Colleges Turn the Economic Crisis Into a Lesson Plan

By LISA W. FODERARO

Steven Fraser, a professor of American studies at Columbia University, has taught the cultural history of Wall Street for years, usually bringing his students up to the 1990s. But this fall, with the financial crisis providing an irresistible new coda to the course, he extended the timeline to include the drama, intrigue and pain of the past two years.

"The class is struck by the similarities between today and the darker periods of Wall Street's past, for example in the Gilded Age — the meltdown, the bonuses, the reckless speculation, the impact of Wall Street's behavior on the rest of society," he said. "We compare the confidence man of 1840 to the confidence man of today."

The financial crisis has brought upheaval to many corners of American life, but on college campuses around the country the turmoil is being embraced as a valuable teaching tool. Academics say they cannot recall a time when so much of the curriculum has had to be revised so quickly to reflect the sweeping developments in the economy.

Business schools and economics departments are at the forefront of the overhaul, unveiling new courses and revamping existing ones. But professors of political science, sociology, American history and even English literature are also reworking lectures and syllabuses to include material on the crisis and its aftermath.

Sidney Plotkin, a professor of political science at Vassar College, has taught "Power and Public Policy" in one iteration or another for more than 30 years.
But last month he began a new section of the course by exploring the housing bubble and Bernard L. Madoff, consumer borrowing and federal bailouts — and shining a Marxist light on the whole morass.

“Marx is the uninvited guest in the discussion,” Dr. Plotkin told the group of undergraduates assembled in Rockefeller Hall. “By looking at the financial crisis through the lens of a Marxist analysis, we begin to see how the American debate about power is shaped by Marxism.”

The Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College introduced two courses this fall, on corporate restructuring and the long history of financial bubbles. Andrew Rodman, an adjunct lecturer of economics and finance and a former Wall Street executive, said that for the course on financial bubbles he reached all the way back to 1690, choosing from among a “plethora of crises” to highlight recurring themes — “what has gone wrong, what has gone right, what elements precede most crises, which repairs work.”

At Columbia Business School, a faculty committee spent the summer devising two courses that will debut this spring. One is on the future of financial services; the other is a case study on the automobile industry, with sections to be used in several courses.

Columbia’s attempts to make full use of the economic environment has also created some interesting juxtapositions.

Thomas A. Russo, an adjunct professor who was a vice chairman of Lehman Brothers before its collapse, taught a summer course at the business school on the financial crisis in which he divided students into four groups for role-playing: corporate chief executives, treasury secretaries, business journalists and academics.

But this fall, Lehman Brothers is being pilloried by some in Professor Fraser’s American studies course.

“One kid is doing a paper comparing Jay Gould, who was known as the Mephistopheles of his day, to Richard Fuld,” the former chief executive of
Lehman Brothers, said Professor Fraser, an adjunct associate professor and
the author of “Wall Street: America’s Dream Palace.”

At the University of Wisconsin, Menzie D. Chinn, a professor of public affairs
and economics in the La Follette School of Public Affairs, is teaching a new
graduate seminar, “Policy Responses to the Great Recession.” His students are
analyzing the causes of the crisis and the impact of the American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act on the gross domestic product, employment and state
budgets.

At the University of Missouri, Karen Piper, a professor of English,
is updating a course on postcolonial theory to incorporate the
economic downturn, which, in her view, is simply a continuation of
the global financial crisis that began in the 1990s. In the course,
graduate students learn about the history of British imperialism, as
well as a theoretical framework for analyzing Indian, African and
Caribbean literature. “Postcolonial theory and literature is more
relevant than ever after this crisis,” she said.

Finding course materials can be a challenge, however, given the shifting
nature of events from Wall Street to Washington.

“We’re at a point now where the books can’t come out quickly enough to
address the changes that have happened over the past year,” said Ronald L.
Mize, an assistant professor of Latino studies and development sociology at
Cornell University, whose course “Comparative Social Inequalities” received
an infusion of new content this fall. “I’m looking at The Congressional Record,
going to the original resources myself, so I can show the students the
magnitude of the federal bailouts.”

But while the effort in rewriting curriculums and finding new study material
may be great, so is the reward. “The fact that the students are more interested
and motivated really makes it worthwhile,” said Robert P. Rebelein, an
associate professor of economics at Vassar who last year served as the senior
economist for public finance for the White House Council of Economic
Advisers.
“They know the buzz words, they’re paying attention to the press, and they’re really concerned about what job prospects will exist for them,” he said. “Nobody ever asked me about Freddie and Fannie before in my introduction to macroeconomics class.”

In some ways, the extreme behavior of the economy has provided the ideal talking points for age-old theorems, professors say. “At its core, finance is the study of risk and return,” said Greg Hallman, a senior lecturer at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. “The past couple of years in the market have given today’s students a perfect illustration of that.”

For students, taking a class that probes the gyrations of the economy — even through the prism of Marx — forces them to keep up with current events.

“It makes it easier to talk with authority on the issues,” said Dana Bell, a junior at Vassar, referring to Professor Plotkin’s course on power and public policy. “You’ve got to stay awake in this class, or you’ll be caught off guard.”

Although students may be energized by the relevance and immediacy of the subject, Dr. Plotkin detects a growing cynicism as well.

“Last fall there was tremendous optimism and hope that directions would change in American politics in significant ways,” he said. “But now there’s much more discouragement among students who sense that whether it’s Obama, Bush, Clinton or anyone else, the institutions — and the interests wrapped around those institutions — create an enormous degree of inertia and resistance to change.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM curators talk college readiness, elect chairwoman

By Ben Wieder
December 11, 2009 | 4:29 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Curators for the University of Missouri System heard about higher education incomes and outcomes Friday, with reports from committees that tracked the college readiness of Missouri students and how effectively UM campuses are preparing graduates to enter the workforce.

The curators, meeting in St. Louis, also elected Judith Haggard of Kennett as chairwoman of the board for 2010 and Warren Erdman of Kansas City as vice chairman.

Haggard, who earned her 1987 master's degree through a distance program with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said she will focus on e-Learning initiatives for her reports to curators during 2010.

Earlier, members of the P-20 task force, which is charged with looking at the education pipeline from pre-school through post-secondary education, and the Outside-In task force, which was created to increase partnerships between UM campuses and Missouri employers, shared their findings with the curators.

Both task forces were created earlier this year.

"The achievement gap is alive and well," said Dan Lowry, a co-chairman of the P-20 task force, referring to the task force's findings that low income and underrepresented minorities still lag behind their white or wealthier peers in academic achievement.

The task force report Friday focused on findings from preschool through high school.

Lowry, co-executive director of the MU Partnership for Educational Renewal, presented statistics about college readiness that he found "startling":
The college-going rate of U.S. high school students has declined steadily since 1996.

Out of every 100 ninth-graders in Missouri, 44 will attend college within one year of high school graduation, but only 21 of these students will obtain a bachelor's degree within six years.

The committee found 257 programs that exist across the four UM campuses to help improve the college preparedness of Missouri students.

With these findings, UM System President Gary Forsee said the committee can begin to analyze which college-prep programs are "hitting home-runs" and which are less effective.

Mark Tranel, an Outside-In task force committee member, cited Missouri Economic Research and Information report on education and training needs for Missouri workers in 2016, which found that "about one-quarter of the job openings in the state of Missouri will require a higher education degree."

The committee found that a number of good programs exist on each campus to connect with the workplace but that a lack of coordination on individual campuses and across the system is limiting the UM System's ability "to be the resources that we can be to the state of Missouri," said Tranel, who is director of the Public Policy Research Center at UMSL.

"We need to maximize, coordinate and brand the very excellent efforts we have," he said.

Forsee said a lack of coordination has prevented the UM System from being perceived by employers "as the go-to place."

Earlier, Forsee rehashed the particulars of the agreement reached between Missouri's public universities and Gov. Jay Nixon to support a freeze on in-state undergraduate tuition at all Missouri public four-year colleges and universities in exchange for preserving 95 percent of the the state's appropriation for higher education.
The plan will need to be approved by the Missouri General Assembly this spring, but Forsee said indications he's received from legislators have made him optimistic that the plan will pass.

He said that he has been meeting with administrators at the four UM campuses and that by the end of January, they will have determined how and where to implement cuts in preparation for a possible reduced appropriations.

The curators later voted to approve several measures:

- Changes to the asset allocation for the UM Endowment Fund, which passed 7-2, with Wayne Goode and David Wasinger opposed
- Hiring of small cap investment managers for the UM Retirement Plan, which was unanimous
- Hiring of international small cap equity, emerging market debt and high yield/bank loans investment managers for the UM Endowment Fund, which was unanimous
- Changes to the Collected Rules and Regulations that would allow Forsee to distribute up to 2 percent of the value of the UM Endowment Fund to support endowment and development staff, which passed 8-1, with Don Downing voting no
- Updates to the campus master plans for Missouri S & T (formerly the University of Missouri-Rolla) and UMSL, which passed unanimously
UM expects more private partners

Curator says deals add needed value.

By Janese Heavin

Friday, December 11, 2009

ST. LOUIS — Missourians can expect to see more partnerships between the University of Missouri and private corporations, much like the recent team-up between MU Health Care and Cerner Corp., outgoing Board of Curators Chairman Bo Fraser said this morning.

“A continual reliance on outside partnerships with businesses like Cerner will be an ongoing trend, in my opinion, and our way to the future,” Fraser, of Columbia, said.

MU Health Care and Cerner this fall created the Tiger Institute aimed to study new health care information technologies. Some university information technology employees criticized those negotiations for being secretive and, ultimately, for outsourcing 100 university jobs to Cerner.

But employees and constituents will have to be open to future partnerships for the university to meet its obligations, Fraser said.

“We can no longer rely on the General Assembly to meet our needs and the needs of those we serve,” he said. “We cannot let fear and adversity to risks get in the way of progress. In my opinion, a resistance to embrace change inhibits the university’s ability to meet its core mission more than any economic crisis ever could.”

Private partnerships and economic development dominated much of the discussion at the Board of Curators meeting this morning at UM-St. Louis. Chancellors from each university touted economic development efforts on their respective campuses, including MU’s ongoing research with AmerenUE, Boeing and Monsanto.

Building on those relationships can bring in additional resources, both through the company and through federal grants, UM System President Gary Forsee said. MU, he noted, has seen an increase in research, grant and royalty dollars this past year despite tough economic conditions.

Existing economic development work at UM needs to be better branded around the state, said Mark Tranel, director of the public policy center at UMSL. That was one recommendation of the system’s Outside-In task force, created last year to identify ways UM can better build ties with employers. UM’s four campuses are working to prepare skilled work forces, Tranel said, but
there is a disconnect between that training and Missouri companies. "We're not getting the message out to employers," he said.

Also this morning, Fraser's yearlong term as board chairman ended with the election of Curator Judith Haggard of Kennett to the position for the coming year. Haggard, a nurse who holds degrees from MU and UMSL, was appointed to the Board of Curators in 2007 and served as vice chairwoman this year. Curator Warren Erdman, a Kansas City businessman also appointed in 2007, was elected vice chairman.

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Business ties of UM chief a mixed bag

Researcher sees no clear benefit.

By Janese Heavin

Sunday, December 13, 2009

When it comes to six degrees of separation, Kevin Bacon has nothing on Gary Forsee — at least when it comes to being associated with corporate movers and shakers.

Gary Forsee:
Spent 35 years in private sector

After all, Forsee spent 35 years in private business before taking the helm of the University of Missouri System almost two years ago, and he has left a trail of acquaintances behind. He now serves on the board of directors of Great Plains Energy and Ingersoll Rand Corp., and he is on the board of trustees of Midwest Research Institute.

In recent months, those corporate ties have overlapped with university business, causing some to question whether Forsee’s connections are conflicts of interest.

But those allegations are “just not reality,” Forsee said last week.

“That’s illegal,” Forsee said, referring to questions of whether he used his UM position to lobby for a company. “It’s illegal, and I don’t want to end up in an orange jumpsuit. It’s not just putting your reputation at risk.”
Forsee’s service on the energy board was called into question after he sent a university letter last month to Missouri lawmakers asking them to oppose cap-and-trade legislation because of its financial impact on the UM system.

The Tribune subsequently reported Forsee also has ties with companies that would benefit from cap-and-trade, including his brother, David Forsee, who owns an alternative energy business.

The letter represented Forsee’s position solely as president of the system, UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said earlier this month.

That wasn’t the first time Forsee’s business ties have been challenged.

After months of secretive negotiations, MU in September announced it would partner with Cerner Corp. to test and market new health information technology. That secrecy set the stage for some to wonder whether Forsee’s personal ties to the company came into play. Forsee serves on a board of trustees with Cerner CEO Neal Patterson, and Forsee’s son-in-law, Brandon Bell, works for the health information technology company.

Forsee’s staff denounced speculation about conflicts of interest, saying MU’s relationship with Cerner preceded Forsee’s administration and that Bell’s job was far removed from the MU arrangement.

If anything, UM higher-ups see Forsee’s business ties as giving him and the university leverage.

“The fact that he had so many important connections and relationships was one of the things — among many things — that attracted us to Gary Forsee,” Board of Curators Chairman Bo Fraser of Columbia said. “So many doors are open because of those relationships. … Those kinds of connections are just invaluable.”

Forsee’s business background might make him unique as a university president, but his service on corporate boards isn’t uncommon, said James Finkelstein, vice dean of the George Mason School of Public Policy in Arlington, Va.

Some 40 percent of all university presidents served on corporate boards a decade ago, the last time Finkelstein studied the issue. He plans to update that research next year.

It’s easy to pinpoint how corporate board service benefits a college president.

Membership usually comes with a hefty retainer, stock options, travel expenses and other financial gains. But it’s tougher, Finkelstein said, to document how those corporate ties actually benefit universities.

“That’s the question we’ve asked over the years,” he said. “The answers we get to ‘What is the benefit to the university?’ is that it creates better relationships, more support for universities and lots of things that are positive. The problem is, empirically, those claims we have found are almost impossible to test.
“It is almost impossible to independently verify the good that comes out of these relationships for the institutions,” he said. “We don’t say they don’t exist, but we’ve not been able to document it in any systematic way.”

Finklestein’s study did not recommend whether presidents should limit their corporate roles, but it did call into question the time commitments required for such affiliations. He said it should be up to states to determine how much outside business public university leaders should conduct.

“Education is a state’s responsibility,” he said. “So states should have policies regarding whether they put limits “on outside activities and compensation. If you’re paying someone $350,000 to be a president of a university — and you expect an English professor making $40,000 to be there all the time — is it wrong to expect to have full attention of your president? We’ve not made any recommendations about what we think should or shouldn’t be done. We’re just putting information out there for policymakers to review it.”

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Smoke break is over

Forsee, legislators should lead the way toward clean power.

BY RACHEL CLEETUS AND JIMMY ADEGOKE

Sunday, December 13, 2009

University of Missouri President Gary Forsee made headlines when he urged the state’s congressional delegation to either oppose a climate and energy bill or exempt his university from compliance. It turns out the legislation would not apply to MU’s smaller, non-commercial coal plant; even if it did, Forsee’s estimates overstated the cost.

News coverage of the story, however, ignored the central issues: why we need this bill and why it is good for Missouri.

For years, we have been emitting too much carbon into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels to power our cars, homes and businesses. Carbon traps heat and causes global warming. All major scientific institutions and professional societies worldwide have concluded human activity is driving global warming. Research by UM System professors supports this conclusion.

Midwest temperatures already have increased over the past 50 years, and a recent report by 13 federal agencies concluded Missouri likely would experience 60 to 90 days every summer with temperatures above 100 degrees by the end of the century if we take no action to address global warming. Missouri could also expect longer-lasting heat waves and more powerful storms and flooding.

Fortunately, there’s still time to avoid the worst of climate change by quickly transitioning away from fossil fuels to cleaner power. Missouri is especially making headway with wind energy. There are now three projects on line and a fourth in development. Columbia has a city ordinance requiring more renewable energy in its electricity mix, and it is expected to reach its 5 percent target for 2012 this year, partly through wind power. Meanwhile, Rock Port, in northwest Missouri, is credited as the first U.S. town to generate enough wind to meet its energy needs. Congress has designed pending climate and energy bills to exploit these kinds of opportunities to promote a new clean energy economy.

Last year, two-thirds of Missouri voters approved a state standard requiring utilities to obtain at least 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources, such as wind and bioenergy, by 2021. The requirement will help spur many more renewable energy projects. Last month, 67 percent of Missourians polled favored a climate bill that would require factories and power companies to reduce their emissions and increase their power from renewable sources.
To ensure we cut enough carbon emissions to avoid the worst of global warming, we need a national climate bill that caps emissions and offers incentives for businesses to invest in and develop new clean technologies. Two federal agencies — the Environmental Protection Agency and the Energy Department’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) — analyzed the cost of the House-passed climate bill and found the average annual cost per household would range from $80 to $111 between 2012 and 2030, a mere 22 to 30 cents per day. Meanwhile, the longer we delay reducing our carbon overload, the more expensive and difficult the problem will be to solve.

Since the bill would not regulate the University of Missouri’s power plant, its costs to the school are a moot point. Even if the bill covered the plant, Forsee assumed an improbably high price for pollution permits. In fact, the initial annual cost to comply would be about half of what Forsee calculated, according to price projections by the EPA and EIA.

Also, Forsee’s assertion that university energy prices would increase by 50 percent is way off mark. The EPA estimated electricity rates would rise only 0.2 percent. The agency also projected consumer monthly electricity bills could fall by 7 percent given the legislation’s provisions for energy-efficiency investments.

We are at a crossroads. Global warming is a serious threat to Missouri and the rest of the planet, and we’re very close to enacting smart policies that would deploy the solutions. Our civic leaders — from university presidents to federal lawmakers — need to show real leadership instead of backpedaling. Forsee should retract his opposition, and Missouri’s congressional delegation should act quickly to enact climate legislation.

Rachel Cleetus is a climate economist with the Union of Concerned Scientists in Cambridge, Mass. Jimmy Adegoke is a climate scientist and Department of Geosciences chairman at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.
U.S. News college list countered

UM to develop its own data.

By Janese Heavin

Friday, December 11, 2009

ST. LOUIS — Instead of taking to heart a college ranking report some deem no more than an academic “beauty pageant,” University of Missouri administrators want curators, employees and constituents to consider what the system is producing.

UM President Gary Forsee yesterday told the Board of Curators his own model of accountability measures better reflect the mission of the university than annual U.S. News & World Report college rankings. He unveiled the UM Accountability Measures System — or AMS for short — during the board’s work session on the St. Louis campus yesterday.

The system’s four campuses have all slipped in the national publications rankings over the past seven years. Most notable has been MU’s plummet from 73rd in 2004 to 102nd in the 2010 edition. For months, Curator David Wasinger has questioned that decline.

Steve Graham, UM vice president of academic affairs, criticized the U.S. News & World Report ranking system for putting too much emphasis on peer assessments. Essentially, university administrators around the country are asked to rate from one to five other universities without supporting data. In that category, MU has dropped from a score of 3.4 to a 3.2 over the seven-year period.

Some compare that peer assessment, Graham said, “to a beauty pageant or popularity contest.”

MU’s ranking for student selectivity plunged from 69th in 2004 to 135th place in the most recent issue of U.S. News & World Report. The percentage of freshmen in the top 10 percent of their high school classes fell from 29 percent to 25 percent during that period, but the mean ACT score remained at 25.5.

“The distribution of scores is extra tight, so any little change up or down causes institutions to drop quite a bit,” Graham said.

MU has not changed its admissions requirements, he said. Enrollment has grown because more students meet those requirements and are choosing MU.
Instead of focusing on selectivity, the AMS system would critique campuses for providing access to all qualified students, Forsee said. Additionally, the internal report focuses on efficiency and effective use of resources — not just the total amount of resources the news report judges.

Forsee yesterday laid out three-year baseline data for the new AMS system, which shows each campus’ changes in a total of 80 criteria, such as graduation rates and retention. For the most part, MU’s numbers have improved over the past three fiscal years.

In the coming year, administrators will use a green, yellow and red dot system to show areas where campuses are meeting goals, progressing toward goals or failing to meet targets. Targets, which are somewhat based on peer university averages, are expected to be met by 2012.

Leona Rubin, chairwoman of MU’s Faculty Council, said she likes the internal system as long as faculty members stay involved in setting targets.

“It will let us see if we’re improving or not, and that’s important,” she said. “I’m a data-driven person, so I kinda like it.”

Wasinger said AMS shows curators and administrators do care about being accountable, even when national ratings aren’t positive. “There’s this perception that we do not want to be held accountable and that we pooh-pooh U.S. News & World Report,” he said. “This flies in the face of that.”

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Johnson, Hanneman suspended

Tigers assaulted male cheerleader.

By David Briggs

Published December 12, 2009 at 2:37 p.m.
Updated December 13, 2009 at 6 a.m.

The Missouri women’s basketball team is moving forward without its two leading scorers.

Seniors Amanda Hanneman and Jessra Johnson have been suspended indefinitely, Coach Cindy Stein said yesterday, after police said the pair assaulted a 21-year-old male cheerleader for the MU football and men’s basketball teams early Friday morning.

Hanneman and Johnson were arrested on suspicion of third-degree assault. Both were released on $500 bond.

The incident happened in the hours after Missouri beat Texas Pan-American 83-34 on Thursday night at Mizzou Arena. Columbia police Sgt. Timothy Moriarity said Hanneman and Johnson were among a group that left a Columbia bar for an apartment at 36 N. Cedar Drive.

Moriarity said the altercation began around 2 a.m. when one of the apartment’s tenants complained the gathering was too loud. The complainant, a senior at Missouri, was left with a broken nose and an eye injury.

Moriarity called it a “dynamic disturbance,” with at least eight people “trying to break it up, different people trying to get involved.” He said Hanneman and Johnson left the apartment after the dispute but the victim and witnesses gave the police a description of the two players. Their vehicle was pulled over nearby.

Hanneman and Johnson were the only ones arrested.

“Obviously, I’m extremely disappointed, and I’m sure our team’s disappointed,” Stein said. “I know these two young ladies are extremely disappointed. There’s a huge letdown. We have to rally around teammates who have gotten themselves into a bad situation.”

Asked if the two would return this season, Stein said, “I don’t know. Honestly, there are a lot of stories out there. We have to wade through them all.”
Stein said the arrests “came down to two girls making bad decisions.” Neither was in violation of team policy. Stein asks that players do not go out to bars in the 48 hours leading up to games.

The suspensions will be costly for the Tigers (6-2), who play host to Murray State (4-4) at 1 p.m. today at Mizzou Arena.

Johnson, a three-year starter from Fayette, averages 14.1 points per game and recently eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for her career. She leads the team with 7.3 rebounds per game.

Hanneman had been one of the Big 12’s feel-good stories.

Beset by injuries over her first three seasons — Hanneman averaged 1.7 points last year — the Blue Springs native scored a career-high 26 points in Missouri’s season-opening 74-57 victory over Northern Iowa and is averaging 13.4 points. The Tigers’ top long-distance threat has hit 25 of 57 3-pointers.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri women's basketball players arrested

By ADAM STILLMAN AND JEFFREY STOFFEY
December 12, 2009 | 8:18 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — **Two Missouri women’s basketball players were arrested Friday morning for allegedly assaulting a male cheerleader.** The pair was "indefinitely suspended" from the team later Friday.

The Tigers' leading scorers, Amanda Hanneman and Jessra Johnson, were arrested by Columbia police on suspicion of third-degree assault early Friday morning. Both were released on $500 bond.

The incident occurred just hours after Missouri's 83-34 victory over Texas-Pan American on Thursday night at Mizzou Arena. Around 2 a.m. Friday, police were called to an apartment at 36 N. Cedar Lake Drive in response to a noise complaint by a 21-year-old male, according to Columbia police Sgt. Will Green. According to media reports and social networking posts, the victim is a male cheerleader for Missouri.

The victim reported being shoved and punched by Hanneman and Johnson. After the altercation, the two fled the scene and were arrested nearly 30 minutes later at 1201 Grindstone Parkway.

Kate Lakin, assistant director of media relations for the Missouri women's basketball team, said Friday night Hanneman and Johnson have been "suspended indefinitely due to a violation of team policy."

According to a message posted on Hanneman's twitter account, the two will continue to practice with the team.

This season, Johnson has scored 14.1 points a game and Hanneman averages 13.3.
Hanneman, a senior from Blue Springs, is seventh in the nation with 3.7 three-point field goals per game. Injury plagued for most of her career at Missouri, Hanneman only averaged 4 points per game in her first three seasons. She has blossomed as a star for the Tigers this season, helping Missouri to a 6-2 record, its best since 2006-2007.

Johnson, a senior from Fayette, became the 27th player at Missouri to reach 1,000 points when she accomplished the feat Tuesday night against Bradley. In addition to leading the team in scoring, Johnson posts a team-best 7.3 rebounds per game.

The Tigers play Murray State at 1 p.m. Sunday at Mizzou Arena.

Spirit squads coach Suzy Thompson refused to comment. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to reach Missouri women's basketball coach Cindy Stein.
Missouri's college campuses look good from the outside, but within are cramped classrooms, deteriorating walls and outdated lab equipment, according to a state report out this week.

The state higher education department last summer reviewed facilities at each of Missouri's public two- and four-year colleges and universities. The report details severe shortcomings in the space, quality and condition of its buildings.

Reviewers found aging plumbing and electrical systems, elevators that no longer meet code and inefficient heating and cooling systems. They even found safety problems such as overloaded electrical systems and compromised brick facades.

The report did not place a dollar value on the total amount of deferred maintenance. But the report concluded that every public higher education institution in the state, especially community colleges, has delayed building maintenance projects because of a lack of money.

"Missouri campuses have tremendous curb appeal," said Zora Mulligan, the state's assistant commissioner of higher education, adding that campuses are well-kept, clean and attractive.

"But our facilities review looked behind the scenes," said Mulligan, who led the review. "We checked out boiler rooms, roofs and storage areas, as well as public spaces like classrooms and auditoriums. We found schools coping with outdated laboratories, buildings that have exceeded their useful life span and a host of maintenance issues that have led to major problems."

Missouri is not the only state that can't fix its deteriorating school buildings.

At the beginning of the year, the Kansas Board of Regents presented a report on its problem of crumbling classrooms. Despite a $225 million plan adopted in 2007 to address the problem, it has grown worse.

In June, regents directed two-thirds, or $26.6 million, of the $40 million in stimulus money its schools are getting to fix up its buildings.

Much of the space problems in Missouri's facilities have been created as campuses report record enrollments filling classrooms to capacity. At some schools space is so scarce that old dorm rooms have become classrooms. Instructors end up with offices that once were closets.

Specifically cited in the report is University of Missouri's Lafferre Hall, where paint is peeling, ceilings are water-stained and floors buckle.

At University of Missouri-Kansas City, the problems were not so dangerous.

The medical school building needs updated and larger classrooms and would probably be cheaper to replace than renovate. The building "has a library that's been cited by accrediting agencies as inadequate to support health sciences research and education programs," the report said.
Spencer chemistry building and the performing arts center on the UMKC Volker campus lack adequate space and modern equipment.

UMKC administrators said they had plans to fix these problems but the university did not have enough state money. Finding private dollars is challenging.

In an effort to manage campuses with reduced state funding, University of Missouri System curators reduced the amount in each campus's budget for maintenance and repairs from 1.5 percent of the total replacement value of their physical plant to 1 percent of the replacement value.

Vice Chancellor Rick Anderson said construction that had gone on at UMKC recently was being paid for with self-imposed student fee increases and private dollars. "The last state funded construction was the $46 million nursing and pharmacy building on Hospital Hill" a few years ago, Anderson said.

He said that as long as the state remained short on money and enrollment continued to climb, deferred maintenance problems on the UMKC campus won't be improved.

To reach Mará Rose Williams, call 816-234-4419 or send e-mail to mdwilliams@kcstar.com.
Two recent deaths cast shadow on UM curators meeting

By Kavita Kumar

Two recent deaths are casting a dreary shadow over today’s University of Missouri’s Board of Curators meeting at UMSL.

Missouri S&T Chancellor Jack Carney is not at the meeting today, because his wife, Pat, passed away on Wednesday after a long illness. Services will be in their home state of Massachusetts on Monday. There are also some plans in the works for a tribute in Rolla for the campus’ first lady.

And the wife of President Gary Forsee’s chief of staff also passed away suddenly in recent days. Lynn Russell, 65, worked in public relations for Missouri S&T for many years and later in development for Stephens College. Her husband, David, has been a university mainstay.

The curators moved up their meeting this morning to 7:45 a.m. (from 9 a.m.) so university officials can attend Russell’s funeral in Jefferson City later today. The university will probably also scrap the regular press conference at the end of the meeting so officials can get there on time.

The Grade is the St. Louis region’s premier blog on education and child welfare. To read other recent posts, go to www.stltoday.com/thegrade.

Tags: Higher education, Kavita Kumar, Lynn Russell, Patricia Carney, UM Board of Curators, University of Missouri
MU Health Care wins national award

By Matthew Kane
December 11, 2009 | 2:40 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU Health Care has won a national award recognizing their efforts in developing a program providing counseling to health care professionals affected by stresses and tragedies when caring for patients.

MU Health Care's forYOU team was chosen from 30 nominees across the United States for their initiative in "supporting healing and restoring hope to patients, families and clinicians impacted by adverse medical events."

The forYOU team, which has offered counseling since 2007, provides 24-hour on-call peer support for "second victims," those health care providers who are affected by tragic situations surrounding the care for patients.

"Examples could be a physician or nurse struggling with the death of a co-worker in a car accident or a badly injured child abuse victim that was brought to the hospital and dies," MU Health Care spokesman Matt Splett said.

The HOPE award, which started in 2008, was presented by the nonprofit Medically Induced Trauma Support Services organization based in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Their goal is to provide education on medical trauma and advocate for the creation of groups similar to the forYOU team. Along with national recognition, MU Health Care also received a $5,000 grant to help fund the program.

"Hospitals and clinics across the country are turning to MU Health Care for guidance as they establish similar programs," Les Hall, chief medical officer at MU Health Care, said in a news release.

In September, the forYou team was recognized with the Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Missouri Best Practice Award. The program has 51 trained volunteer staff members who counsel co-workers on a one-on-one basis.
Before joining in the national political sport of name calling, backbiting, and sloganeering, the first question that one should clinically address is: "Are human activities responsible for the observed increases in world temperatures over the past century?"

(There is no real question that the earth is warming. Some really competent members of the human race, now with the help of earth-orbiting satellites, have gotten very good at measuring temperature.)

I am not qualified to answer that pivotal question. I am not even in the game. To really be "in the game," one must actually examine historical data, read volumes of pertinent technical literature, develop and test one's own mathematically-based hypotheses and, finally, publish the results in peer-reviewed scientific literature where it can be challenged and, possibly, refuted. (From a strictly scientific standpoint, those who cannot or will not sacrifice the time required to formulate the problem in this fashion might be considered dilettantes, somewhat like the loud and shirtless fans criticizing the action at a football game.)

Instead, in our democratic society, even with questions of this magnitude and complexity, we are inclined to put them to a public referendum. Pundits abound. Scientific illiteracy is no barrier. Even the third graders at elementary school may voice their opinions for the media.

For a politician, a decisively held opinion on the matter of global warming is essential. Often, for self-described conservatives and others dreading the economic impacts of
mitigation, the answer to an anthropomorphic warming component is a genetically- ingrained and resounding "No!"

Still, some concerned scientists and engineers have joined together to give the matter serious thought. After consideration, the American Chemical Society (at 129,000 members, the world’s largest scientific society) published its study group’s consensus in an ACS policy statement titled, “Global Climate Change.”

In calling for the development and application of technology to “cost-effectively (most ACS members are keenly aware of the costs of energy and materials production) protect the climate,” the ACS policy statement argues that “deploying these technologies would reduce energy costs, increase productivity, improve the U.S.’s energy independence, improve air and water quality, and reduce environmental hazards, in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

(Considering the multiple ancillary benefits, one might imagine that government sponsorship of the application of these technologies would be welcomed even were greenhouse gases not reduced.)

Addressing the probable impact of human activities, the ACS policy statement concludes: “The overwhelming balance of evidence indicates that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is the prudent and responsible course of action at this time.” Moreover, “ACS believes that public and private efforts today are essential to protect the global climate system for the well-being of future generations.”

However, pursuing a prudent and responsible course of action in America is difficult because, when facing a national policy involving a change in lifestyle (particularly conservation), many U.S. citizens do not respond as "Americans." Some superelevate the economic interests of their state; some consider solely those of their city; others, still more narrowly, of an individual business or university; while the meanest among us defend their interests alone.

To the besieged administrator who adopts his primary accounting stance as "defender of the university budget" (rather than the future economic welfare of the nation), it might seem reasonable to not only oppose any measures which threaten to increase the financial burdens on the university, but, further, to argue that the problem is debatable — and may not even exist.
It has always struck me as especially odd that many of those who most enjoy the prosperity brought by modern technology (and who also have faith that future technological developments will overcome current material and sociological problems, such as those created by uninhibited population growth), will turn to vilify that community of technologists when confronted with a message they prefer not to hear.

That seems a lot easier to do when you are not in the game.

*John O'Connor is the retired chairman of the MU Department of Civil Engineering.*
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU freshman arrested in connection with marijuana sales

By Matt Willman
December 12, 2009 | 1:55 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — An MU freshman was arrested Friday night in Wolpers Hall on suspicion of marijuana sales.

MU Police responded to a report of an odor of marijuana and received permission from Tyler S. Degenhardt, 18, to search his room, MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said.

Weimer said officers found individually packaged marijuana and three cans of beer in Degenhardt's room.

Degenhardt was charged with possession of a controlled substance, use or possession of drug paraphernalia, reproduced or altered identification, drug sale at a school and a liquor law violation. His total bail was set at $5,800 for the first four charges. Bail had not been set Saturday morning for the liquor law violation.
The Parkway School District announced a new scholarship for student-athletes who wish to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia. The Aaron O'Neal Memorial Student Athlete Scholarship will honor the memory of the Parkway North and Mizzou player who died during a preseason football practice in July 2005. Mike Gohn, Parkway's director of athletics and activities, and Bob Bunton, Parkway North football coach, will help choose a Parkway student-athlete for the scholarship. Lonnie O'Neal, Aaron's father, will have the final determination on the scholarship. The recipient must be a Parkway student with at least a 3.0 grade point average and outstanding character and leadership skills. The scholarship is funded by Mizzou as part of a wrongful death settlement.