

UNIVERSITY

NEWS

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper



UMKC ditches Summit League for WAC
Sports // Page 6



Roos beats South Dakota 80-65
Sports // Page 7

Fred Chatmon scores the final dunk, ending the Roos' victory on Saturday. PHOTO//Sai Srikar Kadiyam

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- 14 Student Life** // Regional robotics competition comes to campus

Federal student loans and aggregate borrowing limits:

Stafford Subsidized:
Interest rate: 6.8 percent (variable)
Need-based; no interest accrues during enrollment.

Aggregate borrowing limits:
Undergraduate: \$23,000
Graduate/professional: \$65,500 (includes undergraduate loans)

Repayment: Six months following termination of enrollment.

Stafford Unsubsidized:
Interest rate: 6.8 percent (fixed)
Not based on financial need; interest accrues during enrollment, but doesn't have to be repaid until six months following termination of enrollment.

Aggregate borrowing limits*:
Undergraduate, dependent: \$31,000
Undergraduate, independent: \$57,500
Graduate and law: \$138,500
Health professional: \$224,000
*Includes undergraduate and subsidized loans.

Repayment: Six months following termination of enrollment.

Perkins:
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Repayment: Six months following termination of enrollment.

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Students borrow more, default rate goes up

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

Nancy Merz, Director of UMKC Financial Aid and Scholarships, cautions against excessive borrowing.

When federal student aid was created in the 1960s, Merz said, the idea was for students to borrow to cover the cost of attending school.

"Now, people use it to live on," she said. Merz said financial aid at UMKC is awarded to students based on more than 300 different budgets. Each budget varies based on factors such as a student's degree program and certain cost of living measures like food and transportation, which vary for students who live on and off-campus.

“After the economy crashed, borrowing became a safety net because parents could no longer help.”

-Nancy Merz

Loans were taken out by 75 percent of UMKC's graduating senior class in spring 2012. They averaged \$28,000 in debt each, according to Merz.

The \$106 million borrowed by more than 10,000 UMKC students in 2011 is a small chunk of more than \$1 trillion in aggregate student debt, according to the Federal Reserve Bank.

The Fed also found that student debt has increased by \$293 billion since 2008, and it became the second-greatest form of consumer debt after mortgages in 2010, surpassing credit cards.

A report by FICO Labs found that since 2005, the delinquency rate on federal student loans has increased 22 percent. This was eclipsed by the growth of student loan debt during the same period of time—58 percent.

"We can't deny anyone who's eligible for a loan," Merz said.

Online entrance and exit counseling is required of students who borrow at UMKC, but there is no credit check, except



Pocket change for Uncle Sam.

CARTOON // Aaron Cecil

for PLUS loans. Any student is eligible to borrow if he or she is not incarcerated or in default on previous federal student loans.

Students in the Six-Year Medical Program at UMKC must pass financial literacy training, but no such requirement exists for undergraduate students.

While undergraduate borrowing limits are significantly lower than those for health professional or graduate students, repayment and interest are frequently an

afterthought.

Students often see loans as quick cash, not long-term debt that can accumulate thousands of dollars in interest.

"Before the economy went bad, I think students were more careful," Merz said. "After the economy crashed, borrowing became a safety net because parents could no longer help."

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UMKC's FAFSA priority deadline approaches

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

UMKC's March 1 priority deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is quickly approaching.

In order to receive federal grants, loans or work study, or to receive need-based scholarships, students must complete the online form.

A new FAFSA option created last year, the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, automatically loads data from tax returns submitted within one-to-two weeks of electronic filing or six-to-eight weeks of filing a paper return.

This makes completing the FAFSA as simple as a few clicks, as the data pre-populates for students who submitted the form in a previous year.

The FAFSA can still be submitted using estimated income figures, but these must be updated once returns have been filed.

Those who miss the FAFSA priority deadline may lose out on financial aid opportunities.

For campus-based programs, such as the Perkins loan, federal work-study and the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), schools are given a set amount to reward each year.

Some of this money is held for the spring semester in anticipation for transfer students, which means that students who miss the priority deadline could miss out.

However, Stafford loans, PLUS loans, TEACH grants and Pell grants are Congressional entitlements, meaning schools cannot limit how much money is awarded.

March 1 is also the deadline to apply for competitive UMKC scholarships. The application must be submitted along with two letters of recommendation, at www.sfa.umkc.edu.

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UMKC junior Joseph Salazar will deliver a keynote speech about his study abroad experience in Russia during the fall semester. PHOTO // Joseph Salazar

'Breakfast Around the World' raises money for Study Abroad participants

Meredith Shea Production Manager

UMKC's International Academic Programs and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature will present the inaugural Study Abroad Scholarship Breakfast, "Breakfast Around the World," on Wednesday Feb. 13 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Student Union, Room 401.

Breakfast plates range in price from a \$20 Student Sponsorship (valid student ID required) to a \$400 Event Sponsorship that includes a table for eight and recognition in the program. There are other amounts of sponsorship, as well. Most of the proceeds will go toward Study Abroad scholarships for students.

This year's event features keynote addresses from Michelle Wimes, who received her Bachelor's of Arts in 1988 and studied abroad in Mexico and Spain with the Alumni Award scholarship, and junior Political Science and English major Joseph Salazar, who studied

abroad in Russia. "Not only did my experiences abroad both broaden my cultural horizons and allow me to perfect my language capabilities, but they propelled me to new heights in my career as a lawyer and continue to be a point of pride in my own personal and professional development," Wimes said.

Each year, there are General Study Abroad Scholarships available to students studying in any discipline, and the Professor Harris Mirkin and Kathleen Finegan Study Abroad Scholarship Endowment Fund, specifically for students studying in the College of Arts & Sciences.

For individuals unable to attend "Breakfast Around the World," gifts to the scholarship funds are accepted at ecommerce.umkc.edu/donate/non-alumni.aspx.

Online reservations are over, but individuals still wishing to attend may contact Emma Spong at 816-235-5759 or sponge@umkc.edu.

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UMKC to host "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1935" exhibition

Meredith Shea Production Manager

UMKC is set to open "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1935," a traveling exhibit from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

An opening reception for the exhibit is scheduled for this Wednesday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Dean's Gallery in the Miller Nichols Library. The free exhibit will be on display Feb. 16 -Apr. 10.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler was elected as the Reich Chancellor of Germany, putting him in a position of power. Soon after his election, the first concentration camps were built. Until his death in 1945, Hitler sought to eliminate all Communists, Social Democrats and Jews in order to establish a perfect "Aryan" race by persecuting and killing unwanted groups in concentration camps.

Lesser known is the cruelty thousands of homosexual men endured during this period, since the Nazi German regime believed they were carriers of a "degeneracy" that was bad for society. These homosexual men became victim to concentration camps, and thousands were killed just because they were gay.

Students are encouraged to attend, as they will learn about a part of the



The upside down pink triangle was used to distinguish homosexuals in concentration camps, as seen on their shirts. CREDIT // National Archives

Holocaust that was not often taught when they were young. Although Jews make up the majority of the approximate 11 million individuals killed under Nazi control, homosexuals were among them.

The exhibit is co-presented by the Division of Diversity, Access and Equity in partnership with the Kansas City Museum. It is also a project of GLAMA: the Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America.

In conjunction, the Heartland Men's Chorus will present its spring concert, "Falling in Love Again," March 23-24 at the Folly Theater.

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The MERCURY ASSOCIATION presents...

An internship brunch
FEBRUARY 19, 2013

THE DETAILS
Location: UMKC Student Union
Room #401 (Fourth floor)
5100 Cherry St. KCMO 64110
Park Pass will be provided
"Speed interviewing" sessions

YOU MUST RSVP

Building Bridges to Prosperity

DATE & TIME
Feb. 19, 2013
Please arrive at 8:45 a.m.
Breakfast served promptly at 9 (Ends at 11)

Police Blotter

Feb. 1

1:01 a.m.
Suspicious Person
Officers stopped a suspicious person at 51st and Holmes Streets who was then turned over to KCPD.

11:33 p.m.
University Rules Violation
Officers responded to the smell of marijuana in Oak Place Apts.
Feb. 2

11:40 p.m.
Disturbance
Officers responded to a noise complaint in Oak Place Apts.

1:21 a.m.
Assault
Officers responded to a disturbance on the 5400 block of Charlotte St. An assault had occurred, but no one would press charges.

8:12 p.m.
Disturbance
Officers responded to a disturbance between a juvenile and her parents at the Performing Arts Center.
Feb. 3

11:57 a.m.
Property Damage
Victim returned to find damage to his vehicle.

8:30 p.m.
Assault
Suspect pointed a gun at the victim and struck him twice with a fist at 53rd and Harrison Streets.
Feb. 4

4:00 p.m.
Property Damage
Victim's tire was punctured with an unknown tool in the Oak Place Parking Garage

12:00 p.m. Feb. 4 - 11:00 a.m. Feb. 7
Larceny
Suspect(s) removed copper from the UMKC radio tower.
Feb. 5

9:46 p.m.
Disturbance
Officers responded to a noise disturbance in Oak Place Apts.
Feb. 5-6

3 p.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Burglary
Victim left property on his desk in a locked office at the Health Science Building and returned to find it missing.
Feb. 7

3:57 p.m.
Assault
While investigating a vehicular crash at 50th and Troost Streets, a UMKC police officer was assaulted by the driver.

briefly mentioned

Relay for Life raises money for cancer research

Meredith Shea Production Manager

UMKC and Rockhurst University will host a Relay for Life event together to not only help raise money and awareness to help fight cancer, but also honor those, like student Desiree Hines and Professor David Atkinson, who lost their battles. Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. UMKC's annual Relay for Life event will be held on Apr. 5 at 6 p.m. at 1100 Rockhurst Rd. at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. This semester, UMKC students have the opportunity to win one of three free pizza parties for registering and



Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. CREDIT // Relay for Life

participating. A pizza party will be awarded to the team with the most registered participants by Feb. 18 at 11:59 p.m. in the following categories: Residential Life, Greek Life and independent teams. So far, over 35 teams and 175 participants registered, and in all they already raised over \$3,300 total. To register a team or donate money, visit www.relayforlife.org/umkcmo. You can also like the event's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UmkcRockhurstR4L. For additional answers to questions, please e-mail Relay4Life@umkc.edu. *mshea@unews.com*

School of Law recognized as a top regional school for black students

Meredith Shea Production Manager

UMKC's Law School has been selected as one of "the best law schools for black students" in the first edition of "The Black Student's Guide to Law Schools," published by On Being a Black Lawyer. Previously, UMKC's Law School has been named a "Top 20" best value in the U.S.

The "Black Student's Guide to Law Schools" was "established in 2008 to report news of import to black legal professionals." The company also produces e-newsletters, events and social media platforms to engage black legal professionals.

While UMKC does not make the "Guide's" top 25, it does make the cut for one of the best law schools in the Midwest region, whereas other schools like UCLA and Michigan are not recognized at all. No other law schools in Missouri or Kansas are recognized.

"We highly endorse the law schools that appear on our list. After months of careful and meticulous research, we are confident these law



UMKC School of Law.

PHOTO // Johanna Poppel

schools provide the clearest path to law school success for future black attorneys," said OBABL's CEO and publisher, Yolanda Young. "We are delighted to be included in the "Guide's" Top 5 Midwestern law schools." "The ranking speaks to our value, the quality of our instruction and the way our reputation drives job opportunities for our graduates in Kansas City's legal community," said Ellen Suni, dean of the UMKC School of Law. "The Black Student's Guide to Law Schools" can be viewed at www.onbeingablacklawyer.com. *mshea@unews.com*

Corrections

Jan. 22, Issue 16 "Mass shootings revisit gun control debate"

Caleb-Michael Files contributed to this article and was not given credit on the byline.

Feb. 4, Issue 18 "House on the hill"

In the sixth paragraph from the

end, it was incorrectly stated that Pearl Harbor happened in 1947. Rather, Pearl Harbor was on Dec. 7 1941.

"K-Roo offers 24/7 radio entertainment"

The photo of K-Roo in the Student Union and Lindsey Woolsey were incorrectly attributed

to Jessica Turner. The photo of K-Roo is by David Kim, and the photo of Woolsey was used with her permission.

campus art

Haag Hall murals tell of Spanish heritage



Jessica Turner Staff Writer

Many UMKC students pass the murals every day, while some have never seen them at all. They have been a part of the UMKC campus for 72 years. They are the Fresco murals in Haag Hall, painted by Luis Quintanilla, UMKC's first "artist-in-residence," and his story is anything but ordinary.

In October 1934, Quintanilla hosted the revolutionary committee of the October Revolution in Spain, and as a result began a prison term that lasted eight months, four days and three hours. Joined with other leaders, Ernest Hemingway facilitated Quintanilla's release, distributing petitions and arranging protests that sparked a movement.

Quintanilla was appointed commander of the barracks when the Spanish Civil War started in 1936, and led the attack that saved Madrid. Juan Negrin, the Premier of the Spanish Republic, assigned him to draw a series of depictions of the war, but when the Spanish Republic fell in 1939, he was forced into exile for more than 37 years, only to return to Madrid during the last two years of his life.

The artistry that Quintanilla practiced in the United States functioned as a healing process for his painful experience in Spain. Many of the figures in the Haag Hall murals were based on real people Quintanilla met at UMKC. He used many students and faculty members as models.

According to UMKC Archives, Former UMKC President, Dr. Clarence Decker, recommended that Quintanilla use the theme, "Don Quixote in the Modern World."

The Chief Engineer at UMKC, Carl Kurtz, made the wall preparations for Quintanilla to begin his masterpiece. Kurtz wound up serving as the model for Sancho Panza, and Head of the English Department Alexander Cappon was the model for Don Quixote.

"I arrived here sad and demoralized," Quintanilla said in a letter to Hemingway of his arrival to America. "I didn't know whether I should commit suicide or get married, which is to prolong life. I married. I didn't know whether to take to alcohol or work, and I worked."

"Little by little I took from my palette the bitter memories of Spain and, by dint of brush strokes, I came to find myself an individual again and to love colors as old friends who for a long time have been forgotten," he wrote.

The murals are captivating, featuring deep, rich, smooth colors, expressive faces and bodies in motion. It is easy to become lost in them if you just stop to look.

Quintanilla's son, Paul, has a website dedicated to his father at www.lqart.org. According to the site, one of the murals depicts Don Quixote standing in the middle of the people "he most admires, abstracted and dreamily distant in his pose and appearance."

"Poets, philosophers, statesmen, beautiful women, artists, happy children, ideal humanity surrounds him as he dreams oblivious to the whirling of society 'in its own fantastic carnival dance,' as my father explained it," he wrote in the panel's caption.

Paul Quintanilla is seen wearing a tiny hat in one of the paintings. He is held by his mother with a bird in her hair, who is next to his father, Luis Quintanilla, in a complete family self portrait within the mural.

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Haag Hall murals, located on the second floor, portray Don Quixote in the modern world. PHOTOS // Johanna Poppel

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A 'new era' for UMKC

UMKC to join Western Athletic Conference

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

UMKC announced last week that it will join the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) next fall.

After 19 years in the Summit League, UMKC will face a new slate of NCAA Division I teams: Cal State-Bakersfield, Chicago State, Grand Canyon (Ariz.), Idaho, New Mexico State, Seattle, Texas-Pan American and Utah Valley.

"We are excited about this new era in UMKC Athletics," Director of Athletics Tim Hall said in a statement.

A press conference with UMKC and WAC officials will be held Thursday, Feb. 14.

WAC Interim Commissioner Jeff Hurd said he was "extremely pleased with the addition of UMKC to the WAC family."

"It not only solidifies our membership for the 2013-'14 season, but also gives us a strong core of institutions that will

help the WAC reestablish itself as a top Division I conference," Hurd said in a statement.

The WAC has undergone a complete turnover during the past several years, and UMKC is among six teams joining the soon-to-be non-football conference in 2013.

Seven of the conference's 10 current members will leave after this season.

Among them is the University of Denver, which will join the Summit League next fall.

However, there is speculation that other teams may follow UMKC's departure from the Summit League and could join the WAC or other conferences.

North Dakota State and South Dakota State, both Summit League members, play in the Missouri Valley Football Conference.

Chancellor Leo Morton announced UMKC's decision to members of the Student Government Association last

Tuesday.

A long-time focus of the UMKC Athletics Department has been bolstering attendance and revenue.

"We accepted the invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference because of the strong potential alignment it offers with our strategic objectives related to community engagement and financial strength," Morton said in a statement.

UMKC has played in Division I since 1987. It joined the Mid-Continent Conference (now Summit League) in 1994 after seven years as an independent.

The following statement was released by the Summit League:

"We wish UMKC all the best in the future. We remain steadfast in strengthening our league and are excited about the University of Denver joining us as a new member in 2013-'14."

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player profile

D.C. Okonta: Born to jump

Dan Moreno Staff Writer

From Liberty, Donald Chukwuemeka Okonta was born with an amazing talent, which later on would take him to make history with UMKC's track and field team.

Okonta's parents were born and raised in Nigeria, and both later graduated from UMKC.

The 6-foot-2 athlete said his father asked him to stay around for college.

"The year I was supposed to be a freshman, my dad left to Nigeria for a year and asked me to stay close to my family, and I ended up liking it," Okonta said of UMKC.

His passion for jumping and running didn't develop until his high school years.

"I did not know I was good at this," admitted Okonta. "I went from jumping 38 feet in triple jump my freshman year to 50 feet."

At the Jan. 25 Jayhawk Classic in Lawrence, Okonta won the triple jump with a mark of 50-00.50 (15.25m), in what was the second-best performance in team history.

"I am 25 cm to break the record in school history. There is always room for

improvement," Okonta said.

He also won the triple jump for the third time this season at the Feb. 2 Mule Relays in Warrensburg with a leap of 48-08.25.

Last weekend, he placed second in the triple jump at the Iowa State Classic in Ames with a 49-11.25 finish.

Okonta's love for this event has grown since high school, and even though he participates in other events, the triple jump is his favorite.

"I guess it is my favorite because I have been doing it the longest [and] it is the closest to my heart," he said.

Associate Head Coach Benaud Shirley, who coaches jumps, got in contact with Okonta as soon as he came to UMKC.

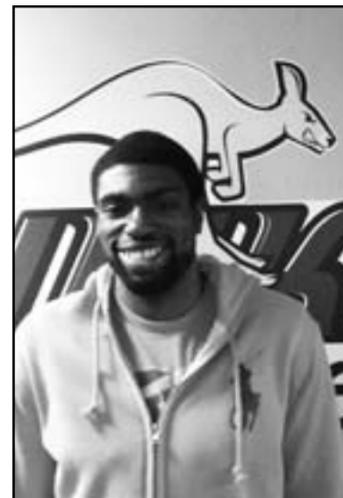
"He (Shirley) saw that I had potential and he offered me a scholarship," Okonta recalled.

So what goes through Okonta's mind in the middle of a jump?

"Absolutely nothing," he said.

"I do all my thinking before jumping. At the time I jump, everything just has to flow."

As a fifth-year senior, Okonta's goal for the season is to go to Nationals in the indoor events



D.C. Okonta.

PHOTO // Dan Moreno

"There is no rain, no wind, no hot or cold; it's just you and your ability," he said.

Okonta wants to graduate from the UMKC School of Medicine and live comfortably, but his athletic goal is to go professional.

"I have the potential to jump really far, which is the matter of how much work I have put into it," he said. "I think it is possible to go professional. I want to."

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Word on Campus

What do you think about UMKC moving to the WAC?

Dan Moreno Staff Writer

Coach Chris Cissel (Women's Soccer):

"It's a great thing (the change). Going to a different conference, playing against new teams is always good. We are all very happy. The traveling is what got the girls more excited. We will be going to Texas, Seattle, California. It is a positive thing for what UMKC has in mind"

Zach Balthazar (Men's Soccer):

"We are very excited, we get to travel a lot more. Going to West Coast will be great, they have beautiful pitches to play over there."

Trinity Hall (Men's Basketball):

"It is a great move for the athletics program. There are lots of changes going on with the University, first the possibility of playing at the Municipal Arena and then changing conference, it's all positive."

Coach Matt Brown (Men's Basketball):

"It is great news. It will be a good league for us. UMKC is doing good things."

Scoreboard

Men's Golf

Feb. 4 & 5—Rice Intercollegiate at Houston, Texas (6th of 14 teams)

Men's Tennis

Overall Record: 1-5
Region: 1-2
Feb. 3—at Bradley **4**

UMKC 3
Feb. 8—vs. Southern Illinois-Edwardsville **0** UMKC **5**
Up next:
Feb. 16—vs. Air Force, 4p.m. at Swinney Recreation Center

Women's Tennis

Feb. 8—vs. Southern Illinois-Edwardsville **1** UMKC **4**
Feb. 9—vs. Northern Iowa **4** UMKC **3**

Up next:
Feb. 16—at Wichita State, 3p.m.
Feb. 17—vs. Arkansas-Little Rock, 3 p.m.

Men's Track and Field

Feb. 7 - 9—at Iowa State Classic (3 champions)
Up next:

Feb. 15—UCM Classic at Warrensburg, Mo. (hosted by Central Missouri)

Women's Track and Field

Feb. 7 - 9—Iowa State Classic (3 champions)
Up next:
Feb. 15—at UCM Classic (hosted by Central Missouri)

Softball

Feb. 8 - 10—Upstate Classic at Spartanburg, S.C.
Feb. 8—UMKC **6**, Western Carolina **2**
Feb. 9—UMKC **8**, North Carolina Central **0**
Feb. 9—UMKC **1**, South Carolina-Upstate **7**
Feb. 10—UMKC **3** vs. Maine at 9 a.m. **9**

Up Next:
Feb. 15-17—Troy Cox Classic at Las Cruces, N.M.

men's basketball



Kirk Korver scores a three-pointer against South Dakota last Saturday.

PHOTOS // Sai Srikar Kadiyam

80-65 victory against South Dakota gives hope to 'inconsistent' team

Dan Moreno Staff Writer

Saturday's 80-65 win against South Dakota gave the Roos their fourth conference win.

The victory ended a five-game losing streak and signaled hope for Head Coach Matt Brown.

It has been a tough season for the Roos, with only seven wins and 19 losses, including a nine-game losing streak earlier in the season.

Maintaining a positive attitude, Brown said little about the bad results.

"It is one game at a time," he said. "Basketball is a funny sport. All of a sudden, you get a win and it will change the whole season."

"We just got two guys back including our starting center, Brad Reid, and we have important games coming up."

Fred Chatmon led the team in Saturday's game with 20 points. Chatmon and Estant Tyler each had seven rebounds, and Nate Rogers, Kirk Korver and Tyler scored 17, 15 and 14 points, respectively.

At this point of the season, "we just want to finish strong," Brown said.

Home advantage has not benefitted the Roos. They have had only three victories at Swinney Recreation Center (SRC) so far. However, Brown thinks this could change in the games against Fort Wayne and Oakland.



Men's basketball team huddles together at practice.

PHOTO // Dan Moreno

"The next games are winnable, and we will play at home, which gives us an advantage," he said.

Junior forward Trinity Hall knows the team has not enjoyed a good season.

"We are a good team. The problem is that we've been very inconsistent this year," he said.

This will be the team's last season in the

Summit League. UMKC accepted an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) starting June 30.

"I haven't thought a lot about it yet because of the traveling and games we've had," Brown said of the change. "It's obviously a good thing for the school and for us; it is a great league."

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Scoreboard

Men's Basketball

Overall Record: 7-19
Conference Record: 4-8
Feb. 6—at Houston Baptist **66** UMKC **45**
Feb. 9—vs. South Dakota **65** UMKC **80**

Up next:

Feb. 14—vs. Fort Wayne at Swinney Recreation Center, 7:05p.m.
Feb. 16—vs. Oakland at Swinney Recreation Center 6:15p.m.

Women's Basketball

Overall Record: 8-16
Conference Record: 4-7
Feb. 9—at South Dakota **67** UMKC **45**

Up next:

Feb. 14—at Fort Wayne, 6p.m.
Feb. 16—at Oakland 1p.m.

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UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

All that Jazz: American Jazz Museum offers entertaining glimpse into the past



Left: Mixing stations where visitors can act like audio engineers. Above: Jazz albums hang on the museums walls. CREDIT // Jessica Turner

Jessica Turner Staff Writer

Kansas City is mostly known for two things—barbeque and jazz. The Kansas City Stockyards in the West Bottoms can take credit for the barbeque, but who can Kansas City thank for its jazz?

The history behind this mystery lies within the walls of the Museums at 18th and Vine. Located in the heart of Kansas City's historic Jazz District, the 50,000 square-foot complex is home to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the American Jazz Museum.

Originally called the Kansas City Jazz Museum, it was built in 1997 and later obtained its national reputation and role as "the world's first museum dedicated to the research, preservation, and exhibition of America's classical music—jazz."

Jazz was born out of New Orleans around the 1920s, but was simultaneously popping up in places like Kansas City and Chicago. Ragtime and folk blues were already popular, but jazz advanced an array of other variations, such as boogie blues, big band, swing, bebop, bossa nova, soul and funk.

Now considered one of the world's greatest musical forms, jazz originated in 19th century African American culture, and out of Kansas City came some of its most exceptional contributors.

During the 1920s and 30s, Kansas City had over 200 clubs. Its style was known for being soulful and bluesy, often showcasing enthusiastic solos played to speakeasy audiences. A few of Kansas City's jazz legends include Joe Turner, Charlie Parker, Count Basie, Mary Lou Williams and Jay McShann.

At the American Jazz Museum, guests can view a short film produced by former Kansas City Mayor Emmanuel Cleaver II that reflects on Kansas City's jazz experience, featuring commentary from jazz artists.

"The first time I came to Kansas City, I was on my way to Omaha and I stopped through," Pianist Jay McShann said in the film. "When I hit 12th Street, I couldn't get out of the car fast enough. You could hear 'ole Joe Turner hollerin' the blues."

McShann came to Kansas City in 1937 and created a successful dance band featuring some of the greatest musicians in the area, including alto saxophonist and Kansas City native, Charlie Parker.

Jazz percussionist and composer Max Roach said, "To live in a city like [Kansas City] is how you really learn the

craft. They had all kinds of what we called classrooms—joints, clubs."

Many great jazz artists didn't get their start in Kansas City—Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis—but they're all remembered in the American Jazz Museum.

What's important to remember is the history surrounding jazz. Louis Armstrong once took a stand against racism that caused a media uproar in 1957 when, in protest to Arkansas school segregation, he cancelled a government-sponsored trip, saying he "had it put in my contracts that I wouldn't play no place I couldn't stay."

In addition to the museum's sounds, exhibits and displays, it's possible to play the role of an audio engineer, where volume, stereo positioning, room sound, harmonies and melodies can be adjusted through headphones at one of the "mixing stations."

Guests may feel like they're traveling back in time to the days of speakeasies and swing as they pass walls of neon lights and album art. It feels about as close to what walking down 18th Street would have felt like when it was booming in its prime. Visitors will be moved to dance as they listen to piano rhythms and soak up the words of great jazz artists, and if the inclination becomes too overwhelming, they can head over to the Blue Room.

The Blue Room is a club within the museum that comes to life four nights a week with performances by local and national jazz artists. The museum's "Swing Shop" offers an array of memorabilia and music, including an album called "The Real Kansas City," which includes 25 original recordings of jazz and an extensive history of its local origins.

Right across the street sits the Gem Theater, which opened as a 100 seat movie house in 1912. It was completely restored in 1997, and now serves as a 500 seat performing arts venue that welcomes an assortment of musical performers.

Visitors of the Jazz District can also stop by nearby Arthur Bryant's famous barbeque restaurant at 18th and Brooklyn Ave. It was founded in the early 1920s, right about the time all that jazz was pouring out of Kansas City clubs.

UMKC students interested in accessing the spontaneously intricate music can tune into K-ROO Student Radio at www.k-roo.org on Wednesday nights from 8 – 10 p.m. on "Jazz with Joel Stratton."

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House on the hill: Part 2

Haunted or not?



Left: Interior of dining room showing matched panels of figure walnut.

CREDIT // UMKC Archives

Above: Epperson House, located at 52nd and Cherry Streets, is rumored to be haunted.

PHOTO // Sai Srikradiyam

Strange happenings at mansion lead to speculation

Meredith Shea Production Manager

UMKC Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities Robert Simmons and Professional architect and Visiting Professor of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design (AUP+D) Ted Seligson swear UMKC's Epperson House is not haunted, but documented ghost stories and earning a number five spot on "Unsolved Mysteries" seem to add up in a different equation.

On Dec. 20, 1922, Harriet Evelyn Barse, who designed the large organ that sat in the Epperson House's Oak Hall, unexpectedly died in the mansion before the organ was ever completed. There were no obituaries for her in local papers, but rumor has it that she died in shock after a home abortion. The Eppersons attributed her death to failed gall bladder surgery, but no autopsy was ever performed. She was buried in Independence.

Although Harriet was ten years Mary Elizabeth Epperson's senior, the Eppersons treated her as their adopted daughter. Some tales say the aborted child was mansion owner Uriah Epperson's.

Even long after the Eppersons' deaths

and the mansion was given to UKC in 1942, a strange presence in the building was witnessed.

Supposedly, during the 1970s, Conservatory of Music students reported seeing the ghost of Harriet walking, singing and cradling a baby swaddle.

In 1978, weekend guards reported hearing footsteps in the building. In May 1979, a security patrolman was parked outside the Epperson House. He felt the impact of a car crash into his vehicle from behind, but when he got out to examine it, there was no damage.

"I looked in the rearview mirror, of course, to see who the hell it was, and I didn't see anything, so I got my flashlight and got out of the car immediately," the patrolman said in a *Kansas City Star* article. "I walked to the back [but] there was no damage, no busted glass, no dents in the bumper." However, his car had moved eight inches, verified by skid marks on the road.

Security Chief Harvey Cottle did not want to take any chances with the Epperson House. He hired local ghost hunter Maurice Schwalm. Schwalm held

séances with his 15-member crew on May 5 and 13, 1979.

In Schwalm's 1999 book, "Mo-Kan Ghosts: The Casebook of a Kansas City Psychic Investigator," he describes what he found. He felt the presence of Harriet with wounds that fit her rumored abortion, but also felt a second presence.

"[Harriet] was being screened by a hostile male entity who tried to make us dizzy and nauseous," he wrote. Because of this, some believe Uriah's ghost stayed with her, protecting their secret.

After communicating with the ghosts, Schwalm thought the house would be quieter.

UMKC police officer Boyd Breedlove also witnessed something spooky. While on patrol duty, he saw what he thought was a mysterious figure hiding in a corner, but, "When I walked up on it and hit the corner with the flashlight, nothing was there," he said in the Fall 2011 *UMKC Perspectives* magazine.

Simmons and Seligson stand firm in their beliefs that Epperson House is not haunted.

"I've been in the building by myself. I've

never personally had an experience, nor have I ever talked to anyone who has," said Simmons.

"Yeah, there was a strange sound or two, and I knew what it was," said Seligson, whose department formerly was housed in the mansion. "Houses settle. Buildings move. The ground moves almost all the time. If you're by yourself and there's no noise outside, you hear these little cracks and creaks and stuff, but it's probably just a pipe expanding or contracting in the wall."

Seligson jokes about being the ghost of Epperson.

"I usually stayed later than most of the teachers and students, and I remember that there were ghost hunters that came there one night and they were serious. I couldn't believe it," he said. "I told them about myself being the ghost and I don't know if they believed me or knew I was joking."

Whether or not the stories are true, the ghosts of Epperson House remain one of Kansas City's top mysteries.

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food critic's corner Max's, best burger in town



Double Big Max burger with American cheese, bacon and lettuce. PHOTO // Johanna Poppel

Johanna Poppel Photo Editor

Burgers are the staple of a typical college student's diet. I've found Kansas City's finest to be Max's Burgers and Gyros on 8240 Wornall Rd. in Waldo.

Max's offers a fresh and flavorful spin to an all-American favorite. Not only does Max's offer classic diner dishes, but ethnic options as well. The diner was originally known as Max's Auto Diner until gyros were added to the menu seven years ago.

Burgers are the top seller at Max's, with the gyros following behind as a second favorite among customers. The diverse menu also contains pork tenderloin, Polynesian chicken, charbroiled chicken and all-beef hot dogs.

The selection of sides to choose from includes fries, curly fries, tater tots and onion rings. Sweet treats, such as shakes and baklava, accompany the cross-cultured menu as well. Daily specials are also offered, like the mushroom Swiss burger with grilled onions. The prices are reasonable with meals ranging from \$8-12.

I ordered a double Big Max burger with American cheese, bacon and lettuce. A fresh batch of fries was made and my order was delivered to my table with a smile. The fries were golden, hot and crispy. Barbecue sauce and ketchup were at a convenient hand's reach. The Big Max burger was also delightfully presented. The fluffy Kaiser bun that holds the delicately placed burger together has received many compliments from customers. The burger was grilled perfectly without a burn and topped with melted cheese, crisp lettuce and hardy strips of bacon.

Max's offers a comfortable atmosphere with close-knit customer service. "I want everybody that leaves my restaurant to be happy," said owner Abdi Karbalaei who opened the diner 26 years ago after moving to Kansas City from Iran.

Karbalaei's appreciation towards customers is shown through the articles, awards and pictures that cover the walls of his restaurant. Customers have brought in pictures of their children that are framed on the walls. Pictures of family and childhood memories add to the friendliness and comfort of the humble diner.

Max's has even received praise from KCPT's "Check, Please!" television series that reviews local Kansas City restaurants.

"The show was four years ago and the host, Doug Frost, still comes in regularly," said Karbalaei.

"Check, Please!" received only positive reviews from the three separate critics that discretely sampled the diner. After its premiere, Max's received much interest from the public.

"After the show aired, I had a line of a thousand people. We sold out at 3 o'clock one day. I had nothing else to sell," said Karbalaei.

The great taste assures great quality ingredients were used to carefully create my meal. The burger and fries were satisfying, and I recommend Max's as a place to experience Kansas City's finest burger. Come to Max's to enjoy an awesome burger, superior service and even a patio when the weather is nice.

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96.5 The Buzz free V-Day concert is huge success



Shiny Toy Guns perform at the Midland Theatre in downtown KC.

PHOTOS // Riley Mortensen



Riley Mortensen

Staff Writer

On Friday, Feb. 8, the line to get in the door of Afentra's VD Party, a free concert put on by local alternative station 96.5 The Buzz, stretched down the sidewalk in front of The Midland and wrapped all the way around the next corner. The theater reached maximum capacity quickly, proving that the masses were ecstatic to see the line-up The Buzz had arranged. With IAMDYNAMITE, The Beautiful Bodies, Willy Moon and Shiny Toy Guns on the agenda, it was sure to be anything but a quiet Friday night.

IAMDYNAMITE, a duo from Detroit, started off the night at 7 p.m. The group, made up of Christopher Martin and Chris Phillips, kicked off with a strong set, well received by the crowd. Not new to the Midwest, the two showed that, although they've only been on the touring scene since 2011, they're up to par on playing electrifying live shows.

The Beautiful Bodies played next and was the only local band on the ticket for the night. Their fan base in KC is extensive. The foursome kept the feel of the night alive.

What really caught the attention of the crowd were the booths set up in the lobby outside the theater by the personalities of 96.5 The Buzz. It was obvious the show was 18 and over for a reason. A kissing booth graced the lobby along with spin the bottle, featuring contestants from the station's contest Miss Objectified, and a table called 50 Shades



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of Mark, a reference to the increasingly popular fictitious tale "Fifty Shades of Grey." There were more than just drinks to entertain concertgoers in between sets.

The one man show and singer of the hit single "Yeah Yeah," Willy Moon took the stage at 9:15 p.m. The New Zealand native said, according to his website, that he'd hate being in a band with all those opinions. "I'm a dictator at heart," Moon says in his bio. With most songs lasting just three minutes, Moon kept the pace up.

The wait time between sets was clearly a drag to many

patrons, but they stuck it out, and at 10:45 p.m. Shiny Toy Guns emerged to close the show with some fan favorites and a few tunes from their newest album. Even the band could smell the marijuana in the air, as evident by lead singer Carah Faye's comments of how good it smelled. Closing the show with their hit "You Are the One," the band gave it all they had and urged the crowd to do the same. All was said and done before midnight. Not bad for a free gig.

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album review

Wiz Khalifa's 'O.N.I.F.C.' is generic, but fun

Johanna Poppel
Photo Editor



CREDIT // Rostrum Records

The Kush King was one of the top stars among DEV, Matisyahu and 3OH3 that reigned over Kansas City's open air Dancefestopia music festival last summer. So, bumping dance beats are to be expected with Wiz Khalifa's second album, "O.N.I.F.C." (the clean version stands for One Night in First Class).

Wiz Khalifa is known for his rap influenced laid back songs mostly related to smoking up and living the high life. Wiz Khalifa opens this album with his stoner declarations and love for money, women, alcohol and drugs.

"Paperbond" repeats the chorus, "I wake up then I bake up, get my things and catch a plane." The first setback of the album is that the first line of lyrics opens up with a statement about making money and, of course, the presence of negatively referenced women. "O.N.I.F.C." may have stereotypical lyrics, but it does dabble in various rap, R&B and hip-hop influences that are popular today.

The album's biggest hit "Work Hard, Play Hard" offers another message that's not just about secondhand smoke. Wiz Khalifa juxtaposes his laid back words with encouraging ones as well. Fans comment on his website that his latest hit motivates them to give it their all and go for their dreams with lyrics like "Go for it, make sure you do it every day, it's what you gotta do. It's your job."

A breath of fresh air comes rolling in for the soft-hearted audience when "Got Everything," featuring Courtney Noelle, is heard. Romance and R&B work together in this song, reminiscent to Lil' Flip's "Sunshine," featuring singer Lea Sunshine from 2004. The happiness and bubbly attitude of this female dominated song diversifies the album.

"Fall Asleep" stands out on the album for its gentle repetition of female vocals in the background, repeating "Fall Asleep" with tranquil modern electronic sounds and beats that add a fresh sound to this stereotypical rap album. "Fall Asleep" sounds like Wiz Khalifa is trying to impersonate Kendrick Lamar's "The Recipe." This song is enjoyable until Wiz Khalifa starts rapping about drug use and materialism.

A downhill tumble begins with "Time," which sounds like a rip off of Drake. Wiz Khalifa shows his range of skills with similar speedy rapping like Drake, but the music is unoriginal. The background beat of the popular "HYFR" seemed to emerge through the song "Time."

All in all, "O.N.I.F.C." is easily appreciated. The presence of artists like The Weekend in "Remember You" and Juicy J in "The Plan," make this album a great listen. I recommend this if you are looking for a relaxing night, but also for a party playlist.

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film

Zombies have feelings, too

Elizabeth Golden
Managing Editor

Zombies, vampires and all sorts of mythical creatures are all the rage these days. From video games, to movies, to television, realism is no longer entertaining, but as soon as vampires are thrown into the mix people go insane.

"Warm Bodies" is another film created for just that purpose: to make the audience go insane, but in the best possible way. Unlike its infamous predecessor "Twilight," "Warm Bodies" actually provokes feelings and proves to be a very smart film.

The world has become desolate and every part of the city is abandoned. It's unclear how long it has been since the zombie apocalypse broke out, but it appears to have been quite some time. The cars are rusty and grass is obsolete.

R (Nicholas Hoult) may look like an ordinary zombie, but he feels and thinks like none other. He has a heart and admits to feeling bad when he feeds off a human.

After running out of food, R and other zombies begin hunting and manage to stumble upon Julie (Teresa Palmer) and her friends who were sent outside of the "wall" to retrieve medicine.

At the first sign of noise, the crowd jumps in position to defend themselves, but of course they are no match for the zombies who effortlessly rip off limbs. Julie's friends quickly succumb to the zombie strength, but R notices her before any harm can be done.

He limps over to her, caresses her face and smears a bit of blood on her: good old-fashioned zombie flirting tricks. She cries in terror, but all he wants is to save her since she is "pretty."

This introductory sequence is relatively cheesy and unrealistic, but c'mon. We're talking about zombies here. What zombie film would be reviewed based on its realism? And by the way, cheesy does not refer to "Edward is so sparkly" cheesy. That verges on the realm of pathetic.

"Warm Bodies," is not pathetic. This cheesiness comes across as cute enough to allow the audience to smile, not mock.

After rescuing Julie, R brings her back to his home in an airport. She begs to be let go, but he won't allow it.

Throughout these scenes, R's personality begins to develop. For once, zombies aren't portrayed as mindless inanimate objects. Oh, and they can open doors.

To quote a male in the audience, "Zombies can't open doors! At least, they don't in Black Ops." That's right people. If a zombie can't do something in a video game, it is totally unrealistic when they do it in a film.

Over the course of several days, R and Julie begin bonding and caring for one another. As she puts it, he is becoming more human. His speech is improving and he's beginning to feel things unknown to the zombie world.

In the end, she is forced to return to her homeland where he follows her in a very "Romeo and Juliet" fashion. Literally, there is a "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" moment. This comes across overly dramatic, but in a hilarious way and only true Shakespeare fans will understand the reference.

In order for R to save himself and the humans, he must prove that he is changing. With the power of love, he is once again able to feel pain and express emotions.



CREDIT // Summit Entertainment

"Warm Bodies" is a very original twist on a classic love story. When most people think of zombie films, they refer to zombies as the bad guys, but this film reverses the stereotype. The audience will sympathize with R and his struggles and become angered when the humans try to inflict harm on zombies. This is an unusual angle, but it works well.

Writer and Director Jonathan Levine did an outstanding job making this film unlike any other. The script is clever and produces several lines sure to make anyone chuckle. The script even goes so far as to make fun of itself with one-liners targeting the particular genre and the characters.

The film is marketed as a comedy, but seems to be more of a drama. There are funny parts, but nothing involving 'rolling on the floor' laughter. It's more light-hearted humor.

Overall, "Warm Bodies" is serious and not to be confused with a mind-numbing comedy. This film will provide warmth and laughter to audience members of all genders and ages. It's not likely to win best film of the year, but it's original, making it score major brownie points, and it's entertaining. Those two traits are not easily matched.

See "Warm Bodies" if you like movies and want a fun night out. It's as simple as that.

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Record Bar concert raises money for French charter school

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

Last Friday at the Record Bar, over a hundred people showed up to listen to the tunes of four local bands in a fundraising music festival to help public charter and French school, Académie Lafayette.

The \$25 tickets were no cheap excuse for people to attend this eclectic show, which was emceed by Cody Wyoming, who has seen success in a number of local projects.

Each band featured at least one parent of an Académie Lafayette student.

The evening started at 9:30 when The Quivers walked onstage and started playing their soulful eighties-like rock tunes. Lead vocalist Terra Peal had no trouble pumping up the people. "I Gots To Have It!" and "I Sleep Here" where some of the songs that made the crowd get up out of their seats and dance.

After a 40-minute performance, Wyoming took the microphone to start with the first raffle of the night, where iPods, restaurant gift cards, photo shoots

and haircut certificates were given away. Raffles continued between each band's set.

Next, The Sexy Accident made their arrival, performing songs from their newest album, "Ninja Ninja Fight Darth Vader." Power-Pop and enjoyable melodies were prominent in songs like "Monica" and "Savignon Blanc." Lead singers Jesse Kates and Camry Ivory's catchy lyrics made it impossible for the audience not to sing along.

The climax of the show came at around 11:30 p.m. when the pink freak-pop band of Miss Hillary and her drones jumped onstage. The Hillary Watts Riot performed their well-known hit, "Tube Top," and other songs such as "The Killer Kind" and "Boy in the Bubble" from their debut EP, A/S/L.

Last but not least, lead singer Gregg Todt lead his band, Federation of Horsepower, in a loud and hardcore rock-and-roll performance. The low vocals and heavy-hitting sounds that came out of the guitars, drums and bass made the audience



The Hillary Watts Riot.

PHOTO // Dan Moreno

move closer to the stage and let the music kindly deafen them with songs like "Legba" and "Fried Chicken for Breakfast."

At the end of the night, all proceeds went to the Académie Lafayette's General Fund, which pays for music and arts education, interns, extracurricular programs, sports and free tutoring.

For more information on the local bands that performed at "Vive The Rock," visit their websites and support them at their next show.

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Valentine's Day date guide 101

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

Valentine's Day doubles as one of the most loved and hated days of the year. Some despise the cheesy romance mixed with an array of every possible shade of pink, while others love the opportunity to show their affection without being told to 'get a room.' Both sides have valid points, but the sad truth is Valentine's Day will always exist. If some

choose to be cynical prudes, they might as well learn a few ways to make the day slightly less miserable.

Whether you're happily in a relationship, unhappily in a relationship, have no desire for a relationship or hate the idea of a relationship, hopefully there's some way to spend your time that won't involve feeling the need to gag at the cuteness floating in the air.

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For couples with no money (the average college students)

• Have a movie night at home. This may sound like a cliché idea for those who constantly avoid spending money, but even the same old routine can be made fun. Pick out a few of your favorite movies and get cozy. There's no greater feeling than snuggling up next to the person who means more than everything to you and watching your favorite movie.

• Cook dinner. You never realize how fun cooking dinner can be when both of you have no clue what you're doing. It usually ends in overly seasoned Raman mixed with half-thawed chicken. But in the end, it doesn't matter how crappy the food is. You'll only remember the person you were with. Get creative, buy a cheap bottle of wine, light some candles and enjoy a homemade meal together.

For couples with some money, but not a lot

• Garozzo's Ristorante in downtown Overland Park and Olathe. Their "V-day" special includes four courses for \$49.95 per couple. If you don't want to get your Valentine's Day dinner at McDonalds, this would probably be your best bet.

• Go skating! The Rink at Burlington Creek is offering two-for-one skating Feb. 9 through Feb. 14. Afterwards, cozy up to a romantic fire and order their signature hot chocolate, all for only \$20, located at 6109 NW 63rd Terrace.

• Have you ever thought, "Oh I wish I could help someone in need while celebrating Valentine's Day?" Well now you can. Fox 4 news is offering a special Chocolate Breakfast where all the proceeds go to The Love Fund, which aims to improve the lives of children under 18. Tickets are available for only \$14 in advance or \$18 at the door. The event takes place from 6 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Sheraton hotel in Kansas City.

• For an unusual Valentine's Day adventure, head to Topeka, Ks. for a walking ghost tour. Tours depart every hour beginning at 5 p.m. and costs \$10 per person.

• Watch the most epic love story of all time. Screenland Theatre in Kansas City is hosting Casablanca on the big screen. Wine packages, chocolates and beer will be offered. The movie starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are only \$8 per person.

For couples with a lot of money

• Go to a nice romantic restaurant offering a special Valentine's Day menu. Even though many places may be out of the price range of the average college student, maybe you'll win the lottery or feel like spending an entire semester's worth of income. Or, maybe you work hard and have a lot of money to spend... if you're into that whole grownup lifestyle thing.

• Accurso's Italian Restaurant at 4980 Main Street. Special Valentine's Day menu is offered for the low price of \$80 per couple. This includes two appetizers, two entrees and two desserts all served with candlelight. If your dinner sucks, at least you paid \$80 for candlelight, right?

• The Melting Pot in Kansas City. A personal favorite, The Melting Pot is offering their Valentine's Day special from Feb. 8-13 and 15-17. For some reason this '10 Days of Romance' is not offered on the actual day of romance. This special is extremely affordable, since it is only \$119 per couple. Each couple receives the four-course classic

dinner, half dozen roses and a bottle of Moscato.

• The Silver Package includes a five course dinner, a glass of champagne with desert and a gift certificate for your next visit. This offer is \$150.

• The Platinum Package is \$250 and includes everything in the previous package plus a bottle of wine, a dozen roses and a private curtained booth. What happens behind the booth stays behind the booth.

• UMKC, along with Californos restaurant in Westport, is hosting 'A Fine Arts Chorale' Valentine's Day concert. Listen to Latin American music while receiving complimentary chocolate and Champagne for \$49 per person. A full Valentine's Day menu also is also offered.

• For a unique Valentine's Day, KCFitness is offering workshops on developing closeness and building trust using Thai bodywork. The course includes a partners' massage and an hour-long yoga class for \$35 per person.

Happy Valentine's Day
from U-News!



For friends who just want to have fun

• Date and Dash in Leawood. Aloft Hotel is hosting its first annual matchmaking frenzy. Meet over 100 singles in one night. Cost is \$35 and the event begins at 8 p.m. Special Valentine's Day themed drinks will also be offered. The same event is also offered at Howl at the Moon from 8 to 11 p.m.

• Dress up and hit the town. It's strange how fun dressing up in your best clothes and walking around the Plaza can be. Shopping is optional.

For people who hate Valentine's Day

• Love Sux... or at least it does at Howl at the Moon bar in the Power and Light District. They invite all single people to their annual Love Sux bash. Doors open at 7 p.m. and drinks are cheap to make you forget about being single. Bring in a mutilated photo of your ex for free admission.

• Sol Cantina, Davey's Uptown Rambler's Club and most likely every bar in the city are also hosting Anti-Valentine's Day parties.

• For those who may be underage or in search of a more low-key night, go to your local video store or theatre and check out the cheesiest romantic comedy available. The Twilight series tends to work well. Then, spend the next two hours mocking the film in every possible way. Make sure to complete your night with pounds of chocolate and whatever unhealthy dinner you prefer to order. Flowers also work if you enjoy playing a nice game of 'he loves me not.' Sit back, relax and have a stress free night of fattening fun.

Graduate engineering student receives distinguished award for research

Andreina Byrne

Staff Writer

Darren Mullin, master student in mechanical engineering and Kansas City native, received the UMKC Distinguished Master's Thesis award of 2012 for his research, titled "Effects of Deceptive Behavior on Biomechanical Measures of Standing Posture."

"I was very grateful to receive the award," Mullin said. "I was definitely shocked to have been selected."

"Darren performed extraordinarily well," said Dr. Gregory King, associate professor of mechanical engineering and Mullin's advisor. "He was very thorough and thoughtful in all aspects of his work."

Within his award-winning thesis, Mullin focused on a new means of detecting deception, based on measures of fixed posture. In order to detect such deception, Mullin employed the use of force platforms to analyze center of pressure (COP) data. This approach may eventually become useful in airport screenings, credibility assessment and counter-terrorism.

"This method differs from commonly used techniques, such as the polygraph or brain activity analyzers, in that no invasive sensors need to be attached to the body," Mullin said.

"All that is required is that the person must be standing still on a force platform. This means that it may be possible to see if someone's lying without them even knowing they are being tested."

According to Mullin, the data took a long time to be analyzed, and in order for these procedures to be implemented, new data needs to be evaluated in real-time.

"I see this being very practical in an airport setting," said Mullin.

"An airport staff member could be asking questions about the contents of a passenger's luggage while they stand on a force platform. If analysis of their center of pressure data indicated that their response was deceptive then it could indicate that they should undergo further screening, for example, an extensive search of their luggage."

Mullin had a strong group of believers, including his advisor Dr. King, guiding him down the extensive path of experimentation, data analysis, interpretation, thesis preparation, and eventually onto an award-winning creation.



Darren Mullin.

COURTESY // Darren Mullin

"I would have to say my advisor, Dr. Gregory King [had the most important role]," Mullin said.

"He helped me greatly at every step in the process and even suggested that I use this as a topic for my thesis."

"I worked with Darren the entire two years," Dr. King said. "Much of the time was spent on data analysis and interpretation."

According to Mullin, he believes that the results of his study may be used as a starting point for future studies.

"So far, no forms of lie detection are 100 percent accurate." Mullin said, "But I think that with continued refinement, models may be developed with predictive capabilities which could detect whether a response is truthful or deceptive."

Mullin's thesis states that his technique could be used without a person's known maximizing security performance.

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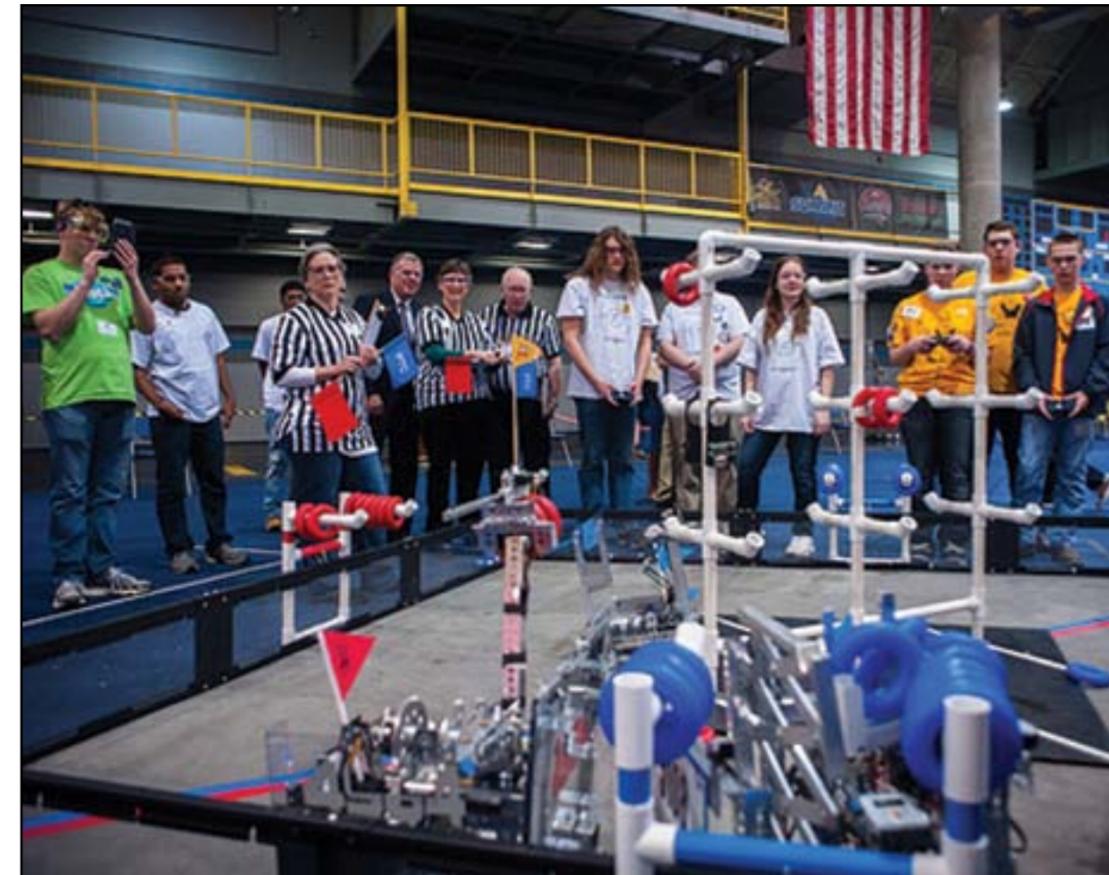
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UMKC hosts regional robotics competition



LEFT: Students compete using remote controlled robots.
ABOVE: Dr. Kevin Truman.
BELOW: Chancellor Leo Morton and Dr. Truman.
CREDIT // UMKC Robotics Team



Jessica Turner

Staff Writer

The UMKC School of Computing and Engineering hosted the inaugural Greater Kansas City FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) robotics competition in collaboration with the KC STEM Alliance on Sunday, Feb. 3. The event was held in the Swinney Recreation Center, and was free and open to the public.

Both FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) and the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and/or Math - Alliance), prepare and encourage students to pursue careers in specialized engineering industries.

Dean of UMKC School of Computing and Engineering and Board Chairman of the KC STEM Alliance, Dr. Kevin Truman, was pleased with the turnout.

"I think it's just great to see that many students involved in computer science, engineering, and information technology programs like FIRST Robotics," Truman said. "You know, there are a lot of places for kids to go to play sports, and this provides a real platform for those students who want to

use their minds and their mechanical abilities to build a device, with a specific task in mind, which is very much what engineers and computer scientists do."

STEM students spent months planning for the competition, and had to work together to solve problems and make things work, getting a taste of what they will face when they move on to larger-scale robotic competitions. Qualified middle and high school students from across the Kansas City region competed in the robotics competition.

"It's a very product-oriented field, and it's really good to see these students getting engaged in those types of experiential learning activities in middle school and high school. In the past, a lot of times that didn't happen until they got to college and sometimes, not until they got on the job. And so it's a whole different way of teaching and exciting kids about STEM careers."

Compared to other competitions for middle and high school students, the FIRST Robotics Challenge doesn't end immediately when students lose.

"One of the nice things about the FTC is that even if they fail early in the day, they

get a chance to go back and work on their machinery and bring it back later that day and compete again," Truman said.

Truman explained that sometimes very simple things can happen, such as forgetting to discharge hands of static electricity, but in the FTC, students get the opportunity to correct those mistakes and try again.

Truman said the challenge "requires that they actually lift these rings three to four feet in the air and put them on these pegs," which requires that the robots have expandable arms and legs to pick up objects and move them around.

"It sounds easy, but it's not," he said. "They have a very short time period to do it."

"They need to walk around and talk to other teams and form what they call alliances. If your alliance member will let you come over and pick up their robot with your robot, that allows you to get extra points," Truman explained.

While that may sound easy, Truman explained that the machines have "to be able to pick up this two-foot by two-foot by two-foot robot, which weighs essentially the same as what your robot weighs. So it's a little

trickier than you'd think."

Although the teams are competitors in the FTC, they're also partners.

"It's not uncommon for them to share tools and share parts, or for somebody to come over and say, 'Hey we fixed something like that by doing this.' It happens all the time," Truman said.

Not only do students get hands-on experience working with technology and problem solving, they get a sense of what their professional field will resemble in the real world through communicating and collaborating. They are able to build their skills and confidence at the same time.

"Out of this group, there were six teams that qualified to go to State Finals," Truman said.

After this year's tournament season, which is ongoing in various locations through the month of March, the FTC World Championship will take place in St. Louis, at the Edward Jones Dome during the weekend of Apr. 24. More information can be found at www.usfirst.org or www.kcstem.org.

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Disclaimer: The views of individual writers expressed below in this section do not represent the official stance of U-News. U-News welcomes participation from all UMKC students. Letters to the editor may be submitted to Editor-in-Chief Nathan Zoschke, nzoschke@unews.com.

Valentine's Day does not mean relationship day

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

Valentine's Day may be the most scrutinized "holiday" known to man and over the years it has garnered a bad reputation. Although many have good reasons to dislike this day, it doesn't make much sense. Since when is the day of love meant to be negative?

Let's begin with a history lesson. Valentine's Day began when a saint named Valentinus was imprisoned for performing weddings on those who were forbidden from marrying. The day was first associated with romantic love in the Middle Ages when love began to flourish. In the 1500's, lovers began presenting each other with flowers and cards, which began being mass-produced in the 19th century.

It's understandable why many

people dislike this so called "single's awareness day," but the true message of the day is often overlooked. Valentine's Day is a day to show love. Simple as that.

Fathers give daughters gifts, friends give each other gifts and so on. Remember in elementary school when you used to decorate a shoebox and everyone in your class would fill it with cards and candy? I completely forgot about this until a customer at work reminded me. Back in the olden days when everything was simpler, Valentine's Day was not known as a day of romantic love but it was a day to show love in general.

Now days Valentine's Day is definitely marketed so Hallmark can cash in big time, but this is no reason to hate the day in general. Christmas is also over marketed, but that doesn't mean everyone

stops celebrating.

Even when I was single, I loved the feeling of Valentine's Day. Everything seemed so happy and pink was in the air. Literally. It is impossible to go into any store without being bombarded with pink. Lucky for me, I love pink. And chocolate. Lots and lots of chocolate. See how could a day get any better? You get the excuse to pig out on junk food while acting overly sentimental and staring at large pink stuffed animals. This sounds like a perfect day to me.

For those in relationships, you have the opportunity to say 'I love you' a thousand times without being judged plus get presents just for being you. Really? How could it get any better than this?

For those not in relationships, you have the opportunity to watch a cheesy romantic comedy and

mock it from start to finish (in order to hide your secret love for it) while stuffing your mouth with chocolate. I really can't see what's wrong with this day. Sounds like an awesome excuse to be a cynical pig to me. Also, going to a place highly populated with couples, such as any restaurant or movie theatre, can be an entertaining mocking exercise as well. Try to decipher between the awkward first dates and the serious relationships. It can be quite entertaining to watch how normal people quickly transform into fools.

If you don't fit either of these descriptions and have decided to hate Valentine's Day no matter what then I'm sorry. You are missing out on some great chocolate and the opportunity to look like an idiot without being judged.



Elizabeth Golden

In summary, everyone loves somebody. Whether it is a parent, sibling, significant other, pet or your best friend's significant other, take this opportunity to show them. Love should not be stereotyped only to romantic relationships. Plus, you can't go wrong with a holiday that classifies chocolate as a food group.

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Do celebrity endorsements matter?

Jessica Turner

Staff Writer

It was the final straw. I was doing homework one evening, when I heard the familiar, unmistakable voice of Raphael Saadiq. I glanced up from my notebook, and my eyes were met with the tragedy before me. Raphael Saadiq, dancing around a red Toyota full of women on my TV screen. The brilliant, classic artist I knew for singing his heart out was now selling his heart out all over my living room.

I had experienced this phenomenon before. While a tiny part of me is happy that the band is getting its deserved exposure, I also lose a tiny bit of respect for them. What is it about the music industry that is driving all these talented artists to license their songs for commercial purposes? I

considered all kinds of reasons.

In a world with entertainment constantly at our fingertips, the competition among up-and-coming artists is fierce. It's difficult to squeeze into the spotlight and stand out from the rest in this era of relentless availability.

Also, the ability to access music on Pandora, Spotify, YouTube, iTunes, and other sites has likely driven down profits. We don't have to buy entire albums; we can just buy a song or two. Also, piracy is an ever-growing issue. Many people illegally download music, taking revenue away from artists even more.

We also have to consider the possibility that perhaps bands whose songs accompany commercials are also disappointed. Perhaps they were tricked when they signed contracts and didn't realize they didn't have the rights

to their own music.

Mitt Romney used the Silversun Pickups song "Panic Switch" for his campaign without permission, and the band issued a cease-and-desist order. Tom Petty issued Michele Bachmann the same after she used "American Girl". Perhaps that kind of thing happens more than we think.

And because I'm really trying to play devil's advocate, I'll even entertain the possibility that Saadiq really does drive a Prius. Maybe The Black Keys really do drive Nissans. Maybe Florence + the Machine really love their iPads, and The Ting Tings and Feist really loved their iPods. Maybe The Avett Brothers really wear Gap clothing and The Lumineers really drink Blue Moon.

Maybe The Head and the Heart really use American Express. It would be disappointing, as their

lyrics don't exactly praise credit cards, but it's possible. I'm not calling them hypocrites. But at the very least, what a band endorses should be consistent with its professed values. (Do a commercial for Sanuk or something!)

But most of those I've mentioned are newer artists, so I'll excuse them based on their likely need to catch the public's eye, and hope that once they've been heard, they'll stop selling themselves short. But what about The White Stripes for Captain Morgan?

Eminem for Lipton Iced Tea? Drake for Sprite? The Postal Service for UPS? CeeLo Green for 7Up? Beyoncé for [insert name of corporation here]—Vizio, Armani, Pepsi, American Express, Duracell, L'Oréal—is there anything this girl doesn't want us to use?

We know these artists don't need the publicity or the money.



Jessica Turner

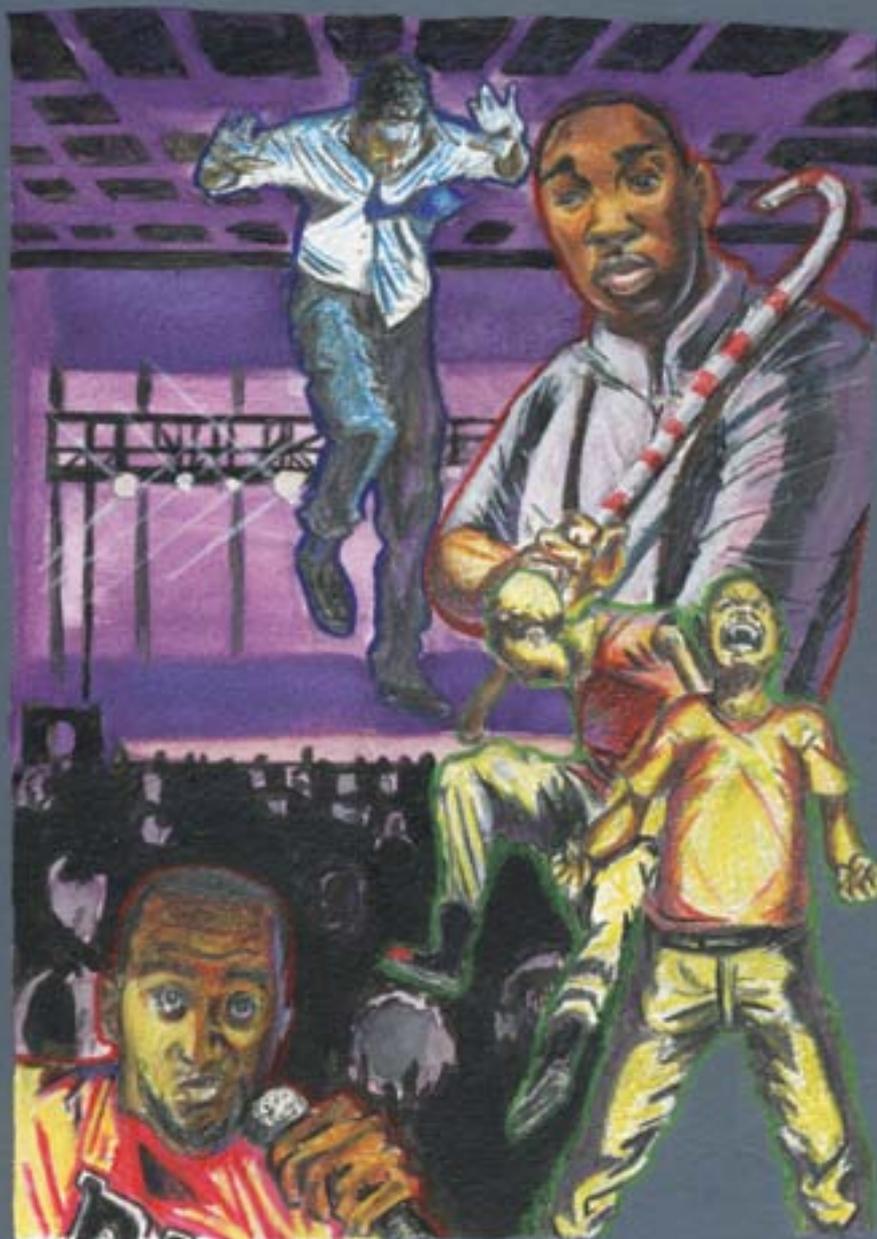
So what is it?

Why does it matter if Drake drinks Sprite? Does it make Sprite taste better? Does it make you want to drink Sprite? What it actually inspires me to do is to consciously refrain from purchasing celebrity-endorsed products, because then, I feel like I'm using my money to make a statement.

I'm perfectly capable of making purchases based on what I like, not what Drake likes.

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Comment online at www.unews.com!



Last Friday, The African American Student Union presented "The Takeover - Part Three" step show in Swinney Recreation Center.

CARTOON // Aaron Cecil

UMKC's

Court Warming calendar of events:

Movie Night:

Date: Feb. 11

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Student Union

Trivia Night:

Date: Feb. 12

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Location: Student Union

Yell Like Hell:

Date: Feb. 13

Time: 10:00 p.m.

Location: Student Union

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