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Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam // Illustration by Meredith Shea

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Photo courtesy of U.S. Congress

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

www.unews.com

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**Mission:** To provide relevant, timely coverage of the UMKC community by seeking truth, fairness and accuracy in reporting while preserving the integrity of *U-News* as an independent student-run publication.

**About us:** The *U-News* is the official independent student newspaper of UMKC, produced each week by a staff consisting entirely of students.

We publish 4,000 copies each week, and distribute to the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses and surrounding neighborhood businesses.

Letters to the Editor can be submitted by mail or to [info@unews.com](mailto:info@unews.com). Letters should be 350 words or less and are subject to edits for clarity.

*U-News* is printed by *The Kansas City Star*. *U-News* is an equal opportunity employer.

# A whole new grocery store

## Project advances to bring Whole Foods, apartments to campus site

Roze Brooks  
Senior Staff Writer

A proposed mixed use project will transform the stretch of 51st Street between Oak and Brookside Blvd.

It will include Whole Foods' first Kansas City, Mo., location, also the first grocery store within a comfortable walking distance from the Volker campus.

Included in this mixed use project are approximately 150 units of market-rate (non-subsidized) apartments above the store, featuring a parking garage for residents.

The project will also include a surface parking lot for Whole Foods and office space for UMKC Health Services, currently located in the 4825 Troost building.

"I would say that it is still in the development [stage] because there are contingencies that need to be resolved before we can say 100 percent for sure that it's happening," said Robert Simmons, assistant vice chancellor of administration.

Simmons said the development fits well into the campus's master plan, which emphasizes cohesion with the surrounding community.

Partnerships will include a mesh of private and public developers, similar to the private partnership involved in the development of the Oak Place Apartments.

The site is presently home to the Kansas City Young Matron's Historic Club House, the UMKC Annex building and a metered surface parking lot.

The annex building will be demolished.

Arrangements have also been made to relocate the KCYM club house.

"UMKC and the Young Matron's club would do a land swap where we would acquire their land, their clubhouse would actually be relocated to a new piece of land," Simmons said. "UMKC wouldn't own [that] land."

The site will be the southwest corner of the School of Education parking lot on Cherry Street, facing Epperson House.

"They're very supportive of the idea," Simmons said. "It puts them in an area you would expect to see a clubhouse."

Details were established a couple years ago when

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Top: Rendering of the proposed mixed use development, facing southeast from the corner of 51st Street and Brookside Boulevard. Photo used with permission of University Communications

Above: The site is currently occupied by a metered surface parking lot, the Kansas City Young Matron's Historic Club House and the UMKC Annex. Photo by Riley Mortensen

## Name change discussions to be held

Mal Hartigan Managing Editor

When Chancellor Leo Morton suggested a potential name change for UMKC earlier this year, the idea met both support and opposition.

Morton's suggestion supported the change from "University of Missouri-Kansas City" back to the university's original identity, "University of Kansas City."

Morton and other supporters believe the name change could uniquely distinguish UMKC as "Kansas City's university." The change to UKC, however, would not signal a departure from the University of Missouri system.

Others believe the UM designation in the school's name gives it more national credibility, distinguishing it

from for-profit colleges named after cities.

Because many students come from the Kansas City area, Morton is hopeful the university's proposed name change will garner increased community support.

Morton intends to pursue further research and discussion to determine if a name change would ultimately benefit the university before proceeding.

UMKC will hold multiple forums and discussions during September for students, faculty and staff, who are encouraged to attend.

Students, faculty, staff, prospective students and alumni can also voice their opinion with an online survey, which will be offered in late September.

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## Save the date

### Student Government Association forums:

**Tuesday, Sept. 4** 10 a.m.-Noon  
Student Union 301, Student Government Chambers

**Monday, Sept. 17** 6 p.m.  
Chancellor Morton will speak to the Student Senate in room 301 of the Student Union.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19** 3-5 p.m.  
Student Union 301, Student Government Chambers

**Thursday, Sept. 20** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Hospital Hill, Health Sciences Building, Room 4301

**Thursday, Sept. 20** 6-8 p.m.  
Student Union 301, Student Government Chambers

### Faculty Senate:

**Wednesday, Sept. 5** 3-5 p.m.  
Volker campus, E.E. Thompson Courtroom in the School of Law

**Wednesday, Sept. 26** 3-5 p.m.  
Hospital Hill, Health Sciences Building, Room 4308

### Staff Council:

**Tuesday, Sept. 4** 1-3 p.m.  
Hospital Hill, School of Medicine, Theater C

**Tuesday, Sept. 5** 1-3 p.m.  
Royall Hall, Room 104

# Missouri Prayer Amendment draws controversy and speculation

Nathan Zoschke  
Editor-in-Chief

Voters in Missouri's Aug. 7 primary overwhelmingly approved adding specific language to the state constitution affirming the right to pray in public.

Despite a landslide 83-17 percent victory, Amendment 2, officially titled the "Missouri Public Prayer Amendment," has drawn speculation and controversy.

The ballot summary left out several controversial provisions, and some argued the ballot language was misleading.

The ballot language states that a "yes" vote will prohibit the state or its political subdivisions from establishing an official religion, and defines freedom of worship to include prayer in public and private settings, including government premises, all public property and public schools. It also requires public schools to display the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution.

The ballot summary also excluded wording from the amendment that allows students to opt out of "academic assignments or education presentations" that violate their religious beliefs, and to "express their beliefs about religion in written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of their work."

This raises the following issues:

- The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution already protects the free exercise of religion, including an individual's right to pray in public.
- Text from the Missouri amendment, not included in the ballot summary, affirms the right to worship and acknowledge "Almighty God." Some believe this is excludes polytheistic and nontheistic religions.
- Language not in the ballot summary prohibits the extension of rights granted under the amendment to prison inmates beyond those guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. The ACLU of Eastern Missouri has filed suit, claiming such language is discriminatory.

## 'Disappointed and disturbed'

Dr. Gary Ebersole, chair of the Faculty Senate and History Department, said he was "disappointed and disturbed" by the amendment's passage.

"I don't think most faculty are aware of the implications of what has happened yet," Ebersole said. "Very few people have read the fine print, the section that talks about students' ability to opt out of readings and assignments."

Ebersole expressed concerns about how the amendment's language will impact students in courses such as religious studies, or those required for medical certification in Missouri, such as evolutionary and

### Missouri Prayer Amendment Official ballot title

“ Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to ensure:

- That the right of Missouri citizens to express their religious beliefs shall not be infringed;
- That school children have the right to pray and acknowledge God voluntarily in their schools; and
- That all public schools shall display the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution.

### Fair ballot language

“ A "yes" vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to provide that neither the state nor political subdivisions shall establish any official religion. The amendment further provides that a citizen's right to express their religious beliefs regardless of their religion shall not be infringed and that the right to worship includes prayer in private or public settings, on government premises, on public property, and in all public schools. The amendment also requires public schools to display the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution.

A "no" vote will not change the current constitutional provisions protecting freedom of religion.

### First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

“ Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Above: The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution forbids the establishment of a state religion and contains broad provisions for religious freedom, including the right to pray in public.

Left: Ballot language for Amendment 2, the Missouri Prayer Amendment, does not include controversial provisions that allow students to opt out of class assignments or presentations that violate their religious beliefs.

Illustration by Nathan Zoschke

reproductive biology.

"The language is so broad that anyone could opt out of any activities that are part of the syllabus," Ebersole said. "What if students were to say, 'I don't want to study this, but I want the degree?'"

## A question of interpretation

Professor Allen Rostron, a Constitutional law scholar, said there has been speculation among Constitutional law faculty at UMKC about the prayer amendment.

"The main issue we're thinking about is how people would apply this in a broad way that would impact an academic setting," Rostron said. "Will people use it to say they can't study certain subjects?"

Rostron said authors of Amendment 2 promoted it as a reiteration of existing Constitutional rights.

"The key language is about students not being required to perform or participate," Rostron said. "I can see it applied and interpreted in a narrow context."

A broad understanding of certain provisions, however, could be troublesome for educators.

you're learning to represent other people and make arguments that aren't always consistent with your personal beliefs."

Ebersole expressed similar concerns. "This [Amendment 2] really says people have the right to remain ignorant—I don't mean stupid, I mean not having knowledge,"

“ There's a concern that even if these legal rights exist, they may not be as widely known or respected as they should be. —Prof. Allen Rostron ”

Ebersole said. "It becomes impossible to educate a student. All students need to encounter new ideas and have their assumptions challenged."

Rostron said he doesn't have a problem with most of the amendment's language.

"It says kids have a right to pray as long as it's not on an organized basis, and that's what the Supreme Court has said," Rostron explained. "I don't think it will have an impact other than how teachers phrase questions like, 'Explain how the human species evolved.' It could be stated another way, like, 'Explain the theory of

evolution."

## What's the point?

Rostron said language like Amendment 2 is sometimes added to state constitutions as a cautionary measure to reaffirm rights spelled out in the U.S. Constitution.

"Sometimes it's important to have something that is symbolic, underscoring the importance of these ideas," Rostron said. "There's a concern that even if these legal rights exist, they may not be as widely known or respected as they should be. An example would be a teacher who mistakenly tells a student not to pray at school."

“ This really says people have the right to remain ignorant—I don't mean stupid, I mean not having knowledge. —Dr. Gary Ebersole ”

As a religious studies scholar, Ebersole believes the amendment is catered to those with Judeo-Christian beliefs.

"There's no doubt about it," Ebersole said. "The language is Jewish-Christian theological language. 'Almighty God' is

Continued on Page 6

# Police Blotter

Aug. 18

**12:19 p.m.** *Property Damage*  
A student returned to her vehicle at 53rd and Harrison streets to find a glue-like substance on the door handles and windshield, along with scratches on the passenger door.

Aug. 21

**2:14 p.m.** *University Violation*  
Parking Operations found a counterfeit parking pass on a vehicle in the Rockhill Parking Garage.

**2:38 p.m.** *Burglary*  
A university employee discovered a laptop and iPad missing from a cabinet in his office in Grant Hall.

**5:45 p.m.** *Burglary*  
A university employee discovered an iMac desktop computer missing from a storage area in Grant Hall.

Aug. 22

**9:02 a.m.** *Larceny*  
A student returned to her vehicle in the Rockhill Parking Garage to discover her parking pass missing.

Aug. 23

**10:42 a.m.** *Stolen Vehicle*  
A student returned to her vehicle at 53rd and Harrison streets to find it had been stolen.

**5:12 p.m.** *Larceny*  
A student returned to his vehicle in the School of Education parking lot to discover his motorcycle helmet had been stolen.

# News about YOU-News

# UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

Find us online at [www.unews.com](http://www.unews.com).  
Contact us at [universitynews@unews.com](mailto:universitynews@unews.com)

# Church reaches out to students



Central United Methodist church members serve hot dogs, chips, cookies and other picnic foods to students at the church's weekly Wednesday night dinners at 6 p.m. Dinners are held outside when weather permits. **Photo by Kynslie Otte**

# College ministry provides more than free meals

**Mal Hartigan** Managing Editor

Central United Methodist Church offers more than an aesthetically pleasing presence for passersby on Oak Street.

Nestled in a corner across from the School of Law, Central UMC takes advantage of outreach efforts for college students, which include free weekly Wednesday dinners at 6 p.m.

College-Age Minister Alexis Cook heads efforts to encourage students' involvement in the church community, using the weekly dinners as an opportunity for visitors to meet other members and socialize.

Unlike most church youth gatherings, free dinners do not serve as a method to gather students in order to share the church's ideals. Visitors are instead encouraged to meet Cook, her family and other active members.

Cook stressed the importance of offering a community where students feel safe and welcome, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or belief.

She also acknowledged the church's location as a major influence for reaching

out to UMKC students.

"It just makes sense," Cook said.

She has advertised the church's services for students by handing out water bottles on campus, but said word of mouth has been most effective.

Cook also addressed the future possibility of allowing fraternities and sororities to use the church's space to hold large events, but said there may be a small fee.

The church has finished a recent renovation and expansion offering multiple rooms where Conservatory students can practice or hold rehearsals, free of charge.

Cook said she periodically attends Conservatory events on campus to support and connect with students in the program, giving reminders about how the church offers its space for practices.

Cook said her effort to connect with UMKC students has been personally rewarding.

If Wednesday dinner attendees are interested in attending church services after interacting with the community, Cook considers it a bonus.

The percentage of students who still

attend church after moving to college is very low, Cook said. This is mostly attributed to students adopting busier schedules and not connecting with a nearby church.

Last Wednesday's weekly dinner consisted of hotdogs, cookies, chips and lemonade, attracting more than 30 college-age visitors. The free meal rotates each week, with lasagna and taco salad on next week's menu.

Due to nice weather, last Wednesday's dinner was held outside. Water balloons and other scheduled games were offered for children and students who wished to participate.

The relaxed atmosphere allows students to eat and leave, or to stick around and inquire about the church and future events.

Cook's main goal is to increase students' awareness of the church and its services, but she also strives to create a community where students always feel welcome.

To learn more about the church's youth group, Cook can be reached by email at [alexisc@centralcares.com](mailto:alexisc@centralcares.com).

[mbhartigan@unews.com](mailto:mbhartigan@unews.com)

# Whole Foods development: Continued from Page 2

discussion of this project first surfaced, but would only proceed with the surefire confirmation of the market's construction.

Simmons refrains from using the term "luxury" to explain the housing above the Whole Foods Market.

"The housing will be market rate, but will be towards the upper end of market rate,"

he said. "It is important to remember that even though there may be some students who can and will be able to afford to live in this, it is not being constructed as student housing."

However, he noted that the project will provide employment opportunities for students.

Following finalization of all details, construction could begin as early as spring 2013, although this is not set in stone.

Simmons said once construction begins, the project will take an estimated 12-18 months to complete.

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# student profile

# Innovating Solutions keeps an eye on the Cloud

Graduate attributes startup success to Bloch School's E-Scholars program

**John New**

Staff Writer

Every global entrepreneur dreams of developing a product or service which makes a lasting impact in his or her industry.

Aniruddha Shukla said moving to the U.S. from India to attend UMKC provided the platform to discover his dream by launching his own technology startup in Kansas City: Innovating Solutions.

A 2011 graduate of the School of Computing and Engineering with a master's in electrical and computer engineering, Shukla used his passion for telecommunication technologies to provide vision to Innovating Solutions.

His company is an information technology consultancy and mobile app development startup company launched last year through the Entrepreneurship-Scholars (E-Scholars) program.

"Business has always been a passion from when I was a child, but I did not have the right opportunities to pursue my (business) ideas," Shukla said. "I used to work in the Information Systems labs at the Bloch School, and one day I saw an advertisement saying that if you have a business idea, this [E-Scholars program] might be the right place for you."

Shukla applied and was admitted.

Through E-Scholars, Shukla collaborated with Gina Bourret, now President of Innovating Solutions and lead software engineer, and Jacob Bourret, Marketing Director of Innovating Solutions.

The trio set out to enhance the company by developing the mobile products branch.

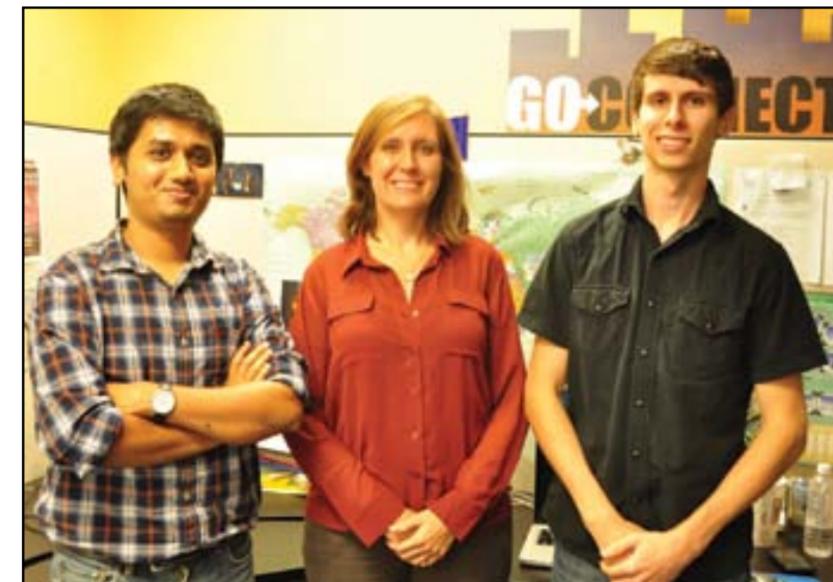
Innovative Solutions created "Innodocx," a unique private mobile cloud allowing businesses to securely access documents from any major platform provider, including Windows, Apple and Android, in a familiar format.

The convenience of smart phones and increasing availability of wireless technologies have changed the way business is conducted.

With the need to access company documents remotely, many companies have turned to cloud computing tools, such as Box, Dropbox or Google Drive.

However, this convenience has also caused problems.

When sensitive materials, such as construction blueprints or legal documents, are stored and transferred around the cloud, this increases risk of security breaches because companies do not own the mediums through



Left to right: Aniruddha Shukla (left) developed Innovating Solutions with the help of Gina Bourret (center) and Jacob Bourret (right). **Photos by Sai Srikar Kadiyam**

which the files are transferred or stored.

Innodocx is Innovative Solutions' answer to the security breaches of cloud computing: private cloud computing. Innodocx allows companies to create customized cloud software using their existing technology infrastructure.

With Innodocx, companies will have their

**“Business has always been a passion from when I was a child...”**  
-Aniruddha Shukla

own private network that can be accessed anywhere, with the ability to control and track access to corporate documents.

Gina Bourret's prior entrepreneurial experience includes developing engineering software for the steel construction industry, winning her an award from the American Institute of Steel Construction for software mobility.

With Bourret's help and advice from E-Scholars, Shukla and his business partners have been able to work with companies within the construction industry to develop Innodocx.

Shukla hopes his company's innovation can

be used across all markets and industries. He said Innovative Solutions is currently seeking out new areas for business development opportunities.

Shukla recognizes the opportunity of the Institute for Entrepreneurship, and Innovation's E-Scholars program has been an important part of his success.

Since graduating from the program, Shukla feels he continues to learn and grow in his entrepreneurial spirit.

He specifically praises fellow cohort of current and alumni of the E-Scholars program, as well as E-Scholars mentor Evan Stewart, former Chief Information Officer of B/E Aerospace, and Tom Boozer, associate E-Scholars director.

He aspires to be as influential as his role model, Indian business magnate Anil Ambani, which led company Reliance Industries Limited to be one of India's leading companies in the telecommunications field.

"Many people are usually good at one thing, maybe technology, finance, or marketing, but the (E-Scholars) program gives you complete insights and understanding of what it takes and what you have to do to be successful (in business)," Shukla said.

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# financial corner



# Textbook time

**Brad New**

Contributor

UMKC SIFE returns to give advice on financial topics for college students.

According to the College Board, a student at a four-year public university averages \$1,168 on textbooks and supplies each semester.

However, there are several ways to cut textbook costs.

# Shop the Bookstore

College bookstores have a reputation for significantly marked-up prices. However, bookstores offer a few conveniences.

Purchasing books right away allows students to get a head start on readings and to avoid shipping costs.

Buying textbooks via student charge is a popular option. The charge is capped at \$1,000 per semester. Like any type of credit, it must be paid back and accrues interest. Charge balances must be paid by the end of the semester.

The bookstore has an online store where students can view prices and the estimated time of arrival of books from several online websites.

# Shop online

Purchasing online is another viable option for cheaper textbooks. Popular sites to buy, rent or sell textbooks include [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), [Chegg.com](http://Chegg.com), [textbooks.com](http://textbooks.com) and [ecampus.com](http://ecampus.com).

Chegg allows students to buy used or new books and offers rental options. [Textbooks.com](http://Textbooks.com) gives free shipping for orders of at least \$25. [Ecampus.com](http://Ecampus.com) not only sells textbooks, but college apparel, Blu-Ray discs and regular books with free shipping for rental returns and orders of at least \$59.

In part of the UMKC network on Facebook, one can find groups buying, selling or trading textbooks.

# Do both

A third option is to buy from the bookstore using the student charge option and order the same books online. Once the books have shipped, return the books from the bookstore by the Sept. 5 deadline for a full refund.

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Sustainability Corner

'I want to ride my bicycle'



Keep the pedals turning, stop fossil fuels from burning

Johanna Poppel Production Manager

What is a good way to avoid parking tickets, rush hour traffic, high gas prices and crowded parking garages while maintaining a nice physique and making it to school on time? Commute to school by bicycle.

All Kansas City buses have bike racks, and all UMKC Student IDs double up as a free, all-access bus pass.

UMKC offers several resources on campus for bicycle commuters, including numerous bike racks. Some include air pumps to help out stressed tires.

UMKC offers three locations for various biking needs:

The Hub offers students, faculty and staff the opportunity to rent a bike for up to a semester. The program facility moved to the basement of Cherry Hall. Few bikes are still available to loan, but at the beginning of the semester, there were 56 bicycles available. A helmet and heavy-duty lock are provided for those who rent a bike.

The Hub also provides maintenance for those who already own a bike. Information is also available for bike riders such as a campus bike map, showing the placement of campus bike racks. Other information includes safety and traffic regulations, maps of local bike trails and information on how to use the city bus system.

The Bike Shop by Revolve KC, at 5100 Troost Ave., has an Earn-a-Bike program. Bicycles are donated to the non-profit organization and the bikes are repaired and given away. Any community member can volunteer in the shop or at community events for 10 hours or take a two-or-three hour bike safety course available free online to earn a bicycle. Bicycles may also be purchased for a reasonable price.

For casual afternoon bike rides, Swinney Recreation Center offers a daily bicycle checkout program as a part of the campus' "Clean Commute" program.

Bicycling is a growing passion and hobby for students and community members, and several clubs and events are available in the area.

It is important to stay safe and respect traffic regulations. When riding on streets, ride with the flow of traffic and stay on the far right side. Always wear a helmet and never use headphones. Be cautious of road conditions and other motorists and be sure to use hand signals when turning at intersections.

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Books for Burundi

Donations drive spearheaded by UMKC professor will benefit impoverished African university

Roze Brooks Senior Staff Writer

Access to a surplus of reading material is a foreign concept to public university students in the African country of Burundi.

Students at the University of Burundi line up regularly to share one solitary textbook per 400 students. Director of Composition Dr. Stephen Dilks compares this deprivation to "the bible being chained to the pulpit."

As the only public school in the country, the university's enrollment exceeds 4,000 students, but still doesn't garner enough attention to gain multiple copies of essential textbooks.

Dilks is adamant about spearheading efforts to directly assist Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi.

Anita Doll, a Kansas native stationed at the U.S. State Department in Burundi, has been corresponding with Dilks.

Dr. Ildephonse Horicubonye, the chair of the English Department at the University of Burundi, has also worked with Dilks to determine the most effective way to carry out this project.

Burundi's dominant language is French, whereas neighboring countries all speak English.

This book drive hopes to expand the English Department at the University of Burundi to alleviate the language barrier.

"Burundi is one of the five poorest countries in the world," said History Professor Lynda Payne. "Adult literacy is 25

percent for women and 50 percent for men and there is an urgent need for teachers, especially of English."

Dilks' desire to execute this project stems from more than his dedication to the English language and literature - the idea of giving back on a greater scale is what motivates him.



Map of Burundi Courtesy of Google Images

His personal contributions include running a half-marathon wearing a shirt that read, "Books for Burundi," and organizing a music gig to be held at Jazzman's Coffee House in the Student Union.

So far Dilks has reached out to UMKC's faculty, high schools and leaders of student organizations in the English Department. The overall support for the project is substantial, he said.

Undergraduate English Council President Nick Melrose is anxious to get started.

"I became really interested in helping Dr. Dilks with this project after first talking with him and hearing how direct and how much we as students could help to create a positive educational atmosphere for our fellow students at the University of Burundi," Melrose said.

He added, "What Dr. Dilks aims to do is very rare because he hopes to essentially donate books directly to the university, as opposed to simply donating money to a third party, so we will be able to see these books being used immediately, which is what makes Dr. Dilks' idea so unique and appealing."

There are three primary ways for students to help: raise money, collect physical copies of books and promote overall awareness.

Dilks said he intends to start a non-profit group, establishing a long-term relationship between the universities. He feels students would benefit from working with "a country we can hardly pronounce."

History shows the oldest known remains were found near Burundi, a discovery called "Lucy." Dilks feels looking into the expansion of the first civilization will help broaden understanding of Western culture.

Books on Burundi's request list contains titles of textbooks for instructor use, as well as novels by Toni Morrison, Alice Walker and Lorraine Hansberry.

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Part II A look at Recruitment

Have you ever wondered how UMKC received basketball players such as current stars Fred Chatmon, Eilise O'Connor, Kirk Korver, or former players Chazny Morris and Reggie Chamberlain? What is the process? What are the rules? Who are the principal people involved in the process? Most importantly: why UMKC?

U-News will answer these questions while exploring basketball recruitment in a three-part series.

Damion Alexander Staff Writer

Young boys were going in and out of the facility wearing gym shorts, t-shirts or jerseys, and carrying gym bags or shoes. The building looked like a community center from the outside. Drawing closer, it was easy to see by the signs designating where coaches and players entered that this was no ordinary college facility. The inside confirmed it: a tournament had commenced.

Thomas Tietze was holding his Metro Sports Basketball Tournament at the Mid America Sports Complex West during July in Shawnee. A registration desk met coaches and players for payment at gym's entrance. Metro Sports was present for coverage.

Beyond the foyer were four full-length basketball courts, each occupied with two teams. In between was a medical center to treat players. Some bleachers designated "Coaches" were roped off behind two courts. Unfortunately, if all the coaches were seated behind one court, only the players on that court were getting exposure. And exposure is exactly why everyone paid to come to play. Coaches were recruiting.

This is the second article of a three-part series by the U-News titled "Basketball Recruiting." This article covers the business side of basketball recruiting and its controversies.

Business: "Cottage Business"

The NCAA makes billions per year from its sports programs and media deals. It is in the middle of an 11-year, \$6 billion television rights deal with CBS. In 2010-11, the largest portion (40.5 percent) of \$478 million distributed to conferences and member institutions through the "Basketball Distribution Fund" comes from NCAA basketball. That is according an article, "How Much Money do Conferences Earn From March Madness?" that appeared last March on "The Business of College Sports" website.

The money is huge. Include the fame of players such as Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant

and LeBron James, and it becomes apparent that basketball has become one of the most popular sports in the world. Such incentives create a demand for talent, which produces what Tietze calls the "cottage business."

But these summer players face long odds to reach the big time. According to the NCAA, only .03 percent of high school basketball players, and only one percent of college players, reach the NBA.

Every year, thousands of high school prospects play in Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) leagues and tournaments sanctioned by the NCAA, and use scouting services to get exposure to college coaches.

"It affords everything under one roof," Tietze said about his tournament. "In Vegas, a coach would spend 80 to 90 percent of his time going from gym to gym."

Tietze said NBA players Blake Griffin and

videotaping their children. Players sat or were spread out on the sidelines watching the competition, waiting to play.

Bob Drake was in the stands videotaping his son Even Drake, a 6-foot-1 guard who played with the Omaha Sports Academy Crusaders. They came from Nebraska to get exposure to college coaches for Even.

"I think this is great for the kids," said Bob Drake.

His son summed up the benefits of participating.

"Exposure," said Even Drake, who finished with 11 points, 11 assists and roughly seven rebounds, according to his dad. "And seeing the talent I can go up against."

Last year, Even received letters from Yale, West Point and Division II colleges, but had not yet spoken to any coaches at the tournament. Bob said UMKC had recently

"They are trying to control something that can't be controlled..."

-Al Johnson

Tyler Hansbrough played in his tournament, while Chicago Bulls point guard Derek Rose "had his coming out party" at one.

"Roy Williams [North Carolina men's head coach] and Mike Krzyzewski [Duke] came last year," Tietze said

On a day this past July, coaches from University of Central Missouri, Park University and UMKC were among those attending. Assistant coach Stephen Brough represented the Roos.

But Tietze's and others' services come with a cost.

Exposure or exploitation?

"Parents pay," said Tietze. "That is what basketball has turned into in the past 10 to 12 years. These events have turned into family events."

Indeed, amongst the screeches of basketball shoes, whistles screeching and balls bouncing, parents were cheering and

watched video of his son. The Drakes said they also use online recruiting websites.

"I have him on two recruiting websites- "Go Big Recruiting" and recruitment.com," Bob said.

KC Spartans 17-year old point guard Shakha Benbow was standing with a friend, gym bag over his shoulder while waiting to play his next game.

"To get looked at by scouts and stuff," Benbow said of his reason for playing in the tournament. "I want to play at the next level."

"I would be cool with UMKC, Southern Missouri, KU, K-State," he continued. "But if I get an offer from a D-two, then I would go there."

He admitted he had not yet been recruited. Duane Baack, coach of Lincoln [Neb.] Southwest High School, said, "We want our kids to see some good competition to raise

their level of game and make them play better. We are not Division I big time players. We need a little more exposure."

Mia Estell sat in the stands with her son, 17-year old, 6-foot-3 guard Timothy Estell. They were waiting for Timothy's team, KC Gamespeed, to play.

"Outside of the obvious recognition," Mia said with purse in lap. "This is his passion. This is what he loves to do morning, noon and night. Literally."

"There is some good competition," said Timothy. "There is no weak team in the tournament. Every team has talent."

Talent and exposure come at a price. .

"I have been in the high school scouting service for 23 years," said Tietze, referring to the scouting service he owns. "I sell to colleges and universities. UMKC is a subscriber."

"Customers always subscribe. Business is different. People pay for your information and opinions."

Tietze is just one of many individuals or companies cashing in on the scouting and recruiting business. He said he worked in sales, but "got tired of being fired." He said he decided to enter the scouting business after doing a survey of people, where three out of five people recommended it.

"I don't have sponsors," Tietze said. "Metro Sports has been great to work with."

Al Johnson, of the Al Johnson Sports Management and Training in Dallas, said he charges a fee to "train and help kids get in a school." He said he also receives money from sponsors such as adidas.

"Adidas gives us a stipend or budget," Johnson said. "We have five or six teams. The top two are budgeted to make a tournament."

"For other teams it is a huge deal. Most try to take care of one team."

Baack said, "We have sponsorships. The kids have money, as well. We pool together."

Prayer amendment: Continued from Page 2

capitalized and singular. What does one do with Hindu or Buddhist citizens, or any other poly- or non-theistic religion?"

Rostron said it is unconstitutional to discriminate against mono-, poly- or non-theistic religions.

"A lot of these old cases go back to conscientious objections to the military draft," Rostron said. "The First Amendment has made clear that the government has no business [qualifying a religious belief]."

According to Rostron, the U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted religion broadly.

"Religion is defined legally to mean any personal, sincerely held spiritual belief even if it doesn't apply to organized religion," Rostron said.

The road ahead

Rostron said he doesn't believe the ACLU case "sounds like a particularly strong suit."

"The ACLU has focused on the prisoner part," Rostron said. "They're saying basically criminals are being discriminated against because they only get what federal law provides."

According to Ebersole, there is a system-level discussion among the provosts of the four University of Missouri schools and Steven Graham, the senior associate vice president for academic affairs. A set of guidelines pertaining to the amendment has been discussed, although much depends

on how the amendment will be interpreted by the courts.

"At this point, it's so nebulous that we won't have any real guidelines until courts get involved," Ebersole said.

Provost Gail Hackett declined to be interviewed, but issued the following statement:

"Understanding the potential ramifications of Missouri Amendment 2 on public universities will require extensive research and consultations with counsel. Until that process is complete, any comment on the matter would be premature."

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## health journal

Exercise your  
Mind and Body

**Kharissa Forte**  
Senior Staff Writer

When speaking in terms of health, the first concerns relate to what people eat and how often they exercise. Being healthy, however, also pertains to being well. The MindBody Connection (MBC) focuses on enriching students to benefit their wellness and health.

Psychologist Rachel Pierce of UMKC's Counseling Center in the Division of Student Affairs has served as a member of MBC's coordination team since its opening in 2007. Her role varies from student counseling to supervising doctoral students who are training to become psychologists and managing the Center's outreach activities.

Pierce explained the connection between the mind and body is inseparable.

"Our mind directs our body, and our body provides feedback to our brain," she said. "Stress and emotions are experienced both mentally and physically, and many mental health concerns have physical symptoms. Likewise, many physical health concerns can have an emotional impact."

MBC provides a space for students to learn skills to help manage academic and personal stressors. It strives to help students recognize personal strengths and grow. It also helps students find relevant campus and community resources based on their personal needs.

MBC offers various services to achieve this objective. The most popular service is the state-of-the-art massage chair.

MBC also has two HeartMath computer stations.

"HeartMath is a computerized biofeedback program by which, by seeing your heart rate on the screen, you learn to induce feelings of calmness, relaxation,

Continued on page 9



## Men's soccer team promises a great season for UMKC

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

The time has come for the men's soccer team to prove its skill. This year's squad appears to be well prepared and hopes to bring the Summit League championship back to UMKC.

What's new for Coach Rick Benben's team this year?: nine new players joined the Roos: one goalkeeper, one defender, five midfielders and two forwards.

Junior Diego Figueroa is from Chile, and came from Florida to play for the Roos this year, offering his strength and technique on defense.

"It's an honor to become part of UMKC," Figueroa said. "To come and do what I love the most rewards all the efforts and sacrifices of my family, which has always supported me."

When asked about what fans could expect from him, he said, "I will give it my best to help the team get as far as possible, to win the championship with authority."

He also talked about his teammates and coaches as his biggest strength for this year's Summit League, mentioning Guerrero Pino as one of the leaders on the team.

"Pino is a great player, I would say he is a leader who has lots to offer; the forwards are very strong and athletic, and we have great goalkeepers," Figueroa said. "Coach Benben is an amazing person who always believes in us."

**Above:** The Roos tied SMU 1-1 and lost to Rockhurst 1-0 before opening their regular season with a 4-0 road loss to Tulsa Saturday night.

**Below:** The men's soccer team engages in a morning workout.  
Photos by Dan Moreno



Pino, a civil engineering major, is a returning defender from Parral, Chihuahua, Mexico. "Coach Benben did a great job bringing these players together," Pino said. "In my opinion, they are all very talented."

He also addressed the team's camaraderie in the locker room. "We all get along very good, everyone here is friends with the rest, but at the same time we know what playing for UMKC means, and we all take it very seriously and give the best of ourselves in order to achieve our goals, which in this case is the championship," he said.

The biggest strength for the team this season is Coach Benben, who will be coaching his 15th straight season and is the coach with the most wins in school history. He was also inducted into the UMKC

Athletic Hall of Fame last year.

"The first thing is that we will certainly be competitive, we want to put the team in the highest spot - the sooner the better - but we need time and patience for that," Benben said.

He also addressed the team's new players. "They are great players, that is why they are here," Coach Benben said. "They will all contribute to our team."

Benben indicated that the team's main strength lies in its returning players. He mentioned Michael Oakley, David Sarabia, Jordan Rideout and Zach Balthazar. He promised fans that his team will "play an attractive style of soccer, score as many goals as we can, and certainly make watching a game at Durwood as good an experience as watching a game anywhere. We expect to see

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## Player profile

## Jordan Rideout and David Sarabia: Soccer players' talent contributes to team's expected success

**Tyren Rushing** Staff Writer

After last year's disappointing 5-9-3 season, the UMKC men's soccer team is looking to bounce back. Coach Rick Benben even described last season as a "rebuilding year."

Things seem to be looking up for the Roos this season. The team has been picked to finish the season in second place, according to the Summit League coaches poll. Success is expected from this year's team partially due to the talent of sophomore forward Jordan Rideout and senior forward David Sarabia.

Rideout, who made first-team All-Summit League and won the Summit League Newcomer of Year Award last season, is expected to have an even stronger season than last. A native of England, Rideout moved to America at age 10. "It's obviously a pretty great accomplishment, but I feel like it's more of a team effort to get to there," Rideout said. "I couldn't have did what I did without the players around me giving me crosses, assists and keeping me up for games. My captains, my coaches, this was a team thing more than just something for myself. But it felt pretty good to get Newcomer of the Year."

The primary job of any forward is to score. Rideout scored seven goals last season to lead the team. "I always strive to be the leading scorer," said Rideout. "That's my goal to score the most. I thought it was good accomplishment but there is always room for improvement. I'm more

worried about the ones that I missed."

At age 19, Rideout has spent half of his life in America. However, he noted there are differences between playing soccer in the U.S. and in Europe.

"I've only played a couple times over in Europe," he said. "But the pace is completely different in England. It's a lot more of a physical game. The boys are bigger and stronger. But American soccer is becoming a lot like it now. It's getting bigger and I feel like it could be there one day."

Despite his personal success, Rideout has always heeded Coach Benben's message of putting the team first.

"Personally, I want to set the record for goals in a season," said Rideout. "But I'm more worried about the team than personal goals. Obviously we want to win the Summit League, and maybe even a game in the first or second round of the NCAA tournament."

Another factor for the Roos' projected success this season is Sarabia. At age 21, Sarabia is entering his final season for the Roos and is prepared to finish strong with a solid career as a four-year starter.

Sarabia has endured many experiences on the men's soccer team during his career, including the rebuilding stages, last year's losing record, and the Summit League championship season of 2010, when when the team went 10-5-3. Sarabia has remained a prominent scorer and is currently tied for 11th in all-time in career goals, despite temporarily switching to goalkeeper last season.

"We graduated our senior goalkeeper two years ago," said Sarabia. "Coach basically wanted me to see if I still had the ability to play in the goal again. After not training [in that position] you start getting rusty and not used to it and all that."

After a few games, Sarabia switched back to forward. Even though he only scored two goals last season, they were both game winners, and made him as the school's active career leader in game-winning goals with seven.

"It feels great actually [to be the leader in active goals]," said Sarabia. "I have to keep working to improve upon that." The key to Sarabia's clutch goals was summed up by him as, "being at the right spot, at the right moment."

Sarabia emphasized the "team first" mentality, which Coach Benben instills into each player. When asked about cracking the UMKC top 10 in career goals, he answered quickly but switched the subject back to the team.

"At least top ten for sure," Sarabia said. "But I'm more worried about the team and us doing better on the field than anything else. Winning our conference tournament, and hopefully advancing a couple stages in the NCAA Tournament [are the goals for the season]."

With a roster sporting a mix of young and experienced players, a coach entering his 15th season and two talented forwards leading the offense, this season has the potential to be one of the Roos' best.

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## Health Journal: Continued from Page 8

focus, and positive emotional state," Pierce said.

"Wii Hours of the Day" is another UMKC favorite when students can drop by and play the Wii during designated hours for fun physical exercise. MindBody also has a "ReadCycle Center" that serves as a library for students who want to learn more about holistic wellness.

"MBC staff members are available to consult privately with students who want some short-term support around a specific problem or

concern," Pierce said. Other staff members include clinical social worker, Dale Voigt-Catlin, and UMKC Master's in Counseling program alum, Robin Laubenthal. MBC is searching for a Health Educator to join their team.

For people who can't make it to the MBC, there is MBC2GO, an online collection of stress management resources, interactivities, soothing sounds, articles and blogs. MBC2GO even has five apps for Android and iPhone users.

The apps are great for those seeking stress management, biofeedback, or suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or who want track their emotions and stress responses.

Pierce says that MBC has served as a daily reminder to slow down and take care of herself. Her favorite relaxation technique is HeartMath.

"Once you get it down," she said, "it's a skill you can activate anywhere. It gets me into a calm and focused space where I feel more open and

capable. It's not hard to learn and it's actually fun to see your heart rhythm change on the screen."

The MindBody Connection can be visited from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in room 112 of the Student Success Center. For more information, visit [www.umkc.edu/MindBody](http://www.umkc.edu/MindBody) and "like" them on Facebook.

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## Volleyball team seeks cohesion with seven freshmen

**Kate Baxendale** Senior Staff Writer

The UMKC volleyball team is kicking off the season with a positive attitude. So far, the team has participated in a morale-boosting match against the Alumni on August 17th. The Kangaroos swept the Alumni 3-0, taking the first set 25-15. In the second set, the Alumni fought back and took the lead halfway through the set. The Kangaroos came out on top, 25-20. The Roos dominated the third set, taking a 16-point lead, and won 25-10.

With seven freshmen on the squad, the team has a lot of work ahead to assure its cohesiveness and success.

"I have a good feeling about our team. We have been trying to catch them [the freshmen] up on what we have been learning from Coach [Christi] Posey and Coach [Trent] Jones," said senior Emily Lucas.

Senior Brittney Robers agrees. "We have good chemistry as a team. Our biggest challenge is that we lack experience playing together," she said.

Both seniors agree that the newest team members have been working hard at practices in order to mesh with the veteran players.

Posey, the head coach, mirrors her players' optimism. The Roos opened their season in Denton, Texas, last weekend and split four matches in the North Texas Invitational. They opened Friday with a 3-1 victory over Lamar and a 3-0 loss to host North Texas, then finished up Saturday with a 3-0 victory over Prairie View A&M and a 3-0 loss to Houston Baptist.

"It's very exciting," Posey said before the tournament. "We get a chance to play somebody else instead of playing against each other in practice. We want to see how we measure up to other teams."

Posey expressed confidence in her new players, saying that each student athlete brings a unique skill set to the team. She believes having more than one new player is an advantage.

"There is definitely strength in numbers," she said. "My older players are good leaders and they have helped teach the new players our core values."

Lucas was expecting a lot from her teammates at the North Texas Invitational.

"I think there will be some good competition, but of course we want to win," she said.

Posey said the goal for the team is to win matches, but her bigger goal is to see how good the team can become. Once the team returns to Kansas City, it will travel to Laramie, Wyo., for the UniWyo Cowgirl Classic. There the Roos will face Bethune-Cookman and Florida Gulf Coast on Aug. 31 and George Washington and Wyoming on Sept. 1.

After playing KU Sept. 4 at Kansas, the Roos will hit the road again Sept. 7-8 to participate in the Runnin' Bulldog Classic in Boiling Spring, N.C. There, the Kangaroos will face Charlotte, Gardner-Webb and Delaware State. UMKC begins Summit League play Sept. 14-15 when the team will travel to IUPUI and Western Illinois. The home opener against Oakland will be Sept. 21 at Swinney Recreation Center.

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# Recruiting: Continued from Page 7

"Absolutely," Mia Estell said of paying for her son to play. "Because he loves to do it. The money is worth it. He could be doing worse things. The least I can do is support him in this."

Benbow said he did not have a sponsor. Tietze said it should not be about the money, but about the players.

"Sometimes when you don't make money, both benefit," Tietze said of players and scouts.

**Basketball over academics?**  
Some critics argue parents are more adamant about making their children focus on basketball than academics. Parents have been known to put a basketball in their child's hands rather than a book before they can even walk.

"It can't be any of this without that," Mia said of academics for Timothy. "If it is not right in the classroom, there is no this."

Timothy said he had a 2.6 GPA. Could it be a result of too much basketball?

"Too many," Mia confided about the number of tournaments in which they participated over the summer. "We just got back from Indianapolis. We went to Minneapolis twice. I can't name them all."

Benbow said he had participated in about four or five events, but has a 3.6 GPA.

"I am going to college on an academic scholarship," he said. "It would be nice to have a partial one to play."

"A more condensed tournament would streamline finances and be a better environment for the students," Tietze said. "This is supposed to be for the kids. Are we interested?"

Good question. It will be argued for years to come, but the NCAA attempts to answer it now.

Rules, rules, rules.



Left: Head Coach Matt Brown

Center: Assistant Coach Stephen Brough

Right: Assistant Coach Doug Hall

Photos courtesy of UMKC Athletics

The NCAA attempts to oversee the recruiting process with the best interest of the student athletes and with the integrity of the game in mind. It governs every step in the recruiting process, even down to the signs in Tietze's tournament.

"I do not get involved in the recruiting process," Tietze said. "All of the things you see here are not because I want to, but mandated by NCAA rules."

Tietze was referring to the signs designating where coaches and players enter and register.

"The summer events lost the ability to control," Tietze explained. "The NCAA stepped in and made minimum requirements for NCAA coaches to attend."

There are a lot of very good points about what happens in summer basketball. Good and bad.

One UCM coach said, "They are much more restrictive. When I started, there weren't many rules. I think it has changed for the better. It is a little more sane. Restrictions are good."

"They are allowing more contact at an earlier time," he added, referring to the new rule change for coaches to use unlimited text messaging.

"Coaches being able to text message gives them an advantage," said Quannas White, a

former point guard for Oklahoma University who is now coach of the Louisiana Dynasty. "I think it is good for them. It helps them reach out through media."

Not everybody is content with the NCAA rules.

"They are trying to control something that can't be controlled," said Johnson. "They (student athletes) are going to have a high school or AAU coach, or uncle or somebody they talk to depending on the situation."

"I don't know why they are not allowed to talk to players at any time," Even Drake said. "I want to know why."

"I would like to see where coaches can talk to kids more," Bob Drake said. "I would like to see the rules simplified for kids to speak to them."

They come to games and can't even talk to you. It makes it hard on everyone."

Bob said that he attempted to speak to a UMKC coach at the tournament, but the coach refused to speak with him because of the rules. Regardless of their opinion of the rules, his son continued to play in the tournament with hopes of good exposure.

The results  
In a follow-up interview, Banbow said his team won only one out of three games in which he averaged six points, five assists, one

steal and "two or three rebounds."

"No coaches," Benbow said of his exposure. "You have to get out of pool play for that."

"If anything, I got to play against better competition."

Bob Drake said, "The tournament was good. Even had a real strong game. He went five-for-five from three-point range."

We went two and two. I think we were in the consolation bracket game."

He said they have not heard from any coaches yet.

"If you are not from a well-known team, it is hard," he said. "Last year around September we started receiving letters -- Yale, Harvard, Lafayette. We'll see in September."

We are hoping we would get some more interest this year."

Mia and Timothy Estell had not responded by the time of this article.

If a player is not ranked, then it is hard to get a scholarship. However, there are those who are not ranked who do receive scholarship offers. With several options, why do they choose UMKC? In the final article of this series, we will explore why players chose to play at UMKC.

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Left to right: Sarina Smith, Allegra Durrant and Chris Haywood are actively-involved members of the LGBT community at UMKC.

Photo Illustration by Nathan Zoschke

# Students discuss school's gay-friendly reputation

U-News Staff Writers

Media attention addressing anti-gay bullying and hate crimes, particularly in schools, has raised awareness of discrimination against LGBT individuals.

In 2011, *Newsweek* ranked UMKC as the 5th most gay friendly college in America, outranked by only MIT, Stanford University, Tufts University and Bryn Mawr College.

The *Newsweek* ranking stems from anti-discrimination policies on campus and an active LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, intersexual and ally/asexual) office.

UMKC is one of approximately 90 universities in the country with a professionally staffed LGBTQIA center.

At UMKC, the office raises awareness through diversity and sensitivity training. Many faculty and staff members, including residential life employees, go through "Safe Space" training to better understand LGBT students.

Many feel UMKC's gay-friendly reputation is well-deserved.

"From what I have seen, no one has ever pushed it away or pretended that we don't have an LGBT community at UMKC," senior Tess Roam said. "I think they make an effort not to exclude

anyone. They have rallies and get-togethers that are well advertised."

"I think it's quite an accomplishment and it shows that UMKC is accepting of all types of people," sophomore Bailey Whiteaker said. "The LGBTQIA program is a big thing here."

"It's awesome," said senior Lauren Palmer. "I think everyone should be accepted for who they are, so it's cool that the school I go to has that mindset."

Others feel discrimination prevails.

Senior Sarina Smith, a philosophy major, does not understand how UMKC was ranked in the top five gay-friendly

schools.

"I just can't imagine that," Smith said. "If UMKC was ranked that high, the rest of the schools in the country have to be pretty terrible. It makes me depressed."

Smith served on the Queer Alliance board for three years as treasurer, vice president and president, consecutively. During that time, she struggled to gain recognition and funding for the group.

"We have a good group of queer students," she said. "But UMKC very much doesn't address issues for the queer community."

QA is one of several LGBT social groups on campus and is

open to all students regardless of orientation.

UMKC Outlaws is a social and academic group geared more specifically toward law students.

This year, faculty and staff created a new organization called Spectrum.

The LGBTQIA office also maintains the Rainbow Lounge in the Student Union. This lounge contains a television, four computers and free printing. Walls are lined with LGBT-related books.

Within the Student Affairs office, a LGBTQIA Resources Coordinator plans programs and services that promote awareness

Continued on Page 12

**COME AND EAT!**

Central United Methodist Church invites you to join our College-Age ministry on Wednesday evenings throughout the semester. All are welcome to join in a free dinner and fun every Wednesday night starting at 6pm. First come, first served. Wednesdays in August will be cookouts with life-sized board games.

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## in their words



“I know it's been negative for different people for different reasons, but there haven't been any negative things directed toward the gay community.”

Kalaa Wilkerson, Sophomore



“Overall though, in spite of everything that happened, coming out was the best decision of my life. Even though I lost a family and a home, I found both again in activism and UMKC.”

Chris Haywood, Junior



“Faculty is great, but administration could be better. And on tours of the school, they never point out the LGBT rooms as a resource.”

Ellen Parsons, Junior

## LGBT: Continued from Page 11

and acceptance of gay students.

The position was vacated earlier this year when the previous coordinator, Joel Bolling, found a new opportunity at Towson University in Maryland.

Office of Student Involvement Director Angie Cottrell recently announced that the position will be filled by Jonathan Ta-Pryor beginning Sept. 4.

Ta-Pryor's position includes helping students access resources, working with organizations and coordinating events such as the annual Pride Breakfast hosted by the Division of Diversity, Access and Equity.

This year, Ta-Pryor will also absorb the duties of Social Justice Coordinator over the Residential Halls.

Missouri's laws on hate crime also aid UMKC's "gay-friendly" stance. The statute defines "sexual orientation" as "male or female heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality by inclination, practice, identity or expression, or having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's gender." In this way, hate crimes targeting sexual orientation are automatically a minimum class D Felony.

Kansas has similar hate crime laws, but excludes gender identity as a basis for hate crime sentencing.

"I think inner city schools tend to be more accepting than rural schools," said sophomore Kaley Patterson, who has participated in religious groups on campus that invite LGBTQIA students to their events. "Most campus religious groups even invite the LGBTQIA body to their outings and get-togethers. I have yet to see any protests on the matter."

## Among students, experiences vary

Smith said she's witnessed behavior from professors that has made her uncomfortable, and thinks faculty and staff should have more Safe Space training.

"I wish there were some punishment for being intolerant," she said.

Smith said she has experienced discrimination first-hand.

"I work in Christian churches," she said. "One time, I was scheduled to teach Sunday school, but a parent of one of the children stopped me in the hallway and refused to let me teach the class that day."

The word Smith used to describe her experience at UMKC? Difficult.

Sophomore Kalaa Wilkerson, a health sciences major, is the current vice president of QA. She said her experience at UMKC has been mostly positive.

"I know it's been negative for different people for different reasons, but there

haven't been any negative things directed toward the gay community," she said.

Wilkerson said that the faculty and staff at UMKC could be "gay-friendlier," and that she hopes there will be better communications with the new LGBTQIA coordinator.

She is pleased, however, with the Multicultural Student Affairs office.

"They're really accepting of me," she said. "They're not negative toward me, and they don't make me feel uncomfortable."

Junior Ellen Parsons, a psychology major, said she has had a mostly positive experience at UMKC, citing some supportive instructors who allowed her to open up and be comfortable. However, not all of her experiences have been positive.

"There are times I've felt administration wasn't as supportive as they could've been," she said. "Faculty is great, but administration could be better. And on tours of the school, they never point out the LGBT rooms as a resource."

Junior Allegra Durrant, former vice president of QA and pharmacy major, said she agrees with the *Newsweek* ranking.

"People are always amazed that we have our own room in the Student Union and so many other resources," she said. "I think that puts us ahead of a lot of other schools."

She described her experience at UMKC as difficult but mostly positive.

"A lot of decisions are governed by economics," Durrant said. "Chick-fil-A was here before we knew about their affiliations. It's not like [UMKC] could easily reverse those decisions [to have the company on campus]. But there wasn't really an apology, and I hope to not see anything like that in the future."

Durrant said she feels generally accepted. "My friends that I've met on campus have been generally accepting," she said. "I've been pretty free to put QA on my résumé and not be discriminated against."

## A struggle coming out

"My family doesn't really talk about it, and I know my dad doesn't agree with it," Wilkerson said. "Most of my peers and friends are okay with it. If they weren't okay with it, they wouldn't be my friend."

Junior Chris Haywood struggled with coming out.

"I faced some of the most challenging yet rewarding moments of my still young life," Haywood said. "My parents kicked me out back in early November, and I was forced to find shelter at the OccupyKC camp."

Cases of family rejection are common in the LGBT community, but Haywood looks at the positives.

"Overall though, in spite of everything

that happened, coming out was the best decision of my life," he said. "Even though I lost a family and a home, I found both again in activism and UMKC."

He has mixed opinions about his ability to be openly gay on campus.

"As proud as I am about how far I've come in terms of accepting myself, there is a conscious fear of how others will react," he said. "Yet the campus, the staff and much of the student body is very accepting of the LGBT community."

Haywood recognized Kristi Ryujin, assistant vice chancellor of Diversity, Access and Equity, and members of QA as some of the most accepting people he has encountered.

While in agreement with *Newsweek's* statement, he feels gender-neutral rooms in the residence halls would further support the LGBTQIA atmosphere on campus.

QA President Brad Leach said his coming out required mental preparation and self-reassurance.

"My biggest obstacle was myself," he said. "I was afraid that my brothers would never speak to me again. I was actually so afraid to come out that I actually wasn't able to ever tell my dad. He passed away in 2004, and I didn't come out till 2007."

Leach feels there is strong administrative support for LGBT students.

"The things that support us being a top-5 LGBT campus starts with administration," he said. "They are supporting us in many endeavors as of right now."

Senior Hunter Capps said that while the majority of his family accepted his sexuality, his father sent mixed signals.

"As a staunch conservative, he has openly voted against gay [rights], so in my mind that nullifies whatever he might have told me when I was 14," Capps said. "In full knowledge of having a gay son, voting directly against his rights is hardly support."

Attending an all-boys' high school initially set limitations on how Capps could present himself, but once he connected with more accepting friends, things got better.

Capps is aware and appreciative of the LGBTQIA resources on campus.

He also said he would like to see more "trans-safe spaces."

Overall, he feels he can have an open dialogue with many faculty members and feels the student body is accepting.

"I have yet to have any particular problem with any student," he said.

Roze Brooks, Michelle Heiman and Meredith Shea contributed to this report.

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Chai Shai front entrance.

Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam



Beef Khara Masala, one of Chai Shai's most popular dishes.

Photo by Kynslie Otte



Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

## restaurants

Chai Shai  
Alumnus brings authentic Indian food to Kansas City

Kynslie Otte Senior Staff Writer

Kashif Tufail hadn't originally planned to open one of the most authentic Indian restaurants in the Kansas City area.

By a twist of fate, Tufail, a UMKC alumnus who intended to open a warehouse to mass produce samosas (a traditional Indian dish) for wholesale purposes, instead opened Chai Shai in June 2010. When Tufail and his brother purchased the building at 59th and Oak Streets, they had not expected the influx of curious neighbors strolling by to inquire about their business endeavors.

According to Tufail, enough passersby suggested they would be interested in sampling the product that they decided to turn the warehouse into a restaurant. Chai Shai began serving only appetizers and chai tea, but after the first successful month of business, Tufail decided a dinner menu was necessary.

The head chef is Tufail's mother, Asma. All the recipes are original and drinks are brewed in-house daily.

Chai Shai is surprisingly casual with soft lighting and contemporary music, giving the restaurant a modern feel. Staff members are friendly and approachable, making it impossible for customers to feel uncomfortable.

The restaurant is a hybrid between fast-casual dining and a full-service, sit-down establishment. Customers are offered menus upon entry and may seat themselves. Orders are placed at the bar, but food and drinks are brought out by employees. This setup and the menu

items were part of Tufail's plan for a different Indian restaurant.

"One of the things that sets us apart from a lot of other places is the food," Tufail said. "It's classic preparations and home-style cooking of the dishes I grew up with. The flavors are different, but everything is done in a very specific way to be the antithesis of what's out there for Indian food in this city. It's a blending of very classic pieces from back home with a modern element added to it."

Chai Shai is different from most Indian restaurants in the Kansas City area because it offers authentic Indian food rather than Indian cuisine specifically tailored to American taste.

The menu includes traditional Indian dishes such as Tufail's famous samosas, which are crispy pastries filled with beef, chicken or vegetables, onions and cilantro. Samosas are served with imli chutney, a sweet and tangy tamarind-based sauce.

One of the most popular items on the menu is the beef khara masala. The dish contains marinated cubes of beef cooked with black cardamom, cilantro and green chiles. Served with naan (a traditional Indian bread), basmati rice, spicy mango slices, achar and raitha (a seasoned yogurt sauce), the combination of the beef, cilantro and green chiles makes the dish's flavor robust and slightly spicy, but not overbearing. The mango slices are seasoned with a special masala blend, creating a distinct taste and making the dish perfect for a small, end-of-meal dessert.



Kashif Tufail, owner.

Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

Unlike most Indian restaurants, Chai Shai does not have a soda fountain. Traditional Indian sodas are available in glass bottles, but the drinks are primarily those made authentically by employees each day. The restaurant's signature iced tea is brewed with whole star anise, cinnamon sticks and cardamom pods.

Chai Shai is customer oriented, offering free Wi-Fi, dog biscuits outside and even an iPad for customer use. The restaurant also contains a small Indian market, featuring necessary items for traditional Indian dishes, as well as miscellaneous supplies such as hair dye and soap.

According to Tufail, the restaurant will be changing the menu soon. Tufail wants to add traditional grill items, including a scallop dish popular in the Indian culture.

Chai Shai is reasonably priced, and the menu is suitable for all ages. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

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## travel

Kazan,  
Russia

The Qolsharif Mosque, completed in 2005, replicates 16th century architecture.

Photo by Joseph Salazar

Joseph Salazar Contributing Writer

I will never complain about Johnson County drivers again.

For a city that celebrated its millennium just a few years ago, there's still construction to be done. In 2013, Kazan, Russia will host the Summer Universiad, a sporting Olympics of European universities. In 2018, Kazan will also be one of the host cities for the FIFA World Cup.

I probably should have been more prepared for the most horrific traffic jam (and to walk the entire way home from the city center where I have been attending classes). I resisted leaving the bus because

of rain, but I decided if Russian girls in five-inch stilettos could brave the walk home, I could, too.

What I was not expecting to find on my hour-long walk was the source of my now-drenched attire. Where the Volga and Kazanka rivers meet, just at the entrance to the heart of this city of 1 million, was the most mind-baffling thing I'd seen in a while. All of the cars trying to enter the city decided to take over the entire intersection. Not a single car could exit the city center, and no police officers were present to ease the congestion.

As my Russian friends tell me often, "That's Russia."

Continued on Page 20

## Ask Phoenix

From relationships to walking in heels

Dear Phoenix,  
How do you deal with everyday bigotry?

Great question. It really depends on the situation. But for the most part, I keep my middle finger peacefully erect.

There will always be haters. There will always be people who do not agree with your values.

Bigots can hate me for everything I am. But I love me and that's all I need.

When someone crosses from peaceful disagreement to blatant disrespect, I usually come back with a witty rebuttal, smile and walk away. I do not need everyone's approval, and I am not about to break a sweat and a nail by starting a fight.

Sometimes I attempt to open someone's mind by discussing our differences, if the bigot is willing. When discussing heated topics or personal values, I do not enter with a goal to change the other's mind. My goal is to simply open that narrow mind to varying perspectives.

Sadly, in regards to bigots, their prejudices stem from ignorance or irrational values, so discussion may be as successful as trying to cuddle with a porcupine.

I follow a fine moral of, "Respect me and I will respect you." We all should have the right to do what we want and hold our own opinions. If I respect your discriminating, ignorant and unintelligent opinion, respect mine as well.

Do not let bigots offend you. They do not deserve the satisfaction of knowing they are bothering you.

I remind myself every day that while I may be in an awful mood, have a to-do list as long as Santa's Naughty list, or remind people of the



bearded lady they saw in their nightmare, I am beautiful, unique and wonderfully odd.

Look in the mirror every day and say, "I am beautiful," and believe it.

Remember: Their opinion of you is none of your business. Do not let them get under your skin. You deserve to be loved and anyone who does otherwise isn't worthy of your time.

Dear Phoenix,  
How do I make my boobs look bigger?

Honey, they call it a "Wonderbra" for a reason. Push-up bras are God's good gift to women. They may be more expensive, but it is completely worth it. You will not regret getting a quality "over-the-shoulder-boulder-holder."

Another "trick of the trade" is socks; they are not just for your feet. Nestle them under the outside of your girls to push them in and up.

When all else fails, utilize one of the many ancient drag queen secrets. Use makeup to recreate the shadows and highlights of the optimal cleavage.

Tootles for now,  
Phoenix Rishon

Questions can be submitted by email to phoenix@unews.com.

*Ask Phoenix' does not substitute for a professional psychologist or psychiatrist. To seek psychological support:*

Contact the UMKC Counseling Center at 816-235-1635.

If you are in crisis or considering suicide, you deserve immediate support.

Contact the Trevor Project at 1-866-488-7386,

-or-

Contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

If you are in immediate danger or in crisis, please call 911.

satire

fashion review

## Walmart

### Store inspires with festive designer knockoff bargains

Debbie Littles

Contributing Writer

In last week's *U-News*, I wrote about how McDonald's tasty, non-organic and non-vegan Dollar Menu changed my perspective on fast food's value to society.

Basically, I decided to stop being a hipster. My steady diet of McChicken sandwiches and Big Macs encouraged me to reassess my anti-corporate biases.

Yesterday, I decided to give Sam Walton's evil empire a chance.

Immediately upon entering Walmart, I was greeted by an elderly man hunched over his walker.

I quit shopping at Target in 2010 after learning it had made a large contribution to a political candidate who did not support LGBTQIA equality.

I'm sure neither anti-gay nor gender biases exist at Walmart, because it seems to thoroughly enjoy screwing employees of both sexes.

Oh the poor children in Vietnam and Cambodia slaving away in sweatshop factories to make my Fruit of the Loom panties and Faded Glory sneakers!

But the Tom's shoes and UGG boots I used to wear are so much more expensive than their Walmart knockoffs. Imagine the possibilities with the \$60 cost savings!

And sweat shop labor really isn't that bad anyway, come to find out.

I met a libertarian at Walmart who told me about some guy named Nicholas Kristof who wrote a column in *The New York Times* about how sweatshops are actually good for everyone.

I mean, people have a *choice* to work in a sweatshop after all; they choose it because it's the best alternative in a perfectly-competitive free market economy.

It's not like their countries were the victims of European colonialism or anything worse than the average white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant from Mission Hills has ever experienced, and it sure as hell beats being forced to work as a sex slave or dying of malnutrition.

That being said, I felt at ease browsing through Walmart's racks of designer knockoff bargains knowing its third-world employees use their copious paid vacation time self-actualizing at the top of Maslow's pyramid in Giza.

After three hours of browsing, I was able to redecorate my entire apartment and restyle my entire wardrobe for less than \$500. What a steal!



Debbie Littles portrait by Aaron Cecil

That's what I used to spend on two pairs of fair trade organic cotton "Made in U.S.A." 7-for-all-Mankind skinny jeans from Hall's on the Plaza.

Since I embarked on my fast food diet, I have outgrown my designer jeans, and my stance as one of the top fat acceptance activists in the world has led me to reconsider the social construct of designer fashion.

I'm sick of big business and coked-up Hollywood celebrities telling me how to dress.

I don't care whether or not my \$10 Walmart jeans have back pockets, belt loops or simply a tie-string elastic waist. Any wash or fit is fine.

I feel so much more at ease knowing I have a way to justify buying goods made by 8-year-olds in China who work 40 hours a week for \$10.

That being said, my biggest complaint against Walmart is the Subway restaurant located across from the hosiery department doesn't allow free refills.

I am one of the top size-acceptance activists in the world, and Walmart refuses to quench my thirst.

I wrote a message to Walmart's corporate office expressing my outrage, and received the following response:

"Dear Ms. Littles,  
We have received your 'Customer Feedback and Questions' form and can guarantee you that this is not a computer-generated response. Someone from Walmart will make sure your concerns are addressed in a timely and efficient manner. Thank you for shopping at Walmart. Please don't sue us."

All my worries have been put to rest knowing my concerns will be addressed in the most timely and ethical manner by Walmart's socially-conscious corporate executives.

No one at Walmart would dare try to silence my important political views!

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## Looking ahead

Which of these Oscar contenders will be nominated this year?

Elizabeth Golden  
Managing Editor

It may seem a little too early to talk about the Oscars, right? The ceremony isn't until February and the nominations haven't even come out, so why run an article about it? How often do theatre-goers look over the nominations only to realize they haven't heard of the nominees?

This column will provide insight about what to look for in the next few months to raise awareness of the year's best movies. Get ready for "Oscar Season."

In the past, Oscar nominated films were released between September and January. There are always exceptions, but for the most part, this is when potentially award-winning films are viewed for the first time.

Last year's best picture, "The Artist," premiered in January while "The King's Speech" (2010) came out in December. "The Hurt Locker" of 2009 followed this pattern with its October debut. "Slumdog Millionaire" (2008) joined the ranks with its January premiere. The list goes on, and the pattern hasn't been broken since 2005.

Each film will be analyzed based on content, actors, writers and directors. Some content tends to be more Oscar-worthy than others, so only these films are listed. It would be impossible to name the top nominees or select a winner at this point, so the rest is up to each reader. What films will be in the Oscar running for this year?

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## Moonrise Kingdom

Being one of the few summer releases on this list, "Moonrise Kingdom" can only be described as phenomenal. Every aspect of this film made it the best film of the summer. Wes Anderson definitely deserves a best director nomination and the movie is guaranteed to be a front-runner for best picture as well. For more information, check out the review online at unews.com.



## The Dark Knight Rises

As the biggest film of the summer, the chances of "The Dark Knight Rises" winning any Oscar is slim, but there's no doubt it will receive a few nominations, whether it be something as small as best art direction or best visual effects. Check out "The Dark Knight Rises" online at unews.com.



## Trouble with the Curve

Four-time Oscar winner Clint Eastwood stars in this modern day baseball film. Sports films have been around since the beginning of time and usually gather quite a following, especially when it comes to the Oscars. Amy Adams and Justin Timberlake also make up this all-star cast.

A nomination for director Robert Lorenz seems unlikely since this is the first film he

has actually directed. Lorenz worked on several other Clint Eastwood films as First Assistant Director, but never had his own project until now. Although the film might not be nominated for much, surely Eastwood will receive a best actor nomination. This film hits theatres September 21st.



## The Master

After reading synopsis and viewing trailers, it is still difficult to make out what this film is truly about. From what can be gathered, "The Master" seems to be about a World War II veteran who inspires Scientology. This film has multiple metaphorical dimensions and the actual plot is very surface-level. It is difficult to guess from the previews what these multiple dimensions may be.

Directed by auteur theorist P.T. Anderson, who also did "There Will Be Blood" (2007), this film is shot in 65/70 mm film. This

high-quality production will give digital filmmakers a run for their money. "The Master" is an extremely hard-hitting drama, leaving audience members confused and uncomfortable according to a few early Los Angeles-based reviews. The critics mention how much they loved the film. Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix apparently also deliver the best performance of their careers. With this cast and crew, how could this film not be phenomenal? "The Master" hits theatres September 21st.



## Argo

Much like several other Oscar contenders this year, it's difficult to determine the true purpose of "Argo" by simply viewing trailers and reading the synopsis. This film seems to be about several Americans held captive during an Iranian revolution. The CIA is forced to create a fake movie in order to save them. It's not very clear how creating a fake film has anything to do with a Middle-

Eastern war, but surely Ben Affleck concocted some deeper purpose to make all aspects of this film add up. Very rarely is Affleck involved in films of low quality. His expertly directed films always entertain. Based on a "declassified true story," "Argo" should receive some nominations, including best actor/director for Affleck. Set to release October 12th.



## Flight

Denzel Washington and John Goodman star in this film about a pilot who saves a plane from crashing, but like all Washington films, a hidden twist must be revealed. From the director of "Forest Gump," Robert Zemeckis, this film has no choice but to be amazing. The cast and director will bring this film to Oscar glory even if the script is sub-

par. How could a Washington film not be fantastic? With two Oscars already under his belt, Washington may be able to add one more to his trophy case. "Flight" will be released November 2nd.

For more Oscar nominated films, check out part two in next week's U-News.



Photos courtesy of Google Images

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## cult classic review 'Pulp Fiction' packs a punch

Tarantino classic is loaded with violence, vulgarity, sadistic humor and heroin

Kynslie Otte Senior Staff Writer

Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" took audiences by storm with its 1994 debut. Known for his distinctive style of directing and storytelling, Tarantino's films feature over-exaggerated violence, crude language, non-sequential plots and numerous pop culture references.

"Pulp Fiction" contains all of the above. By now, conservative audiences know better than to pick up tickets to a Tarantino film. This classic is laced with obscenity, violence and heroin.

Unlike most cult classics, "Pulp Fiction" was well received by both critics and the public. The film won multiple awards and features acclaimed actors like John Travolta, Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and Tim Roth.

"Pulp Fiction" begins in a diner where small-time criminals "Pumpkin" (Roth) and his girlfriend, "Honey Bunny," discuss the success of their latest heist over breakfast. Once the couple decides the diner could easily be robbed, they initiate a hold-up, which leads

into the opening credits.

This scene serves as a frame tale for "Pulp Fiction," re-addressing the diner heist at the end.

The film's first segment is titled "Vincent Vega and Marsellus Wallace's Wife."

The credits transition to mobster Vincent (Travolta) and his partner, Jules (Jackson), traveling to retrieve a briefcase from a man named Brett. Their conversation revolves around how their boss, Marsellus Wallace, once threw a man from a fourth floor window for giving his wife a foot massage.

Vincent woefully explains he has been instructed to take Wallace's wife on a date while Wallace is out of town.

Travolta's performance is one of his career's best. His demeanor is laid back and subtly infused with his vulgar language. Regardless of his violence, viewers are apt to enjoy his attitude.

Upon arrival at Brett's apartment, Vincent and Jules "get into character" before retrieving the briefcase and dramatically killing Brett. Before Brett's execution, Jules gives his signature speech – a

Biblical passage from Ezekiel 25.

Vincent and Jules deliver the briefcase to Wallace, who is making a deal with boxer Butch Coolidge (Willis) to lose his next match. Vincent and Coolidge make a quick, hateful exchange before Vincent leaves to meet his heroin dealer.

Vincent shoots up on the way to pick up Mia Wallace (Thurman), his boss's wife. The two go to a '50s themed restaurant called "Jack Rabbit Slim's" where Vincent and Mrs. Wallace win a dance competition.

On the hilarious return to the Wallace residence, Vincent goes to the bathroom to talk himself out of sleeping with her, and then emerges to clean up the mess before Jimmy's wife comes home.

The epilogue is a flashback to the opening scene, revealing how Jules and Vincent were in the diner which "Pumpkin" and "Honey Bunny" attempted to rob. Jules gives one last brilliant speech before the film ends.

"Pulp Fiction" is arguably one of Tarantino's best films. Though the language is vulgar and the violence is graphic, it is tasteful in the plot's



Photo courtesy of Google Images

context.

The chronologically skewed film becomes riveting for viewers, showcasing Tarantino's directing expertise without causing plot confusion.

Travolta and Willis prove their versatility, adopting crass roles unusual to their careers. Thurman's seductive attitude is convincing and enticing, subtly building sexual tension between herself and Travolta's character.

The cast meshes together to create an exciting and intensely interesting film. For those who enjoy dark comedy and other Tarantino films, "Pulp Fiction" is a must-see.

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## MINK LAW DAY 2012

Missouri  
Iowa



Nebraska  
Kansas

Thursday, September 6, 2012  
2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Overland Park Convention Center  
6000 College Boulevard, Overland Park, Kansas  
OPCC directions at <http://www.opconventioncenter.com>

MINK Law Day provides prospective students with an opportunity to speak with law school representatives from around the country. If you are interested in attending law school, come to learn what law schools are looking for in applicants! Attendance and parking are free.

Informational Sessions: 2:30 p.m. & 6:15 p.m.  
Law School Fair: 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Pre-Register at  
<http://law.missouri.edu/mink/>

## film review

### 'Hit and Run'

'Close your eyes and count to three. This, right here, is the only moment that matters.'

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Set in the middle of a California highway, "Hit and Run" mixes light-hearted chick-flick comedy with serious action to become a perfectly blended piece of entertainment.

Annie (Kristen Bell) and Charlie (Dax Shepard) seem to be an ordinary couple until one secret is revealed, changing Annie's life forever. Charlie may not be who he seems, and Annie must choose whether or not she is truly in love with him or if she only loves the lies he needed to tell. This former bank robber, who became a member of the Witness Protection Program, is forced to return to the life he needed to hide.

"Hit and Run" does not fit into any stereotypical category. Some scenes are romantic, others are hilarious and some leave audience members on the edges of their seats. It's rare to find a film with all the necessary ingredients of entertainment.

The opening sequence could

be considered one of the sweetest conversations seen on the big screen in recent years, followed by fall-on-the-ground laughter when Tom Arnold's character is announced. Who wouldn't laugh at a wannabe air marshal forgetting to put his car in park and trying to stop the vehicle by shooting it?

This is a different and unique take on the cliché romantic comedy. The couple exchanges realistic dialogue, and it's easy to identify with the deep concepts introduced.

For example, Charlie mentions how couples can't joke with one another since this secretly hides a small fraction of the truth. This idea, along with several others, requires deep thought.

The acting is good, for the most part. All characters, except Shepard, give flawless performances. Bell has not been in any recent movies, but this was a great film for her to make a comeback.

Director David Palmer could have done better with his stylistic choices at times. He seems to favor "shaky camera"



Photo courtesy of Open Road Films

techniques, which really don't do much for the quality of the film.

Filled with raunchy moments, slapstick comedy and socially inappropriate rants, "Hit and Run" is deserving of its R rating, but is sure to leave the audience entertained and contemplative.

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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](mailto:nzoschke@unews.com).

## Yes to pancakes, no to prayer

IHOP takes proselytizing too far



Roze Brooks

**Roze Brooks**

Senior Staff Writer

Students frequent the Plaza Starbucks to do homework and get their caffeine fix.

A visit shouldn't include an unwanted lecture about why my religious beliefs are wrong and why I need to convert.

Unfortunately, that's exactly what happened during my last visit.

I was approached by two members of a conservative Christian group based in south Kansas City, the International House of Prayer.

Self-described as the "Christian missions base" of Kansas City, IHOP's website claims to value "24/7 prayer with worship and 24/7 works of justice."

Forget the pancakes, this IHOP's dedicated members are all about finding the busiest person in the room and offering a complimentary 30-minute sermon.

While IHOP's members commit an infinite amount of time to their religious beliefs, others are less adamant to do the same.

My pre-determined spot during each Starbucks visit is the bar style counter that overlooks the barista's workspace, distanced away from the heavy customer traffic coming through daily.

I was immersed in my computer when I was joined by an unfamiliar face, initially thinking I had been mistaken for someone else.

Continued on Page 19

## Reflections on Rep. Todd Akin

### Setting the record straight about 'legitimate rape'

**Michelle Heiman**

Copy Editor

Rep. Todd Akin upset countless people across party lines with comments he made about rape-pregnancy on Aug. 19: "If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down," he said.

First, let's be clear: rape is *any* sexual act for which a party is not willing and/or cannot consent. *all* forms are legitimate.

- According to the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, a sexual assault occurs every two minutes in the U.S., and one in six women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape.

- A 2000 study by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice (based on a

1996-97 survey) found that 3.1 percent of undergraduate women reported being raped during the academic year. This number is low likely due to under-reporting.

The UMKC Women's Center provides students with a plethora of resources for reporting and preventing domestic and sexual violence.

Even with such a prevalence of sexual violence and awareness resources available, many people remain oblivious to the effects of rape.

The media jumped on Akin, calling for his withdrawal from the Senate race, which, even after his own party refused to support him, did not happen. While Akin's comment is completely and utterly mistaken, he is not alone in such thinking.

Contrary to the facts, many Americans justify

their pro-life stances like Akin. I believe his statement was meant to convey there should not be an exception to abortion even in cases of rape, because of the belief that rape does not cause many pregnancies. This belief is incorrect.

While I am not advocating pro-life or pro-choice, I do think we need all the facts before we decide where we stand on such issues.

Rape results in pregnancy more frequently than does unprotected consensual sex.

- A 1996 article in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* found the national rape-related pregnancy rate to be 5 percent among victims ages 12 to 45.

- A 2003 article in *Human Nature*, a journal focusing on the factors underlying

human behavior, found similar results. While the researchers found a 3.1 percent pregnancy rate for reproductive-aged women who engaged in consensual, unprotected penile-vaginal intercourse, the pregnancy rate for women who were raped was 6.42 percent.

- In a 2010 article in *Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology*, the authors conclude that stress may actually induce ovulation. The trauma and stress of rape may cause a higher pregnancy rate.

Implying some forms of rape are somehow not "legitimate" is repulsive, wrong, blind and judgmental. It completely puts the blame in the wrong place.

Nonconsensual sex of any kind is rape, and to say



Michelle Heiman

otherwise is appalling.

After this comment, Akin proceeded to say that although he would not punish the child in a rape-pregnancy, he thinks the rapist should be punished.

I have a hard time believing this, since in 2005, he was one of 52 congressmen to vote against the National Sex Offender Registry database.

Since the incident, Akin has released an apology commercial, saying he used the wrong words and misspoke. He asked for the public's forgiveness.

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## A bad ambassador of Christianity

**Kharissa Forte**

Senior Staff Writer

What really got to me, though, was the testament of his character.

While I respect the pro-life stance, Akin's claim that the female body can naturally prevent pregnancy after being raped was just dumb. Akin has also stated at the heart of liberalism is hatred toward God.

I find this hard to believe when liberals support social programs which help the working class and promote equality. And this guy claims to be a Christian? Hmm.

I sure wish he would stop making Christians look bad. I find myself

wondering if he really is a Christian or if he uses this angle to win votes.

Just because a politician shares similar views to those of Christians doesn't mean he is necessarily a Christian. People, I beg you - do not let your idea of what it means to be a Christian be influenced by Akin.

Yes, there are some ignorant people in every political party, class and belief system, but Christians are not what Akin represents.

Christians are called to exemplify many different qualities, such as kindness and generosity. The overall

theme and objective of Christianity is love.

In fact, the Bible says if a Christian can demonstrate all the character traits expected, but doesn't demonstrate love, then he or she is empty and his or her work is in vain.

Empty and vain is precisely how I view Akin. Christians have already endured a lot of hostility this year. Akin adds more fuel to the fire - unnecessary fuel. I can handle being criticized for choosing to abide by traditional Biblical standards, but I have a hard time being condemned for someone



Kharissa Forte

I'm not. Judgment is what Akin's words, decisions and actions cause believers all over the nation to suffer.

I believe Akin will lose the Christian vote because he doesn't represent the Christian values which line up with the word of God.

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## Attendance policies penalize students

**Mal Hartigan**

Managing Editor

Some disasters and accidents cannot be prevented. This is a dreadful fact of life students and professors both acknowledge. Though professors may empathize with students' plights, varying class attendance policies seem to evaporate any preconceived notions of sympathy.

Ideally, every student will experience a semester without suffering illness or losing a loved one, but some attendance policies leave hardly any wiggle room to accommodate students' diverse circumstances.

Many professors allow three unexcused absences without penalty, but exceeding this may result in a lower grade percentage with each future absence.

Other professors allow additional absences, or

may not take attendance.

In my experience, this is rare. In many general education classes, professors utilize attendance to assure first-year students go to class and learn the material. This is meant to increase retention rates and ensure students remain up to date with the course.

The allotted free absences, some professors say, should be reserved for rare events such as illness, car trouble or a family member's death. However, these events cannot always be predicted, and students may suffer penalty as a result.

A wise student would ideally communicate with his or her professor to explain the circumstances and to avoid future penalties.

However, professors have heard every excuse in the book.

Last fall, my grandmother unexpectedly fell into a

coma. This event could not have been predicted, and her comatose state lasted over a month before she finally passed away. Not only was I absent from school to support my family during her illness, but I also missed class during her visitation and funeral.

I explained the circumstances to my professors when she first became ill and compiled evidence, such as a pamphlet from her funeral, in case my story was questioned.

Communicating with my professors was key to avoid losing up to a letter grade from absences. Many were personable and sympathetic, having been in my situation during college. I was deeply moved, and more inclined to foster personal relationships with these professors.

Disasters aside, factoring attendance, tardies and absences into grades does not

always accurately reflect a student's effort or knowledge of course material.

Test results are the largest part of each grade, but the attendance policies can become the difference between an A and a B. If a serious student is unable to attend class, he or she will read the assigned textbook and do everything to stay on top of the class.

Commuters also experience difficulties with strict classroom attendance policies. UMKC is widely known as a commuter campus. While classes may be cancelled in cases of severely inclement weather, classes may still resume during moderate snow. Commuters who own cars without 4-wheel drive may be unable to travel or may be unwilling to risk their safety.

Students still pay for each class regardless of attendance.



Mal Hartigan

Every professor was once in our place. Illnesses, deaths and other problems emerged during their college careers.

Some also saw, however, students opting to lie in bed all day from a hangover rather than a catastrophic event. While attendance policies are meant to combat this, they do not always take into account the events which every student cannot avoid. And these unavoidable events, supposedly rarely occurring, should not determine the difference between an A and a B.

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## Attendance policies benefit students

**Elizabeth Golden**

Managing Editor

a question of freedom of choice. It's more like a contract between student and professor. You can't fulfill the terms of a contract if people don't show up."

The majority of professors understand the need for sick days as well as personal days, but the main issue occurs when students skip class because they don't believe attendance is necessary, and their time could be spent elsewhere.

This logic, rooted in pure laziness, occurs when a student simply doesn't feel like attending class, so they make up an excuse as to how class isn't necessary and believe the attendance policy is stupid.

Yes, there are some students who manage to never attend class or mess around on their phones all period and still cruise

by with a passing grade. However, little actual knowledge is attained. Only so much can be learned from reading the book, and grades will eventually suffer.

Psychology professor Kymberly Bennett believes there is a direct correlation between attendance and grades. Students who come to class most often walk out with the best final grade. She also is a strong supporter of working with students and hopes other professors do the same.

"I think the policy is fair and allows for students and instructors to work together to make up work/assignments when absences are excused. The policy seems to be fairly straightforward on what is considered an excused versus unexcused absence," Bennett continued, "I think this is very helpful

to students and faculty—no guessing is needed. It's been my experience that most UMKC instructors are happy to work with students who have excused absences to reschedule exams, assignments, et cetera."

While students who do not regularly attend class may gain knowledge of the concept, they may have little idea of how to apply this concept to the real world.

Will employers really want to hire an employee who only proves to be book smart? Where is this student supposed to get recommendations?

Without regular class attendance, how can the professor know a student well enough to recommend them for any level of higher education or career path?

A student may argue how they waste their time



Elizabeth Golden

in this required intro-to-whatever-boring-subject-comes-to-mind class, but fact is, it's required. Get over it. Instructors use class to enhance critical skills as well as provide a unique outlook on their subject.

Throughout every student's college education, he or she will encounter some classes that are excruciatingly painful. However boring, classes like this are a part of life; without bad classes, it would be hard to appreciate the good ones.

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The girl who sat next to me appeared to be college-age, if not younger. She greeted me with, "Hey, how have you been?" A preconceived monologue followed before I could comprehend that she had cornered me.

She talked for half an hour, vouching that Jesus had urged her to speak to me at that exact moment.

Her primary objective seemed to consist of allowing her to pray for me.

Despite my blatant animosity, her determination disallowed her to end the conversation and allow me to get back to what she acknowledged as "being busy."

The girl who spoke with me was not traveling alone. Spanning the entirety of the shop, it was clear other members had accompanied her.

Within five minutes, another girl sat next to me. Heeding the same speech about love and faith, she tried to assume in what esteem I viewed myself, and asked for the umpteenth time if she could pray for me.

This is a weighted and offensive question.

Religion is a personal, sensitive concept. Baristas were also subjected to personal questions about their faith, with disregard for the rush of caffeine seekers lined out the door.

There is a level of inappropriateness in approaching strangers with the intent to pull them out of their comfort zone.

The IHOP members' implication that I, or any other person they encountered, is in need of prayer implies judgment and disdain toward the person attached to reluctantly listening ears.

Though the intent of this group is ultimately forthright, the triggers that could surface from hints of a follow-or-be-damned opinion could offend those who do not espouse organized religion.

Their methods of outreach should refrain from leeching onto the nearest rainbow pride bracelet or Human Rights Campaign sticker, and invest in how to help those already dedicated to their beliefs get the most from their faith.

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Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

# Sudoku

		7			9		5	6
3			5	2				
		5	6					
8			2	1			6	7
		4				5		
5	1			9	4			2
					6	9		
				4	8			1
6	8		9			7		

## Kazan, Russia: Continued from Page 13

In other ways, Kazan is not a typical Russian city. Less than 50 percent of the population is ethnically Russian. Slightly more than half of the population is ethnically Tatar.

While some parts are embroiled in ethnic turmoil, Kazan prides itself on interethnic and interreligious tolerance, dialogue and co-habitation (most Tatars, if religious, are Muslim, while most Russians are members of the Russian Orthodox Church).

My host sister, Camilla, attributes much of this harmony to the residual effects of the Soviet era. Before the Revolution of 1917, most Tatars were segregated from ethnic Russians and were forced to live in the suburbs.

However, equality among different ethnic groups is the only Soviet-era principle Kazan wants to keep. Kazan wants desperately to modernize, and embraces its American-style capitalism with open arms.

Nonetheless, Kazan is deeply mindful of its past. Less than a three-minute walk from the disturbingly popular McDonalds sits the beautiful 18th century Epiphany Bell Tower.

Dark red bricks, a thin frame and looming presence make it a truly unique

landmark. The bell tower is a stark contrast to not only the surrounding modern structures, but the 16th century Kremlin as well. In the Kremlin, the massive Annunciation Cathedral shines brightly, almost blindingly white during the day, blue and bright gold onion domes dare one to look toward the sun.

Although much older, Kazan is in many ways like Kansas City. The people are friendly, the food is fantastic and although I haven't found a single Boulevard Wheat, the Russian beer is decent. Most of my American peers were shocked that liquor can be consumed anywhere, but Bowman Street acts like Power and Light to me.

Like Kansas City, Kazan has a huge jazz scene. Jazz bars pepper the city with colorful music and there is an international jazz festival I had the opportunity to attend. However, there weren't many tunes I recognized from back home. The night is billed "Russian Folk Songs," which seems fitting. From what I have seen, Kazan is great at remembering the past despite a completely new rhythm.

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