

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper



Anna Jobe wears a traditional Jalisco dress. Benjamin Campero wears a Mariachi charro.  
PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam



Student wears a dishdasha, a cotton outfit often worn in Middle Eastern countries.  
PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam



YiXia Liang sports a Chi-pao, a traditional outfit worn by Chinese women.  
PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam

## Culture couture

### Event showcases UMKC international diversity

Kate Baxendale

Staff Writer

Clothing, food and traditions from more than 80 cultures were showcased as UMKC's International Student Affairs Office hosted its annual Culture Night at the Student Union on Saturday night.

Culture Night drew almost 500 people and featured dances, songs, skits and fashion shows by students representing their homelands. Booths outside the room offered opportunities to speak with international students about their cultures and featured pamphlets, food samples and slide shows.

Sandy Gault, director of International Student Affairs, founded

the organization when she began working at UMKC in 2006

"This is their event and their ideas," she said. "They [ambassadors] plan the budget, order the food, set up and take down the venue for the event."

The event also sold raffle tickets for two Kindles and an Amazon gift card.

"We have yet to charge people an entrance fee for Culture Night," Gault said. "We rely on private donations to make this possible."

Money raised from the raffle tickets will go to Heifer International, which aims to end hunger and poverty.

"While most people [in the United States] participate in community service at an early age, this is a new concept for many international

students," Gault said. "Raising money for charity helps them realize what they can do for others. It becomes ingrained in their minds that they can make a difference."

Most of the food offered at Culture Night was made by the students and served by volunteers.

The Student Union's staircase was lined with flags from many different countries to signify the blending of cultures.

Anna Jobe, a senior pre-dental student and cultural adviser for the Association for Latin American Students, performed a dance called "La Negra from Jalisco, Mexico. She

**CONTINUED // Page 6**

## INSIDE:

**2 News //** Entrepreneur visa proposal supported by UMKC faculty could create 1.6 million jobs

**7 A&E //** Student-led Conservatory jazz combos shake up Grant Hall

**10 Sports //** In special match, UMKC men's soccer beats pro team

Nursing and Health Studies

School changes its name, dean appointed to Health Commission

Elizabeth Golden  
Managing Editor

The UMKC School of Nursing changed its name on March 4 to the UMKC School of Nursing and Health Studies.

The name change was enacted in order to meet greater needs in the community.

"We wanted a name that more closely represents the breadth of offerings we are providing," said Lora Lacey-Haun, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

In 2011, the school added a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree, making the School of Nursing reach beyond just nursing students.

The school now trains professionals to direct hospital procedures, lead community outreach operations and manage health records.

"The program has become increasingly popular, growing from an initial enrollment of 20 students to more than 200 today," Lacey-Haun said. "We believe the program will have more than 500 students in the near future."

Last fall, the School joined with the Collaborative for Excellence in Behavioral Health Research and Practice in order to educate professionals who treat substance-use disorders.

Later this month, the School will announce a partnership with the University of Missouri's health education school.

Last week, Lacey-Haun was also appointed to a three year term on the Kansas City Health Commission.

Appointed by Kansas City Mayor Sly James, she will serve as the co-chair to a body consisting of 17 members also appointed by the mayor.

Lacey-Haun will focus on advising the mayor on issues related to community health.

"I am honored to receive this position," said Lacey-Haun. "The mission is to provide healthy solutions for Kansas Citians, and I take that very seriously."

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Lecture guest Dr. Ronald J. Stephens could be selected to lead UMKC Black Studies program

Jessica Turner Staff Writer

The UMKC Black Studies Program began seeking and reviewing applications for a new director and professor for its department in November.

The program's courses explore the roles, conditions and circumstances of people of African descent. Its purpose is to provide students with an understanding of the significant contributions made by those people, and the impact they have had on history, society, humanity and culture.

In a lecture presented last Thursday at the Black Studies Program house, 5305 Holmes Rd., titled "The Legacy of Arthur Braggs Idlewild Revue," Dr. Ronald J. Stephens discussed his books "Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan", and "Idlewild: The Rise, Decline, and Rebirth of a Unique African American Resort Town."

Dr. Stephens is in the running for the new position at UMKC.

He is currently the director of the African American Research and Services Institute and professor in the Department of African American Studies at Ohio University. Stephens' work has been featured on NPR, The History Channel and even in documentaries and museums.

If the energy and passion with which Stephens conveyed his expertise in the classroom is equivalent to that with which he presented his lecture on Idlewild for UMKC, his students are in for an engaging experience.

"By 1959, Della Reese had become a legitimate, bona fide artist," Stephens said during his presentation, walking the audience through a timeline of events surrounding African American entertainers that toured the country over several decades.

"She had appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, she had record contracts with major labels at the time and she was performing in Las Vegas," he said. "In fact, she tells a story years later about what made her experience as an artist during this era different from her experience working with Arthur Braggs in that although she was able to perform in Vegas, she had to go through the back door in the hotels in order to do so."

He added, "But with Arthur Braggs, she



Dr. Ronald J. Stephens, director of the African American Research and Services Institute and professor of African American Studies at Ohio University.

PHOTO // Jessica Turner

learned the whole gimmick: How to dress; how to have grace onstage; how to produce an act in and of itself. That she learned from Braggs."

Clearly devoted to his areas of expertise, Stephens welcomed questions from the audience, and answered them enthusiastically and thoroughly.

"I think the idea that it's an urban campus, that there are opportunities to work with both graduate and undergraduate students, that the curriculum for the Black Studies Program is solid, and that the core faculty are familiar with their work, were all factors that influenced me," Stephens said of his interest in UMKC.

Added Stephens, "Arthur Braggs and the Idlewild Revue actually toured Kansas City twice. Once was in 1959 at the Orchid Room on 18th and Vine Streets. That whole Vine

Street area and the redevelopments that are taking place is also an appealing attraction. I'm interested in historical preservation and tourism, so I would add that those are also reasons that UMKC became attractive to me."

The Black Studies Program has invited another candidate for the position who is lined up to give a presentation after Spring Break. It has not yet disclosed when it will make its final decision.

According to Stephens' Ohio University faculty page, "He strives to inspire students to be change agents. This often means engaging students in discussions about difficult topics, critical issues and examples of injustice." His delivery style is one that aims to "encourage, inspire, and challenge students to think outside the box."

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Richard Ford. CREDIT // Google Images

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford speaks at Plaza Library

Bradley Trevor Hoffman  
Staff Writer

Richard Ford, Pulitzer Prize winning author promoted his new novel, Canada, at the Kansas City Public Library plaza branch. Part of the Writers at Work series, Richard Ford's reading and interview was conducted by UMKC Writer-in-Residence, Whitney Terrell.

Raised in Jackson, Miss., Ford is a self-proclaimed "child of the library." His father was a traveling salesman during the week so he, Ford, was essentially the son of a single mother. His mother would "dump" him at the library every day for hours since it was the only air-conditioned place in town.

Ford joked about the men's room being the place where he read his

first negative review. Graffiti'd on a stall's wall, it said, "Richard Ford has the dirtiest mind in Jackson, Mississippi."

"Canada" tells the story of Dell Parsons, a 15-year-old boy who manages life in the wake of his parents' imprisonment for bank robbery. Set both in Montana and Canada, it covers Parsons' life over

CONTINUED // Page 5

Student Profile

Riddhiman Das

Foreign entrepreneurial students face uncertain future in the U.S.

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

Riddhiman Das, a 21-year-old computer science graduate student, appears to have a bright entrepreneurial future.

He has already helped launch two tech startups in Kansas City.

Together, they are on track to have several dozen employees within a few years, by estimate of his mentors in the Entrepreneurship Scholars (E-Scholars) certificate program at UMKC.

Galleon Labs, based out of the UMKC Innovation Center, 4747 Troost Ave., currently has two employees.

Das said the software consulting firm, launched in April 2011, has done work with high-profile local clients, such as Applebee's and Cleveland Chiropractic College, to develop new software technology.

Das also helped develop technology used in EyeVerify, a tech startup that is pioneering the use of mobile biometric technology. The smart phone beta application uses a camera to scan eye blood vessels and search for a digital match.

EyeVerify technology could eventually replace text passcodes, which provide less security protection than digital eye scans. EyeVerify could also be used in cars for keyless ignition.

Companies such as Volkswagen, Samsung, LG and Apple have already expressed interest, according to Das.

"The possibilities are endless," he said, "and we're only beginning to tap into what's possible."

By any measure of success, Das appears to be an aspiring U.S. entrepreneur on the fast track to success.

But he faces a major hurdle:

As an international student from Guwahati, India, Das' F-1 student visa requires him to be a full time student and strictly limits his participation in both ventures after he ceases to be enrolled enrollment

as a student.

And while Das would have preferred to work full-time before attending graduate school, his visa prohibits him from doing so.

A shortage of specialized U.S. workers

The nearly 800 international students at UMKC and nearly 765,000 international students in the U.S. all face similar problems once they graduate.

While many obtain H-1Bs or other visas to work in the U.S., entrepreneurs are often forced out of the country by immigration obstacles that prohibit foreign citizens with visas from starting their own company.

Das came to the U.S. in 2008 to begin his undergraduate studies at the School of Computing and Engineering, where his uncle, Dr. Deep Medhi, is a professor.

"UMKC offered everything I wanted from a college education," Das said. "The U.S. is still leading the world in technical innovation, especially in software. A lot of immigrants come here to study these programs."

Forty-six percent of America's top venture-funded companies have at least one immigrant founder, according to the nonprofit National Foundation for American Policy, and India is the most common country of origin.

Companies founded by immigrants have already created an average of 150 jobs, and the companies surveyed by the NFAP are still in the high-growth phase.

Statistics show a shortage of U.S. majors in STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

More than one in every four students enrolled in the School of Computing and Engineering comes from other countries, the highest ratio of any UMKC school.



Left: Riddhiman Das, a UMKC graduate computer science student, demonstrates how to use EyeVerify, a mobile application that scans eye blood vessels and matches them against a digital database.

Below: Das works in the office of Galleon Labs, a small software development firm he helped start.

PHOTOS // Sai Srikr Kadiyam



International students with F-1 visas who meet certain criteria are allowed to do work related to curriculum while in school, known as "Curricular Practical Training."

"The law is not clear on whether foreign students with F-1 visas can found and be actively involved in their own their own business under the 'Curricular Practical Training' rules," said Anthony Luppino, School of Law professor. "Current interpretations seem to be yielding a 'no answer.'"

When students with F-1 visas graduate, they also have the option participate in startup ventures, known as "Optional Practical Training," for a limited period of time.

This period is lengthened for STEM fields, "but still fairly limited," Luppino said. "Apart from that, one of the only options is the H-1B visa," which allows temporary employment in specialty occupations. However, commentators have cited

difficulties in obtaining H1-B visas in "self-employment" situations.

Proposed legislation could create 1.6 million U.S. jobs

A bill with bipartisan sponsorship in the U.S. House and Senate, known as Startup Act 3.0, aims to solve this problem by creating entrepreneur visas for current F-1 and H-1B visa holders. The bill calls for 75,000 entrepreneur visas for those whose ventures meet certain criteria for hiring and startup capital.

This could result in the creation of as many as 1.6 million U.S. jobs over the next decade, the Ewing Marion Kaufman Foundation recently found.

Another paper with three UMKC co-authors, published last August by the Kauffman Foundation,

proposes changes to administrative regulations and immigration law statutes to help remove obstacles to startup ventures actively founded by foreign students.

The co-authors are Luppino, Malika Simmons, Clinical Professor of Law, and John Norton, Managing Director of the Regnier Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, which oversees UMKC's entrepreneurship programs.

Among other things, the paper embraced the "entrepreneur's visa" provisions included in a bi-partisan legislative proposal called Startup Act 2.0.

"We felt the Startup Act 2.0 entrepreneur's visa proposal introduced in 2012 for immigrants involved in qualifying ventures was great, but unduly limiting," Luppino said. "Apart from H1-B visa holders, it focused only on graduate students/graduates in STEM programs."

CONTINUED // Page 5

# Police Blotter

**March 1**  
**10:00 p.m.**  
 Noise Disturbance  
 Officers were called on a complaint of people talking too loud in Oak Place Apartments.

**March 2**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
 Larceny  
 The victim reported items missing, including a marijuana pipe and grinder, from his vehicle in the School of Education parking lot.

**March 6**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
 University Violation  
 Officers confiscated a lost hang tag from a vehicle in the Rockhill parking garage.

**12:30 p.m.**  
 Larceny  
 A student discovered his wallet and iPad missing from his locker in the Dental School.

**March 7**  
**12:24 p.m.**  
 Suspicious Party  
 Officers responded to a reported suspicious party in the Miller Nichols Library.

## Pride Keynote Address

# NPR correspondent Ari Shapiro pays homage to a half century of progress in gay rights

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

National Public Radio correspondent Ari Shapiro reflected on more than 50 years of progress in gay rights at the UMKC Pride Keynote Address.

Shapiro, 34, recalled growing up in Portland, Ore., during the 1990s. He wore a backpack with a pink triangle—a symbol used to identify gay prisoners in Nazi Germany—his senior year of high school.

In the '90s, attitudes toward the gay community were changing for the better. Today, Shapiro said he is fortunate to live in an era in which he is a journalist who happens to be gay, not a "gay journalist."

Shapiro recalled the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York, a critical rallying point for the gay liberation movement.

As police raided the Stonewall Inn and other gay bars to arrest purported homosexuals, they encountered resistance, including drag queens who flung their heels at officers.

The Stonewall Riots occurred nine years before Shapiro was born, but progress in gay rights movement encountered a major obstacle shortly after his birth: the AIDS crisis.

As a young adult, Shapiro read biographical memoirs about two gay men from earlier generations, Denny Hansen and Paul Monette.

Like Shapiro, both were Yale graduates, but gay men of the Stonewall era encountered a bleak social reality of confusion, isolation and despair.

Hansen committed suicide, and Monette died of AIDS a few years



NPR correspondent Ari Shapiro delivers the UMKC Pride Keynote Address on Thursday, March 7, in Pierson Auditorium.

PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam

limbo as California Proposition 8, a ballot initiative to amend the state constitution to ban marriage for same-sex couples.

But Shapiro is optimistic. He said the drastic shift of public opinion in favor of gay rights that has occurred over the past several years is a snowball

for same-sex couples include the Obama administration, prominent Republicans and major corporations.

Shapiro also discussed his career with NPR, where he became the first reporter to be promoted to correspondent before the age of 30. He has covered the White House as

“People can tell when you’re comfortable in your own skin, whether you’re open and honest.”

-NPR Correspondent Ari Shapiro

after his partner succumbed to the disease.

Shapiro reflected on previous generations of gay activists who died tragically young, regretting that they were unable to live to see drastic progress.

Shapiro traveled to San Francisco, the hometown of his partner, Michael Gottlieb, where the two married in 2004.

A later ceremony performed in Napa Valley included both families and their rabbis.

Today, their marriage remains in

that can't stop gaining momentum.

Shapiro pointed to two U.S. Supreme Court cases argued this year that will determine the fate of the national Defense of Marriage Act and California Proposition 8. Both measures bar recognition of marriage for same-sex couples, and the decision is expected to come out in favor of gay rights.

Support for marriage equality is no longer limited to the gay community and liberal coastal elites, Shapiro said. Those who have filed amicus curiae briefs in support of marriage

a correspondent since 2010, focusing on national security and legal affairs. He was previously NPR's justice correspondent for five years.

"People can tell when you're comfortable in your own skin, whether you're open and honest," he said of being a journalist who is openly gay.

The Pride Keynote Address was sponsored by the UMKC Division of Diversity, Access and Equity.

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Mr. Engineer contestants at Californos in Westport. PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam

## UMKC students hold Mr. Engineer contest

Sai Srikar Kadiyam Staff Writer

The 3rd annual Mr. Engineer competition organized by the School Of Computing and Engineering(SCE) as part of the annual E-week event was held at Californos in Westport.

In the competition, participants were allowed to showcase their unique talents on stage. Depending

on the opinion of the judges and the audience, the winner was selected.

The winner of this week's Mr. Engineer contest is Justin Daugherty, a senior Civil Engineering student of SCE, who performed a rap song on stage.

The event was well-attended, mostly by SCE students.

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## Entrepreneur visa: Continued from Page 3

Added Luppino, "We wanted to broaden it to include undergraduates and those not in the STEM field we were seeing through Dr. Norton and the UMKC entrepreneurship initiatives. [These include] both undergraduate and graduate foreign students, across many academic disciplines, with the passion and talent to become successful entrepreneurs."

The three UMKC co-authors of the paper said they were pleased that the bi-partisan sponsors of the recently filed Startup Act 3.0 modified the entrepreneur's visa provision to make the opportunity potentially available to all F-1 students.

Norton described Das, who he works

with through E-Scholars, as a "brilliant entrepreneur" and as a "poster child for this situation."

However, "We know through our experience in E-Scholars that many of the [international] students are undergraduates who aren't STEM," he added.

Norton said the goal of E-Scholars is to launch "sustainable, scalable companies."

The program has a target 30 percent success rate, compared with the 10 percent average success rate for new U.S. companies. The expectation is that jobs created through E-Scholars ventures will stay in the Kansas City area.

"Ten entrepreneurs a year will hire a lot of

people," Norton said. "Imagine what 100 a year would do."

Simmons said immigration reform is often a controversial hot-button issue.

However, "We have been fortunate that both sides of the aisle see the importance and that this hasn't become politicized," she added.

As the proposed legislation awaits action from Congressional committees, Das' future in the U.S. remains in limbo, but his attitude is upbeat.

"I am hopeful that something goes through before I graduate," he said.

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## Conservatory Third 'Bach's Lunch' showcases UMKC talent

Joey Hill Staff Writer

A musical ensemble of 14 instruments with a choir of over 50 may not seem a very appropriate accompaniment to a leisurely noon-time lunch, but with the selection performed by the Conservatory, it fitted perfectly.

Directed by Gabriel Lewis-O'Connor, the Conservatory performed J.S. Bach's "Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild, BWV 79", translated to "God the Lord is sun and shield."

The piece itself was composed in 1725 and was performed for the first time on Oct. 31, Reformation Day, of that same year. Honoring Martin Luther's nailing of The 95 Theses to the doors of the church and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, Bach employed a set of three sections of sound for this piece, the strings, the

timpani and brass, and finally the choir. He formulated each to play off of the other illustrating the idea of empowerment and defense through faith.

The seating arrangement was changed for the advent of the choir; the audience would sit in the front of the room where the performers would normally sit while the choir would be on the riser stands where the audience would normally be. This largely was because of the large number of singers in the choir and it was only when the first piece began that it was made clear how this arrangement helped the overall sound.

It's difficult to describe the absolute enormity of the chorus in the first movement. The effect was cosmic. From the second the choir began to sing the audience was taken back by an immense wave of beautiful choral sound. After awhile, the



The 3rd Bach's Lunch event, in which participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch, was held last Friday at noon in Grant Hall.

PHOTO // Joey Hill

words blended together into a sound that almost transcended the lyrics entirely.

Working with the choir was a brass section made up of two French horns. The brass section was accompanied by timpani drums. together, they played in a way that invoked into the listener, though they were drowned out at times by the choir during the fifth movement there is a duet between a soprano and bass instrument. The lyrics plea to God for protection in exchange for faith and praise. The strings act as a counter to the voices playing close behind

them, quietly enough so as to not overshadow them, yet loudly enough to make their presence ominously known to the audience.

This performance was different from the past Bach's Lunch works in that it emphasized the theatrical elements of every instrument and choir member. Coming together, they created a work of incomparable beauty overflowing with power in constant surges of evocative sound.

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## Corrections

U-News staff writer Najid Ali was misidentified as Nijad Ali in the byline for articles that printed in issues 21 and 22.

## Richard Ford: Continued from Page 2

the span of nearly five decades.

Despite the serious, albeit impressive, material Ford read from the novel throughout the night, Terrell helped to bring out the author's humorous asides on the creative process.

In reply to Terrell's question on how he chose chess as a hobby for his main character, Ford said, "I always think chess is the last refuge of the truly bored."

Dismissing some audience's members assumptions that a writer of Ford's caliber must work on some grand, unmatched plane, Ford talked about his lack of confidence in writing and how, at a certain point in a writer's career, one realizes such a thing is pertinent to creating strong fiction.

"I would write it in a notebook," Ford said about how he collected ideas for the novel, "and tear it out and stuff it in an envelope, which I kept in the freezer of my house."

Ford fielded questions from the audience as well, further dispelling ideas of there always being something larger to inform every line on the page. One member asked him about a particular scene in the novel where two characters are watching football on a television and how Ford decided the teams that were playing in that scene: Nebraska and Missouri.

Ford simply answered that he liked the way those words, Nebraska and Missouri, looked on the page. No more, no less. He similarly answered why part of the novel is set in Saskatchewan, Canada; "Saskatchewan" looks good on paper.

Such unveiling of the writing process, amassing small notes over a 20 year period, was of interest to many budding writers in attendance. One in particular, Joel Haddorff, a senior English major at UMKC, came to the event looking for just that.

"New writers are always worried about, 'Can I finish a novel?'" The point Ford was making about that is not finish as much as to stay in the work as long as possible. For me, definitely, a new writer, that was liberating."

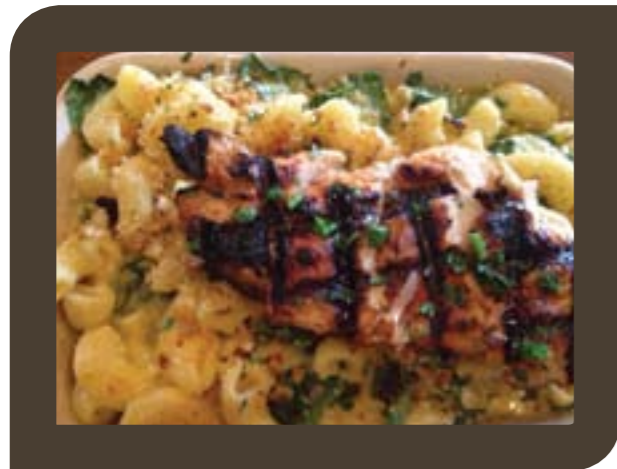
As a student of Terrell's writing workshop course at UMKC this semester, Haddorff found the benefits of hearing a seasoned writer talk about craft.

"I actually feel like I picked up a lot, so many little things," he said.

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## Restaurant Review

## Beer Kitchen



Custom order Mac and Cheese with grilled chicken.

PHOTO // Andreina Byrne

Westport dive serves up Americana-style food, boasts extensive drinks list

Andreina Byrne Staff Writer

Walking in from the cold, I was immediately greeted by a smiling hostess and the warm, relaxing ambiance at Beer Kitchen, 435 Westport Road.

I was seated in the middle of the dining area, and my server quickly took the drink order and returned within a few short minutes.

At this point, I was feeling positive, but when the server brought back the first drink order— water and lemon—I was somewhat disappointed that she only returned with half of my request—the lemon was missing! Not a huge deal, but it gave a slightly negative impression.

An assortment of ‘feel-good’ snacks and starters on the menu include deviled eggs, pretzel twists, black-eyed pea hummus and nachos.

As tempting as they seemed, I decided to skip the snacks and starters. Instead, I decided to choose from the multiple styles of hand-cut and cheese fries as an appetizer. There are also seven styles of dipping sauces, so there is little worry of choosing the same thing twice.

After ordering a basket of Belgian Style fries with Sweet Thai Chili sauce, I decided that I would skip my love for breakfast entrees in the evening, at the request of the server, and build my own macaroni and cheese. It sounded too good to be true, but it does exist! The macaroni and cheese runs \$11, but even for a student, this meal was worth it money-wise.

There are also build-your-own omelet and lunch box sections, where patrons can choose an appetizer

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**Food:** # of 5 stars  
**Drinks:** # of 5 stars  
**Price:** # of 5 stars  
**Service:** # of 5 stars  
**Ambiance:** # of 5 stars

and main course for less than \$10. Patrons may select from a variety of meats and veggies, and the choices are anything but boring.

This was a meal suited for a hungry student, like myself, who tries to buy economical meals where leftovers will be an option.

Beer Kitchen also has a great happy hour options and prices, including beer, cocktails and food.

At an establishment like Beer Kitchen, it's known that you're getting yourself *into something good*, as they say, the minute you walk in and are greeted by multiple hanging tap handles enticing patrons from the dining area.

Not a beer drinker? The drink choices are also fantastic and not too steeply priced.

The only problem I had with the meal is that it was definitely not something you want to eat if you have things to do later on - it will knock you out!

Perhaps one of the burgers or salads would have been better choices, considering that I passed out from a carbohydrate takeover once I left.

Overall, things went smoothly; the Americana-style food, delectable beer and drink lists were enough to entice another round.



Top: Stella Yee gets henna, a removable form of Middle Eastern tattoo art, done on her hands.

Above: A traditional African dress boasts warm colors and a bold design.

PHOTOS // Sai Srikar Kadiyam

## ISAO Culture Night

...Continued from Cover

learned this dance at her middle school in Chihuahua.

"I chose this dance because it is very colorful and it shows off my culture," she said.

Jobe wore a traditional Mexican dress adorned with lace, flowers and ribbons.

"My costume is a combination of Spanish and Mexican culture," she said. "When I dance, you can see the many layers of the skirt."

Her hair was tied back with red bows and she added yarn braids.

Nate Lavoy, a second year medical school student, participated in an "Indian flash mob dance." Although he is not Indian, his friends whom he met in his classes invited him to participate.

"Nate is wearing a kurta, which is just an everyday shirt for men," classmate Shalimi Chalikiiki said. "I am wearing a salwar kameez, a traditional tunic with loose pants. Normally a ghagra choli, a midriff-baring outfit, is worn for dancing."

Chaliki encouraged non-Indianse to participate in Indian culture.

"It's not just for brown people," she said.

Senior accounting major Abdullah Aleidan of Saudi Arabia manned his country's culture booth.

He wore a traditional white thobe, a long tunic worn throughout the Middle East in warmer months. He had a red-and-white shemagh on his head, which is worn to protect men from the sand and sun in the desert. Saudi Arabians wear thicker black thobes in the winter. These traditional garments cost about \$70 each.

"Women wear an abaya, a long black robe over their clothes when they go out in public," he said. "They wear a hijab over their hair to hide their beauty. A woman's beauty can only be seen by her male relatives and her husband."

The Saudi Arabian booth had dates and coffee made from yellowish beans.

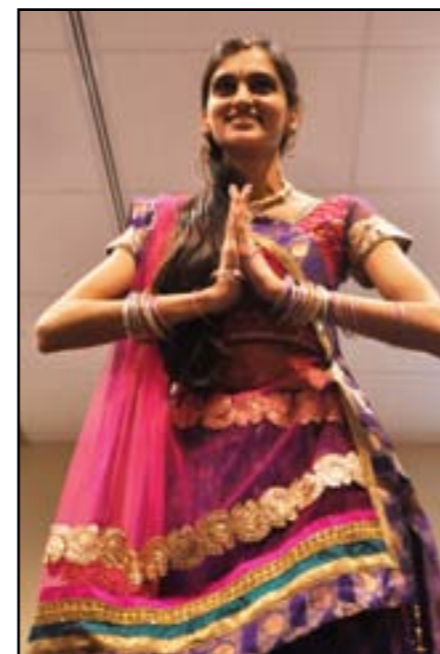
"These are both signs of hospitality," Aleidan said. "If you came to my house [in Saudi Arabia], I would offer you coffee and dates."

The Brazilian booth had slide shows showcasing famous sites in Brazil. The students offered homemade candies called beijinho and brigadeiro, and pastel, a traditional fast food served in bars.

International Student Affairs hosts programs like New Student Orientation, International Education Day, State ID trips, International Olympics, and Kansas City's Ethnic Enrichment Festival. The organization is designed to help international students feel welcome in their new home.

"I may be biased, but this [Culture Night] is by far my favorite event that we have," Gault said. "It gives the students a chance to celebrate their colors, their own ethnicity and their cultures."

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Top: Middle Eastern students perform a dance as part of Culture Night.

Middle, left: Slesha Patel wears an Indian lengha. It is the current fashion in India, with velvet details and a mesh fabric.

Middle, right: YuJun Oh wears a Korean Han-bok, a traditional costume of the nobility. The different classes in the society are represented by different colors. Red, purple and green show a higher status.

Left: Students enjoy a cafeteria-style buffet of food from across the globe.

PHOTOS // Sai Srikar Kadiyam



Ryan Overfelt, Carly Atwood, Eric Oatts, and Teddy Krulwich.

PHOTO // Joey Hill

# Jazz Combos

## Conservatory students shake up Grant Hall

Joey Hill

Staff Writer

be played together.

One of the hallmarks of live music is where it can take the listener. While the melodic beauty of a classical concerto may gracefully float just above the audience, taking the audience to fantasy realms of beauty and tranquility, jazz will just as easily jump off the stage, run through the isles screaming at the top of it's lungs, grabbing the listener by the collar and dragging them out the doors and into the yellow-lit streets from wince it came.

Live jazz is no more a visceral experience than live classical music is, but it has something that makes the experience somehow much more alive when done right, and the Conservatory Jazz Combos definitely did it right.

On Tuesday, March 5, the Conservatory hosted the "Jazz and the Conservatory" performance, a show which demonstrated talents of the UMKC Jazz Studies Program. The combos were groups ranging from four to six people each building an interesting combination of instruments, which together created incredible music.

It's difficult to know where to look when watching a jazz combo; with the wide variety of instruments it's jarring to see this enormous collection of movement; The drummer slamming away, the brass players swaying like tall grass in the wind, the piano player quickly scanning the keys with their fingers. It's only when the listener at the entire whole that they see they're all working like parts of a body, bobbing to the tune that shall

It took all of only two minutes for the audience to forget they were in a concert hall. The 3:30 Combo's late night romp "Somewhere on Troost" immediately transported the listener to a dark, smoky jazz club scene with echoing brass sections and melodic electric guitar riffs.

The concert hall became smaller, more personal, as the cool sounds drew the audience in closer and closer. Even with the individual solos being performed, the steady beat and groove of the piece kept on, grounding the sound.

One of the highlights of the evening was the 2:00 Combo's "Starry Night", an intense fever dream of a work employing use of a bow with the upright bass to create, low, quiet, creaking kinds of sounds as an intense electric guitar rift barreled it's way though behind the shrieking mythological siren like trio of two saxophones and a trumpet.

It became hypnotic as the music rose to a dizzying swirl overhead, like a towering thundercloud forming before a great storm. All the while one was wondering if the drummer was going to shatter the symbols of the drum kit with the climactic crashes and exhausting solos.

Walking out after the show, one felt like they had just finished a 5k run. Hard-hitting beats crawled up through the audience's feet and smashed at their chests as a cascade of sound rushed over the seats. It's a miracle the building even held up under all of it.

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## 'Roos defeat the soccer pros in pre-season friendly match

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

The men's soccer team defeated the North American Soccer League's Minnesota United F.C., 2-1, in its first pre-season match last Friday at Durwood Stadium.

Captain and defender Guerrero Pino scored the winning goal on a penalty kick in the 82nd minute, after Jordan Rideout tied the score in the 52nd minute. For the professional opponent, striker Max Griffin scored in the 22nd minute.

UMKC's Roberto Albuquerque had a big night and earned the crowd's applause after a great play on the right side of the field and a cross that almost produced a goal.

During the last few minutes, Minnesota tried to score the equalizer with aggressive but unsuccessful runs at goalkeeper Kevin Corby. After 90 minutes, the central referee added three minutes of stoppage time before the final whistle.

Pino seemed excited after the win and could not hide the happiness that spread over his face.

"I am very happy to have scored my first goal with UMKC" he said. "There is no better way to come back and play after a long time than scoring the winning goal against a professional and tough team like Minnesota."

Benben said he, like his players, was surprised by such a strong performance after almost four months since the end of the fall season.

"I'm ecstatic, this is the first time we've been outside this semester" he said. "It's nice to know we are a competitive team, especially after defeating one of the top professional teams in the country."

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PHOTOS // Dan Moreno



## Women's Basketball 'Roos one and done in Summit League tournament with loss to Indianapolis

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

The women's basketball team, which last season reached the championship game of the Summit League Championship, this time was knocked out in the first round with a 59-47 loss Saturday to second-seeded IUPUI at Sioux Falls, S.D.

This marked the Roos' third loss this season to the Jaguars and their farewell appearance in the Summit League before starting play in the Western Athletic Conference next season. Kansas City, the tournament's seventh seed, also lost this season to IUPUI 47-46 at Indianapolis and 47-33 at home.

"It was a hard game, this is a team whose style is dramatically different from us, which made it harder for us" said Coach Marsha Frese. "They are a great team, they like to get to the basket and run as much as they can."

Before the tournament quarterfinal, the Roos were hoping to turn the tables on the Jaguars.

"It's hard to beat a team three times in a row," senior Emile Blakesley had said.

That proved not so difficult for the Jaguars, and the Roos finished 9-21, including 5-11 in

the conference season. Yet, Blakesley focused on the season's positives.

"Even though we went through tough times during the season, we always gave everything we could on the court," she said. "I want to thank everyone who believed in us."

Frese, ending her first season in charge of the team, said, "It was a learning experience for everyone, including myself. There were many injuries and some girls playing in different positions, which made it hard for them, but they grew a lot as Division One players."

Junior guard Eilise O'Connor had an unforgettable season, which included her 1,000th career point. Last week O'Connor was named First Team All-Summit League as voted by coaches, sports information directors and media.

O'Connor ranked second in scoring in Summit League games with 18.0 points per game, and was a three-time Player of The Week.

"They're all nice career accomplishments" she said. "But I could not have done it without my teammates and coach."

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PHOTO // UMKC Athletics

## Player Profile Maddie Schulte

**Kate Baxendale** Staff Writer

Sophomore Maddie Schulte of the UMKC women's tennis team recently received a Summit League Player of the Week award for the second straight year.

She received her most recent victory over Wichita State's Summer Schlotterback on February 16.

"Being named player of the week feels great, especially as an underclassman," Schulte said "It feels good to get recognized for all of the hard work that I do along with the rest of the team."

Currently, she has an 8-8 record this season in the Number 6 singles slot.

Schulte said tennis has always been part of her life. Her mother, aunt and uncle are all tennis players, so she was surrounded by the sport from an early age. She began playing in tournaments when she was 10 years old.

Schulte played tennis at Kapaun Mount Carmel High School in Wichita, where her mother was the coach.

"Playing for my mom was a very good experience," she said. "I loved the fact that she knew my game so well, so it was very easy for her to coach me."

The 5-foot, 8-inch sophomore chose to play tennis at UMKC because she liked the coaching staff. Also, when she began playing as a freshman, she knew three other players on the team from

Wichita.

Schulte, along with senior Suzan Lisenby, is one of two Americans on the team.

"I have enjoyed learning about all the different cultures of the international players," she said. "They have taught me a lot, including a little bit of French, Spanish, and Russian. But I do appreciate having another American on the team, especially since we knew each other before coming to UMKC."

The team has players from France, Mexico, Belarus and Greece.

Schulte's proudest moment on the court came last season, when she won the first match against Oklahoma State.

"I am always proud of myself and my team when we play well, especially when we have a good victory," she said.

Schulte said that while many think of tennis crowds as quiet and sedate, there is quite a bit of cheering at UMKC matches.

"College matches are really fun to come and watch," she said.

Despite the team's 3-9 record, Schulte expects the rest of the season to go well.

"We have a few conference matches coming up, and I think we can succeed," she said. "We play together really well as a team."

The women will play Northern Illinois, Western Illinois, South Dakota State, Fort Wayne and Omaha at Kansas City this week.

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## Scoreboard

**Kate Baxendale** Staff Writer

### Men's Basketball

March 11—Semifinals at Sioux Falls, N.D.  
March 12—Championships at Sioux Falls, N.D.

### Women's Basketball

Overall Record: 9 - 21  
Conference Record: 5 - 11  
(L) March 9—vs. IUPUI 59, UMKC 47 at Sioux Falls, N.D.

### Men's Golf

March 8 - 10—Bandon Dunes Championship hosted by Gonzaga

Up next:  
March 25 - 26—Memphis Intercollegiate (hosted by Memphis) at Cordova, Tenn.

### Women's Golf

March 8 - 10—Rio Verde Collegiate Invitational (hosted by Western Michigan)

Up next:  
March 25 - 26—UALR Women's Golf Classic (hosted by UALR) at Hot Springs, Ark.

### Men's Tennis

Overall Record: 1 - 7  
Region: 1 - 2  
March 10—vs. Oral Roberts

Up next:  
March 22—vs. South Dakota State  
March 24—vs. Indianapolis

### Women's Tennis

Overall Record: 3 - 9  
Region: 1 - 1

Up next:  
March 12—vs. Northern Illinois, 1 p.m.  
March 14—vs. Western Illinois, 2 p.m.

March 15—vs. South Dakota State, 9 a.m.  
March 16—vs. Fort Wayne, 9 a.m.  
March 16—vs. Omaha, 2 p.m.

### Softball

Overall Record: 7 - 11  
(L) March 8—at Texas Tech 8 UMKC 0

(L) March 9—vs. Troy 16 UMKC 11 (at Lubbock, Texas)  
(L) March 9—at Texas Tech 9 UMKC 1

(L) March 10—at Texas Tech 16 UMKC 8  
(L) March 10—vs. UT-Arlington 9 UMKC 1 (at Lubbock, Texas)

### Softball: (cont'd)

Up next:  
March 13—at Wichita State  
March 13—at Wichita State  
March 16—at Fort Wayne  
March 16—at Fort Wayne  
March 17—at Fort Wayne

### Men's Track and Field

March 7 - 9—NCAA Indoor Championships hosted by Arkansas (no qualifiers)

Up next:  
March 16—Tulsa Duels at Tulsa, Okla.

### Women's Track and Field

March 7 - 9—NCAA Indoor Championships hosted by Arkansas (no qualifiers)

Up next:  
March 16—Tulsa Duels at Tulsa, Okla.

## Men's Tennis Team toughened up for conference play

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

UMKC's men's tennis team defeated Oral Roberts 4-0 last Sunday at the Carriage Club in a match that was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

The Roos have started slowly with a 2-7 non-conference record.

"It is all my fault," Coach Kendell Hale acknowledged. "I scheduled very tough non-conference games."

Hale claimed there is no reason to panic, though.

"We are known for our slow starts" he said. "I am pretty sure we will do great in the conference."

In 2012, the squad overcame numerous injuries early in the season and captured a share of a third consecutive regular-season Summit League title. Hale seems confident his team will succeed again.

"The big thing is unity, coming together as a team," he said. "This is an individual sport played in a team format."

Despite the team's record, some players have stood out.

Tomas Patino was named Summit

League's men's Player of the week for his performances Feb. 12-18. A junior from Medellin, Colombia, he also received the award three weeks earlier.

While earning his second honor, Patino gained a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Grant Taylor of Air Force in a Number 2 singles match. The next day he defeated Arkansas' Mike Ward 1-6, 6-4, 10-7 in Number 1 singles and teamed with Grant Fleming in an 8-4 doubles victory.

Patino stands 9-4 in singles this season, though his match Sunday against Oral Roberts' Jason Mechali was one of three singles matches not finished.

"I am glad about these achievements" said Patino. "My only goal is to help the team."

Next, the Roos will host conference matches against South Dakota State on March 22 and IUPUI two days later.

"We've got to be as mentally tough as possible" said Hale. "Fortunately we have another week to get ready to start against two tough rivals."

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PHOTO // Matt Cook

## Player Profile Courtney Frerichs Track star keeps running into the record book

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

Courtney Frerichs never imagined that track and field would be the sport that would make her shine. During her high school years, she was a gifted soccer player before eventually discovering her real talent: long-distance running.

"I discovered my long-distance talent in my senior year of high school" Frerichs said, "I decided to run cross country to stay in shape for soccer, and then things started going really well."

At UMKC, she recently set three school records in one week. Frerichs crossed the finish line after a mile in 4:55.56 in South Bend, Ind., at the Alex Wilson Invitational, and set another school record at 5,000 meters when she crossed the finish line at 16:40:16 in Vermillion, S.D.. On day one of The Summit League Championships, she won the 3,000-meter race with a time of 9:46:24.

Frerichs discussed the meticulous planning process for every event.

"Before every event, coach and I sit down with a race plan," she said. "The only thing that is on my mind while running is that race plan, and I keep thinking to myself if I am executing it correctly."

The indoor season has already ended and Frerichs is now focused on the outdoor season, her favorite part of the year. She described her goals for the season as wanting

to qualify for regionals again.

I did that last year as a freshman and I picture myself going to Oregon for the nationals' final round," she said.

A Chemistry major from Nixa, Mo., Frerichs from the start considered UMKC as the right choice for her.

"I chose Kansas City because it is not too far away from home and it is in the city, which really caught my eye," she said. "But also the fact that they have a really good science program here at UMKC."

Frerichs did not hesitate when asked about her future dreams in long-distance running. "I would do anything to compete in the Olympics one day," she said. "It is just something I dreamed since I was a little girl, so if I made it, that would just be a dream come true."

When it comes to relaxing, there are two outlets Frerich really enjoys.

"I am addicted to shopping -- everyone who knows me knows that," she said. "I also love Starbucks coffee. So if I am really stressed, that's what I do. I also love going back home and visiting my parents. I do it at least once a month."

The track and field team will head to Tulsa, Okla., for the first outdoor competition of the season, the Tulsa Duels. Frerichs will be trying to show she is far from running out of achievements.

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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*.

## It's time for spring break

**Bradley Hoffman** Staff Writer

Before booking that flight to a land of endless drinks, loud music, seven-people-to-a-room accommodations, fast food consumed between the hours of 4 and 9 in the morning, and probably baseless, illogical, alcohol-fueled arguments with your closest friends, ask yourself, why do you want to go there?



Bradley Hoffman

Every spring break, college students from around the country flock to various beach towns in Florida and Texas where they rock n' roll all night and embarrass themselves all day. Somewhere between waking up at noon and vomiting on the walk back home, there's supposedly a good time in there. The memories of these good times are half-formed to begin with and further deteriorate almost immediately, so concrete proof these good times actually exist are speculative at best.

Spring break culture is a nasty trend of heavy water side drinking by day and unflattering attempts to "hook up" in black light dancehalls by night. It's as if a whole population is temporarily reduced to gluttony and sexual urges, a cog in an instant-gratification machine that gets spit out after several days to recoup what is lost and get back to work. For some, that's a very appealing idea.

Instead of doing what the travel industry expects you to do, consider doing what you, as mature, young adult, might genuinely enjoy. Compromise that desire to completely check out for six days with a plan to accomplish something, anything. I'm not telling you to spend five hours every day of break studying or even spend any time doing something school-related. But, do something that you do not normally have the time for during regular semester: read leisurely, build something, watch a good movie (or several), exercise, go camping, visit a museum. Do something over break that'll benefit you even after classes resume.

Michael Miller, a 2011 graduate, offered, "If you have a heavy load and you need to catch up studying and doing homework, you should take care of that first."

So it seems some students weren't just dead-set on shunning the books and soaking up some booze over spring break. Miller himself never indulged in the kind of tour de drink spring break we so often see on television.

"I would have to at least spend part of the time catching up. I also never had the money to go out on any crazy vacation or anything."

But, even if you have some work to do, doesn't mean you can't enjoy the time off.

Miller adds, "I think even if you decide to stay back to study and do homework, you should also still take some time to relax."

Myself, I'll be working on a couple personal projects that my usual schedule hasn't allowed me time to do. Sure, I'll give myself liberal leeway with my bed time and likely have a few late starts to the day. And I'm sure I'll have a couple extra drinks some nights. But, I won't drown the entire week off in margaritas and hangovers, relying solely on social media posts and incoherent text messages to piece together memories of a wasted week.

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## Move to WAC is the right decision

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

One month ago, the University and Chancellor Leo Morton announced the incorporation of UMKC to the Western Athletic Conference, having outgrown the Summit League.

Moving over to the WAC should not be looked at as an experiment and I believe it to be one of the best decisions made by UMKC for the Athletics Department.

To start, the WAC has fifty years of intercollegiate competition and has experienced tremendous success over the years. For example, this conference has partnered with ESPN for live coverage of basketball, offering the athletes national exposure.

Many big-named universities



Dan Moreno

around the country are affiliated with the conference, including Seattle University, Denver University, Louisiana Tech, and Texas State, which will allow our Roos' to play against better teams. According to Chancellor Morton, this move will also improve community engagement and financial strength. Big schools will come play at UMKC and will drive ticket sales and relationships between schools. As soon as the news was announced, I could not wait to ask everyone about it. I talked to players and coaches from every sport and everyone was excited about the change.

"We are all excited," said Women's Soccer coach Chris Cissel. Zach Balthazar from the Men's Soccer team and Trinity Hall who plays

basketball, said the exact same thing.

I am unaware of anyone who is saddened or disappointed by this great announcement. The teams will travel further and will compete against different schools.

In my opinion, change is always good, so let's all support our Roos' on this new journey and put UMKC on the nation's map.

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## Support local hip-hop artists

**Houston Zizza** Contributing Writer

The next rap song heard on the radio might be from a student at UMKC. My name is Houston Zizza; I am a student at UMKC during the day and a hip-hop artist in Kansas City at night.

Have you ever seen a flyer for a local hip-hop show on one of the bulletin boards around campus, or received one on the windshield of your car? If you have, it was probably placed there by me. While flyers are used for promotion, I also try and use them to familiarize students with a UMKC based artist.

The most recent flyer I may have been promoting is for the show *Homegrown Hip-hip*, a fundraiser for the victims of the JJ's fire. I was part of a group of



Houston Zizza

local artists that came together to try to do our part and help the victims of this tragedy.

The fire killed an alumnus, and damaged nearby property, including residences of UMKC students.

I don't always perform at fundraisers, though. As an aspiring performer, I have joined local and national groups on their tours. These have included Tech N9ne, Krizz Kaliko, Lil John, Big Krit.

Doing shows with big-named acts helps draw a crowd, while my songs and performance gains me the fan base. Right now, my main goal is to gain a fan base. Without the fans, my music will never be heard, shared, liked, or Tweeted.

As a UMKC student, I feel it is important the people I am around

everyday are knowledgeable about my music, but I also feel I should be involved in whatever they are passionate about. It's important for UMKC students to know and support others at UMKC in whatever field they are passionate about.

I would love to support and work with other students at UMKC, regardless of talent or specialty and feel everyone else should do the same. And remember, always support local!

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## Movie Review

**'Oz the Great and Powerful,'** as the title suggests

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

With Sam Raimi, Disney and an all-star cast, Oz has no choice but to be great and powerful. Filmed in a world of beauty and magic, "Oz the Great and Powerful" fulfills its legacy in the 3-D fantasy Land of Oz.

Oscar Diggs, "Oz," (James Franco) may seem like just an ordinary circus "wizard," but fate had another plan.

After escaping a mob angered by his less-than-magical abilities and questionable ethics, Oz jumps into a hot air balloon only to be sucked in to the eye of a tornado.

For the first time in 3-D, the audience is taken inside a tornado where debris is flying relentlessly.

Rubble soars into the theatre aisles as audience members dodge with an almost life-like fear as the 3-D animation takes audience members on an exciting journey.

Once Oz escapes from the deadly tornado, he is flown away to the magical Land of Oz where fairies have sharp teeth and colors are more vibrant than ever imagined. He is quickly met by Theodora (Mila Kunis) who believes she is the good witch.

Theodora immediately falls head over heels in love with Oz and claims herself his queen.



CREDIT // Google Images

This would sound extremely creepy if she didn't have such a sweet demeanor. Soon after joining forces, the duo runs into Finley (Zach Braff), a helpless flying monkey with a "JD" sense of humor.

*Hint: "Scrubs" reference. After being saved by Oz, he devotes his entire life to servitude and joins them on their journey.*

Oz is then brought to the Emerald city and quickly succumbs to the brilliant green and dazzling riches and is quickly introduced to Theodora's sister, Evanora (Rachel Weisz) who does not sparkle with the sweet innocence captivated by Theodora.

After being told of the need to kill the Wicked Witch of the West, Oz ventures out into the dark forest and runs into an ironic city called "China Town."

This is not a typical China Town, however. The entire town is literally made of china, as are its citizens. Oz stumbles upon China Girl, who is the only survivor after the town had been ransacked by the

wicked witch.

The girl then follows them on their journey. China Girl is a laughable character at first, but she proves to have extreme depth and is beautifully animated.

The group finds Glinda (Michelle Williams) who, at first glance, could not be the wicked witch. The journey of Oz then begins, and Oz proves to be much more than just a cocky fake magician.

Director Sam Raimi is fantastic, and his directing is bold and original. The first 30-minutes of the film play out in a tiny square among the immense IMAX space. It was a gambling decision, but it definitely paid off.

The acting was also incredible, but what else could be expected with the all-star cast? Franco is radiating with his eccentric sense of humor and charming smile.

The entire film is rather eccentric, and Franco makes fun of his own eccentricity adding to his already indulgent personality.

Overall, "Oz the Great and Powerful" is a beautiful and entertaining piece of art. There are some cheesy moments, but Raimi made up for it with style. This is definitely a must see film for audience members of all ages.

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