

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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UMKC's independent student newspaper since 1933

Vol. 80 // Issue 8 // Oct. 8, 2012



## 5 NEWS

Peter Makori flees Kenya to escape death, experiences a new life at UMKC

Peter Makori was forced to leave his home country of Kenya after a decade of political harassment, imprisonment and false charges of murder. Makori is now a Communications Studies senior at UMKC.

Photo illustration by Nathan Zoschke and Roze Brooks

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Photo Illustration by Meredith Shea

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UMKC's Independent Student Newspaper

www.unews.com

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

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

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

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

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

# Voting 101

## A beginner's guide to voting

**Nathan Zoschke**  
Editor-in-Chief

The deadline to register to vote in the November election is quickly approaching. Missourians have until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10, to submit a voter registration form through mail or in person at any local elections board office or public library. Forms can be obtained through [www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov).

Kansans have until Tuesday, Oct. 16, and may register online at [www.kssos.org](http://www.kssos.org). In order to register, one must be a U.S. citizen 18 or older on the date of an election and reside in the state in which they vote.

Incomplete registration forms, such as those lacking a valid signature, will be rejected. Once one has registered, he or she will receive a voter information card in the mail within 7-10 days verifying registration. The card will also list a voting location and instructions on how to vote, including necessary documentation.

Missouri voters can check their registration status by visiting [www.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/](http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterlookup/). Kansas voters can visit [myvoteinfo.voteks.org](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org). Sample ballots can be obtained through local elections board websites, such as the Kansas City Elections Board, [www.kceb.org](http://www.kceb.org).

### Absentee voters

If voters move within the same county, they are responsible for updating voter registration information with the local elections board. If voters move to a new county or out of state, they must submit a new registration form. Because the Kansas City portion of Jackson County has its own elections board, voters who move between Kansas City and other municipalities in Jackson County must submit a new registration form.

However, students from out of town may still vote in the jurisdiction in which they are registered by requesting an absentee ballot, which can be found at [www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov).

Applications for a mail-in absentee ballot in Missouri must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31 to the local elections board office, and requests for in-person absentee voting must be submitted by Tuesday, Nov. 5.

In-person absentee voting in Missouri began on Sept. 25. In Kansas, advance voting begins Oct. 17. Voters have until Nov. 2 to apply for advance voting ballots to be mailed, and they have until noon on Nov. 5 to cast in-person advance voting ballots at the county elections office. The Kansas advance voting application can be found at [www.kssos.org/elections](http://www.kssos.org/elections).

### Popular vs. Electoral vote

State, local and U.S. Senate and House of Representative candidates are elected by a majority popular vote—the number of votes cast for each candidate.

The presidential election is determined by the Electoral College.

Each state has as many electoral votes as it does U.S. senators and representatives. Each state has two U.S. senators and at least one U.S. representative, with the number of representatives dependent upon the state's population. In addition, the District of Columbia has three electoral votes.

A candidate must receive 270 of 538 electoral votes in order to win. If there is a tie, the president will be selected by state delegations in the House, and the vice president will be picked by the Senate.

The president has also carried the popular vote in every recent election except 2000, when then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush defeated Vice President Al Gore in the Electoral College but came up short in the popular vote.

### Redistricting

Voters may live in a different state or U.S. congressional district than they did in 2008 or 2010. This is because

### Helpful Links

Missouri Secretary of State  
[www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov)

Kansas City Elections Board  
[www.kceb.org](http://www.kceb.org)

Kansas Secretary of State  
[www.kssos.org](http://www.kssos.org)

Kansas SOS Voter Lookup  
[myvoteinfo.voteks.org](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org)

of redistricting based on population data from the 2010 U.S. Census.

Missouri was among 10 states to lose representation in U.S. House seats due to population growth rates below the national average. Rep. Russ Carnahan (D) lost his seat due to redistricting.

Rev. Emanuel Cleaver II (D) saw his district, Mo. 5, expand to include sections of the Northland and rural areas extending east into central Missouri. However, it no longer includes Belton, Raymore or certain parts of Lee's Summit.

In a bizarre redistricting stunt, Missouri Senate Districts 7 and 10 traded spots on the map.

Jolie Justus (D-10), hailing from Kansas City's left-leaning urban core, in January will serve a conservative district northwest of St. Louis for the last two years of the term.

Missouri voters can find their district on the Secretary of State website, [www.sos.mo.gov](http://www.sos.mo.gov).

Kansas voters can find their district at [www.openkansas.org/nzoschke@unews.com](http://www.openkansas.org/nzoschke@unews.com)

# ASK



## Student Peter Makori finds refuge in the U.S. after fleeing political retaliation in Kenya

**Roze Brooks** Copy Editor  
**Nathan Zoschke** Editor-in-Chief

*"It was dark and no one was around. They came out and told me, 'Say your last prayers!' Of course I silently said my last prayers, inside me. Just, 'Lord, take my soul. I am an innocent person.'"*

Senior communications studies major Peter Makori was certain he would be killed. Eight instances of arrests and detentions, tainted further by relentless beatings and unthinkable living conditions, haunt Makori on a regular basis. Claiming permanent residence in America after gaining political asylum wasn't something he had ever expected. In the '90s, Makori worked from his hometown base in the city of Kisii for *The Standard*, Kenya's oldest national daily newspaper. He devoted much of his reporting

to the investigation of injustices stemming from the corrupt government administration. A history of violence had manifested in this district. Makori had been in contact with the head of administration about the potential government involvement in extrajudicial killings and was assured the occurrences would be investigated. Once serving as a stringer, a part-time correspondent for BBC, Makori reported information to the British media outlet about a mass killing in the region, telling BBC to contact the aforementioned government official. He also worked with Reuters and the Associated Press from his base in Kisii. Displeased with this contact, the official contacted Makori inquiring if he had sent this information to the BBC. "During that time, the political establishment didn't like the style of my work," Makori said. He was not entirely aware of this tension at first, but started realizing which members of the administration found qualms with his work. In 2003, he took a lead from an early morning phone call about a suspicious killing of two chiefs, low level government officials, the

previous night in a neighboring town called Suneka. Makori made a call to the district commissioner, the official above the chiefs, to find that he was not home. Makori traveled to the scene. Upon arrival, he found a grade school teacher being bludgeoned with various weapons for allegedly killing the two chiefs. The district commissioner and the entire security detail oversaw the event. Makori took a photo of the scene. He was quickly arrested as an alleged accessory for the murders he was attempting to report. He was taken into custody and given minimal information. Later that night, he was transferred to a primitive area and waited until the next day when an armed police squad arrived, asking questions and expecting him to confess. They ordered him to strip down from the suit he had been wearing the previous morning, attempting to humiliate him. He was ordered to sit down on his underwear while they proceeded to tie his feet with a rope. "They beat me up very viciously. And they accused me of being an accessory for the murder [of one of the chiefs] that had happened," Makori said. "They wanted me to confess. I told



**Left:** A journalist by profession, UMKC senior Peter Makori documents his struggle for exoneration through a collection of article clippings. **Photo by Roze Brooks**

**Right:** Makori holds a 2006 opinion column he wrote in *The Kansas City Star*. **Photo by Nathan Zoschke**

them I am a man who believes in justice and I'm not going to confess on a murder that I do not know anything about how it happened." He was kicked, shoved face-first into walls and stepped on, resulting in serious injuries for which he received no medication or treatment. Stopping in the middle of a wooded area late at night, the policemen, with their guns drawn, and pointed at Makori and shouted, "Say your last prayers! This is the end of your life!" Makori felt death coming over him. His hands and feet were bound as he waited for a fatal shot. "I waited for them to pull the trigger," he said. "This was the height of extrajudicial lynchings. I couldn't run, I couldn't fight back." Luckily, he survived. The police gathered his swollen body, tossed him into a truck and transported him to another detention center. One of Makori's colleagues suffered a less fortunate fate at the same wooded area five years later. He was also a reporter who had

# Police Blotter

Sept. 28

**3:43 p.m.** *Property damage*  
Window screens were removed and damaged at the Oak Place Apartments.

**9:51 p.m.** *Drug offense*  
Officers stopped a car at 53rd and Charlotte streets, which resulted in an arrest for drug possession.

Sept. 29

**12:40 a.m.** *Warrant arrest*  
Officers stopped a car at Volker and Rockhill streets, which resulted in an arrest due to outstanding warrants.

**1:32 a.m.** *Disturbance*  
Officers responded to a report of a loud party at the Oak Place Apartments.

**3:05 a.m.** *Drug offense*  
Officers responded to a fire alarm at the Oak Place Apartments and found drugs at the location of the alarm.

**4:39 p.m.** *Property damage*  
A student parked his motorcycle in a parking lot near the Atterbury Student Success Center and returned to find it damaged and lying on the ground.

Oct. 1

**2:34 p.m.** *Larceny*  
A student left a cell phone in a classroom in Haag Hall and returned to find it missing.

Oct. 3

**4:27 p.m.** *University violation*  
Officers responded to the smell of marijuana at the Oak Place Apartments.

Oct. 4

**9:11 a.m.** *Property damage*  
A student returned to her vehicle in Parking Area 32N to find it had been damaged.

**3:24 p.m.** *Harassment*  
A student was harassed in Royall Hall by a non-affiliated person, whom officers advised not to return or be arrested.

# Prayer tent unites Christian students on campus

Riley Mortensen Senior Staff Writer

Each semester, the Unity in Christ sets up a 24-hour prayer tent, consisting of all Christian student organizations on campus.

Of the 16 religious groups on campus, 10 practice Christianity. Last week, Unity in Christ offered students and staff the opportunity to pray in a tent on the quad.

Senior Nicholas Ferguson has many personal stories about his beliefs and has a personal perspective as a Christian student on campus.

Ferguson, originally from St. Louis, has been a Christian for nearly 16 years. He discussed the moment he said that he first understood Christianity.

"I think I was six or seven and there were these big guys with huge muscles," Ferguson said. "They'd rip phone books and break baseball bats. They came to put on a show for the community, and at the end, they presented the gospel of the kingdom of God in a parable kind of illustration."

Ferguson recalled the story of a train conductor who brought his son to work. When the man needed to flip the switch and guide the train, he saw his son on the tracks and had to choose between his son or the people on the train who would crash if he didn't flip the switch.

"At that moment, I saw it," Ferguson said.



A 24-hour prayer tent is set up each semester on the quad by members of Unity in Christ. Photo by Riley Mortensen

Ferguson is also involved with the Luke18 Project, which he said aims to establish a place of revival at colleges across the U.S. where "the lost can come home and the love of Jesus is felt."

The group hosts a number of prayer and worship services on campus each week.

Ferguson said the prayer meetings are a source of spiritual guidance.

According to Ferguson, Jesus said Christians would experience persecution in the world. Ferguson said that he doesn't always expect to be treated fairly.

Thai Lam, an adviser for the Luke18

Project from the International House of Prayer, said that students looking to get involved can find more information about the Luke18 Project and other groups through the Roo Groups link on the Student Involvement website, [www.umkc.edu/getinvolved](http://www.umkc.edu/getinvolved).

"At UMKC it's hard because it's a commuter campus, but we have some amazing students and a lot of whole hearted students who love Jesus," Lam said, adding that he feels this is made evident by prayer week.

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Below: UMKC donated more than 400 pints of blood to the Community Blood Center last Wednesday, more than twice the amount donated last year. Photo by Sai Srikar Kadiyam

# Campus blood drive yields more than 400 pints

Riley Mortensen

Senior Staff Writer

UMKC donates more blood to the Community Blood Center of Kansas City than any other area college.

Last Wednesday, as part of UMKC's homecoming week activities, the Blood Mobile was parked in the quad outside of Royall Hall with hopes of passersby stopping to donate.

"You can donate blood every 56 days," said Pam Thorp, a Community Blood Center employee. "We supply 100 percent of all the blood to local hospitals. That's why it's so important that we get volunteers."

Last year, UMKC donated 150 pints of blood and this year, has already surpassed 400 pints. Thorp said she believes this is partly due to the number of deans at UMKC who

support the center and continue to invite it back. The drive was hosted by the College of Arts & Sciences.

Another donation day is set for November.

Kalo Hoyle, a freshman from the Conservatory and a first-time donor, said he wasn't nervous and that he will donate blood again.

Across the bus sat Joseph Tesoro, another freshman from the Conservatory who was also donating for the first time. Unlike Hoyle, Tesoro said he felt scared.

Thorp said UMKC is well on the way to becoming a Community Star Group, which is achieved by donating a large quantity of blood. The University will be recognized for the donations at a celebration in the spring.

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# Weep no more

## Controversial test may soon meet its demise

Nathan Zoschke

Editor-in-Chief

A new writing assessment could replace the Written English Proficiency Test next fall.

Passage of the WEPT has been a prerequisite for undergraduate graduation and enrollment in writing intensive (WI) courses at UMKC since the 1990s.

A proposal to replace the WEPT with RooWriter, an online self-assessment test, was presented to the Faculty Senate last Tuesday. A vote at next Tuesday's meeting will determine whether to advance the new concept.

RooWriter is a complete restructuring of the WEPT, which is offered twice each semester.

Undergraduates are eligible to take the WEPT after accumulating 45 credit hours and passing

English 225. Students who do not pass the WEPT must pass English 229 with a C or above.

Before taking the WEPT, students must enroll online and purchase a \$5 reading packet about a current events topic related to prompts on the exam.

Students taking the WEPT are given three hours to complete an argumentative handwritten essay.

Students taking RooWriter would be allotted three days to complete the online exam, and no student would be required to retake it.

Instead of giving students a pass or fail grade, the online exam would serve as a gauge for students, instructors and academic advisers to evaluate a student's writing ability.

Students could choose from five different reading packets, each addressing a topic related to a different academic discipline.

These packets would be available for students to download—at no cost—on the same website they would use to register and take the exam.

For years, the WEPT has persisted despite being unpopular with many students and instructors.

In April 2009, the Faculty Senate voted to create an ad hoc subcommittee of the Campus Writing Board to research alternatives to the test.

Dr. Stephen Dilks, director of composition, told the Faculty Senate that RooWriter could help boost undergraduate enrollment and retention by eliminating an unpopular exam, and could increase campus accountability to student writing.

"There's a lot of angst about the WEPT among students," Dilks said.

The WEPT is administered through the English Department under the direction of Dr. Lindsey Martin-Bowen, who created the test.

Martin-Bowen told *U-News* last year that the WEPT was necessary to prepare students for WI courses. "Perhaps students could view taking the exam as a 'privilege,' just as attending college is a privilege," Martin-Bowen said.

Faculty from other departments have questioned the test's pertinence to disciplines that use writing and citation styles other than MLA, which is a requirement of the WEPT.

would take the exam.

A different set of graders for each reading packet would be trained to evaluate and give feedback using a set of structured criteria.

RooWriter would be administered through the Writing Studio, although graders could be faculty from any UMKC school or department.

Those in favor of RooWriter believe the new exam would provide valuable feedback for instructors and academic advisers.

Dr. Nathan Oyler, associate professor of chemistry, dismissed concerns that eliminating the WEPT would make it difficult to gauge

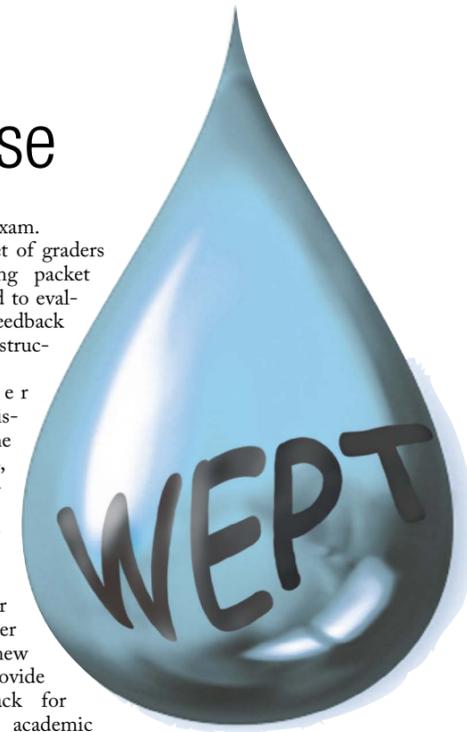


Photo Illustration by Meredith Shea

“This is about getting the WEPT to be something that's not a ridiculous waste of time. We want to make this as easy as possible for students to use.”

-Dr. Richard Delaware

plagiarism, but it's not worth it," Oyler said. "If you write a great essay [for the exam] and you're not a great writer, [your instructor] will know within two minutes when you turn in your first essay in class."

In addition, the copy/paste feature on the online exam could be disabled or limited to a certain number of characters. Different prompt questions for each reading packet could be drawn at random.

A word counter could be added to prevent students from submitting essays that are too long or too short.

Dilks said that the cost to administer RooWriter, estimated at \$30,000 per year, is a slight savings from the \$33,800 spent annually on the WEPT. However, this doesn't include RooWriter's initial startup cost.

If the Faculty Senate votes to advance the proposal next Tuesday, Delaware said there could be a one year overlap period next year when both tests are offered, after which the WEPT would likely become defunct.

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Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

## Sustainability Corner

A look into  
LEED

Student recognizes global problem with U.S. green building standards

Johanna Poppel  
Production Manager

In the late 1990s, the nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council set framework for implementing measurable environmental sustainable building design by using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification to rate the sustainability of buildings.

Various categories are in consideration for LEED certification: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation in design.

LEED certification progresses from basic to silver, gold and platinum based on these categories.

At UMKC, the Herman and Dorothy Johnson Residence Hall has basic certification and the Student Union is Gold LEED certified.

The USGBC has also been responsible for certifying projects in 30 other countries.

"LEED happened in the late 1990s in the U.S. In 2005, it tried to go global. This is where a problem started," said MPA student Sunny Sanwar.

While most industrial countries have their own sustainable standards for buildings, developing countries do not, and they pay application fees to the USGBC for recognition. Sanwar emphasized that U.S. criteria for sustainable development can't be universal.

"I wanted to make a more country-specific rating system. It needed to be more specific to the climate and environment in the country and would help the country's own economy,"

Sanwar said.

From 2008 to 2010 during his engineering undergraduate career at the University of Kansas, Sanwar spent summers on the board of the Bangladesh Green Building Council to develop sustainable building standards that are unconventional to Bangladesh's environment and natural resources.

"For example, certain window angles on houses would help heat homes in the U.S., but that would be wasteful in places where they don't need the sun's energy to heat homes," Sanwar said.

The starting goal of the council was unifying architects, engineers and professional building organizations in Bangladesh. They could then promote national certification and market positive aspects of sustainable building practices, such as energy efficiency, to clients.

Since Sanwar has been on the board, one of the biggest problems has been the country's limited resource base.

"Developing countries are having trouble with natural resources and using them efficiently, but they don't have any national or government support," Sanwar said.

Sanwar is on the advisory board for the council and has noticed progress in past years.

"So far, Bangladesh has become more efficient with their resources. With time I believe they will be able to shift to a sustainable market," Sanwar said.

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Discourses to replace A&S  
cluster courses

Michelle Heiman Copy Editor  
Mal Hartigan Managing Editor

Students pursuing an undergraduate degree in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to complete a junior or senior level "cluster course," which is included in the nine credit hours of general education requirements in the studies of humanities and fine arts.

Cluster courses, which are taught by two or more instructors from two or more disciplines, are designed to give students a more comprehensive understanding of a topic.

"Cluster courses are meant to counteract a tendency of requirements to make students very narrow," said Anthony Shiu, associate professor of English and chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee. "We don't want faculty/students to be sealed into their disciplines, but rather, we want them to be engaged in fruitful dialogue with other disciplines."

Shiu said the entire University is in the process of moving to new general education requirements, in which cluster courses will be phased out.

"In the new general education model, there are three 'discourses' that students across the University must fulfill," Shiu said. "Those discourses will have anchor courses, which are team-taught, interdisciplinary courses that function like cluster courses did. I think they have an added benefit with the name 'discourse,' because they stress writing, speech and civic engagement or public service."

By contrast, cluster courses have been specific to the College of Arts and Sciences, and one discipline must be from a department within the humanities.

Under the new model, there are no such requirements, and all the schools and colleges are involved. Shiu gave the example that the Bloch School could work with the Department of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design (AUP+D).

"It creates an opportunity for exciting courses that speak to people's individual majors and interests," Shiu said.

Becky Bergman, director of A&S

Advising, said most students have found cluster courses interesting, but demanding.

"[Students] like the tag-team teaching," she said. "In the almost 13 years I've worked in A&S Advising, I have gotten very little negative feedback from students after they have taken a cluster course."

Dr. Frances Connelly, professor of Art and Art History, is currently teaching a cluster course called "Making the Modern in France."

The course examines artistic developments in France from 1860 to 1914 through the lenses of dance, art history and French literature.

"In any given class, we might discuss Degas' paintings of the ballet and all the backstage goings-on, then have a live demonstration of the kinds of ballet movements that were used at that time," Connelly said.

"The next class might discuss a short story by Flaubert about Salome, then look at the femme fatale imagery of the time, followed by a guest lecture on the scandalous 1905 opera production by Strauss."

Connelly said she is learning from her colleagues, Sabrina Madison-Cannon from the Conservatory and Gayle Levy from the French Department.

"It's important to point out that cluster courses don't just have faculty from different disciplines; they have students from an even wider range of disciplines. This makes for great questions and student projects, and particularly interesting discussions in class," Connelly said.

"Cluster courses ask you to focus on interconnections and disparities. Taking different perspectives and diverse kinds of information and finding ways to make sense of them is a very useful thing to do."

Professors can approach one another and discuss planning a cluster course to overlap their areas of study. Associate Professor of German Larson Powell is currently teaching a German Studies cluster course with Dr. Andrew Bergerson, which overlaps German and History.

Powell and Bergerson are close colleagues and planned the course's content over the summer.

"The fact that we both have

broad interests means that we are more interested to doing this kind of work," Powell said. "So the cluster course has been kind of natural for us."

Two professors teaching one class can often confuse or frustrate students if the course is not effectively organized, but Powell said he and Bergerson put a lot of preparation into each class period.

"There are hours of preparation that go into each class," Powell said. "I like to have a really good structure in place for the class at the beginning, and then we can improvise around that structure. It's really important to have a good structure there so students know what we are doing and what their expectations are. Otherwise, it can get very frustrating [for students]."

When planning content for the German Studies course, Powell said it was "a little bit like the greatest hits. There are certain things you have to include in the Top 40."

In the past, Powell taught a cluster course with Dr. Michelle Boisseau that overlapped German and English, and focused on poetry and its translation.

Powell said he also spoke with Dr. Brenda Bethman, director of the Women's Center, about teaching a cluster course together because of her extensive knowledge about German literature and women's studies.

Preparing an organized cluster course can take a long time.

"It can take anywhere from a couple of months to half a year," Powell said. "Politicians think we only work when we're in the classroom, but most of the work we do is on our own time."

For more information about the new curriculum direction for General Education requirements, see <http://info.umkc.edu/genedoversight/documents/> for the February 2012 report from the General Education Oversight Committee to the Faculty Senate. The model chosen is Model 2, with anchor courses, capstone courses and platform courses.

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## student profile

## Vincent Cannady

## Graduate student still haunted by memories of 1988 plane crash

Kharissa Forte Senior Staff Writer

Vincent Cannady, a 46-year-old political science graduate student, is both a tranquil, farm dwelling cowboy and a hardcore U.S. Army veteran. His life's journey is rich in narratives of a double-minded upbringing, war, tragedy and successful business ventures. As a student suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), he strives to make a difference at UMKC.

Born in Durham, N.C. and raised in Raeford, N.C., Cannady lived a dual lifestyle.

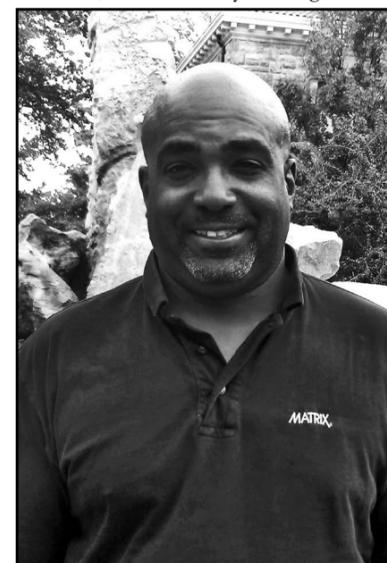
"I was this poor farm boy during the school year, but in the summer I was a rich kid when I stayed with my dad [in Durham]," he said.

In 1985, Cannady graduated early from Vincent High School after completing basic training for the Army that summer.

"I didn't have to go to high school my senior year because I had enough credits," Cannady said.

Instead, he went into the Army and served as a combat medic. Cannady had served in the Army for only three years when his life was struck by a tragedy that still heavily impacts him today: The Ramstein Air Show Crash of 1988.

Cannady was a visiting combat medic in Ramstein, West Germany. The night before



Vincent Cannady today. Photo by Kharissa Forte

the air show, his lieutenant took him and

other members of his troop to the officer's club where different military officers were socializing.

"I remember seeing this Italian officer with four models on his arm," he said. "They were all carrying drinks and putting drinks in his mouth. I didn't know who he was until the day after the accident."

The next day, Cannady's commander sent him to the air show in uniform to show support for the Air Force. Cannady took his German girlfriend with him.

"My girlfriend and I were going to the vending machine to grab a beer," he said. "The next thing we knew, there was an explosion."

Two groups of planes were supposed to form two hearts while another plane was supposed to fly through them, creating the illusion that it was piercing the hearts. The "piercing" aircraft collided into the "heart" planes and crash-landed onto the runway below. When it fell, fuselage and fuel rolled into the spectator area of nearly 300,000 people.

While this was happening, another one of the "heart" planes damaged by the first collision crashed into the emergency helicopter nearby.

A third aircraft disintegrated due to the heat from the explosions and fires from the first impacts. Pieces of the plane flew into the crowd. Cannady and his girlfriend were smashed against a tree as people trampled by them.

Cannady suffered many injuries, but as a combat medic, he had to clean up the bodies.

"They say there were 77 people who were killed, but I swear it was at least 115. I think they only counted the American bodies," he said.

What hurt Cannady the most was finding women and children.

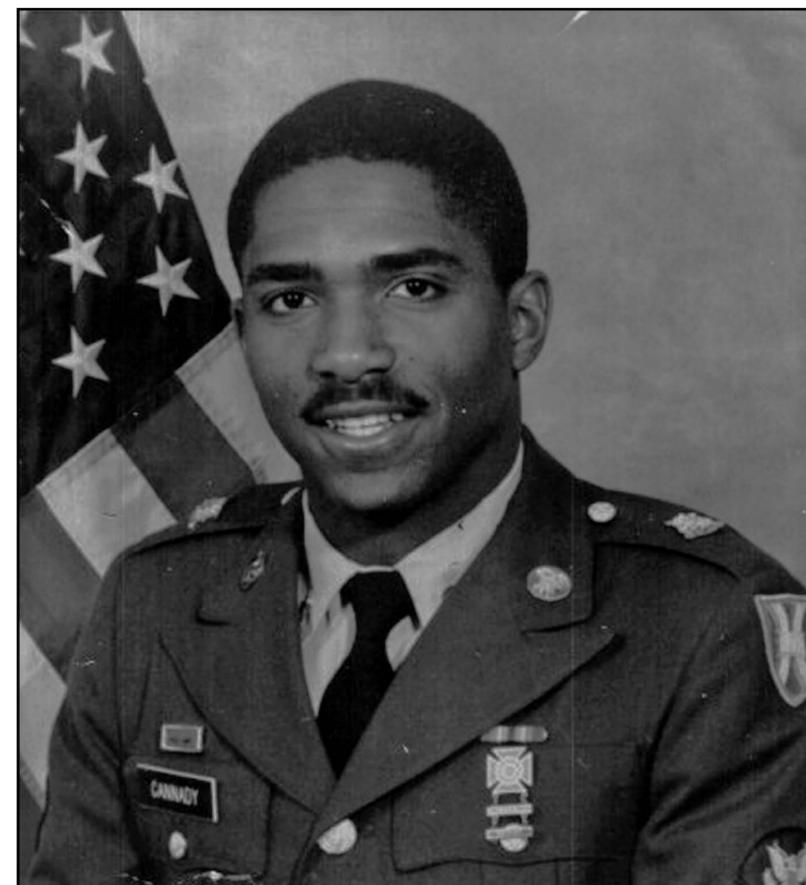
"I saw babies," he said. "My friends' sons and daughters soaked in jet fuel. It fried their lungs. I was the one that found them. Wars? Nothing. But, seeing kids ... women ... I lasted about three more months in the military after that."

Cannady believes this triggered PTSD. "I was having nightmares. I would see people burst into flames," he said.

In 1989, he was discharged from the military and began a college career at DeVry. Cannady said he became a beach bum for a few years after leaving the Army.

"I didn't know who I was. I lived on the beach and it was great," he said.

After meandering through jobs for nearly



Vincent Cannady in uniform.

Photo courtesy of Vincent Cannady

six years, he got his big break and became a self-acclaimed internet-cell-phone-guru.

"I stumbled into a job at Motorola where we developed something called HDML, hand held device markup language. I was one of the first five engineers to work on internet markup language," Cannady said.

Becoming an innovator in technology communication opened the door for Cannady to create a comfortable lifestyle for himself.

But PTSD had a profound effect on his personal life.

"I didn't know I had it back then," he said, "but I am sure it is what caused the dissolution of my first marriage." Depressed and without hope, Cannady said that he attempted suicide, but was saved by his dog.

"He hit the gun and the bullet went into the ceiling," he said.

Soon after, he met his current wife, a woman from England.

"We went to Las Vegas with her sister and mom and got married at the Chapel of Dreams," he said.

After Cannady received a lucrative job offer from Sprint, the couple moved to Overland Park, Kan. Upon settling down, Cannady's desire was to earn his Ph.D. in political science. After doing some research, he chose UMKC. Here, Cannady uses his life experiences to help other students with

disabilities. He is currently organizing a group called Disabled Students in Higher Education that focuses on advocacy. The group already has 20 members and five officers.

"My experiences here at UMKC drove me to create this group," he said. "I realized that I wasn't receiving the right accommodations. I talked to other disabled students and they said the same thing."

Cannady explained not only war veterans suffer from PTSD.

"PTSD can come from rape. It can come from a car accident. It can come from any event that has traumatized you," Cannady said.

Cannady said his goal is to see all students with disabilities accommodated. "PTSD is a disability. Attention deficit disorder is a disability. Test anxiety is a disability," he said. "The list of disabilities is so huge and most of them are unseen. Students who suffer with these things need to know and need to be accommodated appropriately. All it takes is proper documentation from a psychologist," he said.

For more information about Disabled Students in Higher Education, visit [www.dsbe.org](http://www.dsbe.org).

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# Makori: Continued from Page 5

investigated corruption within the police force. When the police realized that he was unrelenting, they sent a decoy to trick him into attending a purported press conference.

Not knowing what awaited him, the colleague was abducted, subdued and taken into a secluded area.

When night came, the police, together with a local militia whose activities Makori had investigated, tortured, decapitated, disfigured the man and burned his body.

"If the police want to kill you, they do," Makori said. "If the members of Parliament who are supposed to protect the Constitution are the ones circumventing it, what could we expect from the police?"

Makori was hauled back to jail and was overwhelmed by the stench of urine and human feces in a small cell that he shared with 50-70 other people, many of whom were hardcore criminals. The bodies were stacked like animals in a cage.

"For the next 10-11 days, I was held there and didn't eat food," Makori said. "It was a very bad place and it was infested with rodents and mosquitos."

Makori was produced in court on the 14th day of his arrest, which is mandatory under Kenyan law.

"I faced a murder charge, which I still don't know to this day how it happened or who did it," Makori said.

Makori was taken to Kisii prison, where he spent seven months detained in a 10'x10' cell with eight other people. No trial was scheduled.

After bitterly complaining to the judiciary about the slow pace of the case, the high court in Kisii sent the case to Kisumu, the provincial headquarters.

It was in Kisumu that justice Barbara Tanui observed something was "fishy" about the case and threatened to have it sent back to Kisii.

The Kisii judge did not follow procedure to send the case to Kisumu, Justice Tanui said.

Makori pleaded to the judge not to send the case back to Kisii. He was sent to Kodiaga, a notorious prison near Lake Victoria. Prisoners used sewage-contaminated water to shower and drink.

"No one goes to Kodiaga and comes out alive," he said. "But I kept the hope that since I was innocent and my conscience was clear, I would have to fight and get myself out of this trap. One thing which kept my hope alive was 'The Long Walk to Freedom' by Nelson Mandela."

Makori wrote a letter to the Attorney General, demanding evidence linking him to the murder and an immediate trial.

Many human rights organizations took particular interest in this case, including Amnesty International.

Finally appearing before the High Courts, Makori insisted he was a victim of malice.

He told the Attorney General, "I am here because your office wants me dead."

The judges acknowledged that something was awry, following up a month later with orders from the Attorney General stating that Makori's arrest had been carried out with malicious intent.

Makori was set free unconditionally.

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## A decade of legal abuse

Makori was arrested for the first time in 1994 under accusations of subversion. Later, it was substituted with a more serious charge of sedition.

This seems to be the case with each instance of arrest occurring in the decade following his first run in with the authorities.

In the same year, he was charged with publishing alarming reports in a story which are drawn from a previous year.

In 1995, Makori was charged with defaming an assistant minister in a story which was drawn from a year before when he

“They have to answer as long as I am alive, because I’m going to pursue it. Someone somewhere has to be held accountable.”

-Peter Makori

had investigated and exposed the destruction of a water catchment forest in Kisii. No evidence.

In 1996, he was charged with defaming three ministers. No evidence.

A 1998 charge for possession of 100 liters of traditional brew? No evidence.

This trend leading up to the brutal arrest and near death experiences of 2003 finally pushed Makori over the edge.

In 1998, Makori received a fellowship to study community radio programs in Denmark.

Upon his return, he opted to sue for being unrightfully arrested and compensation was ordered in the form of nearly \$20,000 worth of his native currency. He later again sued for nearly \$7,000.

It was soon after the government realized it was losing these cases that his catastrophic arrest occurred.

In 2004, a colleague from New York went to visit Makori in Nairobi and inquired about his situation. He admitted that his personal safety was at risk.

Working with Amnesty International, they determined the safest method to flee to South Africa or Europe.

In 2005, Elizabeth Witchel, a member of

the Committee to Protect Journalists, asked Makori to apply for an international press fellowship that ultimately brought him to the U.S.

"I didn't know I would be selected to participate in the fellowship program," Makori said. "The interviewing process is rigorous, and the competition was very tight."

Makori spent his first two weeks in the U.S. in Washington, D.C. on the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships.

After a two-week orientation, Makori was reassigned to work at *The Kansas City Star*.

During his time there, the Kenyan National Commission on Human Rights summoned him to appear before a quasi-judicial tribunal in the first trial of its kind before a human rights panel.

Before coming to the U.S., Makori had instituted civil litigation targeting the attorney general of Kenya, the police commissioner, officers at the Office of the President and individual policemen for the 2003-2004 arrests, torture and detention.

The night before the hearing, two individuals Makori intended to call forward as witnesses were killed.

"Tension was quite high, and my friends in the media industry were telling me that I should be careful, so I went underground when I was in Nairobi," Makori said.

"I had to play a trick with the authorities. I went on the radio and said, 'I knew some people in the government were out to get me. I am going to remain in Kenya and face with anyone who believes that there was something wrong I had done.'"

No one came forward. Makori presented his own evidence against the entire government, receiving the equivalent of nearly \$85,000 in compensation for defamation and torture that is still accruing interest.

Money isn't the final appeasement for Makori.

No sentencing has been passed for the death of the chiefs, one of whom Makori was accused of killing.

"That is the fundamental question that I want answered by the authorities in Kenya," Makori said. "They have to answer as long as I am alive, because I'm going to pursue it. Someone somewhere has to be held accountable."

Last year, Makori wrote a letter to the Kenyan attorney general from his base in America demanding that he open investigations on the chiefs' killings.

"In that letter, I informed the attorney general that I have reasons to believe the

security officials in Kisii were involved in the killing of the two chiefs, and that is why I was used as a scapegoat to cover up the killings," Makori said.

The complaint was referred from the attorney general to the director of public prosecutions, with whom Makori said he is currently pursuing the matter.

"It is in the best interest of justice for me and the relatives of the slain victims that the case is opened up," Makori said. "I conducted my own independent investigations before I came to America. I have overwhelming evidence that will expose security officials in Kisii as complicit in the killing of the two chiefs, by at the very minimum failing to protect their lives."

He holds an associate's degree in liberal arts. Anticipating graduation in May, Makori wishes to pursue a master's in public administration, contemplating a focus in law.

"You can see why I want to do law here," he said. "My focus is to work with the UN, Human Rights Watch or Amnesty International so we can protect the many people in difficult situations in the different countries of Africa like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where people are suffering so much. They could take advantage of my resources."

Makori still feels like the time he spent in the filthy Kenyan jail cell happened just yesterday.

"This instance made me sick. I was very sick when I came to America," he said. "I became very ill. I suffered a severe headache from time to time. I thought my life would never be the same again."

Clippings from *The Kansas City Star* and several Kenyan newspapers covering his hearing show Makori sobbing at the witness stand.

Makori, thanks to his coverage of Kenya, received an award recognizing his distinguished work as a columnist for global issues from the National Association of Black Journalists-Kansas City Chapter while he worked at the *Kansas City Star*.

"I had never cried, and I didn't realize that crying could heal someone's heart," he said. "I felt relieved. It [eventually] occurred to me that there was a lot of pain in my heart for a long time, and from time to time that I talked about this, I cried."

This particular retelling of his story didn't elicit the same torrent of tears that occurred the day of the hearing, but Makori admitted to enduring headaches throughout his narration.

"I look at myself and think I don't know what happened," he said, "but I made it."

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# Longboarding across campus

## Students enjoy skating into their college years

Dan Moreno Staff Writer  
Tyren Rushing Staff Writer

As the wheels whirred and rolled from Phil Bolin's and Ben Cochran's boards, their graceful motions resembled a solitary dance, and it was clear this filled them with passion.

They were intent on their movements, yet reflected serenity on their faces. Passersby stopped to watch, captivated by the sounds and speed.

Skateboarding became immortalized by Bart Simpson in the opening credits of "The Simpsons." Tony Hawk sold millions of copies of his skateboarding video game

franchise, and ESPN helped to usher the sport into the mainstream when the X-Games started airing in 1995.

But most people don't realize there are two types of boards that skaters commonly use.

Both Cochran and Bolin agreed skateboarding and longboarding are far from the same thing.

The more common skateboard averages seven to 10 inches in width and is 28-33 inches long.

The deck is usually made of wood, features a decorative underside and the top is covered in grip tape to help the skater stay on.

On the other hand, longboards usually measure nine-10 inches in width and 33-59 inches in

length, and aren't commonly used for performing tricks. The wheels are higher and wider, which gives the board more stability than a skateboard.

"Longboarding serves a different market. Kids from 11 to 18 years old skateboard, but longboarding targets older people like us," Bolin said.

Not everyone can longboard. Those who practice have a lot of experience and have learned from many injuries.

"I never skateboarded, because you have to start young and be really good at it, but I started longboarding four years ago," Cochran said.



Phil Bolin enjoys skateboarding outside of the new Cherry Street parking garage. Photo by Dan Moreno

Continued on Page 10

## player profile

# Antoine Rozner

## From Paris, France to the Paris of the Plains



Antoine Rozner poses next to Casey the Kangaroo.

Photo courtesy of Antoine Rozner

## Meredith Shea

Production Manager

Paris native and UMKC freshman business major Antoine Rozner is the 24th best golfer in the French amateur rankings and the 700th best golfer in the world. Rozner found himself in Kansas City when UMKC men's golf coach J.W. VanDenBorn recruited him for the team.

Rozner's successes include a 2011 3rd place finish in the Doral Publix Championship (DPC) in Miami, where he competed against players from around the world. The DPC hosts over 680 golfers and is one of the biggest international junior golf tournaments in the U.S. VanDenBorn was able to watch Rozner play in the DPC.

"I had a chance to see him the night before the Doral tournament and have dinner and talk," VanDenBorn said.

"I had a great feeling with [VanDenBorn]," Rozner said. "I heard a lot of good things about UMKC so I felt good about coming here."

VanDenBorn said he has been trying to make

a connection with French amateur golfers, and was finally able to do so with Rozner.

"I was able to watch him in his practice round and first round. It was easy to see he had the tools to compete. From then on, I aggressively recruited him. I'm very fortunate that he chose UMKC," VanDenBorn said.

Rozner has had early success with UMKC's golf team. At his first tournament of the season in Pawley's Island, S.C., he finished fifth individually with four under par (71-71-70), and led the team to a seventh place finish.

"My first goal is to win a lot of tournaments with the team and to play the best I can," Rozner said.

Although Rozner did not perform as well individually during the team's second and third tournaments, he helped the team to fourth and seventh place finishes overall.

Every time Rozner approaches a golf ball, he simply thinks about where he wants the ball to land.

"I'm focused on what I have to do to hit a good shot," he said.

Rozner comes from a golf family and has been golfing for over 10 years.

"My parents played a lot of golf. I started with them," he said.

His mother, Laurence, and older brother, Olivier, also compete at the amateur level in France.

Rozner said the rules of golf are the same in France, but the level of competition is different. He does not think the players in France are as good as players in the U.S.

"In France, you can not play well at UMKC, he is unsure about his future plans after graduation: golf or business?"

"I can go pro or I can go back to France. I will see how good my golf is after UMKC and I will have a good degree," he said.

Luckily, he has three more years to decide.

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health journal

## Aerobic VS. anaerobic workouts

Kharissa Forte Copy Editor

Being healthy involves more than eating a well-balanced diet. Good exercise is a significant partner to whole living.

Whether you're trying to lose weight, tone up or maintain fitness goals, one of the biggest questions concerning exercise is which is most beneficial: cardio or lifting weights? The answer may be a surprise – it takes a little bit of both.

Aerobic exercise comes from the Greek word "aero," which means "air," and focuses on the cardiovascular operation of the body. Exercises like jogging, swimming and bike riding benefit the heart and lungs. According to *LIVESTRONG.com*, cardio exercise "is the efficiency of the heart, lungs and vascular system in delivering oxygen to the working muscle tissues so that prolonged physical work can be maintained."

A regular cardio workout, about half an hour daily, is great for the heart as it considerably decreases the chance of experiencing heart disease and other heart related illnesses, as well as diabetes and even cancer. Aerobic workouts build endurance and are an effective way to lose weight.

Anaerobic exercise means "without air," and places emphasis on the muscles. Push-ups and pull-ups, yoga and weight lifting build resistance. *LIVESTRONG.com* says "these workouts push your muscles to work against above-average resistance to strengthen the muscles."

The benefits of anaerobic exercise include protection from falls, joint support and a toned body.

If you're afraid to work out anaerobically because your goal is to lose weight, keep in mind that anaerobic exercise reduces body fat and is a necessary supplement to your cardio routine.

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## Skaters: Continued from Page 9

Bolin has skated much longer. "I started skateboarding when I was 13 and just started longboarding this year, so it has been 11 years all together," he said.

Skateboarders perform more tricks and maneuvers, while longboarders enjoy skating at faster speeds in addition to performing tricks. It depends on each person's style.



Ben Cochran picked up longboarding as a hobby four years ago and hasn't looked back.

Photo by Dan Moreno

"Longboarding is like snowboarding, but instead of doing it on snow, you do it on concrete," Bolin said.

Cochran and Bolin can be found longboarding through campus, which can be impressive to witness.

"The campus is actually a great place to longboard, as long as there is no traffic," Cochran said.

If they aren't on campus, they are typically at Shawnee Mission Park, practicing new tricks and sharing skills with fellow boarders.

Senior Kurt Nichols can often be seen riding or carrying his oak colored long board around campus. "If I come directly from my apartment it takes 10-15 minutes to get here," he said. "Some days I'll drive, and do off campus parking and skateboard from there. But I always have my board with me. It's a lot more convenient."

Nichols doesn't do any tricks on his board but instead prefers to just coast.

"The longboard is more for cruising," said Nichols. "You listen to music and have the wind go by you, it's very relaxing. When I longboard I get going pretty fast. But when you're on a nice gradual hill, you just kind of chill and cruise along. It's a really mellow experience and pretty awesome."

Sophomore Stephon Regan, who uses a short board, is more cautious.

Many skaters are apprehensive of areas like the University where there is high police presence. Short boarders and the law have notoriously clashed over the years.

Practicing the sport would not be as fun without its dangers. For Bolin, injuries are something he does not worry about, but acknowledges he has luckily avoided extreme injuries.

"I usually sprain myself or get gashes, but other than that, I have been very fortunate," he said.

Regan welcomes the risk of injury. "The biggest risk would be not doing it, I guess," he said.

"I'm not really worried about getting hurt. Getting hurt means that you're trying something new. It shows that you're really willing to push that boundary - that's how you know it's something you really love."

Longboards aren't cheap, so skaters have to save money to have the best equipment.

"My boards are all custom-made. I have designed them myself and they usually range from \$200-400 each," Bolin said.

"My board is about one and a half inches thick, made of really solid wood and has never even cracked," Cochran said.

Cochran and Bolin have different thoughts about their futures with longboarding. Cochran wants to compete one day.

"I do plan on it [competing], and maybe in the future even open up a longboard store," he said.

On the other hand, Bolin said he doesn't plan on longboarding for a living. He is happy with longboarding as a hobby and a way to commute from his house to the University.

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## Nursing School hosts Wiffle Ball tournament

Michelle Heiman

Copy Editor



The Florence Nightin Whalers won the School of Nursing's inaugural wiffle ball tournament. Photo courtesy of Alumni Constituent Relations

A wiffle ball tournament last Saturday, Oct. 6 gave bragging rights to the Florence Nightin Whalers outside the Health Science Building on the Hospital Hill campus. Two teams registered for the inaugural event.

The tournament, organized by the School of Nursing Alumni Association Board of Directors under the guidance of Dean Lora Lacey-Haun, included fall and ballpark-themed snacks like popcorn, cotton candy and caramel apples. Registration was free, and the organizing committee plans to continue the event annually, separating it more in the future from Homecoming week.

Wiffle ball was chosen rather than another sport such as kickball because of the light-weight balls and the competition.

"Wiffle balls hopefully won't break any building or car windows," said Amy Loughman, director of Alumni Constituent Relations. "It's a team sport that will take participants back to their childhood days and promote fun rivalry between faculty/staff, students and alumni."

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# Hispanic Heritage Month

## UMKC students reflect diversity of growing U.S. Latino population



Top left: Andres Chaurand  
Top right: Angelica Beltran  
Above, left: Vemexi Ruiz de Chavez  
Above, right: Diego Rojas  
Below, right: Karia Soto

Photos by Kate Baxendale



Kate Baxendale

Senior Staff Writer

The increase in Hispanic enrollment at UMKC in recent years reflects the growing Hispanic population of the U.S.

One in six Americans is of Hispanic descent, and that proportion is on track to double by 2050.

National Hispanic Heritage Month, held annually from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, is a growing phenomenon.

Like other groups that have come together to form a unique identity, Latinos in the U.S. often celebrate aspects of both Latin American and U.S. culture.

Even within the Hispanic community, there is a broad degree of diversity.

This is reflected in the stories and experiences of Latino students at UMKC.

Sophomore Vemexi Ruiz de Chavez is a native of Kansas City. Her smile emits a friendly and approachable vibe.

Her name is a combination of the words

“When I first came to UMKC, I felt that there wasn't a very high population of Latino students, but once I became a part of ALAS, I got to know a lot more Latino students. I feel like we are really making an impact.”

-Angelica Beltran

Venezuela and Mexico, the countries her parents are from.

"I've had about, maybe three or four people [at UMKC] ask me if I'm mixed, and I said, 'No, I'm not mixed. I'm Latin,'" Ruiz de Chavez said. "I've had a lot of people ask me about my name, so that's usually how the whole Latin American thing [comes up]."

Ruiz de Chavez said she has not experienced discrimination at UMKC. She has, however, dealt with ignorance outside of UMKC.

"Because my dad is Mexican, a lot of people assume that he is an illegal immigrant," she said. "So a lot of people thought I was an illegal immigrant. I used to get a lot of jokes in high school about me having to jump the fence to get here even though I was born here. My dad did not come here illegally."

Ruiz de Chavez has traveled to both Venezuela and Mexico.

Religion and fashion are marked differences between the two countries and the U.S.

"One big thing I do notice in Mexico is Catholicism," she said. "At my grandma's house, there are pictures of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe and crosses all over the house. They [my family] go to church every Sunday. It's the same way with my grandma in Venezuela"

Femininity is also expected of women in Venezuela.

"Women in Kansas City aren't always super dressed-up, like wearing high heels and super-tight dresses," she said. "But in Venezuela, women are always dressed up. Most of them by about 16 or 17 have had plastic surgery."

Angelica Beltran, a junior finance major, is also a Kansas City native, but both of her parents are from the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

Beltran is also president of ALAS, the Association of Latin American Students, a group that celebrates Latino culture at UMKC.

"When I first came to UMKC, I felt that there wasn't a very high population of Latino students," Beltran said. "I know for a fact that not many Latinos do pursue the college experience, but once I became a part of ALAS, I got to know a lot more Latino students. I feel like we are really making an impact."

Last year, the group held its inaugural conference, which the group plans to hold each year.

Beltran said that because UMKC's Latino population is growing, recruiting students for ALAS hasn't been a problem.

Beltran said she hasn't personally faced discrimination, but she is familiar with other Latinos who have not been as fortunate.

"I personally have not been discriminated against, because I have lived here all my life," she said. "You can't tell that I'm Mexican. I went to a predominately white high school, and I never had any problems."

Beltran used to travel to her parents' hometown of Camargo, Chihuahua, near the Texas border every summer until she turned 15.

Drug violence has devastated the city. "There have been a lot of killings where my parents are from because of the drug cartels," she said.

Beltran hopes to be able to return to Camargo in the near future when it is safe again.

Junior communications studies major Karia Soto moved to the U.S. from Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico when she was 9.

"I feel very honored to be bicultural," Soto said. "My experience at UMKC has been great. I feel like I can communicate with Latinos who were born here just as well as those who emigrated here. I feel like it's a big opportunity. It's cool to have both languages

Continued on Page 14

# The evolution of Homecoming at UMKC

Cyrus Manian Staff Writer

The tradition of Homecoming in the UM System dates back to 1911 when the University of Missouri invited all alumni "back home" to encourage attendance at the football game against its biggest rival, the Kansas Jayhawks.

Homecoming is typically associated with a dance or football game, but with the lack of a football team, UMKC featured homecoming with its basketball team.

UMKC first held Homecoming when the school was Kansas City University.

The school joined intercollegiate athletics with the establishment of a basketball team in 1954.

Before this time, sports at KCU were solely intramural.

On Feb. 5, one year after the establishment of an intercollegiate basketball team, the Alumni Association sponsored KCU's first

homecoming. The Homecoming events included a barbecue, an alumni banquet and a basketball game against Iowa's Graceland College.

During halftime, the homecoming committee crowned the first KCU Homecoming Queen. After the game, the newly crowned Queen led students and alumni to the Homecoming Ball.

The event was deemed a success, with more than 400 alumni and 1000 students in attendance.

Homecoming was meant to be an annual event, but failed to keep with tradition every year.

"UMKC's homecomings in the past were pretty sporadic," said Tonya Crawford, UMKC senior archive specialist.

Crawford noted that in the '60s and '70s, UMKC did not have a basketball team, but later reinstated it at the demand of many students.

In the mid-'70s, UMKC attempted to revive the Homecoming tradition with a 1930s theme. This plan failed, according to *The Kansas City Star*.

Crawford explained Homecoming was never the biggest event at UMKC. Other dances, like the "Kangaroo Hop," exceeded in popularity.

Despite occasional downfalls, UMKC persists in attempts to revive the tradition of homecoming and modify the event to fit modern society.

More recently, Homecoming is paired with UMKC's soccer team.

Homecoming still includes a multitude of events sponsored by the Alumni Association.

This year the events included a golf cart parade, soccer game, a hypnotist, the unveiling of the Atterbury Student Success Center and several others.

The festivities have developed in recent years to cater to the dramatic increase in

students. And the quality of events has improved.

The Alumni Association sponsors events spanning across an entire week instead of merely a few days.

These events commenced on Monday, Oct. 1 with "Good Morning Roos," hosted by the Activity and Program Council (APC).

APC handed out snacks and information about getting involved. The Homecoming events concluded with the UMKC vs. Oral Roberts soccer game on Saturday, Oct. 6 and the results of the Roo Cut-out Contest

With a few sporadic bumps in the road, UMKC has successfully provided students with a Homecoming to remember for more than 60 years.

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# Dec-a-Roo

## Students show artistic prowess in cutout decorating competition

Roze Brooks Copy Editor

UMKC Student Organizations had the opportunity to get creative for Homecoming week with the Roo Cutout Contest. Receiving a carbon copy wooden cutout of a kangaroo from the Office of Student Involvement, participants had until Oct. 1 to submit their finished products.

OSI provided a resource room full of supplies that any organization was eligible to use, including dozens of different colored construction papers, glitter, paint and everything else one would find in a kindergarten craft room. Organizations also had the option of purchasing and using their own supplies.

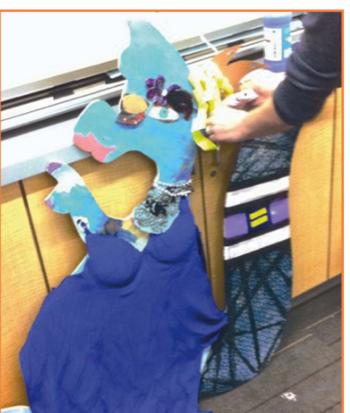
Newspaper clippings, thrift store dresses and fishnet material were among some of the interesting items displayed on this year's Roo contenders.

Each cutout was hung from the fence surrounding the soccer field, facing 51st Street soon after submission. Judges inspected the projects on Thursday evening. The results were held and announced at the Homecoming soccer game on Oct. 6.

The judges included UMKC Bookstore manager Pete Eisentrager, US Bank Manager Amanda Brown, Assistant Vice Provost for Assessment Nathan Lindsay and Arts and Sciences Adviser Rosa Nunez. The criteria for judging was based on creativity and school spirit.

Ribbons for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places were displayed for everyone to see on Saturday evening during the Homecoming soccer game.

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Above: Bradley Leach and Wendy Casebier decorate the Queer Alliance kangaroo with a festive dress and fishnet tail.

Left: The Beta Theta Pi kangaroo sports a classic American theme with the Stars and Stripes.

Center: The Multicultural Student Affairs office goes for a classic bombshell look.

Photos by Roze Brooks

# HYPNOTIZED

## 'Trance Lady' visits UMKC to teach hypnotic method

Kynslie Otte Senior Staff Writer

Dr. Joanna Cameron, a clinical hypnotherapist, performed as the "Trance Lady" for the second year in a row on Oct. 3 at the Student Union as part of APC's Homecoming activities. Cameron is an author, entertainer, speaker and professional therapist who bases her work around hypnotherapy. She has practiced hypnotherapy for 14 years, and was the first hypnotist to visit UMKC.

Cameron kicked off the event by engaging the audience in several introductory hypnosis exercises. In a matter of minutes, most skeptics became believers, and audience members were eager to rush to the stage for a chance to become completely hypnotized.

Cameron assured the audience she would not be able to force the hypnotized participants to do anything morally or ethically unacceptable.

"A hypnotized person is awake and aware of what is going on," Cameron said. "In fact, they are an active participant in the hypnotic process."

Participants who were not completely submerged in what Cameron calls "the trance state" were politely asked to leave the stage. Those who were hypnotized were then instructed to do a number of silly things. For

example, Cameron told members of the group they were Disney characters running for president, and they were to tell the audience who they were and why they should be elected. One participant claimed to be Tarzan and jumped around on all fours as if he were a gorilla, beating his chest and speaking in broken English.

Participants also impersonated Michael Jackson, Lady Gaga and Britney Spears, were convinced they knew how to hypnotize a plush chicken, rode an imaginary roller coaster, mimicked the movements of a plush monkey and pretended to be 7-year-olds who disliked their teachers.

Freshman Kylie Galant participated, and even cried when Cameron told her she no longer had her belly button. Galant was arguably one of the most active and entertaining participants.

Galant described slipping into hypnosis as a heavy feeling.

"It was kind of like something was pushing on me, and I was totally relaxed and floating," she said.

Galant was able to recall the majority of her actions while onstage.

"I'm a little embarrassed. I think I did the splits," she said of her impersonation of Lady Gaga.

Galant said she enjoyed the experience, and would be willing

to do it again. Though Cameron has now performed twice at UMKC, her audience is not limited to college students. She recently traveled to Germany to perform for members of the U.S. Army, and offers her services to anyone interested.

In addition to being an entertainer, Cameron has worked in several other fields. For example, she has worked with the police to help officers remember license plate numbers through hypnosis. As a therapist, Cameron uses hypnosis to help her clients with weight loss, pain, phobias, post-traumatic stress and even anesthesia for those allergic to tangible anesthetics.

Cameron's most recent project is the development of a reality TV show that will track the progress of people using her hypnotic methods.

"We'll be making changes in their lives while entertaining them at the same time," she said.

Cameron's performance was a wildly entertaining addition to UMKC's Homecoming activities, and many will look forward to another potential performance next year.

For more information about the "Trance Lady," visit Cameron's website at <http://joannacameron.com/>.

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Above: Dr. Joanna Cameron, a clinical hypnotherapist, visited UMKC last Wednesday to introduce students to her specialty.

Below: Cameron teaches students how to hypnotize a chicken, and manages to put one of them to sleep in the process.

Photos by Sai Srikar Kadiyam





In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Association of Latin American Students and Multicultural Student Affairs hosted *Latinos con Sabor*, meaning 'Latinos with flavor,' on Sept. 27. The event included a dance and cultural discussion.

Photo by Kate Baxendale

## Hispanic Heritage Month: Continued from Page 11

and both cultures. It leaves many doors open for me."

### 'A fresh start'

Senior Diego Rojas, a civil engineering major, hails from the Colombian city of Medellin, Antioquia.

Rojas was a member of the UMKC soccer team during his first four years in Kansas City.

"There were a lot of Hispanic people on the team," he said. "There were guys from Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, El Salvador. It was a good experience because I hung out with them. It was like being at home. When we were together we would always speak in Spanish."

Rojas explained how people in Kansas City assume he is from Mexico because he speaks English with a Latin American accent.

"It's going to happen, especially here," he said. "If you speak Spanish,

you are from Mexico. I don't take it as discrimination, though. I mean, they don't know where I'm from. For me, every white person is from here."

Rojas moved to the U.S. when he was 14. His family decided to move to Texas after experiencing harsh times in Colombia.

"Basically my family was middle class. We moved here because we got robbed—all of us, when I was young. They knew where we were and they knew everything about us," he said. "Since we had to start from scratch, we decided what better place to start over than in America."

Rojas and his family settled in Fort Worth in 2004. Although he had offers from other schools to play soccer, he chose UMKC because he liked the environment.

Rojas said going to high school in Colombia was much different than going to school in the U.S.

**"We moved here because we got robbed—all of us, when I was young. They knew where we were and they knew everything about us. Since we had to start from scratch, we decided what better place to start over than in America."**

-Diego Rojas

"Here at UMKC, we [students] go to classrooms. In Colombia, the teachers come to you," he said. "Where I went, we didn't have air conditioning, so the windows were always open. We used a lot of fans. Where I used to live it was really hot. And with all those people in the classroom we were always really hot."

Rojas said he feels that Americans are too rushed, while Colombians take more time to enjoy life.

"I think people in the United States are always busy," he said. "They don't have time for anything. They wake up so early in the

here is growing and UMKC is doing a really good job of recruiting us [Latinos]," Chaurand said. "Through organizations like ALAS and Lambda Theta Phi, I have been able to connect with a lot of other Latino students."

During his visits to Mexico, he observed some cultural differences between Mexico and the U.S. Like Rojas, Chaurand agreed that Latino culture is much more relaxed.

"I would say for our generation it's a lot more chill," he said. "Mexicans are a lot more social. 'My house is your house.' Here, when you meet people, it can be kind of awkward. In Mexico, people take you right in like it's nothing. I feel like it's a lot easier to meet people in Mexico. Everyone is a lot happier and more positive over there."

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### 'Mexico is chill'

ALAS Secretary Andres Chaurand is a junior majoring in Spanish. He is originally from Kansas City, but his parents are from Mexico. His mother is from Mexico City, but she has spent the majority of her life in the U.S. His father is from Guadalajara, but moved to the U.S. when he was 18 and became a citizen at 45.

"I feel like the Latino community

# 60 years of Greek life at UMKC

## A look at how the tradition began at UMKC

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

### Homecoming

This Homecoming represents the 60th anniversary of Greek Life, and the University is celebrating in many ways, including a Kasey the Kangaroo fashion show and silent auction supporting fraternity and sorority scholarships.

In addition, each individual Greek organization has a specific set of plans to best accompany visiting alumni.

"We're doing all the Greek activities that are planned for all sororities and fraternities," said Alpha Sigma Alpha President Amanda Argo. "In addition, it's D.O.T. (Donating Our Time) Days for our national sorority. As a result, we'll be having a few philanthropy events for our chapter and teaming up with the ASA chapter at Rockhurst to complete service activities throughout the week. To finish out the week, we're holding an alumnae/adviser appreciation event on Sunday to thank all of our local support for all they do. It should be a busy week."

Sorority Chi Omega also has busy plans for Homecoming week.

"We will take part of decorating our own kangaroo cut out, decorating our owl golf cart. We love glitter, so you can probably guess which one is ours," sorority sister Bethany Turner said. "We actually have a barbeque with our alumni on Saturday before the game. That way the actives and alumni can go to the game."

The week concluded with fraternity and sorority open houses where each organization displayed its awards and achievements.

### History

Greek organizations date back to 1776 at the College of William and Mary. Within the overarching title of Greek Life, several national categories exist, such as: Interfraternity, Pan-hellenic, National Pan-hellenic and local sororities. Complete with different histories and missions, each Greek organization strives to create long-lasting friendships and give back to the community.

### Interfraternity Council

The Interfraternity Council houses the majority of fraternities on campus, including Beta Theta Pi, Lamba Chi Alpha, Sigma

Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Lambda Theta Pi. The council places strong emphasis on brotherhood, scholarship, leadership and service.

Men involved in Interfraternity Council Fraternities typically hold more leadership positions and average a higher grade point average, according to their website. For the fall 2011 semester, 54 members achieved a 4.0 GPA.

### Beta Theta Pi

Beta Theta Pi was established at UMKC in 1984. The majority of men in this fraternity go on to be practicing physicians, while others enter the legal or business fields.

"While brotherhood serves as the cornerstone of Beta Theta Pi, this lasting bond of friendship is cultivated by being a part of a group of individuals who share the same goals and values, constantly supporting each other in the pursuit of social, moral and cultural excellence," their objective states.

### Sigma Phi Epsilon

Sigma Phi Epsilon focuses mainly on the "undergraduate experience" and has been a functioning fraternity since its foundation in 1901 at the University of Richmond. With the Balanced Men Program, established in 1991, SigEp has strived to make a difference. This revolutionary program attempts to fulfill the needs of all college males by creating a rewarding program focusing on scholarship, leadership and professional development.

"Being different is hard work, but our colleges and universities need the development-focused, SigEp style of fraternity, especially now," said Executive Director Brian Warren.

### Lambda Theta Pi

Lambda Theta Pi was founded in 1975 as the first Latino fraternity. Like other fraternities, Lambda Theta Pi focuses on academic excellence, brotherhood and leadership in relation to Latino unity.

### Panhellenic

Women involved in a Panhellenic sorority tend to be well rounded. The organization focuses on the "four pillars" of college, which includes strong academics, leadership, service and sisterhood. Panhellenic women usually

have higher GPAs than non-members and are some of the most prominent organization leaders.

The Panhellenic Creed states, "Cooperation for furthering fraternity life, in harmony with its best possibilities, is the ideal that shall guide our fraternity activities."

Alpha Delta Pi, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Delta Zeta and Chi Omega are the chapters available at UMKC.

### Alpha Delta Pi

Alpha Delta Pi is committed to sisterhood values and high academic standards. The sorority was established in 1851 at Wesleyan College and is known as the first female society in the country. UMKC's Alpha Delta Pi chapter has won awards, such as best grades on campus and best sorority for several years in a row.

### Chi Omega

Chi Omega began in 1895 at the University of Arkansas and was established at UMKC in 1961, committed to "enriching women's lives" ever since. The sorority focuses on leadership, scholarship and lifelong friendship.

"We are the most proud of our incredible sisterhood and the strong heritage and continuous support that we receive as a Chi Omega throughout our lives," Kelli Schmidt, chapter president, said. "Chi Omega really is for a lifetime and we see this in the bonds we have made and the support we receive with our amazing alumni and advisers."

Turner agrees, but considers the philanthropic aspect most crucial to her pride in her sorority.

"I am most proud of Chi Omega because of our morals and our involvement with Make A Wish Foundation," Turner said. "That is our philanthropy nationally. We actually are having a walk to help grant a sick child's wish this October. Last year we raised over \$8000 and our goal this year is to be able to grant two wishes. Our sisterhood is amazing. I don't know how many times this year one of the girls has been there for me to help me study, bring me medicine when I am sick and give me advice when something comes up."

### Alpha Sigma Alpha

Alpha Sigma Alpha aims to "develop women of poise and purpose" since its

founding in 1901.

"The vision of Alpha Sigma Alpha is to cultivate values and ideals in women who are known for their character and concern for others," Argo said. "Alpha Sigma Alpha inspires women to lead, to serve and, most of all, to make a difference. I'm so proud of our girls for so many different reasons. Most of my pride comes from the amount that we give back to our community because we want to and because we care about these organizations."

Alpha Sigma Alpha focuses on community service and values the desire, more so than the requirement, to help the less fortunate.

"We love participating and supporting our national philanthropies, Special Olympics, S. June Smith Center and Girls on the Run, as well as local philanthropies, like the KC Breast Cancer Walk," Argo said. "Our women learn to build themselves up as well as the community that surrounds them. This focus on service is one aspect that I believe separates our chapter from other organizations."

### Delta Zeta

Delta Zeta was founded at Miami University in 1902 and aims to build bonds and enduring friendships.

"The purpose of this sorority shall be to unite its members in the bonds of sincere and lasting friendship, to stimulate one another in the pursuit of knowledge, to promote the moral and social culture of its members, and to develop plans for guidance and unity in action; objects worthy of the highest aim and purpose of associated effort," the Constitution of Delta Zeta states.

"The purpose of this sorority shall be advanced through the National Convention, the National Council, and the college and alumnae chapters."

### National Pan-hellenic

The NPHC was founded at Howard University in 1930 and contains five fraternities and four sororities, all of which are culturally focused.

Their mission states: "Unanimity of thought and action as far as possible in the conduct of Greek letter collegiate fraternities and sororities, and to consider problems of

Continued on Page 24

## satire

## Mascot troubles

Debbie Littles  
Satirist



Debbie Littles  
Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

Things haven't been going well for me lately.

I am one of the top Twitter and Facebook activists in the world, but *U-News* editor-in-chief Nathan Zoschke is trying to silence me.

He basically called me an attention-starved loser and said my activism was useless, citing numerous complaints from readers that nobody at UMKC cares to read my columns about size acceptance activism or singing fetus dolls.

He said I needed to find an issue that affects students.

Besides, he said, anyone can get people's attention by holding up a sign on a busy street corner or bombarding their news feeds of controversial posts.

At first, I brushed off the criticism, but it finally got to me during a visit to Hamburger Mary's several weeks ago.

I'm a huge fan of Sen. Claire McCaskill. If I were skinnier, I would consider dying my hair blonde and getting the same thick-rimmed glasses.

Seeing who I thought was the S-e-n-a-t-o-r McCaskill at Hamburger Mary's ended up as a disappointment.

"Claire! Oh my God! You need to accept my friend request on Facebook so I can tag you in all of my posts," I said.

Instead, I got a funny look and a chorus of guffaws. I mistook a drag queen for a U.S. senator. Talk about humiliating!

It was almost as bad as the time I was tripping on mushrooms and got kicked out of the Nelson for making out with the wax museum guard statue.

What kind of activist am I? Maybe politics just isn't my cup of tea. Maybe I'm cut out

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bartender's corner

## Johnson County Nightlife

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Johnson County, one of the top 20 richest counties in the country, may not be the first location to come to mind when thinking of affordable drinking, especially since Kansas is known for its strict liquor laws. However, a new law was recently passed to allow Happy Hour and affordable drinks for all Kansas bars.

"It [the liquor ban] was silly," said Pizza 51 Owner Jason Pryor, who had drink specials at the location near UMKC, but couldn't do the same at the pizza place he opened in Fairway, Kan. "I just wanted to be consistent with both of my locations."

This new law came into effect in May and has lowered drinking expenses at Kansas bars and restaurants ever since.

## Talk of the Town

11922 West 119th St.  
Overland Park, Kan.

With more than 40 beers to choose from and excellent specials every day of the week, Talk of the Town Grill and Bar is the best

hotspot in Johnson County. The Grill and Bar has two convenient locations: 119th and Quivira in Overland Park and 135th and Nall in Leawood.

Each location has an expansive set of drink specials and clientele. The Overland Park location is standing room only on the weekends, but this is part of the charm. College students make up the majority of the customers, which allows for mingling.

The Leawood location is much bigger, so experiencing claustrophobia is unlikely. However, the customers tend to be older and not as social. This is the ideal location for those uninterested in socializing.

Each day differs in food and drink specials. For those who are domestic fans, Wednesday is ideal. Domestic bottles are only \$2.50 and wings are 50 cents each.

Thursdays are popular since all Boulevard pints are \$3, and all appetizers only \$5.

For those interested in Belgian beer, Monday offers Blue

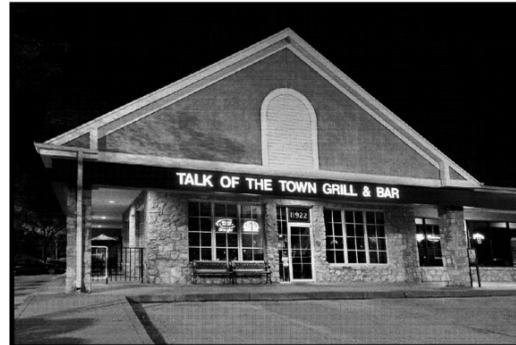


Photo courtesy of Google

Moon pints for only \$3 and burgers are half-price all day.

Friday has hard liquor specials, featuring \$4 Vodka and Turbo drinks.

The Grill and Bar also specializes in creating its own shots with clever names sure to do the trick.

"The Incredible Hulk" is a favorite among customers because of its blend of vodka, melon liquor and pineapple juice. Other shots may not be as tasty, but are fun to order, even if you are just ordering the drink for its humorous name.

These specials are subject to change and may differ by location.

## Jerry's Bait Shop

13412 Santa Fe Trail Drive  
Lenexa, Kan.

Jerry's Bait Shop located in historic Lenexa has the perfect combination of live music and delicious drink specials. No more listening to cruddy bar music: local bands provide entertainment every day.

Jerry's Bait Shop is the closest to a dive bar in Johnson County with its eclectic, rustic feel. Jerry's even offers a monthly jam session where customers can share the stage with the performing band.

In addition to music, the bar offers outstanding food and drink specials.

Sunday: \$2 domestic draws and half-price pizzas

Monday: \$2 wells and domestics from 4-6 p.m.

Tuesday: \$2 domestic draws and wells

Wednesday: \$1 Natty Light draws

Thursday: All Corona products are on special. Bottles go for \$2.50, while buckets of five bottles are only \$10 and



Photo courtesy of Google

all appetizers are half price.

Friday: \$3 Boulevard and a \$7 all-you-can-eat pizza buffet.

Saturday: \$2 shots and half-price calzones.

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Conservatory reaches out to area high schools  
Programs enhance performing arts options

Kharissa Forte  
Senior Staff Writer

The UMKC Conservatory program, "Conservatory in the Schools," aims to engage the community by providing high-quality performing arts instruction in school districts throughout the Kansas City metro area.

The program began in 2007 and was limited to Paseo High School. Now, Conservatory in the Schools serves Paseo, Hickman Mills and other KCMO schools as well as the Kansas City Kansas School District, reaching approximately 400 students at 20 schools.

Musical Bridges joined Composers in the Schools and Ensembles in the Schools as a part of the Conservatory in the Schools program.

Composers in the Schools is classroom-based, and various composers teach music students about topics such as composition, music technology, world music, music theory and music history. At the end of the year, they host an annual competition in which middle and high school students compete with their original pieces.

"It's amazing what these kids come up with. They are so creative," said Dr. Mara Gibson, director of community music and dance at the Conservatory.

A composer and pianist, Gibson moved to Kansas City from the East Coast with her husband, a visual artist, who was offered a job at the Kansas City Art Institute.

The transition to Kansas City proved to be a good move for Gibson and her husband. "It couldn't be a better community for us,"

she said. "We have a son now, it's affordable. We're really happy in Kansas City."

Last summer, her saxophone crescendo debuted in a music festival in Thailand. She also sponsors a composition workshop at UMKC every summer that attracts students from all over the world.

"Last year, we had over 40 students participate," she said.

Ensembles in the Schools focuses on sectional coaching.

"We send our folks in to help assist teachers with coaching woodwinds and coaching strings," Gibson said.

Musical Bridges is the most selective of the programs. Since the program began five years ago, the enrollment has expanded from seven to 50 students.

The students play a variety of instruments. "They get a lot of instruction in their classes, but it's really that one-on-one mentorship that distinguishes them from other students that are applying for the Conservatory and who are really thinking about going into a career in music," Gibson said.

The overall mission is not to create music majors. Gibson said the program intends to give students opportunities by assisting in acceptance to their first college choice.

"It's not just about music, it's about the whole kid and about creating as many opportunities [as possible]," she said.

Statistically, Musical Bridges has a 100 percent success rate. Every student in the program has received acceptance into his or her preferred college.

World-renowned composer and violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain has formed a

special connection with the Musical Bridges program.

"After I was invited to participate, I researched Musical Bridges and I was instantly and immediately impressed with the sincerity of the program. Certainly, I feel that it is an effective program. Everyone there is deeply committed to the program and the success of the students. The students themselves are full of energy and wonder," he said.

In April, Roumain worked with the program's students and accompanied them in a performance at the gala. This year, the students will practice Roumain's music over the course of the school year before meeting with him to create a brand new sound, most likely an improvisation, according to Gibson. Roumain will also meet with students at the Conservatory to incorporate dance into the gala, scheduled for Friday, April 26.

"We're hoping to embed it a little bit more," Gibson said. "Instead of having just the musical bridges component, then the conservatory component, then the ensemble component, we want it to be a little more fused."

The purpose of the gala is to raise funds to expand the program and award scholarships for music students in the under-represented populations of the Kansas City area.

Conservatory in the Schools has various events in addition to next year's gala, such as Conservatory Connections, in which Conservatory students perform various compositions in galleries throughout the Nelson-Atkins Museum. The Academy, the Conservatory's outreach to the community, offers various classes for the public to enjoy.

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For more information about Conservatory in the Schools and The Academy visit [Conservatory UMKC.edu/CMDA](http://Conservatory UMKC.edu/CMDA). For more information about Roumain, visit [www.DBRMusic.com](http://www.DBRMusic.com).

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# TATTOO

of the week



Photos by Kynslie Otte

## Aurielle Young's tattoo inspired by gospel roots

Kynslie Otte

Senior Staff Writer

Student Aurielle Young's most significant tattoo was inspired by childhood memories of attending church, and stands as a symbol of her spiritual beliefs. Young currently has two tattoos: one on her ankle and one on the inside of her right foot. She got her first tattoo at age 19 during her first semester of college in St. Louis.

Young's foot tattoo bears the quote "Order My Steps." "This tattoo is significant to me because it is inspirational, based on my beliefs and it also brings back vivid memories from my childhood," Young said. "Order My Steps" is the title of one of my favorite gospel songs. I remember the song being sung in the church I grew up in."

"Order My Steps" stuck with Young for years, but she didn't discover the title of the song until recently, which inspired her to get inked.

"I would always have the song in my head, but I could never remember the title or who sang it," she said. "I found a version of it on YouTube that was almost the exact way I remember the song being sung when I was little. I wanted to get the tattoo so I would never forget it again."

Young got inked at Freaks on 39th Street. The tattoo was done by Kasper for \$60.

Young's tattoo experience was pleasant and memorable.

"I would be lying if I said it didn't make me a little uneasy going there [Freaks], but when I walked inside I was surprised at how well-kept it was," Young said. "The waiting area has a kind of gothic vintage style. It just wasn't what I was expecting to see based on the looks of the building."

The foot is considered a sensitive place to get a tattoo, but Young said the pain is worth the outcome.

"The pain is part of the process and the experience," she said. "If you are not looking to feel some pain, you shouldn't be interested in getting a tattoo. The pain that comes from getting a tattoo is kind of like a rite of passage."

Because of the tattoo's meaning, Young received positive feedback from her friends and family.

"My family likes the tattoo. It is something simple, but holds a lot of meaning," she said. "They know that I put thought into my tattoos, so they don't have any problems with them."

*If your or someone you know has a tattoo of significance and would like to be featured in the "Tattoo of the Week" column, please contact me at kphod7@mail.umkc.edu.*

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album reviews

## The xx blends old, new material in 'Coexist'

Mal Hartigan Managing Editor

The xx broke ground in the American music scene with the group's self-titled debut album in 2009, opening a new door in the indie genre with a pleasantly melancholy sound and simple, distinguished guitar melodies. The xx's recent 2012 release, "Coexist," continues with the band's characteristically dark and emotionally provocative material, but features enough notable differences from the previous album to intrigue new and current fans alike.

The xx's most distinguishable characteristic is the group's use of silence in each track. Songs from both albums utilize silence as effectively as instruments and vocals, which makes each track feel raw and exposed. This sparse sound is only reinforced by a lack of instrumental overlap, but allows the simple guitar melodies to crisply resonate behind sultry vocals.

There are no loud or driving drum beats, bass riffs or rhythm guitar. Oliver Sim and Romy Madley-Croft's haunting vocals plunge listeners directly into each song. The opening track, "Angels," introduces ethereal guitar with Madley-Croft's soft voice, which are the only two

sounds throughout the song, so strategic silences cause momentary a capella vocals.

"Chained" features vocal harmonies between Madley-Croft and Sim, a subtly driving keyboard beat and emotionally charged guitar solos, laced with soft electronic sounds throughout. "Fiction" has a quicker tempo, enforced with electronic keyboard beats which blend with the vocals and guitar.

The track "Try" is more experimental, featuring an eerie electronic riff that stands alone during the intro, a stunt The xx effectively incorporates into the entire song. "Sunset" has a bumping electronic downbeat to drive the tempo, layered underneath guitar solos, and only pauses for brief a capella vocals.

The 11 tracks on "Coexist" will make listeners sink into the same rip-your-heart-out nostalgia of The xx's debut album, but offers a subtle new spin with more electronic infusions and beats without detracting from the band's original qualities. Each track is in a minor key with the same relatable, broad lyrics addressing heartbreak, relationships and loneliness, but stabs listeners through the gut with The xx's emotionally enthralling vocals.

"Coexist" takes its biggest risk in the track "Swept Away," where keyboard



Photo courtesy of Google

dance beats suddenly emerge and persist until the song's end. But somehow The xx incorporates the unfamiliar, abrupt sound without letting it seem out of place.

"Coexist" offers subtle but musically interesting differences compared to The xx's debut album, but each song's simple guitar and minor key may seem repetitious to some. No song is uplifting, but The xx makes it clear this isn't the band's intent. Listeners who enjoy plunging headfirst into melancholy nostalgia will appreciate "Coexist" and The xx's consistently evocative material.

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## Brother Ali speaks the colors of hope and change

Joey Hill

Contributing Writer

Released on September 18, "Mourning in America and Dreaming in Color" is the latest album by the Minneapolis-born rapper Brother Ali. Tackling a more political angle than before, Ali paints a contrast by making the current failure of classical American ideals evident while still empowering the idea that change must be made.

This is made clear from the first track, "Letter to My Countrymen," where Ali recites a letter to the American people directly, saying, "One thing that can't be debated, power never changed on its own, you gotta make it, that's why community is so sacred, that's the symbol that we make when we raise fists." The song also features a response from activist and philosopher Dr. Cornel West.

Ali has always been a lyricist who is open to recalling his history in

his work, and the 12th track "All You Need," is a prime example. It consists of Ali explaining to his son the story about the end of his first marriage. It is as if he adopts the role of all parents, explaining to their children the strife their generation will one day inherit. "There's a whole lot of pain in your bloodline, but there's a whole lot of strength in the sunshine. Lean back and let the new day greet you, cause you're standing on the shoulders of a people."

Ali empowers his distinct and approachable lyrical style in this album. Soft-spoken and clear, he speaks more to the listener than at them. There is no Kanye West-style shouting contests here.

Coupled with production by Seattle-born producer Jake One, this album provides a cool-morning-walk-through-the-streets kind of feel, utilizing a combination of modern beats and loops with classic vocal cuts to develop a relaxing sound.

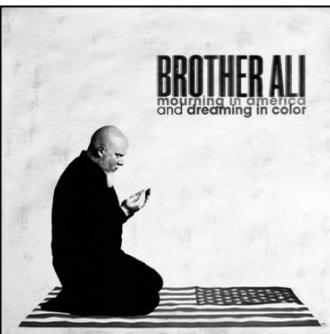


Photo courtesy of Google

While not unlike works of other prolific rappers like Mr. Lif, El-P and Sage Francis, "Mourning in America and Dreaming in Color" shows a deeply personal angle of political work, giving the perceptions of Ali as a citizen, and his material is permeated with deep, emotional resonance.

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album review

## The Killers are 'Battle Born'

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

Their fans had to wait four long years to hear back from indie/alternative rock band The Killers, which recently released the new album "Battle Born." Lead singer Brandon Flowers tried his luck by releasing a 2010 solo album titled "Flamingo," which didn't reach the top charts like The Killers' previous albums.

Flowers, Dave Keuning on guitar and backup vocals, Ronnie Vannucci Jr. on drums and percussion, and Mark Stoermer on bass and backup vocals, built The Killers' new album together, and listeners can feel how well the music flows. Some bands release albums from which fans only listen to one or two songs repeatedly, but not with "Battle Born." All 15 songs on the deluxe version are masterpieces, and The Killers put in a big effort with the new material.

The album's first single is "Runaways." It starts with slow piano and guitar and flows like a river of relaxation, and then speeds up to make it a nice trip full of feeling before it comes to a slow end. "I turn the engine over and my body just comes alive, ain't we all are just runaways, I knew when I met you, I'm not gonna let you," sings Flowers with a very emotional tone.

This tune was intended to be the hit of "Battle Born," but listeners may find it difficult to only pick one favorite song. The synths and electronic parts mixed with the drums, guitar and bass have made The Killers' music so interesting and one can easily recognize the group's sound.

Powerful lyrics have been one of The Killers' standout characteristics. The album

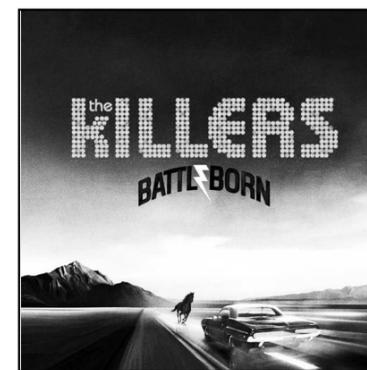


Photo courtesy of Google

cover shows a segment from the song "Flesh and Bone," depicting the lyrics "A dark horse running in a fantasy." It shows a dark horse close to crashing into a speeding car in the middle of nowhere.

In "Battle Born," every song is different from the next, showing the most sensitive side with "Here With Me," a complete sad love song. The track starts with slow piano and Flowers' voice pulling listeners into a sad story, but suddenly the drums and the guitar fill the song with energy. "Don't want your picture on my cell phone, don't want your memory in my head no, I want you here with me," the chorus says.

The Killers' "Battle Born" is literally music to listeners' ears with its enjoyable tunes and catchy lyrics.

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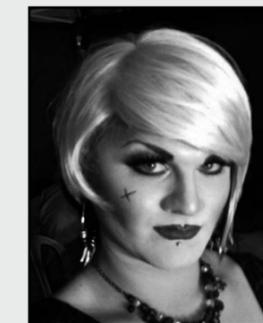
# Ask Phoenix

## "Gaydar"

Phoenix Rishon

Columnist

*Dear Phoenix, I heard my friends talking about a "gaydar." What is a "gaydar" and how do I improve mine?*



Dear naïve breeder, "Gaydar" is a term used to describe one's ability to detect another person's homosexuality. Simply put, it is one's gay-radar. For example, if years ago you watched Anderson Cooper and immediately thought to yourself, "He is a homosexual," your "gaydar" is well calibrated. On the other hand, if you watched Anderson Cooper and assumed his heterosexuality despite his perfectly manicured hairstyle, your "gaydar" may need an adjustment.

"Gaydars" are based solely on stereotypes and past experience with homosexuals. Just because someone is a member of the gay community does not mean his/her "gaydar" is spot-on. For example, my "gaydar" is occasionally calibrated to assume everyone I meet is homosexual.

An important distinction I would like to point out is the difference between detecting gays and detecting lesbians. I, for one, have an incredibly difficult time differentiating between homosexual and heterosexual women. An exception to this difficulty arises when the female is wearing basketball shorts, sporting a ball cap and does not know the meaning of a manicure. The complete opposite of those characteristics might determine the homosexuality of a man.

No specific feature is a telltale sign of homosexuality. Stereotypes can cause us to make terrible assumptions about people. Please get to know someone before you spread rumors about someone else's sexual preference.

*Dear Phoenix, my partner and I are struggling because we live in different cities. How do I make a long-distance relationship last? Is it inevitable that we will break up?*

Dear struggling significant other, Long-distance relationships are extremely difficult. I sympathize with your hardships. While I have never been in this situation, I have helped many who have. The only advice I can give you is this: communication is key. Constantly talk to your significant other like you would if he/she were in the same city. It may be tedious, but it is necessary.

Many couples have different ways to

deal with the geographical gap. The length of the relationship prior to separation also plays a factor in its longevity. A relationship that has lasted for a few years before lovers are forced to live in separate cities is a whole different bag of gummy worms than one that is just starting.

Skype may be the savior of your relationship. Seeing your partner's smile and hearing his/her voice can make all the difference.

The fear both of you may rightfully have is the possibility of losing the other's interest, which may result in a breakup or cheating. Constant communication and honesty can greatly soothe this fear and decrease the likelihood of your partner joining the list of horrible, cheating human beings.

Long-distance relationships are a true test of love. Reuniting victoriously may be one of the most rewarding events in your life. Stick with it. Be honest with your partner about hardships, and communicate often.

Hope this helps!

*Toodles for now,  
Phoenix Rishon*

*Questions can be submitted by email to  
rishon@unews.com*

*'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.*

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# Trading for art produces some bargains

Joey Hill Contributing Writer

Students walking by the Fine Arts building gallery during the last few weeks may have been interested and confused at the sight of the blankets, pillows, sheets and boxes which littered the space. Some may have thought it a new textile exhibition, but opening twice on September 20th and 27th, the Fine Arts department exhibited the POP! Tradeshows.

While most see art gallery exhibitions as calm events where audiences examine various pieces hung on walls, the Tradeshows offered a new twist. It applied the idea of bartered trading. Visitors were encouraged to shop and look around, but there was only one

condition: no currency. All transactions were to be made with tradable goods.

I brought along pocketsful of Japanese candy to trade. Entering the space is daunting to one who has never really traded anything other than school lunch, but the feeling was quickly forgotten by the complete decorative beauty of the exhibition.

Sheets emblazoned with detailed patterns and vibrant colors were draped from the ceiling and dipped down the walls. Each stand was decorated with tables and boxes covered with small items and drapery, some of which were for sale, and some not.

One vendor, a tea brewer known as "D with the T," remarked on the décor, "It reminds you of the forts you used to make

when you were younger. You feel like a kid again." Her stand was a 19th century chest with a light brown wooden box on top, covered with long, thin holes. She took the hot water brewing with tea leaves, poured it into the wooden box and then poured the tea into glasses for the awaiting drinkers sitting on pillows nearby.

She asked no price for her tea, and I sat down. I was joined by two others, and we sat and talked as the tradeshows gathered momentum around us. It was a pure form of sociability the tea vendor created around the wooden chest.

Later on, I found my candy was a satisfactory form of exchange for the show. I encountered a woman selling hand-printed

postcards and miniature calendars, and found only five pieces of candy were enough for a whole set of both items. She explained the postcards were already endowed with stamps and I was instructed to write her back wherever I went as I continued to experience the beauty of the world.

I began to realize why the exhibition was such a success after a tarot reading, sampling raspberry jam biscuits, homemade granola and a brief perusal of an extensive collection of vintage hairdressing books. It was a pure and rewarding vacation away from known economic traditions to a purer, more open exchange.

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cult classic review

## 'Idiocracy' satirizes 'dumbing down' of society

Kynsle Otte Senior Staff Writer

"Idiocracy" is a brilliant cult comedy with a science fiction twist that alters modern perception of what the future could look like. Rather than portraying a future where humans have evolved, "Idiocracy" presents a devolved society where everyone is significantly dumber.

The plot follows the lives of Joe Bauer (Luke Wilson), an incredibly average Army librarian, and Rita (Maya Rudolph), a prostitute. The two are chosen to partake in a top-secret military experiment where they are cryogenically preserved and told they will be revived in exactly one year.

While Joe and Rita are "hibernating," the officer in charge of the experiment is caught in a

prostitution scandal, and the base where Joe and Rita's bodies are stored is destroyed, leaving the project completely forgotten.

Joe and Rita are not discovered until 2505 when a garbage avalanche carries them into an unspecified city. They awake to find everyone speaks broken English, water has been replaced by a drink resembling Gatorade called "Brawndo," everyone has a barcode tattoo that serves as an identity marker and allows purchases to be made and nearly all businesses are run by computers.

Technology in 2505 is highly advanced, but its inhabitants seem to possess no logical thought. The concerns of the people consist primarily of sex, crude humor and violence. Because of this, the world is left with mountains of garbage that cannot be properly disposed,

massive dust storms as a result of the garbage, food shortages and the largest economic crisis of all time.

Joe wanders into a hospital, expecting to find a receptionist who can at least tell him where he is, and finds no one understands him because he speaks "all smart and faggy," though he is simply speaking standard English. Joe is arrested for not having a barcode, forcing him to get a tattoo and to take an IQ test that proves to be practically remedial.

After Joe escapes from prison, he runs into Rita and they attempt to find a time machine that will return them to 2005. When Joe is caught once again by the police, he is taken to the president because his IQ test declared him the smartest person in the world.

The president (Terry Crews), whose full name is "Dwayne

Elizondo Mountain Dew Herbert Comacho," designates Joe the "Secretary of Interior," and promises the world Joe will solve its biggest problems in one week.

The rest of the film focuses on Joe and Rita's hilarious attempts at solving the largest problems in history, while simultaneously trying to find a time machine to take them home.

Wilson and Rudolph, though a seemingly unusual pair, share fantastic onscreen chemistry, and Crews proves to be an incredibly dynamic character. Crews plays the president as a diehard party animal rather than a political figure, and serves as the perfect character foil to Wilson's much more serious depiction of Joe.

"Idiocracy" is the perfect balance between controversy and comedy. Much of the material is crude and

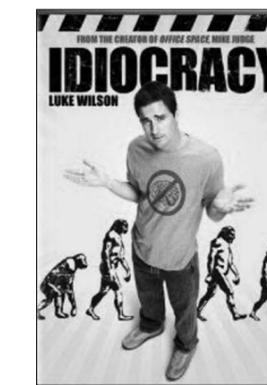


Photo courtesy of Google

vulgar, but is tastefully used in the context of the plot. For those who are not easily offended, this film is a must-see. The film's bleak view of the future is extremely entertaining, and is bound to leave audiences pondering the fate of the world at large.

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### UMKC Women's Council Graduate Assistance Fund Awards Applications Now Open On-line [umkcwc.org](http://umkcwc.org)

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film review

## Beyond music, 'Pitch Perfect' is anything but...

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

"Pitch Perfect" is a perfectly awkward mix of "Mean Girls," a little bit of "Glee" and every high school musical ever made. Complete with quirky characters, outstanding music and a grotesque sense of humor, "Pitch Perfect" falls just short of perfection.

Beca (Anna Kendrick) would rather listen to alternative music

at top volume than socialize with her peers. She dreams of becoming a record producer in Los Angeles and considers college a waste of her time. In order to please her overbearing, intellectual father, Beca joins an acoustic group with a bad reputation and weird members.

"Pitch Perfect" is perfectly choreographed, perfectly sung and perfectly entertaining. However, the film manages to do everything else wrong.

The story is predictable from start to finish, but what can viewers expect from a film about singing? All singing, dancing and acting films are the same: the main character is thrown into an unknown world and is forced to transform the music and the members into an outstanding acoustic machine.

The characters are stereotypical shadows of humanity without any depth to their personalities. Rebel Wilson plays Fat Amy and is definitely the most interesting part of the film, but she still manages to lack lifelike quality. She, along with every other character, is simply a slice of life short on relatable personality traits.

The majority of humor is gross-out humor, which is usually not funny. "Pitch Perfect" attempts to steal "Bridesmaids"-type comedy, but fails due to lack of funny cast members. Unfortunately, Wilson will never become the new Melissa McCarthy.

Kendrick, however, is phenomenal. Who knew she could sing so brilliantly in addition to her already stellar acting? She seems better fit for supporting roles, but maybe if she received a better-written lead role, her performance would increase. "Pitch Perfect" is obviously made for a tween audience. The jokes are unintelligent and the dialogue is boring. The only reason to see the film is for the music, which will probably attract the majority of the film's audiences.



Photo courtesy of Google

Overall, the film accomplishes what it set out to do. It is about music, promoted as a competition-type film, and definitely proves to be another musical comedy. Though other musical films have surpassed "Pitch Perfect" quality-wise, it is still entertaining, complete with enjoyable music and an inspiring message.

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# 'M'battled

## Thoughts on both sides of the UMKC name change debate

**Nathan Zoschke** Editor-in-Chief

Students have until Friday to complete an online name change survey that will influence whether or not UMKC keeps its four letter acronym or switches to either "KCÚ" or "UKC."

A name change won't affect the University's affiliation with the UM System, and the estimated \$1 million cost would be funded exclusively by private donations.

Chancellor Leo Morton initiated the name change proposal earlier this year, arguing that it could boost the school's brand recognition by better establishing it as "Kansas City's University."

About 70 percent of UMKC's enrollment comes from the 15-county Kansas City region, and 75 percent of the school's graduates settle in the area.

Morton has argued that a name change could boost enrollment and philanthropic donations to the school, which are needed to fill the revenue gap created by declining state allocations.

State funding has dwindled from 40 percent of UMKC's total revenues in the late '90s to about 20 percent for the current fiscal year.

This has prompted tuition increases and forced UMKC to aggressively pursue other revenue streams.

If surveys of students, faculty and alumni show strong support for a name change, Morton said he would take the proposal to the UM Board of Curators in December.

Establishing UMKC as a model urban research university and

Establishing UMKC as a model urban research university and furthering its reputation in the Kansas City region are imperative to positioning the school for long-term growth and achievement.

furthering its reputation in the Kansas City region are imperative to positioning the school for long-term growth and achievement.

This is already happening: donations are pouring in and enrollment has increased steadily.

The UMKC Foundation's Campaign appears on track to reach its \$250 million fundraising

goal by 2016.

\$126.4 million had already been raised by the start of the fall semester, including \$65.6 million from 19,000 donors during the fiscal year 2012, ending June 30.

UMKC's fall semester head count has grown from 14,462 in 2007 to a record 16,019 this year.

Whether or not a name change would accelerate enrollment growth or entice donors is difficult to predict without survey results.

The Bloch School's Entrepreneurship program and Downtown Arts Campus, if it comes together as planned, will play a pivotal role in the region's future and have the potential to put Kansas City on the map.

A new name and marketing strategy could make the University more attractive to prospective students in the Kansas City region, especially on the Kansas side of the state line.

Johnson County has fueled the region's job and population growth in recent years, and it is home to three of the best and largest public school districts in the metro.

Johnson County could become the prime market for UMKC to recruit undergraduate students, and

UMKC could play a hegemonic role in bringing jobs and families back to the urban core.

Despite offering in-state tuition to residents of 11 Kansas counties through the Metro Rate program, many Kansans simply overlook UMKC because they naïvely assume it is a satellite of the UM-Columbia campus.

On the other hand, conventional wisdom says what isn't broken doesn't need to be fixed.

Kansas City isn't a wildly popular destination outside of the Great Plains.

For many, the "University of Kansas City" doesn't have a lick of brand equity, but "University of Missouri-Kansas City" may legitimize the campus by linguistically connecting it to the UM System.

Some have suggested that the proposed names sound too much like a for-profit college, like the University of Phoenix.



Nathan Zoschke

Many alumni and students have grown attached to the UMKC brand, and a name change could make them feel like outsiders. (Morton said diplomas reflecting the name change would be provided to graduates who request them for no charge, if that's any consolation.)

Results from the name change surveys will provide useful insight, which is why student participation is crucial.

Those who react critically to the outcome of the name change proposal but refuse to speak up now will only have themselves to blame.

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Link to the name change survey:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/NameChange\\_Student](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NameChange_Student)

## Two different worlds: Why being bilingual is great

**Dan Moreno** Staff Writer

I was lucky enough to be born in a bicultural family, with a 100 percent Mexican father and American mother. I was born and raised in Mexico City, which now includes 20 million people.

When I decided to explore life and broaden my thoughts at age 19, I moved to Kansas City and discovered the American lifestyle and culture is simply another planet. Fortunately, thanks to my mother, I grew up with the American traditions like Thanksgiving dinner, the 4th of July and Christmas. This made the big change of moving easier on me.

I'm very proud of my Mexican heritage, including the recently celebrated Mexican Independence, which is Sept. 15-16, not on "Cinco de Mayo," which is not even a holiday in Mexico.

When you go to Mexico, you find very good food, which includes colors and flavors most don't even know exist. We're the friendliest people and love tourists. There's a lot of history, hundreds of museums, archaeological sites and many more activities. I always describe Mexico City as a place where no one ever gets bored.

Now, after transitioning from Mexico City to Kansas City, I realize the importance of

being bilingual. It really opens lots of doors and offers many opportunities to succeed in student life and professionally.

Spanish is my mother tongue, but I've taken English as a second language since kindergarten. In my case, it was just for practice, because I grew up speaking both languages at home. I even remember when my friends were at my house and when I got in trouble, my mom would correct me in English, assuming my friends would not understand and then they would all laugh.

In my opinion and my experience, being fluent in two languages is just the beginning of a successful professional life. The

Spanish Department at UMKC is amazing. There are professors from several different Hispanic countries.

Just like English has different slang or accents in every country, Spanish does too. Sometimes I don't even know what an Argentinian word means. That is what UMKC has to offer: teaching Spanish from different perspectives and backgrounds in order to provide the best level of the language possible.

Spanish is important nowadays because of the increase of Hispanic/Latino people in America. Later, when my children misbehave, I will ground them in Spanish in front of their English-speaking friends and



Dan Moreno

hopefully they will also laugh because they will know what I am saying.

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## Let's execute plan to aid transgender students

**Roze Brooks**

Senior Staff Writer

UMKC has been noted as the 5th Most Gay-Friendly campus in the country by *Newsweek*. However, does this sentiment reach the same positivity for the transgender atmosphere?

I would say we're taking steps in the right direction.

The LGBTQIA Partnership Committee, handpicked and led by Assistant Dean of Students Eric Gropitch, has specifically discussed amenities on campus which could benefit students who identify as transgender.

LGBTQIA Resource Coordinator Jonathan Ta-Pryor recently proposed an upgrade to Blackboard that would allow students with a preferred name to submit it through the website.

For example, if I were a female transitioning into a male, I would be able to access a link on Blackboard and request my name be listed as Ross instead of Roze.

By intent, this would alleviate awkward and exploitative situations in the classroom for teachers taking

role and addressing students by the incorrect name.

However, lecturers print rosters from several different resources, not just Blackboard. This name-changing system would not apply to Pathway, which many teachers use due to the accompaniment of student photos with the names.

Again, this would certainly be a positive gesture toward considering concerns for transgender students, assuming faculty would comply.

The harm in calling a transitioning individual the name received at birth could be severely damaging. Those taking steps to physically alter from one gender to another could be triggered by the use of a name they believe should not have been labeled in the first place.

It would be disheartening for a student to be exposed to classmates simply because a lecturer was unaware or ignorant of the student's status.

The partnership committee voted unanimously that this change should be considered, and ultimately made to Blackboard, but promotion of this resource would

need to be made to faculty and staff in order to make them aware of their responsibilities to understand the situation.

This would likely include educating faculty and staff on how to approach students or colleagues appropriately, not assuming the gender of another individual and learning to use alternative gender pronouns such as *zie/hir*, which are gender-neutral pronouns not associated with male or female identity.

Additionally, some facilities on campus, namely the newer structures, have been constructed to accommodate transgender or gender non-conforming students. The Student Union offers gender-neutral, single person bathrooms.

Swinney Recreational Center has adopted a policy for allowing students who admittedly require a gender-neutral changing room to use the locker room designated for visiting sports teams.

Director of the Office of Student Involvement Angie Cottrell has expressed her optimism that this is a temporary fix, and permanent accommodations will

be considered.

Improvements can always be made. One concern is the lack of gender-neutral housing in the residence halls and campus apartments. While this may be a matter of addressing the issue with the appropriate administration, some proactivity would be appreciated. Currently, the residence halls offer the default all-male or female suites, but nothing regarding students who don't identify under one gender binary or haven't received gender reassignment surgery.

A map pinpointing the gender-neutral amenities on campus would be another stride. Something that may be currently overlooked is access to contact information for doctors who administer hormone replacement therapy, or even having one positioned or assigned to campus.

A support group for transitioning students, facilitated by a mental health consultant, would be an ideal resource to offer as well. There is no guarantee how medication can affect each individual, so a campus that focused on monitoring and



Roze Brooks

reaching out to students as they progressed would reflect genuine interest in those students' success, both academically and conceptually.

Once a preferred name policy is in place, it would ultimately fall on the administration to hold its faculty accountable for respecting the wishes of the students.

The ideas are in place. I feel there is a solid foundation laid out with the existence of a committee that holds LGBTQIA interests at heart, so carrying out the abundance of ideas will simply take time.

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## A day in the life of a bartender: reaching the tipping point

**Elizabeth Golden**

Managing Editor

The grueling life of a college student is nothing short of stressful. Taking 18 credit hours with almost 40 hours of homework is no simple task. Having time for a job may be nearly impossible for most college students, so server jobs may be the best option. They allow for a flexible schedule with pretty decent money. The only problem is the average server makes \$2.13 an hour, which adds up to pretty much nothing. Most shifts are five to eight hours, so the server usually makes around \$15 a shift, not including tax.

This forces servers to rely mainly on tips for income, but attaining tips is harder than it seems since the average American doesn't seem to understand the difficulty of service jobs and the importance of extra cash to help the abysmal hourly wage.

I work as a bartender in a movie theatre. Like many others, I am forced to live solely on tips, which makes paying for college very difficult. Depending on the level of generosity and business, I could walk away with as little as \$4 or as

much as \$200 per shift. Lately, my income has landed on the lower end of the spectrum.

According to Bankrate's latest Financial Security Index, this could be partly due to the economy. 16 percent report they now tip less because of a lack of money. Others believe they haven't changed their tipping habits, but servers still get jipped out of the deal.

"What's interesting is that roughly 80 percent of the country thinks about tipping in percentage terms, and then about 20 percent thinks about it in dollar terms," says Michael Lynn, professor of consumer behavior and marketing at the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University.

If average restaurant spending decreases, tipping also suffers. Instead of spending \$200 on a meal, some families may limit spending to \$50. Even though the economy may be spiraling downward, salaries either remain the same or increase. Those in the service industry are the only ones who suffer whenever consumers cannot afford to tip.

Another common reason for not tipping involves a customer being

just plain inconsiderate. Many believe serving and bartending aren't that difficult, so therefore these employees don't need to be rewarded for their work.

As a bartender, I see this mindset quite frequently. I see guests walking up with wads of cash, spending maybe \$30 and tipping a dollar, if that.

For those who only purchase beer, the need for tipping isn't that necessary. After all, how difficult could it be to pour a beer? Well, pouring a beer does require skill, but is definitely not as complicated as making an Apple Martini.

For example, one very slow night, I had a woman order an Apple Martini. She seemed nice as I started a conversation about movies, which is my favorite subject. She went along with the conversation as I combined four different ingredients, perfectly proportioned to create a beautiful concoction. This drink goes for around \$9 and is not simple to make. Anyone who has ever had a martini knows that if the ingredients aren't perfectly right, it can taste like a bitter piece of crap. I take pride in my Apple Martinis since they are a beautiful shade of

green, if poured correctly, and have a cherry in the center, which adds a nice red tint.

I handed her the drink, and she seemed to enjoy it, but when I attempted to hand her the check, my printer experienced technical difficulties, which took several seconds to resolve. This obviously wealthy woman took this as an excuse to not tip and walked off in a huff. I can't control the printer and should not be blamed for the slight inconvenience. Yes, I personally told the printer not to work for this specific guest since, of course, I have control over those situations. I am the printer god, after all.

Along the same lines, the majority of guests who don't tip have never had any type of service job and are unaware of the need for tips, and underestimate the difficulty of the job.

As a bartender, I have memorized well over 100 drink recipes, deal with drunk and irritating people on a daily basis and experience the inconvenience of being asked out by some customers. If one more 40-year-old asks me to come to Westport with him, I may snap.

Many underestimate the stress involved in this job, which is only



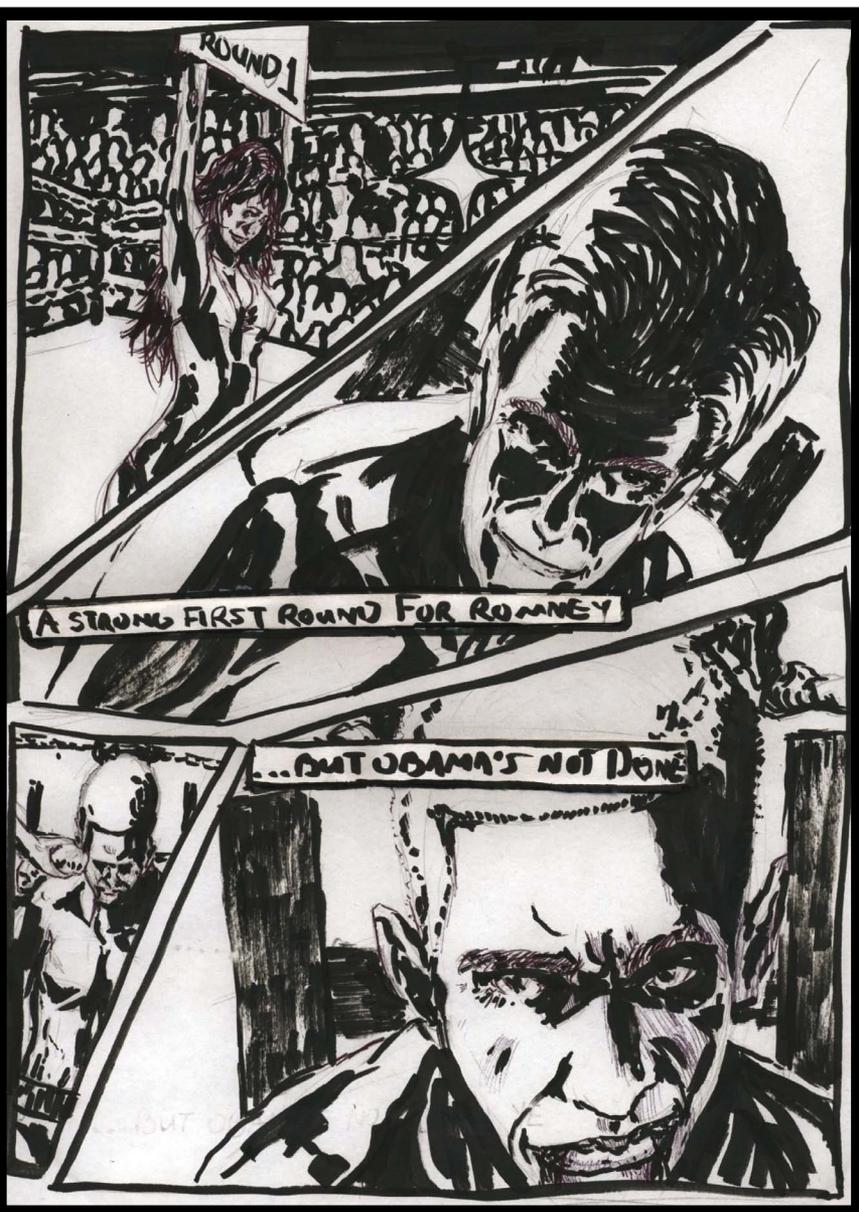
Elizabeth Golden

made worse by coming home with \$4 from a shift. I guess I could buy myself a couple items on the McDonald's dollar menu with that? However, when it comes to saving up enough so I can go to school next semester and not starve to death, \$4 doesn't quite cut it.

In my opinion, every person should have at least one service job during his or her life. By serving others in a food setting, life experience and an appreciation for others is gained. No other job will allow this same experience. Some days, work will be the worst experience of a lifetime, but other days will be rewarding and extremely worthwhile. If everyone experiences a job like this, he or she will understand the hardship of living shift to shift and feel rewarded for a job well done.

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# Cartoon



A strong first round for Romney...but Obama's not done

Cartoon by Aaron Cecil

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## Greek life: Continued from Page 15

mutual interest to its member organizations.”  
 UMKC houses three fraternities: Alpha Phi Alpha, Phi Beta Sigma and Kappa Alpha Psi. The three sororities are Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta and Sigma Gamma Rho.

### Alpha Phi Alpha

Alpha Phi Alpha was created in 1906 to unite African American students with intent to increase graduation rates.

The fraternity aims to, "Preserve the good name of the fraternity and living out our mission to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities."

### Phi Beta Sigma

African American students focused on exemplary scholarship, brotherhood and service created the fraternity in 1914.

### Kappa Alpha Psi

The fraternity was founded in 1911 at Indiana University with intent to unite strong, achieving students.

"The mission of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. is to train for leadership 'Achievement in Every Field of Human Endeavor,'" said chapter president Michael Sanders.

Kappa Alpha Psi places strong emphasis on brotherly bonds and community service.

"I am proud of the friends I've made within

my fraternity," Sanders said. "I've built strong bonds with people who I used to call strangers before I joined the fraternity. We are deeply involved in the community and always try to get people involved in everything we do."

### Delta Sigma Theta

The sorority was founded in 1913 at Howard University, and came to UMKC in 1974. Service and morals are its main focus. All chapters are small in order to maintain a close bond.

### Zeta Phi Beta

The sorority was created in 1920 in order to ease racial tensions after World War I. Zeta Beta is the first Greek organization to charter in Africa.

### Sigma Gamma Rho

This sorority focuses on service above all else since its charter in 1911.

Their motto states: "Greater service, greater progress."

### Local

UMKC is home to one local sorority, which was founded in 1989. Delta Rho aims to bring everyone together and create long-lasting bonds.

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## Sudoku

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