

## MADCO's 'Liquid Roads' blends dance, music of Big Muddy at Touhill PAC

CATE MARQUIS  
A&E EDITOR

Up and down the mighty Mississippi musical influences as varied as blues, jazz, gospel, soul, folk and rock have flowed to St. Louis. MADCO, the dance company in residence at University of Missouri-St. Louis, paid tribute to this "liquid road" in their combination concert and dance performance "Liquid Roads" on April 11-12 at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center.

With choreography by Gina Patterson and bluesy musical accompaniment by Brian Casserly, Joseph Pastor, Matthew Murdick and Eric Slaughter, the dozen dancers of MADCO, under artistic director Stacy West, took us on a music and dance tour of the Mississippi River. It was a lovely, lively trip indeed.

A festive club-atmosphere was created by musicians in the lobby before general admission seating which packed the main floor of the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. The band and dancers shared the stage, as one music and dance piece slipped into another with hardly a pause. There was no intermission to break the mood.

The modern dance program was grouped into "scenes," with themes like "Generations," "New Beginnings," "Crossroads," "Memories," "Spiritual Waters," and "Second Line," each of which evoked life along the Big Muddy river from the 1920s to the 1950s.

The tone of the evening was set by the first scene, "Generations." The opening musical piece "Liquid Roads," a sweet romantic ballad with a Southern rock flavor, featured dancers forming couples and sinuous dance moves with dramatic leaps. The dancers' pale, diaphanous costumes suggested the light, airy clothes of summer, while a line of tall panels screening the



MADCO's "Liquid Roads" ran from April 11-12

musicians at the back of the stage from the dancers at the front. For the second number in the scene, "Louisiana 1927," sweetness gave way to steaminess and an energetic, flirtatious dance. The panels were rolled to the sides and around stage, forming walls for dancers as lovers to slink around.

The only sets were the rolling panels, which were moved to create walls or backdrops. On one side, it looked like smooth, new metal or light-colored vertical blinds. On the other, they looked like rusty, corrugated metal siding, divided by wooden planks, suggesting galvanized metal buildings or shacks in the rural South. The rusty

side of the panels created a rough backwoods flavor while a more sophisticated setting was evoked with the smoother side. Different eras were suggested by costumes that ranged from slinkier, flowing '20s and '30s styles to buttoned-up styles of the '40s and '50s.

The musical selections were varied and included familiar tunes such as "Ain't No Sunshine" and "What a Wonderful World," plus the gospel "Down To The River To Pray" (which the dancers actually sang), bluesy folk lament "St. James Infirmary" and jazzy, jumping "Wang Dang Doodle."

Everything in the program was

enjoyable but there were some showstoppers. "Wonderful World" featured trumpet player and lead singer Brian Casserly center stage, while "snow" fell from above on the dancers entwined as couples spinning around in romantic modern dance moves that painted the perfect image. Rather than the expected intermission to clear the stage, the dancers appeared with push brooms for the next number, the spiritual "Wasn't That A Mystery," sailing gracefully across the stage singly and in groups, a very clever and visually-pleasing solution to a practical problem.

The biggest production number was "St. James Infirmary," where

dancers traded the pastels of earlier costumes for black, with dashes of white and red, and somber umbrellas for an impressive dance piece that evoked a New Orleans style funeral.

The show quickly returned to its party mood with "Wang Dang Doodle" and other lively numbers. The finale was a party on stage, with the troupe dancing down the aisles and returning to the stage with audience members to dance with them. The party continued after the show with music and dancing in the lobby, as the audience was served ice cream cones, a perfect touch to wrap up a wonderful evening.

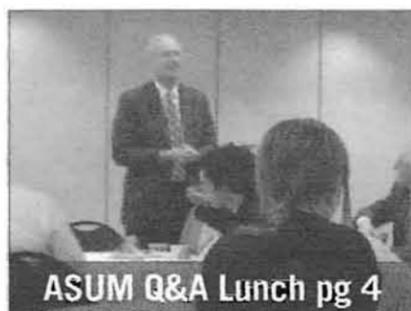
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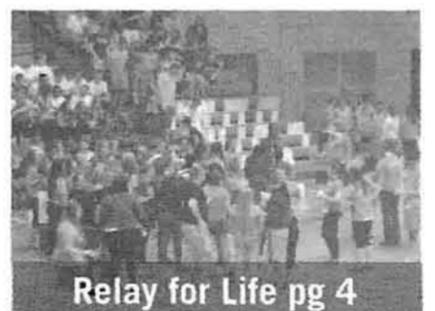
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**CONTACT US**

388 MSC, 1 University Blvd  
 St. Louis, MO 63121-4400

*Newsroom*  
 314-516-5174  
 thecurrenttips@umsl.edu

*Business/Advertising*  
 314-516-5316  
 thecurrentads@umsl.edu

*Fax*  
 314-516-6811

*Editor-in-Chief*  
 thecurrenteic@umsl.edu

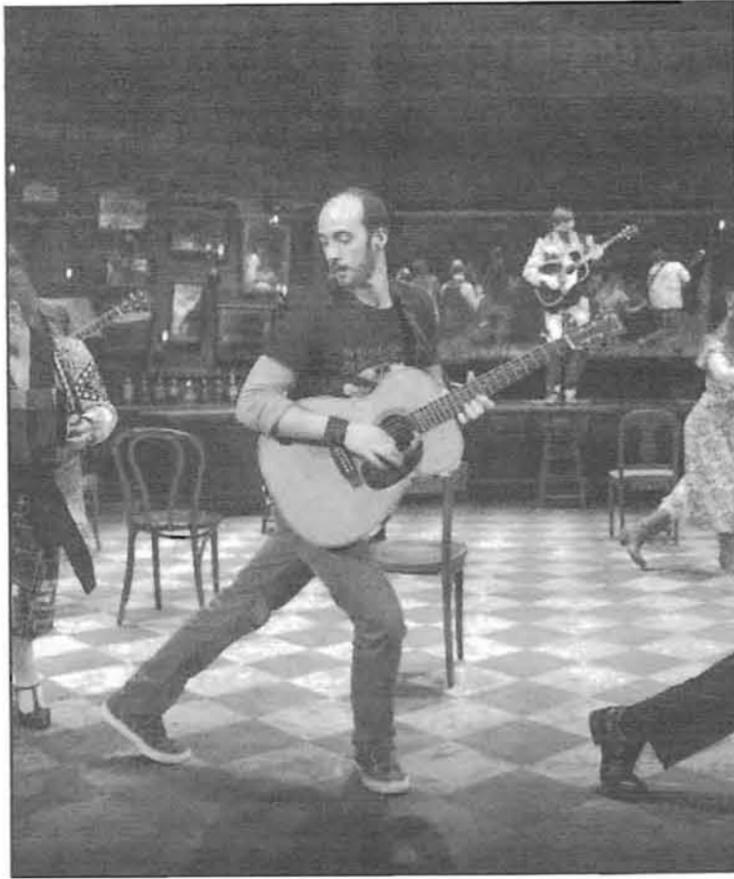
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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent, or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

**CORRECTIONS**

In the April 7, 2014 issue of The Current (Vol. 47: Issue 1436), photos in the Undercurrent were incorrectly labeled. The first photo is of Emanuel Molimar, the second photo is of Noor Ahmed and the third photo is of Xiaomeng Zhang. The second quote should be attributed to Molimar, and the third quote should be attributed to Zhang.

The Current values feedback from the campus community. Let us know of any corrections at [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu).

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**THE UNDERCURRENT** *By Siyun Zhang*

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ST. LOUIS?**



**BRIDJETT HOLLIDAY**  
 Junior, Communication

"You can walk around Forest Park. There are a lot of places you can go for free, like the zoo, art museum and history museum."



**JULIA DUERIG**  
 Junior, Psychology

"There's a wide range of cultures, and it's nice to be a part of it."



**TIERRA K. BROWN**  
 Senior, Media Studies

"The history, like Forest Park, the Loop and the Arch. There are many different places to go. It's not like New York. It's big but it's not too busy."

MON <b>49</b> <sup>HI</sup> 36 <sup>LOW</sup>	TUE <b>49</b> <sup>HI</sup> 36 <sup>LOW</sup>	WED <b>61</b> <sup>HI</sup> 41 <sup>LOW</sup>	THU <b>65</b> <sup>HI</sup> 46 <sup>LOW</sup>	FRI <b>54</b> <sup>HI</sup> 38 <sup>LOW</sup>	SAT <b>64</b> <sup>HI</sup> 43 <sup>LOW</sup>	SUN <b>68</b> <sup>HI</sup> 46 <sup>LOW</sup>
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# Sigma Pi promotes safety awareness

KARLYNE KILLEBREW  
STAFF WRITER

The Delta Zeta chapter of Sigma Pi hosted their annual Altruistic Campus Experience (ACE) service project from April 7 through April 10, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. This year they chose to focus on the importance of being safe and mindful when coming from and going to social events.

As a national organization, Sigma Pi Fraternity is dedicated to serving their communities at large. Annually, each chapter is responsible for organizing at least one week-long event that positively impacts their respective university communities.

Sigma Pi hosted daily events around campus to raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving, texting while driving and thoughtless actions while attending public events. April 8 focused on texting while driving, April 9 on safe social practices and April 10 on drunk driving.

Project co-organizer and Delta Zeta chapter president Zachary Littrell explained the motive behind the choice to focus on

safe socializing skills. "The project is designed to give back to the community. We thought we'd do an event facing the realities that people face going to social events. These are things people don't think about when going to social events."

The topic is also essential and relevant to UMSL's largely commuter student body. "It factors in one, texting and driving, since [the campus is] heavily commuter. If we show people the dangers of it, they will slow down on it or stop it all together. Two, drinking and driving feeds into the commuter campus [idea, too]. If they want to go out, they should plan to have sober drivers," Littrell said.

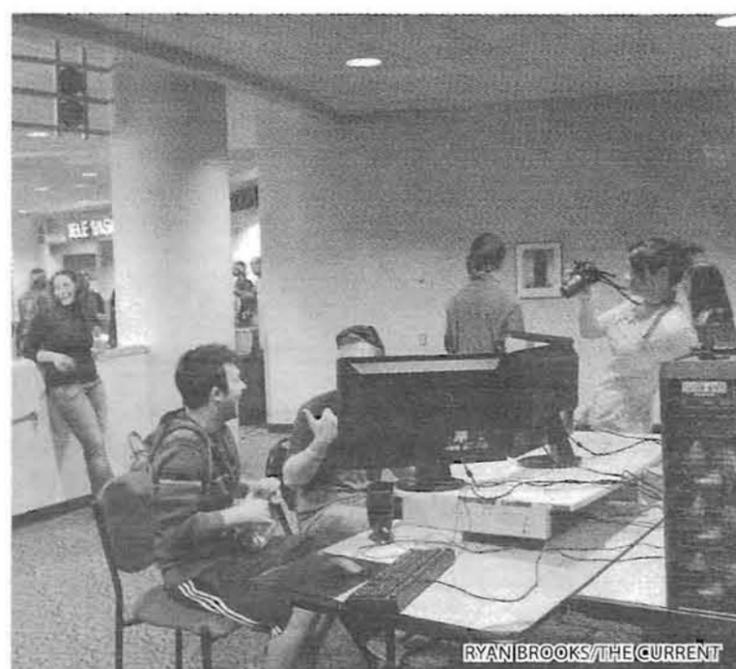
When selecting the best way to get the message out, Sigma Pi used simulators that allowed people to experience first-hand just what kind of danger they were placing themselves (and society) in by attempting such dangerous feats as texting and driving. Simulators were used on both Tuesday and Thursday, letting people see how much harder driving becomes when someone is drunk or distracted by

texting.

According to Kaitlin Huber, freshman, nursing, "[The simulators] just kinda created awareness. Obviously, personally for me, I'm not out drunk driving, but I think it's nice for people to get that experience. They got to put on the drunk goggles and drive the car. Cause it was like 'Whoa! This is really difficult. Why would I ever try this in real life?'"

Huber described the experience of testing out the drunk driving simulator vividly. "It makes everything foggy - obviously, your perception. Then you drive. I don't know if it was like a video game that they had but you couldn't even see the road. It was difficult to see your speed and tell what the numbers were. And so, I'm sure that's an accurate depiction. I feel like that gives people a reality check that that's a really bad idea."

Littrell was particularly fond of people's reactions to the texting simulator. "I definitely think they made an impact, especially on Tuesday when we did the texting



Students try out the drunk driving simulator in the Nosh.

and driving ability. People seemed to think they had mastered it, but as they drove further, they had more crashes, as well as [with] the drinking and driving simulator."

In the interest of showing UMSL the safe way to party, Sigma Pi threw an end-of-project bash,

The Afterparty, which had an attendance of at least 600 students. One of the most memorable aspects of the event was the mocktails, which presented students with a chance to get a free mixed drink without the hassle of stumbling around trying to find a safe way home.

# Gallery 210 closes for renovation

DANYEL POINDEXTER  
STAFF WRITER

Beginning on March 24, 2014, Gallery 210 closed its doors for the remainder of the semester to undergo major renovations. The funding decision was made by Jean Miller, the new Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communications, after talks began last year.

"...The University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department's various functions are being consolidated into one space," said Terry Suhre, research professor and director of Gallery 210. To welcome this move, it was determined that the gallery's space, heating, fire suppression systems and communications needed to be upgraded.

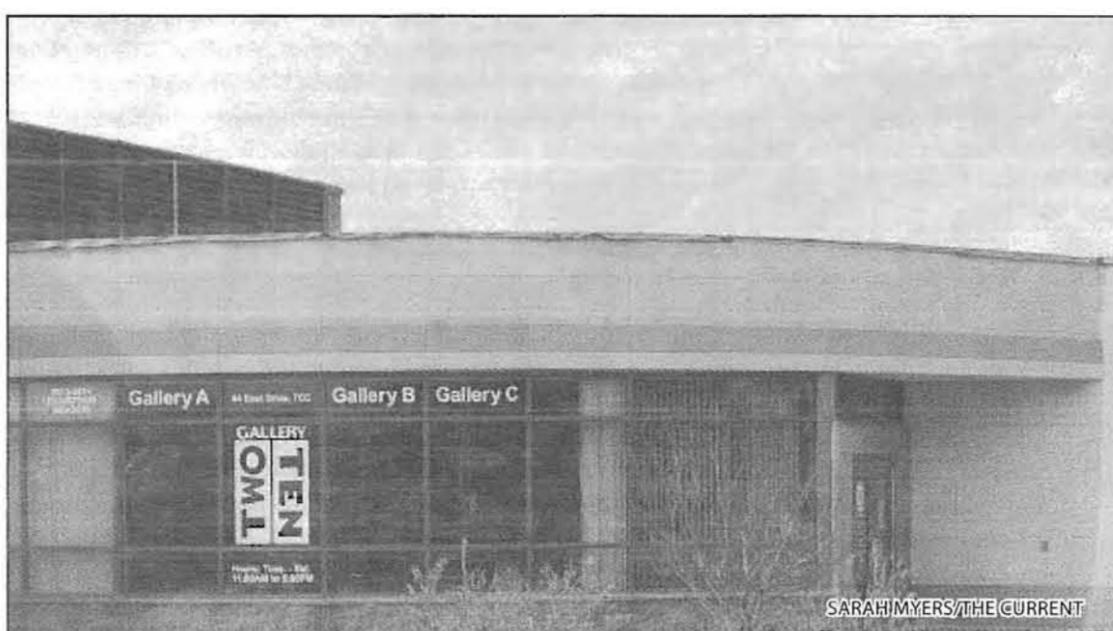
With the ceiling and carpet being one of the many things upgraded in galleries A, B and C of the Gallery 210 facility, the building will now contain a running sprinkler system that will be in better compliance with building codes. Technology components in these galleries are also set to be upgraded.

"While the ceiling was out, there was a conscious decision to upgrade the technology in this room," Carolyn Kuo, managing

interior designer, said. With help from Information Technology's Manager of Facility Design and Construction, Chris Scheetz, Kuo organized the project and is also overseeing it.

"The biggest improvement will be the auditorium," Suhre said. It will not only be an area that holds numerous amounts of public events but will also function as a classroom for the Department of Art and Art History. The new technologies "...will accommodate new teaching tools that can be brought to the students and the classes they take in this auditorium," Kuo said.

More efficient acoustic panels and better seating will also be installed. The upgrade will not only improve the quality of the current seating arrangements but also make them more handicap-accessible. There will be moveable areas in the back of the small auditorium and the fixed tables and chairs will be on the last row so that students with physical impairments can be better accommodated. New items including a projection system and a smart podium will be added as well. Improving this area will



Gallery 210

help make it better-suited for hosting artists' lectures, films, poetry readings, and meetings.

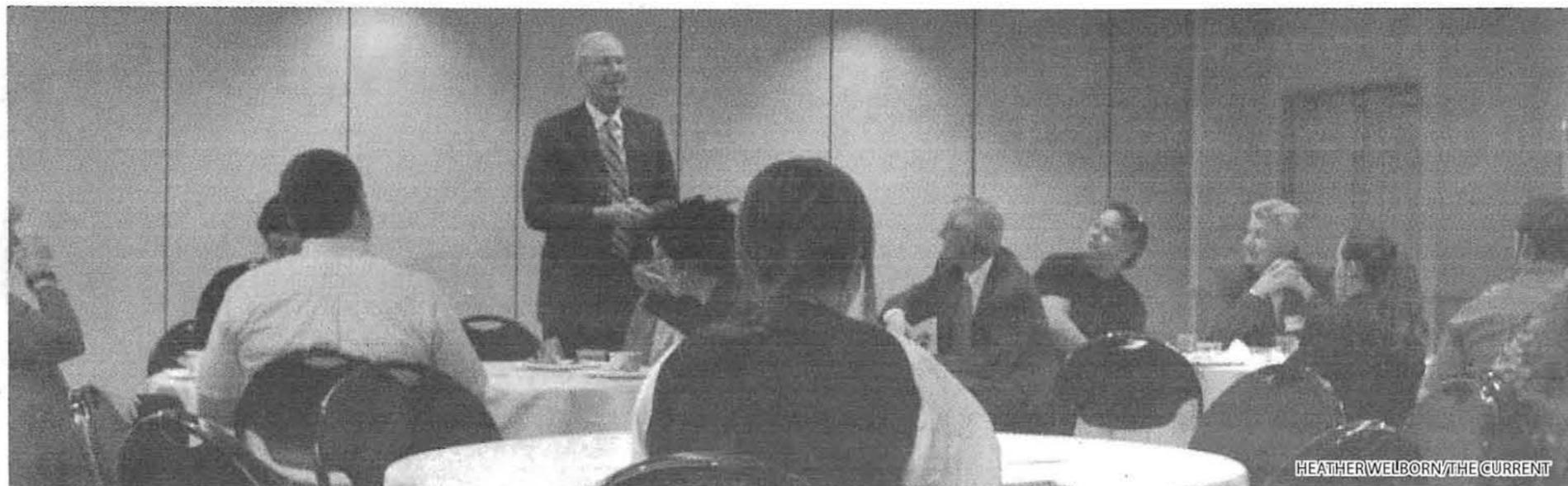
The renovations are expected to last until the end of June. Talks of the renovation had begun last year and once the decision had been made, it was already noted that the annual "Parental Advisory" (UMSL Bachelor of Fine Arts students) and the "Collaborative" (area high school students) exhibits would all have to be cancelled. Since,

Gallery 210 has made alternative arrangements since then and minimal student impact is expected.

"I find it a little inconvenient since it's taking place during the semester, but it's understandable," Delores Eddington, junior, studio art, said.

Gallery 210 was able to shift the exhibitions to the FAB Gallery in the Fine Arts Building. From there, the new project, "Poetry of The Wild," will be featured.

"Poetry of The Wild" includes artist Ana Flores's work alongside those of area poets and artists including students from Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, Lutheran North High School and The Grand Center Arts Academy. The project will be on campus from May 2 through August 2 and is open to all UMSL students.



Students and faculty alike attended the event.

HEATHER WELBORN/THE CURRENT

## State representatives visit UMSL for Q&A lunch

HEATHER WELBORN  
FEATURES EDITOR

The University of Missouri—St. Louis chapter of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM) hosted Lunch with a Legislator in the Millennium Student Center Century Rooms on April 11. State Representatives Kathie Conway, Rick Stream and Ron Hicks answered questions from student and faculty regarding issues impacting higher education. Lunch and refreshments were provided.

Kevin Carpenter, ASUM president, senior, sociology, presented each representative to lunch attendees. Representative Conway spoke first, sharing her inspiration to pursue public office. “My parents said it’s not good enough to know your issues, you need to know your candidate,” Conway recalled. This advice led her to research candidates running for office as early as age 12, resulting in working on campaigns for candidates with whom she agreed.

Within a few years, Conway was urged to run for office herself, an opportunity she was initially hesitant to pursue. “I said to my husband, ‘You know, I really need to do this, because if I don’t, I forfeit my right to complain about what’s going on anywhere,’” Conway told attendees. “It’s my chance to put my money where my mouth is.”

Rick Stream, an UMSL alum, addressed attendees after Conway. He reflected on his time at UMSL where he pursued a business degree before being drafted to the Vietnam War. “I took an elective in Astronomy,” Stream recalled, “and that changed my life because I really liked astronomy.” He credited his exposure to an elective course to his decision to specialize in navigation in the Navy.

Ron Hicks, a freshman Republican representative from the St. Charles area, briefly addressed lunch goers. He expressed his joy in working with his fellow senior

representatives to answer student and faculty questions.

Before opening the floor to questions, Carpenter reminded attendees to respect the representatives before asking their question by standing and stating their name, degree focus and year at UMSL.

The first student, an economics major who did not share his name, inquired about annual funding allocated to higher education. “Cutting education spending is like quitting your job to save gas money,” he said. “It just doesn’t work.” He questioned the absence of urgency in Jefferson City to support Missouri’s higher education system in the face of proposed cuts to funding. Representative Stream addressed the question, opening with a general warning. “Do not believe everything you read in the paper,” he said, claiming that many articles did not interview him about higher education funding.

“When we put together a budget,” Representative Stream continued, “we base it on the information we have at the time, including how much revenue we’re going to receive in the upcoming fiscal year.” He explained that funding estimates are entered in each year, and the actual amount received is hoped to be close to the estimate. Stream mentioned lottery and gambling funds as a large contributor to education, specifically K-12.

“We have a crisis in public education right now, and it’s not about money,” Representative Stream continued. “My feeling is that if we don’t do something to help these kids now, they’re going to end up in prison.” He focused on the responsibility of local school districts to mindfully spend budgeted funds. “Would we like to spend more money? Yes. Should we spend it more wisely? Yes, but that’s not our call in the legislature. We can only

help appropriate money,” Stream reasoned. “Then we rely on the local school boards, the folks that run these institutions, to make the wise choices about where that money is spent.”

“I always have to remind people, including myself, that this is not my money,” Representative Stream said of budgeting decisions for higher education and public schools. “I’m taking the money that people have paid in their taxes, out of their hard-earned dollars, and I’m appropriating them in places that I think are the best.” Stream mentions the difficulty of deciding what to fund and what to cut each year.

“I could spend \$10 billion more, just like that,” he said, snapping his fingers, “because that’s what [the budget] asks for. Everybody wants more money, and we don’t have the money. We have to make the choices based on the information we have.”

## UMSL’s 2014 Relay for Life surpasses donation goal

NICHOLAS MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) hosted the 2014 Relay For Life at University of Missouri—St. Louis’ Mark Twain Athletic & Fitness Center. The organization raised funds that exceeded the posted donation goal of \$15,000 by a large margin.

The relay opened with the national anthem, sung by the Delta Sigma Pi fraternity, followed by the opening ceremony. As the ceremony concluded, the first lap of the night was completed by survivors of cancer, with the general public filing behind them after they finished their victory lap.

UMSL alum Dan Wright, former treasurer of CAC, shared

his story with attendees. After being diagnosed with testicular cancer at the age of 19, Wright went through an intensive program of chemotherapy to prevent the cancer from spreading. Once he had been declared cancer free, Wright returned to UMSL to complete his degree in accounting. He became involved with CAC in an effort to spread awareness and inspire hope in others affected by cancer.

Out of the hundreds of attendees of the event, the majority completed multiple laps, each with its own unique theme. Many event-goers had attended multiple Relay For Life events in the past, as was the case for Cozene Watson.

Watson has been attending Relay For Life events for the past 7 years after losing loved ones to cancer. He explained he “likes to participate in Relays for Life each year to help the lives of people who fight cancer.”

Jason Kramer was one of the many first-time attendees at this year’s Relay for Life. Kramer’s mother is a cancer survivor and his sister takes part in many events like Relay For Life in an effort to raise awareness about cancer. When asked why he is attending a Relay for the first time, Kramer said his motivation was in “showing support for the people that are fighting what can be one of the scariest battles they’ll ever face.”

The main event of the night was Luminaria, a mainstay at Relay For Life. Participants silently walk about a circle of lit bags, each bag representing someone who lost the fight against cancer. When asked why Luminaria was her favorite event, CAC member Lyndsey Mckinney, sophomore, business administration, said, “It’s really nice because it gives me a chance to pause and reflect on who’s been lost, both locally and globally [to cancer].” Glowsticks were handed out to the audience after a tearful, moving speech by Ellie Fitzpatrick, President of CAC.

Throughout the night, CAC raised funds in various ways. Organization members sold

merchandise like T-shirts, stickers, and concessions, as well as fun games. By 3 a.m., CAC members hit above \$14,000, less than \$1,000 away from the event goal. By the ending ceremony, CAC beat their fundraising goal by over \$600. According to Fitzpatrick, this was one of the best years to date for Relay For Life. She said next year CAC would try to involve more performers and activities for Relay attendees.

Donations are still open for Relay For Life through August 1. To make a donation to Relay For Life, visit [www.relayforlife.org/umslmo](http://www.relayforlife.org/umslmo). More information on CAC membership and events can be found on Orgsync.

## THEATRE REVIEW

## Music and hopes fill Irish 'Once' at the Fabulous Fox Theatre

CATE MARQUIS  
A&E EDITOR

The indie Irish film "Once" was a surprise hit in 2006, a hope-filled tale about how a chance encounter on Dublin street transforms a musician's life. The film won an Oscar for the song "Falling Slowly." The Broadway adaptation has won eight Tonys and the album of its music won a Grammy.

"Once" opened at the Fox Theater on April 8, for a run through April 20. The play was written by Enda Walsh, with music and lyrics by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, the musicians who created and starred in the film.

Even before the show starts, we see this is a different kind of musical. Audience members who arrive fifteen minutes before the show are invited on stage, where an Irish pub has been recreated. They are invited to order a pint at the bar and watch the lively musicians as they play, sing and dance to Irish and Czech folk music. Shortly before the show begins, the audience members file off stage to take their seats while the musicians continue to play and the action transitions into the play.

All the actors are also musicians. The band on stage, standing around the sides of the Irish pub, provides all the play's music. Unlike most musicals, all songs are ones the musicians play as part of the story, not the usual breaking into song. The pub serves as the play's single set, but other locations are created by different props and creative lighting changes, one of the Tony-winning aspects of the production.

The story is about ambitions and pursuing dreams, in this case the fading dreams of an Irish musician whose ex-girlfriend has moved to New York, while he remains behind in Dublin, helping his widower dad (Raymond Bokhour) in a vacuum repair shop. The story is romantic too but works out differently than most musical love stories.

Like a silent movie where the romantic leads are only called "the boy" and "the girl," the main characters in this story have no names and are billed as "guy" and "girl." The guy (Stuart Ward) is the Irish musician, who is nursing his broken heart and on the verge

of giving up on music. The girl (Dani de Waal) is a beautiful Czech immigrant, also a musician, who hears him on a Dublin street. The encounter changes his life, and hers.

Guy's heartbreaking, heartbroken song "Leave," written for his ex-girlfriend (Erica Swindell), is intended as his farewell to his musical career, as he intends to abandon his guitar on the street and plunge into full-time work with his dad repairing vacuum cleaners. But the girl, who is moved by his song and impressed by his talent, is determined to change that, to launch his musical career and send him to America to find success and reconnect with his lost love - whether guy wants to or not.

Relentless, the penniless immigrant offers to pay the depressed, puzzled musician for fixing her broken vacuum cleaner - with music. The daughter of a symphony musician, she is a classically trained pianist, but she is too broke to own a piano. So she charms her way into a music shop, run by eccentric Irishman Billy,



where she plays for guy. Impressed by her resourcefulness as well as her musical skill, and a bit taken by her beauty, guy slowly goes along with her plan for him.

Billy is one of several colorful characters that surround these two on their musical journey. Girl lives in an apartment packed with other Czech immigrants, including her mother Baruska (Donna Garner), her young daughter Ivanka (Kolette Tetlow), crazy Svec (Matt DeAngelis), ambitious Andrej (Alex Nee) and sexy Reza (Claire Wellin). Sound engineer Eamon (John Steven

Gardner), a music-loving back manager (Benjamin Magnuson) and an open-mike emcee (Ryan Link) round out the cast.

"Once" takes the audience into its world, enchants with a terrific acoustic music score and charms with a real-world bittersweet romance that many have experienced in some form in their own lives and a tale of hope and striving. This very modern musical is a winning experience, particularly if conventional musical theater doesn't appeal and if you love Irish and folk inspired music.

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# UMSL Tritons have a mixed week on the field

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of Missouri-St. Louis men's tennis team lost to the #24 ranked Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles 3-5 on April 8 at the UMSL tennis courts. The UMSL Tritons won three of six in single matches, and one of three in doubles play. Tim McClarty, junior, international business, contributed for the Tritons with a 6-4, 6-1 singles victory, his ninth straight win in singles play.

UMSL men's tennis lost to the Washington University Bears 1-8 on April 9 at the UMSL tennis courts. The Tritons were defeated in all six single matches, and were held to only one doubles victory out of three. Nils Mueggenburg, junior, international business, and Tim Gorter, senior, accounting, contributed for the Tritons with their doubles victory, defeating the Bear's tandem 8-4.

UMSL men's baseball lost both of their games in a doubleheader against the Pittsburg State Gorillas on April 9 in Pittsburg, Kansas. In the first game, the Tritons lost 4-11 in seven innings. The Tritons were able to gain a 3-0 lead over the Gorillas by the end of the third inning. After the third, Pittsburg State was able to take control offensively and scored 11 runs in the next three innings en route to their victory. Shane Brinker, junior, biochemistry, contributed for the Tritons with a two-run homer. In the second game, the Tritons lost 6-7 in eight innings. Going into the seventh inning, the Tritons had a 5-4 advantage over the Gorillas. Pittsburg State scored

two runs in the seventh and one in the eighth, narrowly defeating the Tritons, who were only able to produce one run in the last two innings. Philip Landwehr, senior, business, contributed for the Tritons with a solo home run in the third, followed up by Michael Budka, senior, physical education, with a three-run home run.

#6 UMSL women's softball won both of their games in a doubleheader against the Maryville Saints on April 9 at the UMSL softball field. In the first game, the Triton women won 10-1 in five innings. The Tritons produced six runs in the first inning, followed by four runs throughout the next three innings. The visiting Saints struggled to keep up and were able to produce a mere run in the second inning. Katie Wood, junior, criminal justice, and Madison Zbaraschuk, junior, communications, contributed for the Tritons with two home runs apiece in the game. In the second game, The Tritons won 2-0 in seven innings. UMSL scored one run in both the first and fourth innings, while limiting the Saints to no runs and two hits in the game. Jena Boudreau, junior, nursing, contributed for the Tritons with two hits, two runs and one RBI in the victory.

#5 UMSL women's tennis defeated the Lindenwood Lions 9-0 on April 10 in St. Charles. The Triton women won all of their matches, dominating the Lions in all six singles matches and all three doubles matches. Caroline



JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN/THE CURRENT

Alan Frank delivers a pitch against Rockhurst at the UMSL Baseball Field

Claywell, sophomore, undecided, contributed for the Tritons with a 6-1, 6-0 victory in singles play. UMSL women's tennis improved to 13-5 overall with the win.

UMSL men's baseball lost both of their games in a doubleheader against the Quincy Hawks on April 11 at the UMSL baseball field. In the first game, the Tritons lost

3-8 to the Hawks in nine innings. Quincy was able to out-muscle the Tritons with their offensive production, tallying eleven hits and eight runs in the game. The Tritons were limited to 5 hits and 3 runs. Joe Wiczowski, senior, business administration, and Justin Lois, senior, marketing, contributed for the Tritons with

two hits apiece. In the second game, the Tritons lost 1-2 to the Hawks in nine innings. The game was tied 1-1 going into the eighth inning before the Hawks scored off a single in the top of the eighth to put the Tritons away. Paul Richmond, senior, media studies, contributed for the Tritons with two hits.

## New rec center will feature abundant amenities

JOHN "SAMMY" LUDEMAN  
SPORTS EDITOR

In case any University of Missouri-St. Louis students have been burrowed in a study carrel and are unaware of the massive amount of construction taking place next to the Millennium Student Center, I would like to inform you that the result of the construction will be a new Student Recreation Center. The project may be taking up a considerable amount of parking, but our sacrifice will apparently pay dividends.

Dividends may be an understatement of the benefits. This thing is going to be awesome. A fitness center, weight center, 3-lane jogging track and 3-court gymnasium are just a few of the named amenities of the center. For the students who get

dehydrated running around one of the three lanes of the jogging track there is a solution: the new Student Recreation Center will be featuring a juice bar. I repeat: a juice bar. After you get rehydrated you may realize that you are a little overheated and it may be nice to jump into a pool of cool water and get super refreshed. Well, my fellow students, there will be a solution to that too. The new rec center will feature a fitness/recreation pool with lap lanes, zip line, aquatic climbing wall, and even a whirlpool. Even though I am unaware how a zip line will be used in a pool or what an aquatic climbing wall even is, it reinforces just how unique this project is.

Possibly the best aspect of this new building is that it is available to all currently enrolled students, not just athletes.

**" [THE NEW REC CENTER WILL BE] AVAILABLE TO ALL CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS, NOT JUST ATHLETES."**

Anyone with a Triton Card will have access and can use all of the aforementioned amenities.

Faculty, staff and alumni will be able to use the facilities on a membership basis, putting UMSL in competition with Club Fitness and Snap Fitness for this demographic. However, Club Fitness and Snap Fitness both lack a juice bar, zip line and an aquatic climbing wall. In addition to being open for use by everyone, it will also provide employment opportunities for students who will be currently enrolled at UMSL.

There will be some price to pay for students. According to the UMSL web site, students will be charged \$19.25 per credit hour, up to the maximum of 12 credit hours per semester and 6 credit hours in the summer, in addition to the then current

recreation fee starting with the summer 2015 session. While this may be a burden for some, hopefully it will entice students to use the center and get the most out of the opportunity.

As far as parking is concerned, the university has stated that there will be no future strain on parking. There are no plans to add additional parking or make changes in the future.

The projected opening of the building is the fall of 2015. UMSL has created a web site [checktherec.umsl.edu](http://checktherec.umsl.edu), featuring a live stream of the construction and updates on progress.

POINT

COUNTERPOINT

## IS THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY GOING WELL?

## POINT: We're better off than before

The economic recovery is going well considering the damage that was done. In the U.S., the Great Recession lasted from December 2007 to June 2009 (about 18 months). The crisis was arguably caused by a host of factors, but principally, it was the bubble in the housing market which led to the collapse. This bubble was possible due to financial deregulation in lending standards. The availability of cheap loans with lax standards fueled the rising home prices until there was "no greater fool."

Since that time, a great amount of financial stimulus was put into lessening the economic blows during the recession, and helping land the economy on a firmer ground thereafter. Programs like TARP, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, along with Federal Reserve Quantitative Easing, the buying of bonds in order to print money of equal value, helped bring liquidity back into the economy and restore confidence.

The economy is still not at peak production capacity. Researchers define peak production as the level of output at which almost everyone who wants a job can find one, machines are being put to

productive use and office buildings are full. We are not there yet. The stimulus and associated measures are the best we could muster, but the stark reality is that we live in a globalizing society.

Even so, the unemployment rate has fallen to 6.7% in recent months, and is holding steady there. Furthermore, total nonfarm payroll employment rose by 192,000 jobs in March. Overall, GDP is growing at a slow but positive rate of about 2% this year. Inflation remains low, interest rates are low and companies are slowly regaining confidence and ramping up hiring and production in response to a slow but steady growth in demand.

To even term what we've experienced in recent years as a recession is a bit of word play. If we called it a depression, the very use of that word would affect confidence as to make the economy worse off than it already was. Hence, we had a "Great Recession," rather than a "depression." Therefore, our standing on positive ground at all is a tremendous testament to the success of the stimulus and of the inherent strength of the American economy.

## COUNTER: What economic recovery?

In 2009, it was concluded by the Business Cycle Dating Committee of the nonpartisan National Bureau of Economic Research that the U.S. recession of 2007-2009 ended. But when it comes to the U.S., has the recession really ended, or has it just gotten slower than when it first began? Previous economic recoveries that resulted from recession were quick to start and highly successful, but something changed throughout the years, for this recovery has not.

The only change in the economy at the moment is the excessive deterioration of it. During the last four years, it was said that the adult working age population declined 59.4 percent in June 2009 and 58.6 percent in May 2013. It seems that as the years progress, the job offers available decline.

The growing number of people who ride the bus to go to work or school can be seen as evidence of the economic decline in St. Louis. Bi-state buses lately are completely crowded with working people and you can thank the economy

for that. Because of the rising gas prices, not many people want to drive their car, let alone buy one.

Revealing weaknesses in the recovery, recent gains from the 2013 bull stock market have all but been erased. Stocks fell three percent in Tokyo during early February and the stock markets in Europe fell even deeper, placing the U.S. in a bad position. No matter how stockholders look at it, the numbers are falling and so is the hope that the economy can go back to the way it was.

Let's be truthful, the percentage of working people have declined over the past couple of years, the employment-population ratio has been under 59 percent for 51 months in a row, middle-wage jobs that accounted for 60 percent of the jobs were lost during the recession and one out of ten jobs are now filled by a temp agency. Maybe the talk of economic recovery progressing was just a little too optimistic.

## STAFF EDITORIAL

## Cosmos still an enigma, still relevant

JANE LAKAYIL  
STAFF WRITER

During the 16th century, Prussian mathematician and astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus proposed for the first time that the Earth was neither the center of the universe nor an immobile planet. Following Copernicus' bold claim, now known as the Heliocentric Theory, an Italian astrologer by the name of Giordano Bruno began spreading the news around Europe. He spoke of his own theories alongside Copernicus'. Bruno believed that the sun was just another star and that the universe was comprised of an infinite number of other planets and stars. Although his scientific fervor seemed to accompany his religious convictions, the Roman Catholic Church launched an attack against Bruno. After being imprisoned for eight years, he was burned at the stake.

While early astronomers such as Copernicus and Bruno proposed controversial theories without ample proof, their models were vital stepping stones to our current understanding of the cosmos. Men like Copernicus and Bruno provided the foundation and inspiration for modern astronomers and astrophysicists such as Carl Sagan and Neil deGrasse Tyson.

The study of the cosmos in modern science has shown that as scientists understand more aspects of the universe, they also understand that there is much more to learn than previously thought. With every answer comes more questions.

There is an increasing number of documentaries, books, and television shows exploring all

the nuances of the universe. The 1980s television series *Cosmos: A Personal Voyage*, hosted by Carl Sagan, is considered groundbreaking work in the genre of scientific television. Inspired by Sagan's *Cosmos*, Neil deGrasse Tyson presents *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, another television series that takes an imaginative and adventurous approach to the journey across space and time.

Tyson explains that the number of known galaxies, suns, planets and stars continues to grow and scientists have postulated that there are approximately 100 billion galaxies within the visible universe. The sheer size of the galaxy, let alone the entire known universe, is as beyond human fathoming as calculus is beyond the understanding of a termite. If the history of the cosmos were condensed to the length of one year, every month would be equivalent to one billion years and every day equal to forty million years. All recorded human history would be contained in the last fourteen seconds of that cosmic calendar.

The study of the universe may not seem as relevant to humans as other branches of science such as cancer research or the study of the human genome, yet ancient humans depended on knowing how to read stars to predict the coming of winter and migration patterns. It was through the rudimentary study of the stars that human civilization has come this far. In fact, we are made from the stuff of stars. Elements such as oxygen, calcium, iron and many others were formed



by nuclear fusion created by extreme heat within the center of stars as they condensed. This star matter was then recycled and enriched by successive stars that eventually fell to the Earth.

The study of space has played an important role in the history of the world's conflicts as well. From the dropping of the atomic bomb in World War II to the space race between the United States and Soviet Russia, the study of the elements created within stars and the technology that aided humans in reaching the moon has shaped human history.

As the study of the cosmos continues to shape our knowledge of ourselves and of our surroundings, it is important to keep in mind our connection to each other and to the universe. As Neil deGrasse Tyson describes it, "science is a cooperative enterprise spanning the generations. It is the passing of a torch from teacher to student to teacher. A community of minds reaching back from antiquity and back to the stars."

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## COMIC

## Sasha &amp; Nathan IN: GOIN' DIGITAL



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## Intensive French or Spanish

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Have something to say about the campus, *The Current*, or about topics relevant to students at UMSL? Write a letter to the editor: [thecurrent@umsl.edu](mailto:thecurrent@umsl.edu)

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS 2014 UMSL LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINEES

### FACULTY/STAFF

Dan Gerth  
Kristy Tucciarone  
Linda Wells Glover  
Vanessa Loyd

### ORGANIZATION

Associated Students of the  
University of Missouri (ASUM)  
Minority Student Nurses Association  
(MSNA)  
Pierre Laclède Honors College  
Student Association (PLHCSA)  
The Current  
Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority

### PROGRAM

ASUM - State Representative  
Lunches at UMSL  
Colleges Against Cancer - Relay for Life  
Delta Zeta - Annual Spaghetti Dinner  
MSNA - March Health Madness  
PLHCSA - Paintapalooza  
PLHCSA - Get Felt Pool Tournament  
PLHCSA - Haunted Honors College  
PLHCSA - Paintapalooza  
PRIZM - Showgirl A night with  
Monica Beverly Hillz  
PRIZM's - Annual Drag Show  
UPB - I Believe Program  
UPB - Experience St. Louis events  
UPB - Free Hugs

### PROGRAM CONT.

UPB - Sidewalk Chalk Contest  
Zeta Tau Alpha - Just Stand Up!  
Cheer Classic  
Zeta Tau Alpha - Male Pageant  
Mr. Pink

### INDIVIDUAL

Belkisa Dautovic  
Hailey Richter  
Hannah Wroblewski  
Josiah Perkins  
Elyse Durham  
Battulga Ganzorig  
Sharon Pruitt  
Katie Kratzer  
Marissa Steimel  
Zachary Littrell  
Dakota Dancy  
Joel Longanecker  
Ralph RV Jenkins  
Hollie Burg  
Riann Rikard  
LaVell Monger  
Katrryn Dierksen  
Janelle Miller  
Elyse Durham  
Geddy Trebus  
Michael Weaver  
Tyler Brockman  
Rebekah Cripe

LEADERSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY  
MON. APRIL 28TH 6:30PM  
MSC CENTURY ROOMS