreshments. Sponsored by The 50th Jubilee Committee School of Professional & Continuing Studies Missouri Institute of Mental Health. For information, contact Rita Adkins at 314-877-6454.

## THURSDAY, MAY 2

### Free Hugs

UPB is giving out Free Hugs! Find a person with a Free Hugs Shirt and ask for a hug, 11 a.m. at various locations. For information, contact Katie Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

## Multicultural Spring Festival

Office of Multicultural Relations offers a cultural experience intended to educate, impact, and promote cultural awareness, 11 a. m - 2 p.m. in MSC Nosh . Appreciate various cultures through food, song, dance and resource opportunities. For information, contact Office of Multicultural Relations at 314-516-6807.

## Annual Psi Chi Lecture in Psychology

Annual Psi Chi Lecture in Psychology by Dr. Richard Harvey, 4 - 5 p.m. in Weinman Auditorium, Center for Trauma Recovery, on South Campus. Talk is titled "Organizational Identity and Piping". Harvey is an Associate Professor at St. Louis University with research interests in both Industrial-Organizational Psychology and Social Psychology. For information, contact Jean Mayo at 5393

## Spring Jubilee Celebration Concert

50th year Jubilee Spring Concert by UMSL Gospel Choir, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill PAC Lee Theater. Featuring an original piece by Dr. Robert Ray, World Renowned Professor of Music. For information, contact Desiree at 314-369-1023.

## FRIDAY, MAY 3

### Undergraduate Research Symposium

Undergraduate Research Symposium is a great opportunity for students in any discipline to present their research, scholarship or creative works in poster, oral, or other presentation formats just as they would in a professional conference, noon - 3 p.m. in MSC. For more information, email urs@umsl.edu or contact Erika Stasiak at 314-516-5291.

### 7th Annual St. Louis Fine Print, Rare book & Paper Arts Fair

Mercantile Library hosts this event, 6 - 9 p.m. in J.C. Penny Building. Run through Sunday, May 5. Mercantile members \$40 each/ 2 for \$70. Non-Members \$50 each/ 2 for \$90. For information, contact Valenda Curtis at 314-516-6740.

### Arianna String Quartet: Voices of Spring concert

Concert by ASQ, 8 p.m. in Touhill PAC Lee Theater. Evening begins with Mozart's jubilant String Quartet in G Major, nicknamed "Spring," and is followed by Henri Dutilleux's challenging "Ainsi la nuit." Robert Schumann's String Quartet in A Major, Op. 41, No. 3 is the celebratory closer to another memorable season of great chamber music at the Touhill. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

## SATURDAY, MAY 4

### Translating Science into Economic Development

Seminar sponsored by the St. Louis Institute of Nanoscience & Nanomedicine (collaboration between UMSL, WU, and SLU), 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. in MSC Century Rooms. For information, contact Kendra Perry at 314-516-4626.

### St. Louis Storytelling Festival Grand Finale 2013

The 34th annual St. Louis Storytelling Festival is a four-day spring extravaganza at more than 25 area locations. The grand finale takes place at the Touhill, 7:30p.m. in Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. Features the best national as well as regional storytellers. More than 95 events and over 50 storytellers converge on various historic sites, including the Gateway Arch, University of Missouri- St. Louis, Missouri Historical Society, Missouri Botanical Garden and multiple

## Correction:

In the March 11 issue, an article on comedian Chad on the Features page should have been labeled as a review. The Current regrets the error.

# Campus Crimeline

### AUTO ACCIDENT LEAVING THE SCENE - LUCAS HALL

April 17 - Report # 13-176.  
 UMSL Police are investigating a reported accident - no parties identified, Investigation continuing.

### THEFT FROM SOUTH CAMPUS PARKING GARAGE

April 26 - Report # not listed yet  
 UMSL police issued a Clery Warning, with video stills of the suspect and this information:  
 At approximately 9:30 p.m.,

Thursday, April 25, 2013 the individual pictured below entered the South Campus Parking garage and broke into one unoccupied vehicle taking a backpack, a brown leather jacket and a GPS unit. The suspect left the parking garage at approximately 9:45 p.m. with the

items shown and another shoulder type bag. The owner of the vehicle contacted Campus Police after discovering the damage to his vehicle at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, April 26, 2013.

## UMSL celebrates Earth Day

**RACHELLE BRANDEL** STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri-St. Louis celebrated the national holiday Earth Day on April 22. The University Program Board threw an eco-friendly event called Plant it for Earth Day in honor of the occasion. Thankfully, the sun made an appearance, and the UPB set up a table on the Millennium Student Center patio, where they had dirt, pots, water and a wide variety of different seeds for students to choose from. The selection ranged from lettuce and tomatoes to sweet peppers.

"Planting is good for the Earth and can relieve stress," Scott Morrissey, senior, communications and Spanish, said.

Planting one's own food is a great way to save money and can brighten up a person's room. Many vegetables, like lettuce and potatoes, can be re-grown with the bits that would normally be thrown out. The vegetable grown from one seed can be grown again and again, saving needy college students lots of money. Some of the pots provided were perfect for a small plant to sit on a dorm room ledge, while other pots were made specifically to plant into the

ground for those with gardens. The volunteers present at the event wanted not only for students to have fun, but also to bring awareness to eco-friendly options students could utilize in their daily lives, such as recycling and using re-usable water bottles.

On April 21, the day before the UMSL Earth Day event, St. Louis held its own Earth Day festival, the third largest Earth Day event in the nation, led by the St. Louis Higher Education Sustainability Consortium. Participants met in Forest Park for a festival and recycling extravaganza to celebrate living eco-friendly and to learn new ways to be more eco-friendly. UMSL also has its own Sustainability Office with Katy Mike Smaistrila acting as the sustainability coordinator.

"The UPB plus sustainability equals fun!" Morrissey said.

UMSL is also now a part of the Terracycle Program, which takes items that would normally not be able to be recycled and turns them into bags, journals and even fences. The easily recognizable green boxes can be seen next to recycle bins in

the hallways around campus. Students can drop bottles, cans and even Lunchable wrappings to be recycled in the program. You can learn more about the Terracycle program and how you can be a part of it at terracycle.com. For more information on UMSL sustainability projects on campus, you can check out their Facebook page or stop by the Environmental Health and Safety Office in the MSC.

Other clubs on campus are also doing Earth-centered activities. The Japan America Student Association will be planting cherry blossom trees on UMSL campus grounds in May to beautify the campus and provide shade around the small ponds with the help of the Arbor Day Foundation. If you would like to help plant some trees, you can check out the UMSL JASA Facebook page for more information later in the month. A technical writing class on campus is also writing a Green Living Guide that will have projects and ideas to incorporate green living into daily life.

## 'Celebrating the Arts' turns ProHo into gallery



A painting in Celebrating the Arts.

LEON DEVANCE/ THE CURRENT

## NEWS BRIEFS

### The Current wins 5 awards at MCMA

The Current, the student newspaper at University of Missouri-St. Louis, garnered five awards at the Missouri College Media Association's student newspaper contest this year. The Current competes in the category with the other largest four-year universities in Missouri, including Washington University, St. Louis University and University of Missouri-Columbia, which has a school of journalism.

This year, The Current won awards for news writing,

regular column, entertainment review and story illustration, as well as an honorable mention for Best Overall Newspaper. Individual winners were Opinions editor Hung Nguyen, junior, chemistry and English; managing editor Sharon Pruitt, senior, English; A&E editor David Von Nordheim, senior, psychology, and former design editor Christian Kessler, senior, studio art.

### Theft reported on South Campus

A theft occurred in the South Campus Parking Garage on April 25 at approximately 9:30 p.m. An unoccupied vehicle was broken into, and a backpack, brown leather jacket and GPS unit were stolen by an unknown suspect. Videos from surveillance cameras captured images of the suspect leaving the parking garage with the stolen items and another shoulder bag at approximately 9:45 p.m. The owner of the vehicle reported the theft to campus police after

discovering damage to his vehicle at 7:30 a.m. on April 26.

Surveillance photos of the suspect were released to the campus community on April 26 as part of a Clery Timely Warning sent campus-wide by campus police. According to Sergeant Tom McEwan of the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department, surveillance cameras, though not monitored 24/7, are able to be reviewed; occasionally photos can be retrieved from the

footage.

In the Clery release, campus police urged the campus community to be mindful of their surroundings when entering or exiting vehicles and to report any suspicious activity.

"We are always reminding everyone to not leave items visible in their cars," McEwan said.

Police escorts are also available for anyone who may feel uncomfortable journeying to their car, class or dorm.



Video surveillance footage of suspect in theft on South Campus.

COURTESY OF UMSL POLICE

**SIYUNZHANG** STAFF WRITER

For one week, the Provincial House doubled as an art gallery, proudly displaying the work of University of Missouri-St. Louis students, faculty and staff. Paintings, photography and sculptures were displayed throughout the halls of the Pierre LaCade Honors College.

Celebrating the Arts, the annual juried art show of the Honors College, held their reception in the Provincial House on April 26 from noon to 2:30 p.m. As part of the art show, artwork has been available for viewing in the Provincial House throughout the last week of April. Artists used various forms to present their own unique styles, with subject matter ranging widely and including works inspired by nature and drawings of characters. UMSL students, staff and faculty were encouraged to come to the Provincial House during the week between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to view the art and cast their vote for Best in Show and Runner Up. At the end of the week, a reception was held in honor of UMSL's 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration and featured a performance by The Mark Pedigo Trio, whose pleasant jazz music floated out into the hallways during the reception.

According to Gerianne Friedline, faculty advisor of the show and assistant teaching professor of the Honors College, UMSL students, faculty and staff were encouraged and welcomed to "submit individual work to the show in any medium." Friedline hoped students would gain "mostly enjoyment [and] additional exposure to art" from the art show.

"This year, what we have presented is a variety of painting techniques and a variety of photography techniques. We also

have a lot of drawings and some sculptures, so we have a pretty diverse group," Friedline said. "The submitters do not have to be art majors or affiliated with art on either an academic or professional level, so we have works featured by artists that range from biology majors to criminology majors and psychology majors ... We are open to people [who are not necessarily] art majors."

Katryn Dierksen, freshman, English, submitted five pieces of her work to the show. "Trying to capture the characters in the painting is the most difficult thing that you can do and something worth trying for," Dierksen said, adding that it took her about two to 10 hours, depending on the painting, to finish the work. According to Dierksen, artwork largely reflects the artist's personality, especially in subject matter and style.

Included in the show was a special section where art work from the artists of Achievements Unlimited, a new nonprofit organization to help disabled adults, was displayed.

"They use paint to help the disabled adults express themselves," Friedline said, adding that they work together to create the paintings, taking turns adding different textures and colors. "[It] teaches them different things and lets them express themselves."

Brenda Pauley, junior, nursing, helped set up the event. "[The pieces of art] are all very amazing. They're all different genres and styles," Pauley said.

Celebrating the Arts provides an opportunity for anyone who has passion for their art to share their work and receive recognition. The art show has remained a valuable showcase for emerging talent at UMSL.

## Research and Innovation Week focuses on mental illness

**RACHELLE BRANDEL**  
STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri-St. Louis's Research and Innovation Week, sponsored in part by the Missouri Institute of Mental Health and the Office of Research Administration, presented a screening of the Academy Award-winning film "Silver Linings Playbook." The film was shown in the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on April 25 at 2 p.m.

The film was chosen because of its focus on two mental health issues: bipolar disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The film was followed by a talk back session with Dr. Jean Campbell and Dr. Joe Parks, director of the MIMH. It was the second of two films shown that day for Research and Innovation Week.

The first film was "Lake Windfall," a locally-made film about interactions between deaf, hard of hearing and hearing people that is set in

a post-apocalyptic world. The sponsors described the film as follows: "Told with humor and emotion, this film takes an authentic look at three different types of hearing loss experiences. While navigating through this tale of awareness and survival, both hearing and deaf will realize how critical effective communication is to our collective survival." The screening was followed by a question-and-answer session with clinical psychologist Dr. Felix Vincenz of the MIMH.

"Silver Linings Playbook" is the story of a former teacher, Pat Solitano, who moves back in with his parents after spending some time in a mental institution. Pat continues to try to win back his wife, who left him while he served his time in the mental institution after beating up a fellow teacher. While trying to repair his shattered life, he meets Tiffany, who is trying to repair her own life after the death of her husband. The two rely on each other as they slowly overcome their problems and togeth-

er perform in a dance competition. In the end, a little romance is added, turning the story into a romantic comedy.

The movie is both raw and fast-paced as the viewer is drawn into Pat's manic episodes of bipolar disorder. From throwing a book out the window when he disagrees with the ending to constantly talking in a rambling way, his behavior almost drives the viewer crazy. But in the moments when even Pat cannot handle the unstoppable speed of his mind and emotions, the viewer realizes that he is as trapped as they are and begins to empathize with the situation.

As the movie progresses, the viewer begins to realize the meanings of previous actions and discussions and slowly starts to feel compassion toward Pat, Tiffany and their friends and family. What seemed to be simply annoying and crazy acts in the beginning slowly begins to be understood as efforts to reach those around them.

After the movie ended, many

viewers decided to simply leave instead of staying for the question-and-answer session and missed out on being able to better understand the movie. Campbell and Parks both agreed that the movie had accurately portrayed bipolar disorder and OCD, but differed on whether the movie was focusing on the disorder and treatment or focusing on the patient's recovery. Campbell believed that the movie had not shown the entire wavelength of bipolar disorder and had primarily focused on the mania side without showing depression. Often people with bipolar disorder will have longer bouts of depression than their manic episodes last, much like crashing on the couch after working out for a long time.

The movie's main character Pat also mentions in the movie that taking the medication made him feel foggy and slow, and he did not like it, even though he was more productive and content when he was taking it.

"Mania is like driving over the speed limit," Parks said. "After going

that fast for a long period of time, going the speed limit feels very slow, even though it feels regular to the rest of us."

In the film, after Pat began dancing with Tiffany and slowly building a new life, he slowly began to get better and toward the end of the movie seemed like an entirely different person.

"When Pat was desperate, he wasn't using everything available to him to help him succeed and get better," Parks said. "Once he found something that worked for him, like the dancing, he was able to use everything available to him and succeeded in recovering."

"Silver Linings Playbook" was an overall accurate portrayal of bipolar disorder and OCD and gave a raw, in-your-face feeling to the audience. The comedy helped to ease the intensity and tension that comes with such a serious issue but still allowed the viewer to come closer to the issue than they had previously dared.

## International Photo Contest shows glimpse of world at Visio

**RACHELLE BRANDEL**  
STAFF WRITER

Starting April 25, Gallery Visio will be showcasing the eighth installment of its International Photo Contest. The exhibit, organized by the University of Missouri-St. Louis International Studies and Programs, will be running until May 8, displaying photographs taken all over the world by UMSL students. There are photographs from study abroad trips to Japan, France, Turkey and the Czech Republic, to name a few countries.

The winner this year was Natalie Roberts, senior, modern language, who went to France in November. Her picture, "L'etoile

Jaune" ("yellow star"), was taken in Normandy, France. It shows a book hidden in shadow with a strip of sunlight slicing across the open page. The light catches the yellow of the star on the bottom of the page, almost as if the viewer is getting a glimpse of something much larger than it may seem. The shadow seems to hide a harsh reality that the light is trying to bring into focus.

Second place was awarded to Haley Cole, junior, psychology, whose picture, "Balloons in Turkey," taken in Cappadocia, Turkey in May, shows colorful hot air balloons rising into a bright blue sky. The bright colors in the sky contrast with the more subtle, earthy colors of the ground and pointed rocks that jut from the Turkish valley. The

landscape reminds the viewer of the Turkish past, caves and past homes in the jutting rocks, while the balloons rising into the sky suggest the people and culture rising into an ever-changing future.

Third place was given to Erika Osborn, sophomore, studio art, for her photograph, "Enter Prague," taken in Prague, Czech Republic in July 2010. The photograph shows a boat sailing softly down a canal with buildings lining both sides as it passes. It makes the viewer feel as if there are exciting and unknown things just around the corner, the boat slowly gliding into the mystery.

The three winners took home cash prizes and had their photographs displayed in Gallery Visio.

Other works were given

honorable mention. "An Upwards Glance" by Ralph Jenkin II was taken underneath the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France when it was lit with a golden light in the nighttime. Cole also took an honorable mention for her photograph showing colorful Dutch shoes hanging from a wall. The colors and patterns are as unique as the shape of the classic Dutch wooden shoe.

Frank L. May, research investigator, chemistry, presented a photograph named "Homeward Bound," which depicts an aerial view of Fuji from his airplane as he returned to the United States. Melanie Zamachaj, research assistant, continuing education, submitted the photograph "Ponte Vecchio, Firenze," which

shows houses built into a bridge, precariously balanced over the muddy water below them. The bright colors of these unsteady homes gives a feeling of happiness and uniqueness that the brown and tan houses lining the banks behind the bridge seem to lack. Photos from past contests are also displayed in Gallery Visio, along with additional honorable mentions from this year's contest.

Walking into Gallery Visio will make the viewer feel as if they have taken a plane ride to the other side of the world, giving a glimpse at the hidden streets of Europe or the gardens of Asia. Visitors will surely leave for their own homes with a burning desire to travel.



Visitors to Gallery Visio enjoy some of the photos in the International Photo Contest.

MICHAEL PLUMB/THE CURRENT

## Jubilee Flashback

ALBERT NALL HISTORIAN

### Current wins 'best paper' award

The UMSL Current took top honors last week at the Missouri College Newspaper Association's annual awards banquet in Columbia.

The Current was judged best newspaper in the Class A division for the second consecutive year. The division consists of five Missouri Colleges with enrollments of 6,000 or more students. The staff also won "sweepstakes" certificates for

accumulating the most points for individual entries in the Class A division, and among the four divisions in overall competition.

Paul Fey, editor of the Current, said he attributed the success of the paper to "a lot of hard work from a lot of hard-working people."

Members of the Current staff receiving awards for individual entries, listed by category, are: News - Paul Fey, honorable

mention. Features/Human Interest - Paul Fey, third place tie; Kathy O'Brien, honorable mention; and Tom Taschinger, honorable mention.

In-Depth Stories - Mark Henderson, first place; Mike Biondi, third place. Editorials - Mark Henderson, second place. Critical Reviews - Mark Henderson, first place; Paul Fey, second place. Sports Stories - Tom Klein, honorable mention. Cartoon/Art - Bill Wilson, first

place and honorable mention; Gary Hoffman, third place and honorable mention. Advertising - Bill McMullan, second place.

Other colleges entered in the Class A division were the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Southeast, Southwest, and Central Missouri state universities.

The Current will receive an engraved plaque for its division award.

The Current has been part of the university since 1966. For the campus' fiftieth anniversary, we are re-printing selected articles from our archives.

This article originally ran on April 29, 1976.

## 'Pain and Gain' is strange true story as action-comedy

**CATE MARQUIS**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

They say truth is stranger than fiction — much stranger in the case of "Pain and Gain."

If you have seen the movie trailer for "Pain and Gain," you are likely expecting an action film laced with comedy, the kind you often see starring Mark Wahlberg. But what you get is more unexpected — an action-comedy with a dark twist — because this strange story really happened.

"Pain and Gain" does fall in that sub-genre of "dumb criminal" flicks, a type the British do particularly well and which includes films like "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," "A Fish Called Wanda" and even "Fargo" in its range. "Pain and Gain" isn't as good as those films, but it is surprisingly entertaining while at the same time being rather disturbing. That this story is based on something that really happened adds an odd, unsettling aspect to this wild, strange tale, a bit like watching an accident unfold.

The setting for this unlikely tale is Miami in the 1990s, a surreal enough place and time on its own. Wahlberg

plays Danny Lugo, a body builder and ambitious personal trainer at a gym, who is dissatisfied that someone as buff as he is isn't also as rich as some of his clients. He hatches a plot to get more and recruits another couple of muscle-bound types, Adrian Doorbal (Anthony Mackie) and Paul Doyle (Dwayne Johnson), to help and share in the take. Lugo is not the brightest fellow, but his co-conspirators are even less so.

Ordinarily, any film featuring wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson would send this reviewer running in the other direction, but Johnson kind of works in this role. Doyle is a contrite ex-con who has found Jesus and is determined to put his life on the straight and narrow. The problem is that he is easily led, and when his new best friend/idol Lugo asks him to do something, he reluctantly goes along.

The other member of this dim-witted triumvirate, Doorbal, is so addled by steroids that he hardly seems able to focus on what they are doing, but if it is anything involving using his muscles, he's right there with his pal Lugo. He shares Lugo's opinion that

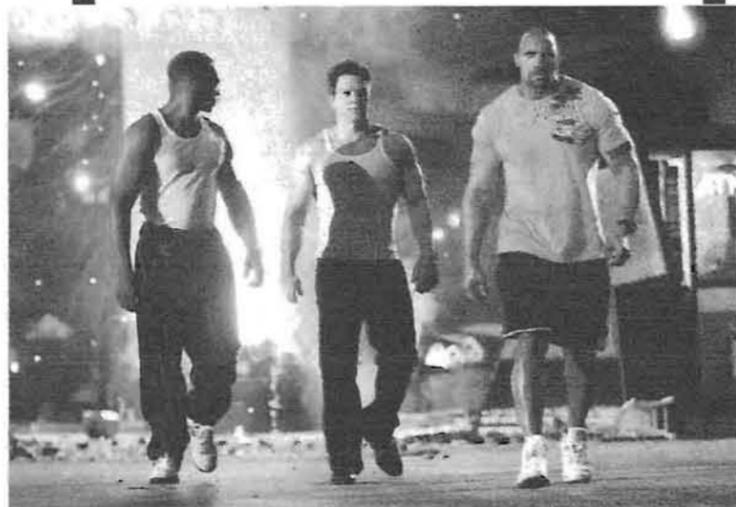
their superior physiques entitle them to recognition as worthy of wealth.

Their target is one of Lugo's clients at the gym, Victor Kershaw (Tony Shalhoub). Kershaw is a successful businessman but also an obnoxious fellow with a smug attitude.

You can't make this stuff up — something director Michael Bay doesn't want you to forget. About three-fourths of the way through the film, things have become so bizarre that the film pauses to remind viewers with a written disclaimer that "this is still a true story."

The film is a departure for Bay, whose previous works include the "Transformers" movies and "Armageddon." "Pain and Gain" has a different, more stylistic flourish to its visuals, although it is hardly groundbreaking. Much of the time, it is Bay's usual action thrills (stuff blows up, breathless chases) but with a little dash of Guy Ritchie, maybe even Tarantino. The film does not have the gore level of a horror film, but there are moments when the thought that these things really happened to someone adds a chilling dimension.

The cast is sprinkled with odd little



Anthony Mackie, Mark Wahlberg & Dwayne Johnson in "Pain and Gain." **PARAMOUNT PICTURES.**

comic gems, such as Rebel Wilson as a flirtatious nurse and Ken Jeong (of "Harold and Kumar" fame) as an aggressive motivational speaker. If this were a fiction film, "preposterous" would be the word for the plot, and comedy would be the label for the film. But this really happened, so there is a mind-boggling, sometimes disturbing undercurrent to the unfolding bizarre events.

"Pain and Gain" is both entertaining and disturbing. It's worth the effort for those with a higher tolerance for the twisted and the darkly comic. If you just want action with nice, clean explosions or comedy that makes you laugh without making you uncomfortable, look elsewhere. "Pain and Gain" is more a walk on the wild side. Still, one has to wonder what this could have been in the hands of the Cohen Brothers or Quentin Tarantino.



Alarm Will Sound.

CARL SOCOLOW

## Alarm Will Sound: '1969' intrigues

**ALBERT NALL**  
STAFF WRITER

The 20-member contemporary classical ensemble Alarm Will Sound made their debut at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center with a performance of experimental composition "1969." The production of "1969" focuses on the musical collaboration of the Beatles' John Lennon and controversial German composer Karlheinz Stockhausen.

Alarm Will Sound, an avant-garde performance group based in Rochester, N.Y., specializes in classical interpretations rooted in pop music history. The wide-ranging styles performed by the group run the gambit from European classical to contemporary American artists and composers. The versatility of Alarm Will Sound allows them to take on music from a wide variety of styles. Their performance of "1969" was a perfect example of the Alarm Will Sound style, an interdisciplinary coming together of rock and classical music.

The group's style was evident even before the troupe entered the stage. A collection of recorders, turntables and speakers on the stage created an ominous and nostalgic atmosphere. With an empty stage with chairs, microphones and various instruments, the tone is set with dark and sinister pitches from a distant tape recorder.

The mysteriousness of the performance lent itself well to individual interpretation. The symbolic reference to the number nine was a recurring motif in the production. John Lennon described the digit as "an abstract picture of revolution," but this only is at the tip of the iceberg. Did nine reflect the turbulence of the civil rights movement — was it a reference to the Little Rock Nine, who integrated a high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957? Or did nine refer to the Catonsville Nine, a group of Catholic activists who protested the Vietnam War by burning draft files on a parking lot? "1969" drew a connection between the two seminal events, juxtaposing a photo of Elizabeth Eckford, the first of the African American students to integrate Little Rock High, with images of the Catonsville Nine.

One poetically cryptic message in particular stood out, flashed at various times across the screens during the performance. "Watch out! When you awake, you make my little man flow!" Some could interpret this as referring to the romantic epic that existed between Lennon and his second wife, social activist Yoko Ono. Her presence was felt throughout the performance: there were two large photos of Ono that remained throughout the performance, and at one interval Ono could be heard singing "Michelle" in the background. "1969" seemed to portray the chemistry between

Lennon and Ono as an allegory for peace and sexuality, one of many pivotal themes in the performance.

The revolutionary themes of "1969" became even more apparent after the intermission, when a rendition of Jimi Hendrix's rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" was heard. This led the audience to Jan. 20, 1969 and the inauguration of President Richard Nixon. It was here that the most striking contrast of images appeared, with Nixon's references to "the unity that keeps us free" and the need to "destroy something in order to do something new." In the course of the production, various images of both Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Bobby Kennedy appeared as prominent and tragic figures of social reform.

It is true that much of popular music at that time was experimental, and only the musical genius of artists like Lennon and Stockhausen could have inspired a composition so immersed in startling theatrics. Still, "1969" was often simply convoluted and overwhelming in its attempts to cover such a large number of themes at the expense of its drama. The production could have been benefited from a greater sense of coherence and focus. Whether "1969" is a revolution in musical theater or a risqué display of artistic expression is left to individual interpretation.

## Pilot House open mic poetry reading

**MARCUS BARNETT**  
STAFF WRITER

Roses are red. Violets are blue. Everyone is a poet — maybe even you.

April is National Poetry Month. Poets all over the nation celebrate this month by sharing their work with anyone willing to listen.

National Poetry Month was inspired by the success of Black History Month, held each February, and Women's History Month, held each March. The Academy of American Poets gathered a group of librarians, booksellers, teachers and publishers to discuss having a similar month-long celebration for poetry in 1995. The following year, in 1996, the first National Poetry Month was born.

On April 25, about a dozen people gathered in the University of Missouri-St. Louis's Pilot House for an open mic poetry reading event. An open mic event is usually open to the general public, and anyone can sign up or volunteer to recite a poem of their choice, whether they are a professional or an amateur.

Ryan Smith, graduate, creative writing, one of the many poets who performed, was available for a brief interview after he recited his poem of choice. Smith recited the poem "A Hanging Mouse" by Elizabeth Bishop.

"I thought this poem was really interesting. It has a very fabulous tone. I also like how she used an-

imal characters; it reminds me of a children's fable," Smith said. He also stated that he frequents open mic poetry reading events whenever he has the time.

UMSL's Poet Laureate, Jennifer Goldring, was also kind enough to share a little more information about what the Master of Fine Arts program has been doing for National Poetry Month. Goldring stated that the Graduate Writers Association and the Literary Magazine assisted with putting on the open mic poetry reading event in the Pilot House. She also said that the event was the third and final event that the MFA program hosted this month.

If you were on campus anytime during the past month, it is very likely you participated in the MFA program's Poem in Your Pocket event, in which various professors and other members of the MFA program handed out poems to those in transit in between classes and meetings on UMUSL's campus.

Another event that the MFA program hosted was Poems for Charity, where the MFA program's poets wrote poems for anyone who stopped to make a donation. All donations went to Casa de Salud, a local charity that gives high-quality clinical and mental health services to those who do not have insurance and to those whose insurance does not give them full coverage.

FOR ANOTHER TAKE ON "ALARM WILL SOUND: 1969" visit  
The Current website:

[www.thecurrent-online.com](http://www.thecurrent-online.com)

## UMSL Math Club presents: MAY PROBLEM OF THE MONTH

### Problem:

It's time for finals! Three mathematics professors, Professor Ace, who teaches algebra, Professor Carter, who teaches calculus, and Professor Mixed, who teaches a section of both algebra and calculus, need copies of the algebra, calculus and a mixed stack of finals, respectively. The office assistant makes copies of the algebra and calculus finals. The office assistant then places a stack of algebra, a stack of calculus and a stack of mixed finals in the professors' mailboxes. However, all three stacks have been incorrectly placed. Your job is to correctly place each stack in the correct professor's mailbox. What is the minimum number of finals you will have to remove from the mailboxes (and which boxes?) to make the decision on where each stack needs to be moved?

*April Problem solved by: Joe Koester, Tom Li, Susan Novak and Mike Young.*

*Submit your solution to the May Problem of the Month by May 10.*

*Winners will be announced on the next Problem of the Month.*

*Prizes available.*

*Submit solutions to R. Dotzel, 329 ESH.*

## SIMPLY BEAGLE

BY LEE SELLARS

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## POINT/COUNTERPOINT

### Public transportation system should expand

The U.S. should expand its public transportation system.

Many other countries throughout the world have public transportation systems that extend to the cities and highly populated towns of their country. This allows the majority of the population to use public transportation, freeing up roads and using less gas and other limited resources. Emergency vehicles would be able to respond quicker when they have fewer cars on the freeway to weave and pass around. This would also be a more eco-friendly option for the Earth and would lower the amount of traffic accidents. Drunk driving would no longer be a problem when people can simply hop on the train and ride it home.

Many worry that furthering the

public transportation system would threaten the jobs provided by the auto industry. But by adding more metro systems and bus routes, it would create numerous jobs for those in the auto industry. The auto industry could even invest in future public transportation endeavors and offer to train their employees for future railway jobs.

Public transportation would encourage people to interact with others in their community. People could talk to others and even study like many already do on the St. Louis Metro. It would also promote a healthier lifestyle, as most people in areas with public transportation being the main form of transportation walk more than people who simply walk to their garage and climb into

their car.

Public transportation can also allow the elderly who can no longer drive, the disabled and those too young to drive to continue having the freedom to travel to where they need to go. These people would no longer have to rely on charity organizations and other means for mobile freedom when they could simply use public transportation to take them anywhere. People would no longer have to worry about maintaining cars, which can be a large expense. No one would have to worry about mechanics scamming them since the train and bus lines would maintain and fix their own equipment.

Expanding public transportation is simply a win-win for everyone involved.

### Public transportation system should not expand

The idea of investing more in public transportation may be well meaning in theory. However, let's look at this more closely. Those who support increasing federal spending on public transportation believe that this will create the 2 million new jobs that President Barack Obama promised as a campaign pledge in 2008.

Backers claim that agglomeration or mass economies, as they are called, are supposed to mean higher urban rent for office space in metropolitan areas with public transportation. We need to be careful that we do not fall for the smokescreen on this. This is very high on the promises and the exaggeration of benefits of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that was enacted early in Obama's presidency, with public

transportation being a priority.

The items promised by Obama that accompanied the American Recovery Act included the creation of a \$60 billion bank to fund such projects. First of all, the bank is no more than a funding authority and not a source of revenue for transportation. Obama has tried to create this new banking institution and failed, with the \$30 billion that he requested being rejected by Congress.

Getting back to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this is no more than grants to local and state governments to do regional projects. None of this goes back to the federal government. The intent of the Obama administration was to leverage \$500 billion of private investment in real pork barrel spending on high-

speed trains that none of the states really need.

Instead of working on increasing efficiency and clean energy as Obama pledged to do, the federal government is getting at best empty promises from private industry about their commitment to public transportation and wasteful spending of the stimulus due to fraud. This will increase the U.S. national debt to 11.5 trillion with no new tax revenues and no new jobs.

Even with Obama's best intentions, increases in public transportation will fail because of dysfunction and a piecemeal approach to investment that will make the costs too prohibitive.

## COLUMN *The Chopping Block*

### The major battle: the bad advice and my advice

**HUNG NGUYEN**  
OPINIONS EDITOR



When I first started college, it was common for teachers and guidance counselors to say that my choice in major need not be the career field I am pursuing. For instance, those pursuing professional degrees in law or medicine have a wide range of options when it comes to choosing an undergraduate major, as it is ultimately overall performance, demonstrated commitment and skills and entrance exams that determine admission decisions. Now halfway through my undergraduate education, I think this was terrible advice.

Encouraging students to pursue disciplines in which they are intensely passionate may enable better chances for success and achievement during undergraduate study, but this does not directly translate into on-the-job, real-life skills that are needed in their professional lives unless it is directly relevant and topically related to their respective fields.

For example, while the skills obtained by an art history major may be valuable, they do not prepare an aspiring physician for the rigors of medical school, since short of admission prerequisites, the student lacks the depth and difficulty that upper-division courses in the hard sciences are known for.

This is not to say that the related skills are useless, but that they apply only in the periphery. To continue with the pre-med art history student example, the research, writing and analytical skills gained are undoubtedly useful and even conducive to medical education. Yet writing for the humanities and for the sciences are two

totally different, albeit related, styles of writing. In addition, the thought processes are quite different for solving scientific problems and probing discursive constructs evoked in creative exploration and explication. While the significance of such a gap can vary from student to student, this pre-med art history student would likely be less prepared or have a more difficult time getting acclimated to what lies ahead in medical school.

Students should study what they are passionate about and it could potentially translate to a career within the major field of study. But more often, students return to the university after some years of soul-searching and realize that they really should not have chosen a major that is completely worthless to their career interests.

College is a place to find yourself, but it is also a place to learn and practice being an adult. Part of that process of maturation is realizing that you can't do something just because it is fun. Does it translate into practical, marketable skills? Do those skills match what you want to do? If the jobs available to a particular major field of study have nothing to do with what you want to do, it is a big waste of money, since you will hate your job in the years to come.

The advice I wish I would have gotten: Pick wisely. Follow your heart, but use your brain.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### Reply to 'House of Horrors' column

To The Editor:

I agree heartily with Rachele Brandel's column in the April 22 Current. It is a shame that almost all news outlets are not giving anycoverage. Great job.

Tom McCoy  
UMSL groundskeeper

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## Softball Tritons seek victory in playoffs



Brandi Kiel slides into second base safely against Quincy.

LEON DEVANCE/ THE CURRENT



Brandi Kiel looks around as the ball gets away from Quincy fielder.

LEON DEVANCE/ THE CURRENT

### LEON DEVANCE SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team has used their pitching, defense and timely hitting to achieve their goal of winning three games out of four and played to win 33 games against 11 losses total.

UMSL appears to be an offensive juggernaut in 2013. UMSL's offense has scored 125 runs more than their opponents. That makes 201 runs total for UMSL against the average of 76 runs for our competitors.

UMSL has a chance to record the second highest number of victories in school history; the school record remains at 44-29 in the 1995 season under Kristi Toppins. And under Head Coach Brian Levin, UMSL had a 58-45 record in the two previous seasons.

And that is not the only positive development for UMSL this season. UMSL erased the losing 16-18 conference record they accumulated in the Great Lakes Valley Conference last season. This season, UMSL has won a school record of 24-4 conference games.

UMSL recorded 30 wins for a season for the eleventh time in the program's history. Levin won 30 games for the second time, which is only to be expected from the 2011 GLVC coach of the year.

Lead-off hitters Jena Boudreau, sophomore, nursing, and Katie Schultz, freshman, elementary education, are first up to bat and fast to get on base, setting the table for run producers in the middle of the line-up. UMSL has produced a versatile line-up that can play small ball, sacrificing to advance or score runners, hit and run or slug the ball into the gaps for extra base hits.

The trio of Haleigh Jenkins, senior, physical education (.364 batting average, seven jacks, 35 ribbies, .552 slugging percentage); Ashleigh King, senior, elementary education (.348 batting average, five homers, 20 ribbies, .518 slugging per-

centage); and Katie Wood, sophomore, biology (.254 batting average, four homers, 25 ribbies, .425 slugging percentage), along with Madison Zbaraschuk, sophomore, communications (.352 batting average, 10 taters, 42 ribbies, .613 slugging percentage); and Brianna Butler, sophomore, childhood education, means that UMSL has no automatic outs in the line-up. UMSL can defeat opponents either with the long ball or play small ball by advancing runners, to score runs.

UMSL scored a season-high 17 runs against Lindenwood, was blanked in the first game against Truman State and then exploded for eight runs, scored 11 runs against the University of California-San Diego, scored 10 and then 15 runs in a doubleheader sweep against Maryville, scored 11 runs against Harris-Stove, scored nine against Delta State and produced 16 runs against Southern Indiana.

Butler and Zbaraschuk are impact players for UMSL and are counted on to deliver runs when scoring opportunities arise, but Jenkins, King and Wood provide protection so opponents can not pitch around them.

Winning in the playoffs requires execution, solid defense and dominant starting pitching capable of shutting down the opposition. Good playoff teams exploit opponents' mistakes.

The object for UMSL in the GLVC playoffs, as Jim Valvano said about the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, is to survive and advance. UMSL will have to play fundamental softball, moving runners into scoring positions, playing solid defense, receiving solid starting pitching behind the 1-2 pitching duo of aces left-hander Hannah Perryman, freshman, criminology, and right-hander Brittini Chapman, sophomore, undecided, and having timely, opportunistic hits. That formula produced 33 wins and counting this season.

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