

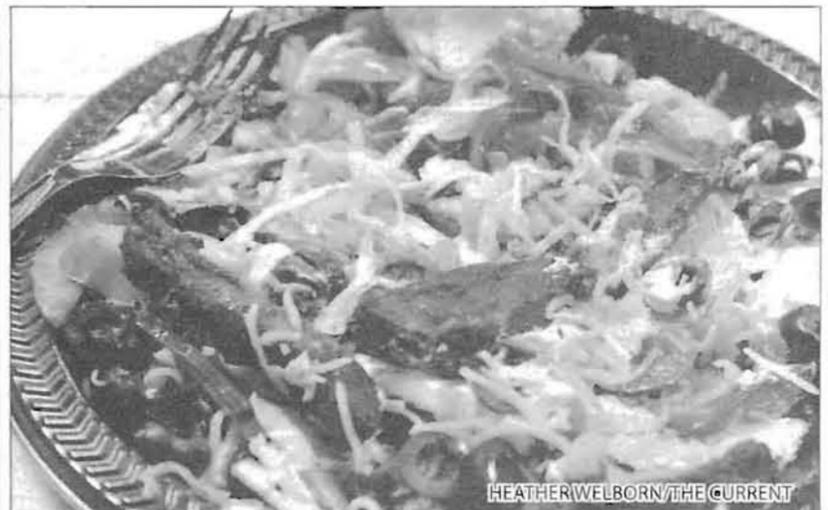
HISLA hosts annual Day of the Dead Dance in Provincial House

HEATHER WELBORN
FEATURES EDITOR

The sound of mariachi music and laughter filled the Museum Room in Provincial House on South Campus on October 29 as the Hispanic and Latino Association (HISLA) hosted their 2nd annual El Dia de los Muertos Dance. The event gave students a chance to learn more about Latino and Hispanic culture and the Day of The Dead celebration, observed over November 1 and 2.

Brightly colored paper streamers and banners gave the room a festive party atmosphere. Ample food was provided for attendees, with a taco and enchilada bar greeting students as they entered. HISLA members offered traditional face painting, a white skeleton-like base with black lined embellishments and eye sockets circled with red and blue. A memorial altar was displayed, bearing loaves of sweet Day of the Dead bread and short biographies of St. Louis natives who have passed on. Students danced in the center of the room and chatted with new acquaintances at tables covered in candy and gift bags as parting gifts.

HISLA aims to raise cultural awareness and understanding of the Hispanic and Latino community on campus through educational and social events. The El Dia Dance promotes the Day of the Dead, a two day celebration of the dearly deceased. Club members helped attendees properly eat cachetadas, a Mexican candy that looks like a long feather in plastic, by folding the candy in specific ways to reveal a compact sucker to enjoy.



Students celebrate Day of the Dead with dancing, food, and fun

HISLA President Ana Bolanos, senior, business administration, stayed busy greeting students and painting faces. HISLA decided to host the Day of the Dead dance after its success last year.

"This is something that every Latin or Hispanic country celebrates," Bolanos said. Though Day of the Dead is widely observed in Central and South America, there are significant regional differences in how the dead are honored.

"For example, Mexico is the only country that does the altars.

Other countries will visit the cemetery with flowers," Bolanos said, noting that the meaning of the celebration is shared and straightforward. "The whole idea behind the Day of the Dead is to remember those people who have left us."

An altar, or ofrenda, is a mainstay in Mexican households for the holiday of familial remembrance.

"Mainly it's a way to remember a specific person in the family," Bolanos said, before explaining the ease of setting up a memorial

for your loved ones. "For example, your grandpa passed away - you get an altar, you put a picture of him in the center, and maybe you put some of his personal belongings [as well], maybe a shirt or a watch." She recommends a personal touch to commemorate the lives of loved ones. "Sometimes people put the person's favorite meal - like if he used to love to eat quesadillas, they would put a plate there to remember him and what he liked to."

Candles are placed around the altar, which, according to

Bolanos, represents lighting the way to heaven.

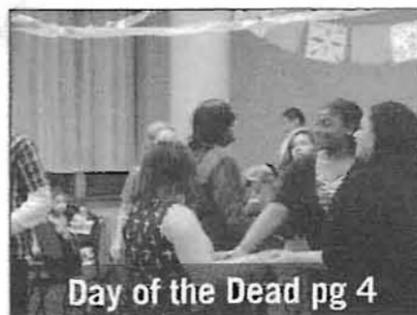
"You also put a glass of water there if their souls get thirsty," Bolanos said. After the altar is constructed, families come together to pray for their loved ones, as well as celebrate the lives they left behind. "It's not a time to be sad about it, it's a time to remember the good times together and hope he's doing well wherever he is."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

INSIDE



Islamic Politics pg 3



Day of the Dead pg 4



'For Colored Girls' pg 5



UMSL Sports pg 6

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Ben Kingsley, Harrison Ford and Asa Butterfield star in 'Ender's Game'

Visit thecurrent-online.com for exclusive online content. This week:

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Jubilee Flashback

The Current has been a part of UMSL since 1966. In honor of the campus' 50th anniversary, we are reprinting articles from years past. These photos originally ran on November 4, 2002. For more Jubilee Flashback, visit thecurrent-online.com.

Helping the needy

UMSL donates over 400 cans



Pierre LaCade's Honor College Students Elizabeth Lee, a freshman in Chemistry, and Joanne Tinsley, a freshman in music, collect donations of canned food and money from passersby on the MSC bridge. Items collected were donated to Team Food Pantry in Florissant, Mo. The drive was sponsored by Pierre LaCade's Honor College and the Delta Sigma Pi sorority. The group collected over 400 cans and raised \$383. The drive was held from Oct. 21 to Oct. 23.



The leaves, they are a-changin'

The UM-St. Louis campus benefits from the glorious display of autumn colors. Here, a maple provides a daub of color in front of the Mercantile Library Pyramid on north campus.

THE UNDERCURRENT *By Siyun Zhang*

DO YOU FEEL SAFE ON CAMPUS?



MANUELA ENGSTLER
 America Studies, Senior

"Yeah, because of the campus police [I feel safe on campus]. It's kind of dangerous but it's not like I feel uncomfortable."



ZACK ULE
 Engineering, Freshman

"Yeah I feel safe on campus. I don't know...I haven't met any problems."



KATIE FURROW
 Nursing, Junior

"Sometimes, I mean...I'm only here during the day. I'm never really here [at night]. This is the only day I'm here after 5 o'clock. Normally, I feel really safe."

MON 63 _{HI} 51 _{LOW}	TUE 61 _{HI} 54 _{LOW}	WED 59 _{HI} 38 _{LOW}	THU 53 _{HI} 34 _{LOW}	FRI 59 _{HI} 42 _{LOW}	SAT 60 _{HI} 41 _{LOW}	SUN 58 _{HI} 40 _{LOW}
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Campus community discusses Islam

LATWUANNA TROUPE
STAFF WRITER

International Studies and Programs at the University of Missouri–St. Louis hosted the Dr. Edwin Fedder Annual Lecture in Foreign and International Affairs on October 28 in the Millennium Student Center. Joel Glassman, Ph. D, Director of International Studies and Programs, served as the master of ceremonies for the evening and introduced the special guest speaker, Dr. Mark Tessler. Tessler is the Samuel J. Eldersveld Collegiate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan. Tessler, who has studied and conducted field research in such places as Tunisia, Israel, Morocco, Egypt, and Palestine, spoke in-depth on the topic of “Islam and Governance in the Arab World.”

Should religion play a role in government? In order to discuss the political role of Islam in the Arab world, Tessler utilized findings from arabbarometer.org. According to the website, the purpose of the Arab Barometer

survey project is to produce scientifically reliable data on the politically-relevant attitudes of ordinary citizens, to disseminate and apply survey findings in order to contribute to political reform, and to strengthen institutional capacity for public opinion research.

Over the past seven years, the Arab Barometer project has carried out thirty nationally-representative political attitude surveys in twelve different countries, collecting statistics that addressed the question of whether or not Arab and Muslim citizens want Islam to be a part of their political system.

During the course of the event, three topics were heavily discussed: “The Arab Spring in Egypt and Tunisia,” “What Supporters of Political Islam Believe,” and “Determinants of Support for Political Islam.”

“I grew up with this. This is my religion,” Adeela Langrial, senior, communications/psychology, said.



Campus community attends “Islam and Governance in the Arab World”

Egypt and Tunisia were put under the microscope, due to intense outcry against the use of Islam in governance. Whether the problem is Islam or the failure of the Islamist government is a further subject of debate.

During the second wave on the Arab barometer project, surveys were conducted in a number of countries deemed representative of the region, in order to gauge the amount of support – or lack thereof – of political Islam. These studies both measured and tracked citizens’ views on democracy,

interpretations of Islam from different genders, social and interpersonal trust, and social, religious and political identities. Variations in these metrics revealed whether or not countries supported an Islamic government; the data showed strong support for a democratic government.

During the course of the event, numerous hypotheses were given to help try to understand the intense outcry of support for Islam in government and the opposition to it, citing traditional cultural values, negative regime evaluation,

economic dissatisfaction, and lower levels of education as factors that affect public opinion.

The next steps of exploring the issue may include further reflection and investigation of pathways according to the surveys and data. Many people around the world are beginning to join the debates surrounding countries where religion is a way of life.

“I think they have an appreciation for how complicated some of the issues are around Islam and politics in the Middle East,” Tessler said.

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DAY OF THE DEAD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Bolanos encourages students to attend HISLA events in the future, noting that they are not only free, but are overwhelmingly centered around dancing and music. HISLA dedicates itself to education and awareness of the uniqueness within the Hispanic and Latino culture.

"Most of the time you see people generalize or stereotype Hispanic culture. There is a difference between Hispanic and Latino that most people don't understand," Bolanos said, adding that the cultural variation between countries in South America is significant. "People in El Salvador may do things differently than people in Nicaragua or Argentina."

"I come from a pretty culturally diverse area," Varun Bhan, senior, biology, said. "I lived in Puerto Rico for a while, so I'm used to that culture and I like it a lot."

Bhan, a HISLA member, enjoys multicultural events on campus.

"It's nice to meet other people from UMSL from all our communities. There are so many smaller diverse groups at UMSL and it's nice to go experience and support them," Bhan said, adding that, in his view, events like those put on by HISLA help students create "unity within diversity."

Bhan encourages increased student attendance, regardless of cultural background.

"We're all inhabitants of earth," Bhan said. "It's nice to see all the peace and unity here, especially [with] how the world is today. We're a university, we are 'the future.' We should be able to behave properly," Bhan said. "Learning to live together, that's the big thing."

To find out more about HISLA, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/HISLA.UMSL.1>.



Students dance at Day of the Dead event

-NEWS@NOON-

SOCIAL MEDIA: OWNING YOUR IDENTITY

Join The Current, the student-run campus news source, for free pizza and discussion at "Social Media: Owning Your Own Identity."

Professor Perry Drake, Professor of Social and Digital Media Marketing at UMSL, will introduce the topic and then lead a student-centered discussion.

"News at Noon" is a monthly forum for faculty and student discussions about current events, co-sponsored by The Current and the New York Times, with support from the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Office of Student Life at UMSL.

LOCATION MSC: CENTURY ROOM C

TIME NOVEMBER 13TH, 12:15-1:30 P.M

The Current
UMSL'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER



GAME REVIEW

'The Last of Us' will leave you speechless

DANYEL POINDEXTER
STAFF WRITER

Game developers Naughty Dog came out with the game that left everyone speechless on June 14, 2013: "The Last of Us." Published by Sony Computer Entertainment, this action-adventure and survival horror game is good for both single and multi-player on the PlayStation 3.

The game starts off with a movie-like atmosphere and is set in the modern day. Unexpectedly, buildings begin to explode - most importantly, the hospital. People begin to scream and run out of their homes as they find infected and crazed people eating citizens. Twenty years into the future, the world has been overtaken by zombie-like infected people while the non-infected citizens stay in sectioned-off areas where they are protected. Joel, the male lead character of this story, is a brutal survivor and has lost everything he ever loved. As he takes a journey with his friend beyond

the borders of a protected area, something unexpected happens: he meets Ellie, a fourteen-year-old girl born into all this havoc. Together they must travel to a group of people who want Ellie because they believe she may hold the key to a cure. As they travel through the crazed city, the two begin to form a bond.

The game has been recognized for its artwork, design, voice acting, and writing. The player protects the character against infected people who have evolved into mutated creatures that are unlike anything you have ever seen in a game. Most of the creatures can see by sound, so it's up to you to make sure you tread quietly - or else risk being attacked.

Although the world this game is set in has been tarnished and burned, with large amounts of dangerous debris lying about, it can also come in handy for the player. Various items are available to scavenge, so the player can combine what they find to craft weapons and medical items for future use. The player also has

the option of collecting toolboxes throughout the game in order to update their weaponry. Joel's physical abilities can also be upgraded while playing.

As the player continues the game, bits of characters' conversations may pop up on screen, or the player may hear other people's conversations. While this is a very realistic feature to put into the game, it can be distracting to read an important conversation while trying to watch what else is happening on screen.

Truly, that is the one and only flaw this game contains. The graphics are realistic down to the shadows of the characters, and there are a variety of details, like notes that the player should watch out for. Just like reality, your eyes have to be everywhere. Players have to be on the lookout for every little thing.

"The Last of Us" is an insightful and mind-grabbing game that boasts a detailed story. It is worth the purchase price and definitely worth the time it takes to play.

TOUHILL



'For Colored Girls' impresses UMSL audiences

ADEELA LANGRIAL/THE CURRENT

UMSL students perform 'For Colored Girls'

ALBERT NALL
STAFF WRITER

The Department of Theater, Dance & Media Studies presented "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf" on October 31, through November 3 in the Lee Theater of the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

"For Colored Girls" is based on a sequence of poems written by Ntozake Shange in 1975. The stories are told in the form of a "choreopoem" that combine drama and dance with poetic expression. The University of Missouri-St. Louis' production was directed by Jacqueline Thompson, assistant professor of theater.

'For Colored Girls' is about the struggles women face in their lives, something still valid today. The monologues' themes were reinforced with sass and robustness by a diverse cast of performers from different generations. The characters were represented by the various colors of dresses that they

wore. Lady in Brown was played with great dramatic influence and strength by Aranesha Jackson, junior, psychology. Jackson would become pivotal in an encounter with Lady in Green, played by UMSL alumna Lashunda Gardner, who earned a bachelor's degree in media studies. Lady in Yellow, played by Alexandria Johnson, freshman, theater and dance, played the innocent, giddy virgin of the group.

A climatic facet of the production was in the penetrating, poignant and affecting recital by Lady in Red, played by Tierra K. Brown, senior, media studies. A great back-up to the stellar performances by Jackson, Gardner, Brown and Johnson was provided by Lady in Orange (Shonell Watkins, senior, theater and dance), Lady in Blue (Kimberly Phillips, senior, theater and dance) and Lady in Purple (Brittnee Bell, UMSL alumna, B.S. media studies).

The play seemed to resonate greatly with the audience at the Touhill during Thursday's performance, with applause

breaking out and a yell of "you can say that, girl!" from a patron during a scene where Lady in Red (Brown) storms off the stage.

It was indeed charming to be able to see the performers effectively engage the audience with their body language and facial expressions. The irony of the performance was that the set construction itself left much to be desired. The layout of the Lee Theater may not have been well-equipped for the intense performance of "For Colored Girls." This became something of a nuisance for any person sitting in the front rows where they could risk tripping the performers who run off the stage after a scene.

Marty Casey, an acting coach brought in by the director to assist the performance at UMSL, said that the actresses were like pros, despite that fact that many were making their acting debut in "For Colored Girls." No one could have guessed as much; the audience was raptly silent during much of the show, an indication that the actresses commanded the stage quite well.

FILM REVIEW



Michael Fassbender as 'Edwin Epps' & Lupita Nyong'o as 'Patsey'

FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/COURTESY OF FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Steve McQueen's '12 Years A Slave' is astounding cinema

GATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

"12 Years A Slave" recounts the true life experiences of Solomon Northrup, a free black man from New York who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in the 1840s. After his escape, his memoir of his experience became a bestseller and one of the publications that helped fuel the abolitionist movement.

"12 Years A Slave" has everything one wants in a great film. The story is gripping and inspiring and the cast, led by the talented Chiwetel Ejiofor, create unforgettable characters. Its perfect dramatic arc sweeps us up in the events of both history and this personal story. The moving, epic story is presented through beautiful photography and with remarkable attention to historical detail.

The supporting cast features a who's-who of A-list actors, including Benedict Cumberbatch as slave master William Ford, Paul Dano as his sullen assistant overseer Tibbeats, Paul Giamati as slave trader Freeman, and Michael Fassbender as brutal slave owner Edwin Epps. Other significant roles are played by Alfre Woodward, Brad Pitt, Quvenzhané Wallis, Sarah Paulson and Garrett Dillahunt. Lupita Nyong'o and Adepero Oduye play important roles as fellow slaves Patsey and Eliza.

Director Steve McQueen makes good use of this sterling cast while filming at historic locations. Sean Bobbit's photography is lush and stirring, aiding a fine score by Hans Zimmer. This film is powerful stuff, not just its skillful handling of a significant historical subject but as engrossing, first-rate entertainment and cinematic art. At times, the film plays almost like adventure, with harrowing escapes, unexpected twists and human beings tested to their limits, with all the edge-of-your seat tension one could want.

"12 Years A Slave" may be the best film made to date about America's sad history of slavery.

Eschewing melodrama, "12 Years A Slave" brings us gritty, realistic drama but on the grand scale of epic. Northrup is a free-born musician from New York who is kidnapped while working in the nation's capital. In a dank dirty cell, the dignified Northrup is stripped of his name and the now-tattered shirt his wife made for him. He is thrust into a frightening world that had little entered his thoughts, as a man born free. In a series of appalling experiences, which he endures with remarkable resilience, Northrup is transported South, sold and passes through three different plantation experiences. One might think that Northrup's gift as a violinist would earn him a comfortable spot in the big house but mostly, it means an extra shift as an entertainer after laboring in the fields. We are steeped in Northrup's experience - the burning sun beating down in cotton fields, the heat and dust of rickety cabins - as he faces both cruelty and unexpected kindnesses.

Throughout, Northrup struggles to maintain his dignity, his hopes of freedom, and his very life.

The film has the power of one man's story, an ordinary man thrown into extraordinary circumstances, and the sweep of history as well. Since we know from the outset that Solomon Northrup survives, the film has a certain resonance with other survivor stories. By keeping to Northrup's point-of-view, we are immersed in his life among his fellow slaves and poor white hirelings. The audience maintains a distance from the plantations' grand mansions, as the slaves did, and any "Gone With The Wind" romanticism is scrubbed away by hard reality. By starting with Northrup's comfortable, happy middle-class life in New York, the film finds eerie parallels to World War II Holocaust survivor stories.

The astounding "12 Years A Slave" is everything it should be, a certain future classic. Come awards season, watch for this remarkable film to scoop up the Oscars.

UMSL men's soccer head to tournament

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri–St. Louis women's volleyball team fell to the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals 1-3 on October 26 in Aurora, Illinois. Through set scores of 15-25, 18-25, 25-10, 22-25 the Tritons cooled down their recent win streak, their record standing at 13-11. Hannah Miller, sophomore, graphic design, led the Tritons with 8 kills while Lindsay Meyer, sophomore, business, and Anna McNulty, senior, communications, added 17 and 16 assists, respectively. Emily Bragaw, junior, elementary education, contributed with 23 digs.

UMSL women's soccer lost to the Bellarmine Knights 1-2 on October 27 in Louisville, Kentucky. Bellarmine went on the offensive from the gate, scoring in the 5th minute. The Tritons responded with a goal from Hunter Wagoner, sophomore, elementary education, in the 21st minute, but could not rally after Bellarmine scored again in the 49th minute. Goalkeeper Amanda Shurzinske, freshman, biology,

posted seven saves for the Tritons, and Sidney Allen, sophomore, secondary education, contributed with an assist.

UMSL men's soccer tied the Bellarmine Knights 1-1 in second overtime on October 27 in Louisville, Kentucky. The Tritons scored early in the 20th minute on a goal from Tyler Collico, sophomore, business administration, assisted by Matt Burrus, senior, international business. Bellarmine responded with the game's final goal in the 35th minute. Goalkeeper Nick Lenkman, junior, international business, contributed four saves and Jon Huelsman, sophomore, nursing, led the Tritons with four shots.

UMSL men's soccer defeated the Maryville Saints 2-1 on October 30 at Maryville. Maryville started off hot with a goal in the 11th minute. The Tritons responded in the 36th minute with a goal from Evan Garrard, freshman, biology. With the game nearing the end of regulation, Michael Schlemper, sophomore, criminal



Sophomore goalkeeper Jeremiah Cooper gets loose prior to gameplay. Cooper and junior goalkeeper Nick Lenkman have played a big part in the Tritons success on the field.

justice, added the second goal for the Tritons in the 86th minute off of an assist from Jon Huelsman, sophomore, nursing, and Nick Cherry, sophomore, biology. Matt Burrus, senior, international business, and DJ Bednar, freshman, electrical engineering, led the Tritons with two shots on goal each and goalkeeper Nick Lenkman, junior, international business, contributed a save. With seven straight games without a loss, the Triton men's soccer team

has improved to 9-6-2 on the year, and will continue their season playing in the GLVC tournament.

UMSL women's soccer finished their season falling to the Maryville Saints 2-3 on October 30 at Maryville. The game proved to be an exciting one, tied 2-2 after a Triton score in the 54th minute. Maryville, however, was able to find the net again with six minutes remaining in regulation, the Tritons unable to respond. Hannah Kaloupek, sophomore,

criminal justice, and Kali Thomas, sophomore, elementary education, both contributed with goals, with Sidney Allen, sophomore, secondary education, and Mary Hoffman, sophomore, marketing, each adding an assist. Goalkeeper Christine Lips, senior, business administration, ended with five saves. After fighting hard all season, the lady Tritons put away their cleats with a final record of 4-11-2.

Campus Rec hosts sporting activities for UMSL students of all skill levels

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

For those University of Missouri–St. Louis students who find themselves athletically challenged, there is hope to have fun participating in sports in college. While we may never get the glory of wearing beautiful, official UMSL Tritons uniforms or scoring that game-winning goal in the conference finals, we still have opportunities to enjoy athletics on a less competitive level.

The Campus Recreation Office organizes events every month that any student, and sometimes faculty and staff, can participate in. The events are quirky, laid-back, and fun. The best part is that many events are completely free, often including food and transportation for students.

Last month, competitive students could test their speed at the 40-yard dash competition, the speediest Tritons receiving t-shirts and campus bragging rights. If football is more appealing to you, there was an opportunity to play in a One-Night Arena Football Tourney in the Mark Twain

Athletic & Fitness Center.

But what about those who want to step outside the UMSL campus and participate in something a little more relaxing? That is covered as well. Campus Recreation sponsors events called Rec Treks, which are off-campus student outings. Last month, a bowling night was hosted at North Oaks Bowl with pizza provided. There was also a Laser Tag, Demolition Ball & Pizza event held at the Adrenaline Zone in St. Charles with games, pizza, soda, and transportation all provided free of charge.

This month, Campus Recreation will sponsor athletic activities beginning with a Paintball Adventure on November 9 at the Gateway Paintball Park in Bridgeton. For \$10, UMSL students receive a full day of paintball games and gear. The event runs from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and students are urged to call the Recreation Office at (314) 516-5326 to register and ensure spots are still available.

On November 12-14,

Basketball 'Drop-In' Contests will be held at Mark Twain and consisting of two separate contests. The first is a free throw contest where the most consecutive shots and the best of fifty shots wins. The second contest, "Hot Shots," involves a 'shoot 'til you make it' approach. Students who are interested simply need to show up to participate and the champions will win t-shirts.

Campus Recreation offers fun activities that any UMSL student can participate in and afford year-round. It is a great opportunity to meet new people and develop relationships with peers outside of the classroom, or just take a quick break from the rigors of a student's schedule.

For more information or to obtain a schedule of activities, visit the Campus Recreation website at <http://www.umsl.edu/services/recsport/index.html> or call the department directly at (314) 516-5326.

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POINT

COUNTERPOINT

SHOULD SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES BE BANNED?

POINT: Smoking should be prohibited

Any activity that negatively affects others around you, without their consent, should be prohibited. Short of smokers having to ask all nearby individuals if they mind a bit of secondhand smoke, banning smoking in public places is the best option for preserving public health and the environment.

The ingestion of secondhand smoke has been proven harmful to people of all ages – it even negatively affects animals. While it's true that choosing whether or not to smoke is a personal decision, someone needs to draw a line drawn for the greater good. By smoking in public places, smokers force any nearby non-smokers to share in their bad habit with them – and suffer any ill effects.

Smoking in public is harmful not only health-wise, but because it normalizes unhealthy behavior in the eyes of children. During a time where children are already exposed to a number of vices through mainstream media, allowing individuals to smoke in public is just another way to send children mixed messages. While

their teachers may tell them 'Don't smoke,' what will they think when they see that same instructor sneaking a cigarette outside during their lunch break?

Additionally, most cigarette butts are not biodegradable, and can take years to fully decompose. Public ashtrays are not always available for immediate use. How many smoker do you know toss their butts out of the car window without a second thought, or smash the smoldering butts between their shoe and the ground before running off to class?

Those who smoke have a right to accept the health risks associated with smoking. What smokers do not have a right to do is negatively affect the health of others and the shared environment of a public space, all due to their need for nicotine.

Littering is punishable by law, and smoking in public places should be outlawed for the same reasons: personal decisions only remain personal so long as they do not negatively affect others in shared, public places.

COUNTER: Smoking bans restrict rights

Smoking remains a polarizing topic in popular society. Whatever your views on the subject are, they should not dictate the actions of others. Placing bans on smoking in public places is an infringement on individual rights.

The criminalization of smoking is hypocritical at best, considering that we live in a society where cigarette smoke should be the least of anyone's worries. Cigarettes are nowhere near as bad for the environment as the pollution caused by millions of cars, busses, and trains bustling to and fro, every minute of the day. Funnily enough, widespread bans on driving cars aren't as popular as anti-smoking efforts, even though a SUV thundering past a group of kids will do more to damage their long-term health and environment than any cigarette ever can.

Driving a car is a personal choice – individuals should not be forced to forego cars and bike everywhere, and neither should anyone be shamed into giving up smoking. Just because I don't like dogs doesn't mean that other people shouldn't be allowed to walk their pets in a public park.

Just because I'm allergic to wool doesn't mean that sweaters should be outlawed. Pet ownership, clothing style, and smoking are all personal choices. Bans should not be put in place to restrict any individual's right to engage in any activity they please, in any public space they choose to occupy.

If anyone is worried about the future becoming a place where humans have to wade through clouds of smoke and mountains of cigarette butts to get from Point A to Point B, then fight for the regulation of appointed smoking areas that are equipped with more than enough ashtrays to satisfy any number of workers out for a quick smoke break. Don't blame smokers for overflowing ashtrays – blame the businesses who aren't bothering to empty them.

Smoking should not be banned in public places. The most anyone should be allowed to do is offer education on the dangers of smoking, even though it's safe to say that anyone who is smoking has already acknowledged and accepted any health risks associated with the act. Respect personal decisions; put away the pamphlets and let smokers puff in peace.

COLUMN: SCIENCE MATTERS**Anthropologists find that man left home earlier than previously thought**CATE MARQUIS
A&E EDITOR

Just when we think we have it all figured out, new scientific discoveries turn it all upside down.

Well, not really all figured out, but a new discovery is upending some established assumptions in the progress of human evolution. The new discovery turning things upside down is a fabulous human fossil find, the analysis of which was published October 17 in the scientific journal 'Nature.' The lead author was Dr. David Lordkipanidze, who is a paleoanthropologist at the Georgian National Museum in Tbilisi.

In 2005, a jaw of a pre-modern human of the genus Homo was found in Dmanisi, near the site of medieval ruins in the former Soviet state of Georgia. Five years later, a skull that proved a perfect match for the jaw bone was discovered in the same location. Together they form "the world's first completely preserved adult hominid skull," as the researchers put it – the earliest complete skull of the Homo genus found so far.

The 1.8 million-year-old fossil is from an individual who had a massive jaw, large teeth and protruding face with a small brain case, about one-third the size of modern mankind. The skull is either a very primitive version of Homo erectus or the earlier Homo habilis – the first indication that the human ancestor Homo habilis may have ventured out of the African continent where the species

arose. The shape of the brain case indicates that it is the genus Homo, the same as modern man, rather than the earlier genus Australopithecus.

The complete skull was a thrilling enough discovery but there was more. The skull, known as Skull 5, was found with the fossils of four other individuals of various ages and both genders.

The skeletons show a species in the process of evolving longer legs and smaller hips. Although the brain case was small, the researchers noted that the body size, height and limb proportions were reaching the lower limits of modern human. The fossils had been preserved in a cave and were likely the remains of predator meals, taken from the same population around the same era. The grouping allowed the scientists the rare chance to compare variations with the same population.

What they discovered rocked the anthropological world. Lordkipanidze's team found wide variation in the size and features of this group but also noted that the same level of variation can be seen in any random group of present-day humans or any group of chimpanzees. In a widely quoted example, Lordkipanidze observed that Danny DeVito and Shaquille O'Neal look very different, yet they belong to the same species.

In a statement, study co-author Christoph Zollikofer, of the University of Zurich, noted

that if the jaw and skull of Skull 5 had been found at different locations or times in Africa, the fossils likely would have been attributed to different species. The researchers concluded that this find indicated that the wide array of African hominid fossils attributed to different species might actually represent variations within a single species. Zollikofer noted the similarity between the Dmanisi fossils and African fossils of the same time period.

For years, there has been a struggle among anthropologists between those who saw fossils as representing a range of pre-modern Homo species and those who argued that many more belong to the same species or for a simpler, more direct line. This new evidence points towards the latter.

The discovery will likely lead to a re-evaluation of the number of species in the path of human descent, and possible re-classification of some fossils of the Homo genus into one or a few species. It will be fun times for anthropologists and evolutionary biology.

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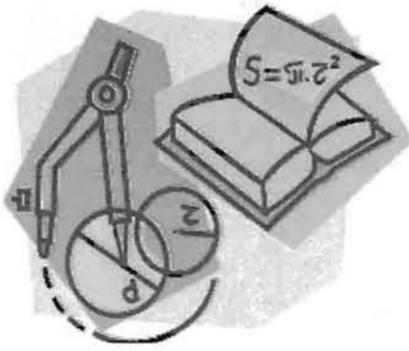
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The UMSL MATH CLUB Presents:

Problem of the Month

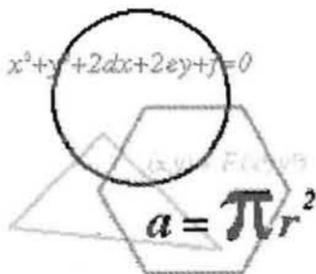
Submit your solution of the problem above by Monday, November 18. Winners will be announced on the next Problem of the Month. Prizes are available. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel, Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science, 329ESH

NOVEMBER PROBLEM OF THE MONTH:

Show that the sum of any two consecutive odd primes is the product of at least three (possibly repeated) prime factors.

Answer to October Problem of the Month: The probability is 4/7. Thanks to Libua Li (Tom) and Matthew L. Freeman for solutions

The UMSL Math Club is open to all students at UMSL. Find us on Facebook.



Are you planning to graduate this semester???

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2013 DECEMBER Commencement

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
MARK TWAIN BUILDING

Each ceremony will be
approximately 1½ hours in length.

No tickets required.

10 A.M. - College of Education
- College of Fine Arts and Communication
- School of Social Work
- Master of Public Policy Administration

2 P.M. - College of Arts and Sciences

6 P.M. - College of Business Administration
- College of Nursing
- UMSL/WU Joint Undergraduate
Engineering Program
- Missouri University S & T Engineering
Education Center

DON'T MISS THE GRAD FAIR!

November 5 & 6, UMSL Bookstore,
209 MSC, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

- Purchase your cap, gown and tassel, etc..
- Attire available in bookstore after these dates but a \$10 fee will apply after Friday, November 29.

Stop by the UMSL Alumni table to learn how you can stay connected with UMSL and all of the ways we can assist as you advance in your career.

Your senior year may be over but your life as a Triton is just beginning.

Visit the UMSL Commencement website at umsl.edu/commencement for more information and to pre-register for your commencement photos with GradImages™.