

JUL 06 2011



Branson police investigate Columbia couple's drowning

By Rudi Keller

A Columbia couple drowned Saturday night in a Branson hotel swimming pool shortly after checking into their room, but there is no apparent evidence foul play was involved or that they were intoxicated, a Branson Police Department detective said today.

Fanjun Meng, 29, a visiting scholar at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, and his wife, Chunyang Zhang, 26, checked into the Days Inn about 9:45 p.m. Saturday. They told friends they were going to the swimming pool, Detective E.J. Morrow said.

Their bodies were discovered about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Morrow said. An investigation is ongoing.

No one reported seeing Meng or Zhang between the time they left for the pool and the time their bodies were discovered, he said. "There were no signs of any alcohol being used or drugs or foul play," Morrow said. "There is just no evidence to show suspicious circumstances or foul play at this time."

No autopsies will be performed, and arrangements are being made to return the couple's remains to China, Taney County Coroner Kevin Tweedy said.

"It was just a tragic drowning. We see that when you have one that can't swim and one that did. They get in trouble as one helps each other, and both end up drowning," Tweedy said.

According to statements from friends of the couple, Meng could not swim and Zhang could. There were no signs of any trauma on either body, he said.

Meng arrived in Columbia in 2008, according to a statement issued by the MU School of Medicine. He worked in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences and Center for Translational Neuroscience.

Meng recently was the primary author of an article on research into the impact of environmental toxins on proteins, an inquiry that helps explain the link between Parkinson's disease and pesticide exposure.

Meng was visiting MU from the Beijing Institute of Genomics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Zhang joined Meng at MU and worked as a research lab technician, also in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences.

Department Chairman Douglas Anthony, director of the center, issued the following statement: "We are extremely saddened by the loss of these dear colleagues and friends and offer our sincerest condolences to their family."

Meng and Zhang had apparently spent the day in Branson, stopping for dinner before checking into the hotel, Morrow said.

Reach Rudi Keller at 573-815-1709 or e-mail rkeller@columbiatribune.com.



Missouri to honor swimmer who took own life

Published 08:36 p.m., Tuesday, July 5, 2011

COLUMBIA, Mo (AP) — **The family of a 20-year-old University of Missouri swimmer who battled a personality disorder before taking her own life will honor her Wednesday at a memorial service on campus.**

Sasha Menu Courey, of Toronto, Canada, died June 17 in a suburban Boston hospital. Her family shared her story with the Columbia Daily Tribune hoping to focus public attention on borderline personality disorder. They have created a charitable foundation in her name to help raise money for greater awareness of the disorder and potential treatments.

Menu Courey was a sophomore before leaving Missouri in the spring semester. She earned a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in her first semester and hoped to attend graduate school in psychology.

Wednesday's memorial service is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the campus Newman Center.

A version of this story appeared in outlets across Canada.

Stepfamily solutions: Grown-ups need to do the heavy lifting

By Vince Dixon, Chicago Tribune July 5, 2011

Teens reach closure pretty quickly - and when it comes to getting along with a new stepparent, they're zealots, says Lawrence Ganong, professor of nursing and human development and family studies at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

"They're either going to get along right off the bat, or they're not," says Ganong, author of a new study, "Patterns of Stepchild-Stepparent Relationship Development," with colleague Marilyn Coleman, curators' professor in human development and family studies at Missouri. The work was published in the April issue of the Journal of Marriage and Family.

The researchers contend that it is the stepparents and biological parents - in short, the grown-ups - who need to take responsibility for making their new family work. Here are their tips, especially as it concerns tweens and teenagers:

STEPPARENTS

Be nice. It may seem obvious, but some stepparents aren't always friendly from the start, say Ganong and Coleman. And know that kids expect new stepparents to make the first moves. From there, they will respond either positively or negatively to the adults' efforts.

Find similarities. New stepparents should make clear attempts to bond.

"Find something you have in common that others don't," Ganong says. Children usually appreciate the efforts.

Keep at it. Even when the children are initially resistant, stepparents who were persistent created favourable, often reciprocal, relationships, they found.

Don't be the disciplinarian. Kids won't respond well to a stepparent disciplining them too early in the relationship. "They need to get (discipline) from the parent," Coleman says.

The researchers confirmed earlier studies that found adolescents won't begin accepting discipline from a stepparent until later in the relationship, when a stronger bond is formed.

PARENTS

Inform teens of their role. It doesn't occur to many teenagers to even think about what they can do to build the relationship, the researchers found.

Parents should talk to their children about the give-and-take in relationships, Ganong says. Many adolescents know how to build relationships with friends; parents can remind them that similar strategies can be applied to their stepparent.

Be a go-between. You know your child better than the stepparent. Use that knowledge for everyone's benefit. "(Parents) need to explain their kids to their partner, and they may need to explain their partner to their kid," Coleman says.

Lay ground rules. Parents often tell their kids how to behave with a teacher or coach, Ganong says, and "a parent can do that for a stepparent as well."

Tell your teen that you've asked the stepparent to enforce certain rules you expect the child to follow, they add. This way, stepparents can then avoid disciplining the stepchild while still maintaining a level of control and respect.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

UM System's Enterprise Investment Program bares the blunt of state cuts

Enrollment won't be capped in the foreseeable future, though it's not out of the picture.

By Taylor Fox Published July 6, 2011

The Missouri Executive Budget was released for the 2012 fiscal year June 10 announcing that, among other programs, funding for higher education would be significantly cut causing the UM System to discuss ways of cutting costs on campus in the future school years.

According to the budget, the system will receive about \$4.37 million less than what was appropriated in 2011 based on Gov. Jay Nixon's recommendations. It was up to the system administration where to cut funds and it has been decided that the majority of cuts will be from the Enterprise Investment Program, a program created to invest in small businesses in order to enhance many campus technologies.

Funding for the program will drop from \$5 million to \$2.8 million.

"While the university will be able to fulfill its commitment for the first round of pending investments in early-stage companies, the cut will adversely affect future funding of collaborative ventures among the university, entrepreneurs and businesses," Interim System President Steve Owens said in a news release.

Each of the system's administration, its four campuses and MU Extension will deal with the cuts on a proportional basis the best way that they see fit. These groups will produce the other half of the reduction not covered by the Enterprise Investment Program cuts. During June's Board of Curators meeting, ways of dealing with the budget cuts were discussed. The potential of capping freshmen enrollment in the future was brought up, but has since been dismissed.

"We are not planning on capping the number of freshmen admitted to MU," Vice Provost for Enrollment Services Ann Korschgen said. Owens said the idea of capping enrollment isn't completely out of the picture for the future.

It was agreed upon that though the state might be cutting funding for the system, the students and faculty should not have to suffer for it. "We cannot continue to take more and more students while state support declines," Owens said. "Without adequate resources, the quality of our academic and research programs is at risk."

Student fee surcharges and reduction in financial aid was also over passed along with decreasing employee salaries.

“We continue to strive to keep education affordable and I do not believe that students should bear the brunt of the latest reduction in state support,” Owens said in a letter. “I do not intend to reduce the 2 percent salary merit pool for employees. We recognize that our faculty and staff are already undercompensated and that we suffer competitively as a result.”

The 2012 budget cuts are in addition to previous government cuts of \$8.7 million and \$53.2 million cuts made by the system in order to balance the budget.



County's economy fares well

FDIC report indicates signs of improvement.

By Jacob Barker

Columbia Daily Tribune Tuesday, July 5, 2011

It's no secret Columbia and Boone County have weathered the recession better than most. Anchored by stable employment bases in education, health care and insurance, the area has been spared the worst of a downturn that saw unemployment shoot up and growth slow to a crawl.

The economic snapshot for the first quarter of this year, a list of statistics compiled by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and released Friday, shows Boone County and Columbia are still faring well compared with the state and the nation. According to the FDIC's measure of employment at the end of the first quarter of 2011, Boone County retained its distinction as the Missouri county with the lowest unemployment rate. And one of the weakest sectors of the economy, home construction, showed signs of improvement locally.

Although the labor force in Missouri and the nation fell over the past two years, Boone County added to its labor pool. The county's population grew at a faster rate than the state and the country, rising 1.5 percent to 158,700 in 2010, according to the FDIC data. And its labor force grew to 90,000 at the end of the first quarter of 2011, rising 1.5 percent from the end of the first three months of 2010. That stands in contrast to the 0.3 percent drop in Missouri's labor force at the end of the first quarter compared to the same period last year.

Boone County's unemployment rate at the end of March, at 6.4 percent, was the lowest among the state's 114 counties. Columbia's 5.9 percent unemployment rate at the end of March, while 0.1 percentage point higher than at the same time last year, was still the lowest among the 26 Missouri municipalities tracked in the FDIC report. Since the first quarter of 2008, when Columbia's 4.9 percent unemployment rate was higher than other cities in the state, it rose only 1 percentage point, a more muted increase than seen elsewhere.

Much of that can be attributed to the University of Missouri, which offset funding reductions with higher enrollment, said Joe Haslag, an economics professor there.

“The reductions in unemployment were short-lived in Columbia, and it recovered at a much earlier time than the nation and the state,” he said.

Housing and construction showed promise. The FDIC data showed 312 permits issued in the first quarter, nearly three times the 106 issued in the same period in 2010. The vast majority of that was driven by multifamily permits, primarily for students. Boone County saw 224 of those issued in the first quarter, nearly as much as the 236 issued from 2008 through 2010 combined.

“It seems like every couple years they’re breaking their record enrollment, and as long as the university continues to expand ... I think we’re going to see more and more properties cater to students,” said Tim Crockett, whose firm, Crockett Engineering, does residential and multifamily work in the area.

The 88 single-family permits issued in the first quarter was lower than in 2010, reflecting the expiration of the homebuyer tax credits last summer. But the 86 detached single-family building permits issued in Columbia during April and May was a bit higher than the 82 issued in those months in 2010, data from the Department of Public Works show. A lot of the new housing activity is occurring in southwest Columbia, Crockett said, where there are still lots that weren’t built out after the market sank.

“Definitely, there’s some areas in the southwest that are able to develop, and I think it will continue to develop there as a hot spot for the next several years,” he said.

TIME

Is It Time to Start Stockpiling Bacon?

By [Brad Tuttle](#) | [@bradrtuttle](#) | July 5, 2011 | [5 Comments](#)

Pigging out is getting more expensive. Last fall, the retail price of bacon hit an all-time high of \$4.77 a pound. Some are now forecasting that the B in BLT could soar to \$6 a pound in the coming months, tragically coinciding with peak tomato harvesting season.

Every summer, it seems, consumers are hit with a double whammy—a rise in gas prices just when they're most interested in taking road trips, and a rise in bacon prices just when they're most interested in taking bacon and combining it with lettuce and juicy, ultra-fresh tomatoes. In both cases, higher prices are justified by higher demand, though other explanations are often given.

Starting late last summer, the bacon price surge was sharper than usual. In early August, pork bellies, which are used to make bacon, cost 53% more than they did one year prior, [according to the WSJ](#). Retail prices rose 16% within a few months, [per CNNMoney](#), eventually peaking in October before leveling off.

Now, it appears as if the price of bacon is poised to soar again, not only because it is BLT season, but because consumers are increasingly likely to crave bacon at both restaurants and the supermarket. Per [Agriculture.com](#), a [Dow Jones](#) story from this spring indicated that pork bellies could hit \$2 a pound this summer, much higher than the \$1.40 to \$1.60 rates of last summer and fall.

In recent months, fast food establishments have fattened up their menus by adding bacon to meals and sandwiches in every which way. Denny's "Baconalia" is the most indulgently obvious example. All that bacon creates a salted meat snowball effect, with bacon with fast food begetting bacon purchases at the supermarket:

"Every time bacon is put on a fast-food sandwich, it is incremental growth in sales," said Ron Plain, an agricultural economist at the University of Missouri.

A knock-on effect can follow. Most people find the taste of bacon on fast-food sandwiches to be appealing, and that may influence their purchasing decisions at the grocery stores, Plain said.

[CNBC](#) now cites analysts who predict that the rise in pork belly prices will possibly result in a record rise in the retail price of bacon. In May, it matched the all-time high of \$4.77 a pound, and

some analysts envision a price nearing \$6 a pound in the near future—which will have bacon lovers squealing like pigs in frustration.

Chicago Tribune

Anthony trial captivated audience

Jury finds Florida mom not guilty in death of 2-year-old daughter

11:36 p.m. CDT, July 5, 2011

MU mention page 2

ORLANDO, Fla.— The facts of the case were as awful as they were compelling: a little girl, first reported missing by her grandmother, then found dead months later. A young mother accused of murder, sitting silently behind the defendant's table as prosecutors described her partying lifestyle.

It played out before a nationwide audience -- some viewers couldn't get enough of the story, others could not avoid it. For six weeks, the trial of Casey Anthony dominated cable news programs, was streamed live on Internet news sites, lit up social media and generated the level of attention once reserved for the trials of celebrities such as O.J. Simpson.

And when the case ended Tuesday, with a jury deciding after less than 11 hours of deliberation that Anthony was not guilty of murdering her 2-year-old daughter Caylee, the verdict generated reaction similar to that after the Simpson trial 16 years earlier.

"Did they say not guilty?" asked Angela Wright, of Elkhart, Ind., one of hundreds who waited outside the courthouse door as the verdict was announced. "I can't believe it. I'm shocked. Oh, my God, I can't believe it."

Anthony, 25, was found guilty of four counts of providing false information to law enforcement. She is scheduled to be sentenced Thursday morning and faces up to four years in prison.

She could be released from custody that day if she is given less than the maximum sentence and credit for time served.

After the jury left the courtroom, an emotional Anthony tightly hugged defense attorney Jose Baez and then the rest of her defense team.

"Casey did not murder Caylee; it's just that simple," Baez said.

The jury's verdict was a stunning victory for the defense and especially for Baez, who emerged from relative obscurity to become a nationally recognized criminal defense attorney as the case

played out daily on cable news channels and the Internet.

"You cannot convict someone until they've had their day in court," Baez said.

Jurors, who were selected from Pinellas County, about 110 miles to the southwest, declined to speak to reporters about their decision.

Just hours after the verdict was read in the biggest case of his career, veteran Assistant State Attorney Jeff Ashton announced he would retire at the end of the week. Ashton's last day at the Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office, where he has worked for 30 years, will be Friday, a spokeswoman for State Attorney Lawson Lamar said.

While Anthony was hardly the first mother to be accused of killing her child, the attention paid to this case was unusual. More than 600 media passes were issued, and every major broadcast network had at least one reporter at the trial. CNN and NBC built two-story, air-conditioned structures across from the courthouse for reporters and crews.

And spectators flocked to the courthouse in hopes of obtaining one of the 50 seats made available to the public each day.

"The question is: Why this particular murder and not the hundreds of other murders that occur over the course of a year?" asked Michael Grinfeld, an associate journalism professor at the University of Missouri.

Part of the reason stems from Florida law, which allows cameras in courtrooms, providing almost continuous live coverage of the trial. And in the doldrums of late spring and summer, the trial also gave an opportunity for reliably dramatic coverage day after day. As ratings for the trial coverage increased, so did the number of news outlets on the scene.

"It's a form of theater, but because in Florida there are cameras in the courtroom, the theater could be played out in a larger scale," said Kelly McBride, a senior faculty member at the Poynter Institute in Florida.

Jack Levin, a professor of sociology and criminology at Northeastern University in Boston, said Anthony's appearance and background also played a role. She was attractive, middle class and relatively calm during the trial, except for bouts of crying, such as when prosecutors showed photographs of her daughter's remains.

If Anthony had been a prostitute or drug addict, people would not have been so fascinated by her trial, Levin said. "But she was the girl next door," Levin said. "Everybody could identify with her."

Defense attorneys chided the public and the media after the verdicts, suggesting that the coverage had generated an unfair perception about their client. Attorney Cheney Mason, part of the defense team, criticized the spectacle of "lawyers getting on television and talking about cases that they don't know a damn thing about and don't have the experience to back up their

words or the law to do it. And now you've learned your lesson."

Caylee was reported missing July 15, 2008, when a series of events prompted her grandmother, Cindy Anthony, to track down her daughter at her boyfriend's apartment. Caylee was nowhere to be found.

Casey Anthony then told her mother the story she later repeated to law enforcement and maintained until her trial: Caylee had been taken by a baby sitter named Zenaida one month earlier.

In the weeks that followed, detectives with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Florida Department of Law Enforcement and FBI followed up as leads poured in from across the country.

Not long after Casey Anthony's initial arrest on a child neglect charge, detectives publicly acknowledged that Caylee might be dead and her mother involved. Evidence began to mount against Anthony. Cadaver dogs hit on the trunk of her Pontiac Sunfire and the family's backyard. Air samples taken from the trunk showed signs of decomposition. A hair sample taken from inside the trunk of the car showed signs of postmortem root banding -- meaning the hair had come from the head of a dead person.

In October 2008, a grand jury indicted Anthony on seven charges, including murder.

About two months later, a meter reader found Caylee's remains scattered in woods blocks from her family's home.

On May 9 this year, attorneys began to question prospective jurors, and they seated a 17-member panel 11 days later. On May 24, the trial began on the 23rd floor of the Orange County Courthouse.

The New York Times

Building a More Inclusive Work Force

By *DAVID BORNSTEIN*

Fixes looks at solutions to social problems and why they work.

MU mention page 3

In recent years, there has been a dramatic rise in the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders (A.S.D.). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 730,000 people in the U.S. under age 21 have an A.S.D. It's much harder to estimate the number of adults on the autism spectrum because only in recent decades has the condition been regularly diagnosed.

What is clear is that almost all people with A.S.D. — which is four to five times more prevalent among males than females — struggle to find work where they feel comfortable and valued and where their abilities are well used.

In the coming years, there is going to be a wave of young people with A.S.D. graduating from schools and embarking on careers. It will take significant changes in workplaces across the country to accommodate them.

There is much to learn. On Friday, I reported on a Danish company called Specialisterne, which can supply a piece of the answer. Specialisterne trains people with autism to work as consultants in large companies where they excel at jobs like testing software and managing data. The model has inspired similar initiatives in a variety of countries, including the U.S. Thorkil Sonne, the founder, notes: “There are so many people who do not fit in today — who have skills but cannot find a way to make use of their skills.”

Many readers agreed — and they wrote in to share stories of the difficulties they, or their children, have faced. “As a parent of a young person living with a disability, I’m inspired by what’s happening in Denmark,” wrote CDM from Providence, R.I. (3). “It’s very difficult to watch a person you love be forced to face the fact that, because of his disability, he isn’t valued as someone who can contribute in significant ways in the workplace. The only jobs that are made available are menial ones.”

Jennifer from North Carolina (44) added: “In my 13-year career, I’ve yet to find an employer who tolerates my A.S.D. issues, much less embraces them. Thank you for letting me know that someday, some employer may accept my unique contributions to the workplace, or even value them.” And CHN, a special education teacher from Houston, who works in a program that supports high school students with A.S.D. (65), noted: “Transition out of high school and into

the real world is by far the most troubling and challenging issue we face.” (In April, a job skills training Web site called JobTIPS, designed for young adults with A.S.D., was launched by a group called do2learn, with support from the National Institute of Mental Health.)

Traditional job placement strategies are often not effective for people with many types of disabilities. Alexa from Upstate New York (41) recalled her son’s experiences with a state supported “job coach” who did little more than provide him with job listings. “It would have been better to pick one job announcement and work through the whole process with him, including role-playing for a job interview, talking on the phone, writing applications, resumes and thank you letters and advocating for him on the other side of the fence.”

The U.S. Office of Disabilities Employment Policy advocates an approach called “Customized Employment” in which a vocational specialist creates an in-depth profile of a person with a disability and, working with both employee and employer, defines the specific conditions of employment in which both parties are most likely to benefit.

That’s what Specialisterne does, focusing on a subset of people with autism. A Chicago-based organization called Aspiritech, works in a similar fashion, training people with autism as software testers. Aspiritech’s co-founder Moshe Weitzberg, from Highland Park, Ill. (49) commented that the company has hundreds of potential employees on its waiting list. “[O]ne of our recent customers mentioned: ‘I am amazed by the level of detail that your testers are able to catch.’ In spite of our very satisfied customers, we still find it difficult to convince the business community that people on the [autism] spectrum can provide incredibly high quality work, which is critical to software development.”

But it’s not just in software testing that people with autism could excel. “We started off in the IT sector because I worked in that sector,” explained Sonne. But if I had been working in a hospital, I probably would be talking about how good people with autism are at assessing X-rays, testing life-critical equipment, or entering medical data. In any business there may be five percent of all tasks that would fit very well with our consultants.”

Specialisterne consultants are involved in jobs like monitoring the cable network for a utility company and digitizing correspondence for a Danish municipality. They are also well suited for things like motor repair, piano tuning, and pharmacy, explains Sonne.

But companies can also become more broadly inclusive by designing whole work environments to accommodate people with differences. One example is Walgreens, which has designed regional distribution centers in South Carolina, Connecticut and Florida so people with disabilities, particularly autism, can work side by side with non-disabled employees. Having clear visual cues, for example, is extremely helpful, as is helping to reduce stress for people who may be highly sensitive to noise, light and touch.

The financial services firm TIAA-CREF, which owns more than 400 farms, has established a program called Fruits of Employment, which hires people with autism to do farm work in two of its orchards and vineyards. One reader, Yukarisakamoto from Tokyo and Singapore (55), offered the example of the Coco Farm & Winery in Japan, which employs many people with autism.

Scott from Arizona (63) drew attention to Uzmanlar Danismanlik in Turkey, Autism Works in the U.K., and Kaien in Japan, all of which hire people with autism, and drew inspiration from Specialisterne.

It's notable that many of the initiatives above — including those at Walgreens and TIAA-CREF, as well as Specialisterne and Aspiritech — were started by entrepreneurs or managers who themselves had a child with autism. “I wonder what would have been if Thorkil Sonne's child had not been diagnosed with autism,” commented ETF from New Jersey (16).

It's an important question. Developing employment for people with a wider range of disabilities will require a far more concerted and generalized effort from businesses than currently exists. It will also require a range of models for people who do not fit the kind of corporate consulting that Specialisterne or Aspiritech offer. “Turning the disability into a strength is a great idea,” explains Scott Standifer, a clinical instructor for disability policy and studies in the School of Health Professions at the University of Missouri, who has authored a highly referenced guide on adult autism and employment. “My concern is that there is a whole group of people with classical autism and more significant issues for whom this kind of model can't address.”

One company that has experience customizing employment for a wider range of clients is Montana-based Griffin-Hammis Associates, which, among other services, develops profiles of people with disabilities and surveys the needs of a range of employers in the community to come up with good matches. It would seem that the combination of in-depth personal assessments and a detailed mapping of community employment needs would be essential to any systematic solution.

From the corporate perspective, hiring and managing people with disabilities has historically been seen as a burden, not an opportunity. But there is one industry in which many people with what would (elsewhere) be considered disabilities have thrived: information technology. “There are a lot of people who have been very important in the history of IT who would probably rate high on the autism scales,” explains Robert Austin, dean of the faculty of business administration at the University of New Brunswick, who is author of a Harvard Business Review case study on Specialisterne. “Some of the most brilliant people in the industry have been effective because companies have been willing to work with them.”

Austin says that businesses in general, as well as business schools, haven't paid sufficient attention to the competitive value of employees with differences. “When you find somebody who is different there might be something remarkable and important in that,” he says.

That's because innovation often comes from the margins of society. When anything can be copied cheaper somewhere in the world, companies that figure out how to do things differently gain the advantage. That means companies benefit when they generate valuable accidents and harness the talents of people with a wide range of perspectives and backgrounds. “The 20th century tried to make people fit into the system,” explains Austin. “The 21st century will be about managing people who don't fit in.”

Sonne hopes to bring the Specialisterne model to every state in the United States — but not through a franchise model. He plans to work closely with companies – guiding and mentoring them so they learn how to assess, hire and manage many more people with autism. “I hope this spreads!” writes Sleepygirl, from California (36) “Not just for those with ‘disabilities,’ but for everyone who does not conform to the ideal personality.” As Sonne says: “When we send the message to our children that it’s O.K. to be different, we create a very attractive world for them.”

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

MU takes another step toward smoke-free campus

Campus will be completely smoke-free by 2014.

By Taylor Fox

Published July 5, 2011

As of July 1, MU is on to stage two of its three-stage plan to become a smoke-free campus.

“It’s time to clear the air,” the [Smoke-Free Mizzou website](#) states. “The University of Missouri is committed to making our campus a healthy place to work, live and learn. Toward that goal, we’re going smoke-free.”

Stage one, which prohibited smoking within 20 feet of building entryways, was a transition to becoming a smoke-free campus. Stage two takes it one step further, only allowing people to smoke in designated areas.

“(Designated areas include) surface parking lots and the top of parking garages and there are also a few designated specific areas in and around campus where there is not a surface parking lot nearby,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said. “For example, there are a few places outside of Jesse Hall where people are allowed to smoke.”

Designated smoking locations were created based on popular smoking areas noticed by Wellness Resource Center personnel.

“Previously, when they decided to go to designated smoking areas outdoors they began keeping track of where folks congregate to smoke and developed those areas based on foot traffic,” Basi said.

The Wellness Resource Center will also be working with the T. E. Atkins UM Wellness Program to provide help for students to quit smoking. Support includes counseling sessions over the phone and through email, and a supply of gum, patches or lozenges.

The Smoke-Free Mizzou campaign also hopes to diminish the risk of second-hand smoke for non-smokers. According to [the Wellness Resource Center’s website](#), 78 percent of MU students do not smoke.

“Secondhand smoke causes an average of 1,150 deaths in Missouri annually,” the website states.

Stage three, the final stage, will begin Jan. 1, 2014, and will not allow smoking anywhere on campus.

A map of designated smoking areas can be found on the [Smoke-Free Mizzou website](#).

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

Editorial: Now is not the time to take diversity lightly

Published July 6, 2011

Incoming students, beware: You're moving into residence hall next month, and your roommate, hall neighbors and classmates are going to be nothing like you. They'll be from the crime-ridden city, a closed-minded suburban neighborhood or the "middle of nowhere."

And their geographical history won't be the only thing that makes them different. Even if you padded your social boundaries by rooming with a friend from home, living together in a tiny box with poor air circulation will expose you to new habits, new norms and a sliver of diversity because people are unique. And, ironically, what makes people unique also tends to be what makes them fight.

In attending a large university in the Midwest, MU students will, in at least some capacity, gain insight into a kind of diversity that hosts both challenges and positive experiences.

Right now, you may be thinking you "get" diversity. It's the 21st century, and few people still employ the racism and classism that our grandparents or even our parents experienced when they were growing up. But while American laws don't necessarily lend themselves to stereotypes or racism any longer, we're still facing social stigmas that are important to recognize and question.

In recent memory, there are two main events that are important for incoming freshmen to be aware of to understand the current issues facing the MU community: The 'Cotton Ball Incident' and the 'Hatch Hall Incident.'

The Cotton Ball incident, in summary, happened when two MU students littered cotton balls in the yard of the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center on campus one night in the spring of 2010. Obviously, it was viewed as a hate crime and the two were punished. However, the event brought racial tensions to the forefront of students' and administrators' minds.

About a year later, a similar thing happened when an allegedly intoxicated Hatch Hall resident spray-painted a slur on a statue in front of the building. Once again, MU students were forced to reconsider how they viewed diversity.

It's likely that none of the offenders thought at the time, "Even though this will present me with severe obstacles to finishing my education and getting a job later, I will promote the cause of white power!" More than likely, they thought it would be a funny joke. And perhaps it's important to note that, in our society, a lot of comedy does rely on racial or cultural differences.

The events shook our community, but where did they leave us? Ironically, the student body seemed to shift toward a greater divide in the fault lines between those who were organizing against racism, promoting a "One Mizzou" culture and using the events as a reigniting of the fight for a required diversity course.

On the other side, there are those who believe this is all too much, that a diversity course would be a huge waste of time and money and that we should just ignore the incidents because they don't represent the larger population.

In response to the Cotton ball incident, Jordan Paul, a Maneater columnist and former Missouri Students Association president, wrote about the significance of diversity issues on MU's campus. For instance, many students don't know that the BCC was established because "our campus used to be significantly more hostile to minorities than is the case in the status quo, hence the desire for a safe space that ultimately manifested itself in the form of a black culture center... how many students are aware we had a lynching in Columbia in the 20th century and played 'Dixie' at home football games as late as the '60s?"

The issue isn't purely black and white, though. The Maneater published an investigative piece concerning minority retention rates in Nov. 2010, and found that despite the university touting increased minority enrollment rates, retention and graduation rates were both down and disproportionate to the general population.

At the end of the spring 2011 semester, MU's Chief Diversity Officer Roger Worthington stepped down from his position. The administration isn't yet searching for a new candidate to fill his post, and at this time in MU's history, we have to disagree with that decision.

Worthington organized the MizzouDiversity Summit, a conference and series of workshops bringing together students and staff to talk about diversity issues, solutions and how to create change for the better. Having a central organizing agent in this situation seems crucial to our community, and we urge MU to reconsider waiting to hire a new chief officer. Facing a divide concerning the diversity course, gender regulations in housing and retention rates, now is the time for those at MU to be unified in bettering our community.

As for the incoming freshmen, realize biases (yours, your family's, your roommate's) early and challenge them. As a new member of the MU community, it's your social responsibility.

THE MANEATER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955

MU discusses possible athletic scholarship increase

No final decisions have been made regarding an increase.

By Hunter Woodall Published July 6, 2011

Before making her college decision, sophomore Molly Kreklow weighed her options.

In high school, she played volleyball and was selected as an Under Armour High School All-American and was a representative on the Junior Olympic All-Tournament team twice. The deciding factor in her decision to play volleyball at MU was how much scholarship money she received.

“If I was not receiving a scholarship, I would not be going to school at Mizzou,” she said. “I am really thankful to have the opportunity to go to school and play volleyball.”

With the cost of tuition rising, MU met with other Big 12 Conference athletic associations last month to discuss the possibility of increasing the maximum value of scholarships for student athletes. The conversation comes at a time when NCAA football is still recovering from the impact of the Cam Newton controversy at Auburn University and the recent resignation of head coach Jim Tressel at Ohio State.

In both cases, students were rumored to have accepted gifts or larger amounts of money to play for their respective schools. Similar cases have occurred within the last decade, the most prominent being former University of Southern California running back Reggie Bush having to return his Heisman Trophy because he accepted gifts from athletic boosters at the school.

“We’re interested in examining the issue further, but don’t have an official stance on the concept just yet,” Athletic Department spokesman Chad Moller said. “It is only in the discussion stage. There have been no proposals or votes taken by anyone in the Big 12 Conference, so everything is pure speculation at this point.”

At press time, no further progress had been made on the scholarship increase, although the University of Texas has publicly stated that reviewing the value of scholarships is a necessary step forward.

Moller said the topic was discussed in a general sense at the recent Big 12 Athletic Director meetings, from a philosophical standpoint. The discussion lasted about 10 minutes, and it was largely in response to the recent news concerning the Big Ten Conference.

“It’s impossible to know what the full impact would be at Mizzou and at other Big 12 institutions right now,” Moller said. “There are reasons why this would be seen as a good move, namely, helping to further take care of our student-athletes, but certainly there would be a lot of challenges associated.”

According to the MU Athletic Department, if the Big 12 were to review such a proposal, the scholarship increase would have an impact on the yearly proposed budget for the school's athletic teams.

“A majority of the volleyball team is on full scholarship so that could be a reason why I never hear complaints, but I think that it would be great for the Big 12,” Kreklow said. “I know there are some sports where a lot of the athletes don't get the scholarships that they deserve. so it would be nice for those teams to get more scholarship money.”

While the issue of athletic scholarships and rumors of pay-to-play continue to make the media rounds, Moller said it is unlikely that changes will be made anytime soon.

“The discussion was brief and there was no action or proposals made, so I imagine that the topic will continue to be discussed as we go forward,” Moller said. “Nothing is imminent as best I can tell.”

THE MANEATER

— THE STUDENT VOICE OF MU SINCE 1955 —

MU receives NCAA permission for Joplin exhibition game

Missouri submitted a special waiver request to the NCAA to allow for a third exhibition game.

By Pat Iversen Published July 6, 2011

When the Missouri Tigers basketball team announced its upcoming charity exhibition game with Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Mo., it was just the next step in the Missouri athletics department's plan to aid the Joplin tornado relief efforts.

"Public higher education serves Missourians in many ways, and certainly our outstanding coaches, student-athletes and athletic staff members have been among the first to step forward during this very challenging time for Joplin," Chancellor Brady Deaton said in a news release.

But the athletics department had to jump through some hoops before that first step could be taken. According to NCAA regulations, schools are allowed a maximum of two exhibition games per season. Missouri had already reached the limit for exhibition games before planning the Oct. 30 charity event in Joplin. NCAA spokesman Christopher Radford said via email that Missouri needed to place a special request to circumvent the rules.

"This particular process began with the University of Missouri requesting a waiver, which would allow the Mizzou to play an additional exhibition basketball game in addition to their previously scheduled contests," Radford said.

Such requests go to the NCAA Division I Legislative Council Subcommittee for Legislative Relief. Radford said the committee was created in 1993 because of a desire for "more rules flexibility."

"The SLR waiver process allows for NCAA legislation to be set aside on a case-by-case basis," Radford said. "The Missouri SLR waiver request was reviewed by the NCAA legislative relief staff, which has been given the authority by the NCAA Division I Subcommittee for Legislative Relief to make waiver decisions."

Applying for an SLR waiver isn't the typical course of action for this situation. It is instead used as a sort of last resort when no other committee has the authority to waive specific NCAA legislation, specifically regarding extraordinary situations.

The rule itself, according to Radford, was enacted with the athletes in mind. The NCAA hopes that playing and practice season restrictions will benefit the players on and off the field.

“The NCAA membership has put playing and practice season restrictions in place to limit the demands on student-athletes that may negatively impact their ability to succeed academically,” Radford said. “The great thing about the legislative relief process is that it allows the NCAA to work with its member institutions when unique situations arise.”

Such a situation presented itself in late May when Joplin was torn apart by a major tornado, disrupting lives and businesses throughout the area. Radford said the NCAA’s decision on the waiver approval was made easier by looking at the benefits of such an event.

“Several factors were considered,” Radford said. “The extreme circumstances surrounding the tornado that devastated Joplin, the fact that all proceeds from the contest will directly benefit the community of the impacted institution, the contest involves an institution directly affected by the tornado and is being played within the affected community and the two institutions involved are both located in the impacted state.”

Since the game has been given the go-ahead, the two universities can begin working together to bring aid to the damaged Joplin area.

“The game between the Tigers and the Lions will surely be exciting and will offer a welcome relief from the stresses of the recovery effort,” MSSU President Bruce Speck said. “The MU athletics team has already contributed much to the recovery effort and the entire Southwest Missouri region is thankful.”