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Administration allegedly waited four days to inform UMKC of student with COVID-19

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News Editor

According to a report by the Kansas City Star, UMKC administration allegedly knew of a law student who had the coronavirus for four days before informing the campus.

The mother of the student, Louise Lynch, told The Star that she had told administration her daughter had tested positive for the virus the day it happened, March 21. An email was sent to staff and students by the university on March 25.

In a statement to The Star, Director of Media Relations John Martellaro said that the university reported the information as soon as they heard word from the health department. However, the student's mother states that she personally informed the university be-

forehand.

The student was last on campus on March 16. With the incubation period of the virus lasting up to two weeks, students and staff alike could have been infected. SGA President Justice Horn told The Star that two other students in the law school have been presumed positive for the virus.

The university is under fire from the SGA for withholding the information, as well as not stating the academic department of the student or the locations they have visited. A statement released by all branches of the SGA states that this could lead to students "inadvertently spreading the virus to others in their family or community."

The SGA, which is meeting with upper administration on the issue on April 6, has vehemently expressed its displeas-



A report by The Kansas City Star says that UMKC withheld information on a student with coronavirus. (Wikimedia Commons)

ure with the university's actions in this case.

"One of UMKC's greatest attributes has been its emphasis on putting students first,"

writes the SGA. "The revelations reported on by The Kansas City Star cast serious doubt on upper administration's commitment to that basic tenant of

our university."

UNews will continue to cover this issue in further detail

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UMKC implements credit/no credit grading option for spring 2020

Annie Bolin

Staff Writer

UMKC students now have the option to convert their spring semester letter grades to credit or no credit, according to a decision from Interim Provost Jenny Lundgren on Friday.

Lundgren described the change as "empowering students to choose an option that best fits their academic needs this semester" under the COVID-19 pandemic.

The change comes after MU implemented a similar system last week. Contrary to other pass/fail systems being implemented at universities throughout the country, the use of credit/no credit at UMKC is at the discretion of students themselves.

The credit/no credit option will be available to students in all undergraduate and graduate courses while availability in professional degree courses is at the discretion of program leadership.

Under credit/no credit, or CR/NC, eligible students enrolled in spring 2020 courses can choose the CR/NC grade option for all courses that use an A to F grading system.

Students can also retain their letter grade as posted by instructors at the end of the semester. Students do not need to take any action if they choose to retain their letter grade or if their course was originally designed with a CR/NC grading system.

Excluded from spring 2020 CR/NC are any classes that ended prior to March 16.

Students may select the CR/NC option for classes in Pathway starting 8 a.m. Monday, May 18, 2020, through 5 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2020.

In her announcement, Lundgren outlined basic CR/NC guidelines for students:

- CR/NC grades are not included in semester or cumulative GPA calculations
- Any grade C- or higher converts

to CR

- Any grade D+ or lower converts to NC
- CR receives course credit
- NC does not receive course credit

After course instructors enter final grades at the end of the semester, students will have access to the CR/NC option in Pathway. Instructors will not be made aware if students choose the CR/NC option.

One possible consequence of using the CR/NC option is that students may have to retake certain courses since CR/NC does not factor into their GPA.

Lundgren said that before making any changes after final grades are posted, students should consult with their advisors or program faculty to determine the impact of using the CR/NC option.

"There are a variety of situations where a letter grade is required for accreditation, licensure, clinical work, to be removed from probation, to move to

the next level in a course sequence," Lundgren said.

UMKC senior Aubrie Evans has mixed feelings on the CR/NC option.

"I don't think GPAs should suffer, especially due to a situation that we can't control, but I'm not sure how much a system like that would be helpful," Evans said. "I could see how it may be useful for others."

Similarly, UMKC senior Brenna Killen calls CR/NC "a unique solution for a unique situation."

"It is a good safety net for those that struggle with online instruction," Killen said.

Lundgren also announced that the final grade submission deadline for faculty is extended to 5 p.m. on May 22, so students may have to wait until then to choose CR/NC.

Find a step-by-step guide on exercising the CR/NC option [here](https://www.umkc.edu/news/academic-faq.html). (<https://www.umkc.edu/news/academic-faq.html>)
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NEWS

COVID-19's impact on Working college students

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Staff Writer

Brenden Hill

Staff Writer

Small business owners are finding themselves turning off lights and locking their doors. Working college students are now applying for unemployment. They never saw it coming.

Melody Holliday, a UMKC senior majoring in music education, has recently lost her job due to the financial burden following COVID-19. Holliday's workplace has decided to permanently close, unable to recover from the lack of business COVID-19 has caused.

"The staff was my second family. I actually looked forward to going to work every day," Holliday said.

As a college student, Holliday filed for unemployment in efforts to support herself financially during this time. "I filed for unemployment about two weeks ago, but since the system is overloaded, I have yet to receive any



Many UMKC students have lost their jobs and applied for unemployment due to COVID-19 (Fox Business)

money," Holliday said.

"Personally, I am worried about my future because my student teaching has also been affected by the shutdowns. I hope I can find a temporary job before I go into the education field," Holliday

added.

Holliday is joined by many other UMKC students who have lost jobs due to COVID-19.

"I feel really blindsided," said UMKC political science student Jason

Bell. "When I first heard about this virus I was worried about it, but I never really thought about how it would affect my job."

Pre-law student Tedeja Dean, who lost her job due to COVID-19, has joined the millions of students who have had to apply for unemployment. "I never imagined I'd be filing for unemployment at 21 years old, but I guess here I am," said Dean.

This growing number of people applying for unemployment is something that UMKC economic professor Erik Olsin says isn't a surprise.

"Before all of this, the job numbers were pretty solid, but while we are still getting updates on information, it is pretty stark," he said.

COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to our health and the economy, and these students are joined by even more like them who have been hit with the brunt of this pandemic's economic hardships.

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Seniors disappointed as they end their time at UMKC

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Regan Smith

Staff Writer

It may not have been what they expected, but the class of 2020 is making history for UMKC. The entire class is taking their coursework online, and their May commencement is being replaced with a virtual graduation celebration.

Despite the largely unprecedented challenges they face, graduating Roos remain resilient as they finish their degree requirements.

Communications major and graduating senior Erin Roth says that while she is used to online courses, there is nothing like having class in person.

"The main class that I would still like to meet in person for would be my capstone class," said Roth. "This class was going to be useful for my future career and we aren't do-

ing Zoom meetings for it anymore."

Though she was excited to learn, she said she will now miss out on all the valuable things they were going to be taught.

Bailey Landis, another senior communications major, agreed and said she wishes her Rhetorical Theory and Criticism course was still in person.

"I enjoy listening to Dr. Melling and classmates give their thoughts and opinions on different topics," Landis said. "We still have class discussions and lectures online, but I feel like participation is not the same as meeting face-to-face twice a week."

Other seniors worry about their life after UMKC as COVID-19 interferes with events that help students network with potential employers.

"I feel less confident based on the fact that I was starting to work on my networking more," said senior communica-



Many seniors are upset to see their semesters end without a chance to say goodbye to classmates and professors.

tion studies major Hannia Zavala. "I was reaching out to companies trying to find an employer post-grad. With the coronavirus, all events were canceled, including the Mercury Internship Brunch where many employers attend for communications-focused careers."

Zavala says that the recent changes have made her consider staying at UMKC for an additional semester, as there are more resources available for

students.

Others are disappointed they were unable to say goodbye. Tommy Graham says it's sad knowing it's possible he will never see many of his classmates and teachers again. Graham says that although classes are being held online, participation and discussions are no longer the same.

With hopes of curbing the spread of COVID-19 Chancellor Agrawal decided to postpone May's graduation. This

decision left many seniors feeling a variety of emotions. Though seniors will still receive their degree, the joy of walking across the stage will have to wait until December.

"If I can't walk because of this stupid coronavirus I will definitely cry," said senior Lisa Train. "I, we, as seniors worked so hard. We deserve the recognition."

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From KC to LA

Filmmaker Morgan Cooper makes a name for himself

Adeta Chareunsab

Staff Writer

From having conversations with celebrities like filmmaker Ava DuVernay to actor Will Smith, you could say Kansas City filmmaker Morgan Cooper has made it in life.

Cooper was only 18 when his love for filmmaking started after buying his first camera.

Before working on his craft, Cooper spent most of his high school career teaching himself music production, and he took the same approach for filmmaking, spending many hours in his basement learning how to work the camera and improve his skills.

“That’s what it takes to become great at anything,” Cooper said. “You have to immerse yourself in it. It has to really become a lifestyle.”

Just like other filmmakers in Kansas City, Cooper had to take small steps and film whatever he could, such as events and even music videos.

As Cooper got more practice with the camera, he was able to develop his own style, which led to his work gaining more attention from the filmmaking community.

His filmmaking career skyrocketed during the release of



Morgan Cooper on the set of “U Shoot Videos?” (Libby Zanders Photography)

his fanmade trailer, “BEL-AIR,” which parodies Will Smith’s sitcom, “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” and twists it into a dark drama.

The trailer also gained the attention of the fresh prince himself, which led the two to meet each other in Miami, Florida.

“He was just so warm—everything you can think about Will is true and more,” Cooper

said. “He’s a brilliant storyteller and is extremely passionate about it. We hit it off right away, and I can’t say enough about him.”

Cooper also got the chance to speak to Ava DuVernay, director of the 2019 Netflix film “When They See Us.”

“BEL-AIR” gained her attention, and just like Smith, DuVernay also gave Cooper some helpful advice he still

takes to heart to this day.

“The fact that she took the time to talk to me just really said a lot about who she is, and it really meant a lot to me,” Cooper said.

Although it’s been almost a year since Cooper made the big move to Los Angeles to help grow his career, he still has a lot of love for his hometown. Scenes from “BEL-AIR” and his film “U SHOOT VIDE-

OS?” feature locations from Kansas City. Some of Cooper’s favorite spots to film at are the West Bottoms and The Scout statue located in Penn Valley Park. Cooper is also fond of the filmmaking community here, saying everyone is willing to help each other out.

“The greatest thing about the Kansas City filmmaking community is that there’s always something going on,” Cooper said. “There are a lot of nice people who are willing to help you and be supportive of the fact that you’re reaching out and trying to learn.”

While Cooper has a lot of love for the community and slow-paced lifestyle Kansas City offers, he also enjoys working and honing his craft in fast-paced Los Angeles.

“You’ve got to bloom where you’re planted right now,” Cooper said. “This is where the next phase of my career is blooming.”

For the rest of 2020, Cooper plans on working on his first major TV production, “Black Coffee,” with actress Gabrielle Union and Sony Pictures TV. He is also writing two features and is working on producing a show with Universal Studios.

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FEATURE

Coronavirus—the entertainment industry’s worst nightmare

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Staff Writer

From delayed movie releases to canceled concert tours, the coronavirus has taken over the entertainment industry.

The pandemic has swept across the U.S., becoming the biggest threat to cinephiles, music lovers and celebrities themselves.

Upcoming blockbusters like “Fast and Furious 9” and “A Quiet Place Part II” have been delayed, and movie theaters have shut down to help slow the spread of the virus.

On the musical side of the entertainment industry, tours and music festivals have been canceled left and right to limit the spread of the virus.

Singer Billie Eilish had to cancel the remaining tour dates of her “WHERE DO WE GO” North American tour due to the rising concerns of the coronavirus.

Shortly after canceling the tour, Eilish made a story highlight on her Instagram, emphasizing the importance of social distancing and quarantining oneself at home due to the risk of spreading the virus any further.

“You’ve got to take care of yourself, take care of your family and the people that surround you,” Eilish said in her video.

Even talk-show hosts have started to record their shows without a live audience.

A few hours after DeGeneres announced she would record with no audience, she said production of her show will be completely suspended until further notice.

“We just want to take every precaution to ensure that we do our part to keep everyone healthy,” DeGeneres

tweeted. “I love you guys, and can’t wait to come back. I’m already bored.”

Although quarantining ourselves at home and physically distancing ourselves from the ones we love might not be the most ideal way to spend our sudden free time, there are a variety of entertaining ways to make our time alone seem less suffering.

For the film nerds wanting to get some popcorn and watch the newest films, Universal Studios announced it will be releasing their current films online.

You can now stream movies like “The Invisible Man” and “The Hunt” at the rental price of \$19.99 for a 48-hour

period.

And for the Disney fans out there, Disney+ has released “Frozen II” three months earlier than originally planned.

If you have any movie streaming service, there’s a good chance you have some binge-watching opportunities.

And for those of you who already have post-concert depression from the concert you get to go to, musical artists have started a new trend of performing virtual concerts.

Just like everyone else, celebrities also have to quarantine themselves at home and find a way to entertain themselves out of boredom. Artists have joined together in a movement called

“#TogetherAtHome,” where they have their own in-home concerts live-streamed on various media platforms. Singer John Legend was one of the first few artists to hop on this trend.

“A lot of musicians and artists and entertainers are unable to go out and do the thing that we do best, which is perform live at venues with lots of people,” Legend told The Associated Press after his live stream. “So we’re trying to find ways to stay in touch with people and give them some love.”

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Theaters across the country have shut down due to COVID-19 (source: CNBC.com)

COLUMN

Celebrating Women in STEM: Vanessa Galvez

Madalyn Weston

Staff Writer

Hurricanes are one of the most feared natural disasters. Though rated by wind power, hurricane waters are far more dangerous. According to the National Hurricane Center, 88% of hurricane-related deaths in the U.S. are caused by storm surges, flooding and other water-related issues. Around the world, engineers are working to control the flow of water during storms. In New York City, one of the engineers focusing on stormwater mitigation is Vanessa Galvez.

Galvez grew up in Queens, New York, the daughter of Salvadorian immigrants. Like most future engineers, as a child, Galvez enjoyed taking things apart to see how they worked. In 2008, she completed high school at Thomas Edison Vocational and Technical High School in Jamaica, Queens, with a special focus on AutoCAD and Technical Drawing. She became interested in Civil Engineering after watching a documentary about levee failures in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. Poor structure design by the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers in 2005 led to 80% of New Orleans flooding, damaging over 100,000 homes and businesses.

Galvez was the first generation of her family to go to college, attending the New York University Tandon School of Engineering in Brooklyn. She worked as a teaching assistant for her department, overseeing a lab and assisting other students with a robotics project. She was also a research assistant developing lightweight concrete samples for future construction projects. She participated in the Concrete Canoe Competition, the American Society



Vanessa Galvez works as an engineer to mitigate stormwater damage in NYC (NYC.gov)

for Civil Engineers and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering in 2012.

Galvez joined the New York City Department of Design and Construction as a resident engineer. The same day, Hurricane Sandy smashed into New York City, killing 44 residents and doing about \$19 billion in damage in a 48-hour period. Following the devastation, New York City invested in protections for its most at-risk areas. In 2016, at the age of just 26, Galvez led the \$3.8 million construction of 164 bioswales in the Maspeth, Queens area. Bioswales are green patches in urban areas, packed with extremely absorbent soil and specially-selected plants to drink up any runaway rainwater. Bioswales protect city sewer systems from being overwhelmed during storms and reduce the risk of flooded streets. Galvez's specular management earned her a page in the book "Everyday Superheroes: Women in STEM Careers," by Erin Twamley.

In 2018, Galvez left the NYC Department of Design and Construction to work as an associate project manager for New York City Transit. Last year, she accepted a position as an office engineer at Jacobs, a Civil Engineering firm focused on sustainability and inclusion. She's currently working on a pedestrian bridge project in the Bronx.

Are you interested in empowering women in the STEM fields? The Women in Science (Wi-Sci) group wants you! Email President Emily Larner (emily.larner@mail.umkc.edu) for more information.

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CROSSWORD

Chess Players

BY LUKAS KENNEY

ACROSS

- 1 Jargon
- 6 In a frenzy
- 10 "Hold your horses!"
- 14 Loom
- 15 Counterfeit
- 16 Gawk at
- 17 D-Day beach
- 18 Hideaway
- 19 Function
- 20 "Fixing former wrongs, say
- 23 suffix with meth-
- 24 Tolkien creature
- 25 "Thank you _____ much!"
- 29 Super Bowl LIV halftime performer, for short
- 30 Untamed
- 32 "The Greatest"
- 33 "Reappeared after having been killed in a video game
- 37 Glossy fabric
- 39 Soothing succulent
- 40 Queen Amidala's "Star Wars" home
- 42 Keeper of the flame?
- 43 Money, informally
- 45 "The Producers" director
- 47 Fourth pg. of a calendar
- 48 Lyft competitor
- 50 Four qts.
- 51 Abandon a course of action
- 53 Memo letters
- 54 Capone and Pacino
- 57 "2019 on-the-run flick starring Daniel Kaluuya and Jodie Turner-Smith
- 61 Last letter in NATO phonetic alphabet
- 64 Tank filler
- 65 Supreme Court Justice Kagan
- 66 "The King _____"
- 67 Greek god of love
- 68 One with a glow stick, perhaps
- 69 Blog entry
- 70 Finished
- 71 Exhausted

DOWN

- 1 Botanical opening
- 2 Arthur Miller's salesman
- 3 Up and about
- 4 Classic soda brand
- 5 Yogurt topping
- 6 Insurance giant with :spokesduck
- 7 Sir's counterpart
- 8 Tom Joad, e.g.
- 9 Essential part
- 10 What things could always be
- 11 In the past
- 12 Under the weather
- 13 Golf peg
- 21 Not a kid anymore
- 22 Blockbuster rentals
- 26 Math comparison
- 27 Suave
- 28 Sty sounds
- 29 Image file format
- 30 Big name in grills
- 31 Object of worship
- 33 Doppler device
- 34 Run off to wed
- 35 Goes bad, as milk
- 36 Label
- 38 Mil. no-show
- 41 Delivery doc
- 44 Netflix competitor
- 46 Chiefs AFC rival
- 49 Strengthened, with "up"
- 52 "Uncle!"
- 53 Inauthentic
- 54 Advil alternative
- 55 Sheet material
- 56 Shrewd
- 58 Continental currency
- 59 Sign gas
- 60 Open-handed hit
- 61 Shock
- 62 Popular card game
- 63 Mormon church: Abbr.

