Together, we can break the cycle of sexual violence.

In an effort to do just that, men, women and children gathered on the UMKC Volker campus for UMKC’s sixth annual Take Back the Night March and Rally last Tuesday.

The event began with a pre-march rally in the Quad that included food, sign making, music, guest speakers who talked about violence prevention and a performance by the dance group Mixed Blood Woman.

Jessica Farmer, UMKC graduate and representative from Kansas City Anti-Violence Project (KCAVP), spoke soon before the march kicked off. She stressed there are many organizations out there like KCAVP to help victims of violence.

“All together, we unite, we will not be victimized,” Farmer said. “We are women, we are men. Together we fight to take back the night.”

By the time the marchers reached the Plaza, night was starting to set in. A group of drummers was waiting to greet them.

But the crowd wasn’t quite ready to grab seats and finish with the rally. They lined Emanuel Cleaver Boulevard, showing passing cars their signs and encouraging drivers to honk their horns.

After a while, the attendees gathered around the fountain to hear from a few more speakers and to hold a moment of silence for all men and women who have been victims of violence.

Everyone in attendance held glow sticks high to symbolize hope, a light shining in the darkness.

Diana Myer, from MOCSA (Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault), shared a story about how she overcame being raped many years ago.

She was told by the prosecuting attorney that her case would not go to court. But she persisted and the man who assaulted her was taken to trial.

Myer encouraged others who have been faced with the same situation.

“When you have them tell you your case is no good, don’t let them!” she said. “That just reinforces the feelings of guilt.”

Take Back the Night coincides with Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which provides an annual opportunity to promote awareness of sexual violence and its prevention. Information on the national campaign and events can be found at www.nsvrc.org/saam.
UMKC rental property maintenance in focus

Jamie Walsh  Contributing Writer

Seventeen maintenance-related citations from the Kansas City, Mo., Department of Neighborhood Preservation were issued to some of UMKC’s rental properties last fall.

Dennis Cesari, assistant vice chancellor for Business Services, said the exterior issues were primarily related to painting and soffit and gutter repairs.

The Curators of the University of Missouri and the UMKC Trustees own 124 rental properties that contain a total of 152 rental units in the surrounding UMKC neighborhood known as Rockhill Crest.

“The rental units are rented to UMKC students, employees and the general public,” Cesari said.

“I felt like it was handled more rapidly, efficiently and personably in the earlier years of my residence prior to the outsourcing of UMKC real estate management”

LENANT

Though UMKC owns the properties cited, the university does not manage the properties directly. In July 2007, UMKC hired Cohen-Esrey to oversee the properties and handle the leasing and maintenance.

Cesari manages the contract between UMKC and the company.

“Cohen-Esrey is a professional property manager and they were hired because managing properties is their business,” Cesari said. “They are better equipped to provide quality management services.”

However, one long-time tenant, who asked not to be named because of a tenuous relationship with the company, said property management was better prior to the contracting of Cohen-Esrey.

“Cohen-Esrey tends to treat all its renters as though they are destructive college students,” the tenant said. “Despite the fact that many of us have invested vast amounts of time, money and effort into improving our homes and yards.”

The tenant was unaware of the citations, but said it was not surprising.

On occasion, the tenant has waited three to nine months to get some maintenance issues resolved.

“I felt like it was handled more rapidly, efficiently and personably in the earlier years of my residence prior to the outsourcing of UMKC real estate management,” the tenant said.

The tenant also referred to the care the previous owner had taken with the property and the work of that owner being destroyed by a maintenance issue still unresolved.

“It just is really sad to watch this property that was owned and loved by the same person for so many years fall into this terrible state of disrepair because no one will do anything about it,” the tenant said.

How things are changing

Bob Simmons, assistant vice chancellor of Facilities, is the UMKC representative on the Volker Neighborhood Council and is working to improve the maintenance system.

“I serve on a Volker Neighborhood Council committee that is looking at parking, landscape and maintenance issues as they relate to UMKC rental properties and offices in the Rockhill Crest Neighborhood,” Simmons said.

Simmons is not a member of the Rockhill Crest Neighborhood Association but he often meets with them.

“I meet regularly with the members of this group both officially in our meetings and unofficially through many community organizations that we share involvement with,” Simmons said. “Such as Southtown Council, Tusks on Troost, Brush Creek Community Partners and other community related projects.

Ken Spare, board member of the Rockhill Crest Neighborhood Association and president of the Volker Neighborhood Council, said, since the citations, UMKC, with the help of Simmons, has been creating a service level agreement.

“A service level agreement specifies the time it should take to fix an issue based on varying levels of severity,” Spare said. “We have also suggested that they add to the service level agreement, for things that are low-level priority to move up the scale the longer they are on the list.”

Spare also said, since the citations, UMKC has been addressing the issues and working to further improve the properties and the standards for maintenance.

“The council under Bob Simmons’ leadership has voluntarily made neighborhood property maintenance a standard rather than a guideline,” Spare said.

“The intent is that we use these priorities to assist UMKC Real Estate and Cohen-Esrey in how they plan for annual maintenance and landscape items as budgets allow.”

Even with all of these changes, some questions remain on how the properties were allowed to get in a state of disrepair in the first place.

According to UMKC Student Organization Housing Statement of Understanding, the university has the right to conduct periodic inspections of the rental property to ensure that it is “in satisfactory living condition and that there is no damage to the house.”

“Cohen-Esrey handles the properties. The tenant said one property in the neighborhood that had been completely refinshed before a new group of students moved in stood out as an example.

“When the students moved out shortly thereafter, the apartment had to be refinshed again because the destruction caused by those particular individuals.

“I get why they treat people like this and don’t spend a lot of money on their properties,” the tenant said. “But, the simple fact is, so many of the people that live in UMKC rental properties are not like that.”

Despite all of this, the tenant said the neighborhood is a nice area to live.

“There are aspects of living on a college campus or near a college campus that I do enjoy,” the tenant said. “I like the proximity to UMKC facilities, it’s really centrally located, it’s easy for me to get downtown, it’s easy for me to get to the highway, but, this situation is so frustrating.”

Spare said the neighborhood and UMKC properties continue to show improvement and the community is moving forward.

“If you go through the neighborhood, you will see that a lot of houses have been painted,” Spare said. “There are still things that need to get done but we are working on it.”

Contact Alexia Stout-Lang at alang@unews.com with any questions.
Alexia Stout-Lang
News Editor

From Jan. 1 to April 23, 51 police reports were filed about incidents relating to UMKC’s residence halls. The reports range from fire alarms accidentally triggered to a student found deceased in his apartment (see summary of reports).

With 21 reports filed for Oak Place Apartments and Parking, 14 for Oak Street Residence Hall and 15 for Johnson Hall, Kristen Abell, associate director of Residential Life, said the high number of police calls is partially due to how students and staff have been instructed to respond to situations. “We encourage our students to call the police,” Abell said. “Because one, the police have more training in those areas than my staff do and that for me is a big thing. I would rather call in the police to make sure we get a report.”

The most common types of reports are resident illnesses, fire alarms triggered by burnt popcorn, etc., and noise disturbances. Each category has five reports.

They are followed by four burglaries and three reports each for harassment, intoxicated students and marijuana.

“We encourage our students to call the police.”

KRISTEN ABELL
Associate Director of Residential Life

Reports that have concerned students the most include one report of suspected arson currently under investigation, two assaults, two weapons violations, two reports of larceny and one student found deceased in his room earlier this semester. The death is still under investigation, but UMKC police cited drugs in the report.

Abell said she is taking steps to educate her staff and residents in safety and crime prevention. She set up a page on the Residential Life website dedicated to safety tips, safety information is included in the contracts and she reminds students of the necessary precautions.

In addition, she expects the reports for Oak Place to come down now that the university has taken over those. And we are also working on some individual locks on apartment doors.”

A number of cameras are set up in all of the residence halls, the front desks are manned 24 hours a day and staff members live and work on each floor.

But, Abell said residents still need to be responsible. “People need to look out for themselves,” she said. “I know we have some cameras and we do have staff but they can’t be there 24-7. And the camera is not going to be able to prevent a crime from happening. It’s just hopefully going to be able to tell us who committed that crime.”

With the reports for a number of the thefts in residence halls noting the crimes happened when doors were left unlocked or propped open, Abell said students need to be more aware of their environment. “A lot of it has to do with the fact that students feel like they are living in a protected area, which they are,” she said. “But we have 500 students living in a residence hall and chances are you don’t know every single person in the hall. So, even if every single person who comes in has to swipe a card or get checked in, there are still 500 people who have access if you leave your door unlocked.”

Michele Taylor, Crime Prevention Officer for the UMKC Police Department, said some reports are not avoidable. But those that are should be avoided. “Always lock up your property,” she said. “It’s unfortunately not very surprising for the people who live here. And just out of habit, I keep my door locked.”

Abell said students need to be more aware of their environment. “A lot of it has to do with the fact that students feel like they are living in a protected area, which they are,” she said. “But we have 500 students living in a residence hall and chances are you don’t know every single person in the hall. So, even if every single person who comes in has to swipe a card or get checked in, there are still 500 people who have access if you leave your door unlocked.”

Advice and thoughts from residents

Ashley Emory, junior studying business, has lived in Johnson Hall since last fall. She said the residence halls have pros and cons.

“I have never had problems with theft, which is a good thing,” Emory said. “But, of course, sometimes because I live right next door to someone else and we share a wall, from time-to-time, we do have issues with noise. But, it’s nothing that we can’t resolve.”

She said she feels safe in the dorms as long as she knows the front desk monitors are doing their jobs.

Levi Rash, Student Government Association senator for Residential Life, said students just need to be more cautious and some of the crime can be prevented.

“One of the biggest things we are working with is to put a key on the entrance doors?” Abell said. “Many of the residents that involve stolen items are due to the fact that they forget to lock their doors.”

He also suggested students buy safety vaults for their valuables or laptop locks that secure computers directly to their desks.

“They are extremely important investments,” he said.

Campus-wide crime statistics

The report generated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center (found at www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov) April 24 showed UMKC with a total crime index of 35, with 14 burglaries and 21 larcenies.

The University of Missouri – St. Louis, which has an enrollment of 16,548 compared to UMKC’s 15,143, has a total crime index of 13, with two burglaries and 11 larcenies.

The campus-wide crime report generated weekly by the UMKC Police Department shows 17 burglaries, one motor vehicle theft, 25 larcenies, three assaults and one drug law violation.

Taylor said she had not seen the report from the Statistical Analysis Center and she could not speak to the variance.

However, she did offer advice for students to stay safe and prevent crime.

“Never leave your door unlocked,” she said. “It does not matter if you are going down the hall to the bathroom. I work in the police department. Our area is secured. You have to have a keycard to get in our area so only officers and staff are allowed to be here. And just out of habit, I lock my door when I go to the bathroom.”

She also recommended traveling in groups, particularly at night, and being alert.

“Be aware of your surroundings,” she said. “Take precautions to protect your belongings and yourself.”

Oak Place Apartments:

Assault: 2
Check welfare, possible suicidal party: 1
Disturbance: 3
Found Alcohol: 1
Fraud: 1
Harassment: 1
Illness: 1
Intoxicated: 1
Larceny: 1
Student found deceased: 1
Weapons violation: 1

Oak Place Parking:

Harassment: 1
Illness: 1
Larceny: 1
Vehicular Accident: 2
Warrant arrest: 1

Oak Street Residence Hall:

Arson: 1
Burglary: 3
Disturbance: 2
Fire alarm: 1
Found alcohol: 1
Illness: 1
Intoxicated: 1
Harassment: 1
Marijuana: 2
Property damage: 1
Student felt unsafe: 1

Oak Street had a total of 14 police reports

Johnson Hall:

Burglary: 1
Check welfare: 1
Check welfare, possible suicidal party: 1
Disturbance: 4
Fire alarm: 4
Illness: 3
Intoxicated: 1
Suspicious party: 1
Weapon: 1

Johnson Hall had a total of 15 police reports.

Total combined:

Arson: 1
Assault: 2
Burglary: 4
Check welfare: 1
Check welfare, possible suicidal party: 2
Disturbance: 5
Fire alarm: 4
Found alcohol: 2
Fraud: 1
Harassment: 3
Illness: 5
Intoxicated: 3
Larceny: 2
Marijuana: 3
Property damage: 1
Student felt unsafe: 1
Student found deceased: 1
Vehicular Accident: 2
Warrant arrest: 1
Weapons violation: 2
Green team has come a long way

Chris Gray  Contributing Writer

Bit-by-bit, building-by-building, school-by-school and student-by-student, UMKC is turning green.

It is a transformation noticeable enough to bring local and national attention to the university.

All these green people and places have left a smile on Kaye Johnston’s face.

As the chair of the UMKC Sustainability Team, Johnston helped launch the campus sustainability revolution and intends to keep it going.

“We have cross-campus collaboration, the broader community collaboration and then vendor collaboration,” Johnston said. “So, that is how all of this is kinda playing out. I keep saying at the Sustainability Team meetings, ‘Sustainability is not a one man job.’”

KAYE JOHNSTON  Chair of the UMKC Sustainability Team

In October 2007, the Recycling Team transformed into the UMKC Sustainability Team. Two months later, the group met and determined the sustainability goals for next year.

Each December, the group decides on goals for the coming year. It’s a process Johnston says helps keep the team on track.

The monthly meetings are work sessions dedicated to brainstorming ways to accomplish goals.

The team now has 105 members across campus, including staff, faculty and students. Johnston said they are all dedicated to accomplishing the goals on campus and spreading environmental consciousness to the community.

Some of the goals set for 2010 include dedicating parking for hybrid vehicles, expanding recycling containers to all buildings and increasing the number of volunteers and interns to assist in the campus community garden, located on 54th and Charlotte streets.

“We have been working hard this semester to complete a UMKC Sustainability Plan framework and the report is close to being completed,” Johnston said. “We will use this report for our ACUPCC (American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment) reporting and to develop our projects and goals to reduce our carbon print in the future.”

The Sustainability Team has also pledged to increase its visibility on campus through the Internet and other media outlets so more students can get involved in UMKC’s effort to help take care of the environment.

Going beyond campus and community, the Sustainability Team has brought attention to its efforts nationally.

Aside from celebrating when the University of Missouri System President Gary Forsee signed the ACUPCC in 2009, adding UMKC to a list of universities across the country dedicated to environmental consciousness, the team has taken its efforts to the competitive level.

This spring, UMKC competed in RecycleMania, a friendly competition among more than 551 colleges and universities across the country to determine who can recycle the most from Jan. 18 through March 27.

UMKC placed 23rd in the nation in the Grand Champion division.

“(Our goal is) to continue to increase recycling rates on campus through adding the number of materials we recycle, increasing the amounts of recycling overall and improving the infrastructure for recycling on campus,” Johnston said.

The recycling program doesn’t make much profit from the resale of materials. Johnston said all the money goes to defray costs for running the program and for the materials to be transported to the compactors and then the recycling facility.

“Right now the program pays for itself,” she said. “However, there is not a lot of money for extras such as new bins and signage.”

No student fees go toward funding the program.

For more information about UMKC’s recycling services, call 816-235-1620. For a complete list of materials that can and cannot be recycled, visit www.umkc.edu/admin/finance/cfm/recycle/Overview.htm.

Contact Alexia Stout-Lang at alang@unews.com with any questions.
Exploring the facts about red-light cameras

Kansas City, Mo., joined more than 15 major cities across the United States last year by installing red-light cameras.

Marlon Bue, Contributing Writer

Cameras were placed at intersections that have proven to be high accident locations in hopes of reducing all types of accidents caused by red-light violations.

Currently, 29 cameras across the city monitor intersections such as 71 Highway and 55th Street, 71 Highway and 59th Street, 71 Highway and Gregory Boulevard and North Oak Trafficway and Vivion Road.

Tickets generated from these cameras generally come with a $100-$113 fine. Dennis Gagnon, of the Kansas City Public Works Department, oversees the red-light camera systems.

He said it is no accident these locations were chosen for installation of the new camera systems.

“Even if these systems generate a substantial amount of revenue for the city, the greater issue is creating safer streets for our citizens.”

JIM CORWIN
Police Chief, Kansas City Police Department

“Statistics show that several drivers run red-lights at these intersections on a daily basis,” Gagnon said.

He said the systems are triggered by sensors in the fixed camera and under the street. He explained that when a vehicle enters the intersection during a red light, pictures are taken of the front and rear license plates as the vehicle passes through.

“There is a 12-second streaming video that captures the entire motion of a vehicle running a red-light,” Gagnon said. He added that the approximate cost for each system is $100,000, the city actually leases each unit at a cost of $4,500 per month. The installation and maintenance bid for the system was won by American Traffic Solutions Company of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Kansas City Mayor Mark Funkhouser said his office has received numerous complaints from late 2008 to 2009 indicated rear-

premier Court, where the ticket was soon dismissed.

One aspect of the study looked at the most serious injuries to other drivers and occupants involved.

He referenced video captured from a camera March 27 at Gregory and 71 Highway regarding an accident which caused the death of a 12-year-old boy. The accident also caused serious injuries to other drivers and occupants involved.

Tickets come with a $100-$113 fine.

The city leases 29 cameras at a cost of $4,500 per unit per month.

end collisions decreased 20 percent at the locations with cameras.

The same study showed a 26 percent decline of all accidents. Injury accidents fell by 42 percent. Red-light accidents saw the greatest reduction, falling 67 percent.

“I’m not surprised by those findings,” Corwin said.

Gagnon said it is nice to see the data provided by The Star, but he will wait three-to-five years to complete a study.

“We could be headed down an inaccurate path by compiling numbers this early,” Gagnon said.

In December 2009, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety in Arlington, Va., posted data on its website from a national study it conducted regarding red-light accidents.

One aspect of the study looked at the most common accident caused by red-light violations, which are front-into-side collisions. In Oxnard, Calif., the same study showed a 68 percent reduction in these types of accidents since that city installed red-light cameras.

Funkhouser said he is certain the red-light cameras in Kansas City will show similar reductions over time.

“11 will do whatever it takes to keep these cameras up and running,” Funkhouser said.

Contact Alexia Stout-Lang at alangel@unews.com with questions.
Building a bridge to international students

Nila Hall  
Staff Writer

The Applied Language Institute (ALI) has a goal of offering comprehensive English as a Second Language (ESL) assistance for academic and professional purposes.

ALI acts as a bridge for international students who study at UMKC by teaching them about American culture and values, specifically within the educational environment, while teaching them to value and appreciate their own culture. Students who study at UMKC by teaching them about American culture and values.

Finally, the recruitment area involves advertising course curriculums and classes.

“I feel the ALI is the hidden jewel at UMKC.”

MONICA MINGUCCI
Director of the Applied Language Institute

For more information, visit http://library.ukmc.edu/ALI.

For those who just need to get away, perhaps the lyrics to “Kansas City” will be some help:

“Gotta find a friendly city / And that’s the reason why, I’m going to Kansas City / Kansas City here I come / They got a crazy way of loving there / And I’m gonna get me some.”

ALI provides a wide range of services such as cross-cultural courses, seminars, and language acquisition courses.

Many of the ALI instructors have traveled and lived abroad.

“Most, if not all, who work at ALI have some kind of international connection,” Mingucci said.

June 8, dignitaries from universities all over the world will come to Kansas City to visit UMKC.

The ALI has partnerships with universities in countries such as Turkey, Japan, Korea, and Colombia.

With so much to offer U.S. citizens and international students, Mingucci encourages students to learn more about the institute.

“I feel the ALI is the hidden jewel at UMKC,” she said.

nhall@unews.com

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SIFE Financial Corner

Jerry Croft, an Engineering student, asked, “Are there any advantages or disadvantages to becoming a member of a credit union versus a traditional bank?”

There are many major differences between banks and credit unions. The largest one is the ownership.

Banks are generally owned by corporations and then run by a board of directors.

Their main focus is to generate as much profit for the shareholders and not the members of the bank.

On the other hand, credit unions are owned by the members with deposits in the bank, so there is less desire to generate large profits.

Many people choose credit unions over banks because the former allows for lower interest rates and low-cost services.

They like the fact they are treated as a benefit to the institution, rather than just another account number.

Also, the more credit union members who deposit money into a credit union, the higher the benefits to the existing members.

The one main disadvantage of using a credit union over a bank is the access to your account in different areas.

Generally, credit unions are located in a town or area, but most large banks are nationwide so you can access your account almost anywhere.

Please e-mail your financial questions to UMKC-SIFE@yahoo.com.
**Stephanie Marquez has passion for teaching**

Melissa Oribhabor  
**Culture Editor**

To graduate from UMKC, students must have a foreign language under their belt.

A lot of students dread this general education requirement, but Spanish teacher Stephanie Marquez has an enthusiasm for teaching that helps her students actually enjoy learning a foreign language.

“I teach Spanish because of passion, passion, passion,” Marquez said. “I love the language, the culture, the everything. And, yes, I even enjoy teaching Spanish grammar. I love all of it.”

“Though I’d like to consider myself a pretty well-versed woman in the English language, I’m not sure I’m familiar with the word ‘hobbies.’ Is that a synonym for ‘grading’?”

**STEPHANIE MARQUEZ**

Spanish Teacher

She is also a student at UMKC, so she didn’t have to go far to find her perfect profession.

“Many wonderful chances fell into my lap at the exact moment I was looking for an excuse to get out of my former profession in advertising,” Marquez said. “I knew it wasn’t for me, but didn’t know exactly how much it wasn’t for me until I felt how rewarding teaching could be. A few ladies and gentlemen — Jeanne Crane-Smith, Dr. Alice Reckley-Vallejos, Dr. Louis Imperiale and Dr. Rafael Espejo-Saavedra and many others — were all either the catalysts for my teaching career and/or have been my mentors since then.”

She received her two bachelor’s degrees from UMKC, one in Spanish and one in Communication Studies. She also has graduate degree equivalent credit hours in Marketing from La Universidad Veracruz Ana.

She will graduate in May with a Master of Romance Languages & Literature.

“Although there is a lot she loves about teaching, not every aspect of her job is perfect.

“My favorite part of teaching is watching the light bulbs that go on, or when students know that they can count on me,” Marquez said. “My passion for teaching comes from those little things that let me know that what I am doing with my life is making an impact on someone else’s. My least favorite part of teaching is the never-ending grading of tests, compositions, etc. I guess that’s just what comes with the ‘good’ I feel about teaching, huh?”

Marquez’s semester has been jam-packed with teaching at UMKC and Kansas City Kansas Community College all while trying to finish her graduate work.

But even in her free time, she is still productive. She does language consultant work, translating and interpreting.

“Though I’d like to consider myself a pretty well-versed woman in the English language, I’m not sure I’m familiar with the word ‘hobbies,’” she said. “Is that a synonym for ‘grading’?”

Busy as she may be, Marquez is quite pleased with how her life has turned out. Even though while growing up she thought she would work in marketing or advertising as her career, once she started teaching, she knew she had found her calling.

The road to her success has not been easy, but it rarely is for those who truly make a difference.

“I live by two mottos: ‘You never know if tomorrow’s gonna come’ and ‘shoulda, woulda, coulda doesn’t exist,’” Marquez said. “I guess my life has turned out exactly how I have made it turn out … I wake up happy to go to work every morning … and come home happy with what I did with my day. I am a firm believer in the thought that everyone creates their own happiness. I am honored to say that I have been allowed to create mine, though overcoming a not-so-easy childhood and a poor upbringing.”

Marquez praises her grandmother for giving her the tools she needs to be successful, and she does not hesitate to give credit where it’s due. “I have to say that I am who I am because of the grandma who raised me,” she said. “I owe my life to her.”

MELISSA ORIBHABOR  
**Staff Writer**

Dr. Jim Falls is retiring after more than 40 years at UMKC.

**Honoring a long-time History teacher**

Mark Linville  
**Staff Writer**

Almost every department at UMKC has a celebrity professor. Dr. Jim Falls plays that role for the History department.

An associate professor of History, Falls was honored last Friday for his 42 years of dedication to teaching. Falls came to UMKC in 1967 and retired this semester.

A crowd gathered in the lobby of Scofield Hall to talk about the years past and to wish Falls well in his future travel plans.

The School of Arts and Sciences also established a scholarship fund in Falls’ name called the Jim Falls Honorary Scholarship.

Falls is a figure that will not be forgotten at UMKC. His personality and affinity for history are what make him memorable.

For most of his time at UMKC, Falls taught in Royall Hall, room 104, so the room was also dedicated to him.

For more information about the Jim Falls Honorary Scholarship, visit www.umkc.edu/give/jimfalls. mlinville@unews.com

Wax hands, bobble heads, videos

Nikki Bomgardner  
**Assistant News Editor**

A small handful of students showed up Friday for the End of Year Bash, sponsored by the Activity and Program Council (APC) in Pierson Auditorium. Hip-hop music was blaring throughout the upper level of the University Center and attracted those who hadn’t heard about the event.

Students inside were laughing and mingling during the celebration to end the school year.

APC provided food and drinks and a fun atmosphere for the day’s activities.

In a far corner, there was a craft table for students to make a mini build-a-bear and/or bobble heads with photos taken of themselves on the spot.

Another table adjacent was set up for wax moldings of hands, decorated in different colors.

The most popular spot was the three large areas of green screens set up for students to make videos.

Record-A-Hit Entertainment, www.recordahit.com, was the company with a crew on-hand facilitating the video fun.

“All activities today are free to all students,” said Mariusz Kaplon, crew chief for Record-A-Hit.

Students could choose from different props and musical instruments to dance with, act out and have fun with. They chose their own song, danced and sang to the music in front of the green screen and received a DVD of the recording.

nbomgardner@unews.com
Town hall meetings announced

Gail Hackett, executive vice chancellor and provost at UMKC, announced two town hall meetings. This is a chance for the UMKC community to voice concerns and offer ideas and suggestions to the aid in the implementation of the UMKC strategic plan. The town hall meeting will be held on the following days:

From 8-9:30 a.m. April 28 in the Health Sciences Building, room 4037, Hospital Hill campus.
From 8-9:30 a.m. April 29 in the Plaza Room, Administrative Center, Volker campus.

More than 100 people were involved in developing the strategic plan. The plan took several months to cultivate ideas with campus-wide meetings that began in October 2009. It was finalized after receiving feedback from more than 500 people. The first phase will be presented at the town hall meetings.

May 2010 commencement

Spring commencement begins May 6 at Swinney Recreation Center (SRC). The ceremonies last approximately 60-90 minutes.

Guests are welcome to videotape and use flash photography during the ceremony.

Thursday, May 6

5 p.m. – School of Nursing Commencement Ceremony, Swinney Recreation Center
6 p.m. – Reception
7 p.m. – School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Swinney Recreation Center

Friday, May 7 (all in Swinney Recreation)
10 a.m. – School of Computing and Engineering
1 p.m. – Arts and Sciences - Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Theatre
4 p.m. – Arts and Sciences - Architecture and Urban Planning and Design, The Art and Art History Department, Chemistry, Communication Studies, Criminal Justice and Criminology, Economics Department, English Department, Foreign Languages, Geosciences, History, Liberal Arts, Liberal Studies
7 p.m. – Henry W. Bloch School of Business and Public Administration
Saturday, May 8
10 a.m. – School of Education (Swinney Recreation Center)
11 a.m. – Conservatory of Music and Dance (White Recital Hall)
1 p.m. – School of Pharmacy (Swinney Recreation Center)
3 p.m. – School of Biological Sciences (White Recital Hall)
4 p.m. – School of Law (Swinney Recreation Center)
7 p.m. – School of Dentistry (Swinney Recreation Center)

Friday, May 28

4 p.m. – School of Medicine (Music Hall)

Two restaurants will open on campus in May

Two restaurants franchises, Red Mango and Larry’s Giant Subs – “Home of the BIG one,” will open in the retail area of Oak Place Apartments on campus in spring 2010. The two restaurants together will fill about 3,700 square feet. About 300 students live in the building and about 850 students live in nearby residence halls. Both chains are said to be popular in college towns.

Larry’s Giant Subs opened its first location in the area October 2008 in Overland Park, Kan. The restaurant offers hougies, sandwiches, subs, cheese steaks and salads, as well as business catering. Red Mango serves yogurts, parfaits, juices and smoothies boasting a 100 percent all-natural menu.

UMKC chooses “U” Party

The student body headed to the polls April 21-23 to elect the 2010-11 Student Government Association (SGA) executive board.

SGA Election Director Benita Jones announced the results Friday evening. With a total of 286 votes cast, the election results are as follows:

Klassie Alcine was elected president with 197 votes.
Charles Walgren was elected executive vice president with 197 votes.
Brandon Maurer was elected comptroller with 190 votes.
Luke Whitworth was elected administrative vice president with 219 votes.

“Congratulations to the ‘U’ Party,” Jones said.
Addressing social issues through theater

Alexia Stout-Lang  News Editor

Racial and economic divides can mean the difference between a people that thrives or only strives to make it through. They know that all too well in South Africa, where apartheid encouraged racism and oppression for so many years.

But few realize that even when the grips of apartheid were lifted from the country, the formerly afflicted still struggled to come to terms with their new identities and to grasp the new potential for lives full of possibilities.

“Train to 2010” is a play about two laborers trapped in an underground, unfinished train tunnel being built in preparation for South Africa to host the 2010 World Cup.

It is a joint effort of the UMKC Theatre Department, the award-winning Crossroads Theatre Company in New Brunswick, N.J., the World Theatre Lab and the Market Theatre of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Written by South African Sibusiso Mamela and directed by Ricardo Khan, founder of the Crossroads Theatre Company, the story is of the struggle the two men have dealing with their new identities in society. It all begins in a tunnel where Sifiso Ndaba (Bennett Ferguson), an engineering apprentice who is moving up in society, and Vavi Molekwa (James Taylor), a worker who has no higher aspirations for his life, are drilling holes for stakes in preparation for the train tracks to be laid.

While chatting about the hope President Barack Obama will bring to the world, they notice loud noises. To their horror, they realize the drill hit a fault and caused a seismic disturbance. Entering a panic, they argue about what to do as a bright light gets closer and closer. That bright light turns out to be a train coming to give them a ride to 2010.

A young girl, played by Andrea Morales, appears and asks them if they have seen her father. Still in shock from nearly being hit by a train in a tunnel with no train tracks, the men don’t respond.

But Vavi soon decides he must get on the train to find his father who died many years ago. Sifiso follows him on board.

But Vavi soon decides he must get on the train to find his father who died many years ago. Sifiso follows him on board.

The set for this production is absolutely magnificent. It flows well from scene-to-scene without many changes having to be made. And the acting was very well done, particularly considering I saw the play on a preview night.

The play itself was a little hard to follow at times and a tad long at nearly three hours. But, I would not disregard the idea that it might just take that amount of time to digest everything. And if the playwright just told a cut-and-dry tale of racial oppression, the point might not be so poignant.

“Train to 2010” is a powerful play that speaks to some of the afflictions that trouble our times.

It is definitely worth it to catch this show. “Train to 2010” runs through May 2 at Spencer Theatre in the Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and $6 for students.

alang@unews.com

Andrea Morales finds inspiration in artistic truth

Alexia Stout-Lang  News Editor

Theater captured Andrea Morales’ heart while she was an undergrad at Purdue University in Indiana.

“Engineering is really their (Purdue’s) forte,” said Morales, a first-year MFA at UMKC. “And I started actually as a pre-Med major. Some things happened in my life that led me to theater.”

With a little prodding from her professors, Morales made a life-changing decision and applied to graduate schools so she could begin studying theater and the art of acting.

“I got called back to five schools and every room was like, ‘Oh, you should be thankful to be here. You are really lucky to have a call back from us,’” Morales said. “They were very standoffish.”

But, when she arrived at UMKC, something was different.

“They were very warm and welcoming,” she said. “They said I should come visit the school and sit in on some classes and that’s what I did. Two days later, I got a call that said I was accepted to UMKC. I knew this was the place I should be just because everyone was so nice and real. No one was fake.”

In the past year, Morales has appeared in “Slammed! KC Speaks out on the Recession” (as various characters), “Pericles,” “Price of Tyre” (as Thaisa), “Much Ado About Nothing” (as Hero) and “You Can’t Take It With You” (as Alice).

Currently, she is playing an angel named Linda in “Train to 2010,” a UMKC student production about the human dynamics of hope in present-day South Africa.

Morales has enjoyed all of the characters she has had the opportunity to play.

Bennett Ferguson’s road to a dream

Alexia Stout-Lang  News Editor

The road to theater was a winding one for third year MFA, Bennett Ferguson, despite getting a young start.

“I had my first acting class when I was maybe 12,” Ferguson said. “After that, I quit acting because I thought it was something you could just pick up a script, memorize the dialogue and that’s it. But it’s a whole lot more than that.”

Because he attended a vocational high school in Buffalo, N.Y., he was not in an environment where he could participate in theater productions. When Ferguson graduated and went on to Buffalo State College, things didn’t change much.

“I knew I wanted to do theater and act,” Ferguson said. “But it was something in the back of my mind. I did not see it as something I would like to pursue primarily.”

By junior year of college, Ferguson knew it was time for him to pursue his dream. So, he began applying to acting schools. Seven schools requested an interview.

“I went into each of the rooms at the schools and it was just dim,” Ferguson said. “But as soon as I walked into UMKC, it was like ahaa. It was just bright. Maybe it was a sign. So after that, I was like, ‘Yeah, I will give UMKC a shot.’”

Preparing to graduate at the end of this semester, Ferguson said he is happy he was able to pursue his life-long dream here at UMKC.

The cold, rather rude conductor (Zachary Andrews) does not send the men to the same parts of the train, though.

Sifiso finds himself in first class enjoying the luxuries of life while making business deals of his dreams and Vavi is banished to regular class, where the people are not fed, the train is not heated and the hale is thick enough to cut it with a knife.

The rest of the play, the men attempt to reconcile the two classes of people while dealing with their pasts that haunt them on the train. This task becomes increasingly difficult as the men find it a struggle to come to grips with their own identities.

The set for this production is absolutely magnificent. It flows well from scene-to-scene without many changes having to be made.
Wick ignites push for equality on campus

Melissa Cowan  
Staff Writer

You have probably noticed fliers around campus of a calendar for the month of “Gaypril.”

“Gaypril,” ending this week, was a month packed with events put together by Queer Alliance and the LGBTQIA Resource Center of UMKC.

“We recognize there’s a lot of things in this city that need to happen but haven’t,” UMKC sophomore Wick Thomas said. “We’re just trying to bridge some of those gaps.”

Thomas is the president of Queer Alliance and a member of T.W.I.G. (Think. Work. Inspire. Grow.), who originally started the student garden on campus but has been fairly inactive lately.

He hasn’t declared a major yet, but all ready knows he wants to get his Master in Library Sciences.

Off campus, he is on the Board of Directors for EQUAL (Empowering Queer Activists and Leaders) who are working to open an LGBT youth center in Kansas City.

He also works at the Ruiz Biblioteca, part of the Kansas City Public Library, as technical assistant in charge of the teen programs.

“I keep myself pretty busy,” Thomas said. The two UMKC organizations intended on making “Gaypril” one pride month but decided they should get together and come up with something to “up the ante a little bit and take over the entire month.”

The goal of creating “Gaypril” was to highlight some issues that aren’t as widely addressed, like transgender issues, he said.

Some of the events included a spoken word performance by Katz from the Athens Boys Choir, Queer Self Defense, Day of Silence and Super Queer Safe Sex Day.

Thomas also wanted to make sure the organizations stayed strong as they transition into the next academic year.

Kansas City Gay Pride is celebrated over a weekend in June. This year, the event will be held at the Power & Light District.

However, Thomas will not be in attendance – at least not inside the event. He is among a group planning a counter protest, which has created some tension within the gay community.

“I find it more important to stand in solidarity with Urban Summit and the NAACP who have come out against the dress code and racial discrimination [there],” he said.

Thomas held his first protest at 16 years old to stand against the ban on gay marriage in Missouri.

He grew up in the small town of Drexel, Mo., before transferring to Paolo, Kan., and finishing high school there.

“I wore platform shoes every day, and I had like 13 colors in my hair,” Thomas said. “I was pretty noticeable automatically – and these kids already knew I was gay [from meeting him outside of school]… two days [after he started], everyone knew.”

Thomas helped set up a gay/straight alliance at the school.

“That’s when it started getting bad,” he said. “We started getting death threats.”

His parents also kicked him out when he was 17 because they found a picture of Thomas with his boyfriend at the time.

“It took two years of not talking [to mend their relationship]… I don’t want that to happen to anyone else,” Thomas said. That’s why he’s so passionate about EQUAL’s mission to support the LGBT youth community.

“Gaypril” has a few more events this week, including an 18 and over dance night at 9 p.m., Tuesday at the Record Bar.

It’s free for students, $5 for 18-20 and $3 for 21 and over.

Lavender Graduation is a ceremony for graduates and other students and staff for their achievements or contributions. The graduation also put together by the LGBTQIA Resource Center, is this Thursday.

Wick Thomas is president of Queer Alliance at UMKC.

O, Giant Man

Casey Osburn  
Staff Writer

O, Giant Man has been playing together for almost two years, but the current lineup has been together just about a full year.

The newest member of the band, Rick Schulenberg, is a Vocal Performance major at UMKC.

The band started out as a three-piece before adding the youngest Schulenberg who plays keys — his older brother Jake Schulenberg, plays bass.

Lead vocalist and guitarist, Chris Robbins met drummer, Andy Wendling in high school.

“We’re from up north by Zona Rosa, we went to Parkhill right by the airport,” Robbins said.

Jake and Rick were originally from Blue Springs until they moved to Marshall, Mo.

“I met Chris at Northwest a couple of years ago,” Jake said.

Wendling and Robbins have been playing since high school and added Jake to the equation when Robbins was asked to play at a Christian event. Robbins joked about the former band Jake was in.

“Jake was in a metal band at the time and I was like ‘do you want to come play bass with us’ because I heard he played. It was.

either him or the bass player for the Chariot we got stuck with Jake,” Robbins said.

After playing their first gig together in front of about 50 to 60 people, the guys decided they should get together and come up with some songs. That’s how their first band name, In Green, came about.

“We were originally called In Green and then we had a song called O, Giant Man and someone was like ‘that would be a cool band name and you should ditch that stupid band name,’ so we took the advice,” Robbins said.

After making O, Giant Man their official band name, they changed the old song to Poor Little Man instead.

They recently finished recording their debut album, “Everybody Knows I’m Just An Animal.”

“We did it very uniquely,” Robbins said. “We recorded two songs in September last year and Rick wasn’t even really in the band — he showed up and came out and did vocals and stuff.”

Taking about four months off, they wrapped up recording in January in Lawrence, Kan. After that, they sent the album off to Chicago to be mastered.

“So, it started in September and it’s just now ending,” Robbins said.

Along with the album taking awhile, the album artwork took some time and patience, as well. Robbins hand drew everything on the album, including the lettering for the track titles.

“I started doing stuff by hand and showed it to Jake and he was cool with it. Andy usually just trusts that if we think it’s cool then he’ll like it too but sometimes it doesn’t work out like that,” Robbins said.

O, Giant Man will have a CD release show with fellow local bands Seafarer, Giant Radio and HOLY Mountain 9 p.m., May 9 at Davey’s Uptown.

O, Giant Man is from Kansas City.
O, Giant Man's debut album, “Everybody Knows I’m Just an Animal,” is set to be released May 1 at Davey’s Uptown Rambler’s Club.

And it is one you’ll want to let play from beginning to end, over and over again – it’s that good. All of it, even the instrumental opener, “An Introduction.”

Honestly, I’m excited a band like this comes from our community. I have no problem admitting they may be one of my top three favorites from Kansas City right now.

This is definitely a band to look out for.

O, Giant Man has multiple strong assets that will bring them successful careers – and make kids everywhere want to dance.

They have their own sound: a predominantly upbeat, modern lounge feel, though they bring things down a bit for “July,” the seventh song.

Even the soulful fifth track, “Sometimes It’s Blue,” stays light. However, it picks up, running straight into “Kids Say Please (A Dinosaur Song).”

I can hear bits and pieces of influences, but I have honestly never heard another band that sounds just like them.

They seem to build their sound from the bass and drums. Jake Schulenburg and Andy Wendling stay locked together, creating a solid foundation for the guitar, keyboard and voice(s) to explore different sounds for each track.

And each song sets a different mood, yet fits together as a collective whole – you won’t want to skip any and miss out.

Three out of their four members sing – and sing well. Jake Schulenburg and Rick Schulenburg’s especially high harmonies balance Christopher Robbins’ smooth, low tone (except on track four, “Too Cold,” when he shows listeners his range – and it’s pretty up there.)

This advantage makes their sound more full and complete and adds even more soul on “Sometimes It’s Blue.”

With all of this working in their favor, the lyrics aren’t so important, though they do have some carefully crafted lines like: “I can see from the coast/As the boats approach/We were waiting for the weather to part ways to secret skies,” in track three, “As the Boats Approach.”

Or take “Kids Say Please” when Robbins states: “All of us are not men, but we’re not that bad.”

It’s rare for a band to be so talented that you barely pay attention to the words; not many bands can get away with singing, “Hey, oh,” in “By 2’s” (the second song – coincidence?) over a dozen times – and still keep you interested.

And when track eight, “Animals,” ends, you’re not prepared to accept this is the last song. Thankfully, you can start the whole thing over again.

Be sure to pick up your own copy at their CD release show this weekend.

A+
Art is typically considered to be painting or drawing. But, there are many facets of life that can be considered artistic and skillful. UMKC student Deja Mackey practices the art of knitting. She prefers knitting to sewing. “I had to learn basic sewing skills for some of my pieces,” Mackey said. “I’m not against sewing. I think it’s pretty cool. I would love to learn how to really sew.”

Mackey is a junior in the School of Education and a Residential Assistant (RA) in Johnson Hall. When working long shifts at the front desk of the residence hall, Mackey knits between doing her homework and the duties of a desk attendant.

“Knitting is often mistaken as an ‘old lady’ or ‘girly’ hobby,” she said. “But there are many young people and even men that knit.”

The Residential Life office requires their RAs to coordinate various types of educational programs for students. Mackey uses these opportunities to hold workshops teaching students to knit.

“I hold knitting programs throughout the year and I hope to start a campus wide project when people can knit squares that can be sewn together to make blankets for the homeless and those in need,” Mackey said.

Mackey said knitting is a very creative process that allows you to develop skill, useful techniques and even use your imagination.

“I recently started spinning and dyeing my own yarn,” she said. “I use Kool-Aid to dye yarn and spinning fiber. I use Kool-Aid because it’s cheap. I am a college student after all,” Mackey said. “Kool-Aid works really well. My favorite crafty thing to do is to buy un-dyed fiber and either spin it on my spindle and dye it or I dye it before I spin. Another great thing about dying with Kool-Aid is that I can experiment and come up with different color combinations. This makes each project extremely special and one of a kind.”
A lot of shows promise huge productions with a large cast and a lot of flash. But some performances don’t require all of that to provide you a memorable experience.

“And Her Hair Went With Her” is a play written by Zina Camblin, and stars Nedra Dixon and Teisha Bankston. It is directed by Jacqueline Gafford.

The play takes place in a beauty shop and the two actors, Dixon and Bankston, play all the characters.

“We have different types who come in the shop and one character stays the operator and the other one turns into that potential customer,” Gafford said.

The fact the whole play only requires two actresses is not the primary draw of the show. And the title of the play is also a little deceiving, because hair alone is not the primary theme.

“We have a lot of different types who come in – people who have different illusions about what they look like, or the different ways that they see the world,” Gafford said. “They have just little idiosyncrasies and they’re actually kinda universal types, they’re not stereotypes. So it kind of crosses racial lines that way.”

The idea of a beauty shop as a primary location is not a unique concept. With the success of Queen Latifah’s “Beauty Shop,” it is clear there is something about a beauty shop that is crucial to the black community.

“The beauty shop, as we know it, is one of the last vestiges that lasted, that survived integration,” Gafford said. “The black community had its own little microcosm, everything, their own grocery stores, they’re own tailors, people who made hats, they had their own insurance companies, their own construction companies.

Everything that existed in the white community [was] duplicated in the black community until integration came. And people migrated to the white community to do these things and eventually all those businesses went out of business in the black community except for two particular businesses, and that was the hair salon, or the barbershop, and funeral homes.”

But this play is not just for the members of the black community. The point was not to just appeal to one race, but to explain a universal theme, something that people from different backgrounds can understand.

“I think it offers them a little insight into the black community, also it lets them see how alike people actually are.”

JACQUELINE GAFFORD
Director

“Everything that existed in the white community [was] duplicated in the black community, also it lets them see how alike people actually are,” Gafford said. “Because there is really no difference in what goes on in a black salon and a white salon. There’s still the same gossip, there’s still the same little petty jealousy, it’s exactly the same, except the racial thing, that’s about it.”

“And Her Hair Went With Her” also talks about a lot of different prominent women in the black community. Gafford hopes it will inspire people to want to go and find out more about these women and see what they have done for their community.

This play is for anyone who wants to know about black culture, or anyone who has a sense of self, whatever it may be.

“I think it’s people’s perception of themselves,” Gafford said. “Whether you have a true perception or whether you’ve made up a perception of yourself. It’s just how people see themselves.”

“And her hair went with her” will be performed from April 30 through May 5 at the Unicorn Theatre on Main.

For tickets, please visit www.unicorntheatre.org.
Explosive entanglements capture the audience

Alexia Stout-Lang  
News Editor

It’s crude, raw, offensive, devastating… and completely brilliant.

From the moment the lights go up on “Venice” at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, there is no doubt the description, “an explosive new musical,” is quite accurate.

An artistic collaboration between the KC Rep’s Artistic Director Eric Rosen and Matt Sax, who also teamed up to create “Clay,” the story of “Venice” is a complicated one.

When the lights go up, the city of Venice has been plagued by war and violence for more than 20 years and Venice (Javier Munoz), the son of a revolutionary leader who sought peace until she died in a bombing, is now the leader of the city trying to restore that long-awaited peace.

The city has been quiet for some time and Venice decides it is time to bring back the “missing:” all of those who escaped from the city when the bombing began and have been living in hiding since.

Venice calls for his childhood love, Willow, to return so they can be married and the citizens of the city will be filled with hope for the future.

While Venice remains under the impression an elusive, foreign enemy is his greatest threat, the audience learns early on that Markos, Venice’s older and insanely jealous brother, is the real plotter of evil.

The twisting plot and melodic flow of the dialogue in this production scream Shakespeare. It turns out, Rosen said they did get some inspiration scream Shakespeare. It turns out, however, you need to get yourself to it soon. This is not one you want to miss.

“What makes this completely different from your run-of-the-mill production is most notably the layers of sound.”

Don’t let that turn you off, though. The music as a whole in this production is amazing.

What makes the music oh-so-cool is that the musicians are right on stage with the actors. On the left, drummer and UMKC professor Brandon Draper beats out the percussion. On the right, Chris Kong goes to town on a keyboard.

The set for this production is huge, but simple. The gray, drab colors help portray some of the devastation.

But it also presents the perfect backdrop for all of the images projected on the walls throughout the play.

If you haven’t already, I think you should make a reservation to visit “Venice,” a fictional city in the not-distant future.

As big as a shocker the first act was, the second act left my jaw on the floor as I sobbed like a baby.

Left to right: Jay Garcia, Angela Wildflower Polk, J.D. Goldbalt, Brandon Sollenberger and Matt Sax.

I have to give Draper some major props. In a moment that made me want to run on stage and ask for Draper’s autograph, he jumped up from his drum station, ran back stage and then emerged center stage to be part of a drum trio.

Then, as quickly as he emerged, he returned to his drum corner and didn’t miss a beat when it was time for the percussion to resume.

The set for this production is huge, but simple. The gray, drab colors help portray some of the devastation.

But it also presents the perfect backdrop for all of the images projected on the walls throughout the play.

If you haven’t already, I think you should make a reservation to visit “Venice,” a fictional city in the not-distant future.

As big as a shocker the first act was, the second act left my jaw on the floor as I sobbed like a baby.

I have to hand it to the cast for really bringing the point of this play home. I will admit to sitting for a few seconds after the production concluded wondering what the hell just happened to my emotions.

Be warned, don’t take kids to this play.

However, you need to get yourself to it soon. This is not one you want to miss.

Alexia Stout-Lang  
News Editor

April 26, 2010
Top 10 pieces of advice

by Brian Sanders

Leanna Lippert
Assistant Production Manager

Throughout the year, these top 10 stories were based on facts and statistics to rank them.

This top 10, my friends, is my own personal one.

While my thoughts are mostly focused on graduation and what I am going to do now that I have my degree, I can’t help but think of the past and what I wish I would have done in college.

Listed below is my top 10 pieces of advice I wish you will take advantage of:

1. Leave an impression
2. Take advantage of internship opportunities
3. Get to know Kansas City
4. Take up a hobby
5. Try harder
6. Be more involved
7. Party less
8. Listen more
9. Travel more
10. Have fun

“Get to know Kansas City”
I grew up close to St. Louis and have loved every minute of it. Kansas City, to me, was like going to a rival school – I always thought it wouldn’t live up to St. Louis. The more I got to know my home, the more I enjoyed it. I’m not saying I like it better than St. Louis, but it’s a close second.

“Have an internship every summer”
I cannot stress this enough. I’ve been looking for a “real” job for a while now and keep running into the same response – “Well, we don’t have any openings for entry-level, but we are hiring for internship positions.”

“Try harder”
I’ll admit, I slacked off a lot when I came to college. And I know I’m not the only one. The thing is I know if I would have tried harder, I would have knocked the socks off some professors. And maybe had graduated with honors. Who knows? No one – if you don’t try harder.

“Take up a hobby”
I have always been interested in photography and guitar. But I always kept saying I was too busy or too broke to get into it. It took me four years to realize when I graduate, I will never have time to get into it. Don’t make the same mistake I did. Do it while you can.

Tattoo of the week

Mark Linville

There are many reasons one might have to get a tattoo.

They could get a zodiac sign, a person’s name or even one that tells a story about the person.

When Wick Thomas went to get his most recent tattoo, it was for a whole new reason.

“I got kicked out of my house right after I turned 17 for having a boyfriend,” Thomas said. “During this time, I found lots of amazing queer or radical rock stars that influenced me a lot.”

Thomas is the current president of the Queer Alliance group sponsored by the UMKC LGBTQA Resource Center. He is heavily involved in equal rights for all genders and orientations.

“I found Jayne County and Brian Molko and the one who was most influential to me by far was Joan Jett,” he said.

Thomas actually got to meet Joan Jett in person last year.

“She was the only person who has ever stopped me in my tracks,” he said.

Jett, who is the co-founder of Blackheart Records, motivates Thomas.

bsanders@unews.com

bsanders@unews.com
Dance faculty take on social issues through dance

Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company does community outreach on racism

Nicole English
Contributing Writer

Always innovative and ethically aware, Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company is again attempting to highlight important social issues in its Spring Concert, set for May 21-22, in White Recital Hall.

This year, the company will be tackling the issue of Jim Crow racism, as it was practiced in the historic southern United States, during the days of segregation.

The ethnically diverse cast has addressed issues of racism and prejudice in the past (such as portraying the Holocaust in “Trains,” choreographed by Mary Pat Henry, among others) and are experienced at portraying politically charged material in their work.

This year, Henry, associate dean of Faculty Affairs and professor of Dance at the UMKC Conservatory, focused her artistic lens on racism in the historic Jim Crow South. Calling on her own experiences and memories while growing up in the South during desegregation, Henry’s latest socially conscious-reaching work, “Southern Exposure,” is a multimedia theatrical dance piece inspired by the photographs and artwork of renowned artist William Christenberry’s “Klan Room.”

“It is a montage suite, using the different pieces as snapshots ... each representing images of the tensions (and attempted resolutions) of the 1960s,” Henry said. “The suite attempts to present the change and adaptation of society regarding desegregation ... in dance.”

Using pop music from the ‘60s, social conscious jazz artists such as Nina Simone, gospel artists and an original score created in collaboration with the Mars Sound Archives, “Southern Exposure” is described as “a music journey to an era and a people that defined America at its hand its worst.”

The piece will also incorporate video created by artists, Steven Cadie and Antonia Roberts, to complete this 1960s-inspired multi-media presentation.

The performance will include a community component with community leaders in suits with sashes to dialogue about prejudice, as well as open discussions with high school students who will attend the concert.

“We hope to create an open dialogue in communities about issues of prejudice and social injustice,” Henry said about her creative work on social issues.

Also on the program is “Desire,” choreographed by Gary Abbott, co-director of Deeply Rooted Productions in Chicago, and set to the music of Hans Zimmer and Geoff McCreight. It portrays three couples exchanging glances, feeling impulses of love, desire and physical connection.

Another guest artist, Ruth Barnes, will present her multi-media work, “Chloe/Christina,” inspired by the painting “Christina’s World” by Andrew Wyeth, and set to the music of Edgar Meyer. It also uses video in counterpart to live dancer.

Paula Weber, Dance Division Director, will also present her choreographic work, “To Each Her Own,” set to the music of Arvo Part and Giovanni Pengolessi.

A work set on four women dressed in simple leotards, an individuality of each woman is expressed as each dons different pieces of clothing, until each fully developed self emerges to follow her individual life path.

One work, Henry’s multimedia work, “Moore in Time,” inspired by the Henry Moore’s renowned sculptures, is a repeated work from several years ago.

Set to the music of Tan Dun, the dancers become kinetic images of abstract shapes and inter-related formations, interpreting Moore’s art through dance.

Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Theater presents their annual spring concert at 8 p.m., May 21-22 at Spencer Theatre inside the James C. Olson Performing Arts Center. Ticket information is available online at http://wylliams-henry.org/nenglish@unews.com

Kansas City bites

Cascone’s Grill

Cascone’s Grill, on 17 E. 5th St., is within easy walking distance from anywhere downtown.

Once inside, I knew there was no way this was going to be quick. The place was busy and loud. The staff was running around haphazardly cleaning tables and grabbing empty plates in such a fury I almost thought of leaving and running next door to the Ethiopian restaurant.

Then, I remembered I hate that place. So, I decided to sit at a bar with a clear view of the kitchen.

The restaurant is full of black and white photos on the walls. And though the photos give the place a traditional feel, it lacks any sense of actual style.

It is as it is as if the pictures hanging precariously on the wall to hide cracks in the paint.

The waitress took my order, but was clearly not concerned about the prospect of waiting on a tip from one person and I felt rushed when I noticed her eyes dart toward the four guys in clean suits coming through the door.

I looked through the menu, which had a few things that surprised me. Cascone’s boasts authentic Italian food with a long history in Kansas City, since 1930. However, there were things like biscuits and gravy and French toast on the menu and the daily special was Swiss Steak.

Usually, when restaurants try to please all customers, the food suffers from mediocrity.

Having gotten through the first bite of my chicken parmigiana sandwich, this restaurant was no exception. The pressed and processed breaded chicken tasted exactly like the bulk versions you can buy in your local freezer section at any discount food market.

Not bad, but any more of the waitress’s time, I packed the rest of the sandwich and potato chips that were given as a side into my go-to box and jetted out the door toward campus.

It’s a shame an Italian restaurant with such strong ties to Kansas City feels it must offer American food to please the masses.

Unfortunately, Cascone’s Grill is no better than the cafeteria’s food on Italian day.

Love lessons from primetime television

Despite my urging to the contrary, I have one friend who has gone completely loony over a boy and another who is hearing them on a tip from one person and I felt rushed when I noticed her eyes dart toward the four guys in clean suits coming through the door.

D cross@unews.com

Mary Pat Henry, Skylar Taylor, Michael Tomlinson, Tracy Kofford, K浣eline Murphy and Erik Sobbe.
In the spirit of the upcoming Cinco de Mayo, here is a recipe to make great tasting guacamole — without using a store bought package. The below ingredients serve 2-4 people.

**Ingredients**
- 2 ripe avocados (must be fresh)
- 1/2 red onion, minced (makes approximately 1/2 cup)
- 2 tablespoons cilantro leaves, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon of fresh lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse salt
- A dash of freshly grated black pepper
- 1/2 ripe tomato, seeds and pulp removed, chopped

**Directions**
1. Cut the avocados in half and set aside the pits.
2. Scoop the avocado from the peel and place it in a mixing bowl.
3. Using a fork, smash the avocado, add in the chopped onion, cilantro, lime juice, salt and pepper and mix.
4. Just before serving, mix in the tomatoes with a spoon (do not use a fork because you do not want to skewer the tomatoes).
5. Put the pits in the leftovers and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Make sure the plastic wrap is directly on the guacamole so the air does not cause it to turn brown.

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**Guacamole**

John Pfortmiller  
**Sports Editor**

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Monday, April 26

Open Registration: Open registration for 2010 summer and fall classes begins today.

Concert: The Activity and Programs Council presents rapper Drake tonight with K-OS and Francis & The Lights. The concert starts at 7 p.m. in Swanney Recreation Center. Tickets are $15 for UMKC students and $30 for non-students. Call 816-235-6222 for tickets.

Steam Engine Viewing: Union Pacific’s historic 844 steam engine stops in Kansas City today as part of the Valley Eagle Heritage Tour. The last steam locomotive built for Union Pacific Railroad will be available for viewing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the KCP&L Gallery at Union Station. Call 816-460-2020 for more information.

Tuesday, April 27

Tuesday Tune-Up: Stop in for some relaxation from 12-12:45 Tuesday Tune-Up: The UMKC Activity and Programs Council in the Linda Hall Library Auditorium.

dance Night: The UMKC Queer Alliance presents a dance night for those 18 and up. DJ Madeline will play your favorite music starting at 9 p.m. at the Record Bar. Entry is free for UMKC students with student ID, $5 for non-UMKC students over 18 and $3 for non-UMKC students over 21.

Wednesday, April 28

Discussion: Art historians John Richardson and Gijs Hensbergen will lead the “New Lights on Picasso” discussion about their work on the fourth volume of “A Life of Picasso” and the newly discovered information about the artist. The discussion starts at 7 p.m. in Pierson Auditorium and will be followed by a reception and book sale and signing. The free event is open to the public, but reservations are required. Call 816-235-6222 for reservation information.

Concert: English rock guitarist Jeff Beck makes a stop in Kansas City tonight on the Jeff Beck Band 2010 Tour. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. at Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Dr., Kansas City, Mo. Tickets are $36, call 816-363-7827 for more information.

Thursday, April 29

Spring Musical Theater: The UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance presents “Quilters,” a Tony Award winning musical that follows the daily lives of pioneer women. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Ironwoods Park Lodge, 14701 Mission Road, Overland Park, Kan. Admission is free but donations will be accepted to benefit Leawood Community Players and the Molly Jessup Arts Education Fund. Call 816-235-2799 for more information.

Saturday, May 1

Worlds of Fun: The UMKC Activity and Programs Council invites you to relax and enjoy a day of fun with friends before the start of finals. The group will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Kansas City Public Library’s Plaza Branch. There will be a reception before his reading/talk at 6 p.m. Seating is limited for the free event, please visit www.kclibrary.org/rsvp/8830 to RSVP.

Benefit Concert: The River of Refuge Dream Center invites everyone to the Rock for Refuge Benefit Concert to raise funds for the center. The River of Refuge Dream Center is renovating the old Park Lane Hospital to provide housing and services to the working poor as they gain the resources needed to be successful in permanent housing. The concert starts at 1 p.m. at the River of Refuge Dream Center facility, 5151 Raytown Road, Kansas City, Mo. For more information, call 816-356-7400.
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Brian Sanders
Staff Writer

On June 11, the whole world’s attention will be shifted to Johannesburg, South Africa, for the start of the most watched sporting competition in the world.

Since Dec. 2, when the official draw for the World Cup took place, the countdown to the first FIFA (Federation of International Football Association) World Cup on African soil began.

Previously, the World Cup had only been held on four continents: Asia (South Korea/Japan), Europe (England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland), North America (Mexico and United States) and South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay).

There were many FIFA representatives who objected going to a continent with international standing. Though, in 2004, South Africa won the hosting rights over fellow African countries Egypt and Morocco.

Hosting the competition has cost millions of dollars. Five new stadiums were built and another four were renovated. The transportation system and South African police forces were also improved.

Even with the heavy cost, there is a trade-off. The 2006 FIFA World Cup earned Germany more than $600 million for the economy. Even the U.S. seems to be trying to get into the spirit of things. ESPN plans to show more than 65 hours of original content plus replay content from previous World Cups.

Aside from the historical aspect of the competition, the games will match 32 of the best teams in the world in eight groups labeled A-H.

Group A: South Africa, Mexico, Uruguay and France.
Group B: Greece, Nigeria, South Korea and Greece.
Group D: Netherlands, Denmark, Japan and Cameroon.
Group E: Italy, Paraguay, New Zealand and Slovakia.
Group F: Brazil, North Korea, Ivory Coast and Portugal.
Group G: Spain, Switzerland, Honduras and Chile.

American breakdown

The U.S. once mentioned in 2010 they would win a World Cup, and they may have a chance to make good on that.

The U.S. is in their sixth straight world cup and eighth overall. In 2002, they shocked the world by nearly making it into the semi-finals because of a no-penalty call against the Germans.

Last summer, the U.S. was runner up in the Confederations Cup where they defeated the best in the world, Spain (2-0).

With quality star forward Clint Dempsey, mid-fielder Landon Donavon and solid national team players surrounding them such as Carlos Bocanegra, Tim Howard and Jozy Altidore, the U.S. has an excellent chance of making an impact in this World Cup.

Previews

These teams are put into three groups, in order of highest chance of winning the World Cup.

Top contenders

Brazil is the best on their continent and current number one in the world. Their bench could all start for most nations.

Their counter attack is devastating and so is their dead-ball skill.

Spain won the European Championship in 2008 and are a fantastic machine to watch. Perfect balance as they love keeping the ball and then putting it in the net quick as lightning. Look out for Spain.

Italy is the reigning world champion from the last world cup and not much has changed. Most of the winning team is back with no new blood. Always a slow starter but once they get going, they are tough.

England is, well, arrogant. They are the creators of the game and therefore feel they should win.

However, this is the best England team since the 1966 winners. They have a fantastic mid-field and one of the best forwards in the game. So they have a chance at winning.

Heavy hitters

Argentina has the great Maradonna at the helm and possibly the world’s best player, Lionel Messi. The key is to allow him to do what he does best in creating chances and scoring.

Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) is the best from Africa.

If an African team is to win on African soil, it will be them.

The Elephants are stocked and a tough team to breakdown.

Germany seems to be very solid this year and when they are bad, it is a rarity.

Never rule them out in these big competitions.

Outsiders

U.S. is good, but not that good. They work well as a team and really should go far with their solid defense and strong mid-field.

They may not win but will have a deep run.

Chile has really improved. They missed the last World Cup, but brought in a new coach whose philosophy of “attack first, defend later” could have mixed results.

Very exciting team to watch and will be interesting to track.

bsanders@unews.com

When ESPN announced it would air more than 230 hours of World Cup soccer this summer, some jaws definitely hit the floor.

A response could have been, “Wow, soccer on American TV.” But, sadly, some responses probably included, “Why show soccer on TV in the U.S.? No one cares about that sport. I want to watch basketball/baseball/football.”

Sorry to break it to you, Captain America, but soccer is the most played and watched team sport in the world. Yes, W-O-R-L-D.

The United States is not the world — we are only about 300 million people strong in a world with almost 7 billion inhabitants.

The point is, get over it and try to be a bit more understanding.

Soccer is the sport the rest of the world adores, but Americans can’t seem to grasp.

The lack of soccer here could be attributed to no mainstream audience, poor funding and even fear it will overtake traditional American sports (basketball/football/baseball).

“I feel like we want every sport as our own, but soccer is worldwide and that threatens us,” UMKC senior Victoria Rodriguezz said. “There are many factors that contribute to this fear. These are most likely the fact that soccer may drain money from other sports (basketball/football/football/baseball).”

Soccer is almost everywhere in the world. We need to break out of this protective bubble we have built and understand the rest of the world is bigger than us.

Major League Soccer (MLS) aims to change this perception of soccer as a non-U.S. sport. But with labor disagreements earlier this year and lack of consistent TV coverage, it may take the Apocalypse to convince Americans soccer isn’t just a sport for grade schoolers.

If these MLS games were shown consistently at bars, restaurants and potentially on local networks, there may be a boost in interest.

Yet, it’s a double-edged sword. And if the networks don’t think they can get ratings, they will not take the risk.

There’s an interesting soccer slogan floating around “Our goal is stopping yours.”

Obviously, it is a double entendre of the word goal, but it could have more meaning than just scoring goals.

The U.S.’s goal is stopping the goal of soccer – uniting the world through an athletic event.

No, the U.S. is not evil or malicious. It is just set in its ways. There are a large number of viewers for traditional American sports. Networks don’t want to risk losing that and it is understandably good business.

Old dogs can’t learn new tricks, but if the new ones start learning early on, it will stick.

Essentially, as younger folk need to understand an international sport like soccer can be a great way to change the cliched image the rest of the world has of the U.S. In turn, this could promote even more “good business.”

Our goal should not be stopping theirs. We should join with the other team and work together to score that goal.

jpfortmiller@unews.com

extra points

by John Pforzheimer
End of the season brings reflection

John Pfortmiller  
Sports Editor

UMKC’s director of athletics, Tim Hall, was impressed and amazed by the success of the athletics department during the 2009-10 season. But the strides to improve UMKC’s reputation impressed him most.

“I’m proud of my coaches and staff in terms of the efforts they’ve made to enhance our reputation,” Hall said. “Not just within our campus community, but within the Kansas City community.”

Hall is a strong advocate of making sure UMKC athletics breaks away from just being viewed by the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses.

He believes if the community invests in UMKC athletics, their investment will be paid back in full.

“An investment in UMKC athletics, from members of this surrounding community, is a reinvestment in this community,” Hall said.

“Like a lot of the student-athletes end up coming out of school and being nurses, police officers, teachers, etc. They perform service professions that serve the community that supported them while they were in school.”

Looking back on the season, Hall made note of how important academics were to coaches and athletes. He believes that one of the major driving factors of UMKC athletics is how well the student-athletes do academically.

“A lot of our coaches understand how important the academics side of being a student-athlete is,” Hall said. “They’re students before they’re athletes. Once you take care of that business you can focus on winning championships.”

Individually, Hall believed each sport did fantastic. He commented on how Durwood Stadium helped allow women’s soccer to start and cemented men’s soccer as a known program.

“I selfishly think that [Durwood] is one of the finest stadiums of its kind, certainly in the Midwest, if not in the United States,” Hall said. “Durwood has been a real anchor facility to help galvanize more events on our campus, as well as more spirit de corps. With Durwood coming along, did women’s soccer.”

With soccer’s success to start off the year, Hall said the other sports fell into place. Men’s basketball did well, but needs “more continuity” and needs to “take some of those close losses and turn them into wins.” Hall eagerly waits to see what Head Coach Matt Brown and his staff will do next year.

With the loss of Chazny Morris, there is speculation women’s basketball will not fair as well as they did this season. Hall put that fear to rest with his observations of the younger players.

“There was a stretch where we beat North and South Dakota state where [Morris] played less than usual, a lot of young players picked it up,” he said. “The younger players stepped it up and I think will continue to next year.”

Hall is also very happy with the way the tennis program is doing. He believes men’s will improve even further next season and thinks that women’s will “really be a solid team.”

Softball’s progress from a slow start this season has also impressed Hall.

“Softball was in a bit of a disarray when I got here in 2007,” Hall said. “However, [Head Coach Meredith] Smith has started to turn it around and softball took quite a few wins.”

Hall is eager to see how the coaches and student-athletes will improve next year. He also believes that UMKC athletics will continue to expand and improve. But there is a catch — money is not unlimited.

“As an institution we have to look at being very strategic in how we move forward,” Hall said. “There are a lot of wonderful things and infinite possibilities here, but there’s finite dollars.”

John Pfortmiller

Sports shorts by JOHN PFORTMILLER

Women’s Golf

The Roos finished third in the 2010 Summit League Championship with a score of 971. The women closed the tournament with a third round score of 317, after opening with a 339 and a 315. The Roos’ final score left them six strokes behind second-place South Dakota.

Softball

The week started out with a close win April 19 against University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), 6-5. The Roos then turned to Kansas City for a doubleheader against Centenary, April 23. The Roos swept both, winning the first game, 2-1, and the second, 5-1.

Men’s Tennis

The top-seeded Roos’ record-breaking season ended with a 4-2 loss to Oral Roberts in the Summit League Championship final. Oral Roberts was the third seed in the tournament. UMKC ends the season with a 17-7 record overall. The 17 victories are the most in a single season in school history.

Women’s Tennis

The Roos lost to second-seeded Oral Roberts, 4-0, in the semi-finals of the Summit League Championship. The Roos finished up the season with a 10-13 overall record. The 10 victories are the most in a single season in school history.

Track

UMKC sent three student-athletes to compete in the Drake Relays April 21-24. D.C. Okonta was the top finisher for the Roos, placing 11th in the triple jump. The Roos will compete in the Arkansas Twilight April 30.

Too much TV sports coverage?

Brian Sanders  
Staff Writer

In September 1979, a cable channel called Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) debuted and changed the way people watch sports forever.

Prior to ESPN, there was ABC, CBS and NBC for watching sports. That was it.

Today, we have ESPN 2, ESPNU, ESPNEWS, ESPN Classic and ESPN Classic on the ESPN front.

There is also the Fox network with 19 Fox Sports Net regional affiliates and other regional channels including Fox College Sports and Fox Soccer Channel.

Viusas has now appeared and is dabbling in sports not touched by the other networks.

There is so much out there on any given day it blows my mind.

The list of sporting events broadcasted now goes beyond the standard big four in the United States.

Everything from the ever-growing cage fighting to the America’s Cup sailing competition is broadcasted in some fashion by the many sports stations and broadcasting stations out there.

While there is much a larger spectrum of viewing sporting events these days, the fact is over all ratings of sporting events have gone down due to diluting of the sports viewing market.

No longer is there the true game of the week everyone watches. With all the sports-channel choices, people can now find a niche sport to follow.

While the surplus of games on TV isn’t something that bothers sports fans in general, the networks are slightly worried about ratings.

The ratings typically have a large boost during playoffs in comparison to the regular season, which with the NBA and NHL are not positives.

The networks like ABC and NBC, big network broadcasters for the NBA and NHL respectively, pay a lot of money for multiple years of TV rights.

Network intentions are to make money through advertising dollars received during these events.

The ratings come into play when the networks set the advertising rates for minute spots and 30-second spots.

They set prices based on estimated ratings they hope to pull in.

The numbers for the NBA and NHL have been languishing the past decade, in turn, making them not as big a deal, therefore devaluing the advertising spots various national chains take up.

With the numbers that show up for the NFL and MLB, these investments seem worth their while.

They are good enough for the big money to come in from advertisers.

It would seem, of the big four sports, the MLB and NFL didn’t suffer. But that diluted the sports TV market of the NBA and NHL.

Hopefully, there will be a time when this can be changed and we can all enjoy watching jaw-dropping, three-pointers and bone-crushing checks.

However, it doesn’t seem likely to be happening any time soon.
Not politically correct, just correct

Who will support me in starting a European American Student Union? Do I have any takers? How about some founding members of the UMKC men's center? We could watch ESPN in between hands of poker and drinking whiskey straight, all while smoking cigars.

There would be no high-heels or gossip about your co-workers. Whiskey straight, all while smoking cigars.

The origins of PC can be traced easily to the “New Left” (i.e. hippies) of the 1960s and ’70s and some would argue earlier.

Sometime in the ’70s, many (though not all) of the flower children graduated college and were faced with the rude reality they had to get jobs.

A significant portion of the hippies chose to spend their careers in academia as professors and administrators.

They took their politics and especially their political correctness with them.

One of the most notable outcomes of this phenomenon has been the adoption by many universities of “speech codes” banning certain types of speech which most of us find offensive (i.e. racist, sexist and anti-gay speech).

Our neighbors to the north have taken the matter a step further, criminalizing certain unpopular opinions.

Syndicated Columnist Mark Steyn is the most prominent victim of Canada’s hate speech law.

“At its core, political correctness is almost always dishonest.”

After a rather protracted fight in the press, two separate semi-judicial “human rights tribunals” declined to find Steyn guilty of a crime in their 2008 rulings.

Any simplenought ought to be able to see that banning unpopular opinions because they offend the majority is reprehensible and, thankfully, generally considered unconstitutional in this country.

Deplorable as the curtailment of free speech is, it is only the tip of the iceberg where the negative impacts of political correctness are concerned.

At its core, political correctness is almost always dishonest.

It involves a deliberate distortion of reality, so as to avoid offending some group that has been historically victimized (or claims to have been).

The reason George Orwell’s masterpieces “1984” and “Animal Farm” resonate so greatly with so many readers is they address the fundamental tyranny and dishonesty of totalitarian dogmas which leave no room for dissent.

Political correctness is a perfect example.

In our society, PC has made it nearly impossible to honestly discuss issues of race or (in fewer cases) gender.

If you disagree, ask one time Supreme Court hopeful Robert Bork how his opposition to affirmative action worked out for him.

Or try suggesting that biological differences between men and women might give workers of different genders aptitudes for different types of jobs and see if you are not reflexively labeled as sexist.

Ask Charles Murray and Richard J. Herrnstein, authors of “The Bell Curve,” how their research into differences in IQ between races was received by their colleagues in Black Studies departments.

The academy is, by definition, supposed to be a place of free inquiry and the free exchange of ideas. America is, by constitutional amendment and Supreme Court edict, a country in which speech that does not incite violence can’t be criminalized.

Any rule or regulation that prohibits the expression of an opinion because it is likely to offend someone therefore has no place in our society and especially not in our universities.

Not politically correct, just correct

—NIKKI BOMGARDNER

I can’t stand fake people.

I scream on the inside when passersby say, “How are you?” The same goes for when they are the first words out of people’s mouths when you meet them.

Do you really care how I am? I’m a single mom with three daughters who is working and going to school full-time. How do you think I am? Do you want the real answer to that question? Because we could be standing here for a minute.

I would much rather you be real with me and say, “You look like a mess today, what the hell happened to you?” or “Your skin is extra clear today, what have you been using?”

Let’s just stop the entire superficial BS please.

More fakeness: Why when you go through the line at Wal-Mart or wherever you shop, does the cashier say with such noncommittal complacency, “Did you find everything you were looking for today?” I mean, he/she doesn’t even look at you while saying it, like a pre-conditioned response drilled in to them like a robot in training.

Oh, and they are not even waiting for the answer by the way.

I would just like to say back one day, to see what they say: “Why? Are you gonna go look for it for me?” or “Why? Are you gonna call someone over to go hunt for it and make the 10 people standing in line behind me wait while they ‘accidently’ ram me in the rear with their shopping carts willing me to move on?”

I don’t think so.

Please don’t ask, because you really don’t care, do you? And there has to be something better than “have a great day” or “take care.”

Do you really care if I have a great day? Probably not.

It’s just a filler, a superficial exit for people who can’t think of anything better to say.

One day I would just love to hear, “Hey, good luck on your next article,” or “Keep your head up, it can always be worse,” or “Hey, don’t fail that test!”

I challenge you to use your words.

Don’t just spitter the superficial pre-recordings in your brain you’ve been using all these years.

Be real and be real with me.

Don’t sugarcoat it or give me any fluff.

“I would much rather you be real with me and say, ‘You look like a mess today, what the hell happened to you?’ or ‘Your skin is extra clear today, what have you been using?’”

Because I can guarantee, if you ask, I’ll tell you like it is. Thank my writing sucks? Let me know!

Think I should shower more? I really hope you tell me that one.

Who are we if we aren’t being real?

Talking heads wandering the streets with no substantial thoughts or ideas in our noggin’s to contribute?

Teacher evaluations have just been passed around.

The administration actually made it easier on us last semester and provided us the ability to do it online.

But guess what?

We, as students with a voice didn’t use them!

Well, I sure did.

The school wants to hear about what I think about our faculty?

Are you kidding?

I could write a novel and I’m usually sitting there for about 15 minutes attempting to.

But I notice most of my classmates don’t. What the hell?”

We are paying them to teach us.

You better take the time and tell them what you think or they’re gonna keep some of those worthless teachers around semester after semester torturing the next round of students.

Just marking “excellent” in every box to get through it! Shame on you!

Excuse me, but I’m gonna be real.

I’m not perfect and I make mistakes.

I’m human.

But you will always know where you stand with me, I will always tell it like it is and I will always love fiercely with my heart on my sleeve.

What about you?

Let’s be real for a sec

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I’m not perfect and I make mistakes.

I’m human.

But you will always know where you stand with me, I will always tell it like it is and I will always love fiercely with my heart on my sleeve.

What about you?
College smolle ... knowledge?

I hate wasting time.

My days are scheduled to the minute. Those detailed schedules for my packed-full days are made weeks in advance and are not often wavered from.

That’s the way I like it.

These tendencies also make me rather goal oriented. I set goals, I meet them and the process begins again.

With graduation only two weeks away, I don’t feel like I have spent my time well or that I am accomplishing much.

My first degree, in Liberal Arts, gave me a sense of comfort knowing I had learned a little something about many things that would help me in the real world.

Now, preparing to walk on stage May 7, I will be thinking of the masses with a little more confidence, but the grand total of two reporting classes I have been required to take didn’t do much to improve my skills.

The UMKC website does say a journalism minor is offered. Turns out, that just means journalism is a very minor concern when it comes to the educations offered here.

Thank God I took several journalism classes before I transferred, completed two internships and worked at newspapers over the past five years.

“All I have to say is students should be prepared for a big shocker once in the big, bad world of journalism.”

Otherwise, I would expect prospective employers to do nothing more than laugh in my face when I ask for a job.

Despite the tuition I have paid, UMKC has not exactly inspired me to become an all-star journalist. Nor has this university given me the tools to do so.

In fact, I was losing all hope of taking any hardcore journalism classes until this semester when I signed up to take Robert Unger’s reporting class. With a militaristic firmness and a strong will for students to succeed, Unger gives his students a sense of real-world journalism.

That’s the way professors were at my previous college and that’s the way every editor I have ever had is. I don’t really understand this bull crap of babying the students.

All I have to say is students should be prepared for a big shocker once in the big, bad world of journalism.

While UMKC has missed the mark on many things (like offering simple classes covering photojournalism, Sunshine Law or specialized reporting skills), it has taught me one very important lesson.

That lesson learned is to have a passion for my community.

Having feelings, being able to connect with real people, is what makes a good journalist. I can’t be a good advocate for the truth if I don’t care about the truth. I can’t help bring light to the issues that trouble communities if I don’t care enough to notice them.

Show me a journalist who does not give a crap about what he/she is writing and I will show you a journalist who isn’t worth the inches in the paper he/she fills with words.

No matter where I go or what I do, I will always be a reporter at heart.

But when I march across that stage May 7, I will be thinking of myself as graduating into a life of being an engaged citizen. I can only hope I am prepared enough to be a journalist as well.

alang@unews.com

What do you think?

Did you fill out your teacher evaluations?

A. Yes
B. No
C. Yes, extensively

Go to www.unews.com and tell us your answer!

Your answers to last week’s question:

A. 88%
B. 12%

Should gay marriage be legal in Missouri?

A. Yes
B. No

What’s your stance on the red-light cameras and how would you feel if they were on intersections near campus?

“I think it’s a great idea because it’ll reduce accidents for our amazing student leaders.”

STEPHEN TERRY
Graduate Student
Educational Leadership

“I think it’s a smart idea and it’ll definitely improve safety on campus. I’m just curious about where the money is coming from.”

MATTHEW PRYOR
Junior
Communication Studies

“I’ll make it more difficult to turn off Volker unless they change the light on the side streets to keep students safe. It is OK with me.”

COURTNY SONTARTH
Sophomore
Education

“I think it’s a good idea. Cameras are a good idea. Kansas City is 98 percent more dangerous than other cities.”

KATIE JOHNSON
Freshman
Nursing

“It’s a good idea. If it will enforce stronger regulations on the vehicles and drivers, then perhaps it will make cross walks a safer place for UMKC students.”

BETH DAVEY
Sophomore
Music Education

“It’s not a bad idea. It leads more people to be more cautious.”

ANDREW RIESMAN
Freshman
Environmental Science & Geology
MORALES from page 9

she has played. But she particularly enjoyed appearing in “Pericles.”

“I got the opportunity to play Thaisa, which is a role I could never
play right now in real life because I look too young,” she said.

With so many opportunities and such a wide range of experiences of-
fered at UMKC, Morales said she is glad she has been able to study here.

“This program, I feel, inspires you to be a better person,” she said.

“Just because they say, ‘Look outside. See how beautiful it is. Now, let
that inspire your work.’”

But, Morales does admit the pro-
gram has its challenges.

“This is actor boot camp,” she said. “You wake up at 7:30 in the
morning and you go work out. And you are literally up until 1 in the
morning. And then you do it again. We are like little hamsters in our
wheels just running and running.”

In the end, she said it is worth it.

She credits her company of fellow
actors as her drive to keep going.

“You can’t say, ‘I’m tired’ or ‘I feel
sick,’ because it’s all about ev-
everyone else,” Morales said. “What
I feel sick, because it’s all about ev-
moves the consequence.

Real people are engaging and
that’s who we are,” Morales said.

“Being able to represent them is the
real gift.”

FERGUSON from page 9

UMKC Theatre productions includ-
ing Claudio in “Measure for Mea-
sure,” Damis in “Tartuffe,” The
Writer in a Tennessee Williams’ one
act titled “The Lady of Larkspur Lo-
tion,” Captain Brice in “Arcadia”
and Junkie in “The Spook Show”
and Spooky Dog in “Spooky Dog
and The Teen-Age Gang Mysteries.”

Currently, he is playing Si-
fois in “Train to 2010,” a UMKC
student production about two
common laborers trapped on
a fast-moving train to 2010.

Out of all the characters he has
played, he enjoyed playing Damis in
“Tartuffe” the most.

“I loved that role,” Ferguson said.

“It was such a joy and so much fun.”

In a field of work that requires
artistic expression and creativity,
Ferguson looks to his fellow actors for inspiration.

“I love watching actors,” he said.

“It’s so surreal to realize this is the
art form. This is how we are liv-
ing our lives.”

While Ferguson said he enjoys
being able to play someone else on
stage without facing the consequen-
ces that go along with the character’s
actions, he believes acting goes be-
yondwhat happens on stage.

“Acting is not just about improv-
ing yourself on stage,” he said. “It’s also
about improving your life. Im-
proving yourself as a person.”

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ture. Apply in person at The Gaf (7122 Wornall).

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5327 Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64110
Editor’s desk: (816) 235-5402
Newsroom: (816) 235-1393
Advertising: (816) 235-1386
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FARGUSON's puzzle solved

By Frederick J. Healy

6 Green vehicle
7 Sun screen?
9 Pond foiler
9 Diamond stats
10 Rx specification
11 Large group with
upper and lower
segments
12 Merry a kill,
essentially
13 Down source
14 Foolish
17 "Popular
Falassias"
easyist
22 Revival meeting
shout
23 "Never let ... said...
24 Stopped running
25 That femia
26 Winter Olympics
competitor
27 Church
practices
28 9-1-1
respondents, briefly
30 Rolling Stone
co-founder
31 Push for
32 Nutmeg or
sesame

6 DAB
7 MEKS
8 LEAP
9 EERA
10 GHOSTS
11 ARANDER
12 INAGE
13 INVERSE
14 MINIMUWAG
15 EAMIC
16 KJANS
17 HIRL
18 GOBL
19 EREW
20 TAKE
21 SCHEPLER
22 GRIS
23 AID
24 PEGGY
25 SSDN
26 SONY
27 VNAY
28 VALLEY
29 FORGER
30 ARDO R
31 ERAS
32 ERAS
33 EPIC
34 IMAGES
35 ASP
36 NOPE
37 CAYES

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Moday's puzzle solved

46 Protein-building
polymers
47 Longtime
Yugoslav
president
48 Laurel in films
49 Flanch chum
50 NBC show that
began its 35th season
in Sep. 2009
51 Defense
advisees
52 Hush up
53 Easiest
54 Yawn
55 Noisy
56 Copy
57 Bleat
58 Switch
59 Out of

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