

**News**  
**5** big campus developments for 2013  
Page 3

**Sports**  
UMKC basketball teams break out of slump **Men 63-59, Women 77-59**  
Page 7

**A&E**  
Oscar buzz: Best movies of 2012  
Page 10

Mass shootings have put gun control in the national spotlight, but local homicide shootings don't get the same attention.

There were  
**62**  
U.S. mass shooting deaths

IN **49** OF **62**  
2012 mass shootings  
LEGALLY PURCHASED GUNS  
WERE USED.

**90**  
Kansas City shooting deaths  
in 2012  
Feature | Page 8



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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.

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Counseling Center reaches out to prevent violence, self-injury
Variables often go beyond mental illness

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Is mental illness the real culprit? The string of recent mass shootings has led to questions about how violent behavior can be prevented through better counseling and mental health services.

According to UMKC Counseling Center research, out of 716 clients last year, approximately three percent indicated that they had intentionally caused serious injury to another person in their life. Eight percent has made a suicide attempt.

"Violent behavior, harming someone else may be 'related' to mental illness but not 'predicted' by mental illness," said Marita Barkis, Director of Counseling. "In risk assessment or 'threat assessment', one needs to focus on a variety of variables. I would never bet on mental illness alone. There is a difference."

For students who may be dealing with mental illnesses, the Counseling Center has many services available such as individual counseling which is available free for students up to eight times every academic year.

Barkis mentioned group therapy is also offered and proves to be very effective for many types of mental illness.

Workshops and stress reduction activities are also available.

However, some conditions may be more severe than the services can handle.

"If a condition is beyond the scope of our services, we will help students find appropriate referrals in the community," Barkis said. "We also work with students to find medication referrals either through Student Health within their scope of practice or in the community with medical doctors or psychiatrists."

The Counseling Center mainly deals with issues related to relationships, anxiety and depression.

"These are in varying degrees of severity in their presentation of symptoms so the definition of serious may be open to varied definitions," she said.

However, if a student were to come to the Counseling Center complaining about a student or teacher, the center would take actions to explore the source of those feelings.

"We would explore what 'hating' means to them in terms of actions, thoughts,



Marita Barkis, Director of Counseling at UMKC. Credit | UMKC Counseling Center

plans and cause, stress, coping, etc. Such comments happen in a context. Part of therapy may be to help increase resources to cope with the situation, provide support or even promote means to advocacy," she said. "We have an ethical obligation to check out intent to harm self or others. Breaking confidentiality to report harm to self or others requires a high level of imminent threat.

According to Barkis, there is a Crisis Command Response Protocol for what would be done if there were a shooting on campus. Psychological and Health response is part of the Command Center.

"Our Counseling service staff would be called into action as would outside mental health resources such as the Red Cross Mental Health Crisis teams to support witnesses, families, first responders, injured victims, and other individuals experiencing trauma at various levels from the incident," she said.

A Case Management Team has been on the campus long before Virginia Tech. The team meets to share concerns about a student's distress or behavior.

"Most often someone knows that someone is plotting," Barkis said. "If that person comes forth with concern, there is a chance for prevention and intervention."

However, when it comes to the one with the mental illness causing harm to others, signs may not always be seen right away.

Signs someone may harm themselves or others

- Impulsive actions
• Rapidly shifting moods
• Chaotic relationships
• Emotional dependency
• Self-mutilation
• Chronic feelings of emptiness
• Inappropriate anger or difficulty controlling anger

What to do if someone may be unstable

- Call 911 if the person threatens you or themselves
• If you notice someone looking suspicious on campus, contact the campus police. 816-235-1515
• If you or someone you know experiences any of the above symptoms, contact the Counseling center. 816-235-1635 or stop by 4825 Troost suite 206.

"Cues like presenting a written document full of threats to others and if they talked about violent thoughts or mentioned suicidal thoughts mixed with possession or obsession with weapons would be higher threat signs and would be signs that would lead to more in-depth evaluation of 'imminent harm,'" she said. However, violence is difficult to predict and a mental health diagnosis alone like depression is only one variable and not a good predictor."

Knowledge of mental illness is not enough to know for certain whether the individual has the ability to cause harm. Therefore, the University conducts threat assessments.

"Threat assessment, really looking at one individual's risk to do harm, involves gathering lots of information of which mental illness is one variable," Barkis said. "Some others would include known acts of violence, access to weapons, talk of harming others, odd and disruptive behaviors. Also mix mental health and substance abuse, the risks may go up."

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Campus development map



Illustration | Nathan Zoschke, Map credit | Google Images



Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall

Roze Brooks News Editor

Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall

Scheduled to open in August 2013, the Henry W. Bloch Hall for Entrepreneurship and Innovation continues on schedule and on budget.

The \$32 million gift from Henry W. Bloch in fall 2011 covers the project's entire cost and is the single largest gift in UMKC history.

The final beam containing signatures of UMKC administrators, the builders,

students and Bloch School faculty was placed on the structure at a special ceremony in October 2012, when Bloch spoke about the endowment and the goals of the facility.

The structure will be located on Cherry Street next to the Student Union and adjacent to the current Bloch School building.

The amenities included a innovation lab with prototyping room, flexible classrooms for participative learning, center atrium and amphitheater, behavioral research lab for academic research,



Miller-Nichols Learning Center

200-seat auditorium and finance lab.

The 68,000-square foot building, with its many amenities, is touted as a regional first and for its application of technology.

The project strives to maintain energy efficient strategies that could result in a LEED Gold certification.

Miller-Nichols Learning Center

Construction of the Miller Nichols Library and Learning Center expansion is also on track to open by next fall.

Contingency issues addressed for Whole Foods site

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

Contingency issues are being addressed on a proposed mixed use development at 51st and Oak, which includes a Whole Foods and 150 market-rate apartments.

They include a driveway cut through the Trolley Track trail to add a Brookside Boulevard entrance and use of parking spaces belonging to neighboring Central United Methodist Church.

The driveway cut proved unpopular with local neighborhood associations, which feared increased traffic congestion and dangers for cyclists and pedestrians who use the trail.

Robert Simmons, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration, said there are negotiations underway between neighborhood groups and Whole Foods, which was confirmed as a tenant in July.

Central United Methodist confirmed it is in discussions about the parking situation.

The project involves a private partnership with developers DST and Van Tuyl Trust.

It would also include 7,000-14,000 square feet of office space.

Simmons said this would include the relocation of Student Health and Wellness

51st and Oak development



Credit | Van Tuyl Trust

and the Counseling Center from the 4825 Troost building.

"That has a big advantage of moving student health much closer to students who live on campus," Simmons said. "It's a more centralized setting."

Simmons said despite several programs moving out from 4825 Troost, both 4747 and 4825 Troost are 3/4 occupied.

"While there may have been a thought to empty them out at one time, they continue to be a very important space for us," Simmons said. "There have been other needs and opportunities that have begun to fill the building."

The loss of 60 metered parking spaces at the 51st and Oak site was anticipated in the planning of the Cherry Street Garage, Simmons said.

The dated 51st Street UMKC annex building would be demolished, and the Young Matron's club house would be relocated to the southwest corner of the School of Education parking lot.

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Left: Windows are being placed on the Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall. Right: Insulation has been laid at the Miller-Nichols Learning Center. Photos | Andrew Graff

Construction on schedule for Bloch, Miller Nichols projects

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UniversityNews

# Police Blotter

Jan. 7

**6:00 a.m.**  
Property Damage  
Someone shot a BB through the window of the residence at 53rd and Holmes.

**9:21 a.m.**  
Larceny  
The Administrative Center staff notices printer toner missing.

Jan. 11

**7:51 p.m.**  
Fire  
An AC malfunction caused smoke in a room in Oak Place Apartments

Jan 14

**2:00 p.m.**  
Burglary  
A student returned to find the back door open and Xbox missing at his residence at 54th and Charlotte

**3:01 p.m.**  
Forgery  
Officers took information on forged transcripts and a fake diploma.

Jan. 17

**4:58 p.m.**  
Harassment  
Narrative: A student made a walk-in report that a party was harassing her at UMKC Headquarters.

## Shooting near campus first 2013 homicide in Kansas City

Roze Brooks News Editor

UMKC, Kansas City and Rockhurst security officers responded to an incident at 52nd Street and Troost Avenue on Jan. 3.

The suspect, identified as Chandler T. Guinn, 23, was fatally shot by a Rockhurst University security officer, the city's first homicide of 2013.

The security officer shot Guinn after he emerged from an immobilized vehicle that hit another car, pointing a gun at the officers. The suspect died later at the hospital.

Police said Guinn's vehicle was seen ramming into the back of another car on 52nd Street, and his car broke down at the 52nd and Troost Avenue intersection when he attempted to drive away.

Guinn was offered medical help after the accident, but refused any assistance. Guinn attempted to carjack passing motorists. An employee at a nearby business contacted Rockhurst Security, who whose officer then approached



UMKC Police respond to an armed man on 52nd Street and Troost Avenue. Photo | Chayton True

Guinn. He was shot in the chest after pointing his gun at another officer. the Edgar L. and Rheta A. Berkley Child and Family Development Center as a precaution.

Although no children or staff were directly threatened by the incident, UMKC police were stationed near

## briefly mentioned

Roze Brooks News Editor

### School of Nursing online graduate program ranked No. 15 in U.S.

U.S. News & World Report ranked UMKC's School of Nursing as No. 15 among the nation's Top 20 best online graduate nursing programs. The magazine analyzed data for 471 programs.

This ranking surpasses the other public universities in Missouri or Kansas.

UMKC has offered online graduate programs since 2004.

The ranking's criteria included admissions selectivity, faculty credentials, accreditation, student engagement and student services and technology.

### School of Nursing receives \$2.4 million grant

The UMKC School of Nursing recently received a \$2.4 million federal grant to offer full scholarships to underrepresented undergraduate nursing students

The grant, awarded by the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration, will assist 240 students, offering scholarships of \$10,000 per year over a four year period.

Underrepresented groups include men, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians or Alaskan natives.

Preference for the scholarships will be given to students with an educationally disadvantaged background, first generation college students and those from a county where less than 50 percent of the residents have an education beyond high school.

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA or above to retain the scholarship.

### Medical School, Computing and Engineering partner to advance orthopedic research

Akin Cil, M.D, associate professor of orthopedic surgery and Trent M. Guess, Ph.D., an associate professor of mechanical engineering have been selected for the Franklin D. Dickson/Missouri Professorship in Orthopedic Research.

This endowment professorship between the UMKC School of Medicine and School of Computing and Engineering combines the medical school's clinical expertise in elbow orthopedics and the engineering school's computational biomechanical expertise in one collaborative study of the relationships of the upper-extremity musculoskeletal system.

This pairing strives to find improved treatment for elbow joint trauma.

James Hamilton, M.D., chair and professor emeritus of orthopedic surgery at the medical school, established the endowment for the positions.

Specific aims of the program include development of computational models of the human elbow to replicate the joint's mechanical behavior, and to develop treatment strategies to manage trauma to the joint and surrounding ligament reconstruction.

School of Medicine Dean Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P, and School of Computing and Engineering Dean Kevin Z. Truman, Ph. D, announced the appointments.

The professorship is named in honor of one of the School of Medicine orthopedic surgery department founders Franklin D. Dickson, M.D., and the Dickson-Diveley Orthopedic Surgery Clinic.

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# Discussion continues on downtown arts campus

Nathan Zoschke Editor-in-Chief

The most likely scenario for the proposed Downtown Arts Campus is a phased build out, beginning with the relocation of the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance.

The project, which has a strong civic support, includes a \$90 million price tag. Robert Simmons, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration, said private donors and matching funds from the state of Missouri are being pursued.

Simmons said timing will depend entirely on how quickly donors can be identified.

"The potential donors and meetings with the donors are probably about the first thing the Chancellor and [Conservatory Dean Peter] Witte think about in the morning and the last thing they think about at night," he said.

No public information, however, is currently available.

"The discussions at this point have been focused on a phased creation," Simmons said. "The site selection and programs lend themselves to it. However, there's a lot of synergy to having the KC Rep, Theatre, KCUR and arts departments."

Simmons said support from the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Council has created a sense of urgency.

The Chamber listed the arts campus as one of its 5 big ideas for the Kansas City region to promote business growth.



The Downtown Council's Dec. 14 annual luncheon focused on a vision for the arts campus.

Proximity to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, which opened in fall 2011, is another impetus.

Feasibility studies point to Juilliard's location near the Lincoln Center in New York City and other urban arts campuses as successful program models.

In August 2011, Witte, told U-News that existing space on campus was inadequate for the school's growing programs.

Facilities lack adequate soundproofing. Practice rooms are too small and lack wheelchair accessibility.

"Arts facilities have very specific requirements in terms of sound isolation, CONTINUED Page 7



A Campus Impact Study rendering showing the orientation of the proposed downtown arts campus to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Photo | Sai Srikar Kadiyam

# Numbers Don't Lie



Nationally and Globally Ranked...

Princeton Review ranked both the Bloch School's undergraduate and graduate entrepreneurship programs top 25 in the nation

Ranked #1 in the world for innovation management research

With...

5 Distinct Graduate Programs: Master of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, Master of Science in Finance, Master of Science in Accounting, and Master of Entrepreneurial Real Estate.

Contact Gene Pegler for information: [peglere@umkc.edu](mailto:peglere@umkc.edu)

## COME AND EAT!

Central United Methodist Church invites you to join our College-Age ministry on Wednesday evenings throughout the semester. All are welcome to join in a free dinner and fun every Wednesday night starting at 6pm. First come, first served. Wednesdays in August will be cookouts with life-sized board games.

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
5144 OAK ST. (directly across from the Law School)  
Contact Alexis at [alexis@centralcares.com](mailto:alexis@centralcares.com)

if you have any questions.

Join us for Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:50am with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30.



Sustainability Corner

# Clean air for the New Year

Johanna Poppel Photo Editor

Earlier this month, I watched a cloud of dust, chips of lead paint and debris crash through a 100-year-old neighborhood near 27th and Prospect to make way for the new KCPD East Patrol Station and Crime Lab.

This made me wonder about the variables that affect air quality and how they can dampen our health.

Last year, an early spring cleaning and interior painting project caused me to feel ill with a congested nose and a scratchy throat.

It wasn't until I spent a day hiking through the Kansas countryside and its fresh air that I felt normal again.

It may not be realized how everyday actions affect health within a household, neighborhood, city or the world. After all, the way we treat our environment is how it will treat us back.

Air quality is the measurement of pollution in the air. This pollution includes the chemicals, particulates or biological materials that cause discomfort and illness to humans, animals or the natural environment.

Outside, air quality is polluted mostly by exhaust from industry and transportation.

One of the most health-threatening pollutants is carbon monoxide. It can be found as a byproduct of decomposing trash or in automobile exhausts and is a key ingredient for creating ozone and smog.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution can lead to health problems such as respiratory infections, heart disease and lung cancer.

Taking care of the quality of the air at home should be a priority. Air researchers often discuss the Rule of 1,000.

Anything released indoors is about

1,000 times more likely to be breathed in than something released outdoors. Also, the EPA estimates the air indoors can be two-five times more polluted than the air outside. To keep air healthy at home, try to keep cigarette smoke, moisture and chemicals out.

Many everyday activities such as cooking and washing may add unwanted humidity that could promote the growth of mold and mildew.

Also, incense, candles and air fresheners only add harmful fumes to your home.

Avoid using harsh chemicals from cleaning products by making your own with natural household items.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide in the air and emit clean oxygen. Some plants even have purifying properties. A few plants or even just one can make a difference in the air you breathe at home.

NASA did a study on the best house plants for air purification. Such plants can rejuvenate the air and rid it of common toxins. The top five plants include:

- Areca palm
- Lady palm
- Bamboo palm
- Rubber plant
- Janet Craig dracaena

Place these plants where they will receive plenty of sunlight indoors.

Take advantage of warm days to open a window for 10 minutes to improve air circulation.

Most importantly, realize that your actions affect the health of others and the environment. Be mindful of how much you contribute to air pollution.

Give yourself a break from bad air and go run, bike or take the city bus free with your student ID, and give us all a breath of fresh air.

jpoppel@unews.com



A house at 2625 Olive St. is demolished to make room for the Kansas City Police Department East Patrol Station and Crime Lab. Photo | Johanna Poppel

## FYI: Spring 2013 deadlines

- Fri. Jan. 25:**
- Last day for 100 percent refund (first eight week session).
- Mon. Jan. 28:**
- Last day to change Audit to Credit.
- Mon. Jan. 28:**
- Last day for 100 percent refund (16 week session).
  - Last day for 60 percent refund (first eight week session).
  - Last day to add a class without an instructor signature (16 week session).
- Payment Options:**
- Pathway-**
- Bills may be paid online via direct debit through a checking or savings account. Mastercard, American Express or Discover credits cards are also accepted forms of payment, but charge amounts may not exceed the amount due
- and a 2.75 percent service charge will apply.
- Cashiers and Collections Lobby-**
- Located on the second floor of the Administrative Center. In order to pay in cash, students must pay the cashiers office in person.
- US Postal Service-**
- Payments can be mailed to the clearinghouse used by the University of Missouri system to receive payments. A remittance stub from billing statements is required for this form of payment. The address is on the remittance stub. Those without remittance stubs can be mailed directly to the UMKC Cashiers Office, 5100 Rockhill Road, 112 AC, Kansas City, MO 64110.
- Any questions regarding fee payment may be directed to the Cashiers and Collections Office at (816)235-1365 or cashiers@umkc.edu

## DYK: Did you know? Missouri offers tax refund debit cards

**Roze Brooks** News Editor

State Treasurer Clint Zwiemel announced a new option for citizens to receive their tax return this year.

Taxpayers are now able to opt into refunds in the form of a debit card, regardless of the

method in which a tax return is filed.

To receive the card, taxpayers will need to check the "debit card" box located on the refund line of their 2013 income tax return or Personal Tax Credit claim.

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The James C. Olson Performing Arts will continue to be used for performances. Photo | Nathan Zoschke

## Basketball



UMKC's Thomas Staton, who finished with 14 points attacks the basket as Fort Wayne's Mario Hines tries to stop him. Credit | UMKC Athletics

## Teams get back on the right track

U-News Staff

The men's and women's basketball teams both showed signs of breaking out of prolonged dry spells with victories over Summit League rival Fort Wayne.

The men concluded a successful three-game road swing with a 63-59 victory at Fort Wayne, Ind., on Saturday.

In his second game back from injury, Trinity Hall hit two free throws with 14 seconds left to put the Roos ahead by four points and assure the win. Two victories on their trip boosted the Roos' record to 6-14, including 3-5 in the Summit League.

The Roos decisively turned up their defensive pressure by holding the Mastodons without a field goal for the final 5:15. With the score tied at 59, but Fred Chatmon hit a layup with 3:25 left to give Kansas City the lead for good. Sophomore point guard Estan Tyler, with 19 points, led the Roos in scoring

for the third straight game.

Junior Eilise O'Connor scored a career-high 34 points, including a school record 17-of-18 free throws, to lead the women to a 77-59 win over Fort Wayne on Saturday at Swinney Recreation Center. The women also have won two of their last three games and now stand 6-13, including 2-4 in the league.

"I had no idea about the school record for free throws, but that's a pretty cool achievement," O'Connor said. "I'm just honored that my team trusts me to step up and the knock those free throws down. Career-highs are fun accomplishments as well, but the most exhilarating feeling is getting a huge team win against a very solid team."

The men next face Houston Baptist tonight at 7:05 in Swinney Recreation Center. The women travel to Indianapolis to face IUPUI on Thursday at 6 p.m.

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## Arts Campus: Continued from Page 5

size and the number of spaces that the students need," Witte said.

Once the Conservatory moves out, spaces like the Spencer Theatre and White Recital Hall at the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center will continue to be used by its programs.

Conservatory offices could be used by the KC Rep and Theatre Department, Simmons said, although another feasibility study will be conducted to determine the reuse of the space.

The new Conservatory program would contain between 171,000 and 193,000 square feet.

Its programs currently occupy 28,000 square feet in the James C. Olson PAC, 25,000 square feet in Grant Hall and additional space in two other facilities on campus—5301 Charlotte and the 51st Street Annex.

Simmons said freeing up space on the Volker campus is important as other programs continue to grow.

Transportation between the Volker and downtown arts campus would include UMKC shuttle service and the Main Street MAX line, which students can ride for free with their all-access Metro bus pass.

Simmons said that as the arts campus builds out, demand for retail and housing will increase, which could help boost development downtown.

"It's important to recognize the civic significance of this project and the allure of 18-25 year-olds to areas like the Crossroads District," Simmons said.

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# Scoreboard

### Basketball – Men's

**Overall Record:** 6-14  
**Conference Record:** 3-5  
**Jan. 17** – Oakland 81, UMKC 68  
**Jan. 19** – UMKC 63, Fort Wayne 59

**Up next:**  
 Jan. 22 – vs. Houston Baptist, 7:05 p.m. at Kansas City  
 Jan. 26 – vs. Omaha, 5:15 p.m. at Kansas City  
 Jan. 31 – vs. North Dakota State, 7 p.m. at Fargo, N.D.

### Basketball – Women's

**Overall Record:** 6-13  
**Conference Record:** 2-4  
**Jan. 17** – Oakland 55, UMKC 46  
**Jan. 19** – UMKC 77, Fort Wayne 59

**Up next:**  
 Jan. 24 – vs. IUPUI, 6 p.m. at Indianapolis  
 Jan. 26 – vs. Western Illinois, 4:30 p.m. at Macomb, Ill

### Track

**Jan. 19** - Wildcat Invitational in Manhattan, Kan.

**Men:**  
 Tulsa 71, UMKC 56  
 UMKC 72, Oklahoma State 53  
 Kansas State 86, UMKC 51

**Women:**  
 UMKC 65, Tulsa 62  
 Oklahoma State 73, UMKC 55  
 Kansas State 86, UMKC 45

**Up next:**  
 Jan. 26 – Jayhawk Classic, all day at Lawrence

### Tennis - Women's

**Up next:**  
 Jan. 25 – vs. Cal-Riverside, 2 p.m. at Riverside, Calif.  
 Jan. 26 – vs. Cal State- Northridge, 2:30 p.m. at Northridge, Calif.  
 Jan. 27 – vs Cal State –Fullerton, 12 p.m. at Fullerton, Calif.

### Tennis - Men's

**Up next:**  
 Jan. 26 – vs Wisconsin, 3 p.m. at Madison, Wisc.  
 Jan. 27 – vs. Southern Illinois, 10 a.m. at Madison, Wisc.

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# Mass shootings revisit gun control debate

## Resources for students

### Ask, Listen, Refer

Suicide prevention training program designed to help identify and obtain help for students who are at risk of harming themselves or others.

[www.asklistenrefer.org/umkc](http://www.asklistenrefer.org/umkc)

### UMKC Counseling Center

Students have eight free individual counseling sessions per academic year. Services include individual and group counseling and crisis intervention services, among others.

[www.umkc.edu/counselingcenter](http://www.umkc.edu/counselingcenter)

### UMKC Police Department

The UMKC police offer 24/7 escorts for students and campus safety seminars held by crime prevention officer Patrick Tedesco. (816) 235-1515

## UMKC gun restrictions

**Missouri** (Revised Statutes, Chapter 571, Section 571.030)

"It is illegal to carry a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use into any school, onto any school bus, or onto the premises of any function or activity sponsored or sanctioned by school officials or the district school board."

**Kansas City, Mo.** (General Ordinance, 50-261(a)(5))

"It is illegal to carry a firearm into a school/ school bus/ School sponsored activity."

**UM System Collected Rules and Regulations:** Prohibits "the illegal or unauthorized possession or use of firearms, explosive, other weapons, or hazardous chemicals."

## From the article

**Semiautomatic vs. automatic weapons:** Semiautomatic weapons load automatically, but only fire when the trigger is pulled. Automatic weapons fire continually.

**How are mass shootings defined?** The FBI defines mass murders as those with four or more victims, excluding the killer.

**Nathan Zoschke**

Editor-in-Chief

**M**ass killings in the U.S. were committed once every two weeks between 2006 and 2010—the last year for which FBI data is available.

Recent mass shootings at schools, theaters, shopping malls and workplaces have revived the gun control debate in America.

A Mother Jones analysis of 62 mass shootings in the U.S. since 1982 found that 2012 was particularly lethal—a finding consistent with other publications.

Together, the Aurora, Colo., movie theater rampage and Sandy Hook Elementary massacre claimed 40 of the 72 fatalities of 2012's seven mass shootings.

All seven shootings involved semiautomatic handguns and high-capacity magazines that had been purchased legally, and all seven suspects had shown prior signs of mental illness.

Barack Obama is among those who suggest lax gun regulations are partly to blame.

This week, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, will propose a bill renewing the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban.

The ban, which expired in 2004, prohibited manufacturing assault weapons—any semiautomatic rifle with a bayonet and pistol grip—for sale to private citizens. It also limited magazines to a 10-bullet capacity.

Feinstein said the proposed bill would ban 100 weapons by name and others based on design characteristics. It would also exempt 900 weapons.

Opponents of gun control legislation, led by the National Rifle Association, argue such measures are ineffective and an overreach of government.

The sale and ownership of guns and magazines made prior to the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban were exempted from its provisions, and an estimated 1.5 million assault weapons and 24 million magazines were already in private hands at the time of its passage.

Many have questioned the ban's effectiveness because of its loopholes and vagueness. Nor did the ban prevent the 1999 Columbine High School massacre that claimed 15 lives, including both shooters.

## Guns in schools

Schools account for 12 of the 62 mass

shootings during the past 30 years.

In response to gun violence, lockdown policies for active shooters are nearly universal in schools and workplaces.

Some gun rights supporters argue this is the wrong approach. They argue that schoolteachers and college students eligible for concealed carry permits should be allowed to bring concealed weapons to class.

Some argue that lawful citizens who carry concealed weapons deter crime. The NRA and other groups point to instances where criminals have been stopped by armed civilians.

Among them is Students for Concealed Carry, a national organization with organizers listed for nine Missouri colleges, including UMKC.

However, no such student group exists on campus, according to Gina Lichte, student services coordinator for UMKC Student Affairs. UMKC graduate Patrick Shami said he proposed creating a UMKC SCC group in spring 2011, his senior year.

Shami said the group cleared Student Government Association's Constitution Committee but failed the SGA General Assembly vote. He declined to comment further.

Firearms are banned on UMKC's campus in accordance with state, local and University of Missouri System regulations.

Many question whether or not students and teachers would have enough training to handle an armed shooter scenario.

Michael Bongartz, Chief of the UMKC Police Department, is among them.

"I promote that law enforcement should be the only ones who have weapons on campus," he said. "We receive hundreds of hours of training in the academy on the use of firearms. When you look at concealed carry, it's minimal training."

"The odds are that they aren't going to be as accurate or aren't going to go through as many scenario-based trainings. There's always the scenario that if the police arrive, that person could be mistaken as a hostile intruder."

Bongartz said weapons infractions are rare on campus and that they are punishable by criminal charges and university discipline.

"Because of events over the past 10 years, [people know] the severity of the punishment and that it would follow them for the rest of their lives," he said.

The last two weapons-related arrests on UMKC property were made in 2009 and 2010.

According to Jeff Traiger, Assistant Dean of

Students, when weapons are found on campus, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management appoints a Primary Administrative Officer to collect information from multiple sources.

The PAO then makes a recommendation on how to proceed with sanctions as part of an informal disposition. This could lead to a meeting with the Student Conduct Committee, which would decide any penalty.

"I promote that law enforcement should be the only ones who have weapons on campus. We receive hundreds of hours of training in the academy on the use of firearms. When you look at concealed carry, it's minimal training. The odds are that they aren't going to be as accurate or aren't going to go through as many scenario-based trainings. There's always the scenario that if the police arrive, that person could be mistaken as a hostile intruder."

**-Michael Bongartz,**  
UMKC Police Chief

## Legal questions, enforcement problems persist

Allen Rostron, a Constitutional law professor at UMKC, said the U.S. Supreme Court's 2008 District of Columbia v. Heller decision affirmed that individual gun ownership is protected by the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Rostron said the ruling protects the right to bear "arms that are in common use among the people," a standard left open for interpretation.

He noted that Antonin Scalia, one of the court's conservative justices, wrote in his opinion that machine guns aren't in common use.

Rostron said there is much debate over the degree to which the federal government, states and local jurisdictions can regulate firearms.

Some states, including Missouri, limit local jurisdictions' control over guns.

To purchase from a licensed gun dealer

anywhere in the U.S., one must pass a background check for criminal convictions and mental health. But even with background checks in place, that is no guarantee databases are accurate and complete or that weapons won't be stolen or sold illegally.

Buyers can circumvent background checks in many states by purchasing firearms from private sellers at gun shows.

"People will say that they're selling from their private collection and that their collection happens to really big," Rostron said. "A lot of people are getting away with it."

And with an estimated 270 million civilian firearms, the U.S. has the highest civilian gun ownership rate in the world—by far.

It is impossible to know exactly how often unauthorized concealed carry occurs, but the 2009 and 2010 weapon arrests by the UMKC police show that it happens.

"Comparing it to drunk drivers, we can do checkpoints," Bongartz said, "but there are no types of weapons checkpoints. We investigate it when we're on calls."

Rostron agreed enforcement can be problematic.

"Guns are very movable," he said. "When a place like New York, Chicago or D.C. attempts to have a particularly strict gun law, it tends to be undermined by the illegal movement of guns."

Rostron, who worked for the Brady Campaign to Reduce Gun Violence for four years shortly after the Columbine massacre, said he hopes for reasonable measures that can beef up background checks and keep guns away from criminals and those with severe mental illness.

"You have a right to have a gun, but with rights come responsibility," he said. "Having a gun is both a right and a privilege, like having a driver's license."

Yet he acknowledges gun control's fleeting public support and doubts that a renewed federal assault weapons ban can find Congressional support.

"There was quite a bit of momentum after Columbine," Rostron said, "but then it dissipated and people moved on to other things. This year, you've had not one, but a string of things that got people's attention."

## Mountains vs. the molehill

Mass shootings are more common in the U.S. than any other developed country, but they account for a mere drop in the bucket of all

firearm deaths.

"People have a tendency to focus on a big event," Rostron said. "People worry a lot more about plane crashes than they do about car crashes, even though far more people die in car crashes every day."

Five-year FBI data from 2010 includes 71,945 homicide deaths, but only 774 mass murder victims.

In 2010 alone, firearms were used in 19,392 suicides, 11,078 homicides and 606 accidental killings.

Kansas City has witnessed more than 100 murders—mostly shootings—in each of the past five years.

Rostron said people often associate urban neighborhoods where frequent shootings occur with drugs and gang activity.

"There's an attitude on the part of some people that a lot of those [killed] might be bad people anyway," Rostron said. "They see it as criminals killing criminals. There's a racial element to some extent. Gun violence is a particular problem if you're a young African-American male."

By contrast, mass shooting victims and suspects are predominately white.

At UMKC, neither mass shootings nor local homicides seem to have a profound impact on student safety concerns, according to Bongartz.

"You would have to ask the students, but the ones I talk to feel very safe here," he said.

Bongartz also stated that calls from students and parents concerned about safety are infrequent, although records of such calls are not kept.

He said the area his department patrols—which extends east to Troost and south to 55th Street—has less crime than other nearby neighborhoods.

"It's pretty much saturated with law enforcement officers [from UMKC and Rockhurst] and that prevents a lot of crime," he said.

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Additional contributions by Caleb-Michael Files

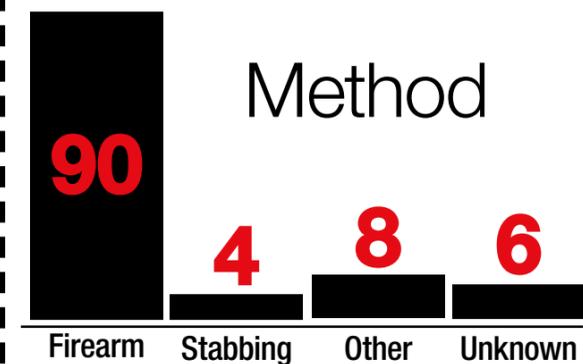
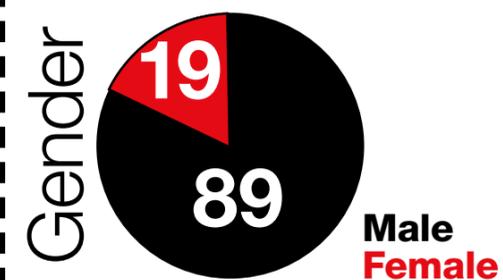
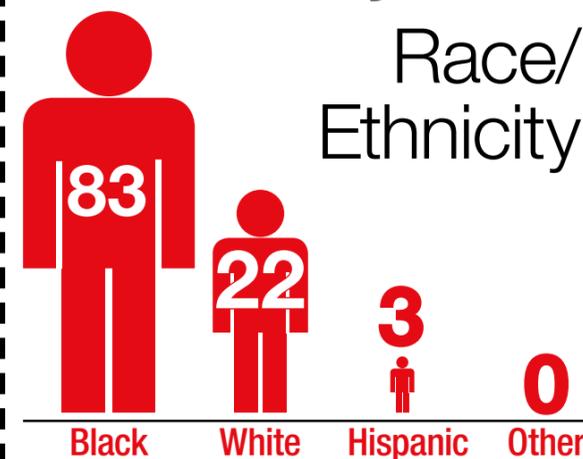
Link to *Mother Jones* investigative coverage:

[www.motherjones.com/special-reports/2012/12/guns-in-america-mass-shootings](http://www.motherjones.com/special-reports/2012/12/guns-in-america-mass-shootings)

Link to Kansas City crime data:

[www.kcmo.org/police/Crime/ViolentCrimes/Homicide/index.htm](http://www.kcmo.org/police/Crime/ViolentCrimes/Homicide/index.htm)

## 2012 homicides Kansas City, Mo.



**Jan. 8, 2011**

**Tucson massacre**  
*Weapon:* Semiautomatic handgun  
*Shot:* 19  
*Killed:* 6  
*Suspect:* Jared Loughner  
*Location:* Tucson, Ar.

**Sept. 6, 2011**

**IHOP shooting**  
*Weapons:* One revolver, two AK-47 rifles  
*Shot:* 12  
*Killed:* 5  
*Suspect:* Eduardo Sencion  
*Location:* Carson City, Nev.

**Oct. 12, 2011**

**Seal Beach shooting**  
*Weapons:* Two semiautomatic handguns, one revolver  
*Shot:* 9  
*Killed:* 8  
*Suspect:* Scott Evans Dekraa  
*Location:* Seal Beach, Calif.

**Feb. 22, 2012**

**Georgia spa shooting**  
*Weapon:* Semiautomatic handgun  
*Shot:* 5  
*Killed:* 5  
*Suspect:* Jeong Soo Paek  
*Location:* Norcross, Ga.

**April 2, 2012**

**Oikos University shooting**  
*Weapon:* Semiautomatic handgun  
*Shot:* 10  
*Killed:* 7  
*Suspect:* One L. Goh  
*Location:* Oakland, Calif.

**May 20, 2012**

**Seattle café shooting**  
*Weapons:* Two semiautomatic handguns  
*Shot:* 7  
*Killed:* 6  
*Suspect:* Ian Stawick  
*Location:* Seattle, Wa.

**July 20, 2012**

**'Dark Knight' massacre**  
*Weapons:* Two semiautomatic handguns, one shotgun, one military-style rifle  
*Shot:* 70  
*Killed:* 12  
*Suspect:* James Holmes  
*Location:* Aurora, Colo.

**Aug. 5, 2012**

**Wisconsin Sikh temple massacre**  
*Weapon:* Semiautomatic handgun  
*Shot:* 10  
*Killed:* 7  
*Suspect:* Michael Wade Page  
*Location:* Oak Creek, Wis.

**Sept. 27, 2012**

**Accent Signage Systems shooting**  
*Weapon:* Semiautomatic handgun  
*Shot:* 8  
*Killed:* 7  
*Suspect:* Andrew Engeldinger  
*Location:* Minneapolis, Minn.

**Dec. 14, 2012**

**Sandy Hook shooting**  
*Weapons:* Two semiautomatic handguns, one shotgun, one military-style rifle  
*Shot:* 30  
*Killed:* 28  
*Suspect:* Adam Lanza  
*Location:* Newtown, Conn.

# THE 2012 And the nominees are...

Elizabeth Golden  
Managing Editor

This past year has been a year unlike many others. The Academy Award contenders began rolling out as early as June, very much unlike the past years. Audiences laughed and cried and succumbed to the wonderful power of film. The same joy and tears were shed when the Academy Award nominees were released just a few weeks ago. There were few surprises as always, but overall the nominees were given to the most deserving films. Although not all of the following films were nominated for best picture, they all were nominated for at least one award and therefore are part of the best films of 2012.

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## Django Unchained



Quentin Tarantino shows off his directorial talent once more in this brilliant film intentionally made for Oscar season.

Jamie Foxx stars as a slave turned freeman who faces plantation owners in order to save his wife.

It's very obvious Tarantino made this film solely to add to his trophy case since all the necessary Academy Award bait is present. The film has emotional tension, a controversial plot, outstanding acting and brilliant directing, but the film does not reek Tarantino as much as his previous films. The sense of humor and gore is there, but something seems to be missing from his signature style.

"Django Unchained" is nominated for five awards including Best Picture, Best Leading Actor, Best Cinematography, Best Sound Editing and Best Original Screenplay. Although the film is unlikely to score Best Picture, best script will possibly go to Tarantino.

## Flight



Denzel Washington stars as an alcoholic pilot who undergoes scrutiny after his plane crashes, saving almost everyone on board. Although the film is only nominated for two awards, Best Actor and Best Original Screenplay, the entire film was incredible.

The audience is taking on an emotional journey as Washington truly gives one of the best performances of his career. He is very deserving of the Best Actor award, but there is no guarantee with the steep competition.

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower



Sex, drugs and violence transform "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" from an average high school film into a heart-wrenching story of pain, emotions and struggle focused in the mind of a teenage boy.

Based on the best-selling book, "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" tells the narrative of Charlie (Logan Lerman), who is just starting his first year of high school. He has counted down the days until it begins and is not looking forward to the pain and torment he has dreaded for years. His friends were not around and his sister wouldn't talk to him, leaving him with no support other than his English teacher, who noticed his literary genius from the first day.

"The Perks of Being a Wallflower" is a heartfelt portrayal of contemporary high school society, mixed in with a little bit of "The Breakfast Club," as Charlie's

childhood drama unravels in a cinematic way.

Little is actually known about the lead character from the film's beginning, but as the story unfolds, the motivations between his introverted personality and depressive mindset are revealed.

This is a phenomenal film, fit for a wide array of audience members. Every viewer walks away personally touched, as the film depicts a side of life that is shunned from modern-day media.

The film's key theme is, "It gets better," which is a message relatable to anyone experiencing life's hardships. "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" does not shy away from the pain so many others try to hide. Instead, this film embraces every painful moment and every romantic situation, all warped into a story of growing up and the struggles of daily adolescent life.

## Skyfall



Bond is back and better than ever in "Skyfall." Complete with dynamic set pieces, incredible performances and emotional moments, this Bond celebrates the anniversary in the best possible way.

For the first time ever, the audience is given a glimpse of Bond's childhood and is then taken on an emotional journey through his past. For Bond fans, this is an amazing turn of events.

Also, an interesting dynamic is developed between Bond and M, and the characters are showcased in a fulfilling way, giving light to their incredible relationship.

It's very rare to see a James Bond movie on this list, but "Skyfall" proved to be the Bond to make the cut as it brought back the feelings triggered by Sean Connery so many years ago.

"Skyfall" is nominated for five awards, including Best Cinematography, Best Original Score, Best Original Song, Sound Editing and Sound Mixing. The film could possibly win Best Original Song for Adele's brilliant performance, but the song still fell short of being the best Bond song ever. "Skyfall" is unlikely to walk away with anything else.

## Argo



Ben Affleck does it again with this stunning and thought-provoking historical portrayal of the Iranian hostage crisis, and is sure to leave audience members on the edges of their seats. With lifelike dialogue, heart-felt situations and intriguing direction, "Argo" is sure to be a top contender for this year's Oscar glory.

Based on true events, "Argo" recounts the horrific Middle Eastern events of the late '70s. After radicals storm the U.S. embassy in Tehran and take 52 American hostages, six manage to escape and take refuge at the Canadian Ambassador's house.

Overall, "Argo" is suspenseful from start to finish. Every scene triggers a strong emotional reaction. Affleck allows the audience to truly feel the characters' experiences and wish for the best, even though the ending can be inferred from the beginning. Only a true directorial genius like Affleck could add suspense to a historical event.

Nominated for seven Academy Awards, "Argo" should have been nominated for much more,

continued on page 13

## Moonrise Kingdom



Fueled by awkwardness from start to finish, "Moonrise Kingdom" will remind you of the beauty of young love complete with the first encounter and first kisses. This film isn't necessarily about the events themselves but the feelings surrounding the events. Emotion prevails as the two young lovers act in a way most adults aren't even capable of.

Wes Anderson does a brilliant job portraying this young love stylistically and artistically from a child's perspective, making this film one of the first contenders for Oscar glory.

Some may argue the truest form of love comes from childhood when one is innocent and free of worldly persecutors. Anderson shows this love from within the child's mind and allows the audience to recall how it looked upon love as an awkward kid just trying to belong.

The film is complete with dry humor and a touching story, leaving a sense of happiness after watching this film. Anderson portrays the sad, unfortunate situations in a comedic and lighthearted way.

continued on page 13

## Les Misérables



The award for the most depressing film of the year goes to "Les Misérables," but that's obvious to anyone who has seen the play. The ending is inevitable, but the process is incredible.

Set in 19th century France, the film centers on an ex-prisoner who rescues and cares for a factory worker's daughter.

"Les Misérables" is the dictionary definition of a musical meaning the entire film is sung. It is unlikely that there are more than a couple spoken lines in the entire three-hour presentation. For those who do not like musicals, the film may seem to be an unpleasant pile of depression.

The film is nominated for eight awards: Best Picture, Best Actor in a Leading Role (Hugh Jackman), Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Anne Hathaway), Best Costume Design, Best Makeup and Hair, Best Original Song, Best Production Design and Best Sound Mixing.

It's surprising Hathaway was nominated since she was mainly in the first 30 minutes of the film, but her performance

continued on page 13

## Zero Dark Thirty



It's unclear whether this film can be considered a good movie, but it is definitely well done production-wise. Every aspect of the script is exceptionally well thought out and filmed to perfection.

"Zero Dark Thirty" is nominated for five awards: Best Film, Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Film Editing, Best Sound Editing and Best Original Screenplay. The film could possibly walk away with an editing award, but it has little chance of getting anything bigger.

## The Avengers



"The Avengers" may not be a top Oscar contender this year, but it definitely wins the most entertaining film of the year. Nominated only for Best Visual Effects, "The Avengers" became one of the highest grossing films of the year. Nothing fit Oscar stereotypes, but the film is definitely worth watching again and again.



Seth MacFarlane, creator of "Family Guy," will host the 85th annual Academy Award Ceremony on Feb. 24.

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theatre review

# 'Death of a Salesman'

## The American dream is not all it's cracked up to be

Meredith Shea A&E Editor

**A** gripping story of the American dream gone wrong comes alive in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

Willy Loman has spent his whole life attempting to work his way up the sales ladder in order to raise a family and own a house, but nothing seems to make him happy. Now in his sixties, medical issues are getting the best of him. He battles with constant hallucinations, attempted suicides and his two disastrous sons, Biff and Happy.

Willy and his wife, Linda, struggle to pay their bills, causing Willy to ask for money time and time again. When Willy demands that he be able to work in Brooklyn instead of as a traveling salesman, he pushes his limits with his boss.

When Biff and Happy come home, it makes matters worse. Biff, the oldest, was raised as a popular athlete and nothing more. Now 34, he still has soul searching to do. Happy works in sales, but is still a minnow in a sea of sharks. Neither of the boys helps their parents financially, which only adds to the recipe for disaster and the death of a salesman.

The most exciting aspect of theatre is watching a group of actors who know each other well work together seamlessly. The ensemble-based approach "Death of a Salesman" requires is perfect for this group of talented actors.

Gary Neal Johnson (Willy) is as good as always. For a man who has had so many professional acting gigs, he manages to make Willy come alive differently from other characters he has played in the past and is a joy to watch, as always.

His onstage relationship with Merle Moores (Linda) is lovely. Moores has a difficult role playing the liaison between Willy and the boys. She embodies everything a mother should with her warm and tender moments, and still stays a strong woman to the end.

Rusty Sneary (Biff) and Kyle Hatley (Happy) act as if they are real brothers. Like most actors in this production, Sneary and Hatley have worked together in the past and it shows. They have complete trust in one another onstage and know how to portray sibling rivalry at its best. They jump between the past and present aspects of the play seamlessly.

Chris Roady (Bernard) deserves special attention. He is a hoot to watch as he plays Biff and Happy's nerdy cousin who ends up successful. Whenever the play needs some



Costume renderings for "Death of a Salesman," designed by Professor Lindsay Davis and 2nd year MFA student Lauren Gaston.  
TOP LEFT: Willy. TOP RIGHT: Linda. BOTTOM LEFT: Biff. BOTTOM RIGHT: Happy.

Credit | KC Rep

comic relief, Bernard comes tromping in.

Four MFA Acting majors make their Kansas City Repertory Theatre debut: Jessica Biernacki Jensen (Letta), Janae Nicole Mitchell (Jenny), Michael R. Pauley (Stanley) and Courtney Salvage (Miss Forsythe). Though their parts are smaller than the rest, these actors give a good impression and a glimpse into what kind of training they are receiving at UMKC.

The set design is beautiful. Designed by Meghan Raham, it allows the life of the play to take shape. At all times, the Loman house is seen. It is built with raw wood 2x4s and has no walls allowing the audience to see from one room to the next. The rawness of the set is necessary for the tone of the play.

At certain points, the kitchen is able to slide forward or backward, the house moves back to create more playing space down stage and different signs and buildings fly in and out from above. The audience never knows what's going to move next and it makes the play exciting in a different way from the action of the dialogue.

"Death of a Salesman" is a must see for everyone, American or not. Living the American dream is not always what it presents itself to be on the surface.

Check out "Death of a Salesman" at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre through Feb. 10th. Student tickets are \$20.

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film review



## Hunt for Bin Laden much more than a zero, but much less than a 10

Elizabeth Golden Managing Editor

Out of all Oscar nominated films, "Zero Dark Thirty" is one of the worst on the list. It's a good film by all definitions of the word, but it lacks several key parts to make it enjoyable. Complete with an intriguing plot, powerful acting and an outstanding directorial style, "Zero Dark Thirty" proves to be well done but has an absence of everything that makes a film worthwhile.

Set in post 9/11 Pakistan, "Zero Dark Thirty" is the story of CIA operative, Maya (Jessica Chastain), who believes she found the location of Osama Bin Laden after a decade of searching. She experiences ups and downs while occasionally overseeing torture and being faced with the constant threat of death. Her superiors and co-workers doubt her competence but she never loses sight of her goal, and eventually all her hard work pays off.

Even though the ending is inevitable and highly publicized, it is filmed in a very anticlimactic way. After years of searching, they find and kill Bin Laden with only a few bullets. There is no emotional tension or no feelings are triggered from the audience. He was alive, they found

him, they killed him, the end. This didn't feel like much of an accomplishment, but simply another day on the job. Since killing the biggest terrorist in the world happens on a daily basis, right? More emotions could have been brought about by possibly adding in a nice slow motion shot or some heart felt music, but no, the ending was played off without drama or without anyone really caring.

The rest of the film was exceptionally good for the most part. There were some slow moments, but the director, Kathryn Bigelow, made up for it with her unpredictable scenes of suspense. After winning five Oscars in 2008 for the phenomenal "The Hurt Locker," Bigelow has definitely created a name for herself. She is known for extreme suspense followed by unlikely moments of quiet. Although this technique worked very well in "The Hurt Locker," "Zero Dark Thirty" comes across as boring overall.

Even though the film may be boring and may lack entertainment value, every other aspect of the film is spectacular. Bigelow knows how to capture the most intense aspects of the scene and does an exceptional job with the intense subject matter. The acting is another amazing part

of the film. Chastain deserves the Oscar for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role and she will most likely receive this award.

The film is also nominated for Best Achievement in Editing, Best Achievement in Sound Editing, Best Picture and Best Screenplay. The editing was outstanding and the screenplay was well done, but there is no guarantee "Zero Dark Thirty" will leave with many golden statues. For any other year, this film would sweep the floor, but considering the amount of entertainment produced this year, the film most likely will only receive a Best Actress award.

However, "Zero Dark Thirty" did win the AFI Movie of the Year award and The BSFC Best Film award, so there is a possibility of it also stealing the Oscar's Best Film award.

Overall, this film is exceptionally well done from a production standpoint, but lacks entertainment value. Those looking for a "good" film, but not for mindless entertainment purposes should only see this. "Zero Dark Thirty" is Oscar bait, but is unlikely to be able to compete with the other well-done and entertaining films.

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## On Campus: Happening now:



• "Death of a Salesman" presented by KC Rep Theatre on the Spencer Stage in the Performing Arts Center. Student rush tickets are \$20. The show features UMKC M.F.A. theatre students and runs through Feb. 10.

## Happening soon:



• Jan. 24- UMKC Gallery of Art will open a new exhibit, "Rational Aesthetics," by Robert Howsare. The opening reception is from 5-7 p.m. Jan. 24 and will remain open through Feb. 15.



• Jan. 26- The Conservatory of Music and Dance will pair up with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to offer gallery performances for all ages. The show mixes sight, movement and sound together and is performed in the museum's Art Sculpture Hall from 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. No tickets required.



• Jan. 26- UMKC Master Recital featuring Ryan Morris on the bassoon and John Woller on the piano. The recital takes place in the White Recital Hall in the Performing Arts Center at 2:30 p.m. Free admission.



• Jan. 26- UMKC Doctoral Recital featuring Richard Williams on the piano, Christopher Puckett singing tenor and stage director Vincent Connor. The recital takes place in the White Recital Hall in the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

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## Oscars: Continued from page 11

### Argo:

including Best Director. Affleck won this prestigious award at the Golden Globes, but the Academy of Motion Pictures chose to not even include him on the ballot. Although a key award was overlooked, "Argo" is sure to walk away with at least a few gold statues. Hopefully Best Picture will be among them.

### Moonrise Kingdom:

Moonrise Kingdom delves deep into meaning, symbolism and the struggles of daily life. This is a film about heart, emotions and all that makes growing up so special.

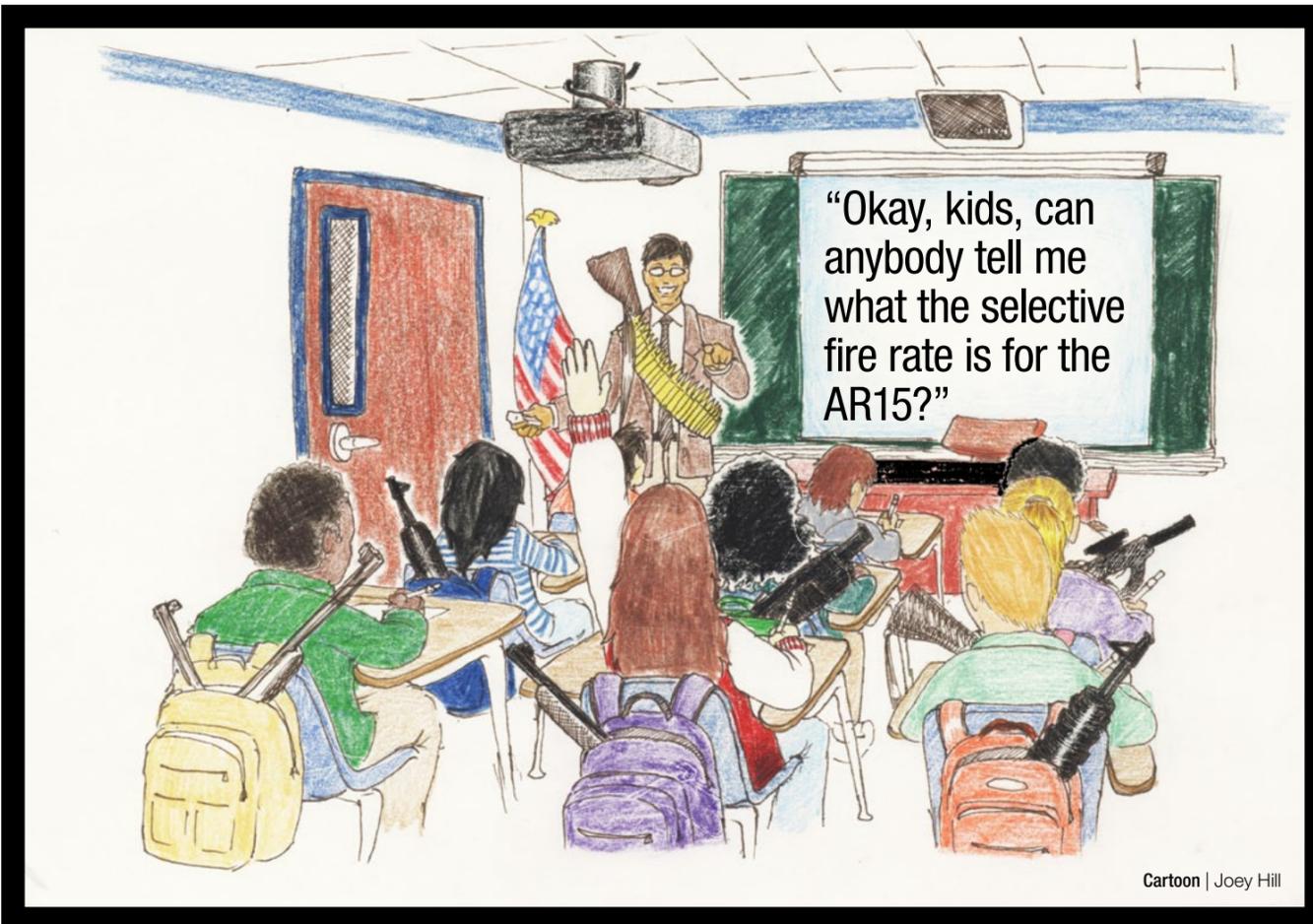
The film was only nominated for one award, Best Original Screenplay. As the odds may be against "Moonrise Kingdom," hopefully several judges will appreciate a little independent film making it big.

### Les Misérables:

was phenomenal. Every aspect of production was outstanding and "Les Misérables" is likely to walk away with several awards. It won Best Comedy or Musical at the Golden Globes and the film has the possibility of claiming the Academy Award.

**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](mailto:nzoschke@unews.com).

# Gun Control Debate



## Gun control means the wrong people will have arms

**Elizabeth Golden**  
Managing Editor

With several deadly mass shootings, gun control has been a subject of much debate and controversy within recent years. Personally, I hate the idea of guns and am a billion percent for gun control, or the idea of guns never being invented.

Think about it. If guns were not invented then there would be no mass shootings and fewer violent crimes. It would be nearly impossible to kill so many innocent people with a bow and arrow before someone would realize the need to get help.

Anyway, that is beside the point since it is impossible to reverse the invention of guns, and gun control as a whole is a very unrealistic idea. It would be nice if we lived in a

perfect world where there were no guns and everyone got along, right? But no, that's an unrealistic fantasy.

The truth is, there will always be bad people. There will always be a black market and bad people will always find a way to get guns. Simple as that.

History proves this to be true. According to a 2008 article by *The Washington Post* entitled "A History of D.C. Gun Ban," the amount of murders rose by nearly 55 percent after the district banned the possession of handguns in 1976. The law was struck down in 2008 as unconstitutional.

In 1997, Britain passed a similar law forbidding the ownership of handguns and forced all civilians to surrender their weapons. Based on 2008 research by the British House of Commons, the amount of homicides increased by 52

percent, making violent crime in Britain four times more prevalent than in the United States. This statistic changed in 2012 based on the Colorado theatre and Sandy Hook Elementary shootings, and the United States is now the most violent country.

Florida passed a right-to-carry law in 1987 and since then, the murder rate has decreased by 36 percent while the U.S. rate has only decreased by 15 percent. Of the million plus licenses issued, only three percent have been revoked due to violent crimes, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Texas had a similar situation. In 1996, the state passed a right-to-carry law causing the murder rate to average 30 percent lower than it was before the law took place.

In other news, there is no law

against terrorists purchasing firearms and explosives. According to a report by the Government Accountability Office, between 2004 and 2010, over 1,200 people on terrorist watch lists attempted to buy firearms and 91 percent of these transactions passed the background check.

Simply banning guns, however, will not be a solution to the problem. The U.S. Justice Department surveyed over 14,000 state prison inmates and discovered only 12 percent attained the weapon legally. Eighty percent used illegal means such as the black market or borrowing from family or friends.

According to the University of Chicago Crime Lab, the nation averages 87 gun deaths each day. Based on the above statistic, 70 out of 87 people were shot with a gun purchased or borrowed illegally.



Now, in what way would gun control help the situation?

In summary, gun control simply means bad people will have guns and good people won't. If we must live in a world where guns have been invented, then we might as well allow law-abiding citizens the right to protect themselves.

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## Increase funding for mental health services

### Tragedy sparks flood of proposed legislation

**Caleb-Michael Files** Student Life Editor

Over 200 Americans are shot every day, 47 of them children and teens. Every day, 87 people die from gun violence, 33 of them murdered. Every day, eight children and teens die from gun violence. Every day, 183 people are shot, but survive their injuries.

Last week President Obama told the nation, "In the month since 20 precious children and six brave adults were violently taken from us at Sandy Hook Elementary, more than 900 of our fellow Americans have reportedly died at the end of a gun - 900 in the past month. And every day we wait, the number will keep growing."

The attention of several lawmakers has once again turned toward gun control. Historically, gun-control legislation comes to national prominence after a high-profile shooting. Many pro-gun-control organizations believe the United States should follow the lead of many European countries and adopt strict anti-gun laws.

"The rest of the industrialized world has laws on the books that keep troubled people away from guns," said Paul Bendix, spokesman for the anti-gun group Million Mom March. "In troubled times, the first step is to get the guns away from troubled people."

Stemming from the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy, many bills have been

introduced in Missouri regarding the use, possession and sale of firearms. From bills which would lower the age to purchase a handgun from 21 to 18, to House Bill 170, which would "outlaw federal law and therefore any federal agent and employee who enforces or attempts to enforce" federal laws pertaining to firearms and ammunition.

There has been a fair share of pro-gun legislation filed but Representative Stacey Newman (D-St. Louis), a member of the Million Mom March, filed bills after President Obama's announcement similar to what the President outlined as one of his 23 Executive Orders. Newman's House Bill 187 would "require criminal background checks of all gun buyers."

Forty percent of all gun sales can be completed without background checks because federal law doesn't require firearm sales checks between private parties. The National Rifle Association has long been a fervent opponent of gun control legislation, demanding the enforcement of laws already on the books rather than the creation of new laws.

"The NRA believes laws requiring trigger locks and gun licenses are not the answer to society's problems."

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon has supported NRA-endorsed legislation in the past, such as House Bill 294, which lowered



the concealed carry age to 21 and allowed a person to possess, manufacture, transport, repair, or sell a machine gun, short-barreled rifle or shotgun or firearm suppressor if he or she complies with federal law.

Needless to say, it will be an interesting year in the Missouri Legislature, with Republicans holding a veto-proof majority. Kudos to Newman for introducing her legislation.

I do tend to agree that background checks are necessary, but what about gun handling classes like the ones offered by the Conservation Department and being brought into schools?

I appreciated the power of a gun and my views on guns haven't changed. It's the mental health sector which we must make sure is adequately funded to provide care for those who need it most.

Regulating guns is not the issue.

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### Letter to the Editor

#### The Senate fails to ratify the CRPD

*To the editor,*

People with disabilities have rights too! Americans with Disabilities need the CRPD. The Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities is a United Nations Treaty. As a disabled veteran I support the ratification of the CRPD. I have personally lobbied the Senate to ratify the treaty as the president of the Disabled Students in Higher Education. DSHE recently traveled to Washington DC to speak with Senator Roy Blunt about the rights of disabled Americans and the CRPD. DSHE argued that the academic standards in tests such as the LSAT, GRE, CBASE, and the GMAT are unfair. UMKC Disabled students trying to gain admittance to post-secondary education are kept out of Universities around the nation. The UMKC Testing Center test administrators often told to deny accommodations needed to pass these tests.

On December 4th the US Senate will voted to deny ratification of the UN treaty. This treaty was supported by all Veterans groups, Americans with Disabilities, and other major organizations for people with disabilities. The treaty has wide ranging implications for disabled Americans traveling around the world. The ailing former Senator Bob Dole recently wrote to his friends in the Senate asking them to ratify the CRPD. The CRPD is considered an improvement on the Americans with Disabilities Act. The CRPD addresses issues like equal access to education, work, and the ability to gain access to government buildings. The Americans with Disabilities is 22 years old. Disabled Americans have seen their world has change for the better since inception of the ADA.

There was wide support for passage of CRPD. Senators such as John Kerry and John McCain supported the passage of the CRPD. Disabled Missourians need the CRPD to garner good paying jobs. Disabled Students in Missouri want the CRPD to pass so that we may get a chance to go to Dental School or to become an attorney. Many Americans have no idea what it is like to try to get into a seat on an airplane if you are in wheelchair. In many countries you cannot fly if you are in a wheelchair. The CRPD address all of these issues. The Senate needs to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

*Vincent Cannady,  
UMKC Student*

## Adios, amigos

### Farewell from a grumpy, young old man

**Tyren Rushing** Staff Writer

Well it has finally happened, your favorite kid hating, bitter, cheap, young old mad is leaving the *U-News*. I was offered the opportunity to be a full-time reporter for the Newton Daily News in Newton, Iowa.

This is a great opportunity for me and a chance to advance my career. But not only that, I get to live out my dream of being a newspaper writer while making a decent living. After nearly seven years, I snatched my photo off the wall of my old warehouse job and walked out with a smile on my face for the first time in a long time.

It's crazy how I came back to school in the fall of 2011 with my confidence shaken in my ability to learn and in my ability to write. Yet, before I walked across the stage on December 14th, I landed the first job I applied to in the newspaper industry. I actually got a job before I even walked across the stage, which let me know right then and there that all my hard work had paid off. I believe I am an even better writer now than I was during my first

go round at college.

I didn't make this journey alone though. I have quite a few people to thank, and too many to list with the amount of word space I've been limited to, so I'll start if off with the most important one.

I have to thank my mother Myra Rushing-Wallace. While she may no longer be with me, her memory has served as my motivation this last year. When I was working long days last summer doing my internship and my regular job, she motivated me. When I came back to school to get that degree I promised her, she motivated me. I truly was blessed to have such a strong, powerful women raise me and to have kept me going without even being here to push me.

I also have to thank the *U-News* for helping me grow as a writer. Working for the *U-News* helped me hone my writing skills, showed me the value of teamwork and communication, and afforded me the ability to meet and talk with so many interesting people. I especially have to thank my good friend, fellow cheapskate, and former *U-News* writer, Ericka



Chatmon, for taking me to my initial meeting and getting me started. I have to thank all of my colleagues at the *U-News* and a great Editor-in-Chief, Nathan Zoschke, for allowing me to be myself and express my voice in my writing.

And lastly I have to thank UMKC. I have to thank all f my teachers, my advisors, the *U-News* readers and everyone person I interviewed. Without this school and the great students and staff, I wouldn't be where I am today.

So, thank you UMKC

*From Tyren Rushing, Reporter for the  
Newton Daily News.*

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# UNIVERSITY NEWS

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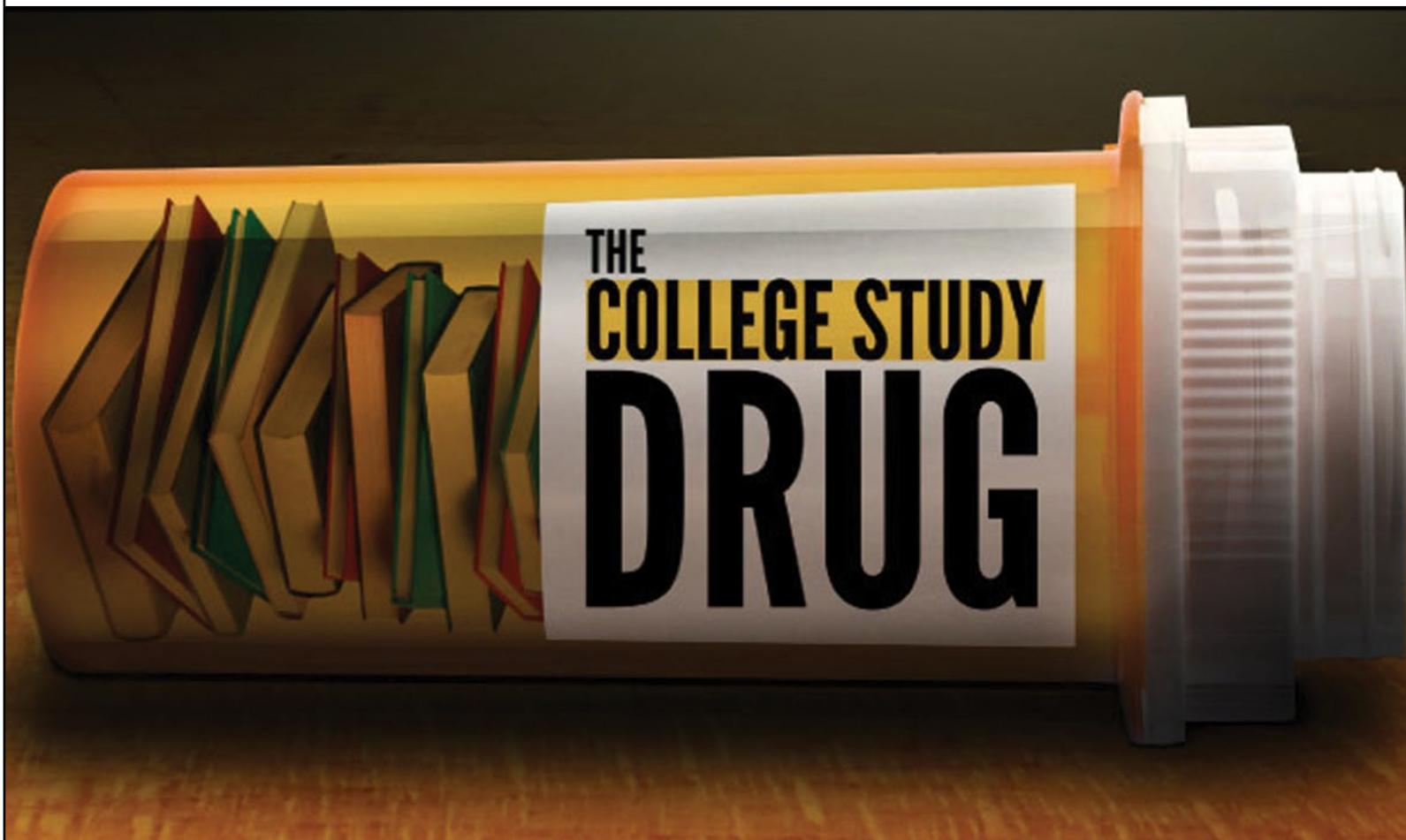


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## 10 FEATURE

Growing use of prescription stimulants raises concern among health professionals

**2 NEWS**  
UMKC marketing takes new tack after name change proposal falls through

**5 NEWS**  
UMKC recognized by EPA for food recovery efforts and sustainability initiatives

**13 A&E**  
Plaza Lights kick off the holiday season in Kansas City



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