

Illustration used with permission of Hannah Edwards

10 FEATURE

Growing use of prescription stimulants raises concern among health professionals

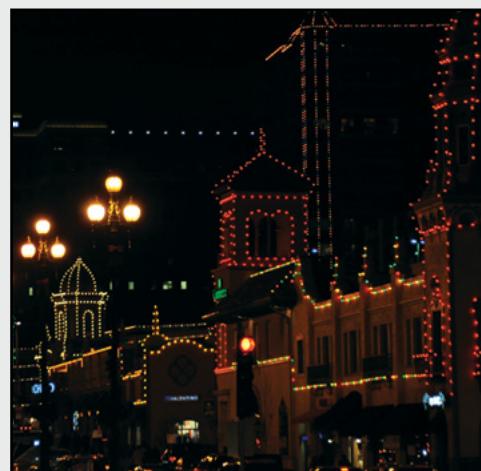


Photo by Sai Srikanth Kadiyam

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UMKC marketing takes new tack after name change proposal falls through

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Plaza Lights kick off the holiday season in Kansas City

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

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

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

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

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UMKC ups the ante on regional marketing

Kate Baxendale Senior Staff Writer

After Chancellor Leo Morton officially declared that "we will remain the University of Missouri-Kansas City for the foreseeable future" on Nov. 2, University Communications (U-Comm) has doubled down on its marketing strategies to recruit prospective students.

Anne Spenner, vice chancellor for marketing and communications, is confident that UMKC is doing everything possible to promote UMKC as the only Princeton Review Best Value College in Kansas City.

Spenner said since her appointment in 2011, her department has worked harder to increase marketing in the Kansas City region.

"For the first time ever, we have billboards around town," Spenner said. "We're doing more digital advertising and email blasts. We're using QR (quick response) codes and mobile technology. We have built niche websites on key university initiatives, such as the exploration of a Downtown Arts Campus."

A staff photographer has been hired to take more candid shots of students, faculty and staff around campus that are used for campus publications.

U-Comm refreshed the Kangaroo logo for all UMKC apparel that was launched during Homecoming Week. U-Comm also designed the logos, websites and T-shirts for the new Atterbury Student Success Center, the new home base for all prospective student tours.

Two weeks ago, the "Kansas City Strong, University Proud" campaign was launched in a two-page poster ad that ran in *The Kansas City Star*, featuring a QR code that links to a website that highlights "bragging points" for every academic unit on campus.

You also may notice that UMKC is

in the news more lately," Spenner said. "That's not by accident. First of all, we have lots of great things going on, from new buildings on campus to our high-profile effort that might end up with UMKC building a new Downtown Campus for the Arts."

Spenner said that U-Comm works hand in hand with other campus organizations like Advancement and Admissions to appeal to new students in a variety of ways: "Storytelling on the UMKC website, social media on Facebook and Twitter, ads on television and radio and in area high schools, online ads, speeches, partnering with community organizations like Saint Luke's or the Chiefs or Rockhurst.

Our work touches almost everything on campus."

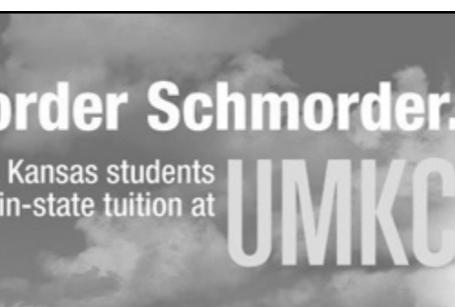
U-Comm is constantly coming up with new ideas for marketing campaigns.

The "Border Shmorder" campaign, launched in March 2012, targets prospective students from eastern Kansas. It also takes a shot at the sports rivalries between the two states.

Spenner said that many prospective students from that area do not realize that UMKC offers in-state tuition to 11 Kansas counties as far west as Lawrence and Topeka.

"This is one of my favorite accomplishments," Spenner said. "We wanted to draw attention to UMKC's tremendous tuition bargain for students on the Kansas side of the metro area, while poking a little bit of good-spirited fun at certain regional athletic rivals."

Spenner said her main focus is to keep



Above: The Border Shmorder campaign targets students in eastern Kansas counties who are eligible to attend UMKC for in-state tuition.
Below: The redesigned Kangaroo mascot pays homage to the original kangaroo mascot, designed by local cartoon legend Walt Disney in the 1930s.

Photos courtesy of UMKC



students at the center of what U-Comm does, stressing the role of current students and faculty in the marketing process.

"The people who live and work on this campus know better than anyone the great things going on here," she said.

Corrections

Issue 12, Nov. 5

Pg. 10: Word on Campus

David Scott's interview was accompanied by the wrong photo.

Pg. 17: 'Regina Spektor coming to KC'

The photo credit was incorrectly attributed to Google. It should have read, "Photo used with permission of Sacks & Co."

Issue 13, Nov. 12

Pg. 5: 'Being a Black Man in America'

Due to a production error, Darius Jackson was cropped out of the photo to the right.

Pg. 10: 'Regina Spektor touches Kansas City fans'

The first paragraph incorrectly stated that Regina Spektor was accompanied by her best friend on the piano. It should have read, 'her best friend, the piano.'

Spot any mistakes? Have questions about content in the newspaper or new story ideas?
 Email Editor-in-Chief Nathan Zoschke, nzoschke@unews.com.



Darius Jackson (right) and Lane Burris (center) lead a panel discussion about how black males are perceived by society. Pictured left is Measha Smith-Russell.

Photo by Jessica Turner



Miller Nichols Learning Center on track for fall 2013 opening

Roze Brooks Copy Editor

The construction of the Miller Nichols Learning Center reached a halfway milestone on Nov. 15.

The new facility being built to the west of the existing Miller Nichols Library will include a 350-seat auditorium, a 400-seat lecture hall divisible into two spaces and two 100-seat halls.

Students and faculty were invited to sign the final steel beam before it was placed.

Funding for the Miller Nichols Library Classroom Building Addition came through an \$18 million University of Missouri System bond approved by the Board of Curators in 2010.

Funds for renovations to the existing library building, completed in spring 2011, came from private donors in exchange for naming rights to classrooms in the learning center.

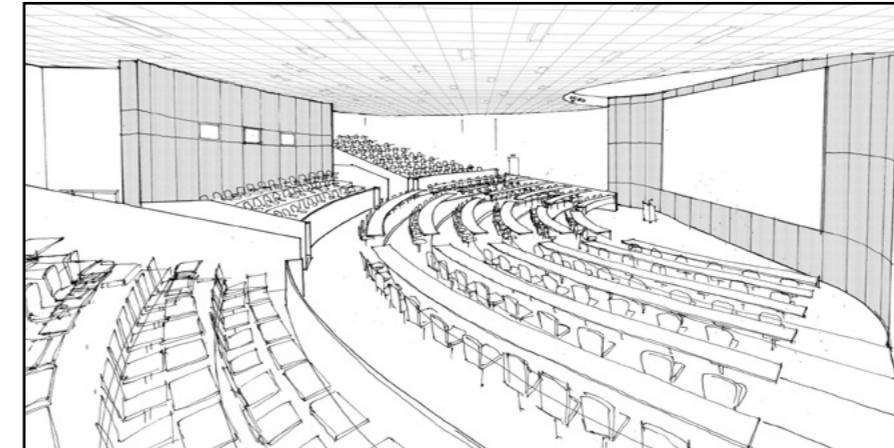
Ground breaking was in April 2012. Jeff Vandel, director of facilities planning, design and construction, believes the project is on track to open by August 2013.

"Use of the space will launch full force at the start of the fall 2013 semester," Vandel said.

On the first floor, the Jeanette Nichols Learning Commons will double as a classroom space and community programming room.

"It's auditorium style, so it can be used for classes," Dean of Libraries Bonnie Postlethwaite said. "But we can also bring in outside speakers or have other types of events there that are open to the community as well as the campus. That's an important part of the University."

Postlethwaite said she believes this will alleviate professors having to teach duplicate sections of some popular courses, freeing up



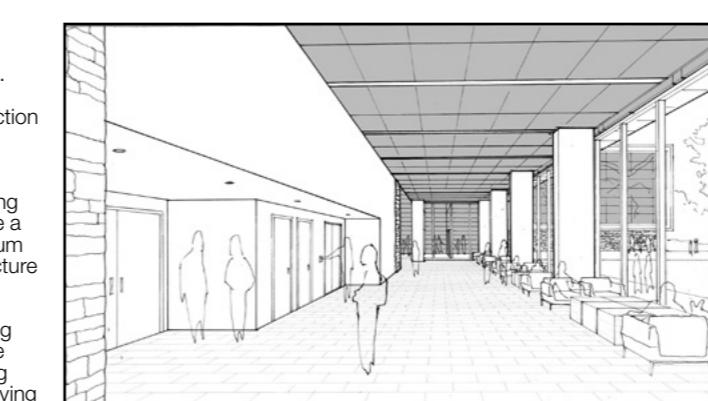
Top left: The Miller Nichols Learning Center expansion.

Top right: Construction is already well underway.

Above: The Learning Center will include a 350-seat auditorium and expansive lecture hall spaces.

Right: The Learning Center will include an entrance facing 51st Street, improving accessibility to Miller Nichols Library from the quad.

Below: The existing north-facing entrance to Miller Nichols Library is an inconvenience for some students.



their schedules to offer other courses.

Postlethwaite said she doesn't anticipate increased workloads for current professors due to larger class sizes or the need for additional graduate teaching assistantships.

Postlethwaite said student traffic has doubled since the 2011 renovations, particularly during weekday afternoons.

She expects foot traffic to again more than double by next fall with the Learning Center opening.

"We figure we're going to have about 1,200 people moving in and out of the building at any given time," Postlethwaite said.

This influx of foot traffic will also stem from the added entryways, including one along 51st Street. This will improve connectivity to the quad. Many students consider access from the north side an inconvenience.

"I think the big things for students and faculty will be that we will have an entrance off of 51st street," she said. "And we can't wait for that either."

"I think the big things for students and faculty will be that we will have an entrance off of 51st street. And we can't wait for that either."

-Bonnie Postlethwaite, Dean of Libraries

rbrooks@unews.com

for that either."

Postlethwaite expects another esteemed amenity in the Learning Center will be the expansive study spaces.

"I think from the students' perspective, in addition to the classes, there's going to be a lot of study spaces outside of the classes, which I think they'll find very wonderful," she said.

The new facility also offers two elevators, unisex bathrooms and a lactation station for nursing mothers.

Mercury Association résumé workshop focuses on avoiding common mistakes

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

Mercury Association hosted its annual résumé workshop on Nov. 16 in Royal Hall.

The Communications Studies student organization partnered with UMKC Career Services general manager Sandi Dale, who discussed avoiding common résumé mistakes and ways to stand out among the competition.

"How many have a résumé?" she asked a group of about 25 students.

The majority of students raised their hands.

"Are you happy with the résumé you have?" she asked.

The hands in the air began to descend with only a couple remaining.

Dale explained the different formats of a résumé.

"A good, effective résumé is your personal marketing tool," she said. "It's the first thing a prospective employer will see, so emphasize what is relevant to the job."

Dale also stressed the importance of including experience, education and leadership.

"Résumés work best if they are clean, neat and easy to read," Dale said. "Identifying what field the job seeker is looking to enter is helpful. Highlighting relevant experience, leadership skills, co-curricular activities, any study abroad experience, honors/awards and volunteerism help make a résumé work."

Dale said that the most common mistakes Career Services sees are not knowing the correct way to spell out UMKC and not identifying a degree.

"As elementary as it may sound, we see dozens of résumés with incorrect spellings," she said. "This will look really bad, especially if the person doing the hiring is a UMKC graduate."

Punctuation is problematic.

"It's surprising the amount of people who write 'University of Kansas City' or even 'University of Missouri - Kansas.' Many forget to include the hyphen and use a slash or comma instead," she said. "Also, we see many students who don't even know what degree they're getting. UMKC does not have a Bachelors of Communications. Communications is a major. Bachelor of Arts is a degree."

Another red flag mistake is putting personal information on one's résumé.

"We see many résumés that include marital status or number of children," Dale said. "We've even seen some with pictures attached."

Dale concluded with key tips to landing a job or internship.

"Have a great résumé that stands out and perfect your interviewing skills," she said. "Making that first great impression (with the résumé) and then a second great impression with being able to articulate who you are and what you have to offer to a potential employer."

Junior communication studies and English major Amy Daniels came prepared with a résumé to show Dale.

"I chose to come to the workshop because it's good to get involved and get feedback from someone outside of college years," she said. "I've been a writing tutor so I already knew the do's



Mercury Association officers David Kim, Jordan Williams and Emily Lundberg introduce Career Services Manager Sandi Dale.
Photo by Elizabeth Golden



Above: Jordan Williams, Mercury Association Publicist.

Below: Sandi Dale, Career Services Manager.



Composting 101: The art of food recovery

Johanna Poppel

Copy Editor

Compost is the product of decomposed organic material produced by a natural cycle in the environment when dead animals and plants are digested by other organisms, physically and chemically. Organisms, such as insects and worms, physically decompose organic material by chewing through it.

Microorganisms such as aerobic bacteria contribute the most to decomposition by changing the chemistry of organic waste. A variety of partially decomposed organic waste results in nutrient-rich soil, perfect for a lawn or garden.

To start a backyard compost bin, choose an area with good drainage, partial shade and little wind to prevent the compost from becoming too wet or dry.

A bin should be placed on bare ground, not cement. The bin can be constructed from wood, plastic or chicken wire.

The compost pile should be no smaller than 3 cubic feet and no larger than 5 cubic feet. Compost requires a mixture of air,

water, nitrogen and carbon to supply fuel for microorganisms.

Air and water should be no worry when the compost pile is regularly stirred and includes a balance of nitrogen-rich and carbon-rich materials.

Nitrogen-rich materials, or "greens," include fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and lawn clippings.

Carbon-rich materials, or "browns," include saw dust, dried leaves and straw.

A good ratio is about four parts "browns" to one part "greens" by volume.

Items that cannot be composted include meat, bones, grease, ashes, pet droppings and litter.

Fall is the best time to start composting, due to the abundance of dried leaves, and it is also a good time to harvest compost for spring gardening.

Composting has two great benefits—keeping food waste out of landfills and producing fertile soil for gardening.

For more advice, go to www.thegardenoffoz.org or www.howtocompost.org.

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Sustainability Corner



Left to right: Dr. Syed Hasan, regional EPA director Karl Brooks, Dining Services retail manager Melissa Barton and Dining Services general manager J.P. Singh. The green bins are used to collect food waste from the Student Union for composting.

Photo by Johanna Poppel

EPA tour highlights UMKC's food recovery efforts

Johanna Poppel

Copy Editor

UMKC's Food Recovery Challenge efforts were touted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Nov. 15 in recognition of America Recycles Day.

The Food Recovery Challenge, which asks participants to reduce food waste, is part of the EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program.

This program aims to lower the environmental impact of materials through their life cycle, during which the material is extracted, produced, used and either recycled or disposed.

According to the EPA, 97 percent of the estimated 35 million tons of food waste generated in 2010 was thrown away in incinerators or landfills.

When food decomposes in landfills, it emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

The Food Recovery Challenge encourages food waste reduction by prevention, donation and recycling.

A whole range of businesses, universities and non-profit organizations across the country have participated in the challenge.

The EPA provides resources on sustainable food management and recognition for participants. The challenges encourage food waste reduction by many different means, including better food purchasing methods and donation to hunger-relief organizations.

EPA Regional Administrator Karl Brooks said UMKC is a pioneer and leader in recycling.

"We jumped from 49th to 13th place in a national [recycling] competition."

jpoppel@unews.com

Résumé checklist

Contact Information

- First and last name (14-16 pt. font), address, phone number, and professional email address displayed clearly at the top of the page.

Education

- List schools attended in reverse chronological order.
- Full name of the university is spelled out.
- The city and state of each school are listed.

- Use the official degree name (i.e., Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science).

- Spell out major, minor, concentration, and emphasis (if applicable).
- Include GPA if it is above a 3.00, listed to the hundredths place.

- Indicate graduation date, anticipated graduation date, or dates attended (if not a degree granting program, i.e. Study Abroad).
- Do not include your high school information.

Experience

- Use reverse chronological order.

- Indicate the name, city, and state of the organization or company.
- List title and start/end dates. Use consistent formatting.
- Use descriptive, bulleted statements listing skills, accomplishments, and specific responsibilities.

- Avoid "I" statements and full sentences. Use action verbs.
- Use past tense verbs for past experiences and present tense verbs for current experiences.

- Layout/Design**
- Avoid first person pronouns (I, me, my).
- Use a standard font and size for the body that is easy to read (10-12 pt.).
- Proofread carefully; no typos.
- Undergraduate resumes should not exceed one page in length.

- Style and layout are consistent throughout including use of bullets, bold, italics, underline, hyphens, punctuation, and indentation.
- Does not include any of the following personal items:** photograph, marital status, date of birth, social security number, citizenship status, gender, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation.

- Use reverse chronological order.

ARE YOU A CURRENT UMKC GRADUATE STUDENT?



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You will gain the knowledge needed to assume leadership roles in governmental and nonprofit organizations working on urban issues.

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*All courses are 3 credits each

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816-235-2894

Required Courses

- Politics of Administration
- Leadership for Public Service
- Urban Policy and Administration
- Regional and Local Government Systems
- Urban and Regional Planning for Urban Administrators

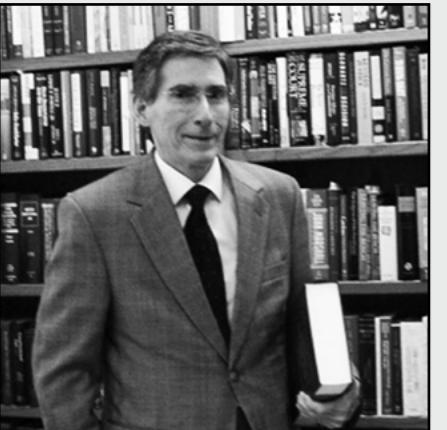
Plus one of the following two courses:

- Managing Urban Economic Development
- Community Organizations and Public Policy

Information adapted from UMKC Career Services Résumé checklist

UMKC Henry W. Bloch
School of Management
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

obituary



Dr. David N. Atkinson. Photo courtesy of UMKC

Retired political science professor loses battle to cancer

Michelle Heiman Copy Editor

Dr. David N. Atkinson, former chair of the *University News* Board of Publishers and retired Curator's Distinguished Teaching Professor of Political Science, passed away on Nov. 14 at the Kansas City Hospice House.

Atkinson, who started at UMKC as an assistant professor in 1967, had been fighting stomach cancer.

The family of the University of Iowa graduate requested no flowers be sent in memorial to him. Instead, they ask for gifts to the David N. Atkinson Scholarship.

The Scholarship is awarded annually to an undergraduate student majoring in Political Science. Preference is given to juniors and seniors, and full-time enrollment is required for two semesters prior to the award semester.

In an April 2011 article announcing his retirement, the *U-News* thanked Atkinson for his support and wished him a happy retirement. Now, we send our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

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English panels share practical advice

UMKC faculty discuss graduate school applications, conferences and professional publication

Roze Brooks

Copy Editor

A panel discussion organized by the Undergraduate English Council (UEC) and English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) on Nov. 8 focused on developing graduate school applications and publishing professional work.

The panel discussion hosted by UEC featured UMKC professors Drs. Jane Greer, Michelle Boisseau and Thomas Stroik, and Interdisciplinary Ph.D. student Craig Workman.

Advice focused on graduate English programs, but certain advice could apply to any student interested in an advanced degree.

"Don't just [apply to grad school because] you don't know what you're going to do next year," Stroik said.

He advised students to take the necessary time to complete an application process that each of the professors said can be tedious.

"Your statement of purpose should be a sophisticated understanding of the field and where you fit," Stroik said. "This is an opportunity to make someone interested in you."

Boisseau said it is important to be conscious of deadlines so professors have enough time to write effective letters of recommendation.

She provided a checklist she requires from students asking for letters: a list of courses taken with her, a list of prospective schools, the writing sample and the statement of purpose.

Ellinghausen asked students what they thought was the biggest motive to attend conferences.

Many answered said conferences are a good opportunity for academic learning, but Ellinghausen suggested that the real benefit is personal development.

"Conferences allow you to find a good context for your work," she said.

The panel also stressed the importance of talking to current graduate students.

"Ask the one person you're going to trust the most to help you," Stroik said. "Professors have coattails. They can advise you on who else you should ask for letters."

Greer admitted the job market for higher education degrees in the humanities is grim, but pointed out the success that can stem from experience.

"The rest of your life is a long time," Boisseau said, telling students not to base graduate school decisions on the length of the program. "Don't forget the joy."

Workman cautioned against procrastinating on an application.

"Don't rely on your own genius that you're going to get accepted because you're you," he said.

Dr. John Barton gave additional insight, suggesting students not apply to the top 10



A panel hosted by the Undergraduate English Council discusses grad school applications. From left to right: Craig Workman, Thomas Stroik, Michelle Bouisseau, Jane Greer and student Lindsay Adams.

Photo by Roze Brooks

schools in the country.

"Have three dream schools, three hopefuls and three most likelies," he said.

The panel hosted by EGSA focused on presenting at conferences and submitting work for publication in professional journals.

It included Drs. Jennifer Frangos, Jennifer Phegley, Michael Pritchett, Hadara Bar-Nadav and Laurie Ellinghausen.

Ellinghausen asked students what they thought was the biggest motive to attend conferences.

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"Don't rely on your own genius that you're going to get accepted because you're you," he said.

Phegley advised students to join newsletter mailing lists in order to stay informed about opportunities to submit

News Briefs**Chancellor Morton recognized for civic leadership**

Roze Brooks

Copy Editor

UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton was awarded the 2012 Henry W. Bloch Human Relations Award by the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee.

Morton received the award, which is given to those deemed exemplary leaders and inspirational community activists, at the organization's Human Relations Dinner on Nov. 18.

The award is named in honor of Henry W. Bloch, the retired H&R Bloch co-founder, local philanthropist and primary benefactor of the Henry W. Bloch School of Management at UMKC.

Morton, 67, is the first black chancellor of UMKC. He grew up in Birmingham, Ala., in the 1960s and drew inspiration from the Civil Rights movement.

Morton began his career at UMKC as interim chancellor in 2008 after a business career. He was previously the vice president and chief administrative officer of locally

scholarly papers for upcoming conferences.

"Think about what you're already doing and how you can work your piece to fit into that conference's theme," she said. "Do not go over the word limit on proposals, use language from the call for papers so the recipients know you understand."

Pritchett and Bar-Nadav contrasted submitting scholarly papers and creative writing pieces and advised students to also participate in retreats and residencies along with conferences.

"Conferences can be overwhelming and disheartening," Bar-Nadav said. "Going with people you know can help."

Bar-Nadav said students should familiarize themselves with journals, especially those in which favored authors are getting published.

The panel members stressed the importance of working with faculty during the submissions process. They explained that responses for journal submissions range from nasty to extensively critical and helpful.

"Even a response but not an acceptance should be considered a win," Dr. Ellinghausen said. Frangos said that students should constantly be either writing, revising or submitting.

"Getting an A on a paper from the hardest grader in the department doesn't mean take it straight to publishing," she said.

UEC and EGSA will host a symposium in spring 2013. A call for papers opens near the closing of winter break. All genres and disciplines are welcome to submit papers.

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Chancellor Leo Morton.

Photo courtesy of UMKC

based Aquila Inc.

He received the award in recognition of his commitment to justice, service to the community,

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civic leadership and vision and devotion to the city.

Submissions deadline approaches for student magazine

Roze Brooks Copy Editor

poems), a screenplay or a stage play.

- \$100 Lena Vaughn Award for the Visual Arts

In memory of Lena Vaughn, a prolific painter from Iowa, this award is for the best image or group of images submitted.

- \$100-John Latosi Award for Creative Writing

In memory of John Latosi, a poet and journalist from New York, the award is for the best submission of short fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry (three or more

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Day on Dec. 1.

Sections of the 54-ton, handmade tapestry—which has been displayed across the globe—serve as a memorial to more than 90,000 victims of AIDS.

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AIDS Memorial Quilt on display at the Student Union

Roze Brooks Copy Editor



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money corner

ENACTUS**Tips for first-time apartment hunters**

Andrew Wrisinger

UMKC Enactus

Apartment hunting can be stressful, but the pursuit for the perfect pad doesn't have to be unpleasant.

First, it is crucial to begin the hunt early. If a renter is looking for a place for the fall semester, it is better to look around January. Before hunting, have all income documentation ready and pull your credit score from a free credit site. That way, if a landlord's cut-off is 600 and the renter's score is below that, there is no time wasted between either party.

Attorney Tracy Wrisinger recommends www.AnualCreditReport.com.

[It's] the only truly free resource to check your score," Wrisinger said. "Other resources will give you a free trial period but require a credit card and will charge a monthly fee once the trial period expires."

Also consider evaluating if insuring the property through Renter's Insurance is of value.

Farmer's Agent Kevin Hornick states that Renter's Insurance covers "personal property (such as electronics or furniture), loss of use (covers second property if the property is currently inhabitable), liability

(if someone sues the entire apartment) and guest medical (if a friend is injured on your property)."

Lastly, do not feel pressured to sign a lease on the spot. Have at least five properties in consideration and take time to review them individually. Let each of the properties sink in for at least a day or two and see how you still feel about it.

enactus@unews.com



Michael Oakley delivers a header during a game against Missouri State.

Photo courtesy of Micheal Oakley

Scoreboard

Men's Basketball

Overall Record: 2-3
Conference Record: 0-0
Nov. 17—UMKC 59, Albany 62
Nov. 18—UMKC 63, Norfolk State 57
Nov. 23—Ohio State 91 UMKC 45

Up next:

Nov. 29—vs. IUPUI 7:05 p.m.
at Swinney Recreation Center
Dec. 1—vs. Western Illinois 4:05 p.m.
at Swinney Recreation Center.

Basketball—Women's

Overall Record: 3-4
Conference Record: 0-0
Nov. 18—UMKC 55, Colorado 78
Nov. 20—UMKC 55, VCU 79
Nov. 23—Drexel 76 UMKC 40
Nov. 24—UMKC 70 LIU Brooklyn 66

Up next:

Nov. 30—vs. Air Force 6 p.m.
at USAFA, Colo.
Dec. 1—vs. Boise State 3 p.m.
at USAFA, Colo.

Player Profile

Michael Oakley

Soccer player proves his success with two Summit League honors

Dan Moreno

Staff Writer

Sophomore defender Michael Oakley has been recognized for his skills on the field and in the classroom.

Along with sophomore defender Jordan Rideout and senior midfielder David Sarabia, Oakley was named first-team All-Summit League earlier this month.

In addition, Oakley was the only Roo to receive the Summit League's Academic All-League honors.

"It is a real honor for me," Oakley said. "It is nice to see that other coaches in the Summit League appreciate my hard work and I'm very thankful to be highly recognized in the conference."

With one game-winning goal, two assists and four points, Oakley has been an important player in Coach Rick Benben's lineup.

Oakley is accustomed to earning awards. As a four-year

starter at Lee's Summit North High School, he earned Defensive Player of the Year and first-team All-State awards.

He was also named to the first-team All-Western Region and team captain his junior and senior years.

In his first season at UMKC, Oakley started and played in every game but one. He also earned a spot on the Summit League All-Newcomer team.

Oakley started playing soccer when he was 4 years old, and played for such local clubs as the Kansas City Football Club, Legends Soccer Club and, most recently, at Sporting Kansas City's youth academy.

"Soccer is in my blood," he said. "I try to work hard every day in practice to ensure my spot as a starter. He (Benben) looks to me for some leadership since I have some experience now as a collegiate center back."

With rigorous practices and

away games, being a student-athlete is no easy job. But Oakley's All-Academic award and 3.80 GPA prove this is not a problem for him.

"I really just try to do my best with time management and try to stay on top of my classes," he said. "My teachers always cooperate very well with me and in return I try to perform well in their classes."

Since he was young, Oakley said he has dreamed about becoming a professional soccer player.

"I hope I can play soccer for as long as possible to be honest, I plan on pursuing that as much as possible," he said.

Otherwise, Oakley said he plans to earn a degree in broadcast journalism and settle down with a family.

"I want to find an amazing girl and be able to support and start a family," he said.

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Men's Basketball

Blowout loss at Ohio State sets back Roos

Tyren Rushing

Staff Writer

A 91-45 road loss to third-ranked Ohio State on Friday left the men's basketball team still struggling to reach the elusive .500 mark. Prior to that lopsided loss, the Roos split two games during the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament in Uncasville, Conn.

They defeated Norfolk State (Va.) 63-57 after losing to Albany (N.Y.) 62-59 in games Nov. 17-18.

The win against Norfolk State pushed the Roos' record to 2-2 and marked a victory over a team that made the NCAA Tournament last season. A 15th seed, the Spartans knocked off Missouri in the first round.

Point guard Estan Tyler led the way to victory with 15 points in a game that had eight lead changes and seven ties, and was easily one of the best defensive games

by the Roos this season. The Roos shot 47.4 percent from the field and held the Spartans to only 37.7 percent shooting and caused 12 turnovers.

Forward Kirk Korver and center Fred Chatmon combined for five of the team's seven steals. Chatmon had five rebounds,



two blocks, five points and committed only two fouls in 26 minutes. Korver had a cold night, shooting 2-of-5, but hit all four of his free throws and finished with 10 points.

Korver leads the team in scoring with 12.3 points a game, while Chatmon continues to lead the team in rebounding with a 6.8 average.

Against Albany, the Roos shot just 34.6 percent from the floor. Their defense in the first half limited the Great Danes to 33.3 percent shooting and 23 points, helping to build a three-point lead.

However, that defensive pressure didn't last, as the Great Danes hit 47.6 percent from the field in the second half, including 60 percent of their three-pointers. Korver, Tyler and guard Nate Rogers scored 43 out of the Roos' 59 points. Tyler scored a career-high 17 points.

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The Health Journal
See Results Part V:

The great

milk debate

Kharissa Forte

Copy Editor

The *See Results* series has covered proper exercise, eating good foods, nipping cravings and keeping an eye on ingredients. In the final installment, we will consider how milk plays a critical role in seeing results.

Some professionals are at odds whether milk is good for people trying to lose weight. If it is good for weight loss, what kind of milk is most beneficial?

There's a wide variety of milk to choose from. Almond, soy, rice and coconut milks are taking homes by storm these days. But, even those who choose to stick to old-fashioned cow's milk seem to be torn over whether to drink whole, 2 percent, 1 percent or skim.

UMKC personal trainer Shannon Hutsler believes plant-based milk is best.

"Breast milk was made for babies," she said. "Cow's milk was made for baby cows. There are a lot of hormones in cow's milk that I wonder if humans are supposed to be drinking. I mean, we don't give breast milk to adults, either. I'm a coconut milk drinker."

The theory makes sense, but Tiffany Moran, clinical supervisor of Truman Medical Center's Women Infants Children (WIC) program in the Grandview location, disagrees.

"Cows are living creatures just like humans," Moran said. "Plants are alive, but they're just that: plants. Because they're of a different species, plant-based milks like coconut, almond and soy are not going to have all of the nutritional values that we as people need. They're lower in calories, but they don't all have the nutritional value as cow's milk."

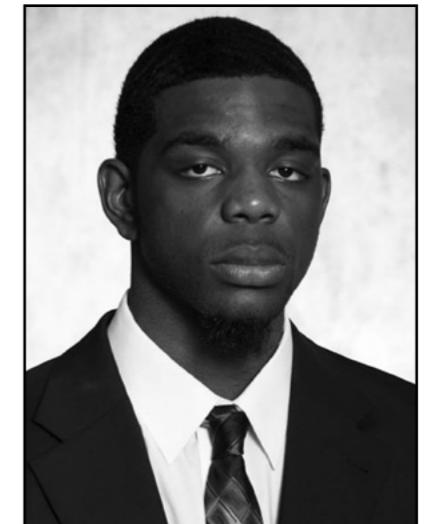
UMKC Director of Strength and Conditioning Paul Arndorfer said that chocolate milk is a great post-workout protein supplement for muscle repair and to ensure the calorie goal is reached.

"Of course I want to go pro after college," Chatmon said. "I'll play overseas or wherever my body takes me. I'll play for a few years or however long it takes to stack up the money to build my business."

While most Division I basketball players daydream about the NBA, the ever-humble big man for the Roos is just waiting to trade in his blue-and-gold jersey for a tool belt and blue collar.

"I'm a business major, so of course I want to start my own company," he said. "I'm more of a handyman, so if I could do landscaping, bricklaying, snowplowing or something like that, I'll be good."

trushing@unews.com



Fred Chatmon

Photo courtesy of UMKC Athletics

was a lot more passion in it. So I polish my game after the old-school players. It was more about the game than money."

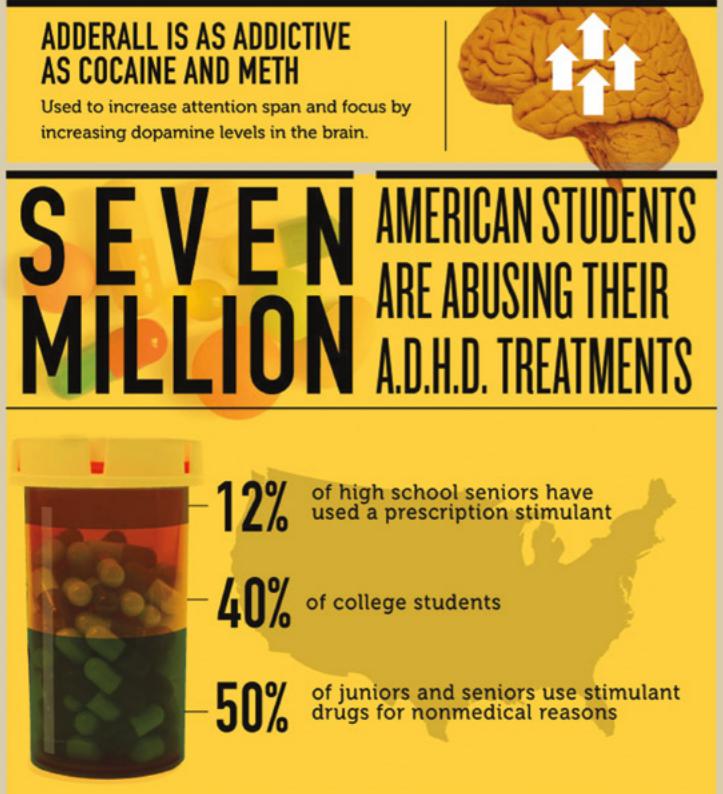
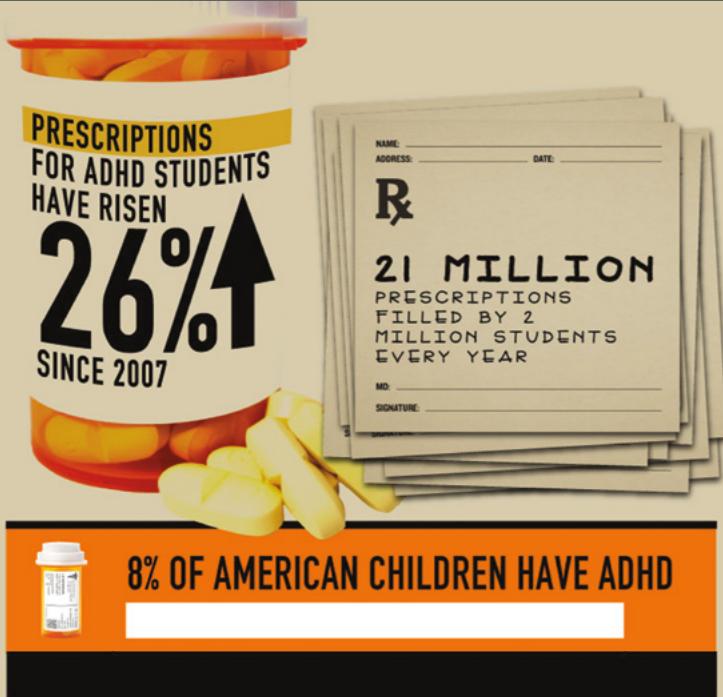
With only one full season left as a Roo, Chatmon has been thinking about his life after college.

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kforte@unews.com



WHO'S USING?

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ASIAN		13%
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OTHER		16%

Going for the high grade

Illicit use of prescription stimulants raises a red flag

Kate Baxendale
Michelle Heiman

Senior Staff Writer
Copy Editor

On the night before her chemistry exam, Jane* popped a 20 milligram Adderall.

She said the medication, obtained illegally from a friend for \$5, helps her combat drowsiness so she can pull all-nighters in order to complete last-minute assignments or cram for exams.

Seven million Americans over the age of 12 took prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in 2010, trailing only marijuana in illicit drug use popularity, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Jane said she only takes her "study pills" when "academically necessary," so she may not recognize the potential negative side effects both on her health and on her criminal record.

Medical research has found that abuse of prescription stimulants can cause elevated blood pressure, anxiety, depression, heart irregularities, acute exhaustion or even psychosis during withdrawal.

The most common side effects are insomnia, headache, dry mouth, anxiety, agitation and stomach upset, according to the UMKC Drug

Information Center, which is part of the School of Pharmacy.

While these medications are meant to calm people diagnosed with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), those who are not prescribed the pills may experience an acute sense of focus and alertness they claim can help them buckle down on late-night study sessions.

Prescription stimulants used to treat these disorders, like Adderall, Vyvanse, Ritalin and Focalin, are listed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency as Class 2 controlled substances—as are cocaine and morphine—because of their addictive qualities.

Possession of Adderall, Vyvanse, Ritalin or Focalin without a lawful prescription could mean up to seven years in prison and a \$5,000 fine, but students who take prescription drugs may not realize that simply giving or selling any of these medications to people without a prescription can lead to felony charges.

Another student who asked to remain anonymous also takes ADHD medication to help study.

"I buy it or get it for free from friends who are prescribed the medication," the student said. "I would say I take it an average of three times per

week. I do feel that I need it to perform better in school and work."

Two students who are prescribed medication for ADHD, seniors Kaitlin Ohde and Dylan Kotubey, take the drugs out of necessity.

"When I do not take Adderall, I feel cerebrally fuzzy," Kotubey said. "With Adderall, I am able to methodically complete tasks and work effectively because I do not have to focus on just one part of a given thought process. Adderall just helps my brain come together."

Ohde agreed that her medication is necessary to focus for long periods of time.

"I have been on this medication for many years now," she said. "If I have a really busy day of classes and studying it aids in attention span throughout the day."

"The self-care piece is critical – remembering to eat well, sleep well and get exercise, especially during midterms and finals. That's better than taking a pill."

—Dr. Dalenette Voigt-Catlin

Schwarz in a June *New York Times* article about prescription stimulants.

Schwarz interviewed approximately 40 students, parents and school officials.

"Asked if the improper use of stimulants was cheating, students were split," he said. "Some considered that the extra studying hours and the heightened focus during exams amount to an unfair advantage. Many countered that the drugs 'don't give you the answers' and defended their use as a personal choice for test preparation, akin to tutoring."

Voigt-Catlin said the campus has a strategic plan surrounding alcohol and drug prevention, and addressing the issue of nonmedical prescription drug use is part of that plan.

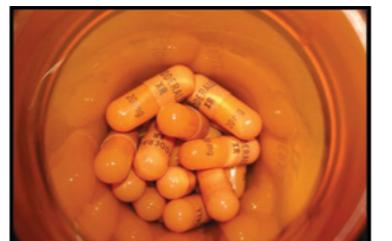
"We have a committee that looks across the whole campus, working on strategies to help educate students and to help provide experiences and activities to help people make wiser choices," she said. "The campus also tries to do things around midterms and finals."

Voigt-Catlin is also involved with the MindBody Connection in the Student Success Center, which she said will also host activities around finals week to help students avoid and/or deal with stress.

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Editor's note: Name has been changed to maintain confidentiality.

Common drug side effects



Aderall common side effects:

- Headache
- Stomach ache
- Trouble sleeping
- Weight loss
- Dry mouth
- Fast heartbeat
- Decreased appetite
- Nervousness
- Mood swings
- Dizziness



Vyvanse common side effects:

- Anxiety
- Decreased appetite
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Dry mouth
- Irritability
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Trouble sleeping
- Upper stomach pain
- Vomiting
- Weight loss



Ritalin common side effects:

- Headache
- Stomach ache
- Trouble sleeping
- Nausea
- Decreased appetite
- Nervousness

Of the 408 UMKC students surveyed in the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS), 27 said they had used prescription stimulants in the past year.

Of the 27 UMKC students, the majority said this occurs one to six times per year. This may suggest that stimulant use only occurs at key times throughout the year, such as midterms and finals weeks.

Dr. Dalenette Voigt-Catlin, coordinator of the UMKC Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program, said there are safer alternatives to help study for extended periods of time.

Voigt-Catlin recommended studying in short intervals, about 30 minutes, and then doing something else before coming back to the work.

"We learn through associations and through repetition," she said. "And that feels better to people, because what they don't like is being strapped down to dredge through everything."

Voigt-Catlin also suggested a rewards system for completing necessary work, and she stressed self-care as key.

"You can't study if you don't feel good," she said. "The self-care piece is critical – remembering to eat well, sleep well and get exercise, especially during midterms and finals. That's better than taking a pill."

While the immediate effects of these drugs may seem to have positive effects such as increased focus and better grades, the long-term effects on one's health are a subject of debate among medical experts.

"Little is known about the long-term effects of abuse of stimulants among the young," said Alan



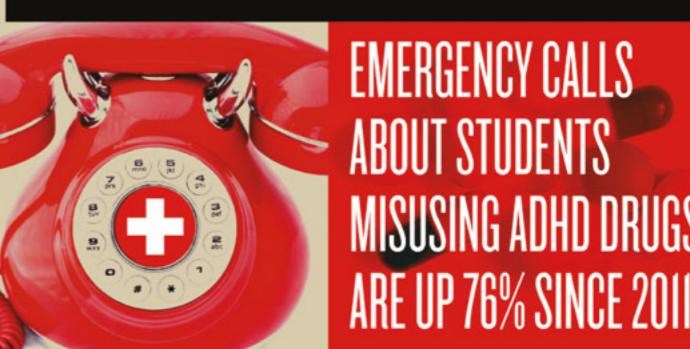
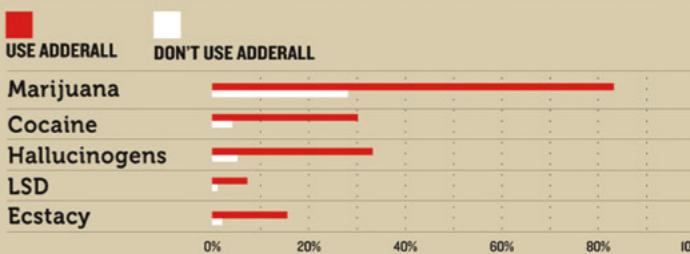
9 OUT OF 10 STUDENTS WHO MISUSE ADHD DRUGS ALSO BINGE DRINK



More than half are heavy alcohol users

WHILE ONLY 16% OF ALL STUDENTS ARE HEAVY DRINKERS

STUDENTS WHO USE ADDERALL ARE MORE LIKELY TO ABUSE OTHER DRUGS



EMERGENCY CALLS ABOUT STUDENTS MISUSING ADHD DRUGS ARE UP 76% SINCE 2011

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City Beautiful

Turn-of-the-century civic movement was inspiration for Kansas City's parks and boulevard system



The 217-foot limestone Liberty Memorial, completed in 1921, is a hallmark of the City Beautiful movement in Kansas City.
Photo by Nathan Zoschke

Joey Hill

Staff Writer

One of Kansas City's most admired historical efforts is the City Beautiful movement, a boom of architectural and urban planning developed at the turn of the 20th century that transformed Kansas City from a sparse, dirt road-laden town to a thriving metropolis.

The first push came in 1872 when a local landowner, James W. Cook, offered 40 acres of his land to the development of parks.

The proposal was initially rejected by the city council, reasoning that street improvements, sewers and water supply were more urgently needed than parks.

Cook appealed the decision in 1877. With slight changes to the original price, Kansas City acquired its first land for parks.

However, the lack of citizen outcry for parks over the next three years proved the development to be rather pointless.

With the industrialization of the city growing, newspapers ceased active campaigns for parks.

Soon, most of the open spaces in the city were paved over for residential development.

That is, until a brief piece of fiction found its way into *The Kansas City Star*.

The work was a short story about a young Kansas City man who convinced his prospective father-in-law to visit with exaggerated descriptions of the city's parks, buildings and streets.

Knowing he would be found out, he enlisted the help of his roommate to hypnotize his fiancée's father to see a Kansas City with tree-lined boulevards and beautiful

parks. The ruse worked and his fiancée moved to Kansas City to marry him.

While she was disgusted with the appearance of the city, her love for him convinced her to stay.

"It is a fearful test on a woman's love to ask her to live in the actual Kansas City," she said.

This short story became the first in a series of *The Star's* repetitive presentations making the same point: Kansas City needed parks.

Orchestrated by editor William Rockhill Nelson, the strategy involved focusing the paper's efforts on informing citizens of the need for parks and the vast potential the landscape of the city offered.

It was not until the appearance of German landscape architect George Kessler that the true beautification process began.

Educated in the art of city planning in

A Kansas City tradition continues

Warm weather, SportingKC highlight this year's event

Jessica Turner

Staff Writer

Approximately 200,000 people come to the Country Club Plaza each Thanksgiving to see the illumination of more than 250,000 bulbs—more than 80 miles of strands of twinkling lights—in the 15 square blocks.

Kansas City natives are familiar with the tradition, which officially kicks off the holiday season.

Some may not know this annual celebration has been around for almost 90 years. The roots of the lighting ceremony are in 1925, when Nichols Company maintenance supervisor Charles "Pete" Pitrat hung a string of only 16 lights over the doorway of the Mill Creek Building.

In the years following, Pitrat administered the hanging of more lights on more structures every year until 1930, when the first official Plaza Lighting Ceremony was celebrated. Then, the ritual was transformed into the popular custom it is today.

Residents outside of Kansas City also enjoy partaking in the festivity. Simona Vaughn from Columbia visits every Thanksgiving to see a movie with friends at the Cinemark Palace Theater before the lighting ceremony takes place.

"We will be shaking the chandeliers of the Plaza tonight, ladies and gentlemen," said Lezak as he introduced The Elders, who held a free concert as this year's special musical guests.

It may come as a surprise, but the big switch onstage actually is the functioning control that operates the lights. Chief Meteorologist Gary Lezak from 41 Action News co-hosted the event.

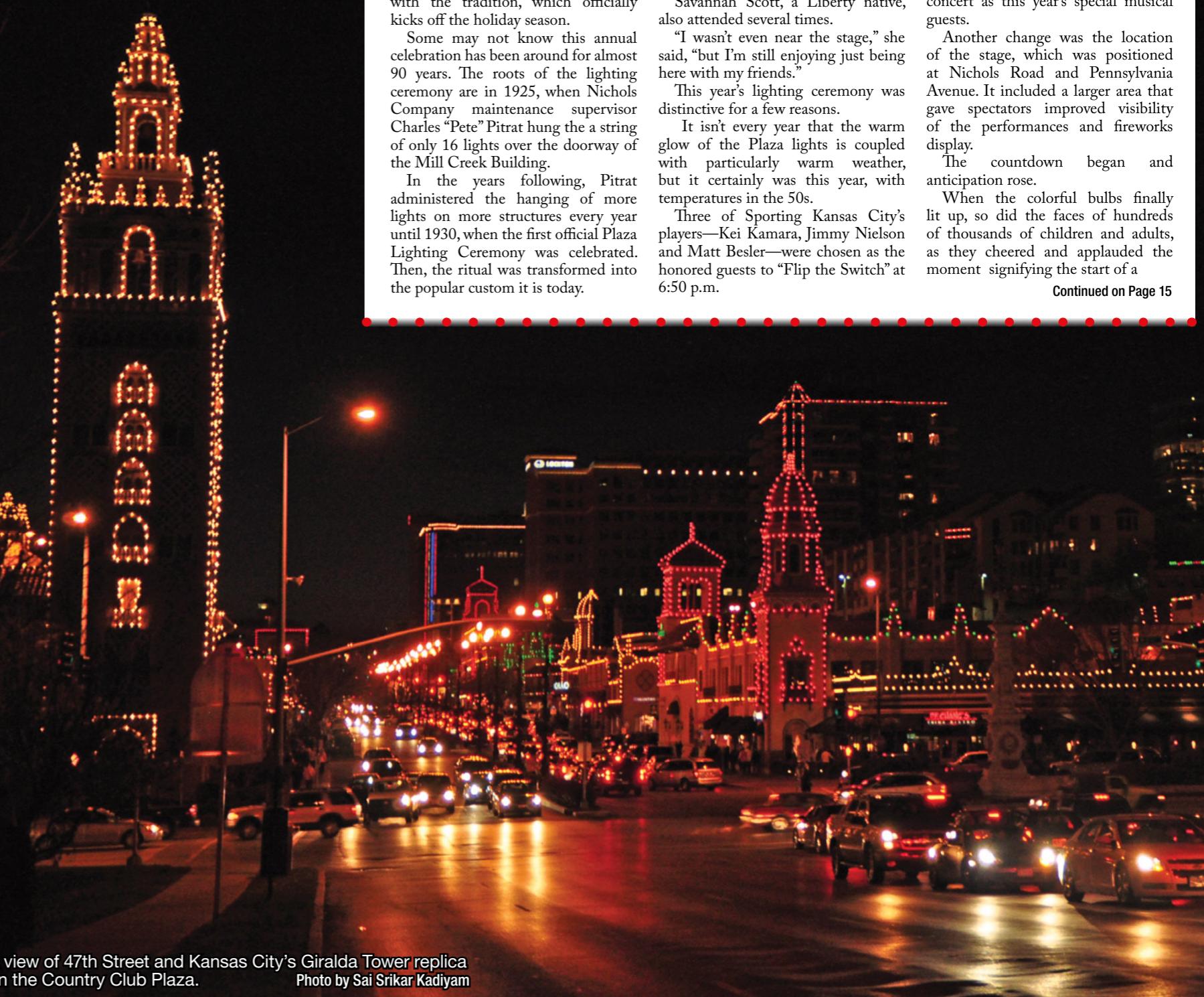
"We will be shaking the chandeliers of the Plaza tonight, ladies and gentlemen," said Lezak as he introduced The Elders, who held a free concert as this year's special musical guests.

Another change was the location of the stage, which was positioned at Nichols Road and Pennsylvania Avenue. It included a larger area that gave spectators improved visibility of the performances and fireworks display.

The countdown began and anticipation rose.

When the colorful bulbs finally lit up, so did the faces of hundreds of thousands of children and adults, as they cheered and applauded the moment signifying the start of a

Continued on Page 15



A view of 47th Street and Kansas City's Giralda Tower replica on the Country Club Plaza.
Photo by Sai Srikanth Kadiyam

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Christette Michele



Photo courtesy of Poetic Notes

Award-winning artist impresses at Kansas City performance

Kharissa Forte Copy Editor

Christette Michele impressed a sophisticated crowd at club 7HUNDRED on Sunday, Nov. 11. A live band accompanied her as she crooned familiar songs from her albums.

The audience laughed at her impeccable imitations of R&B legends like K-Ci and JoJo, Fantasia, R. Kelly and Anita Baker.

The Grammy award-winning songstress entertained with her improvisations including an on-the-spot creation of an ode to Kansas City. When a gentleman

joined her on the stage to play the keyboard, she passed his hat around and everyone gladly pitched in their dollar bills. She even recognized one of her Twitter followers that joined the concert by pulling him on stage and singing to him. Little did she know, he planned to sing to her and did a marvelous job, which surprised onlookers including Michele.

Before the show, Michele sat down with *U-News* to talk about her music after a two-year hiatus and the journey to become comfortable with who she is.

kforte@unews.com

Q & A

Christette Michele discusses her inspiration, goals

Q What are some of the similarities and differences between your albums *I Am*, *Epiphany* and *Let Freedom Reign*? How did you grow from one album to the next?

A I always intend to tell the truth. On each album, I was going through something totally different.

The growth was learning that I am always Christette. I used to always ask, "How do I still be me?"

I learned that, no, I am always Christette. My hair changes, my size changes, my sound changes but that is all a part of being me.

movie review 'Life of Pi'

Beautiful imagery, emotional tension make film compelling

Elizabeth Golden

Managing Editor

In a world so artificially beautiful, one boy must find hope in a solitary sailboat thousands of miles from civilization. "Life of Pi" tells the journey of Pi as seen in an aesthetically pleasing way fit for the mind of an artist.

Pi Patel (Suraj Sharma) seems to be an average zookeeper's son who has an unusual view of life.

He was introduced to religion at a young age and spent the majority of his childhood searching for a greater understanding of life.

Pi is heartbroken when his father announces the need to sell their zoo and move, but he is left with no other choice but to board a Japanese ship with all the animals.

When a thunderstorm hits, he jumps out of bed in excitement since he loves watching nature take its course.

If it weren't for his desire to be closer to God through nature, Pi would have gone down with the ship.

He lost his entire family and was the only survivor stranded on a lonely lifeboat.

His only companion happened to be a carnivorous Bengal Tiger.

Pi spends the majority of the film trying to unsuccessfully tame the beast and survive in a land where surviving may seem impossible.

The story of Pi is beautiful. Director Ang Lee paints the world as if it were coming directly from a childhood fantasy.

The sea sparkles and nature seems to harmonize as if it were painting a picture of hope. The fish even appear to be dancing in rhythm with Pi's thoughts.

Several moments are emotionally moving, especially when it comes to the crash scene. Pi's struggle and pain is easily felt through his eyes, and the beautifully computer-generated tiger even appears to exude emotions.

Because of Pi's strong religious background, he sees the tiger's soul through his eyes and the feeling is transmitted through the screen into the



eyes of the audience.

Although emotions are occasionally felt, the narration switches back and forth from older Pi telling the story to younger Pi experiencing the events.

This transition breaks up some of the emotional tension, making the film fall short of constantly holding the audience's gaze.

The acting is brilliant and Sharma could possibly be nominated for the Oscar's best actor award.

His expressions put audience members in his shoes, or lack thereof, and allow his struggle to be felt.

The cinematography will definitely win the Oscar.

No film since "Avatar" has topped the beauty created by a nonexistent world. Every moment of the film is a piece of art coming to life and beautifying the land.

Some parts of the film may be without emotion, but the story's deeper meanings will give hope to those without.

Religion is center to the storyline, but can be translated to simply believing.

If Pi did not believe in something, he would have died with the rest of the passengers aboard the ship.

The ending is another aspect that definitely makes this film worth watching. This bold directorial move will leave the audience questioning and begging for a more concrete answer.

As a film created in 3D, this viewing experience is not necessary but does manage to enhance the already obvious beauty. A humpback whale comes to life as raindrops surround the audience. If there were one film to see in 3D, this would be it.

Although the film may not reach the success level of the book, the imagery created by the film makes it worthwhile.

For an emotional journey, read the book. For the most beautiful film created in recent years, see "Life of Pi."

egolden@unews.com

Ask Phoenix

What gay bars do you recommend in Kansas City?



Dear tourist,

My recommendation of gay bars depends on your setting preference. Some people prefer a high-energy bar with drag queens, while others prefer a smaller, more intimate sports bar. Whichever the case, I believe Kansas City satisfies all needs.

The high-energy, well-known gay club is Missie B's. This multi-level extravaganza has several bars, each with its own atmosphere. On the first level, several drag shows, including the Dirty Dorothy Show and PHAT Tuesdays, take place. This is where you can get your dose, or occasional overdose, of drag queens. The stage and performers liven up the bottom floor. On the other side of the room, there are areas to hang out with friends, sit at the bar and meet new people.

Finally, be safe, do not drink and drive and – most of all – have a gay ole time!

Toodles for now,
Phoenix Rishon

Questions can be submitted to Phoenix at prishon@unews.com

Locations and hours:

Missie B's

805 W. 39th Street
Monday-Sunday 12 p.m. – 3 a.m.

Outabounds

3601 Broadway Street
Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Sidekicks Saloon

3707 Main Street
Monday-Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 a.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 3 a.m.

1822 Ultra Lounge

1822 Main Street
Monday 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. – 3 a.m.
Saturday 5 p.m. – 6 a.m.
Sunday closed

Buddies Lounge

3715 Main Street
Monday-Saturday 6 a.m. – 3 a.m.

Plaza Lights: Continued from Page 13

magical season.

Then, the familiar holiday classic "Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town" was amplified through the street's speakers. All eyes turned toward the sky as the Wald & Co. All American Display Fireworks show appeared behind the Plaza Time Building.

"The fireworks were definitely better this year," Vaughn said.

Dylan Scates, a Kansas City native who attended for the first time, agreed.

"I learned that, no, I am always Christette. My hair changes, my size changes, my sound changes but that is all a part of being me."

"I wasn't expecting all those fireworks, so that was a really cool surprise," he said.

Also, to welcome the season of giving, the Salvation Army rang its jingling bells as spectators enjoyed carriage rides.

"My favorite part is everyone coming together for the same reason, and just seeing all of these people out here having a good time," Scates said.

The Plaza has more than 150 shops, in addition to restaurants, fountains, hotels and clubs, some of which will stay open later during the holidays. The KCP&L Plaza Lights will shine from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. until Jan. 13.

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Kansas City is home to many gay bars including Missie B's, Outabounds, Sidekicks, 1822 Ultra Lounge, Buddies and more. Each has its strengths and weaknesses. If you want to go to a club and dance the night away, head to Missie B's. If you want to chill out, head to Outabounds. If you want to explore the city and change it up a bit, try one of the several other gay bars in town.

Finally, be safe, do not drink and drive and – most of all – have a gay ole time!

Continued on Page 16

Continued from Page 14: Chrisette Michele Q&A

Q What advice do you have for young women who are working hard to make their dreams come true?

Say what you want to be and call yourself that before you're there. I didn't think I was a star before I recorded that song at all.

I thought, 'I can't say that. That's ridiculous. People don't call themselves stars.'

Call yourself a star reporter.

Do you know what I mean? I'm calling myself Chrisette Michele and it took me a long time to say that.

I used to refer to myself as Chris.

I didn't want to have a 'celebrity name,' but you have to call yourself what you want to be. It took me a long time to understand that.

I think you have to see yourself being whatever it is you want to be before you're there.



Q What can we look forward to from you?

A I just finished an entire mixtape. It took me two days to record 10 songs. I went to London, Paris,

Brussels and Amsterdam for inspiration.

I traced the footsteps of Audrey Hepburn. It was funny because when I was looking for her, I found myself and we look nothing alike. Can you tell?

Q So, what do you do to challenge yourself?

A To challenge myself? I sing neo-soul. I'm very feisty and loud.

I'm very colorful and very silly – it's colorful.

So neo-soul is a challenge for me, especially because people don't allow neo-soul to evolve.

Miguel is the new neo-soul.

Frank Ocean is the new neo-soul, but you get people criticizing sounds like that when those are some of the greatest sounds that exist right now.

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Kansas City's DJ Kittie performs at the Mosaic Lounge on Nov. 15.

Photo courtesy of DJ Kittie

DJ Kittie says goodbye to Kansas City Local DJ seeks fame and fortune in Las Vegas

Kharissa Forte

Copy Editor

DJ Kittie gave the turntables one last spin in Kansas City during her "Say Goodbye" party on Thursday, Nov. 15 at the Mosaic Lounge before leaving the following Monday to chase her dreams of fame and fortune in Las Vegas.

"My real name is Kelly," DJ Kittie said. "I actually got my [stage] name from an old friend of mine when I was in the 9th grade. He said I looked like a cat, so he nicknamed me Kittie and it stuck with me."

The youngest of three and the only girl to a single mom, the ambitious 25-year-old grew up believing in the ethics of hard work and determination.

"I lost my father when I was about one. My mother was so busy working all of the time to provide for my brothers and me that I barely remember her in my life as a child," she said.

DJ Kittie said that she was a tomboy, trading Barbie dolls and dress up for playing Army games and jumping off rooftops.

"Once I hit my teenage years, I got super girly all of a sudden. I probably watched too many video vixens on TV," she said.

Her road to becoming a DJ was unlike the routes many aspiring disc jockeys take. DJ Kittie was a gogo dancer at some of Kansas City's premier clubs.

"I would watch the DJs do their thing on the tables and would think to myself, 'I'm pretty sure I could do that.' I got on the tables one day and it just came out so naturally," she said.

The DJ industry is male-dominated and DJ

Kittie thrives on their energy.

"A lot of men look at me like I'm a dumb a--, but when I get on the tables they show me respect," she said. "I got skills. I have male DJs asking me for favors now."

While being one of the only females in the game makes her stand out, DJ Kittie refuses to let gender be the sole factor that sets her apart from other DJs.

"I step my game up all the way because people are going to test me just because I'm a female DJ. I'm working every day to be better, so the fellas better watch out," she said.

One of DJ Kittie's sets runs from two and a half to three hours following a few opening acts. She accidentally gave him the deed to his North Pole workshop.

The former Bain Capital CEO introduced a bold plan to increase cash flows from the operation by cutting worker pay and eliminating pensions, health care insurance and a popular gains-sharing program.

Instead of thanking Governor Romney for his business acumen, the International Brotherhood of Elves, Fairies and Leprechauns went on an eight-week strike.

After an unsuccessful court-ordered mediation with the elves union, the operation was quickly dismantled and outsourced to China.

An unfortunate string of events followed. The angry elves stormed Santa's house, killing Mrs. Claus and leaving Santa permanently disabled.

A bastion of generosity has since become just another self-entitled 47-percenter who can't keep his hands out of the public cookie jar.

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Satire

President Obama, Santa Claus for the 47 percent

Maude Fakin

Satirist

I visit Wal-Mart almost every week, and each visit brings a new surprise.

If it isn't dodging the sight of butt cracks and excess cleavage only to later encounter them on thepeopleofwalmart.com, it's being evacuated from the store because of an active meth lab found inside a shoplifter's purse.

People have no shame.

On Black Friday, I saw a bearded man wearing a red suit in line at the register. It piqued my curiosity.

A steadfast opponent of government spending, I feel it is my duty to be watchful and make sure those in front of me at the checkout pay with their own money.

I watched as the man pulled out an EBT card bearing the name "Santa Claus." Father Christmas was using my money to buy his groceries. I decided to call him out.

"Excuse me sir," I interjected. "Can you please explain why you're using food stamps to buy eggnog and Christmas cookies?"

The ruddy-faced gentleman's eyes sunk as he tilted his head toward his chest.

A tearful Santa explained that instead of placing a lump of coal from a West Virginia strip mine in Mitt Romney's Christmas stocking, he accidentally gave him the deed to his North Pole workshop.

As a patriotic American, and thus a conservative Republican, my allegiance is to the Tea Party flag, not the stars and stripes.

It is time for we patriotic conservatives to band together and petition to leave the U.S. and form our own country.

We will write a new Constitution that first and foremost protects our right to bear arms. Secondly, it will expressly state that we are a Christian nation—the best in the world—and that any liberal activist judge who says otherwise is to be immediately shot point blank.

Please join with me and all of the other patriotic Americans who are petitioning to secede from the U.S.



Illustration by Meredith Shea

In the meantime, President Obama has stepped into Santa's previous role.

Each election, he dons a red suit and traverses the country chimney-to-chimney in a hybrid sled, giving free gifts to his supporters while shouting, "Ho-Ho-Hope and change!"

(Ever wonder what happened to all that stimulus money?)

This is a travesty of Christmas, which should be celebrated on Dec. 25, not the first Tuesday of November.

The lazy American public accepted Obama's free gifts, and I am sick and tired of people treating the government like a toy ATM.

This is Stage 4 cancer of socialism—an illegitimate rape of the American taxpayer.

As a patriotic American, and thus a conservative Republican, my allegiance is to the Tea Party flag, not the stars and stripes.

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Editor's Note: The author and events depicted herein are a work of satirical fiction. Any resemblance between the author and real life persons or events is a coincidence. This satire column was written by Nathan Zoschke.

Disclaimer: The views of individual writers expressed below in this section do not represent the official stance of U-News. U-News welcomes participation from all UMKC students. Letters to the editor may be submitted to Editor-in-Chief Nathan Zoschke, nzoschke@unews.com.

The LGBT community needs to stop the counter-hate

Kharissa Forte Copy Editor

As a Christian, I am against same-sex marriage.

Why is it that by adhering to this Biblical standard I am viewed as hateful? Despite the fact that I am genuinely kind and considerate toward gay people, I am categorized as a hateful person by many.

My character speaks just the opposite, and I am a little fed up—for a lack of better words—with the counter-hate that Christians are forced to suffer from some members of the LGBT community. I often hear some gay students tsking, performing exaggerated sighs and see them rolling their eyes at the bare mention of the word “God” or “Christian” or “pastor.” The rude looks and discourteous sound effects are the very things that they don’t want done to them. Here’s the truth of the matter: Agreeing with the stance that gay couples should not be allowed to enter a traditional marriage because

it redefines the Biblical definition of marriage is not hate.

UMKC was ranked 5th on Newsweek’s Gay-Friendly College Rankings list, and I think that’s beautiful. I think that it shows that our university is loving and accepting of different lifestyles. I don’t think, however, that we would rank quite as high if it were a Christian-friendly list. I am not blind to the fact that not all Christians treat gay people nicely, and I apologize for every incident of discrimination that they have faced. But, I am curious to know why simply not agreeing on a stance is equated with hate. How is that fair?

I constantly find myself smiling and nodding as I mentally rehearse my words in order to ensure that I don’t offend anyone. Yet, I have witnessed and experienced more gay people—especially at UMKC—spitting out the rudest comments and most hurtful words about Christianity.

With politics ruling the airwaves this year, the topic of gay marriage

has stayed near the forefront of the media and daily conversations.

For example, when Chick-fil-A CEO Dan Cathy appeared on the Ken Coleman Show, he made it clear that he does not believe in gay marriage.

Well, of course he doesn’t. Chick-fil-A is a restaurant with Christian foundation and consequently, Biblical truths.

LGBT students were quick to discuss organizing a protest to have the Chick-fil-A in the Student Union removed from campus.

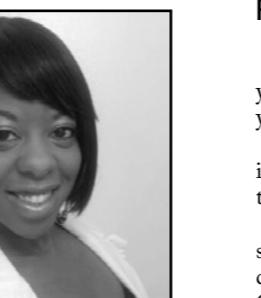
Why? Isn’t that hypocritical?

Even though neither the protest nor the removal of the restaurant ever took place, I find it very interesting that gay students and supporters of gay marriage were ready to obliterate a facility for upholding the standards of its foundation.

Not once did the CEO ever say anything mean-spirited, disrespectful or demeaning nor did he discriminate towards members of the gay community. Dan Cathy simply answered the question.

I guess Christians are expected to just sit by, count to three and take the abuse. No, not anymore. Ironically, some of the world’s most esteemed quotes are Bible verses. One of those is the golden rule: “Do to others as you would have them do to you,” can be found in Luke 6:31. While I expect Christians to be nothing short of loving, kind and respectful toward homosexuals, I also expect homosexuals to treat Christians with the same regard they desire.

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Kharissa Forte

Let's thank God for separation of church and state



Nathan Zoschke

Editor-in-Chief

Whose version of Christianity is correct? Christian denominations and spiritual leaders diverge on key doctrinal issues, ascribing themselves to many different Biblical interpretations.

Yet each different sect often claims that its interpretation is the only “correct” one.

As a Christian, I am disappointed that many of my fellow believers have overlooked the Bible’s central message of love, compassion, forgiveness and humility. Instead, they have become sidetracked with trivial minutiae.

Theological debates often boil down to egotism and control.

Continued on Page 20

UMKC Christian organization discriminates against LGBT students

Caleb-Michael Files

Contributing Writer

UMKC’s non-discrimination policy prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status and sexual orientation.

The Division of Diversity, Access and Equity defines discrimination as, “Conduct directed at a specific individual or a group of identifiable individuals that subjects the individual or group to treatment that adversely affects their employment or education” based on the above characteristics.

The operating guide for student organizations clarifies this policy to also include all departments and student organizations.

UMKC’s non-discrimination and equal opportunity policies are similar to those of other colleges and universities across the U.S. in compliance with state and federal law.

When asked about this, Kaitlin Ohde, vice president of public relations for GAL, said that she is unaware of this incident and that the group would accept openly lesbian members, but only under certain conditions.

GAL’s policy is completely discriminatory and seems to go against the University’s and SGA’s policies on discrimination.

My friends, who asked not to be identified by name, said that without proof of their sexual preference, the women were kicked out. All because of their suspected orientation.

The condition of membership is that the students would be asked to “stop sinning.”

“They would be asked to leave if they had no intention of stopping, though,” Ohde said, “and that just has to do with following the Bible’s standards for sins, etc.”

GAL’s policy is completely discriminatory and seems to go against the University’s and SGA’s policies on discrimination.

My friends were very upset with the decision.

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Caleb-Michael Files

“Homosexuality is treated like any other sin issue,” Ohde said, speaking on the organization’s behalf. “If the girl is actively trying to stop from sinning, then we will work with her. As an organization, GAL does not support homosexuality—basically love the sinner, but you don’t have to like the sin.”

Ohde emphasized that she doesn’t have a problem with gay people on a personal level.

“I don’t think that homosexuality is a worse sin or would kick them out, etc.” she said. “I do not have a personal issue, with it but I do understand why GAL deals with it the way they do.”

The condition of membership is that the students would be asked to “stop sinning.”

“They would be asked to leave if they had no intention of stopping, though,” Ohde said, “and that just has to do with following the Bible’s standards for sins, etc.”

I call for all who consider themselves “Christians” to look at who is being discriminated against.

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KCUR conversation prompts reflection on freedom of speech at UMKC

Roze Brooks

Copy Editor

Imagine being expelled from your university based on something you said.

This may sound extreme, but it happens more often than you’d think.

“You can get in trouble for saying almost anything these days on a college campus,” said Greg Lukianoff, president of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and KCUR’s Central Standard’s featured guest on Nov. 8.

Quentin Savwoir, a political science communications student at Rockhurst, and I were also invited to weigh in on our own experiences at our respective campuses, facilitated by KCUR’s Jabulani Leffall.

Listening to Lukianoff list numerous instances at universities around the country at which students were banned from campuses or threatened with legal action by administration for exercising freedom of speech triggered my own concern with trends in higher education and the role UMKC is playing in this borderline-stifling of basic rights.

A contradiction to that statement occurred on Oct. 24 when an equal-opportunity hate preacher

posted at the exact location these students were told was off limits and was not asked to leave. Much to the administration’s dismay, the General Council for the entire University of Missouri system informed our administration that the preacher was allowed to speak at that location.

This confusion and discrepancy in information leads me to believe that better communication and assessment of the campus rules and regulations are necessary. And I wasn’t shy about vocalizing this point on KCUR.

I was equally interested in a comment Lukianoff made about students on other campuses disposing of mass amounts of the student-run newspaper due to dissatisfaction with an article.

Though the cause was never identified, *U-News* had a similar experience last semester when large quantities of one issue “mysteriously” vanished from distribution sites.

Savwoir confessed his time at Rockhurst has been tame, witnessing no protests and minimal backlash from students about administration decisions. Our neighboring campus is either

a utopian entity or the students aren’t paying enough attention. If everything seems to be running smoothly, there is too much grease, as Professor Robert Unger would say.

We also openly discussed the allotment for critical thinking in the classroom. Lukianoff and I had relatively similar opinions, stating that certain teachers can have hidden agendas. Personally, my experiences in my major-specific courses have been positive, constantly allowing open discussion and engagement with the professors.

After all, they are working in higher education. That should be the priority. I wouldn’t want my coursework and learning experience to be damped by a university that enables everyone to be radical free-agents constantly pointing accusatory fingers.

However, as a generation that harbored the Occupy movement, continues to push the Civil Rights movement even further and has technological means of voicing opinions more than ever before, a reassessment of the language and policies currently in place could alleviate pressure, confusion and a feeling of inhibition. UMKC could

take this opportunity to reinvent the stigma Lukianoff convincingly reports and set a better example for other post-secondary institutions.

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Dan Moreno

by the amazing Doña Mago, and I missed walking three blocks to buy a “nieve de limón,” the best lime sorbet in the world.

My culture shock and homesickness ended when I visited the Southwest Boulevard area in Kansas City’s Westside.

“This looks like home,” I thought.

“El Pueblito” brought back my Mexican memories and drew a huge smile to my face when I arrived one night at 2 a.m.

The 75-cent tacos al pastor, though still not as good as the ones back home, are the closest to paradise for me.

Southwest Boulevard isn’t just one restaurant.

It’s an area full of Latin American shops and businesses.

Next to “El Pueblito” is an extremely busy Estética (barbershop).

I was thrilled to finally have a slice of Mexican life in the U.S., and when I turned my head and saw the big neon lights and colorful walls of “Tropicana,” a popular ice cream

shop, I literally thought I had died and gone to heaven ... or Mexico City.

Tropicana serves a wide selection of ice cream and popsicle flavors, smoothies and treats like corn on the cob, churros and even fried snacks.

Southwest Boulevard is a vibrant walkable neighborhood with a sense of cultural flair, and I recommend checking it out. Spend a few hours there to take in everything the neighborhood has to offer.

If you have not been to Mexico, you will come away with an idea of what it looks and tastes like.

On any given day of the week, I can drive through campus and have to stop many times, until I’m nearly late for my class because students walking really prefer to cross the street in places that are not designated cross walks.

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A dangerous time to be a pedestrian

Riley Mortensen

Senior Staff Writer

Autumn is the most deadly season for pedestrians, according to the National Pedestrian Crash Report. The highest percentages are ages 16-20 at 11.1 percent and ages 21-25 at 12.1 percent, the ages of the typical college student.

A commuter myself, I would appreciate if students would avoid being human bowling pins by not crossing the road wherever they please. Pay attention when walking in front of a hefty metal killing machine like a car.

Fear not, timid college kid walking to school who decided to walk straight out in front of me near the Rockhill parking garage.

That headlight is not busted from the last kid I blew off the road and I simply come at you to wake you up a little.

I would like all pedestrians to know that when I come at you with my beat-up 1998 Taurus with the headlight busted, I merely do it to get your heart going.

Fear not, timid college kid walking to school who decided to walk straight out in front of me near the Rockhill parking garage.

That headlight is not busted from the last kid I blew off the road and I simply come at you to wake you up a little.



Riley Mortensen

Continued on Page 20

It's nerd time

A legit nerd's take on the rise of nerd culture

Tyren Rushing Staff Writer

Today is probably the best time ever to be a nerd. A lot of the things that were once considered "nerd stuff" have become appealing to the masses and dominate the media.

First Person Shooter video games PWN gaming sales figures. But back in the day, only hardcore PC gamers used to play them.

The top two movies at the box office this year, *The Dark Knight Rises* and *The Avengers*, are based on comic books.

The No. 1 comedy television show in America is *The Big Bang Theory*, which centers around four nerds and their everyday lives.

The No. 1 show on basic cable is *The Walking Dead*, which is based on an independent black-and-

white comic book.

The most downloaded show in history is *Game of Thrones*, which is based on the medieval fantasy novel series, *A Song of Fire and Ice*.

Undoubtedly, it is a good time to be a nerd.

Technology is better than ever and thanks to the Internet, our nerdy voices and opinions influence Hollywood. Nerd Rage is no longer limited to you and your friends arguing about how much the Green Lantern movie sucked or how many times Marvel is going to kill Professor X. Studios scour the net for social media commentary and visit prominent nerd blogs for feedback.

The San Diego Comic Con started out as nerds meeting up yearly to trade comics. Now, it is

the largest comic book convention in America, and it also promotes upcoming games, movies and TV shows.

And it's happening locally as well. This year was the biggest turnout in the history of Planet Comic Con Kansas City, thanks to the appearances of Edward James Olmos and Billy "Lando Calrissian" Dee Williams.

The event, which was usually held at the Overland Park Convention Center, has been so successful that in 2013, it's moving to Bartle Hall downtown, where the big boys hold their conventions.

For anyone who has misgivings about my nerd status, here are a few tidbits to prove I'm legit. My apartment has Star Wars, Batman, Marvel and Teenage Mutant

Ninja Turtles posters on the walls. I watched anime and read manga back in '03, before most of it was legally imported. I went to debate camp in high school, I add "padawan" to the dictionary of every phone I own, and I cried the second time I saw *The Dark Knight Rises*, despite already knowing how it ended.

Of course, there is a downside to the massive proliferation of nerdism that has overcome America.

Hipsters think it's cool to dress like Steve Urkel and Screech from *Saved by the Bell*. It's not. Nor is the never ending use of Internet memes on social media sites.

And of course with anything popular, money starts to play a bigger role. DC and Marvel have re-launched their entire comic



Tyren Rushing

book line-ups in order to attract new readers.

Disney bought LucasArts. And they won't stop making those godawful Transformer movies, since that franchise is a cash cow.

Being a nerd in 2012 is pretty damn sweet. I mean, if I get to see more obscure comic franchises on the big and small screen, I guess I can deal with looking at those stupid horn-rimmed glasses all the kiddos and hipsters like and all the horrible movies about robots.

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Zoschke: Continued from Page 18

To understand any literary work, one must critically examine its context.

Languages and cultures change over time, and meaning is lost with interpretation.

How words are understood varies considerably between languages and cultures, and there is oftentimes not an exact translation from one to another.

Consider how a Shakespeare play reads to modern-day English speakers, and then consider taking a text written centuries before Shakespeare in a non-English language and non-Western culture.

The Bible was written in three different languages—Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic—over a span of several thousand years.

Our understanding of human sexuality and the idea of "traditional marriage" are social constructs of 20th century Western culture.

The verses in Leviticus that many cite as condemnation of homosexuality are actually part of an early Jewish legal code. The same passages also prohibit tattoos, sex during menstruating, declare

eating shellfish "an abomination" and advocate stoning disobedient children to death.

The New Testament passages in the Book of Romans thought to condemn homosexuality are more likely a condemnation of temple prostitution. Some religious scholars believe these do not refer to homosexuality at all.

Keep in mind that the Apostle Paul, who wrote the Book of Romans, also justified slavery and said that women should submit to their husbands and not have a leadership role in the church.

Also keep in mind that sexual practices differed considerably in the ancient world. Pedophilia was rampant in ancient Greece and Rome, and married men of high social status oftentimes had sex with men of a lower standing. In the Old Testament, Solomon had 700 official wives and 300 concubines—hardly a traditional marriage.

The Bible has been used to justify everything from slavery, war, segregation, capital punishment and communism to pacifism,

equality and free market capitalism.

Those who argue that their Biblical interpretation is the correct one often claim that others are simply reading the Bible wrong.

Trying to reason with them is pointless. They're egoists who see themselves—not God, the Bible, logic, reason or science—as the source of truth.

The naive arrogance of some Christians undermines the very teachings of Jesus himself, who butted heads with the religious leaders of his time.

Instead, he befriended fishermen, prostitutes, tax collectors and others at the bottom rung of the social ladder.

If Jesus were alive today, would he hold up a "God hates fags" sign, or would he join forces with the It Gets Better Project and reach out to LGBT youth who have been bullied and rejected by their families, peers and religious leaders?

Perhaps the bitterness some members of the LGBT community show toward Christianity stems from years of being marginalized

by the Christian establishment.

Instead of finding spiritual guidance, they have encountered hostility and condemnation.

They have been stigmatized and labeled as "sinners" and objects of God's wrath for seeking the same loving relationship that straight people seek—except they are attracted to members of the same sex.

Ultimately, it doesn't matter whose interpretation of the Bible is right (assuming there is a "right" interpretation). For that matter, it doesn't matter whether or not one is a Christian, any other faith or no faith at all.

Americans can appreciate the separation clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or the free exercise thereof."

Same-sex marriage should be treated as a civil rights issue, not a spiritual issue.

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Pedestrian dangers: Continued from page 19

you doesn't mean you have to walk as slow as you possibly can. It's beautiful out and all, but that doesn't mean you have to bask in the beauty of fall while sauntering slowly across the street.

I have places to be. Enjoy the weather from the sidewalk.

I understand that it's faster to cross right in the middle of the road versus at each end—I walked everywhere last year, too.

It's just more convenient, I know, but please be considerate and more importantly, be smart. It's really for your own good that I'm telling you this. It's not surprising that young adults our age are the most dangerous drivers of all. We have 10 million things to distract us.

Although I pay very close attention to when and where you walk, others do not. I've seen an almost-accident more than a few times.

Don't let that almost be you and do us all the favor of crossing where you should.

The number one cause of pedestrian accidents on the pedestrian's part, is improper crossing, coming in at 27.3 percent. Don't become a part of those numbers.

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