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GREAT NEWS

The Results of the 2024
Missouri College Media
Association Contest

News Writing

1st Place



Jacob Polittle

The MONTAGE

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Former Professor sues STLCC, three administrators

Details emerge on what led to Dr. Emily Neal's departure from Meramec

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

Over two years after her abrupt removal from STLCC, former Meramec Political Science Professor Emily Neal has filed a lawsuit against Meramec's Dean Patrick Mallory, Meramec Campus President Felicia Moore-Davis, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Andrew Langrehr and the college as a whole for employment discrimination and unlawful retaliation.

In court documents exclusively found on PACER and filed on Oct. 21, Dr. Neal alleges that the actions, omissions and decisions by these individuals and the institution were designed to cause and will continue to cause her to lose wages, compensation, entitlement and rights. She also alleges that their actions have caused her to suffer humiliation and harm to her reputation, emotional and mental injuries, pain and suffering and other adverse consequences.

Specifically, in the recent court filing, Neal alleges that the defendants engaged in the following actions:

- Targeting Dr. Neal with unwarranted discipline in

her and administrative matters. Neal, who had been employed by the college since 2009 and had previously served as President of the Faculty Union, had notably clashed with STLCC's leadership over the years, and specifically during Chancellor Jeff Pittman's ongoing tenure.

In this lawsuit, she details a few of those incidents, including an incident in 2017 where she received a written reprimand for comments she made during one of her classes about the college's Board of Trustees, which she says was contrary to the college's policies at the time. She argues that this incident was retaliatory and in response to her public opposition of the college's "reduction in force" proposal, a hot-button issue for the college at the time.

Another retaliatory incident that she claims she was reprimanded again for what the college alleged was "improper word choice and tone" in an email to a colleague regarding their unauthorized access to one of Neal's online class spaces. In that email, she told the employee that if the issue was not addressed, she would file a union grievance, and the college accused her

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS IN LAWSUIT

EMILY M. NEAL VS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

The College disciplined Dr. Neal for what it alleged was improper word choice and tone in an April 2023 email and assembly discussed her (threatening) the other employees. Dr. Neal alleged this discipline and it was overturned on February 25, 2024.

Dr. Neal filed an Employee Equity Complaint with the College and against Dean Mallory in connection with the overturned April 2023 discipline. Dr. Neal's complaint alleged that she was being discriminated against because of her female sex.

On or about August 16, 2022, prior to the start of the fall semester, Dr. Neal spoke to several of her departmental colleagues at an off-campus lunch on certain matters of public concern, namely:

a. Adversity that had been informed that a senior administrator permitted their child to bypass the waitlist for enrollment in a popular degree program.

b. Adversity that had been informed that another senior administrator was engaged in an affair with a subordinate that reported to the administrator and

c. Adversity that had been informed that a former senior administrator was engaged in an affair with someone who was the former administrator's subordinate when the administrator met with the College.

Less than two weeks later, on August 30, 2023, Defendant Mallory instructed Dr. Neal that she should not return to her classroom until they meet. This instruction was given contrary to College policy which required her to obtain the Department of Human Resources prior approval.

On September 4, 2023, Dean Mallory issued a memo to Dr. Neal's entire Department regarding her allegedly "inflammatory comments." The memo advised that the College was

Editorial Writing

Honorable Mention



OPINIONS 11

May 2, 2024

STLCC Refuses To Take Accountability For Student Safety

College leadership heavily misses the mark

LILLIAN THUM
STAFF WRITER

Recently on the Meramec campus, there were two major events that unfolded that challenged how our understanding of freedom of speech should be balanced with our expectations for a safe campus. The preacher, live-streaming on YouTube was only one facet of discontent, with his rhetoric and hate speech against Muslims and transgender people, disgusted many of us at Meramec.

In my humble opinion, I agree with the students who spoke with The Montage for this issue: the campus response to these events was lackluster, with an open forum for us to discuss the events with little action being taken, but many excuses made. (See related story on pgs. 1, 3, 4-5).

However, that's only one issue of a multifaceted incident. Campus police also found themselves embroiled in scandal, with their verbal conduct toward students being called into question. Allegedly, one of the police officers in question has had many reports made about him for similar behavior but nothing has come from

it. This is completely unacceptable behavior, especially when the officers in question have firearms and are charged with protecting students. Who is to say the officer in question

are the staff not putting pressure on the bureaucracy? Challenge it! Organize! Work together with students to make a point that this is unacceptable! Saying "not all cops" is only an excuse.

"STLCC is a conservative college with a progressive coat of paint."

wouldn't fire at a student when given the chance? The response is always specifically includes "all cops" for a reason.

The preacher outside of the Student Center was spewing incredibly hateful things. He was saying that many people are going to hell for simply existing as Muslim, for being gay or identifying as transgender.

The man was not only using a bullhorn but was doxing (revealing personal information including names and social media handles) queer and Muslim students. Students had to

buddy up to feel safe.

The response to this was the Campus Forums held in Humanities East. I understand there are legal challenges as well as the ethics of free speech, but he was actively disrupting campus and threatening safety and the school barely did anything. Music that was played loudly to drown him out was turned off. Why were the rules not changed earlier? What actions are being taken to make it so students on this wonderfully diverse campus feel safe?

"It's out of our hands" or "bureaucracy" is an excuse. You have freedom of speech too! Use it! Not only was he live-streaming, likely with ads, but the doxing of students is simply inexcusable, and should not be allowed back onto the campus for that reason alone.

In what world is that not a risk? How can students and staff feel safe if there are few steps taken to protect us? STLCC is a conservative college with a progressive coat of paint.

Staff Writer Jack Jursnich also wrote a piece discussing his reactions to the events surrounding the religious protester. Read that piece on meramecmontage.com.

Lillian
Thum

Feature Writing

1st Place



From feeding Obama to feeding STLCC students

Jason Goza talks his memories of what led him to the college's kitchen

NINA GOMEZ
STAFF

Jason Goza appeared in an all white uniform, with his hands on his hips, his sleeves rising a little from his stance, displaying some tattoos on his forearm. He looked beyond while facing the rest of the STLCC kitchen, and nodded. Past the cashier, the food stations, the doors, behind the extensive silver kitchen filled with ingredients and a couple of chefs in the back, lies his office. It's next to the back door commonly used for deliveries. It is here where he begins to tell his stories, including how he provided food for Barack Obama in one of his previous jobs as banquet chef at the Four Seasons Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

"They had all the back hallways shut off. The Secret Service was running the hallways. You couldn't go anywhere without permission. They were pretty much standing over you shoulder the whole time," Goza, STLCC-Meramec's chef manager, said when recalling one of his "fondest memories" in his career, feeding former President Barack Obama back in 2010.

"I just remember him pulling into the loading dock and I was there, and then I remember the Secret Service stopping me in the hallways asking what I'm doing, where I'm going, I remember stuff like that," said Goza.

Although Goza claims this memory as one of his "biggest," he can only remember bits and pieces of the whole experience. "I wish I could remember more," he said, "even for my own sake." He does not remember what the former president was in town for, but remembers he was one of the first few high profile guests. "They keep it pretty secret, they're not allowed to really tell you when all the celebrities or high profile people are coming in," he said.

The high intensity of the moment, being monitored by Secret Service and the pressure of pushing out orders is the reason Goza forgets he said, "It

was very intense. I've never worked something like that before. I look back on it now, and it was fun, but during the process it was just too much," he said. However, the experience taught him that, "organization is key."

Goza was born and grew up in the St. Louis area, and growing up he was close to his Uncle to who he attributes his interest in the kitchen. "I was close with him, I was the only niece or nephew that was allowed in the kitchen. Because, you know, I wasn't getting in the way," he continues, "I was asking questions, I was helping, other than that all the other kids had to play outside or whatnot," he said about his 10-13 year-old self.

His phone rings a second time on his desk before he says, "My uncle was a chef so he was the big influence. He owned the restaurants and during the holidays I would help them out. I was always in the kitchen with him."

At 22 years old, Goza began his career by moving to Arizona for five years to earn a culinary degree. There he did one year of classes and three months of internships, and also some hiking. He moved to Kansas, and then the military. He was in his late 20's when he joined the military where he was "just a normal cook," for mass production.

Mass production led him to banquet cooking, which he prefers because it's more predictable and he likes the organization, and banquet chef was his title in Colorado. Before arriving at STLCC, he worked eight years in senior living and said he enjoyed it.

"I developed relationships with my residents and a lot of them I felt like I was a part of their family," he said while shifting in his seat. "They can be really difficult to work with but they were like I was sitting next to my grandma and grandpa, hearing about all their stories," he said. He remembers residents who were teachers, travelers, who had amazing lives, some who lived to be around 103 years old.

It is Goza's first year working



PHOTO BY JACOB POLLITTE
Chef Manager Jason Goza works in his office at the Meramec campus on Nov. 5.

with American Dining Creations, an American Food & Vending Corp. that provides food for STLCC. It is also his first 6 months working here at Meramec. He starts his mornings off usually at about 6-6:30 a.m., he'll go through emails and he gets the cash register going.

"I'll get everybody on their job tasks when they get in about seven o'clock. And then I just spend the rest of the day managing, helping prep and making truck orders. We're non stop prepping," said Goza.

The STLCC kitchen is set up so they have a four-week food menu cycle with different specials that get switched out but always stick with the basics like what Goza considers the campus favorite—chicken tenders.

Cheryl Boone has worked with Goza for the past four months at STLCC as the cash register. "He's real sweet. He's understandable and he puts us on the right path," said Boone about Goza's management.

When she first saw him, she said

while laughing, "He looked like a professional wrestler. He look like Triple H, 'you ever seen him?' and he was like, 'everybody tells me that,'" she said while making her voice deeper. "That's what made me and him have a good bond."

Boone credits Goza for being one of the reasons she broke out of her "timid" shell. "I guess too what makes me smile is when I see him smile. Especially when he's having one of those mornings where our trucks don't show up or something, one of us would just yell out, 'he needs a hug,'" she said.

Boone said a majority of the time he is behind the scenes but will come out to check on everybody and on any problems, she says all the workers like him as well and that he is a wonderful person to work with.

"Even when you're in the dumps—because I just had my closest friend of 30 years pass away—and he just told me to let it out. Don't hold it in. I appreciate everything he does for us," she said.

Nina Gomez

Feature Writing

3rd Place



Shamim Ansari, American Citizen

The tenured Meramec English Professor talks about her history, her family and recently becoming an American citizen

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

Jacob
Politte

Professor Shamim Ansari has traveled a long road to get where she is today. The longtime Meramec English Professor, who began teaching at the college shortly after earning her Ph.D from the University of Denver in March 2008, has traveled across the globe to achieve career success, and recently, to achieve American citizenship.

The beginnings of a journey

Ansari was born in India, and the cultural difference between the two countries could not be more vast.

"Growing up in India as a woman is not the best because you are always required to place yourself second to the men around you, be it father, brother, husband, or son," Ansari said. "I was basically raised in a Muslim family since my father is Muslim by culture. I needed to follow the Muslim customs including a rather strict separation between men and women."

Before coming to America, Ansari spent time in Germany pursuing higher education, noting that she had a personal connection with the country. She also formally immigrated to Germany, and obtained citizenship there as well, she retains that German citizenship to this day.

"My mother is German and lived in Germany for many years after she separated from my father in India," she said. "Once I completed my high school in India, I immigrated to Germany to do my bachelor's and master's in English there."

"After about 10 years in Germany, I realized that I wanted to continue my Ph.D. studies in English in America because I did not feel at ease speaking and writing in German. Having grown up in India, where English is the main language in the best schools and colleges, I was used to thinking and writing in English rather than German. I also felt drawn to America due to its upbeat, optimistic, can-do, full of opportunities culture. I did not really like the rather serious and often pessimistic culture in Germany."



Professor Shamim Ansari, as photographed by Syed Ali In 2019.

continued on pg. 4

Feature Writing

Honorable Mention



Nina Gomez



BONDING OVER CERAMICS: At left, an advanced ceramics student finalizes one of her class projects. Middle: Bill Foster pours materials into a barrel. At right: One of Phillip Finder's students perfects her mugs in the Meramec ceramics lab.



PHOTOS BY NINA GOMEZ

Stories from Inside Advanced Ceramics

NINA GOMEZ
STAFF

A young intern riding along a median, gets out, crawls down into the ravine as police are coming after her and then she pops up and takes a picture. Her picture is printed as a banner headline photo, all across the front page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. The picture? Jimmy Michael getting blown up on the highway during the Mob War in St. Louis during the '60s.

There was a bomb in his car. "Right before rush hour they blew up one of the mobsters on highway 55, back in the '60s that's what was happening in St. Louis," said Kathy Kuper while concentrating on molding her clay project in the back of room HE-132, the ceramics room.

to follow it, be inspired by it, or go a completely different direction. Their projects can take about anywhere from a couple weeks to a month to complete. Finder shows them the prompts with thematics through a slideshow. "We saw some really interesting anti-foot pieces that were kind of fun and unusual. I don't know if anybody did anything exactly like those. I doubt it, but they did inspire people to kind of think about the possibilities. That's kind of what we start with, the possibilities. Don't you think Christine?" said Bill Foster, a returning student in the class, as he turned over to his classmate. She smiled and agreed and began to show her work.

Raquepaw's ceramic piece is making a replica of her grandparents' house in Nebraska with all four sides of it and she said it'll hold up photos. "I'm going to do the cows I could put on clay and fire or people in the windows," she said

She said they were very grounded. "It wasn't about keeping up with the Jones' or anything, it was just taking care of people and my grandmother made beautiful quilts," she said as she remembers the time her grandma gave out slips with corresponding quilts she made for all the grandchildren for her 50th wedding anniversary. "I was probably eight, but I got the best quilt." When she finishes showing her work she looks over to Foster's work, points and says, "That is a whole 'nother level."

Foster is not only a returning student but is also married to mob-capturer Kathy Kuper. He says they have been together 46 years since she moved in after the first date, and are still together in their ceramics class at opposite ends of the table.

Foster's work also reflects a story that he says is near to his heart. "It reminds me of a simpler, creative time

as he can and giving it to his son as a gift.

Kuper, his wife, has made a reliquary in honor of the cicadas, an unwanted pet to most, but adored by her. She likes how they come up to "sing" to her. "We thought they were wonderful," she said.

Her project has what she calls a "Fred Flintstone" look with unconventional open slots that could hold the dead cicadas that she brought from home in a Tupperware container. It's got a long real trunk that connects with the piece and a clay mantis that's bigger than the slots. "I have a feeling for the natural world," Kuper said.

She adapted the look after the class had a "critique session," where they seem to know her well enough to say that her first model was "too uniform."

"People said - you know that doesn't really follow what you do best. So then I tried it again," she said.

Sports Writing

1st Place



Heather Kenyon

STLCC Yoga Instructor Keeps the Faith

HEATHER KENYON
CONTRIBUTOR

Originally from Springfield, Missouri, Bethany Bogosian was a child of a blended family with five siblings. "I was a really shy kid", Bogosian began, with a slight chuckle. A yoga instructor at STLCC-Meramec, Bogosian said she never would've expected she'd turn out the way she did.

"Depression had a big effect on upbringing", Bogosian said, her tone softening as she delved into her past. Though she wasn't diagnosed until college, she said as early as age 13 she struggled with depression but didn't know it, living with her dad in Springfield. Once in college, Bogosian said, she saw a psychiatrist and was officially diagnosed. "Always called myself a late bloomer, socially for sure," she said about her upbringing, as she brushed her nearly hip-length red hair to the side.

Bogosian also grew up with a few religious influences. Her dad's side is Baptist, and her mother's side is 7th-day Adventist. As a teenager, Bogosian also attended Alteen meetings, created for teens struggling with a family member's substance abuse. Bogosian found aspects of spirituality within these meetings, she said, her hands gesturing gently. "The influence of 12-step program meetings raised my consciousness," she said.

When she was 19, she came across the School of Metaphysics in Webster, and attended those meetings for about 9 months, Bogosian said, acknowledging the impact of spirituality on her life. "I'm a really spiritual person," she added. She explained that the meetings included discussions on spirituality, reincarnation, concentration, and mindfulness.

"I hated school," Bogosian said with a wry grin. "I just wanted to work, make money, move out of my parent's house," she said. Bogosian described herself as pretty independent.

Bogosian ultimately didn't graduate college until she was 31 and transitioned to work in education, teaching kindergarten and first grade for 15 years, at a local private school.

"Whenever I get a chance I work with kids," she said. Bogosian was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2009, she said, from which she has recovered. However, in that time, she practiced yoga when recovering from a major 7-hour surgery, she said. "That's when I really started, I was evolving, I was growing," she said.

She would often take yoga classes, she said, and got to be friends with one of her teachers, who urged her to become a yoga teacher herself. "I'm not advanced; I can't do that," Bogosian initially said. However, in her last year of teaching kindergarten, she received certification for teaching yoga to children.

When she left teaching grade school, she acquired her job at STLCC Meramec, teaching yoga to college students. Right after that, Bogosian founded "Yoga for You"—a nonprofit organization aimed at making yoga accessible to underserved communities and at-risk youth. Bogosian was initially discouraged and mentioned she was afraid she couldn't do it at first. She put it on the back burner for a few years, but when the Child Development Learning Center was added to Meramec, "It hit me, I'm going to do it, I'm going to go back to



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BETHANY BOGOSIAN

my nonprofit," she said confidently.

"I've got more to do, more to give," Bogosian said when reflecting on her nonprofit. "I just want to be out there and heal, and I want them to find joy and peace," she said.

As Bogosian reflects on her journey, she acknowledges the transformative power of self-discovery and personal growth. "I have to get over myself, over my self-doubt and low self-esteem, just feeling of not being enough and just work my way out of it," she said, her voice steady. Through her personal journey of self-discovery, she has

developed a deep sense of purpose and a commitment to ongoing growth, aiming to positively influence those she encounters, she said.

"I learn from my students; I learn from everything," Bogosian said. Looking ahead, Bogosian remains driven by her passion and purpose for helping others as she says, "If you pay attention you'll find it, it'll be right there, it'll be put right in front of you." When asked to relay one message to young students, Bogosian smiled, and shared, "Keep the faith baby, keep the faith."

Sports Writing

2nd Place



8 SPORTS

Nov. 7, 2024

Fencing Club Joins Meramec as Newest Organization

New club wants to introduce Meramec students to the sport of fencing

RYAN WINZEN
NEWS EDITOR

Starting this semester, Meramec will once again be home to a fencing club. This organization is open to any and all students who are interested in learning about and engaging in fencing.

The newest version of the club was created by student Beatrice Johnson (a Montage staff member) who wanted to introduce other students to fencing.

"I really enjoy the sport of fencing and wanted to introduce it to other people," said Johnson. "It is not a sport people think of or watch a lot, but it's a really interesting sport."

Johnson explained how recently she was introduced to fencing.

"Not very long. I started this semester. I took the 8 week fencing 1 class, now I'm in [the] Fencing 2 [course]. I feel very familiar with the sport," said Johnson.

Johnson went into detail about the learning curve of fencing.

"There's a low skill floor, but there's a lot of strategy to it," she said. "You can just go in there and stab people like a maniac, but it takes some time to learn the technique. It is an art."

Johnson talked about the goals of the organization.

"[To] help people understand," she said. "There's a lot that goes into it. There's a lot that is difficult to learn, and it's a lot less challenging if you have people to help you. Having peers to help explain and clarify [helps]."

Students who have no knowledge of fencing but are interested in learning are encouraged to come.

"Don't feel like you need to have any base knowledge," she said. "It is not required by any means."

If students are interested in joining, they will have to fill out the school's physical education form. Students under the age of 18 will need a parent to sign off on the form for them. Students are not expected to bring their own equipment, as everything will be provided. The club is sponsored by health and wellness professor William McDevitt, who's known as "the instructor that gets his point across."

McDevitt has been teaching at Meramec for 20 years, teaching classes such as fencing, archery, and weight training. He revealed that this isn't the first fencing club on the Meramec campus.

"We've had fencing clubs before, but COVID put a stop to it. This is the first one since," said McDevitt.

McDevitt described what he finds

interesting about fencing.

"It's a one on one. It's physical chess, you don't rely on a teammate, it's you and an opponent. It's an interesting sport," said McDevitt.

Fencing Club meets biweekly on Tuesday in the athletic building from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Johnson spoke on the complexity of fencing.

"A lot of people say fencing is physical chess. There's so much more than going in and stabbing people. Going in and stabbing people is still really fun too," said Johnson.



PHOTO BY BEATRICE JOHNSON

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Heidi Kladiva, Audrey Guckes, Ray Arani and Kieran Rose participate in Meramec's Fencing class.

Ryan Winzen

Sports Writing

3rd Place



Jacob
Politte

eSports Facility Opens At South County Campus

STLCC's newest sports team gets a dedicated, expensive new space near Arnold

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

On Sept. 24, the college held its ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new eSports facility. The new facility, housed on the ground floor of the college's South County campus off Meramec Bottom Road near Arnold, took about six months to construct and cost a little over the \$950,000 budget it was allotted according to Chancellor Jeff Pittman, who spoke at the ceremony.

"I'm learning about eSports," the Chancellor said. "So I'm not really sure what all this is about. But I know that it's really big noise in the United States right now. It draws millions of viewers and users, and it involves a lot of really great career paths in marketing and business in technology."

After remarks by STLCC Athletics Director Sharon Marquardt, Pittman was presented an STLCC eSports jersey signed by players from the team, which begins officially competing against other two-year colleges this week.

"Maybe I can be your mascot," Pittman joked as he thanked those involved for the gift.

The 1,900-square-foot eSports space, formerly occupied by the building's multipurpose room, features strategizing areas and state-of-the-art equipment, including 18 PCs and gaming systems like PlayStation 5 and Nintendo Switch, according to a Press Release sent to The Montage by the college's Communications Manager Bill Raack.

"We're so excited to kick off our eSports program, and the redeveloped space is absolutely amazing," said Marquardt in the press release. "We have a new coach, a new team, and now we have a first-class space for them to compete in."

The college's eSports coordinator and coach, Robert Cruz, said that he can't recall seeing anything like what STLCC has constructed for eSports before.

"This is a surreal space," Cruz said. "This is a space that is going to be unique in its own right, both in character and design and the overall atmosphere we bring into it. You won't find anything like this from the east to the western sea board."

Those looking to get involved with the eSports program can contact Cruz at rcruz@stlc.edu and visit the newly renovated and where athletic events

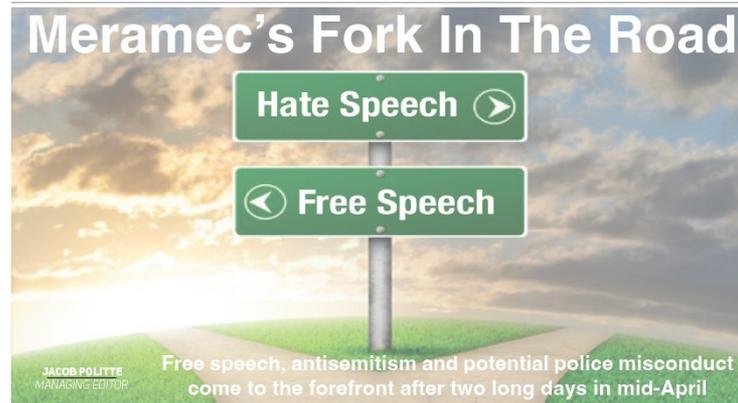


In-Depth Reporting

1st Place



Jacob Politte



On Thursday, April 11 and Monday, April 15, a religious protester who came to campus left many students and faculty upset and dissatisfied with the college's overall response. Adjacent to the situation, a separate incident has left at least one Meramec police officer under investigation and various students on campus calling for their and another officers' removal.

THE INCIDENTS

April 11
Around 11:30 am, a large crowd gathered in the Student Center Quad, their attention drawn to a man spewing anti-semitic, anti-LGBTQ rhetoric. The man, who livestreams his demonstrations on YouTube under an

account to begin with," she said. "And then I just saw a whole bunch of other Muslim students gathered and then closer to where that guy was standing, I saw just like a ton of all different kinds of students standing."

Ahmad said that during her years on campus, she was used to people in the Quad coming and interacting with students, but this man targeted her specifically after seeing her hijab.

"There are preachers or even political solicitors that come on campus, so [that's] nothing new," Ahmad said. "But as I was walking by, I was getting ready to go towards Science East, and he just started pointing and yelling at me, and I heard him say that all Muslims are pedophiles. And that's just like... that's not something I take lightly [where] I'm like, 'Well, I'm just

community because they're very wicked, and they're all terrorists.' And I remained very calm."

She continued, "I was like, 'My community's very lovely.' And then [...] he was trying to egg me on. And he was like, 'Oh, why are you such a tyrant? Why are you...?' You know, all these [statements], he was trying to get a reaction out of me. But he didn't, because I'm not someone that you can make very angry very quickly. And again, I'm one of the older students on campus. So I was very calm. And then a lot of people started watching at that point, and were seeing that I was very calm and my reaction to him. And I think that wasn't going the way he wanted it to go. I think he wanted a reaction."

A student, Emily Hall, was recorded

I think he got the news coverage. [...] He probably felt like there were words left unsaid, so he wanted to come back and insult more people."

Although Ahmad did not seek out the protester directly, he acknowledged her by name after seeing her on the sidelines.

"I did not personally engage with him, and that was very intentional. And I was already nervous to begin with, because, you know, the first thing that goes through my mind is okay, did he see the news story, he now knows my name. Before he just knew where I went to school, what time etc. So I was worried for my own safety."

"But I have to walk through that quad to get to my class," she said. "I could have tried to go through another building and then quickly, but then why

In-Depth Reporting

Honorable Mention



THE MONTAGE

2024 ELECTION GUIDE

A helpful guide to making informed choices this November

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

RYAN WINZEN
NEWS EDITOR

JACK JURSNICH
OPINIONS EDITOR

The 2024 elections are fast approaching, and there are many different seats, both locally and nationally that are up for grabs this year. Perhaps most importantly, this is a Presidential election season, but many other seats are up for grabs that could shake the foundations of the country and the local community.

For the sake of clarity, only Republican and Democratic candidates will be extensively profiled, but other candidates in the race will also be listed, with the exception of the Presidential Race section. In addition, information regarding some of the ballot measures that will appear on the ballot are listed below.

The November issue actually heads to press on election day and will be released two days afterward, so to get ahead of the curb, we are publishing our guide one issue earlier than normal. We hope that it helps potential voters to make informed decisions. An extended Election Guide that features additional and expanded sections, as well as analysis, can be found at meramecmontage.com.

As a reminder, due to the ongoing 'STLCC Transformed' projects and the resulting lack of space from them, the Meramec campus is not a polling place in this election. There are two polling places within the immediate Meramec vicinity, though: Robinson Elementary on Couch Avenue is one. In addition, the Geyer Road Baptist Church slightly up the road from campus (located at the corner of Geyer and Woodbine) will also serve as a polling location.

Missouri 2024 Ballot Measures

For the upcoming 2024 election, Missouri residents will have six ballot measures they can vote for or against. Ballot measures are proposed laws and issues that, if voted in, will change a current law or create a new one.

Amendment 2: Legalize and regulate sports wagering in Missouri

This amendment would allow licensed gambling entities to offer sports betting through online platforms and in-person gambling locations to individuals 21 years of age and over. As of October 2024, only 38 states and the District of Columbia have legalized sports betting. If passed, there will be a 10% wagering tax on all revenue produced that will go towards education funding and the Compulsive Gambling Prevention Fund, which aims to help individuals overcome compulsive gambling.

Amendment 3: Amend the Missouri Constitution to provide the right for reproductive freedom

After the US Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision in June of 2022, abortion is banned in the state of Missouri, unless of a serious health risk to the mother. If this amendment passes, it will allow women to make and carry out any decisions regarding reproductive health, which includes abortion, childbirth, and postpartum care.

Jacob Politte
Ryan Winzen
Jack Jursnich

Investigative Reporting

1st Place



The MONTAGE

SERVING THE ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MERAMEC COMMUNITY SINCE 1964 • ACP AWARD RECIPIENT

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 3

NOV. 7, 2024

WWW.MERAMECMONTAGE.COM

Former Professor sues STLCC, three administrators

Details emerge on what led to Dr. Emily Neal's departure from Meramec

Jacob Polittle

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

Over two years after her abrupt removal from STLCC, former Meramec Political Science Professor Emily Neal has filed a lawsuit against Meramec's Dean Patrick Mallory, Meramec Campus President Faecia Moore-Davis, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Andrew Langrehr and the college as a whole for employment discrimination and unlawful retaliation.

In court documents exclusively found on PACER and filed on Oct. 21, Dr. Neal alleges that the actions, omissions and decisions by these individuals and the institution were designed to cause and will continue to cause her to lose wages, compensation, entitlement and rights. She also alleges that their actions have caused her to suffer humiliation and harm to her reputation, emotional and mental injuries, pain and suffering and other adverse consequences.

Specifically, in the recent court filing, Neal alleges that the defendants engaged in the following actions:

- Targeting Dr. Neal with

her and administrative members. Neal, who had been employed by the college since 2009 and had previously served as President of the Faculty Union, had notably clashed with STLCC's leadership over the years, and specifically during Chancellor Jeff Pittman's ongoing tenure.

In this lawsuit, she details a few of those incidents, including an incident in 2017 where she received a written reprimand for comments she made during one of her classes about the college's Board of Trustees, which she says was contrary to the college's policies at the time. She argues that this incident was retaliatory and in response to her public opposition of the college's "reduction in force" proposal, a hot-button issue for the college at the time.

Another retaliatory incident that she claims took place in 2021, where she claims she was reprimanded again for what the college alleged was "improper word choice and tone" in an email to a colleague regarding their unauthorized access to one of Neal's online class spaces. In that email, she told the employee that if the issue was not addressed, she would file a union grievance, and the college accused her

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS IN LAWSUIT

EMILY M. NEAL VS. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF ST. LOUIS COURTS, MISSOURI

The College disciplined Dr. Neal for what it alleged was improper word choice and tone in an April 2021 email and essentially accused her of flouting the other employee. Dr. Neal grieved this discipline and it was overturned on February 23, 2023.

Dr. Neal filed an Employee Equity Complaint with the College and against Dean Mallory in connection with the overturned April 2021 discipline. Dr. Neal's complaint alleged that she was being discriminated against because of her female sex.

On or about August 16, 2022, prior to the start of the fall semester, Dr. Neal spoke to several of her departmental colleagues at an off-campus lunch on certain matters of public concern namely:

a. Adversely that she had been informed that a senior administrator permitted their child to bypass the waitlist for enrollment in a popular degree program.

b. Adversely that she had been informed that a senior administrator was engaged in an affair with a subordinate that reported to the administrator; and

c. Adversely that she had been informed that a former senior administrator was engaged in an affair with someone who was the former administrator's subordinate when the administrator was with the College.

Less than two weeks later, on August 30, 2022, Defendant Mallory instructed Dr. Neal that she could not return to her classroom until they meet. This instruction was given contrary to College policy which required him to obtain the Department of Human Resources' prior approval.

On September 6, 2022, Dean Mallory issued a memo to Dr. Neal's entire Department regarding her allegedly "inflammatory comments." The memo advised that the College was

Investigative Reporting

3rd Place



Who's Suing STLCC?

STLCC's General Counsel offers insight into who is suing the college and why

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

Over the years, St. Louis Community College has been involved in an extensive history of litigation, including multitudes of cases in recent years concerning employee discrimination and intimidation, personal injuries and other matters. Two recent cases involved those who were former long-time college employees.

Cleldennenn replaces Singer
Over the course of researching the matter, The Montage was informed that the college has a new General Counsel.

Any Cleldennenn joined the college in mid-January 2024 following the departure of Lucy Singer; she most recently worked as the General Counsel for Truman State University, her alma mater. Prior to that, she worked for close to 15 years in private practice, including 13 years working at Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C.

"They represent primarily K-12 school districts and higher education institutions," Cleldennenn said. "So I've been in education law pretty much my whole career. Public education is a passion of mine."

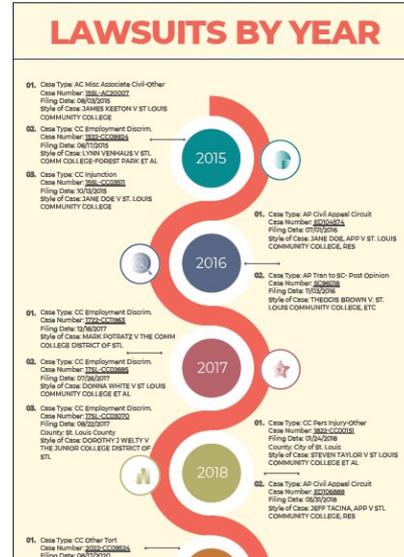
Cleldennenn said that while she enjoyed working at Truman State, family ties brought her back to the St. Louis area. She says her role as General Counsel for STLCC may have some different responsibilities than her role at Truman was, but spoke to what she has done in the past and what she expects to do in her new role.

"Aside from the litigation, I review a lot of contracts. I work with HR closely on any type of personnel issues [and] potential conflicts," she said. "I work with Student Services, if there's an issue of student has a concern or complaint that might potentially lead to litigation, a lot of what I do and why any university or college would have a general counsel, or an attorney in house is to try to prevent litigation from happening to try to solve problems before they occur."

She continued, "And so I tend to be pretty conservative in my advice, and I tend to say 'how can we fix this potential problem before it gets worse?' So that tends to be my strategy. [It] doesn't always work, but I do what I can."

A prelude to the cases

The Montage reached out to several parties involved or named in the court documents. The only person to respond to a request for comment was Chancellor Jeff Pittman, who declined to speak on the cases other than to



Jacob Politte

Column

Honorable Mention



Jacob Politte

Jake's Take: Sweet Zombie Linda

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

It's been a few weeks since Donald Trump won the presidential election, and his administration is starting to take shape. Many of his picks have raised eyebrows and alarms, even if some of them ultimately have already failed or stepped aside, like Matt Gaetz as attorney general. One pick that is likely to be confirmed, but will also have ramifications, is the appointment of Linda McMahon for Secretary of Education.

For better or worse, I'm intimately aware of Linda McMahon's activities outside of politics. I've openly talked about my love of pro wrestling in these columns, as well as my disgust when it's warranted. Recently, in the last year, I've talked about the allegations against Vince McMahon, who was credibly accused of sex trafficking and was fully exiled from the company he created as a result (after previously being exiled briefly in 2022 for other sexual misconduct and embezzlement). But he didn't create and run the company to the heights of success that it reached alone.

Scan the
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rest of this
piece.



Entertainment Review

Honorable Mention



'Perihelion' is a good start to continuing the 'X-Files' canon
New X-Files book requires knowledge of 11 seasons of television and two feature films

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

"The X-Files: Perihelion" is not for those who are not familiar with the entire series mythology that lasted, in total, from the fall of 1993 to the spring of 2018. In particular, Claudia Gray's novel, which hit stands earlier this summer, focuses a not insignificant amount of time untangling and retoning the convoluted and controversial mythology arc that was previously explained on screen in Season 11, during the show's "revival" years.

But while newer readers may be overwhelmed, longtime fans of the franchise may truly love the amount of care and nostalgia that can be found in "Perihelion." It's a love letter to die-hard fans, even if there are some minor issues. It's a different way of presenting an "X-Files" story, and the ending, while being a far more hopeful one than the series originally ended on (twice), is open to the point where even more stories can be told by Gray.

Admittedly, there are a not insignificant amount of passages that fall into that "telling, not showing" trope that some stories fall into. But on the flip side of that coin, that trope

benefits the narrative in a major way that other X-Files properties have failed to capitalize on: it allows Fox Mulder and Dana Scully to talk things out in a way we have never seen, which carries its own kind of weight. Mulder and Scully ARE the brand at this point more than any other monster of the week or recurring villain, and "Perihelion" leans into the domesticity and affection between the two in a way that the franchise has never allowed before.

Fans may really enjoy seeing those discussions play out, and they'll likely appreciate Gray's retons of some Season 11 plot points that greatly upset the fanbase (especially one particularly gross plotline in particular). These retons, teases of other appearances and other plot lines left in limbo, set the stage for more adventures down the line if Gray continues to write them. We may not ever see Gillian Anderson suit up as Scully again, but it's easy to imagine her voice in Gray's writing. The same goes for David Duchovny's Mulder. It's a great continuation with (hopefully) more fun and proper closure to come.



Jacob
Politte

Feature Photo

3rd Place



Nina Gomez



PHOTO BY NINA GOMEZ

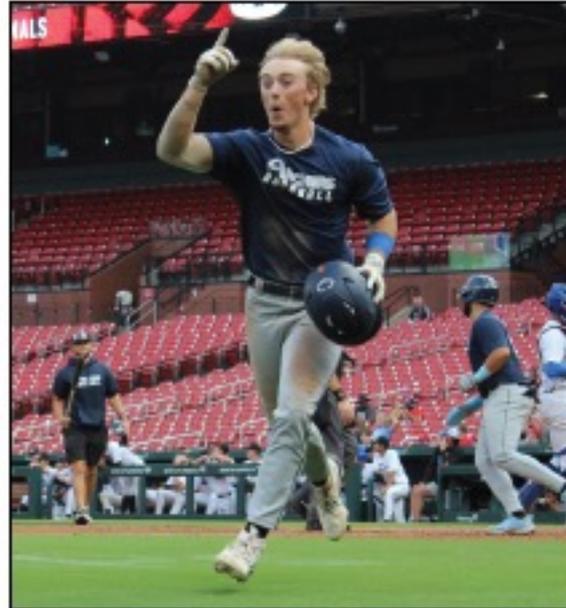
STORIES FROM INSIDE ADVANCED CERAMICS: Students from advanced ceramics gather around the kiln on campus nov. 22, viewing their creations. Fueled with life stories about art, love and hobbies, the class has a lot to share. Learn more about their perspectives on ceramics on p. 5.

Sports Photo

1st Place

MCMA


**Lucas
Segall**



Information Graphic

1st Place



Who's Suing STLCC?

STLCC's General Counsel offers insight into who is suing the college and why

JACOB POLITTE
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"They represent primarily K-12 school districts and higher education institutions," Clendennen said. "So I've been in education law pretty much my whole career. Public education is a passion of mine."

Clendennen said that while she enjoyed working at Truman State, family ties brought her back to the St. Louis area. She says her role as General Counsel for STLCC may have some different responsibilities than her role at Truman was, but spoke to what she has done in the past and what she expects to do in her new role.

"Aside from the litigation, I review a lot of contracts. I work with HR closely on any type of personnel issues [and] potential conflicts," she said. "I work with Student Services, if there's an issue of student has a concern or complaint that might potentially lead to litigation, a lot of what I do and why any university or college would have a general counsel, or an attorney in house is to try to prevent litigation from happening to try to solve problems before they occur."

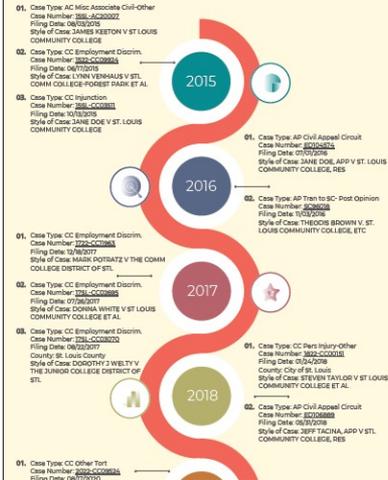
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A pretide to the cases

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Jacob Politte

LAWSUITS BY YEAR



Information Graphic

2nd Place



College Transfer Guide

Looking to stay in the state after STLCC?
Take a look at some options

RYAN WINZEN
NEWS EDITOR

After completing classes at STLCC-Meramec, some students have plans to move on to other colleges or universities. Some important factors to determine is which school would be the best for transfer, based on the cost, type of programs/majors offered and credit transferability. If your plan is to stay local - in Missouri - check out what Missouri colleges and universities have to offer.

Ryan Winzen

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI ST. LOUIS (UMSL)
INSTATE TUITION: \$14,560 PER SEMESTER
OUT OF STATE TUITION: \$24,032 PER SEMESTER
ACCEPTANCE RATE: 51%
LOCATION: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
BEST KNOWN PROGRAMS: BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, NURSING



ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY (SLU)
INSTATE TUITION: \$27,380 PER SEMESTER
OUT OF STATE TUITION: \$27,380 PER SEMESTER
ACCEPTANCE RATE: 81%
LOCATION: ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
BEST KNOWN PROGRAMS: BUSINESS, ENGINEERING, HEALTH SCIENCES

LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY
INSTATE TUITION: \$9,950 PER SEMESTER
OUT OF STATE TUITION: \$9,950 PER SEMESTER
ACCEPTANCE RATE: 74%
LOCATION: ST. CHARLES



SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY (SEMO)
INSTATE TUITION: \$1,247 PER SEMESTER
OUT OF STATE TUITION: \$1,247 PER SEMESTER
ACCEPTANCE RATE: 46%
LOCATION: CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI
BEST KNOWN PROGRAMS: BIOLOGY, JOURNALISM, LIBERAL ARTS/HUMANITIES



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI (MU)
INSTATE TUITION: \$7,770 PER SEMESTER
OUT OF STATE TUITION: \$14,560 PER SEMESTER
ACCEPTANCE RATE: 79%
LOCATION: COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
BEST KNOWN PROGRAMS: HEALTH SCIENCES, JOURNALISM, BUSINESS

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTATE TUITION: \$8,601 PER SEMESTER
OUT OF STATE TUITION: \$14,560 PER SEMESTER



Story Illustration

Honorable Mention



Jacob
Politte



On Thursday, April 11 and Monday, April 15, a religious professor who came to campus left many students and faculty upset and dissatisfied with the college's overall response. Adjacent to the situation, a separate incident has left at least one Meramec police officer under investigation and various students on campus calling for their and another officers' removal.

THE INCIDENTS

April 11
Around 11:30 am, a large crowd gathered in the Student Center Quad, their attention drawn to a man speaking anti-semitic, anti-LGBTQ rhetoric. The man, who livestreams his demonstrations on YouTube under an

community because they're very wicked, and they're all terrorists.' And I remained very calm."
She continued, "I was like, 'My community's very lovely!' And then [...] he was trying to egg me on. And he was like, 'Oh, why are you such a tyrant? Why are you...?' You know, all these [statements], he was trying to get a reaction out of me. But he didn't, because I'm not someone that you can make very angry very quickly. And again, I'm one of the older students on campus. So I was very calm. And then a lot of people started watching at that point, and were seeing that I was very calm and my reaction to him. And I think that wasn't going the way he wanted it to go. I think he wanted a reaction."

campus to begin with," she said. "And then I just saw a whole bunch of other Muslim students gathered and then closer to where that guy was standing, I saw just like a ton of all different kinds of students standing."

Ahmad said that during her years on campus, she was used to people in these [statements], he was trying to get a reaction out of me. But he didn't, because I'm not someone that you can make very angry very quickly. And again, I'm one of the older students on campus. So I was very calm. And then a lot of people started watching at that point, and were seeing that I was very calm and my reaction to him. And I think that wasn't going the way he wanted it to go. I think he wanted a reaction."

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A student, Emily Hall, was recorded

I think he got the news coverage. [...] He probably felt like there were words left unsaid, so he wanted to come back and insult more people."

Although Ahmad did not seek out the protester directly, he acknowledged her by name after seeing her on the sidelines.

"I did not personally engage with him, and that was very intentional. And I was already nervous to begin with, because, you know, the first thing that goes through my mind is okay, did he see the news story, he now knows my name. Before he just knew where I went to school, what time etc. So I was worried for my own safety."

"But I have to walk through that quad to get to my class," she said. "I could have tried to go through another building and then quickly, but then why

Page One

2nd Place

Jacob Polittle

Design

The MONTAGE

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VOLUME 69 ISSUE 6 MARCH 7, 2024 WWW.MERAMECMONTAGE.COM



Who's Suing STLCC?

STLCC's General Counsel offers insight into who is suing the college and why

JACOB POLITTE

Over the years, St. Louis Community College has been involved in an extensive history of litigation, including arbitrations of cases in recent years concerning employee discrimination and infestation, personal injuries and other matters. This month case involved those who were former long-time college employees.

Chadesteven explains Slinger. Over the course of researching the matter, The Montage was informed that the college has a new General Counsel. Any claimants listed the college in mid-January 2024 following the departure of Lacy Slinger, the most recently worked at the General Counsel for Truman State University, her alma mater. Prior to that, she worked for close to 13 years in private practice, including 13 years working at Tuam, Koeny, Cooper, Mohan & Jickelstadt, P.C.

"They represent primarily K-12 school districts and higher education institutions," Chadesteven said. "I've been in education for pretty much my whole career. Public education is a passion of mine."

Chadesteven said that while she enjoyed working at Truman State, family ties brought her back to the St. Louis area. She says her role as General Counsel for STLCC may have some dissent responsibilities than her role at Truman was, but aside to what she has done in the past and what she expects to do in her new role.

"Aside from the litigation, I review a lot of contracts, I work with HR closely on any type of personnel issues [and] potential conflicts," she said. "I work with financial services, if there is an internal controls or compliance that might potentially lead to litigation, a lot of what I do and why any university or college would have a general counsel, or an attorney is focused on trying to prevent litigation from happening to try to solve problems before they occur." She continued, "and that lead to the penny conversation in my office, and I tend to say 'how can we fix this potential problem before it gets worse?' So that leads to my strategy. [It] doesn't always work, but I do what I can."

A preview to the cases: The Montage reached out to several parties involved or named in the documents. The only person who declined to speak for the case either filed to indicate that "college that cannot comment on personnel issues or pending litigation."

The two plaintiffs in these cases were long-time employees of the college, a fact that Chadesteven speculates is not something the college should do. "The college has so many employees and you're talking about two out of the thousands it all pretty new. So my hope is that if there were problems in the past, that out of the reasons to have a new administration, or one of the things that they were focused on is making sure not to repeat past mistakes." Chadesteven also said she doesn't think that the amount of litigation the college is involved in is a cause for concern.

"I think every employee, every business is going to be involved in litigation, because the reality is, you know, I can review a situation," she said. "I can give my opinion that we're doing everything right, go ahead and proceed, and we can still get sued. Anybody can sue anybody for any reason. Now how far that goes, obviously, depends on the merits of what you're claiming."

"The college has hired outside legal representation for many of its cases, including the two being discussed the following pages. Chadesteven says this is a normal practice.

"It's just not possible to handle the litigation for the college and also do all of the other day-to-day stuff that I have to do," she said. "So the college has outside counsel from a variety of law firms to handle, not just lawsuits, but if there are disputes that arise that may potentially lead to litigation. Or sometimes if it's like even negotiating, or a real estate lease. Things like that, we may have outside counsel that Chadesteven continued, "and then my role is really just to oversee the other lawyers who are working on those matters and make sure that they're meeting deadlines, and that, you know, I personally like to review everything that they prepare to file. So that, you know, I know that it's up to the quality that we expect."

continued on pg. 2



Editorial/Op-Section

1st Place



OPINIONS 11

May 2, 2024

STLCC Refuses To Take Accountability For Student Safety

College leadership heavily misses the mark

LILLIAN THUM
STAFF WRITER

Recently on the Meramec campus, there were two major events that unfolded that challenged how our understanding of freedom of speech should be balanced with our expectations for a safe campus. The preacher, live-streaming on YouTube was only one aspect of discontent, with his rhetoric and hate speech against Muslims and transgender people, disgusted many of us at Meramec.

In my humble opinion, I agree with the students who spoke with The Message for this issue: the campus response to these events was lackluster, with no open forum for us to discuss the events with little action being taken, but many excuses made. One related story on pg. 1, 3, 4-5.

However, that's only one issue of a multifaceted incident. Campus police also found themselves embroiled in scandal, with their verbal conduct toward students being called into question. Allegedly, one of the police officers in question has had many reports made about him for similar behavior but nothing has come from

it. This is completely unacceptable behavior, especially when the officers in question have firearms and are charged with protecting students. Who is it to say the officers in question

"STLCC is a conservative college with a progressive coat of paint"

wouldn't fire at a student when given the chance? The response is always about protection, but most shooters are white supremacist and many officers are aligned with that.

What else has happened that went unreported, as students have an obligation? Did the other officers protect them? The response is always we will look into it and "we are updating our rules" but arguably, personal information regarding names and social media handles) queer and Muslim students. Students had to

be the staff not putting pressure on the bureaucracy? Challenge it! Organize! Work together with students to make a point that this is unacceptable! Being told an officer is only an excuse,

body up to feel safe. The response to this was the Campus Forum held in Humanities East. I understand there are legal challenges as well as the ethics of live speech, but he was actively disrupting campus and threatening safety and the school barely did anything. Music that was played loudly to drown him out was turned off. Why were the rules not changed earlier? What actions are being taken to make it so students on this wonderfully diverse campus feel safe?

It's out of our hands" or "bureaucracy" is an excuse. You have freedom of speech too! That it's not only be live-streaming, likely with ads, but the shooting of students is simply unacceptable, and should not be allowed back onto the campus for that reason alone.

Is that world is that not a risk? How can students and staff feel safe if there are live-streams taken to protect not? STLCC is a conservative college with a progressive coat of paint. Staff writer Jack Jursnich also wrote a piece discussing his experience to the events surrounding the religious protester. Read that piece on meramecmessage.com.

Age: Another Form of Division

Discussing the dangers of ageism

JACK JURSNICH
STAFF WRITER

Ever since being a kid going into high school, I have observed prejudice between age groups growing larger over time. I can't say this, though, was once somewhat before my time but it has grown significantly through my life, especially in the past decade, where terms like "baby boomer" and "millennials" are thrown around loosely as labels of identities.

Categorization of age is somewhat necessary for identifying a person, but these age groups have been generalized and inflated to feel other people are alienated. Some parents will recognize themselves as superior because their child is younger. Most children will see their parents as an all-time form of authority and control. The trend I am used to seeing is from us, old, boomers to Millennials, but now current trends have become of Millennials vs. Gen Z.

The division has multiplied the gaps between ages, have widened further and further, and I find it ironic.

Normally, when it comes to something as ridiculous as this, it wouldn't take it seriously, but the acceptance of such a form of prejudice has become so widespread. Typical forms of prejudice like racism and sexism are met with incredible backlash - anyone posting a racist

or sexist post could receive hate comments or be reported - but when I see a self-proclaimed Millennial posting how they hate Gen Z or boomers, the comments will often raise in acceptance and agreement.

Viewing Gen Z as the "future" or Boomers killing on Gen Z, there may not be any real sense of agreement, but this type of prejudice is acceptable and normalized, that as someone would say, judging someone based on their skin or gender is overly childish, right? I find it ridiculous that the same is not said for judging based on age. If I can't say generalized statements about a specific race or gender, what makes it acceptable for me to say something like "Gen Z is lazy" or "Boomers killed the American Dream" or anything of the sort?

Age has become a political hot bed and is often a person's credibility. Like when the age of Congress and the Senate are used to represent incompetence. Too often do I see Republicans wanting more government officials because the current ones are "too old!"

Arguably, someone could show me that Millennial thinking up during a press conference and say "he three because he's super old!" and I would counter with "was it because he's old or because his mental state is declining?" Age needs to correlate with a person's health and capability, but age is in the cause. There are plenty of 60-70 year



Karavinsky Senator Mike McCormack (D-Ill.) speaks at a press conference in 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

old men and women who are capable of doing physical and mental challenges, and there are some who are not; their abilities are not defined by their age but by how well they care for their health, and sometimes get. Under the same logic, all three should be unacceptable, but age discrimination seems to go about person was born with and cannot alter, I think it's fair to say the dangers of age

discrimination are potentially equal to that of racism or sexism.

The difference with ageism here is that it has become normalized and lacks the same criticism that racism and sexism get.

Under the same logic, all three should be unacceptable, but age discrimination seems to go about person was born with and cannot alter, I think it's fair to say the dangers of age

Lillian Thum Jack Jursnich

Sports Section

1st Place

Jacob Politte
Lucas Segall
Emily Weber



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VOLUME: 66, ISSUE 2 OCT. 3, 2024 WWW.MERAMECMONTAGE.COM

STLCC Archers Return To BUSCH STADIUM for annual game

Archers Baseball falls short, but still get to play on the field of dreams

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

It has become a nearly tradition for STLCC Archers baseball returned to Busch Stadium to play a game on October 3rd. This year's game took place following the St. Louis Cardinals' winning effort against the Cleveland Guardians. The Archers did their best against East Central College, with the final score being 2-0 in the end of an eight inning game. The game drew the game over to a sixth inning. The game was considered a scrimmage game for the National Junior College Athletic Association, therefore an official score will be recorded by the NJCAA.

With Busch Stadium came its draft, many stars throughout the game, including hitting a home run that gave the Archers a lead of two runs in the sixth. The game also served a notable role during the game. Archers' finished with a score of two runs and 10 hits. More pictures from this event can be found on page 11 of this issue.



PHOTOS BY LUCAS SEGALL, EMILY WEBER AND JACOB POLITTE

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- Electronics Guide pg. 7-5
- Business Guide pg. 7
- Options pg. 9-11
- Events pg. 11

12SPORTS

Oct. 3, 2024

Archers at Busch Stadium (Cont. from p. 1)



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: THE ARCHERS WERE BACK IN THE ORIGINAL JACKSON FLOORING STADIUM OF ST. LOUIS. BUSCH STADIUM FANS ENJOYED THE ENTERTAINMENT AND SCORING A HOME RUN. STLCC ARCHER AT THE TOP SCREEN AT BUSCH STADIUM THE LAST INNING OF THE GAME, FROM ARCHER'S SIDE.



Sports Section

2nd Place

Heather Kenyon Jacob Politte Emily Weber



12SPORTS

April 4, 2024

STLCC Yoga Instructor Keeps the Faith

HEATHER KENYON
CONTRIBUTOR

Originally from Springfield, Missouri, Bethann Bogosian was a child of a blended family with five siblings. It was a really big high school. A yoga instructor at STLCC-Memphis, Bogosian said she never would've expected herself to be the way she is.

"Depression had a big effect on upbringing," Bogosian said, her tone coloring as she delved into her past. Through she wasn't diagnosed until college, she said as well as at the time she struggled with depression, but didn't know it, living with her dad in Springfield. Once in college, Bogosian said she saw a psychiatrist and was officially diagnosed. "Always called myself a life bloomer, social for sure," she said about her upbringing as she stretched her mostly hip-length red hair to the side.

Bogosian also grew up with a few religious influences. Her dad's side is Irish and her mother's side is Irish, Italian, and her mother's side is Irish, Italian, and her mother's side is Irish, Italian. As a teenager, Bogosian also attended Altamonte Springs, created for teens struggling with a family member's substance abuse. Bogosian found aspects of spirituality when these meetings, she said, her hands gesturing freely. "The influence of being present and being present in my consciousness," she said.

When she was in the same across the School of Metaphysics in Webster, and attended her meetings for three months, Bogosian said, acknowledging the impact of spirituality was her life. "It's a really spiritual process," she added, she explained that the meetings included discussion on spirituality, reincarnation, concentration, and mindfulness.

"I hated school," Bogosian said with a very grin. "I just wanted to work, make money, move out of my parent's house," she said. Bogosian described herself as a very independent. Bogosian ultimately didn't graduate college, but she was in and transitioned to work in education, teaching kindergarten and first grade for 13 years, at a local parochial school. "Whenever I get a chance I work with kids," she said.

Bogosian was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2009, she said, from which she has recovered. However, in that time, she practiced yoga when recovering from a major "bone surgery," she said. "That's when I really started. It was ending. I was growing," she said.

"The world offers the yoga classes, she said, and got to be friends with one of her teachers, who urged her to become a yoga teacher herself. "The suit advanced, I can't do that," Bogosian initially said. However, in her last year of teaching kindergarten, she received certification for teaching yoga to children.

"When she left teaching kindergarten, she decided her job at STLCC-Memphis, teaching yoga to college students. Right after that, Bogosian founded "Yoga For You," a nonprofit organization aimed at making yoga accessible to underserved and communities and at-risk youth. Bogosian was initially discouraged and uncertain she was afraid she couldn't do it at first. She put it on the back burner for a few years, but when the Child Development Learning Center was added to Memphis, "It hit me. I'm going to do it. I'm going to go back to



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BETHANN BOGOSIAN

my nonprofit," she said confidently. "If I get a chance to do, even to give Bogosian said when reflecting on her journey. "I just want to be on the floor and heal, and I want them to find joy and peace," she said.

As Bogosian reflects on her journey, she acknowledges the transformative power of self-discovery and personal growth. "I have to get over myself, over my self-doubt and low self-esteem, my feeling of not being enough and just work my way out of it," she said, her voice steady. Through her personal journey of self-discovery, she has

developed a deep sense of purpose and a commitment to ongoing growth, aiming to positively influence those she encounters, she said.

"I learn from my students; I learn from everything," Bogosian said. Looking ahead, Bogosian remains driven by her passion and purpose for helping others as she sees it, "You give attention you'll find it. It'll be right there. It'll be right in front of your eyes. When asked to relay a message to young students, Bogosian smiled and shared, "Keep the faith baby, keep the faith."

STLCC Extends Fitness Center Hours in PE 105-106

JACOB POLITTE
MANAGING EDITOR

Just after the conclusion of Spring Break, STLCC's Fitness Center expanded its hours for free among STLCC students, staff and faculty. While the Willowood campus has been left without a campus fitness center the rest of the college's campuses host one, including Memphis.

Alex Reeves, one of the attendants on duty at the Memphis location, said the center had previously been open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and a half hour prior to the extended hours being instituted. She estimated an increased amount of foot traffic in the room lately.

"It's picking up," Reeves said. He also said that classes are still hosted in the facility.

The Memphis location is located, fittingly, in the PE building on its bottom floor. It's open weekdays through Friday from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. On the college website, Memphis's Fitness Center is described as being "perfect for all of your fitness goals providing a full-body

Obese circuit, dual-adjustable pulley machine, four-station functional machine studio, multi-station cable unit, group training suspension bars, free weights, dumbbells and barbells up to 300 lbs and a full line of cardio equipment.

Before using the equipment, participants need to register for and undergo a free brief training module that goes over the Center's policies, as well as general fitness and workout information. Registration for these modules be accessed through the college's website. The college's website shouldn't take longer than 15 to 30 minutes to complete. Once a participant has completed the course, they'll need to fill out some additional information and complete liability.

When arriving at the fitness center for the first time, participants will need to inform the attendant on duty that it is their first visit and that they have completed their course. At that point, the attendant will

verify that the appropriate documents are in order and may ask for additional registration information that will be entered into the Center's check-in system. Participants will need to be photographed, and then will receive a key tag that they'll use to scan in each time they use equipment in the Fitness Center area.

While the training modules can be

seamlessly completed online, they also can be completed in person at the Fitness Center if one so chooses.

Any patron who has any additional questions about center hours, the Fitness Center Coordinator Tony Daniels at tdaniels@stlcc.edu or Family Supervisor Joe Sudders at jsudders@stlcc.edu.

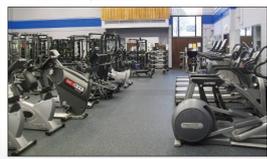


PHOTO BY EMILY WEBER

Photo Page

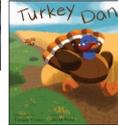
1st Place

Hiba Obeed



4 ART & LIFE

Nov. 7, 2024



Meramec's Annual Portfolio Day

Students exhibit art, recruiters present opportunities

HIBA OBEED
STAFF

Meramec's annual Portfolio Day took place on October 30th. Hosted by Secretary Dan Bess and Professor of Art Jim Ihler, this was a day where students had the chance to request wall spaces, booths, or both to showcase their art across the hallways on both floors of the Humanities East building.

Recruiters represented Missouri state schools such as University of Missouri St. Louis, Kansas City Art Institute, Maryville University, Washington University, Webster University, as well as out of state schools including Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

But what does this day mean for the arts students?
"So, I think it's a really powerful vehicle for students," said Professor

Jim Ihler. He went on, "It's the practice of interviewing, the practice of speaking about your work, the practice of having your work seen, which is a little outside of our comfort zone."
Professor Ihler teaches STLCC Meramec's Ceramics class, and he said he's seen past portfolio days transform students' lives.
"There are students who have had such a powerful interview with that school that sometimes the school waves their own entrance for the portfolio part and on that part alone I've seen it, you're good, just apply to the program now, and let's see what kind of scholarship support we can get it for you."

According to Professor of Art & J. J. Ihler, Portfolio Day doesn't only require students to show their art skills, but also how they communicate. "It also allows them to use their communication skills to speak to the recruiters that's as important as their art skills are," he said. "I try to teach my students that they really need to be able to write eloquently as well, and you know, right here we have the resources in this school."

For professors like Ihler, it's easy to identify skilled students.
"Some of them are like, for instance, Dante," he said. "She is good enough that she could surpass an entry level position and be able to be brought into the field."

But who is Dante? Bobelana "Dante" Bobelova is a Ukrainian student at STLCC, and this year has been their second year participating in Portfolio Day.
"I got a lot of likes and good feedback from different colleges and universities I talked to. I even got the opportunity to transfer to Webster because they really liked the work that I showed," Bobelova said. "But for some reason, I just decided to stay here and finish my major."

Although art students may be equipped with many mediums, some may prefer or excel in just one or two. In Bobelova's case, she says "I really like graphic kinds of styles, like traditional filling graphics, not that I'm not so good with colors. It's just, you know, I feel more comfortable with black and white."
Some of the pieces that she decided

PHOTOS BY HIBA OBEED.
UNASSISTED ARTWORK BY BOBELANA BOBELOVA AND TEGANAH PRISBY.

to show on portfolio day were more experimental. "I keep experimenting. I use not only the usual black and white ink, but black light also, so in some of my art, my illustrations have like hidden invisible ink."

For other students such as Teagan Prisby, Portfolio Day means an opportunity for critique.
"I think this portfolio I put together really shows my skills on, but if I have the chance to have somebody who does it for a living, be like they, this would be awesome! It'll just be very helpful for me with my professional development," says Prisby.

Unlike Bobelova, Prisby's art work leans more to digital mediums. Generally, I do a lot of digital illustrations, so just like at home on my free program," she said. "But I do enjoy some traditional. Hama's like painting and we've made some really good zine projects."

Photo Page

2nd Place

Jacob Politte
Lucas Segall
Emily Weber



12SPORTS

Oct. 3, 2024

Archers at Busch Stadium (Cont. from p. 1)



Feature Page

1st Place

Jacob Politte



6 ART & LIFE

May 2, 2024

How Well Do You Know Meramec Professors?

While many students learn about the subject matter in the classroom, STLC's Meramec's Student Government Association decided to give students more insight about a level of Meramec's professors. In the second part of this series, we'll find spotlights from professors on campus in a variety of academic departments, sharing more about their personal lives and their advice for students.

Want to know more about Meramec professors? Stop by during office hours, chat after class or inquire about their favorite activities on campus to see the human side of the one leading your class each day. You can also find more professor profiles online at meramecstg.com.

LISA WILKINSON

Professor of English



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS AIMING TO EXCEL IN YOUR FIELD OF STUDY OR PROFESSION?

Look for opportunities to write, read widely and meet people who are from different countries and cultures. Be curious.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE STUDENTS TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR CLASSES BEYOND THE SUBJECT MATTER?

I want students to know that success is possible and every one needs to take advantage of faculty as a resource and all of the other services that are available on our campus such as tutoring and counseling, food resources, visiting colleges for transfer, and campus life activities to help create and improve relationships with the campus community. I want students to know that I care about them as people and as students.

SAHAR JOAKIM, PH.D

Professor of Philosophy



WHAT DO YOU HOPE STUDENTS TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR CLASSES BEYOND THE SUBJECT MATTER?

I hope my students become critical thinkers so that whatever topic they are faced with in the future, they have learned the tools for thinking about the topic in the right way, to ask the question questions to the extent and for the right reasons.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF TEACHING AT STLC?

The students who come to class having done the homework and start class with a question about it are my favorite part of teaching at STLC. These are the ones who are not waiting for the professor to "lecture" the answer or upon feed their mind.

ELIZABETH GAIL FONTENOT GRANIER

Professor of Biology



WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE OR RESEARCH INTEREST, AND WHAT SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN THIS FIELD?

Anatomical Physiology as well as the Air Force for 5 years and hoped to become an Astronaut. I also did research in Cardiovascular Physiology in my PhD learning heavily into my background of exercise, metabolism and muscle physiology.

MARY DUNHAM

Professor of Math



WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE OR RESEARCH INTEREST, AND WHAT SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN THIS FIELD?

Mathematics, Music, Love Topology. Always loved solving problems.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF TEACHING AT STLC?

The students are great. They are looking to improve their lives.

GETTING

TO

KNOW

YOU

Feature Page

3rd Place



DIG INTO YOUR AREA OF INTEREST How to Transform from a Work-in Progress to a Completed Project

As you navigate the blueprint of your college career, it's important to know that students who are involved on campus tend to perform better in the classroom. If you're exploring writing and communications, sports and wellness, or art and graphic design, there are plenty of clubs, extra-curricular activities and classes to help you discover your passion. Choose an interest and learn more about classes to take, locations to visit and clubs or organizations to join while at STLCC-Meramec. There is something for everyone on campus.

Interest Area: Writing/Communications

For students who have an interest in writing and communication, Meramec offers several courses that build on that passion. With classes that focus on poetry, fiction, and public speaking, there is no shortage of classes to take. Students should keep in mind that in order to take English electives, they need to complete English 101 first.

Classes to Take

Eng 110-Creative Writing - This course focuses on sculpting students' writing abilities in fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, while also learning about the many themes, processes, and ways on creative writing.

Eng 201-Introduction to Fiction - Students will build on their current understanding of both short and long fiction and have an in-depth look at the various themes and styles of various pieces of fiction.

Com 101-Oral Communications - Teaches effective communication techniques for one-to-one, small groups, and large groups in a variety of settings, with a focus on the development of communication skills and application of communication techniques in a variety of settings.

Com 107- Public Speaking - Knock down any fears you have about public speaking as this course teaches students the research, organization, and delivery involved in public speaking, along with audience analyzing and listening skills.

Clubs/Organizations to Join

Poetry Club - Looking to share your love of reading and writing poetry with others? The Meramec Poetry Club is your answer. Discuss your favorite pieces of poetry and your own writings with other members, as well as finding others who share the same love and appreciation for poetry that you have.

The Montage - Shameless self-promotion? You don't say. What we will say is that The Montage has a decorated history of excellence, winning numerous awards in its six decades of existence, including 27 awards at this year's Missouri College Media Association conference. It's hard work, but if you have a knack for writing/photography/design, a creative mind and a willingness to ask the tough questions, The Montage may just be the place for you. Contact Faculty Adviser Shannon Sanders at ssanders147stlcc.edu.

Currents - Meramec's long-running literary magazine publishes over the summer, but accepts submissions year round. If you have a knack for writing and are looking for an outlet to express your creativity without worrying about specific, tight deadlines, contact Faculty Adviser David Taylor at dtaylor@stlcc.edu.

Interest Area: Art and Graphic Design

For students with interests in the arts and creating different pieces, Meramec offers several introductory art courses. There are a variety of different courses for different aspects of art, such as drawing, painting, and photography. For general transfer students, art courses will list the humanities and elective credits.

Classes to Take

Art 11-Figure Drawing I - Introduction class that focuses on drawing and recreating human features based off of real life models with an emphasis on structure, form, proportion, and gesture.

Art 13-Ceramics I - Focuses on constructing various different types of ceramic objects using different techniques and skills from both traditional and contemporary sculpting methods.

Art 165-Photography I - This course builds on the many uses of the camera and the techniques involved with black and white printing, as well as teaching students traditional darkroom procedures and the process of approaching subjects for photography.

Art 14-Painting I - A course for those interested in working with oil painting as well as the composition involved with painting, with priority on still life objects and the techniques used in painting.

ART 131 - Computer Art Studio - Computer Art Studio introduces students to the primary methods, practices, and software programs used in various design industries. Projects will be developed using digital illustration, photo editing, and vector design applications.

ART 155 - Graphic Design I - Graphic Design I is an introduction to visual communications with an emphasis on the foundational components and principles of the profession. Projects will employ basic layout processes, typography, concept generation, and the use of tools and materials required in the field. Contemporary and historic examples of art, design, and advertising will be studied.

Clubs/Organizations to Join

Crafting Club - Looking for a group to make and share your art with? Crafting Club is your answer. This club is focused on producing different art pieces and connecting people with artistic interests. A great organization for students who love making their own art pieces and discussing art with other students.

Locations to Visit

Meramec Art Gallery, Humanities East Room 135
Open year-round and featuring different exhibits throughout the school year, Meramec's Art Gallery is always an unique experience every single visit. Perhaps it's greatest annual exhibition is the yearly Peterson Lecture exhibit, which visits the Gallery during the middle of each fall semester.

BY: RYAN WINZEN

Ryan Winzen Lucas Segall Beatrice Johnson



Special Supplement

1st Place



Staff

The image shows the front cover of a booklet titled "THE MONTAGE PRESENTS BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE 2024-2025". The top section of the cover is dark blue and features an icon of a hard hat and tools on the left, and the text "THE MONTAGE PRESENTS" in orange and white on the right. The middle section has a white background with a faint blueprint pattern and the title "BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE 2024-2025" in large, bold, black letters. The bottom section is framed by yellow and black hazard stripes and contains the subtitle "YOUR BLUEPRINT FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS" in orange and black text.

Website 1st Place



The Montage

The student voice of St. Louis Community College – Meramec and its surrounding communities since 1964.



NEWS ART & LIFE IN-DEPTH OPINIONS SPORTS VIDEO BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE PODCASTS



HEADLINES

AI Usage At The Montage



STLCC remains stagnant with a C- grade as the "Best Place To Work"

2 Weeks Ago



Ferguson-Florissant Budget Shortfall Puts STLCC Board Chair i...

2 Weeks Ago

Ferguson-Florissant Budget Shortfall Puts STLCC Board Chair i...
Kevin Martin leads two school boards, one of which has seen controversies.

CAMPUS LIFE NEWS 2 Weeks Ago

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Letter To The Editor: AI Usage At The Montage

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OPINIONS

STLCC remains stagnant with a C- grade as the "Best Place To Work"

CAMPUS LIFE IN-DEPTH

Ferguson-Florissant Budget Shortfall Puts STLCC Board Chair i...

CAMPUS LIFE NEWS

Columbia University Student Protestor Detained by ICE

NEWS POLITICS

Staff



Best Overall 2-Year College News Paper

2nd Place



The MONTAGE

SERVING THE ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE - MERAMEC COMMUNITY SINCE 1964 - ACP-AWARD RECIPIENT

VOLUME 58 ISSUE 7 APRIL 3, 2024 WWW.MERAMECMONTAGE.COM

Shamim Ansari, American Citizen

The tenured Meramec English Professor talks about her history, her family and recently becoming an American citizen



SHAMIM ANSARI, AMERICAN CITIZEN

Professor Shamim Ansari has traveled a long road to get where she is today. The tenured Meramec English Professor, who began teaching at Meramec in 1994, spent her first years in the United States at the University of Southern California, where she earned her Ph.D. in English literature and worked as a teaching assistant.

After moving to St. Louis, she worked for several years at a publishing house. In 2001, she was hired as an adjunct professor at Meramec. Over the years, she has become a tenured professor and has been recognized for her contributions to the college. She is currently a member of the American Association of University Professors and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

She is currently a member of the American Association of University Professors and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is also a member of the St. Louis Area Council on Education and the St. Louis Area Council on the Arts.

continued on page 4

STLCC Receives Bellwether Award

The college recently won a first place award in workforce development



St. Louis Community College (MO) Show Me Success: Growing the Healthcare Workforce in St. Louis

St. Louis Community College (STLCC) was the winner of the 2024 Bellwether Award in the workforce development category. The award is presented annually by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) to recognize excellence in workforce development. STLCC's success in this category is attributed to its innovative programs and partnerships with industry leaders. The college has a long history of excellence in workforce development, and this award is a testament to its ongoing commitment to providing high-quality education and training for its students.

The MONTAGE

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VOLUME 58 ISSUE 8 MAY 2, 2024 WWW.MERAMECMONTAGE.COM

Meramec's Fork In The Road

Hate Speech ▶

Free Speech ◀

Free speech, antisemitism and potential police misconduct come to the forefront after two long days in mid-April

Two long days of protests and demonstrations at Meramec Community College in mid-April brought to the forefront issues of free speech, antisemitism, and potential police misconduct. The events, which were organized by a group of students and faculty members, drew a large crowd and resulted in a tense atmosphere on campus.

The protests began on Thursday, April 11, and continued through Friday, April 12. The demonstrators, who were mostly students, held signs and chanted slogans in support of free speech and against antisemitism. They also demanded an investigation into the potential police misconduct that occurred during the protests. The college administration and police department both issued statements regarding the events, and the situation remained tense throughout the day.

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CHOIR HOSTS ALUMNI CONCERT

The MONTAGE

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VOLUME 60 ISSUE 3 NOV. 7, 2024 WWW.MERAMECMONTAGE.COM

Former Professor sues STLCC, three administrators

Details emerge on what led to Dr. Emily Neal's departure from Meramec



JACOB POLITE, MERAMEC EDITOR

Dr. Emily Neal, a former professor at Meramec Community College, has filed a lawsuit against the college and three administrators. The lawsuit, which was filed in St. Louis County Circuit Court, alleges that Neal was wrongfully terminated and that her departure from the college was the result of a conspiracy between the college and the administrators.

Neal, who worked at Meramec for over 10 years, was terminated in 2021. She claims that the college and the administrators conspired to remove her from the college in order to cover up a scandal involving a former student. Neal's lawsuit seeks damages for wrongful termination and for the emotional distress she has suffered as a result of the lawsuit.

The college and the administrators have denied the allegations in Neal's lawsuit. They claim that Neal was terminated for reasons unrelated to the scandal and that there was no conspiracy between the college and the administrators. The lawsuit is currently pending in court, and it is expected to be resolved in the coming months.

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GENERAL ALLEGATIONS IN LAWSUIT

The lawsuit alleges that the college and the administrators conspired to remove Dr. Emily Neal from the college in order to cover up a scandal involving a former student. Neal's lawsuit seeks damages for wrongful termination and for the emotional distress she has suffered as a result of the lawsuit.

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Staff members are featured in various articles throughout the magazine, including profiles of faculty and staff members who have made significant contributions to the college. The staff members are dedicated to providing high-quality education and support to their students, and their hard work is a key factor in the college's success.

Sweepstakes Award

1st Place



Staff

