

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

Remembering Aaron

UMKC mourns loss of Conservatory student

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Instead of wearing black, those whose lives were touched by Aaron Makarian remembered the slain Conservatory student by wearing blue, his favorite color, to his visitation last Friday and a candlelight vigil held Sunday night.

Markarian was an aspiring opera singer and senior in the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance who was murdered in his Brookside Boulevard home on March 21.

Markarian sang in many stage plays, including a rendition of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" performed the Sunday four days before his death.

"He was complicated, talented, brilliant, funny and fearless," said Marciem Bazell, the conservatory's director of opera. "He was the first one to rehearsal, where he would fling himself all over the rehearsal space warming up the physical part of all his roles and looking for a spark that would reach the audience. His thirst for knowledge was never-ending."

In addition to being a gifted singer, Markarian graduated from Warrensburg Senior High School in 2008 in the top 15 percent of his class and was a member of National Honor Society.

UMKC students have expressed support, uploading scenes from his performances to YouTube and pictures to his Facebook page

and retweeting his work on Twitter.

Those who knew Markarian described him as unusual and unforgettable. Junior Theatre major Alisa Lynn said she met Markarian in a history class last year.

"Aaron lived life more fully than almost anyone I've ever known," Lynn said. "He was constantly the one with a witty comment and he knew something about almost every random subject. I used to see him walking barefoot around campus on nice days. He just really enjoyed the simplicity of living."

According to police records, eight college students had gathered at the home in the 4900 block of Brookside Boulevard, just south of the Country Club Plaza, when the doorbell rang. Markarian opened the door to find a masked man holding a machete with an unmasked man carrying a gun.

After the door was opened, the robbers barged in and demanded to be given anything of value. They stole cell phones and \$400 in cash before pressing the machete to one victim's neck and demanding marijuana.

The victim, who wishes to remain anonymous, recognized one of the robbers from high school and court records reported that he had previously been to the house to smoke marijuana.

Before leaving, the armed robber opened fire on Markarian and wounded three others at the house. The victims have requested to remain anonymous.

The shooting was unprovoked, police said, but believe the robbers may have begun shooting because they did not expect to recognize one of the victims and wanted to ensure their anonymity.

Police arrested the suspects, Alonzo Ruff and Anthony Williams, on March 26, and prosecutors charged each with 10 felonies including second-degree murder.

"We are grateful for the quick action by the Kansas City Police Department on this shocking crime," Chancellor Leo Morton said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Aaron Markarian, who we continue to mourn, and with the other members of the community affected by this tragedy."

The family has asked for privacy.
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ABOVE: Memorial outside the home of Aaron Makarian.
LEFT: Markarian performs in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream.'

PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam
PHOTO // Courtesy of Mike Strong



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Catholic church welcomes unorthodox pope

Francis I brings humility and controversy to the church

Kate Baxendale Copy Editor

With the election of Pope Francis I on March 13, the Catholic Church and UMKC community have witnessed history in the making.

Francis is the first non-European pope chosen in more than 1,200 years. He is also the first member of the Jesuit order to rule the Catholic Church.

"The Cardinals' selection definitely says something about demographics," said Dr. Gary Ebersole, professor of history and religious studies. "The word Catholic means 'universal,' and the fastest growing Catholic population not in Europe but in Central and Latin America and Africa."

Formerly known as Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina, the new Pope chose his papal title in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

The Pope called St. Francis a familiar figure throughout the world, known for helping the poor and the sick and setting an example "to make society more humane and more just."

Like St. Francis, the Jesuits are known for their service to society's most vulnerable populations.

Pope Francis has been, in keeping with the Jesuit ideal of simplicity, wearing plain white cassocks in his first days of papacy.

He chose to ride in a minibus with his fellow cardinals instead of a private Vatican vehicle. Francis even declined to live in the Apostolic Palace.

He currently resides in a suite in the Vatican guesthouse.

The inaugural mass for Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square was vastly different than Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's in 2005.

The ceremony for Francis lacked the

traditional gold, silk and lace present at previous inaugural masses.

Francis did, however, receive the Fisherman's ring, which symbolizes the first Pope St. Peter.

"There will certainly be a lot of pressure for him to wear traditional papal adornments," Ebersole said.

Ebersole explained how the Catholic Church is in great need of reform, which is why the church turned to a religious order for a new Pope. However the church turned to the Jesuits for the first time in history.

"New Popes are largely unknown, and the church tends to project its own hopes and dreams on the new candidate," he said. "But it is impossible to tell what a new Pope's vision for the church will be, especially this early."

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Pope Francis I. CREDIT // Google



Above: Asha White (top) and Johnson Cosby (bottom) stand on the newly renovated staircase. Below: Fireplace containing encyclopedias left behind by current owners. PHOTOS // Andreina Byrne



This year's Kansas City Symphony Alliance showhouse, 1032 West 55th Street, dates back to 1858. PHOTO // Andreina Byrne

UMKC marketing student Asha White puts classroom knowledge to good use as intern for the Kansas City Symphony Alliance

Andreina Byrne Staff Writer
Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Asha White stands atop a long, elegant staircase that dates back to the pre-Civil War era. The crystal chandelier sparkles in the background as the blue wallpaper finds its way into history.

White is a senior marketing major at UMKC and an intern for the Kansas City Symphony Alliance, which recently announced its selection for the 44th annual Symphony Designers' Showhouse. The antebellum Showhouse, 1032 West 55th St., is undergoing a complete remodeling.

According to house historian Beverly Shaw, the property was purchased by Mormons in the early 1830s. It later went to a Clay County lawyer named Alexander Doniphan. It was then sold to a Westport farmer named William Matney.

Owner William W. Bent, a well-known fort builder, trader and frontiersman, purchased the home in 1858.

Shaw explained how a trapper-trader's wife named Mrs. Seth Ward bought the property from Bent's wife. Different allies of the Wards, including the Ward Investment Company, were in possession of the property until 1940.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland W. Browne were granted the house in 1942. Dr. and Mrs. Frederick B. Campbell then purchased and continued renovations until 1949, and in 1983, Mr. and Mrs. J. Nelson Happy began extensive repairs on

mechanical and structural components.

Currently, the Bent-Ward home is getting its makeover for its current owners, Robert and Sandra Gaines.

White currently is the chairman of the Private Parties committee for the alliance.

"I update the databases and invite new companies and residents to our events in order to enhance more awareness about this year's Showhouse," White said. "I think I called over 200 people to invite them to our open house that was about a month ago."

Among White's duties lie the task of coordinating events within the Showhouse.

"I figure out the details with private parties," White said. "Sometimes with 20 people all the way up to hundreds, I help with renting out the home for our events."

The Kansas City Symphony held an open house at the Showhouse in order to allow visitors to learn more about the selection and renovation process.

In order to complete the renovations, the home is rented by the symphony for six months. The owners vacate the premises along with all personal belongings.

"Different designers will pick a room to bid on," UMKC alumna and co-chair Stacey Johnson Cosby said. "Then, if they get selected, then they are responsible for the cost of the room and redesigning everything."

The total renovations cost an estimated \$100,000-\$165,000 according to Tracy Hawkins, President of the Kansas City Symphony Alliance.

"That includes labor and skills, actual physical improvements that the Homeowners will enjoy once the SH closes and we are gone," Hawkins said. "The Designers pay these costs from their own budgets. KCSA makes some improvements, as well."

This home, known as the Bent-Ward House, was first featured in 1985 in the 16th Designers' Showhouse.

"We've done a lot [so far]," Cosby said. "And there are still some touches from the designers from the first event."

For instance, blue wallpaper featured in the entrance walkway was added during the first Showhouse.

Companies like Sherwin-Williams and Wilson Lighting donate to the cause through decor and designing efforts, as well as independent designers, universities, and more recently, high school students.

According to Cosby, the home has been coming together satisfyingly, thanks to dedicated designers and volunteers, but could not be as successful without the alliance's members, such as White.

"Everyone thinks what she [White] is doing is so valuable," Cosby said. "She has been able to use the information she has learned in class to put to use with us... How much better can it be?"

White agreed.

"UMKC definitely prepared me for this internship. As a Marketing student, I have learned how to apply market research and critical thinking into my decisions," she said.

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UMKC's best and brightest will be initiated into Chapter 103 on April 7, 2013 at 2:00 PM in the E. E. Thompson Courtroom, School of Law.

Membership invitations have been sent to 810 qualified juniors, seniors, graduate and professional students on the UMKC campus.

Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society. Seniors, graduate and professional students in the top 10% of their classes may be invited to membership, as well as the top 7.5% of second-semester juniors.

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<http://tinyurl.com/JCCCsummer> for more information.

Note: If considering a class with a prerequisite requirement, JCCC requires proof of previous coursework (via unofficial transcript, etc.) before registering for summer classes.



Police Blotter

March 20

7 a.m. - 12 p.m. Property Damage
The victim returned to find paint transfer and scrapes on his car in the Hospital Hill Parking Garage.

March 21

7:10 p.m. Possession of a Controlled Substance
Officers witnessed an accident at 50th St. and Rockhill Road. When they checked on the passengers they discovered narcotics and alcohol.

March 23

1:56 a.m. Noise Disturbance
Officers responded to a loud party in Oak Place Apartments and people were asked to leave.

4:57 p.m. Fire Alarm
A student cooking in Oak Place Apartments caused excessive smoke and set off the fire alarm.

March 24

5:02 p.m. Strong-Armed Robbery
The victim had a guest book and framed proclamation forcefully taken from her after a memorial service in Pierson Auditorium. Items were later recovered.

8:43 p.m. Larceny
The victim left his wallet in the Law School lounge and returned to find it missing.

10:02 p.m. Possession of a Controlled Substance
Officers found a person high on PCP laying in the snow at the bus stop at 55th and Troost Streets.

March 27

12:18 a.m. Auto Theft
A university vehicle was reported stolen from the Medical School. It was recovered with damage.

2:17 p.m. Burglary
The faculty member left an "SALEAE" brand logic analyzer in a locked room in Flarshheim Hall and returned to find it missing.

3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Larceny
The victim left his backpack unattended in the Miller Nichols Library and returned to find it missing. The back pack contained his personal bank and military records.

10:07 p.m. - 11:01 p.m. Controlled Substance
Officers responding to an accident at 53rd and Charlotte Streets and arrested the suspect for possessing narcotics.

March 28

8:35 p.m. Possession of a Controlled Substance
A traffic stop at 55th and Cherry Streets resulted in the driver's arrest for possession of narcotics.

student profile Sophomore competes for chance to impact Africa

Riley Mortensen Staff Writer

Sophomore Communication Studies major Alex Dapp is in the running for a chance to win a trip to Africa sponsored by Toms shoes where she's up against nearly 10,000 other entrants.

Out of the 10,000 who have entered, Dapp was number 65, and the top 50 entries are invited to participate in shoe drops.

Toms' philosophy is simple. One for one. For every one pair of shoes a customer buys, one new pair is given to a child in need. It's that one for one formula that grabbed Dapp's attention, and she has been a fanatic ever since.

"I like that there's a story behind them," she said. "It's a for-profit company, but they also help people. Letting people come with them on an actual shoe drop to show that they do actually give back only reaffirms my faith in a company like this. People forget that you can make a profit and help out others at the same time."

Dapp, who is on Toms' email list and also has the Toms app on her phone, first heard about the contest through an email and took it from there.

"I kind of thought, I'll create the entry and see where it goes. I mean there are 10,000 applicants and I wasn't really expecting to win, but I woke up two days later and my friend had created this Facebook page and from then on I knew this was something I could actually do," she said.

Dapp has her fingers crossed not only when it comes to winning the competition, but also in possibly attaining a job with the company in the future. She's already looked into internships and is hoping that if she wins the opportunity to go on the trip, maybe that can open some doors for her future.

As far as attaining more votes and help from the campus, Dapp visited local businesses during spring break to ask for support.

The contest lasts until April 12. Dapp is not sure how she'll find out she won since last year they flew to each city and ambushed winners, and that was with 15 chosen. With 50, she may get something in the mail, but she'll have to wait and see. If she wins the contest, she'll be given the



Alex Dapp wears Toms shoes, a brand known for its charitable efforts. Dapp is competing to drop Toms shoes to developing African countries. Photo courtesy of Alex Dapp

opportunity to choose from 3 or 4 trips between August and December of 2013. Dapp says she will pick based on the impact the countries listed might offer to her rather than her availability.

- To vote for Alex Dapp for Toms' Ticket to Give Contest:
1. Go to toms.com
 2. Click Ticket to Give
 3. Search for Alex D.
 4. VOTE!

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UMKC announces B.S. in Clownology for fall 2013

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Starting fall 2013, the College of Arts and Sciences will be adding a degree in Clownology to its degree options.

Dr. Francis Bozo, Professor of Face Painting, first imagined adding a degree aimed toward the study of being a clown in 1963 after a famous television clown hit his peak.

"I was just relaxing and watching some television when I saw this show about an unusual red-haired clown," Bozo said. "I started thinking what all goes into being a clown, so I began researching."

Bozo was working toward his Ph.D at the Clown Conservatory in San Francisco, when he decided to change his thesis paper idea.

"I was originally doing my thesis on the abstract study and analysis

of painting the face," he said. "Then the idea hit me. There was so much potential in Clownology."

He developed his thesis, which was then picked up by the Ringling Brothers Circus and he was offered the position of Clownology scientist. During the 2001 circus tour, Bozo found himself stranded in Kansas City and happened to come across UMKC.

"That tour bus accidentally leaving me behind was probably the best thing to ever happen to me," he said.

Bozo began sculpting his plan for a degree in Clownology shortly after receiving the position of Professor of Face Painting, where he currently works in the Theatre department. His proposition was passed in fall 2012 after the University felt a dire need for Clownology.

"Kids kept walking by in their

full-fledged clown suits, but I could tell they didn't fully appreciate what they were wearing," Bozo said. "I just wanted them to understand the history of those bright boots and squishy noses."

The Clownology core curriculum will include classes, such as the art of the unicycle, history of the uniform and the science of cannon shooting.

"Those poor clowns walking around the campus will be orphans no more," Bozo said.

The university will debate the addition of advanced degrees, including a master's in car stuffing, within the month.

For more information on Clownology, don't visit the website.

Happy April Fools Day.
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UMKC E-Save project pairs creativity with education and fun

Sai Srikar Kadiyam Staff Writer

A project known as *MySmartSolar.edu*, led by E-Save lab team from the UMKC School of Computing and Engineering and funded by Kansas City Power and Light (KCP&L), aims to educate and increase energy efficiency in urban communities.

Some may not think of social justice as an aspect of energy consumption, but a technological gap that exists in underserved communities hurts low-income consumers. They tend to live in older homes and apartments with dated appliances that are less efficient compared with newer buildings and equipment.

"The goal of E-Save is to promote wise energy use across the community," said Dr. Vijay Kumar.

Kumar said the project was launched in 2011 thanks to funding from Toyota USA.

Kumar has worked with Drs. Cory Beard, Yugyung Lee and Praveen Rao in collaboration with KCP&L to come up with creative ways to teach local high school students about energy consumption.

KCP&L had already partnered with the Paseo Academy of Fine and Performing Arts to install solar panels on the school's roof.

On March 20, nine teams of students from Paseo visited UMKC to present their ideas on how to save energy in places such as old houses, schools, apartments and grocery stores.

Many teams went beyond the ordinary PowerPoint



E-Save team at UMKC. On the screen, a computer application designed by UMKC students illustrates real-time energy consumption. PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam

presentation and incorporated their background as art students to showcase their ideas for energy sustainability. Some performed raps, while one of the groups presented a skit and others showcased cartoons and T-shirt designs.

Edward T. Hedges, Manager of KCP&L's Smart Grid Technology Planning and Delivery, joined the four SCE professors as part of the panel of judges who closely reviewed each presentation.

As part of the E-Save project, two students from UMKC designed a computer game to illustrate real-time energy consumption using animated pictures of various everyday electronic devices in a house, such as a fan, air conditioner or washing machine.

The virtual interface the students designed shows exactly how much energy these devices would consume. The goal is to help consumers monitor energy consumption and costs more efficiently.

The virtual game is a prototype of a website or app that could be used to remotely control devices and switch them on/off from a web link.

As part of the March 20 event, each team was invited to the stage and was given an opportunity to switch on and off the devices using a tablet.

As part of the event, Hedges also passed out energy-efficient CFL bulbs to the students to help promote smart energy consumption.

Kumar said the E-Save partnership with Paseo began in December 2012.

"The theme of the project was how to use energy wisely so that energy consumption was minimal," he said.

Hedges said the students brought up several good ideas in their presentation

"We could take the seeds that were planted here and go forward with spreading the idea as part of an ad campaign," he said. "Conservation is the best way of management."

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food **Cancun Fiesta Fresh**

Andreina Byrne Staff Writer

From the fresh Cilantro in the Pico de Gallo to the steamed corn tortillas, Cancun Fiesta Fresh on 4019 Pennsylvania is a must for any hungry, Mexican-food lover.

Immediately, the authenticity strikes as Mariachi and other folk-type traditional songs blare from the outdoor speakers.

Chimichangas, make-your-own Burritos along with a variety of combinations were all found on the menu.

The street-tacos were an obvious choice, after all, their famed reputation constantly bombards my taste buds every time I see an advertisement for them. Obviously their most well known item, they only run \$1.75 each and seven different meat options could practically convert a vegetarian.

All their food is as homegrown as Mexican food can be, and, may not satisfy those interested in Tex-Mex or other non-authentic varieties.

However, I decided to be unconventional by ordering a couple

of their soft tacos instead of the street ones. I chose chicken and beef and was very pleased with my decision. I also chose a bottle of Modelo especial and paid for my extremely reasonably priced meal, which totaled at less than \$10.

The prices were more than fair for the traditional quality of food and somewhat eclectic drink choices. No meal exceeded \$7.50 and side dishes seemed underpriced compared to most Mexican restaurants. The drinks ranged from bottled water to Red Bull, to your everyday domestic and premium Mexican beers.

On a different note, the service was professional and fast.

The cashier and her accomplice were uniformly dropping meats and peppers on the grill and within the fryers. The sizzling of the taco shells and the sautéing of the rice seem to have melodically influenced the rhythm of the two employees; though maybe that was just my imagination getting the best of me.

For anyone used to a five-star restaurant embellished from head to toe, this is not the place. However,



Chicken and beef soft tacos. PHOTO // Andreina Byrne

- Food: ★★★★★
- Drinks: ★★★★★
- Price: ★★★★★
- Service: ★★★★★
- Ambiance: ★★★★★

their food definitely tastes like five star cuisine, and the cleanliness and work-ethic of the place should not fool a hungry person looking to be pleasantly surprised. Also, as I've heard from frequent clientele, deliveries in and around the area are well-worth it and fast.

Go ahead and give this place a try. abyrne@unews.com

UMKC Conservatory performs at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's medieval gallery

Joey Hill Staff Writer

A contemplative stillness exists in the medieval section of the Nelson-Atkins that isn't found anywhere else.

Walking through, one can see calm, reserved statues of Mary, draped in flowing robes, and towering suits of armor stoically standing at attention, one sitting upon a large armored horse as though waiting for an unseen enemy.

It's a quiet section, connected both the Egyptian as well as the Greek and Roman sections. The Cloister in the very heart of the gallery is an area of great visual appeal. A simply square construction, it's built with a large wall of stone that follows along the edges of the gallery making an empty space in the middle.



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art medieval gallery. PHOTO // Joey Hill

The walls of the cloister are lined with decorative window spaces and include a tile roof, the center being left open to give the illusion of an overcast sky.

On Saturday March 23, the Nelson-Atkins hosted the Conservatory Connections performance of "Soma Athanaton" (Eternal Body), a work that is a collaboration between four artists, UMKC's Brad Van Wick, the Art Institute's Chris Daharsh, Alli Litwicki, and Russell Thorpe, "Soma Athanaton" and was unlike most performances as it focused on the way one can interact emotionally with a space, taking inspiration from the Gregorian chants and meditation techniques used by western monks.

With various sound usage including low humming, breathing, synthesized ambient noise, and instances of

wind instruments, Van Wick and Daharsh created a marvel of sound that resonated through the stones of the cloister. Audience members were allowed to either sit or stand along the walls outside the enclosure.

The droning, repeating hums of the synthesizer began to fall away as instruments such as a tenor saxophone and an alto clarinet were played, though unconventionally. They were played lower, and began to sound like the wails and cries of some hideous monster, echoing from a deep, dark, cavernous pit, which it resides.

"Soma Athanaton" was not simply a meditative exercise, it was a physical activity only enjoyed when closing ones eyes, and relaxing as the room began to disintegrate.

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The Toy and Miniature Museum sits at the edge of UMKC's campus at 52nd and Oak Streets. PHOTO // Sai Srikrar Kadiyam

Toy and Miniature Museum rekindles childhood treasures

Riley Mortensen Staff Writer

Fittingly placed on top of a hill, tucked safely inside the majestic house filled with 38 rooms and winding staircases lie the miniatures, marbles, and tinkering toys of childhood. From the largest permanent marble collection in the United States, to a thrilling Barbie exhibit, there's something for the kid in everyone.

From now until June 9, the Miniature Toy Museum is showing Just Colcord's collection of curious objects, "Trash or Treasure."

Filled with strange creatures, tiny robots, creative scenes and even a stop-motion films, this display will set one's imagination on fire.

"I like to work with old things. I don't want to kill anything, like chopping down a tree," Colcord said. "I'm not trying to destroy things. I want to create and transform. I'm going to look for rusty screws. I'm looking for the things that are organic."

Colcord spends his time searching the streets for old screws, coffee tins or whatever he can find. A reading display next to the exhibit tells of how Colcord collects, then catalogs the items and finally a story is born from the trash he recycles.

Colcord believes art is something you play with and engage in.

He had no formal art school training, but learned by trying to emulate his grandfather, who was a tinker and taught him about investing in himself.

Colcord's display is interactive. Each display case has a list of hidden words or objects for eyes to spot and his short film shows his creations in their own little worlds.

"Myron," Colcord's first creature, knows all about the language and world of the street and called for the others to be built. Colcord believes each creation develops its own definitive personality, unique life experiences, friends and enemies within the world he's crafted.

One of the creatures toward the end of the exhibit stands holding up a sign that says, "I am not worthless junk. I am an amazing and unique creature."

Colcord works, like the rest of the museum, to bring out our inner childhood fantasies. From wizards to robots and the numerous scenes he has set up with his creatures, for them Colcord shows that toys can be made from anything with a little heart, some creativity, and some crafting tools.

The Miniature Toy Museum is a great way to spend a spring afternoon exploring the numerous collections offered. Admission to the museum is \$7 and it is open every day except Monday and Tuesday.

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student profile **A perfect balance**

Joey Hill Staff Writer



Brendan Stevens. PHOTO // Joey Hill

Full-time student Brendan Stevens juggles work, school and the release of his band's latest album

It's no secret that passions can take a backseat to school and work during college, but sophomore General Studies student Brendan Stevens manages to find time for not only work and school, but also singing lead for his band, The Strive.

A local Pop-punk band, The Strive has been rising in popularity, most recently last year after performing at Mix 93.3's Red White and Boom concert at Starlight Theater following the winning of a battle of the bands contest, as well as Warped Tour.

Even with the release of a third studio extended play album "Caught Inside," Stevens remains humbled by the experience.

"You can get someone to buy something on iTunes, or you can get someone to press 'like' on a Facebook page but to get someone passionate enough to drive 40 minutes, to figure out a ride," he said. "All these different aspects come into making a great show, [but] to have kids actually come out is 10 times more gratifying than playing 'Red, White, and Boom.' It was a great experience, but getting there was more fulfilling to me."

Along with his music and student life, Stevens also works up to 30 hours a week as a server at Outback Steakhouse, though he has a way of remaining in control of the balance.

"Usually with school or work or anything else, when it comes to music I try to drop everything when I get home," he said.

While working on the group's second EP "Design The Road," Stevens had to make compromises during finals week in order to ensure the album was released on time.

"I had to be done with everything by April 27 to go to work on that record. I took four finals early; I was taking finals over lectures that hadn't happened yet. It was so stressful," he said.

Stevens' talent as a writer shows very much in his work, especially in "Caught Inside." His lyrics give off a deeply personally vibe, though are left open enough to be felt by anyone.

"I want it to be open for interpretation by anybody so it's not just what I feel, it's what I expect what people around me would feel," he said. "Like if this happened to you, how would us as humans feel about it, not just how my personality or myself react to it."

All of The Strive's releases are available on iTunes and Facebook.

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More bands to be announced. Lineup subject to change
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Movie Review

'Admission' not worth the price

Elizabeth Golden Movie Review

From the people that brought you 'American Pie,' 'Mean Girls' and 'Knocked Up' comes the failure of a comedy 'Admission,' which proves to contain cheesy dialogue and never ending emotions mixed in with nothing out of the realm of average.

What's the secret to getting in? This is the age-old question that has sought answers from both universities and Hollywood, and 'Admission' fails to provide a suitable answer.

Take two of the funniest people in Hollywood and most would expect the answer to be hilarious, but no. Tina Fey is nothing more than a dull crybaby and Paul Rudd is a completely average human being.

Portia Nathan (Fey) is a veteran Princeton admissions officer who leads a relatively ordinary life. She's been in a stable, but boring, relationship for the past 10 years, has been working at Princeton for 16 and has no interest in moving out of the humdrum cycle of life.

John Pressman (Rudd) is anything but ordinary. He can't spend a year in the same location, would rather build homes in Ecuador than lead a stable life and spends his time teaching underprivileged kids how

to assist cows during birth.

When John discovers that his student Jeremiah (Nat Wolff) is most likely the long lost son of Portia, he does everything in his power to guarantee Jeremiah a spot in the prestigious Princeton freshman class.

After Portia is made aware of the news, she also breaks every rule in the book, most unorthodox or illegal, to make sure this kid gets in. Several twists and turns later, Portia's life is changed forever and she grows out of her boring routine to start anew.

Fey is considered one of the best comedians in the industry, but given a bad director and poorly written screenplay, she fails to showcase her dazzling wit and hilarious charm.

As a hardcore Tina Fey fan, this is extremely disappointing. She spends the majority of the film in tears and the rest not utilizing her natural comedic timing. She is nothing more than an average girl in every chick flick known to man.

Rudd does a decent job, but his gifts still aren't exploited to the max. There is nothing special about him and there is nothing about him that makes the audience fall in love. His character is a one-dimensional shadow of a person.



Tina Fey and Paul Rudd in 'Admission.' CREDIT // Google

The Academy Award nominated director Paul Weitz should have known better than to put these two outstanding personalities together and not let anything interesting happen. Fey is not a pretty crier and she shed tears way too many times to be considered cute. Her water stained skin was barging on the realm of annoying.

Note to future directors, if you have an all-star cast, make use of their talents so they don't end up rotting away in discount theatres.

The actual movie was okay. It was nothing special, but nothing horrible. It had some

funny moments, but fell short of all its potential. For pure entertainment value, 'Admission' was fun, but a film starring Fey and Rudd should be described with 1000 words greater than fun.

Overall, this is a film worth seeing only for those with no previous knowledge of anything Fey or Rudd related. If you are a fan going in, you will leave disappointed and baffled, but if you haven't been to a movie in the last century, then you will find it to be an entertaining waste of two hours.

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Men's Basketball

Kareem Richardson selected as UMKC head coach

Joseph Salazar Staff Writer

Chancellor Leo Morton admits to being a Louisville Cardinals basketball fan.

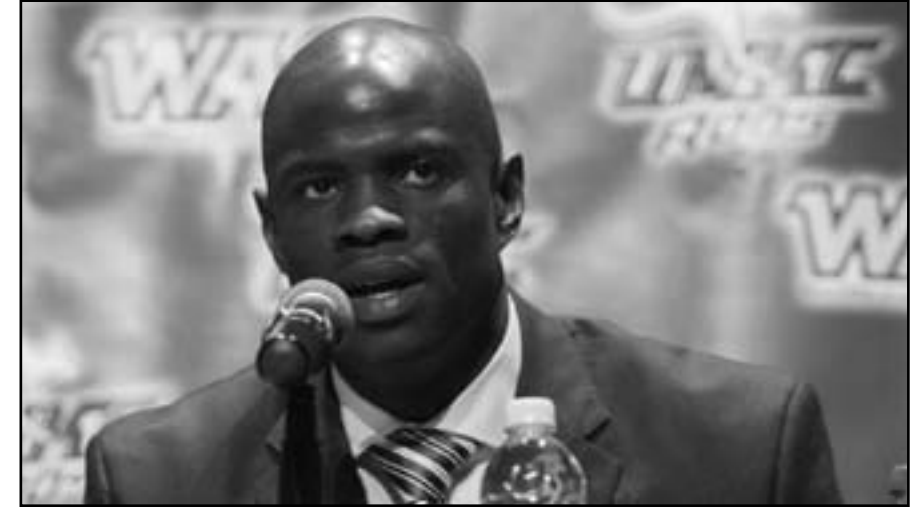
At least until next season starts. That's when Kareem Richardson, currently an assistant coach at the University of Louisville, will become the head coach of UMKC's men's basketball team.

Richardson's appointment to the position was announced last week at a press conference held by the university.

The announcement came during a busy time for Richardson—the Louisville Cardinals have earned a spot in the coveted Final Four in the NCAA Tournament, a career highlight frequently alluded to throughout the announcement of Richardson's appointment.

Richardson's appointment comes on the heels of a decision to move UMKC men's basketball games to Municipal Auditorium and UMKC's recent move to the Western Athletic Conference.

Richardson expressed his desire for UMKC to bring "toughness" to the WAC



Louisville Assistant Head Coach Kareem Richardson speaks at a UMKC press conference about his ambitions as Kangaroo's head coach. PHOTO // Courtesy of UMKC Athletics

next season. "Our team that we put out on the floor will be tough, it will be well-disciplined, we will have high character young men that do it the right way and in a very exciting style that

everyone in the city and the community I know will be very proud of," Richardson said. Richardson frequently underscored his personal commitment to increase attendance at games that are often sparsely attended.

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Applications must include a cover letter and resume. Applications must be received by April 8.

A search committee will review applications and choose finalists for interviews, which will be conducted during early April. Thirty-minute interviews will be scheduled.

Applications may be mailed to 5327 Holmes St., Kansas City, MO 64110, or emailed to nkz8c4@mail.umkc.edu or RandJ@umkc.edu.

Spring into First Fridays

Houston Zizza Staff Writer

With spring around the corner, Kansas City's First Fridays will once again be in full force.

First Fridays is an all age event that hosts local and national art and music the first Friday of every month in the Crossroads Art District.

With over 70 art galleries spanning roughly 21 square blocks around 19th and Main Streets, this event is part of Kansas City culture. For UMKC students that are accustomed to the event, April 5's First Friday will not disappoint.

Kultured Chameleon Gallery (1739 Oak Street) will be hosting a live music showcase and KCOG.

The showcase, presented by Shameless Management, will have live music from DJ Cosmic Mafia, Huey P. Nuisance and more.

KCOG is a collection of art by Daniel Bartle that illustrates Kansas City's Twentieth Century history of gangster culture.

8183 Studio (1735 Oak St.) will present "Beneath the Respirator,"

a photographic series by Travis Carroll, that gives gallery-goers a behind-the-scenes look at underground graffiti writing.

The exhibit will include action shots and rarely shown scenery.

EventPort 208 (208 W. 19th St.) will host Kacico Dance Company's "Song and Dance Project." The project is a collaboration of choreographed dance with music from local Irish Band, Flannigan's Right Hook.

Bazillion Pictures (118 SW Blvd) will have a showing of award winning 3D Animation and Motion Graphics.

Red Star Studios (2100 Walnut St.) will have exhibits of new work from several artists, including Ryan Fletcher. Fletcher earned a BFA in ceramics from the Kansas City Art Institute, and creates both functional and decorative work for restaurants and chefs around the country.

The newly renovated 3,000 square foot Locust Factory (504 E.18th St.) is a place to find a almost everything. There will be

graffiti, ceramics, mixed media from Kansas City Academy students and more. Face paintings will also be offered.

Blue Gallery (118 SW Blvd) is a well know gallery to artists in Kansas City. Established in 2000, and co-owned by UMKC graduate Kelly Kuhn, blue gallery represents over 40 local emerging, mid-career, regional and nationally known artists.

First Friday goers can take a break at one of the local restaurants in the Crossroads. Grinders (417 E. 18th St) has a young indie atmosphere, and offers the world famous Grinder or a New York style slice of pizza.

The Cashew (2000 Grand Blvd) is an easily assessable and classy bar for a UMKC students who are 21 or older. The cashew is a 3 a.m. bar, and according to The Pitch, is one of Kansas City's best-kept secrets.

With so many galleries, venues and people that take part in First Fridays, it's hard to list and even harder to see everything.

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Scoreboard

Kate Baxendale Staff Writer

Men's Golf

March 25-26 Memphis Intercollegiate at Cordova, Tenn., 59-over-par 923, 8th of 16 teams

Up next: April 1-2 Bancorp South Intercollegiate at Madison, Miss.

Women's Golf

March 25-26 UALR Women's Golf Classic at Hot Springs, Ark., 100-over-par 964, T 9th of 14 teams

Men's Tennis

Overall Record: 16-8 Summit League: 2-0 March 22 UMKC 4, South Dakota State 0

March 24 UMKC 4, IUPUI 3 March 25 Georgia College & State 5, UMKC 2 March 27 UMKC 7, Hamilton 0 March 28 UMKC 5, Bethune-Cookman 2

Up next: April 1 At Wichita State, 1 p.m. April 2 At Northwest Missouri State, 3 p.m. April 5 St. Louis Univ. at Plaza Tennis Center, 2 p.m. April 6 Western Illinois at Plaza Tennis Center, 10 a.m.

Women's Tennis

Overall Record: 8-12 Summit League: 5-1 March 28 UMKC 4, Oakland 1

March 28 UMKC 4, IUPUI 0 March 29 UMKC 4, South Dakota 1

Softball

Overall Record: 11--14 March 27 Arkansas 9, UMKC 1 March 28 St. Louis Univ. 3, UMKC 1 March 29 DH at Oakland,

postponed March 30 At Oakland, postponed

Men's Track and Field

March 29-30 Stanford Invitational (no champions) March 30 PSU/Wendy's Invitational at Pittsburg, Kan. (no champions)

Women's Track and Field

March 29-30 Stanford Invitational, Courtney Frerichs, section winner, 3,000-meter steeplechase, 10:08.27, UMKC record

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Diego Figueroa.
PHOTO // Matt Cook

Player Profile

Diego Figueroa: 'Soccer runs through my veins'

Dan Moreno Staff Writer

Junior left wing Diego Figueroa is an integral part of Head Coach Rick Benben's soccer team.

Figueroa was brought to UMKC last semester and has earned a spot in the starting lineup thanks to his speed and technique on the pitch.

Before becoming a 'Roos, Figueroa played at Lincoln Community College in Illinois, where he helped the team finish fifth in the nation.

Figueroa's four goals and nine assists caught Benben's attention.

Figueroa was born in Santiago, Chile, and his family moved to Miami, Fla., when he was only 10 years old, seeking a better future.

"My family and I moved to America on August 6 of 2002, a date I will never forget," he said. "My parents thought it was the best place to start from zero and fulfill our dreams."

Since Figueroa was born, soccer has been part of his life.

Even though he enjoys other sports he says, "Nothing is better than football [soccer]."

"I started playing soccer when I started walking," he said. "I used to play in the barrios [neighborhoods] in Santiago with my friends, and now here I am representing UMKC."

Figueroa also attributes his success as a student and as a person to soccer.

"Soccer has only left me positive things, like the opportunity to be a college student," he said.

Figueroa played 16 out of last season's 19 games.

"It was a great first season for me" he said. "I played more than I expected and grew a lot as a player."

The team recorded an overall record of 7-10-2 and 5-2 conference record, but the team fell in the Summit League Tournament semifinals against Western Illinois, 1-0.

Life in Kansas City is something Figueroa has not adapted to entirely.

"The weather has been the hardest

thing for me, but I love it here," he said. "I try to go back home to Miami as much as possible. Being away from my family has been tough as well."

Figueroa is focused on finishing his Liberal Arts major and plans to continue playing soccer, even after he graduates.

"This is what I want to do for the rest of my life," he said. "I want to try out and play for professional teams in Mexico and South America."

Switching from the Summit League to Western Athletic Conference is something Figueroa looks forward to.

"We are all very excited about this change," he said. "Different pitches, different cities and harder teams, what can be better?"

Two weeks ago the 'Roos beat NASL's (North American Soccer League) professional team Minnesota United F.C. at Durwood Stadium 2-1 in what was UMKC's first pre-season match as it heads to the WAC.

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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*.

In the U.S., race remains the elephant in the room

Peter Makori

Contributing Writer

The racial question is one of the most sensitive subjects that I have discovered among most Americans, even in a classroom setting.

When I took an American History class in a community college a few years ago, my instructor avoided discussing the details of Jim Crow laws. As a foreigner, I did not understand why until I raised the question about what the laws meant.

The instructor, an African American, explain that Jim Crow was an official racial segregation policy, which was especially rampant in the South.

This topic elicited controversial arguments and I noticed both blacks and whites in the classroom were very uncomfortable dealing with it. I was a little baffled.

Last fall, an African American colleague in one of my journalism classes at UMKC commented that there exists what he termed "black phobia" in America. He explained

that there were some instances where fear engulfed whites whenever a black person was seen walking through a predominantly white neighborhood.

His pronouncement came at a time tension was high in Florida following the shooting of Trayvon Martin by a white Hispanic in circumstances many interpreted were racially motivated.

As the instructor urged him to reveal more, the student explained that there is a subliminal concept among whites that blacks are aggressive and more inclined to violent behavior.

The problem, the student explained lay with the media which profiles blacks as a community of criminals.

The question of racial suspicion in America is a complex one. I am not an expert to address it, but I feel that a learning institution like UMKC should develop a curriculum where this question can be explored as a subject to benefit both the "victim" and perceived "perpetrator." This could provide healing of the historical mistrust

that exists among blacks and whites in America.

Racial suspicion in America is akin to tribalism, which characterizes the daily lives of the different ethnic communities in Africa.

In my country, Kenya, we have had very serious tribal conflicts, which are partly to blame for the emerging trend of presidential election rigging.

One tribe that erroneously assumes entitlement to the presidency at the expense of the other 42 tribes has continued to dominate all the key government positions since independence, and feels insecure if the instruments of political power shifts to any other tribe.

A section of forward-looking citizens has joined hands to fight this tribalism.

The American people can do the same so that each group will have the opportunity to express itself freely as part of a healing process. Hypocrisy and wishing away this important question will not heal the centuries-old injustices.



Peter Makori

In the American history class, some students became upset when the details of racial segregation were being discussed.

A typical reaction came from one student who exclaimed, "My parents came to this country long after slavery had ended. I don't want to be dragged into this issue and my parents did not enslave anybody."

Of course, I did not understand why this issue should elicit emotions of that magnitude. I observed that African Americans felt that despite the indignity and deprivation they suffered, nothing has ever been done to acknowledge the injustices.

Early last week, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia attracted outrage from the black community when he declared that a key piece of the Voting Rights Act "perpetuated racial entitlement."

There is nothing wrong with a people who endured endless deprivation of their human rights and dignity to demand entitlement, if that's what it'll take to accelerate their efforts to catch up with the

rest. Freeing of slaves without formulating realistic affirmative action to address the fundamental social-political and economic needs of the afflicted is not enough.

Speaking about these problems will create a forum where those who feel victimized can express their feelings to the other side. Those perceived to be descendants of slave ownership would also have the opportunity to address the misperceptions that make them look guilty by association.

There is no cure for racial and tribal suspicions other than openly speaking about them.

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The radical Pope Francis

Cyrus Moffett Staff Writer

If people thought that Pope John Paul of Poland was an interesting choice, Pope Francis will definitely surprise and shock people, and not just members of the Catholic Church.

Pope Francis is part of an order called the Jesuits, but also tends to be influenced by his Latin American roots. According to Wikipedia this order is influenced by the themes of "social justice and the preferential option for the poor." The Pope, in his current duties, has shown that he is influenced by the themes of social justice and helping the poor.

Although controversial, some have liked the arrival of Pope Francis. Kyle Sahn of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., said that "while celebrating the Pope is part of Italian culture," it is also "such a joy to see the universality of the Church."

The new Pope's style is so unconventional, if reminding one a bit of the legacy of the Church's central figure, Jesus of Nazareth. A veteran Argentinian journalist who

has been friends with Pope Francis for years described the new Pontiff as a man with a special "fondness for ordinary people, for the humble and the poor."

If the Pope continues to be controversial, he will face accusations that he is being too literal in terms of the teachings of Jesus, and not taking his duties seriously. So far, his special behavior has been a pleasant surprise, but it may go too far, if there is such a problem for the Papacy.

Patrick Casey, a member of the FOCUS Catholic ministry on our campus, says that he is thrilled by the arrival of the new Pope.

"I think it is great to have a Pope that was selected outside of Europe because on a personal level I think it will help unite the Church even more," Casey said.

Admittedly, the Catholic Church has more members emerging out of Latin America, Africa and Asia, but is traditionally based in Europe, so this change of geographic location is a gamble that is a bit ahead of its time.

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A 'Dirty War' that hasn't been forgotten

Houston Zizza Staff Writer

Pope Francis I brings a hopeful future for some Catholics. For others, the new pope brings up questions about a past of kidnapping and the murder of an estimated 30,000 people during Argentina's "Dirty War."

There are now more than one billion Catholics in a world of seven billion people. In other words, about one in every seven UMKC students and staff members is a Catholic. Since March 13, when Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected as Pope Francis I, incriminating allegations of his past resurfaced.

These included allegations that the Catholic Church and Bergoglio had direct involvement with Argentina's dictatorial government in committing the Dirty War's atrocities in the late 1970s and early '80s. An allegation by Bishop Orlando Yorio and Bishop Franz Jalics states that Bergoglio worked directly with the military in their kidnapping.

Both survived the event and spoke out against Bergoglio.

Although Jalics met with

Bergoglio in 2000 and said, "I am reconciled to the event and consider the matter closed," he never withdrew his written allegations.

In 2005, Bergoglio was asked to testify in a human rights hearing about his connection with the government during the Dirty War. He denied all allegations and was never charged.

Court testimonies and denied allegations may be enough evidence for some that Bergoglio had no ties with the vicious junta, but for others it's not.

One anonymous UMKC staff member who emigrated from Argentina said, "It's hard to separate the past with what he has become today. The past doesn't leave and some people can't forget.."

"I watched as this man gave military leaders the communion," she said. "How can this man give them communion knowing what they are doing to the people?"

Bergoglio was asked a similar question by journalist Horacio Verbitsky in the 2005 hearing: "As leader of the Church in Argentina, how could you not be connected

with the military when other priests in the Church admitted to helping them?"

Two priest admitted to working closely with torturing and "biblical justification" of baby kidnapping and "death flights".

Adolfo Perez won the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a human rights activist during the Dirty War.

On March 15, Perez spoke with Pope Francis and later said "Pope Francis did not have ties with the dictatorship," even though he may have "lacked the courage to stand with us in our struggle for human rights."

Thus far all allegations towards Pope Francis have been determined false except for one; his lack to do more during the Dirty War. Was his lack of courage his way of keeping the church alive, or a reflection of self-character?

These allegations can either show Pope Francis is as guilty as an oppressive regime, or at the least, show a lack in certain leadership characteristic.

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UMKC entrepreneurs weigh in on Big Kansas City conference

Sai Srikar Kadiyam Staff Writer

Student entrepreneurs at UMKC listened to experts explain how to improve their businesses at the Big Kansas City Conference last Tuesday through Thursday at the National Airline History Museum at the Downtown Airport.

Scott Harrison, founder and CEO of Charity:Water, explained that he was able to raise \$100 million for Africa by convincing celebrities to give up their birthday gifts and ask that money instead be donated to his organization, which tries to address the problems of contaminated water in Africa.

Harrison said one in nine people in the world drink water likely to make them ill. So his organization came up with innovative means for fund raising, such as having people give up their birthdays. Instead of parties or presents, people ask for donations to help charity: water. Singer Justin Bieber gave up his 18th birthday.

Harrison was among 14 speakers who demonstrated various ways for entrepreneurs to tell their stories and tried to motivate young businessmen in the audience.

Listeners included five UMKC students or alumni who are active entrepreneurs.

Tim Sylvester, an engineering graduate who now owns Integrated Roadways, said he was particularly impressed with the networking opportunities at the conference.

"The highlights of Big Kansas

City, as with any conference like this, is in the networking -- meeting people who you'd otherwise probably never meet," said Sylvester, whose company precasts pavement sections. "Honestly, I didn't get to spend as much time at BKC as I would have liked."

Stephen Rehner, a 1987 graduate who is working on his own startup, was among those who said he was moved by Harrison's presentation.

"I was moved by Scott Harrison's non-profit business," Rehner said. "As a leader in the Boy Scouts, I have learned that humans can survive approximately 10 minutes without air, three to five days without water and seven to eight weeks without food. Since most of our earth is covered with breathable air, water is definitely the best place to start addressing the world's primal needs."

His startup will help move surplus construction equipment at a reduced cost to companies in need of this equipment.

"This is a way to recycle construction equipment without the need to fill landfills or produce new equipment," Rehner explained. "Much of the obsolete construction equipment in the U.S., because of maintenance or operation cost due to the cost of labor, can be redeployed in an under-developing country where labor cost is minimal."

Chris Cooley, who holds an MBA from UMKC, said he was especially impressed by speakers Micah Baldwin of Graphic.ly and Dan

Martell of clarity.fm.

"They contained a lot of the things that are personally relevant and impact," Cooley said. "Scott Harrison was absolutely moving and I donated my birthday on the spot. I don't think there was a dry eye in the house."

"The true genius is in the variety of speakers. You have both men and women and they have taken a variety of different paths to get to success. The beauty is that the advice that seems the least relevant today might be invaluable down the road."

Evan J. Kirsch, a Bloch School student who owns a startup, Folloboy, was impressed by the overall event.

"The highlights had to be three things: the environment, the speakers and the networking," he said. "I learned both hard and soft skills that can be applied in running the day-to-day operations of our company as well as met countless others who we will be doing business with in the near future."

Other speakers were Dan Hesse, CEO of Sprint, Alexis Ohanian, reddit, Adam Wilson, Sphero, Jamie Wong, Vayable, Dhani Jones, BowTie Cause, Ryan Downs, Proxibid, Jason Zone Fisher (host), Amy Jo Martin, Digital Royalty, Thom Ruhe, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Mike Macadaan, Science Inc., Rachel Brooks, Citizen Made Abhi Nemani, Code for America and Bart Stein, Stamped/Yahoo!

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UMKC student Evan Kirsch (center) founded *follboy.com*.

PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam



Scott Harrison, founder and CEO of Charity:Water.

PHOTO // Sai Srikar Kadiyam

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