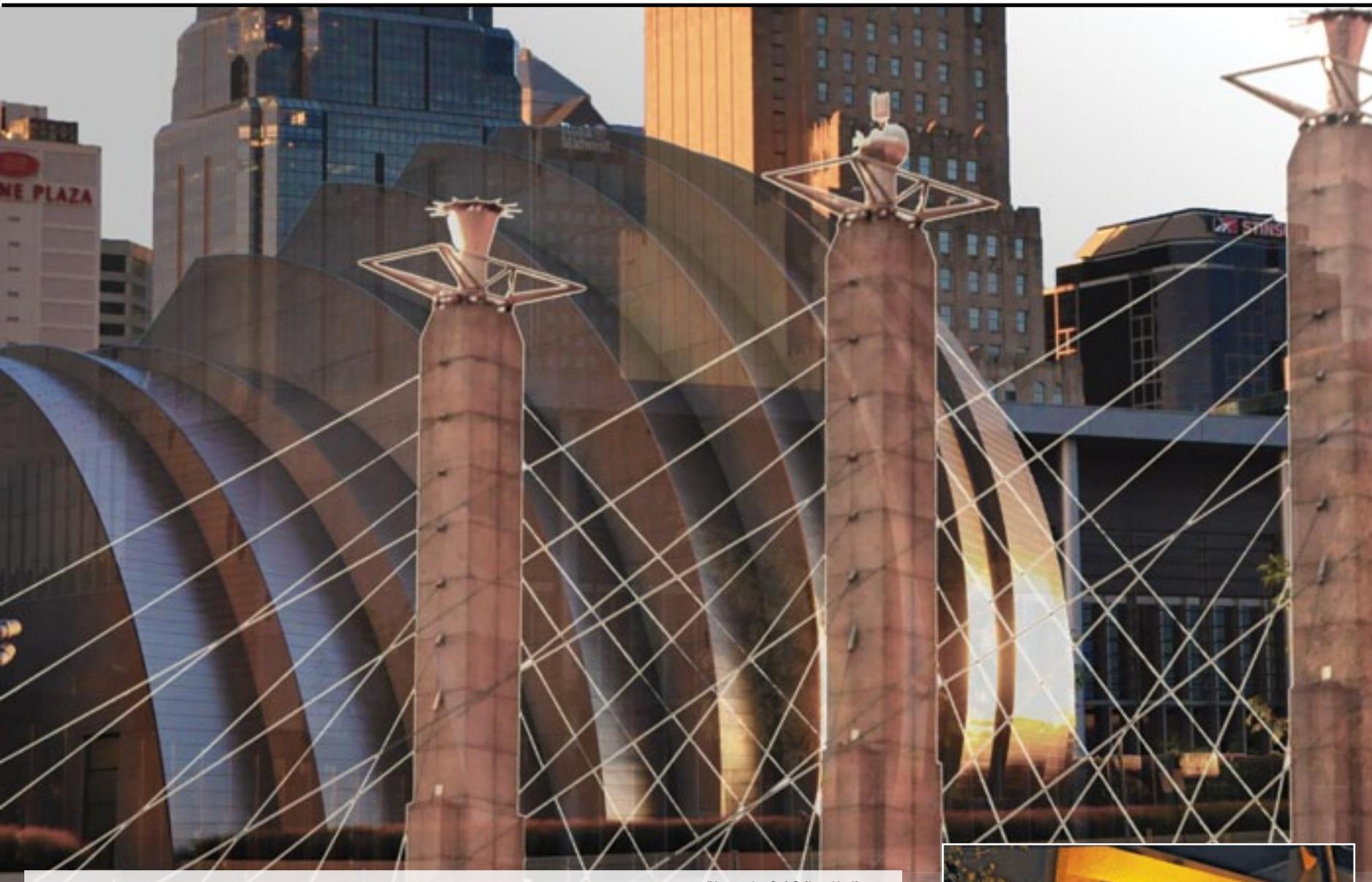


UNIVERSITY UNews

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UMKC's independent
student newspaper
since 1933

Vol. 80 // Issue 3 // Sept. 4, 2012



Photos by Sai Srikar Kadiyam
Illustration by Nathan Zoschke

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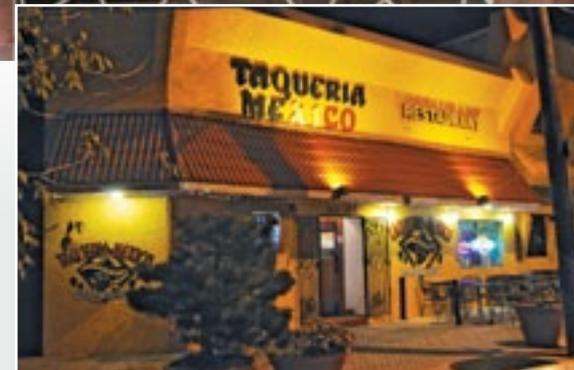


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UNIVERSITY NEWS

UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

www.unews.com

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

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

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

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

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

Enhancing the undergraduate experience

University College offers home for undeclared students

Meredith Shea
Staff Writer

The University College is neither a university nor a college. It's actually a new program added this semester, designed to boost retention (re-enrollment) rates for freshmen and transfer students with undeclared majors by helping them find a field of study.

Currently, 209 students are enrolled in the U-College.

Associate Vice Provost Kim McNeley described the program as a "portal" for undeclared students to transition into a major.

"We used to put them in the Arts & Sciences General Studies program, or they'd select a major even though they knew it was meaningless because it seemed like the right thing to do," McNeley said.

Statistics show 55 percent of the General Studies students stayed after one year, and only 18 percent graduated.

"We saw an untapped potential," McNeley said. "We were losing as a community and students were losing personally because of no support or academic home."

McNeley mentioned how the process of finding a major "can seem paralyzing," making the University College valuable to students.

The remodeled second floor of the Student Success Center, which houses the University College, is filled with encouragement. Words like "success," "collaboration," "achievement" and "research" are splashed across the walls in blue and white.

"It's cool; I never really came here before," said senior Chemistry major Keela Scott. "It's open and quiet for the most part. I do a lot of group work up here."

U-College freshman Nichole Kelly said she is interested in psychology and music, and enjoys reading and cooking, but is not sure what she wants to major in.

She is enrolled in the "Heroes and Monsters" seminar course to explore her



The second floor of the Student Success Center houses the U-College. Photo by Meredith Shea

literary interests.

The U-College is modeled after a similar program at Arizona State University. UMKC's Provost Gail Hackett was the founding Dean of University College at ASU and had a considerable part in creating UMKC's University College.

After hiring McNeley as Associate Vice Provost, advisers and retention coordinators were needed.

The U-College aim is to provide one-on-one academic

“It's not something we're just going to try. It's a big commitment by the university. It's based on a tried and true practice that has been applied across the country.”

-Associate Vice Provost Kim McNeley

support for students. Students are assigned specific advisers to help them select a major and address individual needs.

Joanna Davis, from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Jennifer Cordon, the University of Arkansas, were hired to fulfill the purpose.

"It's not something we're just going to try," McNeley said. "It's a big commitment by the university. It's based on a tried and true practice that has been applied across the country."

Students enroll in a seminar course, UNIV 101, which is taught by faculty from various academic units. University College allows students to explore interests in order to make more informed decisions when selecting a major.

Students may choose from seminars including: "Sex, Flies and Videoscapes: Biology in the Modern Media," "Heroes and Monsters" and "The Life and Crimes of Kansas City."

"[The seminars] focus on fostering academic success," McNeley said.

"We want to develop a 'spirit of critical inquiry,' asking good questions and engaging students, and a 'reflective habit of thought,' asking, 'How am I doing? Did my choices affect how I did on that test? Do I

have enough balance?'"

All seminar classrooms are located in the SSC, giving students easy access to campus resources.

"We link them with resources that 'A' students have been utilizing," McNeley said. They include supplemental instruction (SI) sessions, Career Services, Academic Support and Mentoring and the Writing Studio.

"It's tight how the Writing Studio is over here and then you can just go and talk to your academic adviser," U-College freshman Adrian Williams said.

Undecided transfer students are the larger percentage of students in the U-College.

Undecided transfer students are the larger percentage of students in the U-College.

Occupy revisited



Romney, Ryan targets of KC99 protests

Kharissa Forte
Senior Staff Writer

Students, working moms, low-wage employees and members of KC99 congregated on the Plaza last Thursday to protest proposed cuts to student aid, Medicare and Social Security.

KC99 emerged in June as an offshoot of local Occupy movement protests. It currently has about two dozen members, according to organizers.

Activists rallied at the J.C. Nichols fountain to sign a petition which advocated raising the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour to \$9.80.

Protesters then marched from Emmanuel Cleaver II Blvd. and J.C. Nichols Parkway to the Penguin

Court fountains at Nichols Road and Pennsylvania Street. Several carried signs criticizing Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, who protesters believe are 99 percent-averse.

One sign, quoting Ryan, read, "I want to cut Pell grants by \$50 billion over 10 years."

Some protesters dressed up in costumes; others carried caskets with the words "Social Security" and "Medicare" painted on the sides.

The name "KC99" name borrows from "We are the 99 percent" slogan, which protesters chanted as they marched past passersby on the Plaza. The name refers to the income inequality between the top one percent of wage earners and the bottom 99 percent.

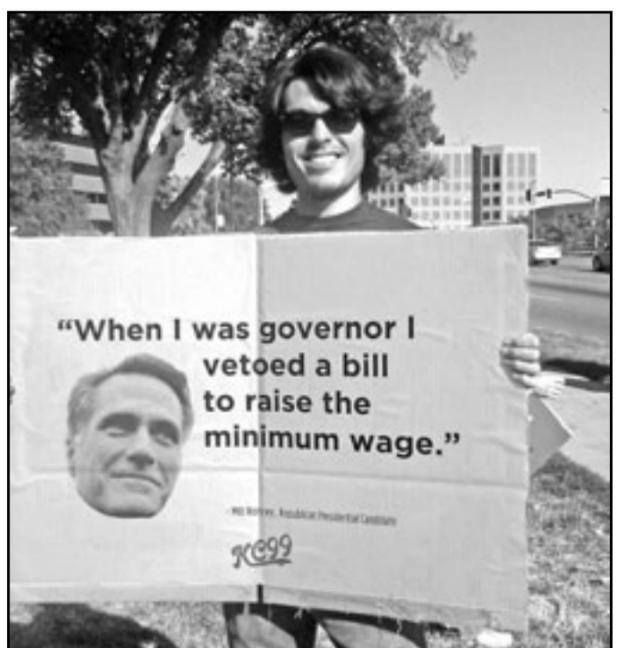
Among the protesters was 21-year-old political science major

Zac Mueller, who has participated in Occupy protests since last fall.

"We want to protect financial aid and Pell grants," he said. "We're sharing our vision of America, which is counter to the one percent's vision of America. Everyone should have an equal access to the American dream."

One of the youngest protesters was 13-year-old O'Neil Henry. Henry, who walked around the J.C. Nichols fountain playing "When the Saints Go Marching In" on his clarinet, was accompanied by his mother, who was recently laid off.

Brandon Hidaka, a 26-year-old KU Medical student, recently published his first article in the Journal of Affective Disorders through the Department of Dietetics



Left: KC99 protesters carry caskets labeled "Medicare" and "Social Security" from the J.C. Nichols fountain to Nichols Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. Above: Protesters carry signs attacking Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and running mate Paul Ryan. Below: Zac Mueller, a UMKC political science major, has participated in Occupy protests since last fall. Photos by Kharissa Forte

and Nutrition at KU Medical Center.

"We're being medicated when we need to rise up and fight," he said, comparing some government policies to medicine that only treats symptoms.

Allison Bitzer, a 30-year-old single mother of two daughters, said she works at McDonald's while attending Penn Valley Community College full time.

She is studying to be a paramedic, and was recently honored on the Dean's List.

"Making ends meet is a constant

Continued on page 5



GOP makes appeal to young voters at national convention

Matt Davis
Staff Writer

Hurricane Isaac delayed the start of the Republican National Convention Monday, but by Tuesday, the GOP was fired up and ready to campaign.

Mitt Romney formally accepted the Republican nomination in a speech Thursday night, seen by more than 30 million viewers.

Romney said as president, he would balance the federal budget, reduce taxes for small businesses, repeal the Affordable Health Care act, create new trade agreements and lead the United States to

energy independence by utilizing both fossil fuels and renewable energy.

"President Obama promised to begin to slow the rise of the oceans and to heal the planet," Romney said. "My promise is to help you and your family."

To balance the budget, Romney and running mate Paul Ryan have pledged not to raise taxes and instead focus on cutting non-defense federal spending and eliminating tax loopholes, although they have not specified which ones.

A diverse group of Republican speakers made a deliberate effort to

engage minority voters.

Carrie Smith, co-chair of the UMKC College Republicans, said she was pleased with the speeches at the convention.

"I think it was effective," Smith said, "I think there were a couple of messages that they wanted to portray. They helped spotlight Paul Ryan, since there are few people who really knew what he was about, and [the convention] also helped to show Romney as more personable."

While Ryan has been received by the public differently than Sarah Palin in 2008, Ryan's nomination

aims to energize a portion of the Republican base: young voters.

Ryan, 42, made sure to mention his youth to relate to younger voters.

He spoke of his love for rock bands such as AC/DC, and discussed how Republican policies could help recent college graduates seek employment.

In an economic climate blemished by high gas prices and unemployment, Smith felt the Republicans were successful in communicating how to fix America's economy.

Continued on page 4

Looking ahead:

The first meeting of the College Democrats will be held 7 p.m. on Sept. 6 in the Brookside Room of the Administrative Center.

The College Republicans will meet 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 4 at Pizza 51.

Claire McCaskill, a Democratic Senator running for re-election, will address students and answer questions this Thursday at 11:15 a.m. in the Student Union.

Police Blotter

Aug. 24

9:45 a.m. *Miscellaneous investigation*
The projector for the Student Union, which resides in Cherry Hall, had been tampered with.

2:54 p.m. *Suspicious activity*
Officers approached a man sitting on the edge of the Parking Area 32 North structure to check his welfare.

10:42 p.m. *Noise Disturbance*
Officers responded to a noise complaint from a party at a residence on the block of 54th and Rockhill streets.

11:42 p.m. *Suspicious Person*
Officers contacted a person who had overdosed and was acting strangely outside of the Administrative Center.

Aug. 25

10:51 p.m. *University violation*
Officers responded to an alcohol violation in the Oak Place Apartments.

Aug. 26

4:23 p.m. *Assault*
A student was assaulted by his ex-girlfriend at the Oak Street Residence Hall.

Aug. 28

7:33 a.m. *Property Damage*
Window damage at the Epperson House was reported.

Aug. 29

4:20 p.m. *Larceny*
A student left a backpack and dental equipment unattended at the Dental School and returned to find it missing.

Aug. 30

2:08 p.m. *Larceny*
A sorority's letters were taken from the front yard at 54th and Rockhill streets.

3:56 p.m. *Property Damage*
A student returned to her vehicle in the Rockhill Parking Garage to find it had been keyed.

Gas station closings affect commuters

Elizabeth Golden *Managing Editor*

Several Phillips 66 and Conoco gas stations temporarily closed last week after Tropical Storm Isaac invaded the Louisiana coast. Several Kansas City locations shut down on Aug. 26, and remain closed a week later.

ConocoPhillips spokesperson Alissa Hicks said these locations are shutting down due to financial difficulties. The company gave no clarifying remarks about the nature of the financial difficulties.

When various news stations asked executives the reason behind the closed locations, they declined to comment.

Prior to this, ConocoPhillips closed a 247,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Louisiana in preparation for the tropical storm. The refinery has since lost power, and personnel are working to contain flooding.

However, Hicks made clear the closing of all locations is not linked to the refinery.

An employee of the Phillips 66 on Holmes and Red Bridge Road in Kansas City who wished to remain anonymous

said he wasn't aware of the reasoning. He only knew the gas station didn't have any gas, although the convenience store has remained open.

"I have no idea when we're going to be back up," he said. "I haven't been told



Photo courtesy of Google

anything."

However, this employee says the station will open again. The inability to sell gas hasn't affected the convenience store's business.

Most closings are located in south Kansas City, with some in outlying areas such as Blue Springs and Overland Park.

However, several stations are in close proximity to UMKC, making commuting more difficult.

"When I drive down Holmes Road to school, it is very difficult to find a gas station still selling gas," junior theatre major Alisa Lynn said. "This is frustrating since I don't want to have to go out of my way to find a gas station, especially if I'm pressed for time."

The only media mention of these closings was broadcast on Fox 4 News. The Phillips stations made no attempt to notify customers aside from placing bags on pumps and hanging a note on the door.

The note stated, "We are out of mid-grade and regular unleaded fuel at this time. Sorry for the inconvenience."

At least 10 area stations reported closing. The closest closed station to campus is at 75th Street and Troost Avenue. Although the stations stopped selling regular and mid-grade fuel, diesel is still available.

Reports indicate the closed stations should reopen this week.

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SEARCH Kick-off explains benefits of undergraduate research

Cyrus Manian *Staff Writer*

"Student Engaged in Artistic and Academic Research" may be one of the most self-explanatory organization titles at UMKC.

Dr. Jim Murowchick, who has directed SEARCH since it was founded in 2002, said the program offers undergraduates in all disciplines a "high impact educational experience."

Last Friday's kickoff event introduced the organization to students and explained the numerous benefits.

These benefits, according to Murowchick, include one-on-one work with a faculty member to carry out research, safe intellectual "risk-taking," application of classroom topics to everyday life and increased persistence in academia, which, for most students, results in higher GPAs.

Many discover their career paths through research trials. "Risks" are allowed

and students are able to explore their interests.

Faculty mentor Jane Greer described this "risk-taking" through an analogy with dogs. A dog's curiosity leads to the investigation of different objects. Sometimes it leads to a dead animal; other times, a treat is discovered.

As the analogy suggests, students use curiosity to research varying topics. Through this trial and error, students may discover their passions and potential career paths.

SEARCH supports students through advising and training sessions for library research, presentations, posters and preparation for the SEARCH Undergraduate Research Symposium.

SEARCH holds the annual symposium in the spring to showcase undergraduate research. Typically, 60 to 80 presentations are held.

These symposiums may open several doors for the students. In the past, some

have received job offers on the spot, according to Murowchick.

Students can also be nominated to present their work to state legislators in Jefferson City.

While some universities require undergraduate research, it is, for the most part, voluntary at UMKC.

Murowchick said he hopes to increase student involvement and expand SEARCH, especially to freshmen and sophomores.

Despite encouraging academic risk-taking, SEARCH's goal is to provide a safe environment for undergraduate students to excel in their fields of choice.

Once students select a faculty mentor in their field of choice, they may apply for the SEARCH grant for up to \$1,250 per project, if financial assistance is needed.

Any student wishing to research a certain topic can find information on the SEARCH website, umkc.edu/searchsite.

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GOP: Continued from page 3

"I think there has been too much spending," Smith said. "You cannot spend yourself into recovery. Romney [and] Ryan have a plan that will work, and that is better than what we have now."

Andrew Miller, chair of the UMKC College Democrats, was critical of the Republican convention.

"As someone who believes in facts, I found [the convention] to be very deceitful," he said. "We've been creating jobs. Are we out of this recession yet? No.

It's hard for the government to create jobs when the Republicans are trying to purge government spending."

Looking ahead: Regardless of how students feel about politics, UMKC provides many opportunities to get involved in the upcoming election.

The first meeting of the College Democrats will be held 7 p.m. on Sept. 6 in the Brookside Room of the Administrative Center.

The College Republicans will meet 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 4 at Pizza 51.

Claire McCaskill, a Democratic Senator running for re-election, will address students and answer questions at the Student Union this Thursday at 11:15 a.m. in the Student Union.

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Sustainability Corner



When living in a box is cool Shipping container home piles up a green path

Johanna Poppel

Production Manager

An icon of international trade has found a unique double purpose.

The one-way transportation of goods from across the globe leaves an over-abundance of shipping containers in major ports and harbors.

Globally, homeowners, businesses and colleges found pride in building with shipping containers. The trend has taken off in the past decade, especially in Europe.

Amsterdam makes dorms and apartments out of shipping containers and London has shipping container shopping centers, or "box parks." During Helsinki, Finland's 200th birthday this summer, shipping containers

filled with art, fashion and live music were scattered throughout the city for celebration.

But what better way to reuse discarded shipping containers than to live in them?

Shipping container homes are safe and durable. Practically indestructible, steel shipping containers offer safety from floods, tornadoes and fires, and most importantly, are made to last, which is the most important aspect of sustainability.

They are also affordable, easy to transport and to build; they can stack on top of each other without much structural reinforcement, like real-world Lego blocks.

In 2009, industrial designer Debbie Glassberg built a shipping container house near campus at 60th and Charlotte streets.

Debbie's son, Sam Glassberg, gave a tour of the house on MTV's

Extreme Crib. The family has grown accustomed to curious passersby observing the home.

"It is five shipping containers, concrete, metal and lots of glass," Sam Glassberg said. "Everything is pre-fabricated in China. We just had to assemble it here."

The home's exterior isn't the only sustainable aspect. The repurposed design and renewable materials used to build the home would have environmentalists in awe.

"We have sugar beet foam insulation, white bamboo flooring, LED lighting and the outdoor deck is made from recycled plastic," said Sam Glassberg.

Sam Glassberg said passive solar design virtually eliminates utility bills by taking advantage of natural light.

"The floors, walls, and windows are made and strategically placed to distribute solar energy

throughout the building in the winter and to reject the sun's heat in the summer," he said.

The Glassbergs even produce their own food, emphasizing sustainability as a way of life.

"We have two chickens in the back for eggs, and everything in the front garden and on the roof top garden is edible," Sam Glassberg said.

According to her son, Debbie Glassberg is working to expand the local presence of shipping containers.

"My mother is working with BNIM, a local architecture firm, to design shipping container stores and restaurants in Kansas City," he said.

The Glassbergs are optimistic about a bright future for shipping

Left: A backyard view of the Glassbergs' shipping container home at 60th and Charlotte.

Center: Numerous windows optimize the potential for natural light to be used inside the home.

Right: The furniture and deck in the front of the house are made up of recycled plastic and wood.

Photos by Johanna Poppel



container architecture.

Shipping containers can be used as quick and affordable housing for natural disaster victims or for developing countries. Innovative and creative thinking gives hope for the future.

As the famous saying goes, "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

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KC99: continued from page 3

struggle without my [Pell] grants," she said, "Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan want to take these funds away from us. They say that Pell grants don't help the truly needy. They want to cut aid for at least one million students."

Bitzer mentioned B.B. Andersen, a local developer who helped raise \$1.2 million for Romney's campaign. Bitzer contrasted the affluence of the neighborhood surrounding Andersen's Ward Parkway mansion to a very different

reality in her own neighborhood just minutes away.

Bitzer said she was denied food stamps because her income is merely \$4 over the household limit. The crowd was most angered by the story of her boyfriend's 70 year old mother, Ella, who received only \$60 a month in food stamps after being laid off from work. Initially, Ella received \$240 per month in assistance, but when her disability income was raised from \$650 to \$655, the state cut her food

stamp assistance to a quarter of the monthly amount she originally received.

Leaders of KC99 acknowledged little - if any - change will come from one-time events like the protest.

Significant change, they said, would ultimately result from consistent organized efforts, and from breaking the racial and economic barriers symbolized by the Troost divide.

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KC99 protesters gather around the Penguin Court fountain at Nichols Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. Photo by Kharissa Forte

An invitation to the White House

Professor pushes to protect Social Security, Medicare

Riley Mortensen

Senior Staff Writer/Photographer

Social Security and Medicare are at the nexus of a hot-button political debate.

Tax withholdings for both programs show up on every American's paystub, and together, they account for more than 40 percent of the federal budget.

They also provide a social safety net for U.S. citizens above the age of 65.

Dr. Max Skidmore, Curator's professor of political science, specializes in general American politics, specifically programs like Social Security and Medicare.

In June, Skidmore was among 105 leaders from 36 states invited to the White House to speak in what Skidmore called "a major push to protect programs like Social Security and Medicare."

"I just became concerned," Skidmore said. "The United States is the only wealthy country in

the world who doesn't provide healthcare for citizens. The U.S. is the only country where you can go bankrupt through medical bills. That's the number one cause of bankruptcy."

With his strong views and scholarly knowledge, Skidmore's trip to Washington D.C. provided an opportunity to share his insight.

"The NCPSSM [National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare] was reaching out to leaders around the country," Skidmore said. "A few weeks before the trip, I received an email and then the formal invitation. It was a letter signed by Max Richtman, the President of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare."

This wasn't Skidmore's first trip to Washington D.C., but it was unlike any work he'd previously done. The trip was full of appointments and what Skidmore hopes were meaningful conversations.

Skidmore was treated to a tour

of the White House at 6 a.m. June 26, as well as a chance to meet the President and Vice President, but the opportunity didn't work out.

Skidmore and the other 104 leaders spoke to members of Congress. He also had three appointments in the White House with staff members, including Senator Claire McCaskill's advisers, discussing the need to repair Social Security.

While some would like to see Social Security and Medicare eliminated or replaced with a voucher system, Skidmore believes the programs can be made solvent.

Individual earnings that are subject to FICA (Federal Insurance Contributions Act) taxes, which have provided funding for Social Security since 1937, are capped at \$110,200.

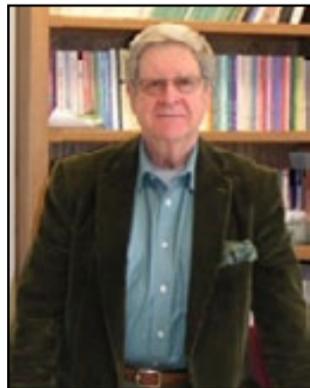
"I know it sounds counter-intuitive, but Social Security needs to be increased," Skidmore said. "All of the wages need to be taxed."

Social Security currently pays



Left: View of the White House from Pennsylvania Avenue.

Photo by Nathan Zoschke



Right: Dr. Max Skidmore visited the White House in June.

Photo courtesy of UMKC

more than \$1,200 a month for an individual and more than \$1,800 a month for a married couple. Skidmore pointed out that this is not enough to support many living expenses.

Although Social Security and Medicare primarily benefit senior citizens, Skidmore said Americans of all ages profit from these programs.

"Because of Social Security and Medicare, you won't have to

support your grandparents and your parents," Skidmore said. "If you get married and have a family and are killed, your kids can start collecting right away. Or if you become disabled, it will help you there too. It's insurance you didn't even know you had."

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Contributions from Nathan Zoschke, Editor in Chief

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EMT, paramedic programs enjoy initial success at UMKC

Mal Hartigan

Managing Editor

In January, UMKC became the only provider of Emergency Medical Training (EMT) and paramedic programs in Kansas City's urban core.

Paul Ganss directs the Youngblood Medical Skills Lab where the certification courses are offered.

Ganss' vision to offer the programs has encouraged collaboration between participating students and the residents and medical students employed by Truman Medical Center.

Both programs have seen student interest and success, Ganss said.

The School of Medicine's location next to Truman makes it an ideal candidate to support the new programs. EMT and paramedic courses are typically offered by two-year institutions like Johnson County Community College and the Kansas City, Kansas Community College.

Because enrollment is not solely limited to UMKC students, the programs have

garnered interest from the community.

Ganss said EMT enrollment is first come-first serve, with 12 students graduating from the first semester-long program. Ten students are currently enrolled.

"It's pretty good for a program that's just starting out," Ganss said.

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training is also offered, but is not a licensed EMT-level certification in Missouri.

When licensed, EMRs do not primarily respond to trauma, but are qualified to take care of someone experiencing cardiac arrest or other conditions until Emergency Medical Service arrives.

Entry-level EMT training and advanced EMT training are offered, which must be completed before proceeding to the paramedic program.

The paramedic program's debut attracted nine students, who are scheduled to graduate this December.

Students are required to successfully complete three phases before graduating. "There is a clinical lab phase

in the program that runs from January to December," Ganss said. "Within this classroom lab phase, there is a clinical phase where students go into the hospitals and do time there. When they are 70 percent finished with that, they go into the internship phase, scheduled by the student."

Students have shown interest for various reasons.

Some seek EMT training for exposure to the medical field or interaction with patients before deciding to pursue medical school.

The primary interest, Ganss said, is because students simply want to secure a job at a hospital, ambulance or other location where EMTs are commonly found.

Ganss said these include areas such as casinos, baseball games and even Worlds of Fun.

UMKC's paramedic program also trains EMTs from sponsors, such as the Grandview and Kansas City fire departments.

For some, accreditation is a concern. Ganss said there are EMS degree programs, which are typically at the associate

degree level.

"This is a certificate program," Ganss said. "Some people call it a Dean's certificate. It isn't a graduate school certificate. Our students don't go through the registrar process."

Overall, Ganss was pleased with the program's initial success. Since January, interest in the two programs and recognition continue to expand.

Ganss said word of mouth has been effective in reaching potential students, and is confident the program will grow.

The advantages UMKC offers also make both programs attractive. Ganss said most courses are night classes, which allow students to hold another job while pursuing EMT or paramedic training.

Students also have access to the Health Sciences Library, and interact with residents and medical students during a weekly lab.

For more information regarding the programs, contact Paul Ganss at pganss@umkc.edu.

mhartigan@umkc.edu



Left: Lucas Lowell works on Intraosseous Infusion
Right: Stazie Archibald (left) and Jessica Noble (right) practice Airway Intubation

Photos by Sai Srikr Kadiyam

Of Presidential proportions

A&S Truman Center scholarship honors its namesake's legacy

Kharissa Forte

Senior Staff Writer

President Harry S. Truman is an almost-but-not-quite UMKC alum.

Truman attended night classes at the Kansas City School of Law from 1923 to 1925 in his years as Jackson County judge.

In 1938, 13 years after Truman quit, the law school merged with the University of Kansas City.

By then, Truman was a U.S. Senator from Missouri, and would become vice president under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Truman returned to his hometown of Independence after his career in the White House and has since become intrinsically tied to Missouri.

In 1969, Truman wrote a letter to UMKC Chancellor James Olson proposing a governmental affairs center.

However, the lack of a budget and interest from school officials kept the center from materializing for more than three decades.

In 2006, the Harry S. Truman Center for Governmental Affairs was established as a department of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Its mission: to honor Truman's legacy through public programming and student engagement. This is done primarily through lectures and student scholarships.

United Nations officials are regulars at Truman Center guest

lectures. Neuman, Truman Center director. "We thought we would honor his commitment by funding this scholarship, which provides books, tuition, transportation to D.C., housing and living expenses to two interns in Congress each summer."

Each year, applications for the Bootstrap Scholarship are accepted through November. To be eligible, a student must be a

Washington office. She said her interest in public affairs led her to apply.

"Capitol Hill is where the most important policy decisions are made, and I felt that working in a Congressional office would give me a better understanding of how Congress operates," Oduyeru said. "I also wanted to figure out how I factor into the equation, not just as an aspiring attorney, but also as a citizen who is enthusiastic about seeing positive changes in the way our nation operates."

Oduyeru learned of her acceptance in February.

"I was super excited," she said. "I felt like the hours I spent putting my application together really paid off."

The scholarship was important to Oduyeru because it provided an opportunity that would have otherwise been cost prohibitive. "The cost of living in D.C. is significantly higher than Kansas City," Oduyeru said. "Many interns I met had to cut their internships short simply because they could no longer afford the cost. I'm

"I have a better understanding of how Congress functions, and I learned about career opportunities that I didn't know existed."

-Lola Oduyeru

Neuman, Truman Center director.

The Bootstrap Scholarship offers two all-expenses paid summer internships in Washington D.C. for UMKC students. The 2012 Bootstrap scholars were senior political science major Emalea Black and Lola Oduyeru, who graduated in May with a degree in political science.

"[Truman] had to drop out for many of the same reasons that students face today," said Dr. Dale

MINK LAW DAY

2012

Missouri
Iowa



Nebraska
Kansas

Thursday, September 6, 2012

2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Overland Park Convention Center

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

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

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

Pre-Register at
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health journal

Q&A with Strength and Conditioning Director Paul Arndorfer

Kharissa Forte
Senior Staff Writer

Lance Armstrong was held in high esteem when he delivered the keynote address at the World Cancer Congress in Montreal on Aug. 29. Armstrong announced Livestrong would join the efforts

of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) for the next three years concerning global access to medicine and technology, according *NBCNews.com*.

To date, Livestrong has raised over \$500 million for cancer research. In Montreal, Armstrong was perceived as a hero and an ambassador. The fact that he lost

his medals and was banned from cycling for life only three days prior seemed unimportant.

The scandal surrounding Armstrong's steroid use has been ongoing for 13 years.

"There comes a point in every man's life when he has to say that enough is enough. For me, that time is now. I have been dealing

with claims that I cheated and had an unfair advantage in winning my seven Tours since 1999," Armstrong told media after the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency made its ruling. Armstrong is not the first to lose his honors in the sports arena, nor will he be the last.

While unfair advantages are a major component in steroid bans

for competitive sports, a lifelong health concern is another factor.

What do steroids do to the human body? Do supplements fall into the same category? *U-News* sat down with UMKC's Strength and Conditioning Director Paul Arndorfer to discuss these questions.

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Q: What makes steroids unsafe?

"When you put steroids into your body, they're going to counteract with testosterone. This can make you unstable as a person. For example, you can become more aggressive, have bad mood swings, and anger issues."

Q: How do steroids affect the body?

"Steroids are an anabolic agent that stimulates muscle growth and makes you bigger. Testosterone is a steroid. They add pressure to your heart similar to being overweight.

Your muscles are getting bigger, but your tendons aren't developing at the same speed. This is why we see a lot of ligament tears and muscle pulls; because the muscle is getting too big too fast."

Q: What's UMKC's policy on steroids?

"There are absolutely no steroids allowed. If any staff [member] knows or suggests steroids, then that staff member would be terminated.

Basically, it is impossible to fully know, but coaches can tell. They may even see it in their bags or in their lockers. If that ever happened, we would research the situation first.

If the product is on the NCAA's banned list, then the compliance office would report the athlete."

Q: What about supplements?

"The only supplements athletes can use are those that are approved by us. A supplement is a bridge for calorie intake for athletes and people who are really into fitness. The general public doesn't need as many calories as athletes or people who work out a lot, so they don't need to take a supplement.

After a workout, the body needs to repair the muscle within 20 minutes. If you don't have any time to eat right after a workout, a protein supplement is safe to take to ensure muscle repair and to reach your caloric goal."

Q: What supplements do you recommend?

"I recommend whole grains, lean protein, fruits, vegetables, and a good multi-vitamin. A good, quick supplement is chocolate milk, which is much cheaper than buying protein shakes and supplements.

Eat as healthy as possible. Drink chocolate milk. Buy your products only from reputable companies.

Supplements are not regulated by the FDA, so it's possible to unknowingly take steroids because they've been illegally added to a product. Be careful."



Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

A rough start Men's soccer 0-3 in season play

Dan Moreno Staff Writer

Sophomore forward Jordan Rideout scored the Roos' first regular-season goal in a 3-1 loss to St. Louis University on the road last Saturday. The game, which was tied at halftime, dropped the Roos to 0-3.

This wasn't as lopsided as the 3-0 loss to Missouri State Bears last Tuesday at home.

The first 15 minutes against Missouri State seemed promising for the Roos, who maintained 80 percent of the ball possession. But in the 19th minute, the Bears scored a long-range goal.

The Bears scored again in the 21st minute, and again, one minute before halftime.

The Roos attempted to rebound

during the second half of the game. UMKC dominated play for the next 45 minutes, but failed to score.

Rideout, last season's leading scorer, said he remains confident about the Roos' prospects.

"It is a work in progress," he said. "I know eventually we will start playing the way coach wants us to play and we will get better results."

Rideout is frustrated, despite scoring on a header against St. Louis in the 23rd minute Michael Oakley crossed the ball to him.

"Of course you always want to score goals," he said. "That's how you win, but we are working on other things first, and with those things the goals will come."

Defender Guerrero Pino blocked several Bear advances. However, he

acknowledged the team needs to keep improving.

"It wasn't a good game for us," Pino said. "After the goals, we lost our self-confidence. [We need to] change our mentality, go out to the field with a victory on our minds."

Coach Rick Benben termed the loss to MSU "disappointing." He expressed confidence about the team's ability to start functioning together.

"We've given lots of goals in a short period of time," he said, "but we will keep up the work and progress every day."

The Roos next face Baker on Thursday at 7 p.m. at Durwood Stadium, then visit Southern Illinois-Edwardsville Sunday at 1 p.m.

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Part III A look at Recruitment

There are more than 4,140 colleges and universities in the U.S., 1,270 of which have basketball programs. More than 340 are Division I, including eight colleges and universities deemed Division I in Missouri and Kansas. With so many options available, how does a student athlete choose which college or university to attend? More specifically, why do some student athletes choose UMKC? In the final part of this recruitment series, *U-News* addressed this question with UMKC basketball coaches and former and current players.

Damion Alexander Staff Writer

Coaches have an array of marketing strategies persuading student athletes to choose their program. Some promote a university's name recognition or athletic success. Others highlight the university's academic programs, location or simply the opportunity to play for a Division I college on a scholarship.

Women's basketball Coach Marsha Frese's method: "UMKC itself."

"The academics we can offer, so many different things," Frese said. "We have had so much feedback about our internships, which provide an opportunity to work and go to school."

"With recruiting, a lot goes back to relationships," said men's basketball Coach Matt Brown. "The parents must be convinced; show them results. We [coaching staff] are good people. We show them our graduation rates, high character players, jobs, some are now playing overseas."

Former and current players shared their recruiting experiences and perspectives.

"The coaches tried to sell me on a vision of creating a new swag about the basketball program," UMKC 6-foot-7 forward Trinity Hall said. "And to help form a relationship with the Kansas City, Kansas basketball talent."

Mariah Scaife, a former forward from Hercules, Calif., said the coaches were selling UMKC's women's program.

"Their program encompassed the city, coaches, players, campus, majors the school offers, places to travel, support offered and coaching styles," she said. "There are many other selling points in the process of trying to recruit someone. Those are just a few."

The 2011-12 Summit League Commissioner's List of Academic Excellence recently honored 97 UMKC athletes, including eight women's basketball players and four men. An Academic Progress Rate released in June showed UMKC was above the average.

"The coaches tried to sell me on many aspects of UMKC, from the rich history of the school to the area surrounding the

school property," said 6-foot-11 center Brad Reid, from Tantanoola, Australia. "They also sold me on the fact of the teammates I have acquired. They are all good men and great friends that I have been lucky enough to be around and share this time with them."

UMKC's campus is centrally located in a diverse community. Attractions like the Country Club Plaza, 18th and Vine, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Arts, Westport, Power & Light District, Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts and Crossroads Arts District are major tourist draws.

Some coaches promote the opportunity of playing time to recruit prospects.

Former women's point guard LeAndrea Thomas, was recruited by former Coach Candace Whitaker, who left to join Oklahoma State's staff.

"My coach recruited me by telling me that she was trying to rebuild the team and I have a lot of opportunities to play here and become a great player," Thomas said. "She said they need an athletic guard here and I'd fit into the system that she was trying to create. She said her staff and her work hard and need hard working players like myself on this team."

Lexis Hardiek, a 5-foot-7 point guard, said the coaches focused on the growing women's program. Why did players actually choose UMKC?

"What sold me on UMKC was that it was close to home so my family could watch me play," Thomas said. "Also I thought I'd get a good chance to have some good playing time because there were seven freshmen coming in my class and only four returners. Also, they were a D-1."

Reid cited many reasons.

"The rich history of the school and the Kansas City area were some of the reasons why I picked the school," Reid said. "Another was the level of competition that was put in front of me in the Summit League. [The opportunity] to play against players with as much talent as these and with players on my team with equal talent gave me the opportunity to push myself against a very high level of competition."

Forwards Spencer Johnson and Max

Rockmann, former forwards, play for Portugal's Oliveirense and Germany's Cuxhaven respectively.

This summer, former guard Reggie Chamberlain signed with the Norrkoping Dolphins in Sweden, and former forward/guard Chazny Morris plays with KR Reykjavik in Iceland.

Reasons for selecting UMKC were more personal for other players.

"I chose UMKC because it's my city's school and I believe in the vision," Hall said. "And I can make a difference in the program and change the culture of basketball for my city."

For Scaife and 6-foot-9 forward/center Fred Chatmon, reasons varied.

"I chose UMKC because I wanted to be away from home," Scaife said. "I wanted to leave California and experience a different type of lifestyle. My mother was born in Kansas City and I have family that still live here. It was comforting to know that in case I needed anything I have family in the area to help."

Chatmon said he didn't want to be close to home.

"I can focus better away," he said.

Players as recruiters

Coaches will often use current players to help recruit prospective student athletes visiting campus.

"Current players are very important, especially the older guys," Brown said. "If they had a good experience, they can show them what it is like - weights, basketball. Our biggest recruiters are our basketball players."

Frese said the players are the best recruiting tool.

"Someone on our team always hosts the recruit that is brought in," Hardiek said. "We go everywhere with them and assist in the visit any way we can."

Reid said the players immediately introduced themselves and showed him around.

"[That] had a huge impact on my decision to see that the other players on the team were as excited as I was to be at the school and they all really wanted to show me what the

school had to offer me as a student and an athlete," he said.

"So this is what I try to do to all new recruits coming in to visit I show my commitment to the team, my teammates, and prospective teammates to show that we are a family here at UMKC and that we are always excited to see new prospects coming in to find if this is where they best fit."

Scaife recalled being heavily involved in the recruiting process her first three years.

"I enjoyed it and was good at it," she said. "I believe the coaches liked to use me as their host to kids coming from out of state or who were far away from home to see how well adjusted and comfortable I felt in Kansas City."

The final decision: student athlete or parent?

In the final analysis, someone had to decide which college or university would be best. While this may appear to be strictly the prospect's decision, parents often are involved.

"My parents were extremely supportive in my recruitment process," Scaife said. "They allowed me to have full control in my decision of where I attended college. My father was sad that I chose to attend school so far away from home but in the end I knew this is where I was supposed to be."

Hardiek said she made the final decision on where to go to school and play.

"I had more to say with my final decision," Thomas said. "What influenced my decision was me not wanting to move too far away from my younger brother because we were so close and this way I could still come home and help him with his school work and take him places."

For Hall, the decision was a team effort.

"I made my own decision," Hall said, "with the support of my mother and father, and high school coaches and athletic directors."

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The big idea gets bigger



Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

Feasibility studies show promise for downtown UMKC arts campus

Roze Brooks Senior Staff Writer
Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

A downtown campus for various UMKC arts programs has taken a leap closer to reality.

Discussion began in spring 2011, when Conservatory Dean Peter Witte first announced the idea.

At the time, it was just that - an idea, but one poised to gain civic endorsement.

Last fall, the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce announced the downtown campus as one of its "Big 5" initiatives for the region.

The project also received accolades from the Downtown Council as a catalyst to bring students downtown and create spinoff development.

Since then, several programs in the College of Arts & Sciences have expressed interest in a move downtown. So have the Kansas City Repertory Theatre and KCUR, the local NPR affiliate housed in the 4825 Troost building.

In December, UMKC embarked on a four-part feasibility study which evaluated program needs, cost, site selection and impact of a downtown presence on the local economy and Volker campus.

Inadequate Conservatory facilities on the Volker campus and proximity to the Kauffman Center for the Performing

Arts have been cited as key reasons for a downtown move.

The Moshe-Safdie-designed Kauffman Center, which opened last September, has received international acclaim and led to Kansas City's listing as one of Frommer's Travel Guide's top 10 destinations of 2012.

In June, UMKC released the conclusion of the program planning, campus impact and economic impact studies to the general public, available online at www.info.umkc.edu/artscampus.

A fundraising feasibility study is still in the works to determine how private funding can be raised to cover the entire cost of the project.

Site selection narrows

The Program Planning Study narrowed the 12 original proposed locations down to three.

Prepared by Helix Architecture + Design, Integra Realty Resources and HGA Architects and Engineers, the study recommends a phased relocation of visual and performing arts programs over the next 20 to 30 years.

The first phase of construction, which would begin in three to five years, includes 171,000 square feet of space for the Conservatory and an estimated price tag of

\$88.2 million. If expanded to include 193,000 square feet, the cost of the first phase jumps to \$98 million.

A second phase could include the A&S Theatre Department and KC Rep; a third phase could include KCUR and the A&S departments of Communications Studies, Film Studies and Architecture, Urban Planning and Design.

If all programs are built, the cost is estimated at \$272.5 million.

Each of the 12 original sites was evaluated based on four different criteria sets: transit, cost, neighborhood and visibility.

"We had a busy summer," said Bob Simmons, associate vice chancellor of administration.

"After looking at a couple different sites, the feasibility study narrowed it down to three. I would say general sites, because even within a site there are 'fuzzy edges.'"

Barney Allis Plaza possesses the most precise perimeters and would require no repurposing of vacant buildings, since it is located above an underground parking garage. It is also owned entirely by the city, which would facilitate the property's acquisition.

Despite its proximity to performance venues like Bartle Hall, Municipal Auditorium and the Folly Theatre, it is also farthest from the Kauffman PAC.

The other two finalists are located in the Crossroads and flank the PAC. However, they consist of multiple properties with multiple owners.

The Crossroads South site would reach out from the southeast corner of the Kauffman at 17th and Wyandotte, extending south to 18th Street and east to Main Street.

The benefit of this site is its accessibility to the Volker campus along the Main Street MAX line. Existing buildings on the site could easily be reused to accommodate program needs.

Witte told KCPT's *The Local Show* he is adamant about utilizing the preexisting buildings at this site, while also constructing new ones.

The Crossroads Southwest site contains several vacant lots, warehouses and empty spaces that could provide a clean slate for the new campus. This location would extend west across Broadway and south to 18th Street.

The PAC sites provide a secondary advantage: synergy with the arts community in the Crossroads.

Barney Allis Plaza is smack dab in the middle of the Convention district, surrounded by massive hotels and convention center properties that create a pedestrian dead zone.

The Crossroads district is a high-traffic,

casual setting that possesses a better sense of urban connectivity.

"By intent, the study didn't say any of the sites were perfect," Simmons said.

The Program Planning Study also examined four other urban arts campuses as precedents for UMKC: Julliard's Eastman School of Music at New York City's Lincoln Center, Columbus State University in Georgia and Arizona State University in Phoenix.

The Economic Impact Study, conducted by the Mid-America Regional Council, concluded the construction of a Downtown Arts Campus and reuse of the Volker campus would create 409 jobs and more than \$22 million in personal disposable income over a 25-year period.

Finally, an in-depth fundraising feasibility study is in progress.

"That's really key because we've recognized all along that this is a project that is going to be reliant on private support to build and to operate," Simmons said.

The Campus Impact Study, conducted by UMKC, concluded a move downtown would free up space for other programs on the Volker campus to expand.

Amenities and upgrades

In recent years, the Conservatory's

enrollment has increased from 300 students to more than 500.

Some students may spend up to five hours a day in the Conservatory's practice rooms, which lack adequate soundproofing and handicap accessibility.

"Arts facilities have very specific requirements in terms of sound isolation, size and the number of spaces that the students need," Witte told *U-News* last fall.

The Conservatory's classrooms, performance and rehearsal venues are located throughout the Volker campus, though primarily in Grant Hall and the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center.

Practice rooms and recital spaces are small and limited in number, as some of this space was converted to faculty offices.

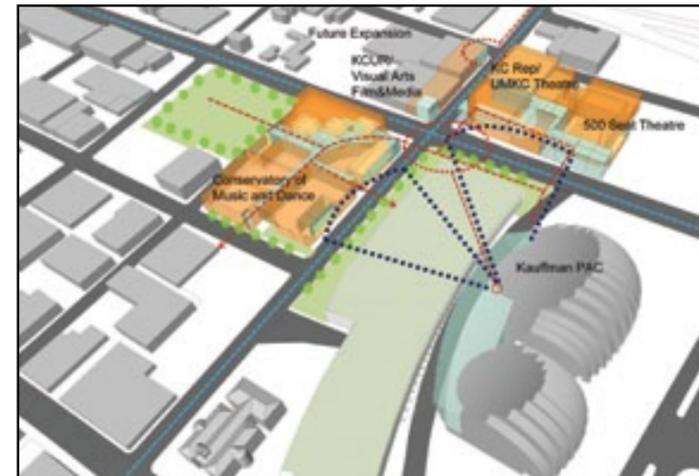
"Let's do the math here. Seven foot piano. Six foot room?" Witte told KCPT's *The Local Show*.

Two dance studios are currently available, though Witte said four are needed.

"We have been challenged for quite some time seeking a solution for space," Witte added.

Junior Kyle Hall, a music education major, acknowledged there is room for improvement.

"The Conservatory is just now starting to be recognized as a major player in the music world even with our less-than-adequate



Left: View of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts from 16th and Broadway.

Center: A possible location for the downtown arts campus on the West side of the Kauffman PAC.

Right: A possible location for the downtown arts campus on the East side of the Kauffman PAC.

Below: A possible location for the downtown arts campus, replacing Barney Allis Plaza.

By the numbers

\$165.5 million

Scenario 1: The entire Conservatory program relocates downtown, but without a new performance space. Helzberg Hall at the Kauffman Center is used when possible. White Recital Hall remains in use on the Volker Campus. The Kansas City Repertory Theatre moves downtown, and the A&S Theatre Department takes over space in the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center vacated by the Conservatory and KC Rep.

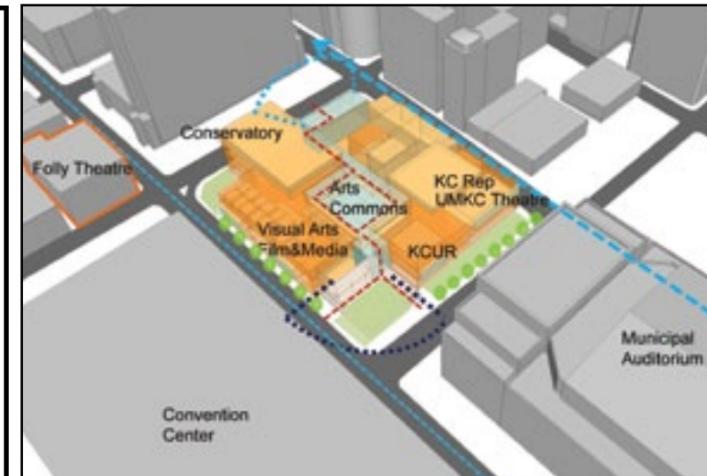
\$152.2 million

Scenario 2: The KC Rep and Theatre programs retain a stronger presence on the Volker campus, reducing costs.

\$272.5 million

Scenario 3: The Conservatory builds a new 100-seat recital hall. The KC Rep adds a new 500-seat theater, and the A&S Studio Arts programs move downtown in their entirety. An art gallery is constructed downtown.

Source: Downtown Arts Campus Executive Summary



Renderings courtesy of University Communications

facilities," he said.

Specifications vary for each of the programs considered in the feasibility study, but the all-encompassing theme is consolidation.

"[The Conservatory] would have more quantity, better size, better acoustics," Simmons said.

Theater space needs include technological advances catering to the design components of productions and more flexible spaces such as a black-box theater.

Some current performance spaces, such as White Hall, will still be used for their intended purposes.

What Students Say

Many Conservatory students are optimistic about the opportunity.

"If the Conservatory moves [downtown], I feel as though it will give the dancers and musicians the opportunity to actually get to know each other and work with each other," said dance major Danice Schilling. "I'm just in hopes that even with the new move we still get the support from UMKC students and recognition from the people visiting and living in downtown Kansas City."

Theatre minor Daniel Beeman also enjoys the idea of interdisciplinary cohesion.

"I think it's an interesting idea," he said. "It would definitely allow the Conservatory,

theater, art and performing arts students to be completely immersed in their field of study being in that area."

Hall is also positive about the endeavor.

"To have an internationally recognized arts campus right downtown next to an amazing PAC like the Kaufman Center would be a dream come true," he said. "I mean, all of the top music schools in the country have a similar setup."

However, some students see a downtown campus as an inconvenience.

Transportation is a concern for some, including music performance sophomore Willow Parsons.

"Conservatory students are required to take a certain amount of gen eds," she said. "I feel like getting from the downtown location to the Volker campus would be tiring. It would be a challenge to build schedules around the transportation time."

Senior Tony Sperruzza, urban planning and design major, shared a similar sentiment.

"How often do students really utilize the arts venues downtown from day to day?" he said. "The Volker campus isn't that far from some place like the Kauffman."

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TATTOO

of the week



Blake Burger

Kynslie Otte
Senior Staff Writer



For some, one tattoo is never enough. For junior Blake Burger, his first tattoo from June 2009 has remained his only and most important.

His tattoo is the Latin word "Pacem" on his left wrist, which means "Peace" in English.

Though tattoos depicting peace symbols or the simple desire for peace may seem common, Burger's incentive differs from the norm.

"My inspiration came from my persistent use of the word 'peace' and my dream of traveling abroad," Burger said.

Like most, Burger didn't get inked alone.

"A friend of mine went with me and got a tattoo in the same place," he said. "I love it because it's universal in so many ways."

Burger got his tattoo at a small parlor in Cape Girardeau, Mo. called "The Little Drummer" for \$30.

Tattoos have a reputation for being painful, but Burger disagreed.

"The most memorable part of my tattoo experience was the fact that it didn't hurt as much as I thought it might, and my friend was beside me getting ready to get one as well," he said.

Friends and family have varied reactions to tattoos, and in Burger's case, his parents' reaction was humorous.

"My mom was angry and accused me of contracting AIDs, which definitely wasn't the case," he said. "My dad was nonchalant about it and said it could be worse."

Among Burger's friends, his tattoo was well received, which he didn't initially expect.

"My friends like it enough," he said. "It's nothing too crazy, it's respectable and it's small. Plus, it was something nobody expected from me. I was always the careful type, and never did anything spontaneously, so this was a shock for most of my friends."

Though Burger has remained satisfied with his single tattoo, he plans to get more tattoos in the future, but will take his time.

"I want to wait and find something really meaningful to me," he said. "I have found a few lines from books that I love, only I can't decide where on my body I want to put them."

If you or someone you know has a meaningful tattoo and would like to be featured in the "Tattoo of the Week" column, email kpohd7@mail.umkc.edu.

kotte@unews.com

Travel Corner Mexico City

Riley Mortensen
Senior Staff Writer

The bustling city of more than 20 million people, catchy Mexican tunes and city life made Mexico City my dream come true for 13 days this summer.

Although I have taken several years of Spanish, when it came down to conversing with native speakers, I knew not a lick of Spanish.

It's impossible to see everything in Mexico City in 13 days, but if you're going to try, the best way is to go with somebody who knows and lives in the area. I had two people more than willing to show me around.

The first, I met at UMKC my very first semester. Dan Moreno and I were fast friends, and a trip to his home country was inevitable.

I'm a traveler by heart; he's a native by birth. How could an opportunity like that be passed up?

Daniel introduced me to his friends and family, which is how I met the second handsome man, Axel Cornejo, who entertained me endlessly and despite the nearly 2,000 miles between us, is now my boyfriend.

When traveling to a country, you learn a few things.

1. A 5-foot-6 redhead with blue eyes is a rare sight in Mexico, and I received plenty of stares.

2. I'm not sure about this entire curse with the water nonsense, but I showered and drank right from the tap with no consequence.

3. Despite political corruption and the ever-present problem of the whole city sinking, Mexico City has more access to public transportation than Kansas City does to BBQ. It costs six pesos, or about 50 cents, to ride the subway round-trip. And taxis are just a few bucks to go nearly anywhere in the sprawling city.

4. On the subject of driving, in Mexico, you couldn't pay me enough to get behind the wheel of a car. I have no problem being the passenger of an expert, but to get around in Mexico, you need patience for the traffic you will encounter and a healthy dosage of aggressive and defensive driving. More aggressive than defensive if you ask me, but I was merely an innocent passenger.



Torre Latinoamericana, or 'Latin-American tower', was Mexico's tallest building from 1956 until 1984. The building withstood a 7.9 magnitude earthquake in 1957, gaining international acclaim.
Photo Riley Mortensen

5. It's amazing to travel to a country with the amount of history Mexico has. I am a museum junky and I got my fix for the year. The National Museum of Anthropology was one of my favorites.

6. The Frida Kahlo Museum, also known as the Blue House, is a close second on my museums list. Along with the artwork of Kahlo, I experienced an fascinating sound exhibit that takes visitors into the daily life of Frida herself.

7. We didn't even make it to the beach, and I still had the time of my life. So, when you think of Mexico, don't limit yourself to Cancun.

8. The five peso investment made in a "rain cape" was by far the

most valuable purchase of my trip, as we were in the middle of what Daniel's mom, Joyce, said was the rain season.

9. You really haven't lived until you've gone out for a day with someone who speaks a different language. Axel's mom, Rocio, took me on a three hour double decker bus tour. We sat together on top of the bus, despite sweltering temperatures, and made sure not to miss the sites. We even made a stop to laugh over some much-needed ice cream. I will never forget.

10. Despite the agony of my own mother, I'll be back to Mexico City before Christmas. There's no doubt about it.

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Bartender's Corner Southwest Boulevard

Taqueria Mexico

910 Southwest Boulevard
Sunday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 a.m.

La Taquiera Mexico features authentic Mexican food and fast, friendly service. The restaurant's most popular deal is on Wednesday, with \$1 ground beef tacos and margaritas for \$1.99.

The margaritas are not as potent as Ponak's, but the price is unbeatable. The

tacos are always fresh, and small chunks of fried potatoes cooked with the beef give a unique taste.

La Taquiera's everyday menu offers traditional Mexican dishes such as chimichangas, tostadas, flautas and even tortas. Portion sizes are very large with reasonable prices.

Kynslie Otte

Senior Staff Writer

Southwest Boulevard is brimming with delicious traditional Mexican restaurants, most of which offer Happy Hour deals involving meal specials and cheap margaritas. This culturally-rich area offers tasty food and other notable specials almost every day of the week.

kotte@unews.com

El Patrón

2905 Southwest Boulevard
11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Friday-Saturday

El Patrón Cocina and Bar, prides itself on its fresh seafood and margarita and mojito recipes. The restaurant is often praised for its fish tacos and chic environment.

El Patrón is slightly more expensive than other restaurants on Southwest Boulevard, but its Happy Hour

Ponak's

2856 Southwest Boulevard
11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Friday-Saturday
11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sunday

Ponak's is famous in Kansas City for its potent margaritas. These margaritas are uniquely crafted with Ponak's own special tequila. Customers can purchase Ponak's "Liquid Attitude," a bottle of pre-mixed margaritas, for \$20 daily.

The restaurant's Happy Hour is 3-6 p.m. every day. On Mondays, Ponak's offers specials on tacos and drinks. The Happy Hour menu varies by day of the week.

Rico's Tacos Lupe

802 Southwest Boulevard
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday
11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday
11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

Rico's Tacos Lupe offers one of the best taco specials in Kansas City on Tuesdays, with famous street tacos for only \$1 each.

The restaurant's street tacos consist of the customer's choice of meat with onions and cilantro, served with a wedge of lime on a corn tortilla. Choices of meat include asada (steak), pollo (chicken), lengua (beef tongue) and many others. Though the restaurant is small and offers limited

seating, the tacos are worth the wait. Tortilla chips are provided for dine-in customers every day of the week, served with Rico's own salsa and bottles of habanera and a jalapeno puree.

At the entrance, Rico's also has a photo collage of customers who have eaten a considerable amount of tacos. Many boast eating up to 10, but one customer has eaten up to 23.

Rico's is unique

because of its "bring your own beer" policy. The restaurant does not serve alcohol, but patrons may bring their own alcoholic beverages if opened inside the restaurant. In a sense, this makes every hour Happy Hour at Rico's.

A Royal Liquor is conveniently located across the street, giving patrons an opportunity to grab a six-pack before the meal.

Dine-in and carry out are available at Rico's.

Photo by Sai Srikrar Kadiyam

Poco's Latin Cuisine

3063 Southwest Boulevard
10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday-Friday
7 a.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday
7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sunday

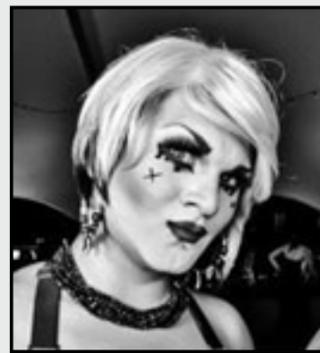
Poco's Latin Cuisine, much like El Patrón, is known for its fish tacos. It is more expensive than its neighboring restaurants, except during Happy Hour.

Happy Hour at Poco's is from 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. House margaritas are \$3, domestic beers are \$2.50 and imported beers are \$3, along with well drinks.

Ask Phoenix

The process of perfection

Phoenix B. Rishon
Columnist



Recently I have received several questions regarding me: how I do drag, how long does it take, what is needed for the transformation, etc. At first, I was going to stray away from these inquiries since this column was created to benefit you, the reader, and give life advice. But then I realized everyone should learn what it takes to be a drag queen.

Drag is a creative performance art that goes against society and gender. We play with what society tells us is wrong and entertain people in the process. Drag performers entertain the audience by becoming a character of the opposite gender, and through this transformation inspire many people, including ourselves, to be whoever we want.

As a precursor to my drag transformation, I would like to point out every drag queen has a different style, technique and wardrobe. So to tell you how I do drag is not to say this is how drag should be done. I can only give you insight of my process.

The drag transformation is a long, grueling process to which some of you women could relate. We drag queens refer to the application of makeup as "painting" because we do not just apply powder and call it a day. We paint our face with stage makeup. If you know anything about painting, you know more layers are better. Not only do I need to cover the heavy five o'clock shadow left right after I shave, but I also need to cosmetically reconstruct my face to appear more feminine. It is all about making your face appear more feminine in your own style; hence why each drag queen has a different method.

This painting process can take a queen anywhere from 10 minutes to several hours. I usually allow myself two to three hours for the transformation because I do not like to be rushed. If I want people to give me money from their wallet, I have to

take my time and look my best.

Makeup is only a fraction of the transformation. I then fasten myself with undergarments to cover any body hair and reconstruct my body accentuating the hips, tightening the waist and creating boobs.

I also must hide that which is unique to my sex in order to create an illusion of its absence. Many assume this "tucking" process is painful and uncomfortable. While being tucked for several hours is not my favorite activity, nothing makes you feel more like a woman than giving yourself ovaries.

Once I cannot breathe from the body shapers and have literally lost my manhood, I put on a dress, clip on some jewelry, strap on some heels and maybe put a wig on my head, depending on the look. Even after perfection, I am still not ready.

Drag is more than just the look. I have to gain the confidence to dress like this in public and have a positive, sassy attitude. When performing, I become this character of expression and passion; a character many look up to and one which has changed my life.

I hope this has helped you understand what I do and who I am. Do not forget to send in your questions to Cjnz72@mail.umkc.edu!

Toodles for now,

Phoenix Rishon

'Ask Phoenix' does not substitute for a professional psychologist or psychiatrist. If you need psychological support:

Contact the UMKC Counseling Center at 816-235-1635

If you are in crisis or thinking about suicide you deserve immediate support

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

-or-

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

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

satire

music review

Top 5 workout songs 1980-2012

Debbie Littles Contributing Writer

As one of the top fat acceptance activists in the world (I even have 5 Facebook friends from Kyrgyzstan!), I have come to realize the importance of working out.

I even founded the official, unofficial UMKC Society of Enlightened Students for Size Acceptance (SESSA).

SESSA held its first semimonthly weigh-in at the industrial-sized scale at Ford's Claycomo assembly plant last Monday, and hosted a sit-in at Swinney Recreation Center afterwards to bring attention to our chosen plight.

Needless to say, we used furniture pads to move the exercise equipment so we could all sit down on the floor and protest. Standing-up protests require so much more physical effort.

The protest didn't go over so well. It might have been a good idea to fill out the proper Student Affairs paperwork and make arrangements with Campus Facilities beforehand.

To cut my poignant anecdote to the chase, you must be postulating one simple question:

Why has Debbie Littles suddenly become so concerned about health consciousness?

Because others like to discredit me when I say I'm a fat acceptance activist, especially when I mention that I flat out reject the idea of portion control. They say, "You're just a fat lazy *****. Go hit the treadmill." The challenge is on!

Every time I check in at Swinney on Foursquare, I feel compelled to share my music selection with my Facebook friends via Spotify. I'm sure each one of them wants to know what music I listen to.

Anyhow, here are the top 5 songs I like gettin' jiggy with when I jiggle my rolls on the elliptical bike.

1. Janet Jackson- "Nasty Boys"

Janet doesn't like boys who disrespect and neither do I. It's Ms. Littles if you nasty. With so many nasty boys taking peeks at my muffin rack, I do not know why Swinney hasn't decided to blast this song every 10 minutes as a reminder of why chivalry still matters.

2. Sir Mix-A-Lot- "Baby Got Back"

Every time my motivation wears off, I listen to this song. With all the pressure out there for girls to be pretty and petite, Sir Mix-A-Lot reminds us that most men actually prefer curvy women. This single is truly a one-hit wonder that has stuck with the times. I love blasting this song through my headphones whenever I do squats.

3. Rebecca Black- "Friday"

Whenever I forget what day it is, I reference Rebecca Black's hit YouTube performance. Gaining



Debbie Littles portrait by Aaron Cecil

national acclaim and elevating her to child prodigy status, and snagging market share from Justin Bieber and Miley Cyrus overnight, Rebecca Black's talent makes her a perfect candidate for the UMKC Conservatory to recruit.

We would blow Juilliard out of the water.

4. Fergie- "Fergalicious"

This Los Angeles artist outshines her British namesake in class, sophistication and musical talent. In her mid-2000s hit, when Fergie was still relevant, she offers everyone a catchy spelling lesson with a rhythm for locker room striptease post-workout.

5. Anything Nickelback, Creed, Hinder, Daughtry or '90s rock

Technically, these are separate artists, but they shall be treated as one for the purpose of this review. To my ears, it's all the same- I mean that in a good way. If four different bands can play the same guitar chords and sing the same songs and still have a separate identity, they must be doing something right commercially.

The lyrics typically involve getting wasted, high on a plane with cocaine, beating one's girlfriend (Trust me boys, I hit back!), remembering a lost girlfriend you cheated on, or driving a fancy pickup truck and living in a fancy house like the Playboy mansion with a private jet and the latest fashions.

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Looking ahead Part 2

Which of these Oscar contenders will be nominated this year?

Elizabeth Golden
Managing Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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The Twilight Saga – Breaking Dawn Part 2

As much as it pains me to even mention this sad excuse for a teen film, we must look at the facts. The final film of every big series has always been

nominated for at least a couple awards. This film will most likely see nothing more than a best visual effects nomination.



Life of Pi

Based on the best-selling book, the film is guaranteed to be astonishing. "Life of Pi" centers around an Indian boy named Pi who, after a shipwreck, finds himself drifting around the Pacific Ocean with the most vicious zoo animals. With an unknown cast and Oscar winning director

Ang Lee ("Brokeback Mountain" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"), this film is bound to win Best Adapted Screenplay at the very least. Best Director and Best Cinematography nominations are also likely. Be sure to check out "Life of Pi" on November 21st.



Lincoln

Daniel Day-Louis flawlessly transforms into the Abraham Lincoln everyone has envisioned, making this film sure to win Best Makeup. The synopsis is self-explanatory. This Stephen Spielberg film tells of Lincoln's journey as the 16th president of the United States during the Civil War. This film is supposedly extremely in-depth, as

most Spielberg pictures are. Sally Field, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Tommy Lee Jones also make up this all-star cast. Much like Spielberg films in the past, "Lincoln" will most likely be nominated for several Oscars, but will walk away with few. This film will be in theatres November 9th.



Anna Karenina

Phenomenal British director Joe Wright directs another book adaptation. "Pride and Prejudice" and "Atonement," both Oscar nominated adaptations, were under his direction. Wright has worked closely with Keira Knightly in many of his films, this one included. Jude Law also stars in this potentially Oscar nominated performance. "Anna Karenina" follows the title character in her life-changing journey set in 19th century

Russia. Strangely, many of the best potential films this year seem to be set in the 19th century. Though the film's content may be depressing, Wright always has a way of adding light-hearted humor to his work. The chances of "Anna Karenina" winning best picture may be slim, but this film is still a major contender for best actor/actress and best director. This film hits theatres November 16th.



Les Miserables

2012 seems to be the year of book adaptations. Much like "Life of Pi" and "Anna Karenina," this film was also adapted from the best-selling novel by Victor Hugo. Set in 19th century France, "Les Miserables" focuses on a man who seeks redemption after paroled from prison. This film also has deeper layers dealing with the nature of humanity and broken dreams.

Directed by Oscar winner Tom Hooper

("The King's Speech"), this film is sure to receive several nominations and possibly a few wins. Hugh Jackman, Russell Crow, Anne Hathaway and Amanda Seyfried also add to this astonishing masterpiece. Hooper has directed three actors in Oscar winning roles and it is likely a couple members of this cast will also walk away winners. Be sure to check it out December 14th.



'En Plein Air'



Brush Creek Art Walk exhibit comes to UMKC

Riley Mortensen Senior Staff Writer

The UMKC Gallery of Art partnered with the first Brush Creek Art Walk to present the exhibition of En Plein Air," showing through Sept. 11.

During the art walk, which took place over a three day period in late July, painters took their positions along Brush Creek from Roanoke Road east to Elmwood to paint in the open air, or in French, *en plein air*.

The UMKC gallery divides the paintings into zones according to the area the painter depicted. Each zone has a first and second, as well as a few honorable mentions. Paul Dorell of Kansas City's Leopold Gallery judged this event.

Cruising through the gallery, one can see a variety of mediums, from oil to acrylic to watercolor.

To top it off, all of the works are for sale and range in price from \$100 to \$3,000.

The opening reception on Aug. 31 brought in around 160 people, including the artists, their friends and family and community members who follow the *en plein air* style.

"The gallery aims for things that are more diverse and experimental so we can be on par with some of the bigger galleries around," said Mae McCurry, a graduate gallery assistant. "We're just trying to make a name for ourselves in the

community."

This is the first exhibition that McCurry has worked on with the UMKC gallery.

McCurry said the task of hanging each piece was daunting. Even on the opening day the gallery had to let some paintings go simply because there wasn't enough room to accommodate them all.

"This type of show was definitely not what I expected, but I think it will help us to get more people into the gallery that normally wouldn't come and build a relationship with them," McCurry said.

Despite heavy rain during the opening reception, Carole Roemer decided to pay the gallery a visit.

"I attended this while the artists were painting," Roemer said. "It was so hot, but they were out there anyway hot or not. Everyone seemed very enthused about it and the artists loved being a part of it."

The Gallery of Art currently has eight exhibits planned for this year, including the end of the year student exhibition.

Next up, the gallery is finalizing details for *POP!*, a series of social happenings. Basically, the exhibition will be like a trading post type deal, and guests will be invited to participate in activities or can simply enjoy witnessing the event. For more information on the upcoming exhibit, visit www.pophappenings.org.

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Community members came to campus to view various painted scenes of Brush Creek.

Photo by Riley Mortensen

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cult classic review

Religious 'Dogma' provides endless entertainment

Kevin Smith's 'Dogma' is a memorable mockery

Kynslie Otte

Senior Staff Writer

"Dogma" is arguably one of the best and most controversial comedies of the '90s, addressing the divisive topic of religion and struggles in one's faith. Despite its 1999 release, this cult classic's risqué plot based on Catholic doctrine remains relevant to today's society amidst continuous religious conflict.

With an all-star lineup featuring Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Salma Hayek, Alan Rickman, Jason Lee, Chris Rock, George Carlin and Alanis Morissette, the film's cast expertly delivers humor and starkly contrasting characters, both good and evil.

The film's plot revolves around two fallen angels, Bartleby (Affleck) and Loki (Damon). Loki was God's angel of death until Bartleby convinced him to drunkenly resign. As a result, Loki and Bartleby were banished from heaven and forced to spend the rest of eternity in Wisconsin, a place deemed worse

than hell.

An anonymous tip-off leads the pair to a loophole in Catholic doctrine which can allow their return to heaven. Loki and Bartleby must only cut off their wings, walk through the doors of a church in New Jersey and die as humans. Based on the religious concept of God's infallibility, Bartleby and Loki's successful return to heaven would result in the end of human existence.

Metatron (Rickman), the voice of God, appears to a woman named Bethany Sloane to tell her she is the last Scion, and has been chosen by God to stop Bartleby and Loki. During her journey, she discovers she is the last living descendant of Jesus Christ.

God (Morissette) is unable to resolve the situation herself because she occasionally returns to earth as a human to play skee-ball. On her last visit, she finds herself trapped in the body of a comatose man, unable to return to heaven.

Sloane is aided by two unlikely "prophets," Jay (Jason Mewes) and

Silent Bob (Kevin Smith), Rufus (Rock), the 13th apostle who claims he isn't in the Bible because he's black and Serendipity (Hayek), a muse with writer's block.

Sloane's journey proves amusing, filled with witty dialogue and multiple jabs at Catholicism. God depicted as a woman also extends the film's controversy.

Rickman does a fantastic job of portraying Metatron as obedient, wise and helpful, but also gives his character many human qualities, such as sarcasm and an affinity for tequila.

Affleck's performance as Bartleby is one of his career's best. Affleck gives the character finesse, portraying him as witty, thoughtful and intensely vengeful. Bartleby's development as the plot progresses is nothing shy of ingenious.

"Dogma" was director Smith's fourth film and one of the most popular among fans. The film utilizes many wide-angle shots, a trademark of Smith's productions. His highly stylized directing gives audiences an interesting

perspective while creating visually appealing action scenes.

His famously vulgar characters, Jay and Silent Bob, provide comic relief while playing pivotal roles in the plot. Though crass and immature, the two prove no one is beyond redemption with faith.

Using Biblical characters may seem risky, but each character's conflict becomes real and relatable, showing how even ethereal beings fear similar human concepts such as loneliness, struggling faith and damnation.

Smith's decision to give Affleck and Damon contrasting personalities in the leading roles was wise. The chemistry between the two becomes obvious onscreen while driving the plot and foreshadowing inevitable conflict.

Loki and Bartleby show the harshness of enforcing traditional Biblical commandments, seen best during a bus ride when Loki shoots a man in the head for committing adultery. This raises questions such as whether or not these Biblical violations deserve severe



Photo Courtesy of Google

punishment in today's society.

Due to the film's sensitive plot content, its release was delayed. Smith received at least two death threats, and Catholic organizations in several countries organized protests to stop the film's release.

Despite causing vast religious conflict, "Dogma" saw unexpected success in the box office, grossing roughly \$30 million. Most critics found the film mediocre, but audience reception was positive.

"Dogma" is funny, thought provoking and borderline blasphemous. For Smith fans and audiences that find religious mockery humorous, this provocative comedy is a must-see.

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movie review

The Less than Premium Rush

High-speed thriller struggles to find consistency

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

Cycling along the streets of New York City may be a daunting task, but Joseph Gordon-Levitt makes it seem easy. Though exciting from start to finish, "Premium Rush" lacks a consistent tone along with other key elements, making the film slightly lackluster.

Set in constant motion, "Premium Rush" focuses on the lives of bike messengers and the constant battle to stay alive on the road. Dodging speeding cars, avoiding oblivious pedestrians and the constant fear of being struck by a car door are all part of the job for Wilee (Gordon-Levitt), who is considered "the best on the road."

When an unlikely shadow begins to follow him on his route, Wilee realizes he may face greater danger than he expected.

Overall, the production aspects of the film are solid. The acting is exceptional, which viewers may expect from Gordon-Levitt. Although he may appear douchey at times, he still manages to convincingly play this role.

"Premium Rush" mainly struggles with consistency. The story bounces back and forth, failing to provide a complete picture. This is an interesting technique if executed correctly, but director David Koepp fails to flawlessly transition each scene through the storyline.

Koepp is hardly a newcomer in the filmmaking industry. This big blockbuster director also wrote hits

such as "Jurassic Park" and "Spider-Man" and worked alongside Spielberg in several major films. It is disappointing to see his failed directing attempt with "Premium Rush."

The film lacks major depth, but that may be the point. "Premium Rush" is all about the speed and adrenaline rush. Action is another pertinent point in this thriller, which Koepp manages to successfully portray. His precision while directing this film is one aspect which definitely makes "Premium Rush" worth watching.

Another major issue in this film deals with the plot. Nothing unique or different occurs, and the film's villain comes across as annoying instead of scary. He's the kind of character who makes the audience



Photo Courtesy of Google

wish for his inevitable death.

Perhaps unintentional, some parts come across as extremely comical, almost in a slapstick way. Maybe the film's hidden motive is to depict a hilariously unrealistic snapshot of life. If this was the intent, it negates prior criticism, because "Premium Rush" definitely achieved its goal.

The film, with its lack of content, isn't bad by any means, but fails to stand out. As a whole, "Premium

Rush" tends to irritate and annoy audiences more than amuse. Though funny and entertaining at times, there are few parts worthy of praise.

"Premium Rush" is a great film for mindless entertainment with a solid emotional center, but offers nothing else for the viewer.

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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.

Weeping over the WEPT

Replace useless test with English 225 final



Kharissa Forte
Senior Staff Writer

The Written English Proficiency Test causes quite the commotion among undergraduate students at UMKC. The exam is a requirement to graduate and a prerequisite for all writing intensive (WI) courses.

Offered twice each semester, students who have completed 45 hours and who have successfully completed English 225 can enroll to take the WEPT through Pathway. One week before the exam, students must purchase the WEPT packet, a compilation of articles about a single topic, for \$5, in preparation for the test.

The day of the WEPT, students are allotted three hours to compose an argumentative essay based on the packet material. Attending tutoring sessions and workshops conducted by the Writing Studio in order to better prepare for the WEPT is highly encouraged.

Sound a little intimidating? I thought so.

In fact, I prolonged taking the WEPT until I had no choice but to take it the summer before my senior year in order to enroll in classes that I needed to take this semester and in the spring. I studied my packet intently day and night in order to ensure myself that I would pass the test.

I even skipped one of my classes

Continued on Page 19

Pro and Con of University name change

Make sure student voices are heard in name change discussions

Roze Brooks

Senior Staff Writer

When Chancellor Leo Morton announced a future discussion pertaining to a potential name change for UMKC, many people likely cocked their head to the side and asked, "Why?"

The better question to ask is, "Why does it matter?" How UMKC, or the University of Kansas City (UKC) if the name change takes place, carries on after the decision is made is what's most important.

Transitioning to a new name shouldn't

inhibit the goals and values of the campus. Advances are made each semester to better the campus in every way possible, including new construction, student-faculty connectivity and overall consideration for what students want from their education. As long as the debate over which name-change decision should be made doesn't distract from more pressing issues, no harm can come from opening the dialogue between students and administration on an issue affecting everyone involved. If UMKC

students feel they're involved in this significant decision, the relationship between students and administration will strengthen. Trusting authority isn't always at the top of college student's to-do list. Assurance of research and thorough consideration of how this change would affect the campus also helps to eliminate skepticism. This proposal was created with meticulous consideration and is worth exploring. And while a major concern is the price of changing the name, it costs nothing to ask questions and have discussions. Diverging

from the stigma that UMKC is overcast by Mizzou won't alleviate the misconception. Retracting back to UKC doesn't eliminate the university's association with the University of Missouri system. If there is an outstanding disposition against another school from the system, this should be addressed by reaching out to the campus and discussing how to better unify both student bodies.

A name change could give the campus an empowering stature boost, allowing a metaphorical disconnect from the UM system. It



would make the university more discernible against the other schools in the system. And just face it, this institution will never possess an acronym that is easy to pronounce in two syllables like UMSL, so there is no point in trying too hard.

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Cost of name change needs to be justified

Elizabeth Golden
Managing Editor

Chancellor Leo Morton announced a name change proposal in May for the University of Missouri - Kansas City. The change from UMKC to the University of Kansas City is speculated to raise awareness about the university and attract the most "talented students," according to Morton.

Although the chancellor may have valid reasons to back up his beliefs, this proposed change has a much greater downside.

The primary concern is the unnecessary cost of the change, along with several smaller issues. This is not to criticize the chancellor or the university, but it is still important to acknowledge the opinions of the student body.

When University of Missouri - Rolla changed names, the cost totaled about \$500,000. UMKC

insists financing will come from private donors and tuition would not increase to fund the potential name change.

This solves the cost issue, but it's interesting to think of what else this money could do for the university.

In-state tuition for a full-time UMKC undergraduate taking 15 credits costs \$4,650 per semester, or \$9,300 annually.

If this generous \$500,000 contribution were applied to financial aid, more than 50 students would receive a full ride to cover annual tuition and fees.

If all of the 9,000 undergraduate students were given part of this money as a scholarship, each would receive \$55. This may not seem like much, but the amount would begin to add up. If instead, every deserving student were given part of the scholarship,

this amount would be substantially greater.

Let's assume one textbook averages at \$100. This means 5,000 books would be provided for the cost of the name change.

Annual rates for on-campus room and board vary from \$6,203 for a four-person double suite in the residence halls to more than \$9,000 for a one-bedroom apartment in Oak Place. This does not include a meal plan. More than 50 students could cover a majority of room and board if \$500,000 was applied.

Above all else, if the university really wants to improve its image, why not spend the money to improve specific programs or marketing campaigns?

Many research programs could make use of \$500,000. The university prides itself on being the only major research university in the metro area, begging the question of, "Why

wouldn't the money be spent on improving these programs?"

Administration should better justify the cost, especially when dropping "Missouri" from the school's title may lead to obvious drawbacks.

Let's face it, Kansas City: most people outside the area have no idea the city isn't in Kansas. By dropping "Missouri," the university is only increasing this problem. According to half of the world, The University of Kansas City will be located in Kansas.

Chancellor Morton believes changing the name would distinguish the university from the other schools in the Missouri system while also "better identifying the university with its mission."

The mission statement of UMKC's strategic plan mentions the school's urban ambitions. Most of Kansas isn't exactly urban.



"UMKC's mission is to lead in life and health sciences; to deepen and expand strength in the visual and performing arts; to develop a professional workforce and collaborate in urban issues and education; and to create a vibrant learning and campus life experience."

Perhaps the name change could indirectly help the university to eventually identify with the statement, but wouldn't other uses of \$500,000, such as scholarships or research funding, have a far greater and more immediate impact?

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Don't overlook 18th and Vine

Why Kansas city should cherish its jazz district

Tyren Rushing

Staff Writer

It was unimaginable to me four months ago that I could fall in love with anything on the Missouri side of Kansas City. I am a Kansan, and a hardcore Kansan at that. I take pride in our sunflowers, I love my Jayhawks, I say "pop," not "soda" and I absolutely detest Missouri.

Four months ago, I started my internship at the American Jazz Museum and my eyes were opened to the greatness of the most overlooked, underappreciated, severely under-promoted neighborhood in Kansas City, the 18th and Vine District.

It's amazing that a place so spectacular is such an afterthought in a city constantly struggling for national respect and acclaim. The 18th and Vine District is Kansas City's ticket to the big leagues of tourism, but it's treated like a minor leaguer with a bad back.

The names of neighborhoods like Times Square, Navy Pier, The French Quarter and most comparatively, Beale Street, are identified instinctively with their respective host cities.

What have New York, Chicago, New Orleans and Memphis done better than what Kansas City has done with 18th and Vine to obtain such recognition for those destinations?

One answer is the other cities simply care. Although 18th and Vine is

arguably more important to Kansas City's history than the Plaza and the Power and Light District, the jazz district doesn't share the limelight.

Go to www.18thandvinedistrict.org/, and you will find a website that is outdated and underfunded, much like the district it represents. Go to www.countryclubplaza.com/, and you will see a sleek, modern site that it is better funded and updated.

It doesn't stop at the web. When you drive down I-35, there is a barrage of signs boasting about upcoming fashion events taking place on the Plaza, Zona Rosa and P&L. Why couldn't 18th and Vine be included in this or other joint ventures among the city's entertainment districts?

A more complex answer is the "dividing line" that Troost Avenue typically represents. Troost has long served as the divider between the haves and have-nots in Kansas City. Mayor Sly James even referenced it as the "Berlin Wall" in his Town Hall Forum last year on campus.

Unfortunately for 18th and Vine, it lies east of Troost and therefore doesn't get the shine that Kansas City's other entertainment districts receive. P&L, the Plaza and Westport are west of Troost and receive plenty of recognition and support. The city sunk \$850 million into Power and Light. The Plaza has a televised

lighting ceremony, and Westport has become synonymous with drunken fun and good eats more so than any other local destination.

The All-Star Game festivities cast a spotlight on 18th and Vine, but only because the Negro League Baseball Museum and the American Jazz Museum are housed in the district. Jazz and baseball are two great Kansas City traditions right up there with barbecue and fountains. So why can't 18th and Vine see this kind of limelight regularly?

It is the most significant historic black neighborhood in Kansas City. During the Jim Crow era of Kansas City history, African-Americans boycotted shops downtown and began to practice self-sufficiency by shopping primarily at 18th and Vine. This is the block where the Negro League was founded in 1920, where Prohibition never existed under Thomas Pendergast's reign over Jackson County and where Charlie Parker mastered the saxophone.

The abundance of jazz clubs, gambling spots, barbecue joints and shopping once made this area a cultural hub that people from all walks of life would visit, regardless of skin color. The Plaza is praised for pioneering the planned outdoor shopping center, but the fact that it was segregated for more than 40 years is often overlooked.

The legacy of segregation can still be seen in 2012. Neighborhoods west of Troost are mostly white and affluent; neighborhoods east of Troost are predominately African-American and working class.

The Troost divide causes areas like 18th and Vine to have a negative connotation.

As one who spends five-to-six days each week in the district interning and covering concerts, I can tell you that 18th and Vine is as about as safe as one can get in the city. There have been more shootings at the Plaza in the last few years.

The people are friendly and diverse in the jazz district and the streets and sidewalks are some of the most well-maintained I've seen in Missouri, which is saying a lot.

More importantly, entertainment options are endless.

If you want to eat, the Jukehouse has a great menu. Danny's Big and Easy brings delightful Cajun cuisine to the Midwest, and the 9th Inning is a state-of-the-art sports bar that serves a mean turkey burger. The legendary Arthur Bryant's is up the street on the corner of 17th and Brooklyn.

For entertainment, the Blue Room Jazz Club has live music Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Monday, it features an open jam session.

The Gem Theater hosts a variety of events,



including the upcoming Jammin' at the Gem concert series.

The Jukehouse goes full-scale bar every night and hosts the popular Soul Sessions poetry and music sessions every Monday night. Ninth Inning hosts a plethora of sporting events with crystal clear HDTV's throughout the place. Danny's Big and Easy also hosts live music and offers full bar service. The area recently hosted the Soul Food Festival, and the Rhythm & Ribs Music Festival is Oct. 13.

But most importantly of all, 18th and Vine is a historical landmark and should be cherished and upheld by city officials. Beale Street in Memphis is comparable in terms of population and musical significance. Beale Street is a full-scale tourist attraction. The FedEx Forum is connected to it, and there's family and adult entertainment year round. There are millions of both private and corporate dollars in the place to keep it thriving. Kansas City has not shown this support for 18th and Vine, and the city knows it.

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Continued from Page 18

the day of the test in order to further confirm that I was good to go. After I took the WEPT, I realized that it wasn't as deep as I, my professors, or the Communications Studies department made it out to be.

I began to question why we were even required to take the exam in the first place. The answer I received was found on the Writing Studio's website: "...to determine the quality of undergraduate academic writing."

In my opinion, that objective could be met by evaluating the grades that students earn from English 225.

Professor Robert Unger has taught writing intensive courses at UMKC for 16 years, one of which is Intro to Journalism.

Of the WEPT, Unger said, "I can see no purpose for the WEPT. It doesn't predict who can do well. It doesn't predict who can do poorly. As near as I can tell, its only purpose is to cause students time, money and aggravation."

In hindsight, I concur. Mercury Association President Andreina Byrne works at the Writing Studio, where students can receive help preparing for the WEPT.

"I think the WEPT often stresses students out more than it should; I don't know if it is the right way to go about gauging a student's writing," said Byrne.

I could not agree more. "Gauging a student's writing" is the precise goal of the WEPT, yet perhaps it is an idea that could have been more thought out.

My suggestion is simple. If students must take the WEPT, so be it. However, instead of making the WEPT a huge ordeal, administer it as the final for English 225. Ironically, this is what the WEPT replaced.

If these changes are made, students still have to take the test, but it is directed in a fashion that saves time, \$5 and unnecessary stress.

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A slice of Kansas City history: Union Station Massacre, June 17, 1933.

Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

Sudoku

3		8						9
	5		8		7	4		
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Kakuro

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Each box contains digits 1 through 9. The same digit will never be repeated twice in one line. If you add the digits, the sum will be the number shown in the clue.

GAMES