

the Current

UMSL's independent student news

In this issue:

News
Page 3
New minor in nonprofit administration

Features
Page 4
Fusion of eastern and western musical traditions

Sports
Page 5
Women's volleyball retrospective

A&E
Page 6
Must-hear albums of 2012

Opinions
Page 7
Who benefits from Sodexo's food monopoly?



Don't forget to check out the Opinions page for our take on the new fee structure.
Page 7

SGA passes new tuition-fee proposal

HUNG NGUYEN
Staff Writer

At the Nov. 30 Student Government Association meeting, representatives and other students convened to inquire, discuss and vote on the new fee structure and increases presented at the Nov. 2 meeting. A number of campus administrators were present, including Chancellor Thomas George and Dr. James Krueger, vice chancellor of managerial and technological services, who helped engineer the new funding formula for the next fiscal year. The new fee structure passed through the SGA on

Friday with a 50-7 vote in favor of the proposition. All fee increases were also recommended by the assembly.

After hearing student concerns at the last meeting, the fee review committee went back to the drawing board with administrators to create a more detailed but less confusing layout of the fee structure.

"My concern was for lack of clarity. We like the simplicity, but we also want transparency. We asked the administration to come and speak to the assembly and provide a more global picture and

some pictures and explanations for the numbers. I know it can be a little confusing when all those numbers are thrown at you at the meetings," Jessica Lake, graduate, public policy administration, a fee review committee member, said.

Currently, students pay different rates per credit hour once fees are included, because some fees are a flat rate per semester, some are capped and some are not capped.

A number of students raised questions about

"My concern was for lack of clarity. We like the simplicity, but we also want transparency. ... I know it can be a little confusing when all those numbers are thrown at you at the meetings." Lake



SGA preparing to vote.

Photo: Jenny Lin / The Current

The fee review began with Krueger's summary presentation of how the university is funded and how those funds are allocated. He went on to explain that University of Missouri System fee increases are governed by Senate Bill 389, which limits tuition and fee increases by a government tabulated value called the consumer price index. The projections presented were based on an anticipated value of about 2 percent, subject to slight deviation if the CPI value changes in the next month.

Pertaining to the fee structure itself, Krueger noted that students will pay one bundled tuition charge with fees included, regardless of how many credits students take. There will still be different rates for undergraduate resident and nonresidents, graduate and professional students, respectively.

the breakdown of where funds were going to go in the bundled rates. "There will not be itemized charges. We will make allocations internally and at the administrative level. My recommendation is that all the services you have now will be retained and that we make an allocation and give money to Student Affairs to do what they need to do with it," Krueger responded.

While all students will now be getting parking permits, regardless of whether they drive to campus or not, one important clarification at the meeting was that the portion of parking fees that had been going to paying debt service for the parking facilities, emergency roadside service and road maintenance would no longer be included. It has not been determined how these costs will be accounted for in the new structure. "I am currently

(continued on page 3)

Vietnamese Night offers culture of Southeast Asia

CAROLYN HOANG
Staff Writer

The Vietnamese Association offered a taste of their homeland with Vietnamese Night on Dec. 1. The night promised delectable and authentic Vietnamese food as well as dancing, fashion and singing. The event was held in the J.C. Penney Conference Center auditorium from 6 to 9 p.m.

"This event in particular costs nearly all of our funds," Mike Nguyen, freshman, accounting, a member of the Vietnamese Student Association, said.

The first and possibly best act consisted of a traditional Lion Dance. The drum was hit at a steady beat while two dragons paraded on the stage.

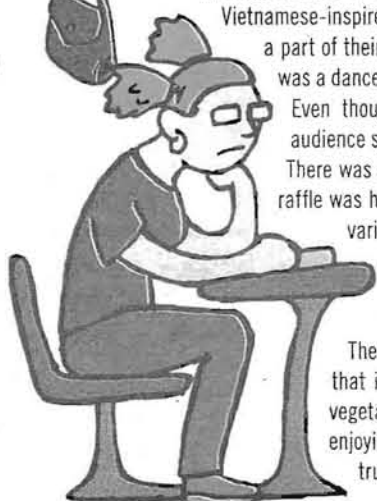
The event started slowly, but there were still voices chattering about what was to come. The first and possibly best act consisted of a traditional Lion Dance. The drum was hit at a steady beat while two dragons paraded on the stage. Next was a video displaying life in Vietnam. A typical day in Vietnam might consist of rides on a "cee-lo," which is basically a bicycle with a carriage and plenty of scenery to enjoy. Not only was the scenery beautiful, but the traditional cuisine displayed was as pleasing to the eye as it likely was to the tastebuds.

The next act was a comical performance highlighting the story behind the Vietnamese-inspired bean paste rice cake, something that has long been a part of their culture and is very popular in Vietnam. Following that was a dance and a duet of a romantic love song sung in Vietnamese. Even though most of the audience was not Vietnamese, the audience seemed engaged in the performance.

There was a brief intermission between the acts, during which a raffle was held. Prizes included a rice hat, a "cee-lo" figurine and various pictures.

After the intermission, there was a solo followed by a fashion show displaying the dresses and clothes of Vietnam.

The night ended with a dinner sponsored by St. Louis Pho that included sticky rice, an assortment of noodles, meats, vegetables and desserts. Guests lingered in the lobby enjoying their food and taking about various pictures. It was truly a lovely night in Vietnam.



Here there be dragons.

Photo: Jenny Lin / The Current

Volume 46, Issue 1394
www.thecurrent-online.com

What's Current

"Man, I wish the Current published stuff I care about."

Join the Current!

The Current is seeking:

- Advertising Representatives
- Sports Writers
- Webmaster
- Game Reviewers
- Photographers
- Staff Writers

Job descriptions and application instructions at:

www.thecurrent-online.com/about-us/employment

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief.....	Cate Marquis
Managing Editor.....	Sharon Pruitt
News Editor.....	Sharon Pruitt
Features Editor.....	Anya Glushko
Sports Editor.....	Leon Devance
A&E Editor.....	David Von Nordheim
Opinions Editor.....	Hali Flintrop
Copy Editors.....	Sara Novak, Caryn Rogers, Casey Rogers
Staff Writers.....	Paul Peanick, Hung Nguyen, Maddie Harned, Albert Nall, John Hoffman, Kathryn Bewig

Design Staff

Design Editor.....	Christian Kessler
Photo Editor.....	Ahmad Aljuryyed
Web Editor.....	Christian Kessler
Staff Photographers.....	Yeseul Park, Leon Devance, Jenny Lin
Illustrators/Cartoonists.....	Lee Sellars, Zach McDaniel, Jason Williams, Jenny Lin, John Clifton, Christian Kessler

Business Staff

Business Manager.....	John Wallace
Advertising Director.....	Sarah O'Brien
Distribution Manager.....	Mavis Hollis
Adviser.....	Charlotte Petty

Contact Us

Office Address.....	388 MSC, 1 University Blvd St. Louis, MO 63121-4400
Newsroom.....	314-516-5174
Business/Advertising.....	314-516-5316
Fax.....	314-516-6811
E-mail (Editor-in-Chief).....	thecurrenteic@umsl.edu
E-mail (Advertising).....	thecurrentads@umsl.edu
E-mail (Job Inquiries).....	thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
E-mail (Tips/What's Current).....	thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Twitter.....	@UMSLTheCurrent
Facebook.....	facebook.com/TheCurrentStudentNews

CORRECTION: Gender Studies Book Fair Review

In the Features article "Gender Studies Book Fair opens program's new home" that ran in last week's issue of the Current on page 3, there was a quote that was attributed to the wrong person. A quote in the fifth paragraph of the article was attributed to Dr. Sally Ebest, Department of English and the Gender Studies program director, but was actually said by Dr. Kathleen Nigro, Department of English and Gender Studies program adviser. The quote mistakenly attributed to Nigro began "Gender studies is not an 'ivory-tower' discipline." The Current regrets the error.

Monday, December 3

Fibonacci Number Day

Celebrate Fibonacci Number Day with the Math Club, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Nosh. Learn about how this fascinating mathematical sequence occurs in nature and pick up a free t-shirt! For information, contact Jessie Bleile at 314-640-0594.

One-Night Arena Football

Campus Rec's 'King of the Court' ARENA FOOTBALL tourney is 7 - 10 p.m. at the Mark Twain Gym. Teams may be comprised of men and/or women; 4 players per side plus subs. For information, contact Campus Recreation Office, 203 MT at 314-516-5326.

Tuesday, December 4

Alla Voskoboynikova faculty piano concert Recital

Alla Voskoboynikova, director of keyboard studies, plays piano pieces by Scarlatti, Ravel and Rachmaninoff, with a newly written piano work by Barbara Harbach, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater. Kurt Baldwin, cello, will be a featured guest. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Wednesday, December 5

Textbook Sell Back

UMSL Bookstore's Textbook Sell Back time is December 5 - 7, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day. Even if a textbook is an old edition, they will buy it back for at least \$5. Enter to win a iPad for each book you sell. For complete details visit umslbookstore.com. For information, contact Stephanie Eaton at 314-516-5763.

Snack and Study

Study time with snacks provided by Catholic Newman Center, 2 - 5 p.m. For information, contact Rachele Simon at 314-385-3455.

UPB Wizard's Chess game

Harry Potter fans and chess fans are invited to play Wizard's Chess, UPB's life-size game of chess, 7 p.m. in Oak Hall Lobby. There will be food and prizes. For information, contact Marissa Steimel or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

University Wind Ensemble concert

The University of Missouri - St. Louis's Symphonic Band presents its annual fall concert, 7:30 p.m. in Touhill Performing Arts Center's Lee Theater. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Thursday, December 6

Breakfast and Business: "Are the Country's Largest Banks Too Big to Manage"

College of Business Administration's Breakfast and Business discussion "Are the Country's Largest Banks Too Big to Manage" is 7:30 - 9 a.m. at Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. RSVP by Nov. 28 was required to attend. For information, contact Jane Ferrell at 314-516-5883.

Beat Out Your Stress

Beat stress over finals by hitting a pinata, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Pilot House. For information, contact Katie Green or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Friday, December 7

Veterans Center Opening Ceremony

New UMSL Veteran's Resource Center opening ceremony, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. Refreshments will be served. The center is a "one-stop shop" for returning servicemen and servicewomen on campus and Ryan Barrett, a former Air Force logistics officer, has been named director of the center. In addition to student veterans and the campus community, leaders from the Association of the U.S. Army, St. Louis Chapter, will attend the open house. For information, contact Fern Mreen at 314-516-5403.

The Ambassadors of Harmony "Sounds of the Season" concert

Annual "Sounds of the Season" holiday concert by the International Chorus Champions, Ambassadors of Harmony, December 7 at 8 p.m., December 8 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and December 9 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Touhill PAC's Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall. The concert includes songs highlighting the lighter side of Christmas and heavenly harmonies on classic carols. For information, contact Touhill ticket office at 314-516-4949.

Campus Crimeline

PROPERTY DAMAGE - MANSION HILLS

November 15, 12:24 a.m. Report # 12-541
An UMSL student discovered damage to a door lock. Disposition: Report taken.

SEXUAL ASSAULT - LOT

November 15, 3:40 a.m. Report # 12-542
A non-student reported that she was sexually assaulted by an unknown black male that she had met earlier in the evening off campus. Further investigation being handled by St. Louis County Police. Disposition: Report taken.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - UNIVERSITY MEADOWS PARKING LOT Q

November 23, 5 p.m. Report # 12-550

An UMSL student reported that between November 16, 2012 and November 23, 2012 unknown person(s) broke the rear window of their parked vehicle. Nothing taken. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER

November 27, 1:30 p.m. Report # 12-553
An UMSL student was observed stealing food in the Nosh. Disposition: Report taken.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - BENTON HALL

November 27, 1:10 p.m. Report # 12-554
A vending machine in Benton Hall was discovered damaged. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - WEST DRIVE GARAGE

November 27, 2:10 p.m. Report # 12-555
An UMSL student reported their parking permit stolen on October 5, 2012. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT - MARILLAC HALL

November 28, 4:21 p.m. Report # 12-559
An UMSL student reported that between November 13, 2012 and November 16, 2012 someone stole clothing from the Optometry lounge. Disposition: Report taken.

Mon



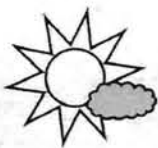
High: 74
Low: 51

Tue



High: 60
Low: 35

Wed



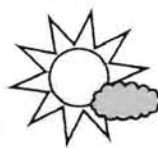
High: 57
Low: 41

Thu



High: 54
Low: 43

Fri



High: 55
Low: 41

Sat



High: 50
Low: 37

Sun



High: 56
Low: 23

News

Math Club celebrates Fibonacci Day on Dec. 3

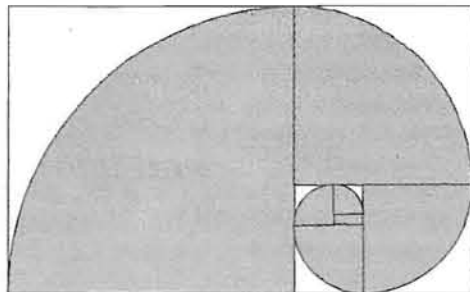
ALBERT NALL
Staff Writer

On Dec. 3, University of Missouri-St. Louis's Math Club will celebrate Fibonacci Numbers Day by hosting an event in the Nosh where students can come learn about the number sequence. There will be videos, contests and free T-shirts from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Jessica Bleile, senior, mathematics, president of the Math Club, defines the Fibonacci sequence as an interesting mathematical structure that occurs as part of nature. The numbers in the sequence are determined by adding the previous two numbers. Under the rules of the Fibonacci, the first two numbers in the sequence are 0 and 1 (alternatively, 1 and 1), and each successive number is the sum of the previous two. The Fibonacci sequence is generally defined in a recurring relationship in an equation that defines an order when one or more initial terms are given. Each term of the sequence is then defined as a function of the preceding terms.

"Fibonacci Number Day should be celebrated on Nov. 23. However, because of Fall break, we are celebrating on Dec. 3, which is the Monday of the week prior to finals," Bleile said.

Fibonacci Numbers Day was established in honor of Leonardo of Pisa, an Italian mathematician better known by the name of Fibonacci, who introduced the counting sequence to the West. Fibonacci sequences are widely used in computer data storage and processing. Fibonacci



Numbers Day recognizes the significance and usefulness of Leonardo's many contributions to sciences such as geometry and trigonometry.

"Next semester, the Math Club will continue with the Math Club Problem of the Month for The Current, hopefully have more lectures and we will also hold Pi Day, which will be our biggest event of the year," Bleile said.

The number pi is a measured perpetual number that is the ratio of a circle's perimeter to its width. Pi is approximately equal to 3.14159, but pi is a decimal that never ends and never repeats. In 2009, the United States House of Representatives established March 14 as Pi Day.

Membership in the Math Club at UMSL is open to all students on campus. The current faculty advisor of the Math Club is Dr. Ronald Dotzel in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

New minor in nonprofit added

SHARON PRUITT
Managing Editor

Students interested in working in the world of nonprofit organizations now have the option of pursuing a minor in nonprofit administration. The Department of Political Science and the Public Policy Administration Program, the latter of which oversees the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership, created this new option for students and announced it in a campus-wide e-mail in late October.

The minor is a new option for University of Missouri-St. Louis's undergraduate students and differs from the existing Nonprofit Management and Leadership Certificate currently offered to graduate students. According to Dr. Nancy T. Kinney, associate professor in the political science department, the new program has been in the works for over a year, with many parties working behind the scenes to gain approval for new courses.

"We thought undergraduates deserved a course of study in nonprofits that would fit better with their needs," Kinney said. "The minor in nonprofit administration is specially designed for students who aspire to [have] careers in the social sector—in other words, public service jobs in nonprofits or government."

Experienced social activist Russ Signorino will be teaching Nonprofit Organizations and Public Policy (pol. sci. 3700) this Spring. Signorino has worked for the United Way of Greater St. Louis and helped establish the Gateway EITC Community Coalition, a nonprofit organization that aids low-to-moderate income families in the St. Louis, St. Charles and Missouri Metro Region area prepare and file their income taxes and improve

their financial literacy. According to UMSL's course catalog, the class will examine the roles of nonprofit organizations in public policy issues through citizen advocacy and political participation.

"If a student plans to get involved in political activity or the helping professions, for example, this minor would be a good fit," Kinney said. "For years, our nonprofit courses have attracted students from disciplines as different as business and biology because these students knew they eventually wanted to be in public-serving or public-oriented jobs."

In order to earn a minor in nonprofit administration, students must complete 15 credit hours of related courses while maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.0 in all required courses. Among the required courses for the minor are Public and Nonprofit Personnel Management (pol. sci. 3420), Nonprofit Organizations and Public Policy (pol. sci. 3700) and Nonprofits, Civil Society and Volunteerism (pol. sci. 3710). The bulk of required courses are offered through the political science department, though Public and Nonprofit Budgeting (pol. sci. 3400) is cross-listed with an accounting course, Fundamentals of Financial Accounting (accting. ad. 2400).

The nonprofit administration minor also requires an internship, which Kinney says is a great opportunity for students to gain firsthand experience working in a nonprofit organization.

Interested students can contact John D'Atto, undergraduate advisor in political science, or Dr. Terry Jones, political science department chair. Students can also complete the required form in the College of Arts and Sciences stating their intention to pursue the minor in nonprofit administration.

New fee proposal passes with ease

(continued from page 1)

looking for other sources of revenue. If I can't find any, it will come from budget cuts," Krueger said.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity. Year after year, students overestimate their ability to come to campus without a parking permit. Annually, 90 percent of parking offenses result from parking without a permit, with only 10 percent from other offenses, like illegally parking in a handicapped spot. The city issues parking permits not because they want the \$3 per year, but because it makes criminals aware that they're looking and know who's

supposed to be there. Parking permits indicate police presence and enforcement, which will increase the overall safety of the campus. If this passes, we will have to work with departments so that we have a good way of issuing permits to visitors and those who are present for bona fide reasons," Forrest Van Ness, University of Missouri-St. Louis Chief of Police, said. After recently speaking to the Normandy Police Department, Van Ness has found that criminals avoid committing crimes at UMSL because students have parking permits, and they would stand out.

Both Van Ness and Krueger admit that historically, student surveys show that parking costs and the high fine of \$50 per offense is a source of frustration and anxiety. If the fee structure is passed by the Board of Curators, parking will hopefully no longer be an issue, since students will be granted a parking permit when they register.

"The next step now is to ensure that we maintain our voice if this goes through the Board of Curators," Steven Brockman, SGA president, said.

"Now that we've voted, we need to keep evaluating the system that we've put in place. We get voice, not decision-making power, but I think it's good that at least our administration is willing to listen. The administration was actually very surprised at our response. They were impressed at the questions we were asking and our concern," Lake said.

The fee structure and increase recommendations will be forwarded to George, who will make his recommendation to the Board of Curators.

**PLANNED
PARENTHOOD
WE'RE HERE.**

**Status is sexy. Know where you stand
and where to go in St. Louis for easy,
fast and affordable testing.**

With or without insurance – We're Here. Now accepting all major insurance plans including: Aetna, Anthem, Blue Cross Blue Shield, United Healthcare and more.

HIV AND STD TESTING LOCATIONS:

CENTRAL WEST END

4251 Forest Park Ave
St. Louis, MO 63108

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS

Lakeland Square
4529 N. Illinois St.
Belleville, IL 62226

NORTH COUNTY

2796-98 North Highway 67
Florissant, MO 63033

SOUTH GRAND

3401 South Grand
St. Louis, MO 63118

ST. PETERS

208 Mid Rivers Center
St. Peters, MO 63376

WEST COUNTY

1 Stonegate Center
Manchester, MO 63088



www.ppslr.org | 800.230.PLAN (7526) | Planned Parenthood | WE'RE HERE.

Features

Audience amused by Eamon Grennan's poetry reading

ALBERT NALL
Staff Writer

Eamon Grennan read poems from his "Selected & New Poems" on Nov. 29 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Social Sciences & Business Building at University of Missouri-St. Louis. Grennan is an Irish poet who currently teaches in the graduate writing program at Columbia University. Born in Dublin, he has lived mostly in the United States, where he earned his PhD at Harvard, since 1964. He has been writing poetry since the late 1970s, and his first published work was "Wildly for Days" by Gallery Press in Dublin in 1983. An author of 10 collections of poetry, Grennan has also written a book of essays called "Facing the Music: Irish Poetry in the 20th Century." Grennan won numerous awards for poetry, such as the PEN Award, the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize from the Academy of American Poets and several Pushcart Prizes.

Grennan's appearance at UMSL was sponsored by the Center for International Studies. Program Director Eamonn Wall, professor of Irish Studies, introduced Grennan to the audience of 35. Grennan spoke with great eloquence, and the audience was greatly amused by the poet's references to such poems as "Cat Scat" and "Lady Bird," which was a tribute to his mother.

One of the poems Grennan read, "The Cave Painter," reflected on the origins of art and human beings and their means of taking in the life experience and registering it with the world. Through other poems, Grennan revisited events such as his experiences in being a parent.

"Having kids is about learning to deal with the transitions in life, such as the parting of children as they develop into maturity, as well as the coexistence of such events," Grennan said.

Other material in the readings dealt with more incendiary themes such as international violence, wars and incarcerations for civil disobedience.

While Grennan was greatly influenced by American poets Robert Frost and Elizabeth Bishop, the focus of his readings was homage to Irish poet William Butler Yeats. Grennan read a poem that described a breakfast with Yeats. In the reading, Grennan took us to Yeats's kitchen, where the audience

experienced smells of incense and wine. In the poem, Yeats is cooking a vegetarian dish on the skillet with spices, garlic, onions, peppers and cinnamon. He is stirring the mixture of sauces and fettuccini with a wooden spoon. Wildlife such as squirrels, cows, sheep and raccoons peer through the window as Yeats veers through poetry.

Later, Grennan opened the reading to questions from the audience. In response to one of the questions, Grennan said that he uses a notebook to jot down lines and phrases, playing with them to launch a poem. Grennan likes to write early in the morning and will do three to four drafts as part of his process of editing and re-reading.

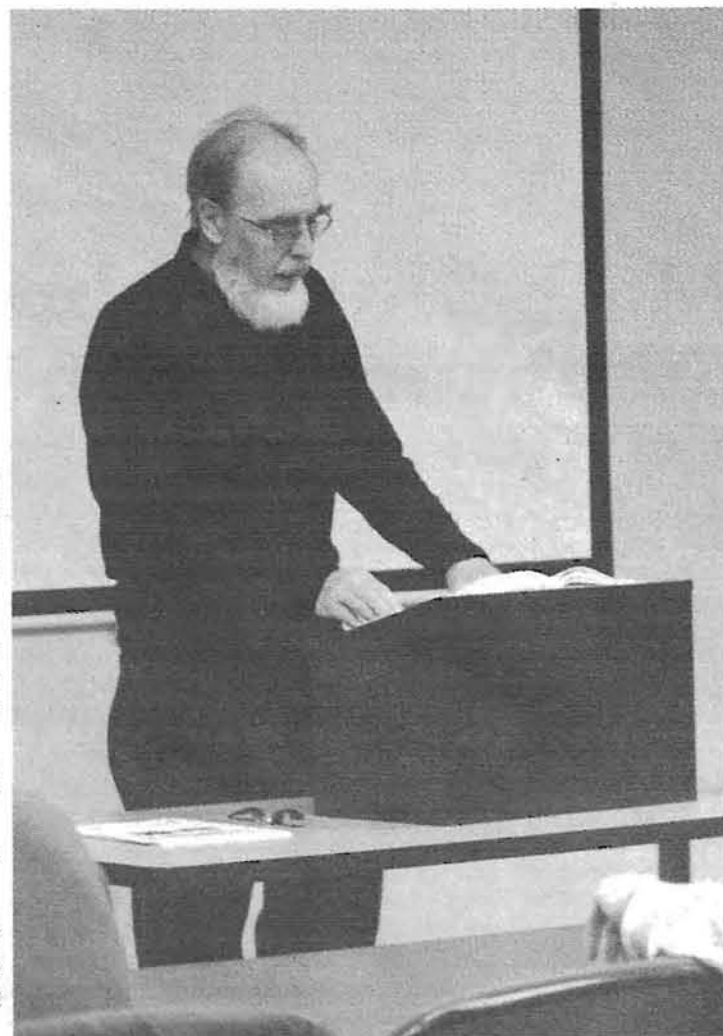
"My general goal in writing a poem is to develop a musical expressiveness that is absorbed in the larger sense with themes of the work of art and its labors," Grennan said.

Grennan was then asked to elaborate on his references to "windows and connections" in his "Facts of Life" reading.

"Windows and connections refer to frames that are cut off of the perspective picture and are brought into animation as a means of framing a theme," Grennan said. "... While the process is of itself a work of art, this is a contradiction because this is a symbol of what is also cut off from the world."

Grennan ended his reading in response to the previous question by reading from "Window" with its emphasis on escalation, retreats and lights on the ledge. There is a focus on a writing table along with a glow and shadow; and yet, at the same time, that table becomes the locus and sight of drama.

After the reading, Wall spoke of the Irish Studies Program that is offered through UMSL for the Summer 2013 semester. The focus of this program is to emphasize Irish poetry as an international form of art, along with its oral traditions. There will be a highlighting of Irish literature, film and culture. There will be visits to the Aran Islands and a weekend in Dingle, along with other course-related trips and festivals throughout Ireland.



Grennan reads from his poetry.

Photo: Jenny Lin / The Current

The trip to Ireland will take place June 25 to July 24, and students will have the opportunity to earn six hours of transfer credit. The program fee of \$4,250 will include tuition, housing, health insurance and other course-related expenses. Scholarships are available for the program, and the application deadline is Feb. 4.

For more information about the Irish Studies Program or the Center for International Studies, contact Wall at 314-516-5589 or call the UMSL Study Abroad Office at 314-516-5229.

Protect Your Balls from testicular cancer

ALBERT NALL
Staff Writer

Colleges Against Cancer's annual Protect Your Balls Dodgeball Tournament was held on Nov. 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Mark Twain Gym at University of Missouri-St. Louis. T-shirts, boxers and coupon books were sold for the event. Sara Gerberding, junior, biology, vice president of the UMSL chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, was the host for the event.

"The tournament was delayed because more teams than expected entered the tournament, and the brackets had to be redone," Gerberding said.

There were almost three hours of very intense competition. Some very hard hits were taken by members of teams, and arguments took place over calls by the referee. After a round-robin round and the championship round, a team from UMSL's Department of Athletics emerged the champion of the tournament to take the trophy for 2012.

The dodgeball event was sponsored by the American Cancer Society and the UMSL chapter of Colleges Against Cancer. The faculty advisor for Colleges Against Cancer is Ashlee Roberts, and the advisor from the American Cancer Society is Melissa Hanstein.

"The Protect Your Balls Dodgeball Tournament strives to raise awareness about testicular and prostate cancers while raising funds for UMSL's Relay for Life," Brandi Grieshaber, junior, business administration, president of the UMSL chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, said.

"Awareness of prostate or any type of cancer is important to everyone," Grieshaber said. "One of six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, so it is important that they and their loved ones know the facts, causes and symptoms."

Wright went through chemotherapy for three months, spending 25 hours a week in treatment and losing 85 pounds. He said it was the toughest experience of his life.

"I believe cancer awareness has been increased a lot by the efforts of our organization since Colleges Against Cancer began on the UMSL campus only seven years ago," Grieshaber said. "We strive each semester to increase the amount of awareness we bring to the campus."

Dan Wright, senior, accounting, treasurer of the UMSL chapter of Colleges Against Cancer, is a cancer survivor. He was easily identifiable in a "That 'C' Word Stole My Nuts" T-shirt. He showed a YouTube video produced by Besties with Testies before the tournament. Besties with Testies, a nonprofit organization based in Aurora,

Colo., provides education, information and resources on testicular cancer and how-to guides on men's self-exams.

"In October 2010, I was diagnosed with stage three testicular cancer, and my right kidney was shut off. I was eventually forced to drop out of school," Wright said.

Wright went through chemotherapy for three months, spending 25 hours a week in treatment and losing 85 pounds. He said it was the toughest experience of his life. Today, Wright is cancer free, works two jobs and hopes to enroll in graduate school. Wright told the audience that the dodgeball event has raised a significant amount of money for the American Cancer Society and that testicular cancer is curable, although men are often hesitant to get checked out.

"The general reaction that I got when I was diagnosed with cancer was, 'No way you can have cancer; you are only 21,'" Wright said.

Literature from the American Cancer Society passed out at the dodgeball tournament states that cancer of the testicle is very rare. Still, it is a cancer found in men age 15 to 40. Nearly half of all American men will eventually develop some type of cancer over their lifetimes, and about one quarter will die from some form of cancer. Still, most adult cancers can be prevented by healthy lifestyle choices, maintaining an ideal weight and eating more fruits and vegetables.

The goal of the UMSL chapter of Colleges Against

Cancer is to maintain current information on promotional initiatives as well as development plans and projects suitable for the campus community. Chapters of Colleges Against Cancer educate members about grassroots advocacy and why cancer is a political and a health issue. Chapters also promote programs and events on the college campus.

"Colleges Against Cancer's planning for the 2013 Relay For Life at UMSL is already underway," Grieshaber said. "We have been planning since the beginning of the semester."

According to Grieshaber, the next Relay for Life event will be held at the Mark Twain Athletics Complex on April 12-13 from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. The theme for the 2013 Relay for Life is Superheroes. Costumes are welcome and very much encouraged.

"Currently, we are focusing on getting teams and participants registered," Grieshaber said. "There is an early bird registration special going on until Jan. 1 where the registration fee is only \$5. Normally, it is \$10."

To register for the 2013 Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.org/umslmo. For more information about testicular cancer and self-exams for men, visit www.cancer.org or call the American Cancer Society in St. Louis at 314-286-8100. For information on Besties with Testies and to get the T-shirt that was worn at the dodgeball event, visit <http://www.bestieswithtesties.org/>.

Smoothie Night promotes healthy eating habits

ANYA GLUSHKO
Features Editor

The Oak Hall kitchen was turned into a smoothie-making station on Nov. 29 by members of the University Program Board at University of Missouri-St. Louis. Smoothie Night brought out about 40 students to taste and learn how to create healthy and delicious drinks. UPB Administrative Chair Scott Morrissey, senior, communications, along with other UPB members, blended and sampled easy-to-make and cheap-to-obtain smoothies for students. They handed out packets of information about each smoothie and its benefits. "[The event] was a success," Morrissey said. "Lots of people had shown up, and we made lots of delicious smoothies, and people seemed to enjoy the smoothies."

Morrissey booked the space and took some of his own smoothie recipes. He brought six of the recipes to the event. He also carefully looked up information about smoothies, such as fat and calorie content and other nutritional facts.

Morrissey made sure that each recipe would benefit students' health. He sent the recipes to Sodexo, who brought all the ingredients. UPB's Magic Bullet blenders were used to make smoothies.

"I picked this event because I am vegan and I wanted to share some of the magic of vegan smoothies to the UMSL community," Morrissey said. "This event was planning to teach the UMSL students a quick way to make a nutritious snack or breakfast for not that much money, which will benefit the students and the environment at the same time."

Morrissey explained that the best way to make a smoothie is to keep it all natural.

"Don't use sugar to sweeten it; use all natural ingredients such as dates or maple syrup or honey to sweeten them," Morrissey said. "Those ingredients still contain the nutrition for your body to obtain. Sugar has no nutritional value, just lots of calories. Also, adding a little peanut butter to your smoothies will have little peanut butter flavor and add lots of protein to

them so that they will keep you fuller throughout the day. My peanut butter blueberry smoothie will last me for 5 or 6 hours, and it only has 400 calories. Perfect breakfast to start my day with. Some fruits have lots of flavor, and some do not. Blueberries have very strong flavor, and bananas do not. You can use frozen bananas as a thickener and sweetener. Also, things like cocoa will add a little caffeine to your smoothie, such as in the chunky monkey, which is bananas for a sweetener and thickener, cocoa for caffeine and flavor and peanut butter to add a good texture and protein to last you."

Morrissey encourages students to improve their eating habits in order to stay healthy and fit.

"I suggest the students incorporate some vegan foods into their diets," Morrissey said. "If done right, they can be high in good fats and protein and low in bad fats and calories to, in the end, leave you more satisfied at the end of the meal and keep you with the lasting full feeling until your next meal."

Sports

Looking back at women's volleyball

LEON DEVANCE
Sports Editor

A 0-4 start put the season in a hole that UMSL never really recovered from ...

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's volleyball team gave their fans thrills, but inconsistent offense led to a season that ultimately spelled doom in 2012.

Picked by the fellow Great Lakes Valley Conference coaches to finish second in the conference, UMSL instead finished third behind eventual West Division champion Missouri S & T and second-place finisher Rockhurst. A 0-4 start put the season in a hole that UMSL never really recovered from as UMSL's hard-fought first-round 3-2 loss to Lewis ended the season at 13-18.

Still, the 2012 season had some highlights. The UMSL Athletic Department website lists the 2012 season as the seventh straight year and fourteenth overall that UMSL qualified for a tournament playoff berth in the GLVC.

UMSL, as the number-three seed in the GLVC playoffs, gave number-two-seeded Lewis everything they had defensively. UMSL brought their A-game against Lewis from the start and played at a high level, rarely letting the ball hit the floor and playing at a superior level as they compiled a season-high 118 digs.

Five UMSL players reached double figures in digs. Anna McNulty, junior, communications, recorded 10 digs and had three service errors. Chelsea Burkle, junior, nursing, collected 13 kills and Haley Brightwell, sophomore, business, added 11 kills.

UMSL lost the first match 23-25, then stormed back to defeat Lewis in a close match 27-25. UMSL fell behind again, 14-25, as Lewis regained control. UMSL staged another comeback, winning 25-20. Lewis then claimed the win with a 15-9 victory to advance to a second round matchup against top-seeded Missouri S & T.

Lindsay Meyer, freshman, undeclared, controlled the offense as she tied her best career in assists with 51 and had 19 digs. Liz Jaeger, senior, nursing, contributed

15 kills and recorded a career-best 28 digs against Lewis, and Kelsie Rankin, senior, physical education, tied career bests with 19 digs. Both ended their UMSL careers on a high note. Jennie Manis, senior, business administration, added 23 digs. Corinne Hoekstra, freshman, social work, reached double figures in kills with 10. Hoekstra and Jessica Ploss, freshman, criminal justice, both had three blocks.

Individually, Jaeger ends her career with 397 kills, the seventh best total in a single season, and her 1,301 kill attempts are the second most in a single season, two shy of the record. Jaeger and Meyer tallied double-double this season. Manis's 545 digs are the second most in a season total. Hoekstra recorded her two hundredth block against Lewis and finished with 201 blocks for tenth all-time in UMSL history.

UMSL rallied to post a 13-14 record after the slow start. A below-.500 record is not something teams aim to achieve. And to borrow from former New York Jets and Kansas City Chiefs coach and ESPN analyst, Herm Edwards "you play the game to win." And UMSL played the game to win, always competed against their opponents as they dived for loose balls, leaving body parts on the floor and never quitting on themselves or their season, always giving their fans something to cheer about.

Slow offensive starts or hitting woes hampered

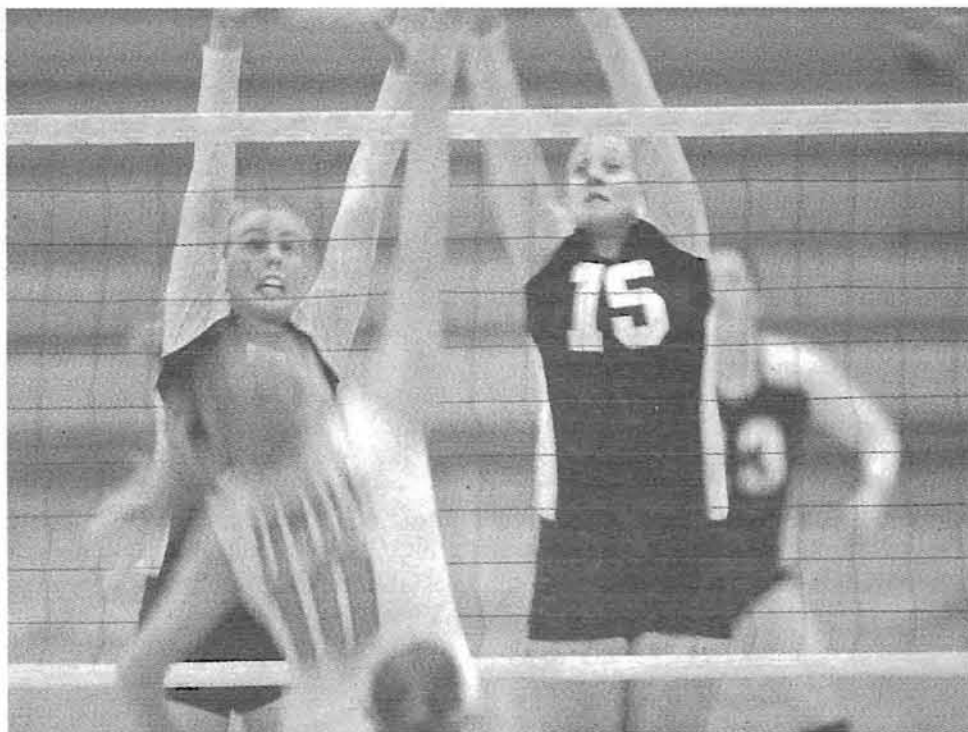
UMSL throughout the season. Against Lewis in the first round in the GLVC playoffs and Rockhurst and William Jewell in the final home matches, a three-game losing streak dropped UMSL to the 10-8 finish in the GLVC.

UMSL hit .127 in the match, while Lewis hit at a .215 clip, 2-1 advantage in blocks, 15 to 6.5.

In the season of gift giving, here is a wish list for UMSL. The offensive slow starts need to be eliminated. Someone needs to step up to rally and fire up the team before the match so that they will be ready at the start of the match. UMSL needs to address their hitting woes. UMSL could experiment with Meyer and McNulty (seventh in all-time assists with 1,802) on the court together next season as the offense seeks consistency.

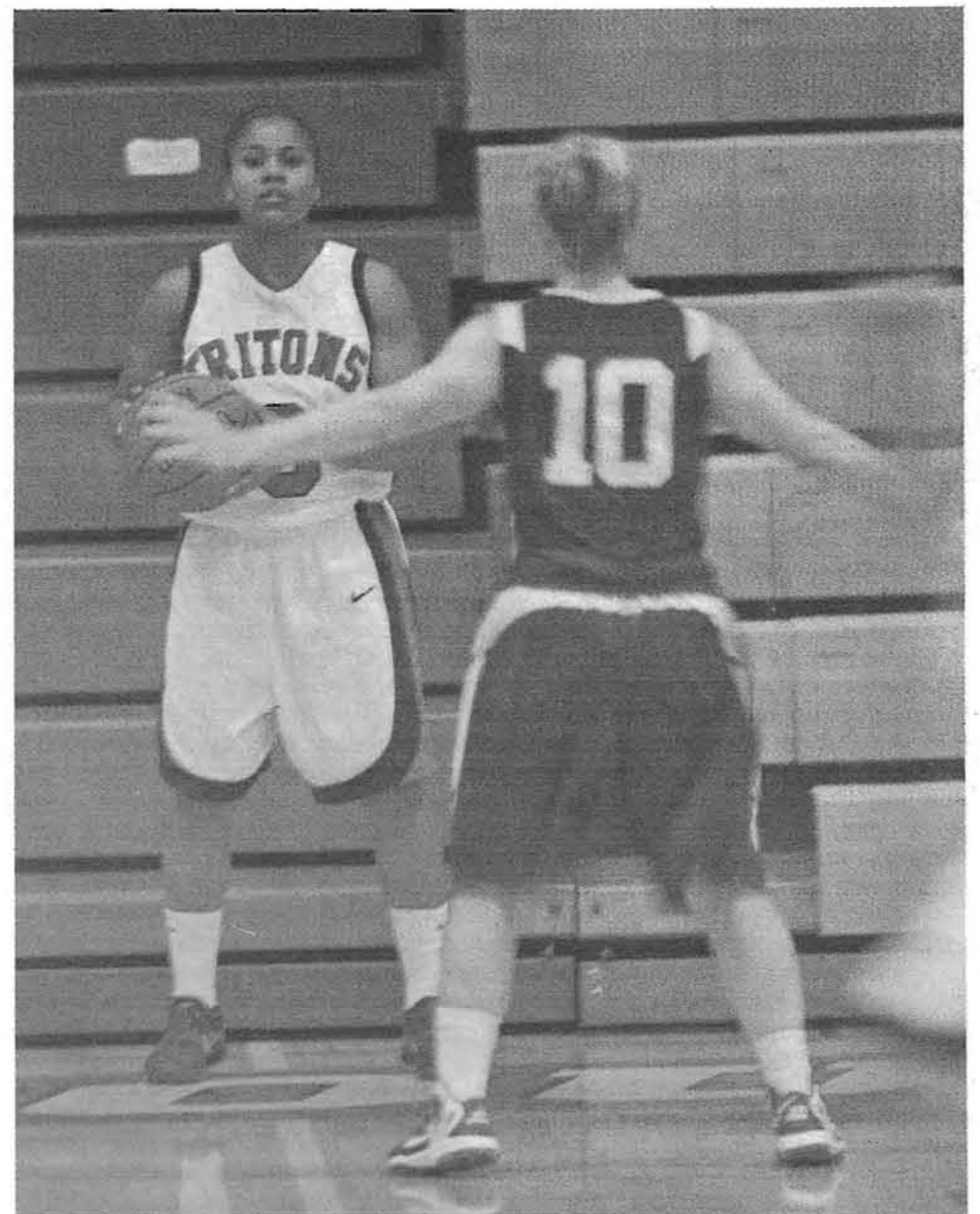
Replacing Jaeger, Hoekstra and Manis will not be an easy. But the defense could come up with more digs, and to stop the opposition from scoring, UMSL could attack the opposition more with kills.

... UMSL played the game to win, always competed against their opponents as they dived for loose balls, leaving body parts on the floor and never quitting on themselves or their season, always giving their fans something to cheer about.



Anna McNulty (left, number 5), junior, communications and Corinne Hoekstra (right, number 15), senior, social work.

Photo: Leon Devance / The Current



Alexis Lawrence, sophomore, business finance.

Photo: Leon Devance / The Current

Women's basketball runs record to 2-1

By Leon Devance
Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis women's basketball team got into the holiday spirit and almost gift-wrapped an early Christmas present for Missouri Baptist on Nov. 27. But in the end, the Tritons defeated Missouri Baptist 73-70 in overtime.

UMSL went into the half leading 29-24 before going on a 14-3 run to assume a 43-27 advantage as Molly Barnes, senior, exercise science, delivered a 3-point play. According to the UMSL website, UMSL bulged the lead to 18 points over the next three minutes. Missouri Baptist eventually whittled the lead to five points as Taylor Klingelhofer buried a 3-pointer to suddenly make the game closer at 53-48.

UMSL scored the next six-points to lead at 59-48 with 1:54 minutes to play, before Missouri Baptist - with the help of three UMSL turnovers and a missed free throw down the stretch - turned up the heat and closed the second half with a 9-0 run at the end of regulation play. With the score tied at 59-59, Klingelhofer scored a game-high 21 points, 19 in the second half and overtime, as Missouri Baptist assumed a 68-65 lead in overtime. An UMSL run of seven points was capped by a basket by UMSL's Devonna Smith, senior, sociology. That put UMSL ahead at 72-68, before Kelly McGovern, sophomore, special education, dished out six assists and had five steals, scoring the final point for a 73-70 win.

UMSL improved to 2-1 overall this season and is undefeated at home at 2-0, as UMSL won by three points. UMSL improved its record to 9-0 all-time against Missouri Baptist as it dropped to 2-5 this season. While head coach Katie Vaughn will not trade the "w," she was not pleased with how UMSL won.

"The starters were not getting the job done. We were having trouble scoring, so we brought the new kids in, and they brought some needed energy off the bench. They kept looking inside to [Terra] Snow to put the ball in hole," Vaughn said.

"We've got to take better care of the ball. We were up 18 points [in the second half, and we gave up the lead as we] were not pressured until the end and let them back in the game. We played 45 minutes tonight and should have won in 40 minutes."

Vaughn said that the Tritons should be averaging 70 points a game but are having issues scoring points.

"We are having issues scoring on offense because the girls are stagnant and standing around on offense," Vaughn said.

Because UMSL stood around on offense, misfired and

missed its eight shot attempts, UMSL was scoreless before Angela Johnson, senior, criminal justice, nailed a 3-pointer to get UMSL on the scoreboard. Trailing 3-5, UMSL tied the score at 7-7 on a Smith layup. The 9-2 UMSL run was capped by Deaven Omohundro's, senior, elementary education, jumper made it 9-7 as UMSL assumed its first lead of the game.

The combination of Johnson, with 14 points, seven

"The starters were not getting the job done. We were having trouble scoring, so we brought the new kids in, and they brought some needed energy off the bench. They kept looking inside to [Terra] Snow to put the ball in hole." — Vaughn

rebounds, three assists; Smith, with 10 points, seven rebounds, and two blocks and Hazaria Washington, junior, communications, with 17 points and 11 rebounds, was effective for UMSL against a Missouri Baptist team that refused to quit.

Vaughn said that UMSL needs to play with a greater sense of urgency.

"We work hard on defense every day. But if we are not scoring enough points, then we need more defense. We need to have the girls to play with urgency so we can handle pressure situations to finish games," Vaughn said.

In their next game on Dec. 1, the UMSL women's basketball team again scored a win, defeating Lindenwood 67-62.

A&E

Kammerraku was a mesmerizing performance of incalculably beautiful chamber music. At times soulful, mysterious and haunting and then graceful, effulgent, crisp, and rhythmic, it seemed to contain the whole spectrum of human emotion.

Kammerraku blends Eastern and Western music with elegance

PAUL PEANICK
Staff Writer

The Arianna String Quartet joined a triad of Japanese master musicians at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center last Friday for Kammerraku, a tour de force performance that integrated Western classical styles with Japanese Hogaku (traditional) instruments. Kammerraku was a mesmerizing performance of incalculably beautiful chamber music. At times soulful, mysterious and haunting and then graceful, effulgent, crisp and rhythmic, it seemed to contain the whole spectrum of human emotion.

Kammerraku is sponsored by Kyo-Shin-An Arts, a nonprofit which commissions new works integrating the Japanese Koto, Shamisen and Shakuhachi with Western classical string instruments. James Nyoraku Schlefer, the artistic director of Kyo-Shin-An and a grandmaster Shakuhachi (bamboo flute) musician, emceed the performance while also serving as one of its key performers.

The performance began with Schlefer introducing the first piece of evening, "Koto Concerto: Genji," a piece whose movements trace the story arc of "The Tale of Genji," perhaps the quintessential work of Japanese literature.

After Schlefer's introduction, Yumi Kurosawa took to the stage. Appearing as a sandy-haired angel in her flowing white gown, Kurosawa is a master of the koto. Kurosawa sat down and began delicately plucking on the koto's 20 strings. The members of the Arianna String Quartet followed suit as John McGrosso and Julia Sakhorova's violins, Kurt Baldwin's cello and Joanna Mendoza's viola came to life, as well.

The first movement, "Cicada Shell," was crisp, relaxed and serene. Like the morning fog on the water, it gently lingered before dissolving into a single note that seemed for a moment to stretch into timeless infinity. The mood had been set.

The second movement, "Falling Flowers," was soulful and melancholy. Kurosawa's koto conjured feelings of mystery while McGrosso's violin seemed full of uncertainty. Suddenly, the rest of the quartet erupted into a lively allegro. The gravity of Kurosawa's skill with the koto became even more apparent as she plucked with such ferocity that one almost expected her fingers to begin smoking.

The third movement, "Maiden on a Bridge," seemed mournful yet determined. The piece evolved gradually, ebbing and flowing. It faded smoothly into the fourth ("Floating Bridge of Dreams") and final ("Vanished into the Clouds") movements.

As with the second movement, the piece abruptly increased in pace, eventually concluding at the same peaceful, meditative tempo at which it had begun. The audience rose to their feet in a cacophony of applause as Kurosawa and the Arianna String Quartet bowed gratefully.

The next piece, "Shakuhachi Quintet in Three Movements," was arranged by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Paul Moravec. "It is quite a challenging piece to play," Schlefer announced, "and it is also a very fun piece to listen to!"

The first movement of the piece involved alternating string and Shakuhachi solos that slowly converged. Each solo was beautiful, but the instruments truly shone as they came together during the piece's finale. The Shakuhachi Quintet illustrated how the infusion of Japanese and Western classical music can be even more beautiful than the sum of its parts.

After an intermission, Schlefer introduced "String Journey," a piece he composed himself for Kammerraku. It featured the Shamisen, a three-stringed lute that is the traditional instrument of Japanese music.

Playing the Shamisen was Yoko Reikano Kimura, a small, delicate woman in a beautiful blue evening gown. Her Shamisen was exciting and exotic, something like a banjo with an Eastern flair. The Shamisen alternated with the strings of the quartet, rising and crashing together before building to a



Kammerraku performed at the Touhill PAC.

Photo courtesy of International Studies Program and Kyo-Shin-An Arts.

brilliant finale. As its name suggested, the piece felt like a journey, taking the listener through dark forests, over towering mountains and beneath rocking waves.

Following this performance, Schlefer took the stage once again to introduce the final piece, Semi Sotah's "Kyoshin." "I have to prepare you for this piece," Schlefer said. "Unbelievably slow, you keep expecting it to take off, which, of course, it never does."

The music was delicate and meditative. It drifted slowly over the audience with silent elegance. Kurosawa plucked her Koto like the slow dripping of water, joined by deliberate contributions from the Shakuhachi and strings. Simple notes in such deliberate sequence and timing gave life even to the silences between them. The piece created a deeply contemplative and profound conclusion to the performance.

Surreal raps and supernatural beats make for essential listening in 2012

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
A&E Editor

Nostalgia ruled the airwaves in 2012. Try as the forward-thinking listener might, there was no escaping Fun. cribbing the epic pomp of Queen, Gotye echoing the manicured stateliness of Peter Gabriel and main offender Carly Rae Jespen sounding like every mass-manufactured pop diva of the past five decades. While this year's inevitable Grammy winners have their feet planted firmly in the past, a handful of astonishingly innovative releases helped to offset the Billboard 200's regression back to the tacky gloom of the 1980s. Barring the unlikely event of a December breakout, here are a few of 2012's most essential listens.

5. "An Awesome Wave" – Alt-J

A compellingly quirky mix of squiggly electronics and off-kilter folk rock, "An Awesome Wave" is awesome in both name and execution. The group's everything-but-the-kitchen-sink aesthetic offered music critics the perfect opportunity to play their favorite game, "spot the influence," but what Alt-J may lack in outright originality they more than make up for with impeccable song-craft. The love-it-or-hate-it highlight of the record is singer Joe Newman's weird, halting vocal style, which seems to deliberately (and deservedly) mock the overwrought histrionics of indie folksters like Fleet Foxes' Robin Peckold.

While this year's inevitable Grammy winners have their feet planted firmly in the past, a handful of astonishingly innovative releases helped to offset the Billboard 200's regression back to the tacky gloom of the 1980s.

4. "Kill for Love" – Chromatics

Five years in the making, "Kill for Love" captures Chromatics's sleek and sexy synth-pop in all its washed-out grandeur. When not at his day job, Chromatics mastermind Justin Leon Johnson (a.k.a. Johnny Jewel) pulls triple duty as the frontman for Glass Candy and Desire, each of which made key contributions to the original soundtrack to 2011's "Drive," an instant classic in its own right. "Kill for Love" gives listeners the perfect reason to don a rhinestone-studded jacket and hit a pitch-black highway at 90 m.p.h., much like that film's anonymous antihero.

3. "The Seer" – Swans

Swans is a band in perpetual flux. Over the course of three decades and 20 albums, Swans releases have run the gamut from punishing industrial metal, melancholy Goth rock and electronic experimentation. Swans's most recent transformation into brooding post-rockers, however, could very well be their most definitive. A mesmerizing masterpiece of avant-garde composition, "The Seer" finds Swans front-man Michael Gira fulfilling his lifelong mission of mocking and perverting the conventions of rock music. Near three hours in length, it is as daunting as it is genius.

... the lunatic ravings of Stefan Burnett offer a compelling look into what would have happened if William Burroughs gave up beat poetry for beat-boxing.

2. "The Money Store" – Death Grips

Boasting the most innovative, brain-liquefying production this side of El-P, "The Money Store" is a stroke of mad genius in an otherwise stagnant year for rap. Featuring lines like "I got the DNA of Gothic lemons, shred it 13 times out of 11" ("Hacker"), the lunatic ravings of Stefan Burnett offer a compelling look into what would have happened if William Burroughs gave up beat poetry for beat-boxing.

1. "Visions" – Grimes

Haunting, cerebral and absurdly catchy, "Visions" is all but guaranteed to top every music critic's year-end retrospectives. "Visions" relies upon a single, brilliant gimmick: the juxtaposition of pixie-voiced Claire Bouchard's seductive cooing against a wash of fractured, Goth-tinged electro beats. The results are irresistible ear candy coated in layers of dark matter, a distant alien civilization's attempt to recreate terrestrial pop music. The accompanying videos for lead singles "Oblivion" and "Genesis"—the latter featuring pink-haired bikini models battling each other with swords and cobras—argue that point pretty persuasively, too.



Opinion

TRIO COUNTERPOINT

Sodexo is food tyrant

Events that take place on campus are required to use Sodexo for catering services. This means that departments and student groups are limited to the options provided through Sodexo, not to mention subjected to the embarrassing quality of the food provided.

Most organizations recognize that events need food to attract and sustain crowds, so they buy from Sodexo out of necessity. Salads with wilted produce, hard, stale bread and sandwiches that bring back memories of horrid grade school lunches are embarrassing to groups looking to promote a positive image. Finding tons

of leftovers that get tossed or saved by groups is very common. After all, people only want seconds if the first bite was actually easy on the palate, and Sodexo isn't.

The prices for Sodexo food are also totally outrageous. Considering the quality of the food, the prices are even more appalling. Many organizations opt to serve pizza at functions, since it's the most affordable Sodexo item

and organizations have small budgets that have to last an entire academic year. But even Sodexo's pizza costs a significant amount considering that outside vendors will provide deals to schools and that groups purchase

Antitrust laws exist for a reason. Sodexo's monopoly enables the dining service to charge high prices and provide substandard services and products because they know that student groups don't have any other options.

in bulk. Sodexo has no bulk pricing options, so student organizations just have to eat up the cost and make cuts elsewhere on their balance sheets.

It gets even worse when students try to fundraise. Unless the food item cannot be provided by Sodexo, groups are required to buy all food-related fundraising supplies from them. The huge prices of Sodexo products substantially

reduce student organizations' profits unless they price expensively and thereby decrease sales.

Antitrust laws exist for a reason. Sodexo's monopoly enables the dining service to charge high prices and provide substandard services and products because they know that student groups don't have any other options. It's time to take down the tyrant.

Sodexo provides good service, not a monopoly

Sodexo does not harm students in any meaningful way. Assertions of price discrimination on the part of Sodexo are largely unfounded. A lot of the claptrap around Sodexo and its pricing scheme arose from its perceived sole supplier monopoly status on campus.

The university rents out space to the highest bidder. Sodexo provides revenue to the university in exchange for having the privilege to access University of Missouri-St. Louis's hungry community. To some, this seems sinister. But it is exactly what happens when a shopping center rents out space to a vendor. It is also not a reasonable conclusion that Sodexo has somehow bribed the university to the detriment of students. It may be the case that the UMSL market simply would not sustain more than one primary dining service.

Sodexo delivers the food, sets up and removes the leftovers after events. Most people don't include these transportation and labor costs when considering the price of catering. A caterer from the area that does not service just UMSL is not going to know the campus, and

the timeliness of delivery is going to decrease. Also, area caterers typically have much higher minimum orders than many student events necessitate. Ergo, without Sodexo, catering would be limited to events with sizeable budgets and attendance.

There is also the issue of quality control. Having a single caterer under contract with the campus provides accountability and helps ensure that only safe, quality food is served at UMSL. There is a clear contractual obligation for Sodexo to do this and a clear path to recourse should they fail.

Finally, just how much higher are Sodexo's prices? The minimal degree to which dining prices may be higher is because of convenience. Consumers vote with their wallets. Anyone is free to patronize many of the local area restaurants. If the prices at Sodexo were really too high, they would have to lower them to stay in business.

The arguments against Sodexo are irrational and not very compelling, reflecting ignorance of economic realities.

Student Abroad column Holidays in Japan touch heart, hit home

RACHELLE BRANDEL
Staff Writer

Every culture in the world has its own holiday traditions, and the Japanese are no less unique in their way of celebrating. Since the majority of Japanese people would define themselves as "not religious," celebrating such religious holidays as Christmas and New Year's has become more of a romantic novelty and custom than a celebration of a religion.

The Japanese love to celebrate Christmas because it's cute and romantic. While in America Christmas is considered more of a family holiday, in Japan Christmas is normally spent with friends or significant others.

Friends normally have Christmas parties, which involve games and food from restaurants and convenience stores. Surprisingly, convenience stores such as 7/11 offer full course cuisines for the holiday season. An extremely popular food to have during Christmas is Kentucky Fried Chicken. KFC restaurants will have waiting lists to eat inside the restaurant, while a takeout order has to be planned weeks in advance. Many KFC restaurants have Colonel Sanders statues in front of their store, which get decorated like Santa Claus at the beginning of December.

Christmas is a huge date night, and many have to make their plans weeks in advance. The weeks around Christmas and New Year's are filled with events and celebrations, especially in the largest Japanese cities, such as Tokyo and Kyoto. If you want to take your girlfriend to a romantic dinner on Christmas Eve, you better call the restaurant and make a reservation sometime in November.

Cities and their shopping centers decorate their public places with lights and decorations in December. These decorations only consist of Santa and his reindeer and leave out any religious affiliations (though you might see a shopping bag or two with a few stars and magi crossing the desert on camels). Many stores will have Christmas sales or contests and dress their employees in Christmas costumes to promote their products for the holidays.

Light displays are also a major attraction in Japan. In the past, light displays similar to what we find in America were popular and still are. Lately, many shrines and temples have taken to lighting the changing leaves in late November or early December. While this is not necessarily because of Christmas, it is becoming a big holiday attraction for many.

The New Year celebrations in Japan are a lot more like Christmas celebrations in America. New Year's is more commonly celebrated with one's family; customs such as otoshidama (pocket money) are very popular. Otoshidama is the custom of giving money to children in decorated envelopes called pochibukuro. It is very similar to giving gifts at Christmas.

Many celebrate the New Year by greeting the first



sunrise. It's popular to go to the shrines, where food and festivities continue through the night until dawn. These shrines can be quite crowded, and because of this, some choose to find their own special places to greet the first dawn.

The Japanese also send out Nengajo, or New Year's postcards, to family and friends. These are very similar to Christmas cards back home. The postcards can have all kinds of beautiful designs and images, but it is the envelope that corresponds with the year. The animal of the year is popular to have on the envelopes, as are other common customary greeting images.

It is also customary to play games on New Year's, much like the board games or snow-induced activities found in America on Christmas day. Many fly kites, which they refer to as takoage, or spin a top called koma. Fukuwarai is a game where the player is blindfolded and must place paper facial parts on a paper face. These games, like those on Christmas day, are meant to bring family and friends together for fun and bonding.

The Japanese love to celebrate Christmas because it's cute and romantic. While in America Christmas is considered more of a family holiday, in Japan Christmas is normally spent with friends or significant others.

While the festivities and holidays may all be different, the object is the same: to strengthen the bonds of friendship, family and love and to hope that the next year will bring the same.

Our Opinion: With student debt on the rise, new tuition fee plan may not be best for students

THE CURRENT EDITORIAL STAFF

With growing concerns over rising college costs and growing student debt, switching to a new tuition and fee structure that makes it more difficult to tell where students money is going may not be in the best interest of University of Missouri-St. Louis students.

The new plan would combine parking and other fees with tuition to give all students a single cost per credit hour. The plan was presented to the student body at the Nov. 2 Student Government Association meeting, and much of the concern focused on the plan to include parking fees. Students who ride MetroLink or live on campus would receive parking passes they did not need and would no longer be able to opt out of that charge. Online students who never use the campus's physical facilities would no longer be exempt from charges to use the gym or parking fees.

However, there was more to this change than mandatory parking fees.

Most worrying, the fee for the new Recreation and Wellness Center, \$19.25 per credit hour for a maximum of \$231 per semester or \$462 per academic year, will automatically be added to the new combined tuition fee charge starting in 2015. Students can join any number of

gyms around town for far less per year.

This fee will be added automatically when the Recreation and Wellness Center opens, as confirmed by Dr. James Krueger, vice chancellor for managerial and

Students who ride MetroLink or live on campus would receive parking passes they did not need and would no longer be able to opt out of that charge. Online students who never use the campus' physical facilities would no longer be exempt from charges to use the gym or parking fees.

technological services, at the SGA meeting Nov. 30.

Instead of fees that are charged by the credit hour while others are a flat rate or certain students being able to opt out of some fees, all students will pay a single unified fee. The only differences will be for resident and out-of-state tuition, undergraduate, graduate and professional school rates.

The new tuition fee structure will be less confusing, but it will also be much less transparent and potentially more costly.

In presenting the tuition fee plan to students, both the SGA and administration representatives stressed that the change would offer a lower rate for some students the next academic year, 2013-2014. However, no promises were made about future years. Certainly, costs will rise once that new \$19.25 per credit hour fee kicks in.

Also, under the new plan, students would no longer have that long, detailed list of fees spelling out how much of their money goes to various services, like student life or athletics. Everything, except program-specific supplement fees, will go into one big tuition fees pot to be divided as the administration deems necessary.

This loss of transparency is also a troubling change that should concern students. A lump fee charge that

is distributed at will by the administration will make it more difficult for students to know when funds for student organizations are being cut to fund extra staff for administration or shifted to non-academic extras that do not directly benefit students.

Besides the loss of transparency, this tuition fee structure raises questions about whether UMSL will price itself out of range for some students. At Friday's SGA meeting, Krueger noted that the combined charge will increase the amount of college costs covered by some employers. However, the overall increase in costs over the years may present a challenge to lower-income students trying to pay for college with a patchwork of scholarships, loans and out-of-pocket funds. As a public institution, UMSL has an obligation to offer a college education to academically worthy Missouri students who cannot afford a private university.

The new combined tuition fee structure will be presented to the University of Missouri System Board of Curators when they meet on Dec. 6-7 in the Millennium Student Center's Century Rooms. The Dec. 6 session will be open to the public beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the Dec. 7 beginning at 8 a.m.

Comics & Games

BRAIN DEAD

Zach McDaniel



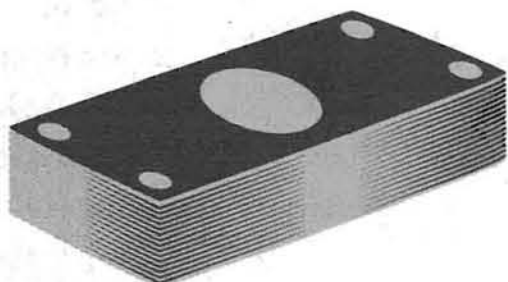
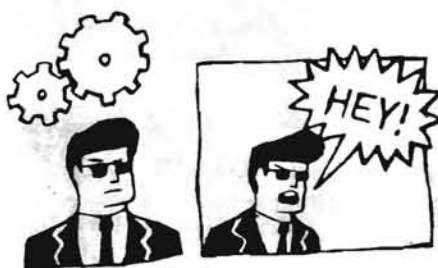
SIMPLY BEAGLE

Lee Sellars



JUST A COUPLE DRIFTERS

Christian Kessler



TEXTBOOK SELLBACK

Sell your books back for cash and enter for your chance to win an iPad mini!

DECEMBER 5-18

Check hours and locations at umslbookstore.com or facebook.com/umslbookstore

UMSL BOOKSTORE

Winter Interessionion

January 7-19, 2013

earn 3 credit hours in 2 weeks

University of Missouri-St. Louis

pcs.umsl.edu/wi