

FEB 24 2011



Women wind up caregivers for ex-husbands

Published: Feb. 23, 2011 at 11:54 PM

COLUMBIA, Mo., Feb. 23 (UPI) -- If a couple divorce, they usually are on their own when illness strikes or death approaches, but U.S. researchers found some ex-wives turn caregiver.

Teresa Cooney and Christine Proulx of the University of Missouri conducted a series of telephone interviews with divorced caregivers and identified unique characteristics and motivations of these women and how giving care affected their relationships.

"A surprising number of the women reported continued involvement with their ex-husbands post-divorce. A strong motivator for women to become caregivers is related to their desire to maintain relationships, not with ex-husbands, but typically with their children," Cooney says in a statement. "It appears that having shared children with an ex might facilitate emotional attachment. Women also might try to shield their children from the demands of caregiving."

Some women say they experienced positive interactions as they helped their former husbands and several women noted their ex-husbands had "softened" during illness and there was less conflict, Cooney says.

"To date, our study is the first to examine this form of caregiving," Cooney says.

"Initial findings suggest that it is more common than expected and that the experience is highly variable for caregivers."



Most MU grads find jobs, further schooling

Best placement is in social work.

By **JANESE SILVEY**

The degree most likely to get a University of Missouri graduate a job last year also proved to be the lowest-paying.

One hundred percent of recent MU alumni who earned a bachelor's degree in social work and who responded to a post-graduation survey were employed two months after graduating, and all of them were working in the field, according to MU's latest study that tracks graduates. The social work jobs are paying, on average, \$24,000 a year — significantly lower than the average salary of \$40,100 for recent undergraduates.

It's an accurate portrait, said Marjorie Sable, director of the School of Social Work.

"People go into social work because they're deeply committed to helping people," she said. "It's not something you go into to get rich." The high placement rate, she added, indicates the need for social work "has never been greater."

The destination survey is an annual exercise, but this year MU's enrollment office shortened the time frame. In past years, graduates were surveyed a year after commencement, but in 2010 they were surveyed two months afterward. That cut down on staff time and allowed MU to get the information more quickly, said Ann Korschgen, vice provost of enrollment management. But it also makes it impossible to compare the numbers to previous years.

Of the 40 percent of undergraduates who responded, 68 percent were employed or continuing their education. Of the 47 percent of graduate students who responded, 74 percent were working or going back to school.

The highest-paid undergraduate degree was engineering. Of the 46 percent of engineering graduates who responded, 54 percent were employed two months after graduation, earning an average salary of \$53,900. Another 30 percent of those graduates opted to continue their education.

Journalism had the lowest placement rate, with 42 percent employed after graduation and another 18 percent continuing their schooling. Associate Dean of Journalism Brian Brooks said the numbers are misleading, though, because it typically takes journalism students longer than two months to find jobs. Many of them wait until they relocate elsewhere to start looking for work, he said.

The journalism school has separate data that show nearly 89 percent of 2007 and 2008 graduates are working in related fields.

"We're proud of what our graduates are doing," he said.

Of all employed MU graduates, including those who earned advanced degrees, 92 percent are working in a job related to their degrees. Korschgen said that's "a commentary of the relevance of the programs of study at MU."

Additionally, 70 percent of employed undergraduates were working in Missouri, and about 40 percent of nonresident students became Missouri residents and remained employed in the state.

"We feel that's a very strong number that indicates not only are we educating students and providing them with the right skills to be competitive in their field," MU spokesman Christian Basi said, "but they're also going to work in Missouri, and that helps further the economic development of the state."

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MU president search to swing by KC March 8

The University of Missouri System Presidential Search Committee is coming to Kansas City to hear what qualities the public wants in the next person who leads the school.

The visit is part of a seven-stop series of forums being held across the state beginning March 3 in Portageville.

The committee also will stop at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. That forum is scheduled for 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at the Student Union theatre.

Members of the search committee, the advisory panel and the search firm will be there to hear the comment.

“We are eager to hear Missourians’ thoughts on the qualities and characteristics they would like to see in the next university president,” said Curators Chairman, Warren Erdman, who also is on the search committee.

The UM System must replace Gary Forsee, who resigned to care for his ailing wife. Steve Owens, general counsel is serving as interim president.



Columbia protesters stand up for Libya

By **ANDREW DENNEY**

Published: 11:11 a.m. 2/23/20

Tremors from the Arab world's civil unrest are being felt in Mid-Missouri as protests in Libya shape up to be the bloodiest chapter in a series of pro-democratic, grass-roots protests against autocratic rulers.

At Speakers Circle on the **University of Missouri** campus, a group of demonstrators gathered in cold rain this morning to stand in solidarity with the people of the north African nation. Journalists have been more restricted from Libya than they were from protests in Egypt and Tunisia, but media reports are indicating as many as 1,000 Libyan civilians could be dead as a result of a bloody crackdown by the government of longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi to quell protests.

The demonstrators — presumably safer on the campus of a U.S. university than their friends and family in Libya who are speaking out against their government — donned shirts that read “Free Libya” and held signs and Libyan flags. By 10:30 a.m., a crowd of about 20 had gathered.

“Who’s the killer?” a demonstrator called.

“Gadhafi!” others answered in unison.

The demonstration was organized by Ahmed El-Tayash, 29, who owns Campus Eastern Foods in Columbia. He was born in the United States to two exiles from Libya, and through visits to the country, he was able to connect with family members and make friends.

Since the protests erupted, he said, he has been “worried sick” for his family and friends and has been sleeping only about two hours a night.

“He’s a tyrant,” El-Tayash said of Libya’s president. “He doesn’t take any shame in killing.”

El-Tayash said Libya is part of a domino effect that is spreading through the Arab world.

“Give me one good example of a good leader in the Arab world,” El-Tayash said. “The people have just had enough.”

During the Cold War, Gadhafi had been considered a sworn enemy of the United States and other Western nations. But as concerns about international terrorism grew after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., Gadhafi cozied up to Western leaders by pledging to crack down on terrorism and agreeing to pay compensation for the 1988 bombing of a commercial airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

But continued human rights abuses on the part of the Gadhafi regime have angered the populace, and taking their cue from Egypt and Tunisia, the people have taken to the streets.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Libyan locals protest against Gadhafi at Speakers Circle

By Caitlin Steffen

February 23, 2011 | 9:19 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — The worst part is not knowing.

Despite many attempts, Khaled Adem, a 36-year-old working toward a doctorate in mechanical engineering from MU, has not spoken to his family in days.

Adem said he fears what might happen to them.

"I still worry about this crazy man because we don't know what to expect from him," he said.

The lack of communication was caused by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's crackdown on phone and Internet services in response to protesters calling for him to step down, according to a New York Times article. Gadhafi has ruled as an authoritarian leader for 40 years.

Libyan citizens began protesting against Gadhafi on Feb. 17. According to a New York Times article published Wednesday, Human Rights Watch confirmed that 300 people have died as the protests continued, though the article noted that this figure was "conservative" because of the loss of communication.

Ahmed El-Tayash, part-owner, with his father, of Columbia's Campus Eastern Foods, agreed, saying these estimates are far too low.

Much like Adem, Ahmed El-Tayash and his brother Osama said they are worried about relatives. They have not been in contact with their aunt, who lives in Tripoli, for a couple of days. Prior to the loss of communication, their mother received a very frantic phone call from the aunt, in which gun shots could be heard in the background.

The brothers, who were both born and raised in Columbia, still have family living in Libya. Their parents moved to the United States in 1979.

"I'm an American, but I'm still a Libyan," Ahmed El-Tayash said. "I still have Libyan cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents there."

Social media have played a vital role in this revolution. Ahmed El-Tayash said the Libyan people knew violence would erupt in the wake of a protest. He believes Libyans were afraid of revolting in the past because of isolation from the rest of the world. Social media have allowed others to be aware of the government's reaction and the level of violence, he said.

Osama El-Tayash said Libyans have been making videos in their homes and taking pictures to post on Facebook. He said he was told by family and friends that women in Benghazi are sending their children to the streets to fight. They believe there are two options: "Go and die for freedom, or die a slave for this country," he said.

All three men said they are uncertain about the future of the country and what Gadhafi may do to the Libyan people.

"We don't even know what is coming," Adem said. "We expect he will kill, if he could, every Libyan. He's a killer. He's a killing machine. He built his regime on blood."

Ahmed El-Tayash, Osama El-Tayash and Adem were a part of a group of about 40 men and women who gathered at Speakers Circle and City Hall Wednesday morning to rally in support of the protests in Libya. Protesters held homemade signs reading "How many more?" and "350 protesters killed in 3 days" accompanying pictures of dead protesters.

The group hoped to gain the attention of leaders.

"We're trying to get support of other leaders of other countries to put pressure on (Gadhafi)," Ahmed El-Tayash said. "Without that happening, there are no reparations."

Osama El-Tayash said he also hoped to raise awareness in the community.

"Just if people knew what was going on, even the slightest difference will make a success," he said.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Faith-based Mo. company, state reach settlement

Posted: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 3:00 pm

The state says a nearly two-year investigation found no evidence that a mid-Missouri faith-based construction company committed wage violations.

Shepherd's Co. of Fulton and the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Standards reached a non-monetary settlement last week. The Columbia Tribune reported that the department acknowledged it did not find any violations, and the company agreed to drop federal lawsuits against the department.

The state began investigating after receiving complaints that Shepherd's was underbidding union competitors. The Columbia Public Schools and the Missouri Department of Transportation dropped projects with the company and the University of Missouri put in on a "black list."

Shepherd's Co. is one of three businesses that support the Shepherdsfield Community, a Christian communal group. Its partners voluntarily contribute their earnings to a common treasury.