

MU senior opens kids' eyes

New experiences are the main goal.

By Janese Silvey

The girls giggled as they gripped the ballet barre and made faces in the mirror while waiting for their first dance audition.

For most of the dozen or so kids, Thursday was their first trip to a dance studio. Some will get to come back: Those who showed interest or promise will be able to take a free weekly class at the School of Missouri Contemporary Ballet.

It's called Dance Outside the Box, and it's the latest extension of Dream Outside the Box, a 3-year-old program aimed to give children from low-income families a chance to explore hobbies and careers they otherwise might not experience.

Dream Outside the Box is the brainchild of Kam Phillips, a University of Missouri senior who will leave Columbia in May a little better than she found it. Since it debuted in February 2009, DOTB has partnered with the Boys & Girls Club to provide some 300 children with activities.

The children have taken trips to farms and local businesses. They've used toothpicks and balloons to create structures and learn about engineering, and they've had a chance to see horses. And Phillips has made sure the children aren't just on the receiving end of volunteerism: She also had them visit long-term care facilities and make Valentine's Day cards for senior citizens.

Phillips came to MU from Fort Worth, Texas, where she spent her youth involved in rodeo, dance and travel. When she arrived in Columbia and began volunteering at Boys & Girls Club, she realized children here didn't have those same opportunities.

"I wanted kids to realize they don't have to be rappers or athletes," Phillips said. "I never tell them they can't be basketball players if they aspire to that and dedicate themselves, but I encourage them to have another plan."

Phillips started DOTB her freshman year after coming up with the idea in a chancellor's leadership course that required students to develop a plan to change the world. Students weren't asked to implement their ideas, but Phillips said once she came up with it, "I didn't think it was OK not to."

By chance, she also attended a leadership panel where she heard Anne Deaton, wife of Chancellor Brady Deaton, talk about the importance of networking.

“One thing I said was when you see someone you don’t know but you know that person might be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact that person,” Deaton recalled.

So Phillips contacted her and asked Deaton for advice about how to implement her program. Phillips laid out her idea, and they brainstormed how to implement it.

DOTB uses volunteers to expose students to new hobbies and careers. What makes it different, Phillips said, is that every lesson comes with a hands-on activity. The inaugural activity, for instance, doubled as a French lesson and ice cream social, requiring students to say the ingredients in English and French. Months later, Phillips said, a little girl saw her and said, “Merci beaucoup.”

The latest effort, Dance Outside the Box, came after Karen Grundy, executive director of Missouri Contemporary Ballet, demonstrated some moves for the Boys & Girls Club. Phillips later told Grundy how much the children enjoyed it and asked about a weekly class.

“For me, I want dance to be available to anybody,” Grundy said. “I love what her program is doing.”

Phillips’ efforts have been noticed. In the spring, she earned a national Truman Scholarship and won recognition in mtvU’s “Top of the Class,” which came with a \$5,000 scholarship that she can use, in part, to fund her DOTB activities.

Phillips is set to graduate in May with a degree in social work and plans to return to Texas to work on a political campaign before pursuing a master’s degree in public administration. She hopes to work in public policy.

Phillips also has made sure DOTB continues, turning it from a one-woman project to an official MU student organization. “She had great maturity in realizing that she had to think of succession planning,” Deaton said. “She enabled other students to take leadership.”

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Pinkel fears hope of saving Big 12 is "naive"

By Mike DeArmond - Posted on 19 September 2011

Despite comments from Texas coach Mack Brown about wanting keep the Big 12 Conference together, **Missouri coach Gary Pinkel isn't chasing after elusive hope.**

"That's naïve to even think that," Pinkel said during the Big 12's Monday morning media teleconference.

Pinkel – with much at stake in Missouri's prime recruiting grounds of Texas if the Tigers are no in a league with schools from the Lone Star State – did not purport to be able to predict what will happen.

"All the institutions probably are hard at work. . . trying to come up with some clarity on this," Pinkel said. "But honestly, I have absolutely no control over it myself."

Several coaches on the call noted the ultimate decision on life or death for the Big 12 did not rest in their hands but beyond the kin of the athletic departments.

"I don't know what's going to happen," Pinkel said.

And added: "From my standpoint I really don't want to comment any further."

Pinkel should find it not only easier but more necessary to concentrate on preparing his team for a Saturday night game at No. 1 Oklahoma.

Missouri not only beat the Sooners last year in Columbia but, in the words Monday of OU coach Bob Stoops "whooped" Oklahoma.

But last year is last year. And even with MU running back Henry Josey coming off Big 12 Co-Offensive Player of the Week honors after running wild over Western Illinois last Saturday, the Mizzou and OU rematch won't be about last week, when Josey ran the Tigers to a 69-0 victory.

"We're talking about the excellence of the excellent," Pinkel said of Oklahoma 2011. "I see it as being pretty much flawless. I don't see any weakness at all on this football team."

Conference paranoia doesn't affect Missouri players

By *MIKE DeARMOND*

COLUMBIA | As the underpinnings of the Big 12 Conference quivered and speculation raged over what league Missouri might call home next season, Tigers sophomore quarterback James Franklin played it happily unconcerned.

"I haven't thought about that once," Franklin said on Monday. "Me, personally, I don't care if we stay (in the Big 12) or if we go, where we end up. It doesn't bother me a bit."

Judging from most Missouri fans, Franklin is in a careless minority. They have made their hopes and fears known and seem perched on a narrow ledge near the top of a tall building, ready to leap if Missouri finds itself without a proper landing place in the changing conference hierarchy.

"Hopefully, if they do jump it's into a nice, soft pool of water," Franklin said. And he was laughing before and after he said it.

Nebraska and Colorado are gone. Texas A&M has announced it intends to leave for the Southeastern Conference. Texas, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State are considering their options, possibly a move to the Pac-12.

But Monday, as the Missouri football team prepared to play at No. 1 Oklahoma on Saturday night, conference affiliation was an afterthought.

"You hear things," said junior receiver T.J. Moe. "But I'm going to be playing football somewhere next year. Where it is, I don't care. I'll be playing somewhere, and I'll be playing well."

The topic is discussed among themselves.

Senior nose tackle Dominique Hamilton uses the uncertainty as a prod for underclassmen.

"I'm not going to be here next year," Hamilton said. "We tease the guys, say, 'You guys are going to be going to a little conference.'"

"But I think Mizzou's going to be all right. We're going to go somewhere that's solid."

You can find someone, somewhere to provide supporting speculation for whatever agenda you favor for Mizzou.

Staying in the Big 12. Going to the SEC. Or the Big Ten. **Some assumed MU chancellor Brady Deaton, who's also the chairman of the Big 12 Board of Directors, was in secret meetings with the Big East Conference when they heard he was in New York on Monday.**

But Deaton was attending an international agriculture gathering, invited there by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, according to Deaton's administrative assistant.

More of a distraction for Missouri players is the noise coming out of speakers around their practice field, an attempt to simulate the crowd conditions at Oklahoma.

"It's worse than the crowd," said Henry Josey, the MU tailback who was chosen Big 12 co-offensive player of the week Monday.

"Those speakers, they will drive you crazy. That's how loud they are. You can't describe the sound. It makes your ears feel like they're about to explode."

If Hamilton had his way more attention would be paid to the perspective of the players in this conference chaos.

The players play the games. But they are not consulted about TV dollars, which conferences they might prefer or really anything at all.

"It's always been like that," Hamilton said. "If they cared, we'd be getting paid right now."

Read more: <http://www.kansascity.com/2011/09/19/3154281/conference-paranoia-doesnt-affect.html#ixzz1YUuNfpOf>

Oklahoma, Texas regents clear path for more conference realignment

MU Mention on Pg. 2

By Missourian staff and wire reports

September 19, 2011 | 8:05 p.m. CDT

Texas and Oklahoma cleared the way Monday for their departures from the Big 12 Conference, with regents at both powerhouse schools giving their presidents the authority to find a new home.

University of Oklahoma President David Boren said he is focused on either keeping the Sooners in the Big 12 or moving to the Pac-12. And while he said it is not inevitable that Oklahoma will leave, he said the league must share television revenue equally among its members for the Sooners to stay.

"Our goal is to be an equal partner in any network, and we think it ought to be the goal of every other member of any conference that we're a part of to be an equal member of that conference," Boren said. "We all ought to value each other — every single member of that conference — and none of us should seek to play a stronger leadership role than anyone else."

University of Texas regents gave President Bill Powers the authority to negotiate a move out of the Big 12 to a new conference, with any decision requiring their final approval.

Powers made no mention of other conferences. After the vote, Powers said only that the process is "ongoing" and left without further comment.

Oklahoma State's regents have called a special meeting on the topic for Wednesday and Texas A&M has already said it plans to leave the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference by July if legal issues can be addressed.

If Oklahoma leaves, so will Oklahoma State, Boren said. He said he has been talking with Oklahoma State officials and he expects the in-state rivals to stick together.

"Oklahoma State has attractive options and we are working with our colleagues at the University of Oklahoma to make sure the best interests of both institutions and our state are achieved," Oklahoma State President Burns Hargis added. "We will be prepared at the appropriate time to take whatever steps are necessary for Oklahoma State."

This past weekend, Baylor and Iowa State reportedly reached out to the Big East as a contingency plan if the Big 12 falls apart. Syracuse and Pittsburgh left the Big East to join the ACC over the weekend, and the Associated Press reported Monday that the Big East and the Big 12 are discussing a merger of the two conferences.

Meanwhile, Missouri, Kansas and Kansas State have yet to definitively comment on their futures.

Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden said before Saturday's football game that as of then, he and MU Chancellor Brady Deaton, who is also the chair of the Big 12 board of directors, were still committed to the Big 12.

"Brady is our chair of the Big 12, and he's going to continue to do everything he can to keep the Big 12 together," Alden said. "I understand there's a lot of things going on out there, but that's his primary focus, is to do what he thinks he can to keep that together."

The latest round of conference realignment started Aug. 31, when Texas A&M informed the Big 12 it would leave the conference, and the SEC voted to accept the school a week later. However, many of the remaining Big 12 schools refused to waive their legal right to sue Texas A&M or the SEC, so the move has not gone through.

Oklahoma and Texas both flirted with leaving the Big 12 last year, but decided to stay. The league put together a \$1.2 billion television contract to split among 10 teams but decided not to create a conference network similar to the ones in place by the Big Ten and Pac-12.

The Big 12 does not have equal revenue sharing like other power conferences, and members bristled after Texas inked a 20-year, \$300 million agreement with ESPN to create the Longhorn Network.

Several influential Baylor alumni and University of Texas benefactor B.J. "Red" McCombs took out full-page ads in Texas newspapers over the weekend suggesting the Big 12 is "a conference not only worth fighting for, it's worth waging peace for." Baylor even commissioned a poll on the topic, with its marketing department saying it provided reasons for the league to stick together.

Texas officials have said they want the Big 12 to hold together but would keep "all options" open for the university, including reported discussions with the Pac-12 and ACC.

But Texas has little appetite for a Big 12 without rival Oklahoma or Texas A&M.

"Last time everybody talked about where everybody was going, we ended up staying in the same place," Longhorns coach Mack Brown said Monday. "So my thoughts have always been the same: I think the University of Texas wants to stay in the Big 12."

Red Raiders coach Tommy Tuberville said Texas Tech's leadership "would love to keep this thing together with all the other teams that have been with us."

"I thought we were really on the verge a couple weeks ago of this thing going south but I think there's a true effort out there by several teams that have a lot to say about this of keeping the Big 12 intact and maybe growing it," Tuberville said.

The NCAA has no authority over conference affiliations, though NCAA President Mark Emmert said Monday that he has been contacting university presidents and conference commissioners. He said he is urging them to consider the well-being of the student-athletes.

Emmert also said talk of having four or five superconferences is nothing more than conjecture.

Texas lawmakers are watching the situation but are unlikely to interfere, said state Rep. Dan Branch, the Republican chairman of House Higher Education Committee.

Branch said he has told Texas regents and administrators he would like the state's major universities to be rooted in a conference in the middle of the country — not one that is "Los Angeles- or Atlantic-centric."

"I hope they will also take into consideration the greater good for Texans," Branch said. However, he said, "I understand in this new world, we've got to allow those regents and presidents to make those decisions."

Harry Plumer, Andrew Wagaman and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Pinkel dubious about Big 12

By Dave Matter

Can the Big 12 survive another round of plundering, this time from the Pac-12? Gary Pinkel isn't hopeful.

"That's naive to even think that," Missouri's coach said during today's Big 12 teleconference.

That's about all he said when it came to the saga of conference realignment, which could soon vanquish the Big 12 as we know it. Oklahoma's board of regents was expected to meet today, likely to authorize President David Boren to decide the Sooners' future conference, with most reports suggesting OU is headed to the Pac-12, along with Oklahoma State and perhaps Texas and Texas Tech. Texas' regents are also slated to meet today.

That means Saturday's trip to No. 1 Oklahoma could very well be Missouri's last and the Tigers' final conference matchup with the Sooners. The two programs have met 95 times since 1902, with the Sooners leading the series 66-24-5.

For now, Oklahoma is Pinkel's only focus.

"We're talking about the excellent of the excellent," he said of the Sooners. "I see them being pretty much flawless. I don't see a weakness on this football team."

Vegas oddsmakers agree. The Sooners (2-0) are early 21-point favorites over the Tigers (2-1).

That's not how Stoops is framing Saturday's matchup.

"Hey, we were No. 1 in the country last year and went up there and they whipped us," he said, referring to MU's 36-27 upset of Oklahoma in Columbia. "So our players are more than aware of that and anxious to play."

Last year's homecoming victory over OU was considered a landmark win for Pinkel, his first over the Sooners in seven tries. But as players gathered for meetings yesterday, there was no mention of last season's game, Pinkel said.

"Our players have great respect for them," he said.

That much was obvious after Saturday's 69-0 win over Western Illinois, though players guarded against putting any more emphasis on the next matchup, even if it's the last one in the series.

“Every new game is a stepping stone,” receiver T.J. Moe said. “We’re 2-1, and now we want to win another one. ... We know they’re a good football team. They were a good football team last year, too. And every year.”

Superlatives

Tailback Henry Josey leads the Big 12 in rushing (133.3 yards per game) after piling up 263 yards on just 14 carries in the first half of Missouri’s 69-0 annihilation of Western Illinois on Saturday night. For his efforts, Josey shared the Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week honors with Texas Tech quarterback Seth Doege. Josey is the first MU tailback to win the weekly conference honor since Devin West won it twice in 1998. Josey ranks sixth among all FBS players in rushing.

In less than three quarters of action against Western Illinois, defensive end Brad Madison totaled four tackles — three behind the line, including a sack — a hurry and a forced fumble. Madison leads MU in tackles for loss (five) and sacks (three), ranking second among Big 12 players in both categories.

Up next

Top-ranked Oklahoma is coming off a 23-13 victory at Florida State, a win that should allay any concerns about the Sooners’ defense after last year’s occasional struggles. OU held the Seminoles to just 27 rushing yards on 26 carries, sacked their quarterbacks six times and intercepted three passes.

Oklahoma has been virtually unbeatable on Owen Field under Bob Stoops. Since 1999, his first season at OU, the Sooners are 73-2 at home, suffering only losses to Oklahoma State (2001) and TCU (2005). Oklahoma has the nation’s longest home winning streak at 37 games. Stoops is 6-1 against Missouri and 3-0 in Norman, where the Tigers haven’t won since 1966.

Landry Jones is off to a quiet start, throwing just two touchdown passes. All-American receiver Ryan Broyles has 21 catches for 213 yards, while the running game has leaned on walk-on Dominique Whaley, who has 202 yards and four touchdowns.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Don Downing Awarded Citation of Merit from University of Missouri School of Law

BY TGI Marketing Communications | Posted: Monday, September 19, 2011 10:09 AM

Don Downing, an attorney with the St. Louis plaintiff law firm Gray, Ritter & Graham, P.C., has been honored with the Citation of Merit from the University of Missouri School of Law.

The Citation of Merit is the highest award bestowed by the School of Law. Recipients are chosen for their contribution to the School of Law, to the legal profession, and to their communities.

Downing, who earlier this year led a negotiation that resulted in a global settlement of \$750 million on behalf of U.S. rice farmers whose seeds were contaminated by Bayer CropScience's genetically modified strain of rice, received the award at the School of Law's annual "Law Day" in Columbia, Mo.

Gray, Ritter & Graham, P.C. is a plaintiff litigation firm. The firm's primary areas of practice are catastrophic injury and death, complex commercial and consumer litigation, product liability, railroad and river worker injuries, automotive and aviation litigation, and professional negligence. To learn more, visit www.grayrittergraham.com

The New York Times

In a Married World, Singles Struggle for Attention

By TARA PARKER-POPE

Stuart Bradford

September 19, 2011, 5:10 pm

MU mention page 2

Here's a September celebration you probably didn't know about: It's National Single and Unmarried Americans Week.

But maybe celebration isn't the right word. Social scientists and researchers say the plight of the American single person is cause for growing concern.

About 100 million Americans, nearly half of all adults, are unmarried, according to the Census Bureau — yet they tend to be overlooked by policies that favor married couples, from family-leave laws to lower insurance rates.

That national bias is one reason gay people fight for the right to marry, but now some researchers are concerned that the marriage equality movement is leaving single people behind.

“There is this push for marriage in the straight community and in the gay community, essentially assuming that if you don't get married there is something wrong with you,” says Naomi Gerstel, a sociologist at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst who has published a number of papers comparing the married and unmarried.

“But a huge proportion of the population is unmarried, and the single population is only going to grow. At the same time, all the movement nationally is to offer benefits to those who are married, and that leaves single people dry.”

Yet as she and other experts note, single people often contribute more to the community — because once people marry, they tend to put their energy and focus into their partners and their own families at the expense of friendships, community ties and extended families.

In a report released this week by the Council on Contemporary Families, Dr. Gerstel notes that while 68 percent of married women offer practical or routine help to their parents, 84 percent of the never-married do. Just 38 percent of married men help their parents, compared with 67 percent of never-married men. Even singles who have children are more likely than married people to contribute outside their immediate family.

“It’s the unmarried, with or without kids, who are more likely to take care of other people,” Dr. Gerstel said. “It’s not having children that isolates people. It’s marriage.”

The unmarried also tend to be more connected with siblings, nieces and nephews. And while married people have high rates of volunteerism when it comes to taking part in their children’s activities, unmarried people often are more connected to the community as a whole. About 1 in 5 unmarried people take part in volunteer work like teaching, coaching other people’s children, raising money for charities and distributing or serving food.

Unmarried people are more likely to visit with neighbors. And never-married women are more likely than married women to sign petitions and go to political gatherings, according to Dr. Gerstel.

The demographics of unmarried people are constantly changing, and more Americans are spending a greater percentage of their lives unmarried than married. While some people never marry, other adults now counted as single are simply delaying marriage longer than people of their parents’ generation did. And many people are single because of divorce or the death of a spouse. About one-sixth of all unmarried adults are 65 and older; nearly one-eighth of unmarried people are parents.

The pressure to marry is particularly strong for women. A 2009 study by researchers at the University of Missouri and Texas Tech University carried the title “I’m a Loser, I’m Not Married, Let’s Just All Look at Me.” The researchers conducted 32 interviews with middle-class women in their 30s who felt stigmatized by the fact that they had never married.

“These were very successful women in their careers and their lives, yet almost all of them felt bad about not being married, like they were letting someone down,” said Lawrence Ganong, a chairman of human development and family studies at the University of Missouri.

“If a person is happy being single,” he said, “then we should support that as well.”

Bella DePaulo, a visiting professor of psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has a term for discrimination against single people, which she calls one of the last accepted prejudices. It is the title of her new book, “Singlism: What It Is, Why It Matters and How to Stop It.”

As an example, Dr. DePaulo cites the Family and Medical Leave Act. Because she is single and has no children, nobody in her life can take time off under the law to care for her if she becomes ill. Nor does it require that she be given time off to care for a sibling, nephew or close friend.

Stephanie Coontz, director of research for the Council on Contemporary Families, says policy makers often neglect the needs of single people because their view is outdated — based on the way they themselves grew up.

In researching her latest book, "A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique in American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s," Ms. Coontz found that in the past single people were often called "deviant," "neurotic" and "selfish."

"We do have the tendency to think that there is something special about married people, and that they are the ones who keep community and family going," she said. "I thought it was important to point out that single people keep our community going, too."

Missourinet

MedZou clinic offers free healthcare for the uninsured

by Allison Blood on September 19, 2011

MedZou is a free clinic put on by University of Missouri Medical students for those without health insurance. Student Director Alex Sable-Smith says the majority of patients come in with chronic illnesses like diabetes and heart disease. He says often people are also diagnosed with anxiety and depression too.

MedZou only serves those who have no insurance; Sable-Smith says those 18 and under and 65 and older are covered by Medicare and Medicaid normally, so it's those in between that come in. He says he wishes there were more clinics because the wait list at other clinics is so long.

In addition to the normal Thursday night clinics, he says there are also specialty clinics once a month for diabetes, physical therapy and dermatology. He says there's a big need for helping the medically underserved, because those who need counseling help are often on a wait list of six months or longer.

He says students in their first two years of Medical School get to volunteer at the clinic and see a side of healthcare that they may not otherwise. He says there's a lot of Missourians who are medically underserved, and it's important for Medical students to see that part of healthcare. Students do the initial exam and interview, and then a licensed doctor makes a diagnosis.

He says on a busy Thursday night, the clinic will see between 10 and 20 people. It opens at 5:00 and doesn't close until all the patients have been seen by a student and a physician.



Ex-Missouri RB stands trial in sex assault case

7:23 AM, Sep. 20, 2011

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The felony sex assault trial of former University of Missouri running back Derrick Washington is scheduled to begin Tuesday morning.

Washington is accused of deviate sexual assault by a former Missouri athletics tutor. The felony jury trial is expected to last two days in Boone County Circuit Court.

He also faces a Sept. 30 trial on two counts of misdemeanor domestic violence after an ex-girlfriend said he poked her eyes and choked her during an argument.

The one-time Tiger co-captain has pleaded not guilty in both cases. He was dismissed from the team days before the start of the 2010 season

Both trials have been repeatedly postponed over the past year. But Washington's lawyer and the prosecutor handling the case have assured judges they won't make any more such requests.