University of Missouri not pressing charges against fans who rushed field

Thirty fans arrested for rushing onto field after win over Oklahoma.

Versions of this story appeared in many news outlets across the country.

Columbia -- The University of Missouri says it won't seek trespassing charges against 30 fans who were arrested for rushing onto the football field after Saturday's big win over Oklahoma.

The 30 people were among thousands who stormed Faurot Field as the Tigers finished a 36-27 upset of the Sooners. Columbia campus chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement Thursday that the game presented officials with "unique circumstances."

Deaton didn't elaborate on those circumstances, but added, "After careful review, the university will not forward the summons for trespassing on the field at the MU-OU football game to the city prosecutor."

Many critics, including a student group and a state lawmaker, had called on the university to drop the matter. They said it was unfair that 30 people were singled out from the huge crush of fans who tore down the goal posts and carried them out of the stadium.

They also noted that the university had offered pictures of the celebration for sale and posted photos online.

"I don't think it's fair," Christopher Deem, a 20-year-old sophomore business student who was among the arrested, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "If they're going to let 30,000 people rush the field, they shouldn't arrest 30. If they're going to try and be all politically correct by arresting people and say it's for safety, I don't think they should be selling photos of it."
The university this week began advertising photos of the mad rush onto Faurot Field for up to $290, even sending e-mails to students that advertised the on-field fan shots, among other photos. By Wednesday, the photos were removed from the university's website.

First-degree trespassing is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a $500 fine.

Republican state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, whose district includes Columbia, had suggested that what he called the "selective prosecution" should end with the trespassing charges being dropped if those arrested agreed to community service.

- Huskers' Martin suspended: The Big 12 suspended Nebraska linebacker Eric Martin for Saturday's game against Missouri for a hit he put on Oklahoma State's Andrew Hudson.

Martin blindsided Hudson with a block during Niles Paul's 100-yard kick return in the first quarter of last week's 51-41 Nebraska win. No penalty was called on Martin at the time.

Commissioner Dan Beebe said Wednesday if a subsequent review of the game reveals a flagrant personal foul officials did not call, the conference can impose sanctions.

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini declined to comment on the suspension.

- Friendly wager: The office of Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman said Thursday that the office of Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon asked whether Heineman wanted to make a friendly wager on the outcome.

Sure, Heineman said.

Heineman's stakes: some choice cuts from retailer Omaha Steaks, Nixon offered up Missouri black and gold candy representing the Tigers' colors, a walnut candy bowl and some fishing lures.

Nixon says he's looking forward to comparing Nebraska beef to Missouri-born Kansas City strip steaks.
Mizzou won't pursue charges against Faurot Field 30

BY JOEL CURRIER

Posted: Thursday, October 28, 2010 5:30 pm

COLUMBIA, MO. - Officials said today the University of Missouri won't pursue trespassing charges against 30 Tigers fans who rushed the field last weekend after MU's win over the top-ranked Oklahoma Sooners.

In a prepared statement released Thursday afternoon, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said the university will not forward the trespassing summonses to the Columbia prosecutor.

"We all benefit from an orderly atmosphere that supports our outstanding team, allows us the opportunity to be gracious hosts to our opponents, showcases our university to the nation, and most important, provides a safe environment for everyone," Deaton said in the statement.

Police arrested 30 fans after Saturday's game against Oklahoma as thousands rushed the field to celebrate. MU Police Chief Jack Watring said officers followed department policies designating two officers per person arrested.

After the game, MU met harsh criticism from students, parents and one lawmaker that the university was sending mixed signals about its stance on fans rushing the field after it began advertising and selling photographs of the on-field celebration. The photos were abruptly taken down this week.

Tim Noce, 22, a senior from south St. Louis County and the president of the Missouri Students Association, said MU's decision to drop charges was the right move.

"It really goes to show that the No. 1 priority here is students," Noce said. "I'm glad there was time, thought and effort put into this. I think this goes to show students are cared about."

Watring said it was unclear how police would handle crowds rushing the field at future football games. He said he was not aware of any policy changes regarding fans entering the field.

"We have those same questions," Watring said. "I'm sure we'll get direction at some point in time."
Mizzou dumps charges against ‘Faurot Field 30’

By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

The “Faurot Field 30” are free.

University of Missouri Chancellor Brady Deaton announced Thursday that the school wouldn’t pursue charges against 30 fans arrested for rushing the playing field in Columbia after Saturday’s football game against Oklahoma.

The students — who were handcuffed, escorted off the field and cited by MU police — were among thousands of fans who poured onto the field in celebration after MU beat top-ranked Oklahoma.

“After careful review, the university will not forward the summons for trespassing on the field at the MU-OU football game to the city prosecutor,” Deaton wrote in a statement.

The parent of one student was excited to hear the news.

“I think it was the wise and judicious decision,” said Jamiel M. Yameen, a Liberty businessman whose son, Tarik Yameen, was one of those arrested.

The arrests ticked off some students, parents and alumni who called it selective prosecution.

“It wasn’t justice,” said Audrianna Amato, a junior journalism major. “It wasn’t fair that 30 out of thousands were getting punished.”

Amato, one of those facing trespassing charges, heard about Deaton’s reprieve via text message while attending a conference in Washington, D.C.

“I am relieved,” she said.

Amato said she had walked onto the field holding her boyfriend’s hand to keep from being trampled by fans who were rushing the field from seats above hers.

One individual caught in the throng suffered a leg fracture.
The university maintained that fans had been amply warned that entering the field was a safety hazard and that they would face prosecution.

"Our fans must conduct themselves with honor and respect for the values of the university, even during the euphoria of a big win," Deaton said in Thursday's statement.

"We have high expectations for many more wins and must insist on orderly behavior in an effort to avoid any injuries. At the same time, university officials recognize that safety and law enforcement officials cannot be expected to enforce the letter of the law in circumstances that involved thousands of people."

Todd McCubbin, executive director of the University of Missouri Alumni Association, said he had received several calls from alumni who wanted amnesty for the arrested students, although it wasn’t an “overall outcry.”

He said Thursday that alumni thought the university “was put in a tough position” but that Deaton had evaluated the situation and considered the university’s concern for safety along with what was fair before making a decision.

“I trust his judgment,” McCubbin said.

Students contacted Thursday afternoon said they had not heard from the university or MU police about their status and were not certain they still wouldn’t have to face a campus judicial system.

“I assume this means the whole thing will be dropped,” said Tarik Yameen, a senior engineering major with plans to become a Navy officer candidate and then go to naval propulsion school.

Yameen said he was worried about the effect the citation might have had on his otherwise spotless record.

“I’m just glad to have this off my back,” he said. “It’s been very stressful.”

Yameen’s father said he hoped “students don’t consider this action by the university a free pass to go onto the field at future games. I think staying off the field is prudent.”

His son agreed, adding he had learned a lesson.

“I don’t think I’ll ever go on that field again for any reason,” Yameen said. “I think I’d rather be trampled.”
Faurot Field 30 freed

By Rosellen Downey  October 28, 2010 | 7:36 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA -- MU's decision not to press charges against those arrested for trespassing on Faurot Field Saturday night elicited some positive reactions Thursday.

Missouri Students Association President Tim Noce was notified of the news while he was walking through Jesse Hall. He said he is happy with the outcome.

"I think it goes to show that students are put first here at the university," Noce said. "Nobody would really want to gain at the expense of students, especially."

Charles Davis, associate professor of journalism at MU, was very happy to receive the news through his Facebook group, Free the Faurot Field 30. The group was created Tuesday and by Thursday had grown to include 606 members, many of whom joined even after Chancellor Brady Deaton's press release on the incident was sent out, Davis said.

"Cooler heads prevailed," Davis said of the news.

Although Davis doesn't believe this group had anything to do with the university's decision, he said is going to allow it to continue online.

"I'm just going to leave it up and let people comment for a bit," Davis said. "It was a great little experiment in social networking."

The news itself came through Deaton's press release.

"After careful review, the university will not forward the summons for trespassing on the field at the MU-OU football game to the city prosecutor," Deaton said in the statement.

Deaton’s release also urged football fans to comply with requests for safety at future games.

"Our fans must conduct themselves with honor and respect for the values of the university, even during the euphoria of a big win," Deaton said in the release. "We have high expectations for many more wins and must insist on orderly behavior in an effort to avoid any injuries."
MU won’t press charges against Faurot Field rushers

By Rudi Keller

Published October 28, 2010 at 4:33 p.m.
Updated October 28, 2010 at 5:02 p.m.

The University of Missouri will not prosecute the 30 people arrested for trespassing on Faurot Field after the Homecoming victory over Oklahoma.

In a news release issued by the MU News Bureau on Thursday afternoon, MU Chancellor Brady Deaton said that the university still considers safety of athletes, opposing players, coaches and fans to be a top priority.

“The football game against Oklahoma presented officials with unique circumstances,” Deaton’s statement said. “After careful review, the university will not forward the summons for trespassing on the field at the MU-OU football game to the city prosecutor.”

The university said that law enforcement agencies that took part in the arrests “performed admirably. Fans violating our rules were warned that they faced arrest and subsequent sanctions. While we were fortunate that few injuries were reported, one individual did suffer a broken leg.”

“Our fans must conduct themselves with honor and respect for the values of the university, even during the euphoria of a big win,” the news release said. “We have high expectations for many more wins and must insist on orderly behavior in an effort to avoid any injuries. At the same time, university officials recognize that safety and law enforcement officials cannot be expected to enforce the letter of the law in circumstances that involved thousands of people.”

“It is nice to know the university has a soul,” said Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who called on Tuesday for the university to back off from the prosecutions.
I'm a law and order guy. But what happened Saturday night at Faurot Field was ridiculous and unnecessary. Why did campus police arrest 30 students for "trespassing" onto the field after MU's win over Oklahoma?

This wasn't trespassing, it was a celebration. It was a demonstration of pure joy, school pride, and the natural, spontaneous exuberance that we've associated with college kids since, well, forever. It was a moving, inspiring scene. I was watching the game from Tampa with friends, and when we saw all of those Missouri students on the field -- doing nothing except being happy and proud -- the guys at our table all agreed: Mizzou looks like the best place on the planet. What a terrific tableau. It put MU in a positive light: with all of the kids congregating on the field, wearing the bright yellow, the place seemed to be actually glowing. What a proud moment.

This was no win over, say, Iowa State. Missouri football team upset No. 1 Oklahoma. A Sooners team that had tormented Missouri and MU fans for decades. The victory over an established bully was the culmination of many days of intensifying anticipation and excitement. It was the end of a day-long adventure that began with ESPN's early-morning Saturday broadcast of College GameDay, the amazingly popular show, from a set on the MU campus. The ESPN vehicle gave the university the kind of outstanding marketing that you really can't buy. And the students made that happen, too. The students flocked to The Columns by the thousands and gave ESPN a sensational, colorful picture to show to the nation. The students were the actors and extras in what turned out to be a free, appealing and effective infomercial for the University and the Mizzouadministration.

Kickoff wasn't until 7 p.m. All fans of all ages had all day to get amped up for this. And when the Tigers played so brilliantly to knock off OU, of course the students were going to flow to the field, and express their school pride. Of course they were going to gather under those stadium lights and have a feel-good pep rally that people will remember forever. Unless I missed reports of terrible conduct, the students were well behaved. They hauled off the goalposts, but the university had lowered those goalposts in anticipation of the moment. It's another tradition. Again, unless I missed some other things, there was a report of a broken leg, and maybe a couple of other injuries, but this wasn't an out-of-control, trouble-making scene. Big game. Big win. And students rushed the field. Jubilation. It's pretty normal. It happens on campuses across America.

So why arrest these kids? And why single out these 30? Why turn something so beautiful -- school spirit -- into something unlawful? The students don't deserve to have a negative mark on
their records. They're going to be competing for jobs soon. They're going to be going out into the world to represent Mizzou. And why stain them for something so trivial? Doesn't the University administration realize that those kids being on the field made MU look good? And that a positive image of MU was being beamed around the nation? And for that, you're going to cast these 30 people as law breakers?

If for nothing else, Missouri is guilty of blatant hypocrisy. And not having standards in place. In advance of the game MU officials, including director of athletics Mike Alden, seemed aware that this could happen. And Alden, for one, seemed fine with it. "It's a historic moment," he told the Kansas City Star. "You sense the emotion. You know what's going to be happening. Your staff is ready. But you just let them come on."

Well, yes. Exactly. So why arrest a select few for trespassing? And why -- if trespassing on the field was so illegal, so out of bounds -- why was the University promoting (and for a time, selling) photos of the on-field celebration on its online store for $125? Why was a photo of the on-field celebration featured prominently on the University's official web site? (The photos have been removed; apparently someone at Missouri realized how bad it must have looked, to be trying to make a profit on people you've had arrested.)

Saturday was a wonderful night, a glorious night, in Columbia. Why would the Mizzou administration mess with that? Why would you want to take image-building perfection -- the smiling, happy faces of your student body -- and tear it down and put it in handcuffs? This is stupid. Drop the charges. If the campus police can't or won't do it, the prosecutor's office should make this go away.

Free the Faurot Field 30.
Candidates pan action

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Legislative candidates taking part in a campus forum last night said Sen. Kurt Schaefer's call for the University of Missouri to drop trespassing charges against people who rushed Faurot Field is inappropriate.

Of the five candidates who took part in the forum, three said Schaefer should have stayed out of the matter. Another, Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, said it was “close to the bottom” of his priority list, and one, Rep. Chris Kelly, D-Columbia, declined to comment except to say that as a former judge it was inappropriate for him to even discuss it.

Rep. Mary Still, D-Columbia, and candidates Kelly Schultz, a Democrat, and Laura Nauser, a Republican, said whether or not the university pursues the charges isn’t a legislative issue.

Schaefer has said the 30 people arrested and cited for trespassing after the Homecoming victory over Oklahoma shouldn’t be prosecuted because the enthusiasm was general and thousands rushed the field and were not arrested.

Still, who is unopposed for re-election, represents the 25th House District, which includes the university and Memorial Stadium. She said the university has “capable law enforcement, capable administration and capable student leaders” who understand the safety issues involved.

Schaefer could not be reached for comment this morning on the candidates’ comments.
The man sought in connection with Missouri murders is arrested

By JASON NOBLE

HOLTS SUMMIT, Mo. | The man sought in connection with three murders was arrested without incident Thursday, ending a two-day manhunt and allaying concerns that others might be targeted.

Mid-Missouri authorities captured Joshua William Maylee, 23, in rural Cooper County after he approached a home seeking medical attention for “superficial” injuries to his arms and feet.

Maylee had not been charged in connection with the killings as of Thursday evening.

Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad Sgt. Robert Bruchsalter declined to suggest a motive for the killings, but he said each victim was linked to Maylee by “negative dealings in the past.”

“I’m not going to comment on motive because he hasn’t been interviewed yet,” he said.

Maylee was identified Wednesday as a person of interest in the shooting deaths earlier in the day of Eugene and Jackie Piner and Jeffrey Werdehausen, all of Holts Summit. Werdehausen’s wife, Gina, also was shot. She is expected to survive.

The attacker used a high-powered rifle and a handgun, and authorities said they believed that person acted alone.

Maylee was returned Thursday evening to Callaway County, which includes Holts Summit. Holts Summit is a community of about 3,000 north of Jefferson City and southeast of Columbia.

As the manhunt unfolded Wednesday, authorities suggested that Maylee might seek out other individuals with whom he’d had previous contact and warned acquaintances to leave their homes and go to a safe place.

The situation caused confusion even on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, where Gina Werdehausen had been taken for medical treatment.

The university hospital was locked down Wednesday and into Thursday over concerns that the gunman might seek her out there.
On Thursday night, authorities said there was no longer any need for concern. Bruchsaler also dismissed notions that Maylee had a list of people he intended to harm.

"There was no list," Bruchsaler said. "There was a rumor going around there was a hit list — we have no knowledge of any set list."

The Associated Press reported Thursday about records indicating that one of the victims had received a stolen lawn mower from Maylee.

Maylee faces two felony theft charges, one of which was filed the day the shootings occurred. A police probable cause statement in that case said Maylee stole a lawn mower, valued at around $10,000, from a home in Kingdom City on Oct. 15, 2009.

The document said Maylee told police July 20 that he put the mower in an enclosed trailer and took it to Eugene Pinet's home. The mower was recovered under a search warrant two days later, the document says.

It is not clear from court documents whether Pinet knew the mower was stolen.

On Oct. 4, Maylee was charged with stealing a tractor from Holts Summit resident William Essen on March 24, 2009.

The probable cause document in that case included a section on whether there were any facts indicating the defendant would not appear on a summons or pose a danger to the victim, the community or any other person.

A Missouri Highway Patrol sergeant wrote that there were none.

Residents of Holts Summit were taken aback by the violence.

John Sigler, owner of Summit Collectibles in the community's central shopping center, described Holts Summit as a "sleepy town" of working-class people, many of whom commute to Jefferson City, about seven miles away.

"Nothing like this has ever happened around here," he said. "I guess they'll be talking about this for some time."

Sigler said he knew Jeffrey Werdehausen as a businessman who was always working hard at one enterprise or another.

Werdehausen owned a hardware store and video-rental shop at the shopping center across the parking lot from Sigler's store, and his family operated a number of businesses in the community, he said.
Murder suspect Joshua Maylee in custody

By Brennan David and Junese Silvey

Published October 27, 2010 at 1:26 p.m.
Updated October 29, 2010 at 7:13 a.m.

Murder suspect Joshua Maylee was taken into custody Thursday afternoon in Cooper County, and murder charges were filed Friday morning, online court records indicate.

Maylee, 23, was wanted in connection with the shooting deaths this week near Holts Summit in Callaway County of Jeffrey Werdehausen, 46; Eugene Pinet, 48; and Jackie Pinet, 57. A fourth victim was taken to University Hospital with gunshot wounds. Maylee was captured around 1:30 p.m. without injury, officials said.

Court documents indicated a link between Maylee and one of the victims, but officials did not disclose a specific motive.

Maylee’s capture was announced Thursday afternoon in Fulton. Officials said Maylee had stopped at a residence along Highway 179 seeking help for minor injuries to his hand and foot. The residents called authorities, and Maylee was taken into custody without incident for medical treatment and questioning by investigators with the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad.

Sgt. Robert Bruchsaler of the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad said he didn’t think Maylee knew the residents. He was not armed when he was captured.

After Maylee was taken into custody, University Hospital, the MU School of Medicine and the MU Sinclair School of Nursing returned to normal security conditions.

The buildings had been locked down since noon Wednesday because officials feared that Maylee might seek access to the hospital. The suspect is believed to be targeting victims as a way to “settle scores,” officials said.

He was linked to at least one victim, Eugene Pinet, as part of a case in which Maylee was charged with the theft of a mower, which he allegedly then dropped at Pinet’s house near Holts Summit.

At a news conference yesterday, Sgt. Robert Bruchsaler of the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad was vague on details of the murders. However, he said the squad is telling anyone who has had negative interactions with the suspect to contact them. He said yesterday about 100 people had
reported concerns about interactions with Maylee, and those people were advised to find safe shelter.

He described a potential motive for the shootings as "possibly settling scores." The victims were all known to the suspect, he said.

One victim who was shot but survived, Gina Werdehausen, 41, was taken to University Hospital, which went on "lockdown" around noon yesterday. Patients, visitors and staff have continued to have access to the hospital but were being screened.

Gina Werdehausen was in stable condition Thursday afternoon, Bruchsalter said. She identified Maylee to authorities as the shooter, he said.

Bruchsalter confirmed University Hospital was locked down on the "remote possibility" the suspect would pursue the victim there. "There's no indication that he's even in that county or anywhere near the hospital," Bruchsalter said. "It's just standard procedure for the hospital to be doing what they're doing."

The University of Missouri's medical school also was locked down, and Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital was locked down for two hours yesterday but was no longer on lockdown today, spokesman Stephen Gaither said.

The shootings took place Tuesday night and yesterday morning near Holts Summit. The victims were shot with a high-powered rifle and a handgun, Bruchsalter said.

Court records show Maylee is also a suspect in two recent theft cases in Callaway County. Probable cause statements detail allegations that he stole lawn equipment and took one of the stolen machines to Pienet's house.

Documents indicate on Oct. 15, 2009, Maylee allegedly stole a mower from a Kingdom City address and put it in a trailer. He then took the mower to Pienet's house, the statement said. Maylee identified the mower to law enforcement during a drive past Pienet's house in July, the officer wrote, and the $10,000 mower was later retrieved via a search warrant. Maylee was charged with class C felony stealing.

The court documents did not indicate whether Pienet had any knowledge of the mower's origin.

In another 2009 incident, Maylee also was charged for allegedly stealing a tractor in Holts Summit.

A woman who answered a phone number listed for Maylee identified herself as his mother, Paula Cook, The Associated Press reported. She said she had not heard from her son, whom she described as a "great kid."

"I pray to God it's not true," she told the AP of any involvement by her son, whom she said travels from job to job operating a backhoe and other large equipment.
But a former friend of Maylee's described him as an aggressive person who claimed to “kill for a living.”

The female friend — who said the two “kind of dated” — asked not to be named because she feared for her safety. She said she spent several months with Maylee about a year ago.

“He used to tell me he kills for a living,” she said. “I thought he was joking around. … He would go out of town and nobody knew why. I said when people need favors he was the one who did it.”

She said she wasn’t aware of Maylee having a job but that he always seemed to have money. The woman said Maylee always carried a gun and often wore a bulletproof vest. At one point, he told her he was working for the government and had a bounty on his head.

“He’s one of those people that had that side to him that just scared you,” she said.

Sara Werdehausen, whose husband is a cousin to Jeffrey and Gina Werdehausen, said her mother-in-law lived near Maylee, who sometimes helped her corral her cows when they escaped. She said family members have been “in shock.”

“My husband is not holding up very well,” she said. “None of us slept very well.”

Shanna Wyatt, 34, a niece of Jeffrey Werdehausen, told the AP the assailant came to her uncle’s home Tuesday night. She said when Gina Werdehausen heard the dogs barking and went outside to investigate, she was shot in the neck. Wyatt said the person then went inside and shot Jeffrey Werdehausen, the father of two children and two stepchildren.

“It’s completely unexpected,” said Wyatt, also of Holts Summit. “It’s a very small community. He has a lot of friends.”

This morning in Holts Summit, a hardware shop and other businesses the Werdehausen’s owned in a shopping plaza were closed. A sign on each door read “Closed: Family emergency.”

At Cameron’s Country Café, 174 W. Simon Blvd., Jim Buttington of Mokane was enjoying a late lunch Thursday when he learned of the news of Maylee’s capture. He said he was concerned Wednesday and Thursday about the possibility of encountering the suspect at his farm where he is tearing down a barn.

Rumors that Maylee could be in Mokane hiding from authorities were troubling, he said, and some locals were spreading tales that nine people at that time had been shot or killed.

His assistant, who does not normally carry a weapon, was equipped with a pistol at work Wednesday upon word of the incident and the spreading rumors.

“I had some concern while working at the barn,” Buttington said. “It’s a relief he was caught so quickly. I’m happy no one else had to get hurt.”
The Associated Press contributed to this report.
COOPER COUNTY — Police have captured the man suspected in connection with three shooting deaths in Callaway County.

Sgt. Robert Bruchseler of the Mid-Missouri Major Case Squad said Joshua William Maylee was taken into custody at 1:30 p.m. Thursday without incident in Cooper County.

Bruchseler said Maylee was seeking help near Highway 179 for his wounded and bandaged hand and foot from a Cooper County resident. He said that the resident called 911 for help, and that Maylee was arrested when authorities arrived and checked his identification. Bruchseler said Maylee was unarmed when he was arrested but that police haven't recovered his weapons.

Maylee was treated at a medical facility in Cooper County and taken to Callaway County Jail around 2:30 p.m. Though charges have not yet been filed, Bruchseler expects them to be filed in the future.

Bruchseler wouldn't comment on Maylee's motive but said that Maylee was connected with all four victims through “negative dealings” in the past.

The lockdown at University Hospital was lifted Thursday afternoon, according to an e-mail from the MU News Bureau.

Maylee is suspected of using a high-powered rifle and handgun to kill three people and wound another in two separate incidents Tuesday night and Wednesday morning in Callaway County.

Gina Werdehausen, 41, who survived the shootings, is in stable condition at University Hospital in Columbia. Her condition had previously been listed as critical.

Werdehausen’s husband, Jeffrey Werdehausen, 46, was killed along with Eugene Pinet, 48, and Jackie Pinet, 57. Check with ColumbiaMissourian.com for more information.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

QUESTION: How do you think the university handled the lockdown situation?

By Ayla Kremen  October 28, 2010  |  10:14 a.m. CDT

At 1:30 p.m. Wednesday is when the rumors began to fly. Some students heard that there was a gunman loose on campus, others that shots were fired in the Virginia Avenue Parking Structure. Others even heard more extreme rumors such as that several students were shot and brought to University Hospital.

Of course, none of these rumors turned out to be true. They likely stemmed from a false tweet from user Worallknows, which read: "#911 Corrections: University Hospital is on lockdown; gunman on the loose."

But after this tweet, the news spread like wildfire.

At 2:44 p.m., the MU News Bureau sent an e-mail to students that explained why the hospital was locked down and that police believed that the rest of campus buildings were safe. Also, according to the e-mail, the hospital was first locked down at noon.

According to a previous Missourian article, the lockdown was also announced through a Twitter message and notifications on the MU Alert page and MU homepage. The university did not, however, use the emergency text message alert system.

Because of this, some students feel that the university did not do a good job of notifying students about what was happening on campus.

How do you think the university handled the lockdown situation yesterday? Do you think they should have reacted differently?
MU Master of Public Health Program receives national accreditation

Thursday, October 28, 2010

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The University of Missouri Master of Public Health Program (MPH) announced today that it has received accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. The program was awarded the maximum five-year term, through December 2015. It is the second accredited MPH program in Missouri and the only accredited program at a public university.

"I am delighted, but not surprised that the MPH program was awarded full accreditation," said Kristofor Hagglund, director of the MPH Program and associate dean of the School of Health Professions. "The program's students, faculty and staff are dedicated to learning and to enhancing the health and well-being of our community. The program has outstanding support from the university and from its many community partners. This support allows us to provide high-quality coursework, excellent research and community service in Missouri and around the world."

MU Chancellor Brady Deaton first identified public health as a strategic priority for MU. The MPH program was initiated in 2007 with a total enrollment of 58 students. Since then, stakeholders from multiple schools and colleges have worked to diversify and build the program. Today, there are more than 143 students studying public health at the university. Dual degrees are offered in conjunction with the MU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Truman School of Public Affairs. The program will include a dual MPH/journalism degree in the near future.

The program has attracted students from states throughout the nation, as well as international countries, including India, China, Libya, South Korea, Haiti, Georgia, Zimbabwe, the Bahamas, Colombia, Tanzania, Nigeria and Nepal. MU students are trained to plan, implement and evaluate programs aimed at enhancing health in human populations. MU MPH graduates have earned careers at local, state and federal public health agencies, private think tanks, research universities and non-governmental agencies working to improve the public's health.

"The accreditation process reflected the unique structure and strengths of MU's MPH program, including the commitment to excellence in research, teaching and service," said Lise Saffran, associate director of the program. "This exciting news was the result of the interdisciplinary team work and collaboration that is at the heart of public health."
The mission of the MPH Program is to advance the health and well-being of the citizens of Missouri and elsewhere through excellence in teaching, discovery and service in public health. The program incorporates academic strengths of the university in veterinary medicine, policy analysis and development to address the needs of underserved populations and prepare public health leaders at local, state and national levels.
UM System hires new associate VP to address future employee benefits

By Walker Moskop  October 25, 2010 | 6:37 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri System has appointed a new administrator to develop salary, reward and benefit policies for its 37,000 employees.

Kelley Stuck will begin Nov. 1 as the associate vice president of total compensation for the system. She will be paid $175,000.

A UM news release stated that Stuck “will be responsible for developing a total comprehensive rewards strategy.”

System spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said Stuck will be involved in shaping a range of compensation policies for employees, including salaries and benefits. This will include evaluating the possibility of moving away from the system’s current defined benefits plan.

Stuck will be present at the Compensation and Human Resources Committee meeting Nov. 1, where curators will discuss the option of switching from the UM retirement benefits plan to defined contributions, a non-fixed plan in which individual employees assume investment risk and rewards. A new plan wouldn’t apply to current employees and retirees — only future hires.

Although the system is technically in the midst of a hiring freeze, Hollingshead said Stuck is filling a similar position vacated by former Associate Vice President of Benefits Mike Paden, who left the system May 31.

According to the news release, Stuck served as the vice president for Aon Consulting before joining UM.
MU School of Journalism recognizes 2010 honor medalists

By Missourian staff October 28, 2010 | 7:11 p.m. CDT

JAMES BALOG

For nearly 30 years James Balog has transcended the traditional conventions of nature photography. As founder and director of the Extreme Ice Survey, Balog examines the impact climate change is having on the world’s glacial landscapes. Shocked by the changes he saw while shooting a June 2007 National Geographic cover story, "The Big Thaw," Balog initiated the most wide-ranging ground-based photographic study ever conducted using innovative time-lapse video and conventional photography.

Balog has been awarded the Leica Medal of Excellence, the Rowell Award for the Art of Adventure, the Aspen Institute's Visual Arts & Design Award, the International League of Conservation Photographers League Award and the North American Nature Photography Association's "Outstanding Photographer of the Year."

CATHLEEN BLACK

Cathleen Black, considered "The First Lady of American Magazines" and "one of the leading figures in American publishing over the past two decades" by the Financial Times, is chairman of Hearst Magazines, a division of Hearst Corporation and one of the world's largest publishers of monthly magazines. For more than 15 years, first as president and now as chairman, Black has managed the financial performance and development of 14 of the industry's best-known titles, including Cosmopolitan, Esquire, Good Housekeeping, Harper's Bazaar, Marie Claire, O: The Oprah Magazine, Popular Mechanics, Redbook and Town & Country. She also oversees nearly 200 international editions of those magazines in more than 100 countries.

DOROTHY GAITER

Dorothy Gaiter, BJ ’73, retired recently from The Wall Street Journal, where she wrote the popular Tastings wine column with her husband. While a student at the school, Gaiter served as one of the founding editors of Blackout, a newspaper published by the University of Missouri’s African-American students, and wrote for The Savitar, the MU
yearbook. Following graduation, Gaiter worked as a reporter at the Miami Herald and an editor at the Miami News before joining The New York Times as a reporter for the Week in Review section, the metro desk and the style section. In 1984, Gaiter returned to the Miami Herald, where she became the paper's first African-American female editorial writer and regular op-ed columnist.

In 1990, Gaiter became a reporter for The Wall Street Journal in New York City, and by 1996 she had become the Journal's national news editor in charge of race and urban affairs coverage. Her writing on race was nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize, and she won awards from the Newswomen's Club of New York and the National Association of Black Journalists.

MYRON KANDEL

Myron Kandel pioneered financial news on television, serving as CNN's founding financial editor and economic commentator for 25 years. In 2000, TJFR, a media industry publication, named him one of the 10 most influential financial journalists of the 20th century. He previously served as the financial editor of the Washington Star, the New York Herald Tribune and the New York Post. Kandel also was a reporter for The New York Times, a foreign correspondent for the Herald Tribune, a syndicated newspaper columnist and the editor of the New York Law Journal.

Kandel started his journalism career as a copy boy at The New York Times, working nights while completing his senior year at Brooklyn College and earning a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He has taught journalism at Columbia and the City College of New York.

LARRY POSTAER

Retail. Mail order. Small agency. Large agency. Own agency. The impressive career of Larry Postaer, BJ ’59, has spanned all of these in his 50 years on the creative side of the advertising business.

He began writing newspaper inserts for a now-defunct department store in Chicago earning $65 a week and soon moved on to he one of 80 copywriters for the former Sears catalog. His coveted assignment? Writing the back-cover announcement of an amazing product—the first-ever Silvertone color television.

Two years and dozens of applications later, Postaer got a copywriting job with a small Chicago advertising agency, Stern Walters & Simmons. The owners promoted him, at
the age of 24, to creative director. Fourteen years later Postaer joined a major agency, Needham Harper & Steers, as vice president and group creative director. His group’s client list included McDonald’s, Anheuser-Busch, State Farm, Wrigley, Dial and General Mills’ Hamburger Helper.

**SANDY ROWE**

Sandy Rowe was the award-winning editor of The Oregonian in Portland from 1993 to January 2010. Under her leadership, the newspaper won five Pulitzer Prizes, including the Gold Medal for Public Service. Rowe is the 2010-2011 Knight Shorenstein Fellow at Harvard University.

The National Press Foundation named Rowe the Editor of the Year in 2003. In 2008, Editor & Publisher magazine named her Editor of the Year. In 2010, the American Society of Newspaper Editors awarded Rowe its National Leadership Award.

Rowe chairs the Board of Visitors of The Knight Fellowships at Stanford University and is a board member of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists. She is a member of Willamette University’s Board of Trustees and of the Medill School of Journalism’s Board of Visitors at Northwestern University.

**ZETA WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**

ZETA Weekly Newspaper is the most credible and solid journalism institution in the northwestern region of Mexico. It holds a strong influence over the social, economic and political scene throughout the five counties in Baja California as well as other Mexican cities.

Founded April 11, 1980, in Tijuana, ZETA Weekly Newspaper stressed the ideals of freedom and independence of the press at a time when official statements and policies ruled and politicians were used to being praised by journalists. It also introduced the use of surveys as a journalism tool and exclusive interviews with the oppressed political opposition.

**FOUNDATION FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

The Foundation for the Freedom of the Press was created in the mid ’90s by a group of journalists who were worried about an average of seven colleagues being killed per year. They decided to join efforts to fight the violence, the impunity on those killings and other threats against the freedom of expression in Colombia. The FLiP (Fundacion Para
la Libertad de Prensa) started with the idea to make a Colombian version of a survival kit for journalists, an effort spearheaded by Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez.

The FLiP established a network to document attacks against journalists and the news media. It works on self-protection and freedom of expression fundamentals. The FLiP creates manuals and hosts workshops to teach journalists what they have to do to possible perpetrators, who could include the police and local authorities, and what not to do. The FLiP promotes victims' rights with the Colombian government program that now protects its 84 journalists.

Source: University of Missouri School of Journalism
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Missouri Honor medalist ZETA pursues justice in Mexico

By Ben Frentzel October 28, 2010 | 8:50 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – Violence, corruption and three lives lost — and a Mexican newspaper is still persevering.

Adela Navarro, director general of ZETA Weekly Newspaper, spoke Thursday at MU about her publication’s reporting efforts on Mexican drug trafficking.

ZETA, which is headquartered in Tijuana, is one of eight Missouri Honor Medal winners who presented master classes Thursday about their work. Medalists were selected by MU School of Journalism faculty “on the basis of lifetime or superior achievement” in “distinguished service in journalism.”

Navarro gave her presentation with the help of a translator but also answered many questions herself in English.

ZETA began operations in 1980. Navarro said the paper emerged into a hostile environment where the Mexican government constantly repressed journalism in an effort to hide its corruption. She said existing journalists were too intimidated to investigate.

“It’s very deep, the corruption,” Navarro said.

Only five years after its inception, the first violent, criminal actions were directed at the paper. Assailants fired on the building but no one was hurt. The crime was never solved, Navarro said.

In 1988, the first ZETA writer was killed. Navarro said that crime also went unsolved.

Since it began, ZETA has seen two more assassinations of its staffers and one failed attempt.
ZETA Director Jesús Blancornelas is the survivor of that failed murder. Navarro said the attack left his bodyguard dead, Blancornelas with four bullet wounds and his car with over 100 bullet holes.

Blancornelas went back to work at the paper after recovering, Navarro said.

"It's our job, our passion and it's our truest, deepest feelings that we have to do this," she said.

Navarro said that in the past four years, 44 journalists in Mexico have been murdered. Out of those 44 killings, 95 percent have gone unsolved, she said.

Navarro said the killings were like a message — you can kill a journalist and be free. And when drug lords start targeting journalists, she said, they censor themselves or shut down.

Navarro said ZETA's persistent motivation in the face of real danger is two-fold: the paper has a compromise with Mexican society to show who's hurting them and pressure the government to take action, and after so many years of investigating they feel they can't let organized crime get away unpunished.

"We appreciate our readers and we have their respect," she said.

Navarro said American journalists don't cover Mexican drug trafficking as completely as they should. She said they tend to focus on the Mexican traffickers when there are many on the North American side of the border who are just as active.

Navarro said California could cause a whole new problem for ZETA and others fighting drug traffickers. She said the state has typically blamed Mexico for its youths' drug problems.

But if marijuana becomes legal in California, Navarro joked that Mexico can start blaming California for the Mexican youths' drug problems.

ZETA continues to investigate and expose drug crimes in Mexico. About 70 percent of its published content is reader-provided and staff cross-checked, Navarro said.

"We're a team," she said. "Not just one person writing about drugs."
UM students can now own the rights to their innovative products

By Megan Cassidy
October 28, 2010 | 1:20 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — University of Missouri System recruiters have a new selling point for prospective students. The system now allows students full ownership rights for the inventions they create on campus.

This week, the Kansas City-based Kauffman Foundation recognized the university system as a "commercialization leader" for the change in its policy and awarded UM a $100,000 grant to help fund student projects.

Kauffman Vice President Lesa Mitchell said that, while a few universities allow undergraduate students ownership of their intellectual property, UM was recognized for its initiative in a tough economy.

"What was unique about the University of Missouri was that they went about changing policy at the level of the board, not simply changing practice," Mitchell said.

"The nation is in an economic crisis, and they looked at this policy change as something ... they could do to make a very visible statement in support of innovation and entrepreneurship," she said.

The success of an student-engineered iPhone application helped highlight the need to amend and clarify previous UM rules.

In February 2009, MU journalism undergraduate Anthony Brown and three others won the Reynolds Journalism Institute iPhone student competition for their creation of Nearbuy, a real estate search application for the iPhone.

"We ended up submitting it to the Apple App Store," Brown said. "Companies were approaching us to monetize the application and enter into partnerships, and the university was exercising its right to ownership of the intellectual property of professors and employees."
With the help of Keith Politte, a staff member at RJI, Brown met with the university's lawyers and made the case for the benefits of the university surrendering all rights of intellectual property to students in the cases of class projects and contests.

"We ultimately got them to surrender full rights," Brown said. "This was a victory, and it set a precedent for the future."

Mike Nichols, vice president for research and development at UM, said that when the issue came to his desk the question was whether the student should be considered an employee of the university.

Professors and other university employees receive funding from UM, which entitles the school to ownership of property they create using these resources. This is common practice with many institutions, Nichols said.

However, the issue became complicated when officials factored in monetary awards for students such as fellowships or scholarships.

"We came to the conclusion that students were certainly not employees of the university," Nichols said. "So I ruled that the students owned their intellectual property. Scholarships do not negate it."

Nichols reasoned that if UM was going to continue to forge a "pathway to innovation" on campus, the university system needed to do its part to help move student technology to the marketplace.

"Students are some of the more inventive people out there," Nichols said, noting that students now have more of an incentive to enter competitions and take on technology-driven projects.

Nichols said he hopes the change in policy will inspire entrepreneurial-minded recruits to focus on UM.

"If you are a talented high school graduate, why would you not choose the University of Missouri? We want to recruit the best and brightest kids in the U.S., if not the world. This applies to undergraduates and graduates," Nichols said.

Mitchell said one potential drawback to implementing the new policy is the "small possibility that the University of Missouri could miss out on revenue that could be derived from student-generated intellectual property."
However, she noted that the Kauffman Foundation believed that the benefits outweighed the risk. The number of potential new innovations and entrepreneurs would create a domino effect, she said, increasing the likelihood of successful products and ultimately more new firms.

“I don’t know how anybody could see a downside to this opportunity.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

No MU Mention

Study: Scholarship athletes still pay for school

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER/The Associated Press
October 26, 2010 |

COLUMBIA — A new study suggests that the so-called "free ride" for college scholarship athletes isn’t quite so free.

The report by Ithaca College researchers and a national athletes’ advocacy group shows that the average "full scholarship" Division I athlete winds up having to pay $2,951 annually in school-related expenses not covered by grants-in-aid.

The shortfall represents the difference between educational expenses such as tuition, student fees, room and board and ancillary costs not covered by scholarships, from campus parking fees to calculators and computer disks required for classes.

At some schools, the shortfall can approach or exceed tuition costs. At Arkansas-Little Rock, for instance, the 2009 shortfall is nearly $11,000, said Ramogi Huma, a former UCLA linebacker who now heads the National College Players Association.

"It’s really deceptive to use the words ‘full scholarship,’” he said. "There's never an explanation for recruited athletes that the price tag for attending school falls short of the scholarship amount."

College athletes whose academic expenses aren’t fully covered by scholarships are more susceptible to the influence of money-wielding sports agents, Huma suggested. In a recent Sports Illustrated report, a former agent said he paid more than 30 college football players from 1990-96. Seven of the athletes confirmed that account.
"The amounts of money he talked about giving these players falls within the scholarship shortfalls," Huma said. "These players are putting everything on the line to get a few bucks in order to make ends meet ... and to meet their basic necessities."

"If they were to fully fund scholarships, there would be less temptation."

A law passed in California earlier this month requires the state's colleges and universities to disclose more complete information about the actual costs of attendance, as well as details about uncovered medical expenses and policies on scholarship renewal and transferring to other schools.

The scholarship study by Huma's group and Ithaca College's Graduate Program in Sport Management is based on data submitted by individual schools to the U.S. Department of Education.

An NCAA spokesman called the current scholarship formula "appropriate for most student-athletes" and noted that some can obtain federal Pell Grants and other need-based aid in addition to athletic-related assistance.

The association's Division I Awards, Benefits, Expenses and Financial Aid Cabinet considered changes to the scholarship formula last year "allowing athletics aid up to the cost of attendance," but the proposal was not endorsed for further consideration, said NCAA spokesman Erik Christianson.

Another NCAA committee recently endorsed eight separate proposals allowing athletes to accept more financial aid — both merit- and need-based — without affecting team limits on such aid.

At the University of Missouri-Kansas City, which ranks fifth-highest in the new study with average out-of-pocket expenses of $5,030 annually, athletic director Tim Hall said the school is up front with recruits about their financial responsibilities beyond the scholarship amount.

"UMKC coaches and staff are careful to communicate to our potential student-athletes exactly what financial aid package will be provided to them," he said.
Candidates debate strategies to bridge budget gap

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, October 28, 2010

Rep. Chris Kelly last night called opponent Laura Nauser “intellectually empty” for suggesting that higher education spending could be spared during budget cuts. Nauser replied that “nothing is impossible.”

During a legislative forum on the University of Missouri campus, budget issues were a main topic. The forum, sponsored by the American Association of University Professors and three student groups, included candidates from four Boone County legislative districts but not every candidate.

All the Democratic candidates took part. Nauser, a Columbia city councilwoman running on the Republican ticket in the 24th District, was the only Republican to attend.

In the coming budget year, the state must plug a budget hole estimated at $400 million. The state is spending the last of the federal dollars allocated to state budget needs, and state revenues have not grown, leaving the gap.

“We need to evaluate all the things the state does,” Nauser said.

Kelly, D-Columbia, is a member of the House Budget Committee and a former chairman of that committee. He is pushing to put a cigarette tax on the ballot to support education programs and building projects.

The budget has been cut so severely in past years, he said, that budget cuts won’t work to fill the gap.

“To contend we can find enough money in the budget to do anything significant for higher education is intellectually empty,” Kelly said. “There is not the money there.”

“I would not say I am intellectually empty,” Nauser replied. “We can go back through our budget. Government does not have the right to grow.”

Later, after more discussion of the budget, Nauser noted that the city council had cut its own food budget to help out with a city budget shortfall. “Nothing is impossible,” she said. “Nothing is easy.”
Nauser said she opposes any tax increase, including one on cigarettes.

Other candidates on the podium also warned that major budget cuts were coming and that higher education would be a target. "You cannot say, 'I don't believe in increasing revenue' and not cut higher education," said Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia.

Webber faces Republican Paul Szopa in the 25th House District. Szopa could not attend because of family commitments.

Kelly Schultz, a Democrat seeking the 21st District seat, said there aren't enough places to cut to find money to protect higher education.

Departments with earmarked funding are off-limits, she said, and the major spending programs are public schools, higher education and social services. All will be in danger of budget cuts, she said.

Kelly's opponent, Republican John Cauthorn, did not attend. No reason was given during the forum.

Rep. Mary Still, who is unopposed in the 25th House District, said she supports putting a cigarette tax on the ballot and endorsing an interstate compact on sales tax that could bring $300 million to the state.

Nauser and Kelly agreed that lawmakers should support a state bond issue to construct new higher-education buildings across the state. They also agreed that the state should consider replacing the income tax with an expanded sales tax that covers services as well as products.

"Taxing consumption rather than production will provide a more vibrant economy," Kelly said.

"Chris, you are starting to sound like a Republican," Nauser said. "To make it work, there cannot be any exemptions."
College tuition costs shot up again this fall, and students and their families are leaning more on the federal government to make higher education more affordable in tough economic times, according to two reports issued Thursday.

At public four-year schools, many of them ravaged by state budget cuts, average in-state tuition and fees this fall rose 7.9 percent, or $555, to $7,605, according to the College Board's "Trends in College Pricing." The average sticker price at private nonprofit colleges increased 4.5 percent, or $1,164, to $27,293.

Massive government subsidies and aid from schools helped keep in check the actual price many students pay. But experts caution that federal aid can only do so much and that even higher tuition is likely unless state appropriations rebound or colleges drastically cut costs.

"Just when Americans need college the most, many are finding it increasingly difficult to afford," said Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education.

When adjusted for inflation, the tuition increases this fall amount to 6.6 percent at public four-year colleges and 3.2 percent at private ones, according to the College Board.

Many students are finding relief in expanded federal aid, including tax credits, veterans' benefits and a record expansion of the Pell Grant program for low-income students. In 2009-10, 7.7 million students received $28.2 billion in Pell Grants — an increase of almost $10 billion from the year before, according to a companion College Board report, "Trends in Student Aid."

Even so, the maximum Pell grant covers just 34 percent of the average cost of attending a public four-year college, down from 45 percent two decades ago.
For now, government subsidies and aid from schools are helping hold down net tuition and fees — the actual cost students pay when grants and tax breaks are factored in.

Estimated average net tuition and fees this fall at public four-year colleges were $1,540, while at private colleges they were $11,320. Both are up from last year, but below what students paid five years ago.

"Despite the fact sticker prices have gone way up, there is so much grant aid out there that many students are really paying less than they did before," said Sandy Baum, a senior policy analyst for the College Board and a Skidmore College economics professor.

That's also contributed to a growing gap between those who receive aid and the one-third of full-time students who pay full freight for college, the report says.

Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, said it's important to note that tuition is climbing after a decade in which family income did not rise for 90 percent of Americans, and at a time when many areas of the country face high unemployment.

"We're kind of on a national treadmill," Callan said. "We're putting additional aid in that is helping to buffer some students from the severity of this. But the tuition increases and the bad economy are raising the need for financial aid much faster than our investment in aid is moving."

The student aid report found that grant aid per full-time undergraduate student increased by an estimated 22 percent from 2008-2009, while federal loans increased 9 percent.

The Obama administration's restructuring of the federal student loan program this year will direct more money to Pell Grants and tie future increases in the maximum grant to inflation. But college officials say the impact will be minimal because next year's increase is small and tuition is rising faster than inflation.

Most students attend public schools, and states continue to cut appropriations. After adjusting for inflation, per-student state spending on higher education dropped by nearly 9 percent in 2008-09 and by another 5 percent in 2009-10 — and that spending includes soon-to-expire federal stimulus money.
Community colleges, which educate about 40 percent of college students, remain affordable, with tuition averaging $2,713. Lower income students receive enough aid to attend essentially for free.

Still, tuition rose 6 percent at public two-year colleges. State and local budget cuts paired with skyrocketing enrollment have prompted some schools to cut courses and limit enrollment.

The priciest private colleges are creeping closer to shattering the $60,000 ceiling in total cost to attend.

David Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, emphasized net tuition and fees have declined 7.4 percent in the past decade in inflation-adjusted dollars because colleges are expanding student aid.

"Every institution that I talk to understands the absolutely critical role of aid and it's going to be the thing they try to hold at the top of the list of priorities," Warren said.

On average, about 55 percent of bachelor's degree recipients at public colleges borrow money, and their debt is $19,800 by graduation, the College Board found.