

OCT 15 2012



## MU faculty may review plus/minus grading

By Janese Silvey

Friday, October 12, 2012

**University of Missouri students want professors to reconsider the way grades are doled out, but faculty representatives say they need more information before spending time studying the issue.**

Missouri Student Association President Xavier Billingsley yesterday formally asked the MU Faculty Council to consider alternatives to the current plus/minus grading scale. He said students fear in some cases tacking a "minus" behind a letter grade puts MU students at a disadvantage when competing for graduate school slots or jobs.

The current scale adjusts the point assigned to letter grades with pluses or minuses. For instance, a B-plus is worth 3.3 points toward a grade-point average, while a B-minus is given 2.7 points.

At the top of the scale, an A-plus is worth 4.0 — the same as an A — while an A-minus is given 3.7 points. That means a student can receive all A's but if any has a "minus" attached, the student would not have a perfect 4.0 GPA. It also means those who receive A-pluses aren't rewarded.

Kattesh Katti, vice chairman of the council, said he agrees there is a "significant difference" between an A, which he deemed "excellent," and A-plus, which is "exceptional."

"The landscape of measuring success has changed," said Katti, a curators' professor of physics and radiology. "It's worthy of considering differentiating between an A and an A-plus."

Nearly 53 percent of 719 undergraduates who took an online survey said they aren't satisfied with the current grading system, and nearly 65 percent said they'd prefer a system without pluses or minuses.

The university switched from the straight letter system to the plus/minus scale years ago in an attempt to control grade inflation, said Art Jago, a management professor.

Billingsley said the group is open to hearing other ideas, such as a scale that would give extra weight to an A-plus or one that does away with the A-minus but leaves the plus/minus option for other grades.

Professors said they need more data before moving forward with an analysis of the grading system, such as what grading scales similar universities use and whether the current model puts MU students at a disadvantage, as some claim.

The main concern is time. Faculty Council has a number of annual assignments, such as drafting academic calendars, as well as big-ticket agenda items, such as evaluating and reconsidering university policies on tenure and promotion or credit requirements.

"If we do this, it will be a major commitment on our part," Faculty Council Chairman Harry Tyrer said.

The council's student affairs committee agreed to help MSA gather the needed data and forward information to the council's academic affairs committee for further study. That group will then recommend whether the full council should invest time in studying alternative grading systems.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## Deal with MU revived Missouri Theatre, gave university needed space

By Rebecca Reno

October 15, 2012 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — John Murray's job has been a whirlwind since MU took over the Missouri Theatre last year.

"It's been overwhelmingly positive but a tremendous amount of work," said Murray, assistant director of business services and building coordinator for Jesse Hall.

**Since MU announced it would lease and operate the theater, his job has included overseeing it, too.**

**Murray has doubled his staff to six full-time employees who handle all events for both Jesse Auditorium and the Missouri Theatre. Murray handles scheduling the events.**

**The 84-year-old theater is at 203 S. Ninth Street, just north of campus. The lease with MU runs for three years. After that, the university has the option to buy it for \$3.7 million, according to previous Missourian reporting.**

When the lease deal was made in August 2011, the theater had limited programming and was struggling to stay open.

"The Missouri Theatre has been such a jewel to the community for so long," Murray said. "Through the decades, it has gone through different challenges. They were in a financial challenge that no one could see a way out of."

The deal has revived the theater and given MU, especially the School of Music, a needed space for performances and other events.

"We hadn't been able to keep up with the demand in Jesse Auditorium," Murray said. "We can now hold two events in one night with using the Missouri Theatre."

Before the deal, the School of Music rented the space as it could for performances. Now, it has been designated the theater's primary user, said School of Music Director Robert Shay.

Over the past year, about 50 School of Music concerts have been performed there, Murray said.

Shay said one of the big changes is that musicians and ensembles have a lot more time in the theater before the performance. "At Jesse, we always had problems getting enough rehearsal time," he said.

"We are just about to submit our request for 2013-2014, and hopefully we get our things in place before a lot of other requests come in," Shay said.

Organizations and people still can rent the theater. Events have been held there by the True/False Film Fest, the Citizen Jane Film Festival, Boonslick Chordbusters and others.

Additionally, the theater has been a location for weddings, wedding receptions, birthday parties and other celebrations such as one held by the University of Georgia President's Office on the Friday night before Missouri's first SEC game against Georgia, Murray said.

Shay said that if MU buys the theater it would give music students even more access to its facilities; as it is, he said it's great to show to prospective students.

"I think audiences enjoy going there more than Jesse for the kind of music we put on," he said. "The events get a better turnout at the Missouri Theatre."

The theater has 1,200 seats while Jesse Auditorium has 1,700 seats.

Murray said there is a difference in how things sound at the Missouri Theatre versus Jesse Auditorium. "The classical music and acoustic music that have more nuances play better in the acoustics at the Missouri Theatre," he said.

When an organization on campus or in the community wants to hold its event at the Missouri Theatre, Murray personally takes them over to show them the facilities.

"I'm overwhelmed by the beauty of it," he said.

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*



## On the Job: How to enhance your online image

It's often said that people make a judgment about you within seconds of meeting you, and now new research shows the same may be true even when they're viewing your photo on Facebook.

**When a person's Facebook photo includes positive comments or social cues — such as what the person does — those opinions strongly affect the level of perceived attractiveness of that person, according to a University of Missouri study.**

Others' comments can make the person seem more appealing physically, socially and professionally, says Seoyeon Hong, a doctoral student who did the research with Kevin Wise, an associate professor at the university.

While the researchers didn't pursue how this could affect an employer's opinion of a job applicant, hiring managers also might take their cues from what other people say about you online.

"If you present yourself one way, that information is useful," Wise says. "But it's not as credible as what other parties say about you."

If you present yourself as a nice, professional, responsible person to an employer, but those online are "posting that you're a total schmuck," that could be a red flag for employers because others' comments often garner more attention, he says.

In the University of Missouri study, Facebook profile photos were shown to about 100 college students. College students thought the people in photos with comments and additional information, such as an athlete playing sports, were more physically and socially attractive. Those with plain headshots and no other information on Facebook were not seen as attractive, Hong found.

Visual images are becoming more powerful online. Not only does Facebook reveal our photos to the world, but sites like Instagram and Pinterest are becoming much more popular as a way to reveal our interests or personalities.

An ROI Research study found that 44% of respondents are more likely to engage with brands if those brands post pictures.

What this indicates is that no matter what you put on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn to enhance your professional image, you must make sure the photos are consistent with your written message and that comments from others are equally positive.

Some ways to enhance your image online:

- **Get recommendations.** LinkedIn offers a feature to let others recommend you.

While you don't want to have dozens of recommendations that might ring false with employers, it's a good idea to have positive comments about your abilities that go along with a flattering LinkedIn profile photo.

- **Watch the sarcasm.** You might consider it harmless or fun to have friends say snarky things about you online, but those comments might give an employer pause.

Again, it's a case of a third party presenting a less-than-flattering image of you that may weigh more heavily with employers.

- **Get positive customer reviews.** Just as consumers often pay close attention to customer reviews online about products or companies, it can be a good idea for employers to read positive reviews about you.

If you write a blog, it can be beneficial for others to post supportive comments of your efforts or show support by promoting your blog through their social-media channels.

- **Clean house.** Remember the last holiday party where you had tinsel on your head and a beer in your hand?

Employers might not find that so fitting, so take care to remove such photos and ask friends to do the same if you appear on their Facebook pages. Even if you use privacy settings, your connections might not follow suit.

Try to monitor what's posted about you online so you can make sure the right social cues are being broadcast.



HealthDay



The Philadelphia Inquirer

## Teens Who Self-Harm Need Adult Influences, Professional Help: Expert

**In survey, hopelessness was a major factor among kids who attempted suicide**

FRIDAY, Oct. 12 (HealthDay News) -- A new study outlines ways that parents, teachers and medical professionals can identify and help teens at risk for self-injury and suicide.

**"For many young people, suicide represents an escape from unbearable situations -- problems that seem impossible to solve or negative emotions that feel overwhelming," Lindsay Taliaferro, assistant professor of health sciences at the University of Missouri, said in a university news release.**

"Adults can help these teens dissect their problems, help them develop healthful coping strategies and facilitate access to mental health care so their problems don't seem insurmountable," she said.

Taliaferro analyzed data from more than 60,000 high school students who completed the 2007 Minnesota Student Survey and found that more than 4,000 of them said they had harmed themselves in the past year. Nearly half of those who reported self-injury also had attempted suicide, according to the article in the journal *Academic Pediatrics*.

"Of the teens who engaged in non-suicidal self injury, hopelessness was a prominent factor that differentiated those who attempted suicide from those who did not have a history of suicide attempts," Taliaferro said.

She noted that many parents, teachers and medical professionals avoid talking to teens about self-harm because they aren't sure how to help.

"Adults don't need to solve all the teens' problems, but they should let the teens know they have safe persons they can talk to," Taliaferro said. "Sometimes just talking about their feelings allows young people to articulate what they're going through and to feel understood, which can provide comfort."

She advised parents to strengthen connections with their teens and to help develop connections between their children and other adults who can be a positive influence.

"One of the most important protective factors against teens engaging in self injury was parent connectedness, and, for females, connections with other prosocial adults also were associated with reduced likelihood of engaging in self injury," Taliaferro said. "Parents are extremely valuable influences in their children's lives."

Although parents are influential in teens' lives, mental health professionals are the best resources for troubled teens, Taliaferro said. Other medical professionals, such as primary care doctors, also can play an important role by identifying teens who self-injure and referring them to mental health specialists and community support systems.

Suicide is the third-leading cause of death for teens in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



## Foster children need financial education

By Janese Silvey

Saturday, October 13, 2012

**Young people who age out of foster care need better financial education to help them manage money as adults, a University of Missouri researcher says.**

Clark Peters, assistant professor of social work and an expert in child welfare, was commissioned by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative to study the financial lives of former foster children. Peters tracked young people who participated in one of the organization's programs, Opportunity Passport, which teaches finances to foster teens, and found they had a smoother transition into adulthood.

"The key to ensuring financial stability for these young people is allowing them to juggle responsibilities and even to make some mistakes — just as their peers outside the foster care system do — in order to truly understand how their decisions impact their finances," he said in a statement. "Those growing up in intact families often have strong networks to rely on when they've made bad financial decisions — like buying cars straight out of school when they can't afford them. For young people who age out of foster care and don't have safety nets, bad financial decisions could mean homelessness."

Young people in foster care also are used to having caseworkers dictate their decisions, a dependency that makes it difficult to become independent adults. Providing financial education is a "crucial first step" toward breaking the cycle, Peters said.

"These young people can only invest in their futures if we invest in them through programs like Opportunity Passport," he said. "They may not have the option to move back home like many of their peers, but they deserve support that will allow them to learn and grow to become successful, self-sufficient adults."

Peters presented his findings last month at a Corporation for Enterprise Development Conference in Washington, D.C.

## Mid-Missouri offers \$3M for expanded air service

The city of Columbia and some mid-Missouri partners are taking a \$3 million bet that enough local airline passengers are tired of driving to St. Louis or Kansas City to catch flights.

The money is needed to convince American Airlines to add two daily nonstop flights between Columbia Regional Airport and Dallas/Fort Worth, and one daily nonstop route to Chicago O'Hare on 50-seat regional passenger jets, starting in mid-February.

The city also plans to waive two years of landing fees and facility rents, valued at \$250,000, and chip in \$400,000 worth of free advertising through a deal with Zimmer Radio Group, according to a proposed contract released Friday.

"We have to be prepared to spend it," said Columbia City Manager Mike Matthes. "That's what it's there for. But that said, we don't want to spend it."

**Columbia is leading the effort with a \$1.2 million contribution to the revenue shortfall fund. The Columbia Chamber of Commerce has pledged \$600,000, with Boone County and the University of Missouri each offering \$500,000. Cole County and Jefferson City have each pledged \$100,000.**

The airport is now served only by Delta Air Lines, which in June added daily nonstop flights to Atlanta, but decided one month later to phase out flights through Memphis, Tenn.

Until 2010, when Delta added limited jet service through the Tennessee city, it had been a decade since Columbia passengers could travel on bigger planes on now-defunct Ozark Airlines, which offered flights to Chicago and Dallas.

In November, Frontier Airlines will begin offering twice-weekly flights to Orlando, Fla., on 138-seat jets.

The expanded service will likely make for more crowded waits in the airport's lone terminal, Matthes acknowledged. The city plans to triple capacity of the airport's 50-person waiting room by relocating the baggage terminal to a double-wide trailer.

The next move? A more significant terminal expansion and renovation at the airport south of Columbia. The city estimates that will cost at least \$17 million and require voter approval of its financing, the manager said. That project remains several years away, Matthes said.

"It's absolutely a stopgap measure," he said, referring to the coming airport trailer. "Once we have this deal consummated, then we shift into a scenario for the terminal."

The Columbia City Council is scheduled to discuss the air service guarantee contract at its Monday meeting, with a vote set for Oct. 22. The agreement stipulates a guarantee of \$4,403 per flight to or from Chicago and \$5,010 for each flight to or from Dallas.

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## MU to award 10 honorees for outstanding service to journalism

By [Andrew Brown](#)

October 12, 2012 | 4:42 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — MU will hold a ceremony on Monday evening to honor 10 individuals with the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism.**

The Missouri Honor Medal is an annual award given to individuals, who have made life-long contributions to journalism. MU has presented the award since 1930. It is one of journalism's most prestigious awards. Some of the most recognizable former medal recipients include Tom Brokaw and Sir Winston Churchill.

The recipients of this year's honor medals have worked in many areas of the journalism industry, including investigative reporting, photo journalism, editing, advertising and media management.

The 2012 Missouri Honor Medalists include:

- Umar Cheema is an investigative reporter who works for The News, a newspaper in Pakistan. Cheema writes on Pakistan's corruption, politics and national security and has withstood abduction and physical abuse on several occasions. In 2011, Cheema was also honored with the International Press Freedom Award.
- Jodi Cobb is a photographer for National Geographic, something that only three other women in history have achieved. She has been photographing scenes around the world for more than three decades and has traveled to 65 countries. One of Cobb's most prestigious honors was being nominated for a

Pulitzer Prize for her 1995 book "Geisha: The Life, the Voices, the Art," which chronicled the lives of Japan's geisha community.

- Mona Eltahawy is a world renowned columnist who is being awarded for her coverage of Arab and Muslim issues. Eltahawy, who now lives in New York, was for many years

a reporter in the Middle East. Her award winning work has been published around the world including the Washington Post and the International Herald Tribune.

- John Ferrugia is an investigative broadcast reporter, who works for KMGH-TV in Denver. He is a former White House correspondent for CBS. Ferrugia is best known for his investigative work that uncovered the sexual assault of female cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy, which led to a congressional investigation. Ferrugia has been honored with numerous awards, including the National Edward R. Murrow Award in 2011.
- Hu Shuli is a leading figure of journalism in China. She is the editor of Caixin Media, a media group that she created in 2009, and is the dean of the School of Communications and Design at Sun Yat-sen University. She has won multiple awards for her work in helping to forward Chinese journalism. Shuli will be unable to attend the honor medal ceremony due to prior commitments.
- Jeff Leen is the assistant managing editor at the Washington Post's investigative unit. Previously, he worked at the Miami Herald. Throughout Leen's career, he has been involved in multiple award winning investigative news stories, including seven Pulitzer Prize winning pieces.
- Adam Moss has been the editor-in-chief of New York magazine. Moss, who was formerly the assistant managing editor for features at the New York Times, is responsible for overhauling New York magazine's digital publication. Since Moss took over in 2004, the magazine has won 22 National Magazine Awards.
- The New York Times' graphics department is being awarded for its outstanding ability to contextualize the news. The graphics department is responsible for creating the numerous visuals that fill the New York Times print and digital publications. The 25 members, who make up the department, are specialists in design, architecture, cartography, 3D modeling and statistics.
- Fred Papert has been in the marketing business since he graduated in 1946 from MU. He served at dozens of New York advertising agencies in his early career, and in 1960 he cooperatively founded Papert Koenig Lois. The marketing agency has grown since 1960 to become a successful publicly-owned marketing firm, whose clients include Procter and Gamble, Quaker Oats and Xerox, as well as several prominent political candidates including Robert F. Kennedy.
- Ken Paulson is the chief executive officer of the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University and in Washington, DC. Paulson was formerly the editor and senior vice president at the USA Today. He has also served as the president of the American Society of News Editors, and in 1993, he launched online newspapers in both New York and Florida. Paulson has previously been awarded with a fellowship by the Society of Professional Journalists, which is its highest honor.

## Rock Bridge hall of fame inductees include Wolfe



August Kryger | [Buy this photo](#)

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe speaks to students at Rock Bridge High School Friday after being inducted into the Rock Bridge Alumni Hall of Fame. Wolfe and four other graduates were inducted Friday morning as part of the school's homecoming assembly.

By Janese Silvey

Friday, October 12, 2012

**University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe has been inducted into the Rock Bridge High School Alumni Hall of Fame — an honor he said people wouldn't have predicted when he was a student.**

"I just wasn't that good," he joked during an acceptance speech this morning at the high school's homecoming assembly. "I wandered around the halls. I had a great time, but I was a better athlete."

Wolfe — who took the helm of the four-campus UM System in February after a career as a software executive — graduated from Rock Bridge in 1976 and was part of the first class to fully go through Columbia's second comprehensive high school.

In an email to the Tribune, Wolfe said although he didn't stand out academically at Rock Bridge, "I was fortunate enough to have teachers who believed in me, challenged me and inspired me."

Specifically, those teachers included physics instructor Alan Hatfield, math teacher Evelyn Ahlbrandt and football coach Rich Davies.

"In physics and math, I learned the analytical side of solving problems," he said. "Through athletics, I learned the value of hard work, focus and teamwork."

Wolfe, the school's quarterback who led the football team to a state championship, also was one of the first to experience the high school's block scheduling and unassigned time students still enjoy today.

"It was the wild, wild west," Wolfe recalled before praising administrators for trusting Rock Bridge students with independence.

Wolfe was among five inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame. Joining him today were Kathryn Peters, a 2002 graduate who has co-founded TurboVote, a company that makes it easier for people to vote; Courtney Schapira, a 1993 alumnae who is a dentist in the Air Force and recently helped modernize dental practices in Afghanistan; and Wallace Thoreson, a 1975 graduate who is now a medical researcher at the University of Nebraska.

Inductee Jake Adelstein, class of 1987, lives in Tokyo but provided an acceptance speech video. Adelstein was the first American citizen to work as a Japanese language reporter and covered crime in Japan that he documented in a 2009 book, "Tokyo Vice: An American Reporter on the Police Beat in Japan." His father, Eddie Adelstein, an MU professor, accepted the award on his behalf.

In his video, Jake Adelstein urged students to be persistent and to not be afraid to ask questions. He also told them to wait until they're at least 18 before reading his book because there's too much sex and violence — advice that generated buzz among teenagers, some of whom joked that they want to read it now.

Peters, the youngest of the inductees, praised Rock Bridge for keeping up with students even after they graduate.

"Rock Bridge is a school that really believes in its students," she said. "They'll keep checking in on you and cheerleading for you."

## Bus tour wraps up for Missouri tobacco tax measure

Backers of a proposal to increase Missouri's lowest-in-the nation cigarette taxes wrapped up a statewide bus tour Friday at the state Capitol.

Supporters contend raising tobacco taxes would help dissuade children and teens from smoking, encourage adults to stop and boost revenue for education and anti-tobacco programs. The two-week bus tour stopped in more than 20 cities.

Missouri voters next month are considering an initiative that would raise the state cigarette tax to 90 cents per pack while also increasing taxes on other tobacco products. Missouri's cigarette tax currently is 17 cents per pack and is the lowest in the country.

The increase is estimated to generate between \$283 million and \$423 million annually in additional revenue. The proposal would steer half that money to public schools, 30 percent to higher education and 20 percent to tobacco cessation and prevention programs.

"This proposition is a win-win. It provides much needed revenue toward local public schools — every school district in the state of Missouri will benefit. It provides much needed revenue to our universities and our colleges. It saves lives, and it keeps our kids from ever starting to smoke," said Misty Snodgrass, of the American Cancer Society.

Health organizations including the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association and the American Heart Association are pushing the ballot measure.

Opponents of the ballot measure contend the proposal would cost local governments.

**The Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association earlier this month launched a campaign against the tobacco measure. Critics hired an economist at the University of Missouri-Columbia to analyze the measure, and that study assumes a higher state tobacco tax will cut into sales of tobacco products and therefore cuts the sales tax revenues of cities and counties.**

This is the third time in a decade that Missourians have decided on a tobacco tax increase. Voters in 2002 defeated a 55-cents per-pack increase by roughly 31,000 votes and did the same in 2006, rejecting an 80-cents-per-pack increase by about 61,000 votes.



## Alabama fans find 'SEC feel' in Columbia

By Jacob Barker

Sunday, October 14, 2012

The conventional wisdom is that Crimson Tide fans travel. If you don't believe it, you haven't talked to someone like Chuck Compton.

Compton has only missed three Alabama games since 1981, and those were only because of family medical emergencies. He's traveled as far as Hawaii to watch his team play, so the trek to Columbia from his Jemison, Ala., home wasn't bad.

"My brother got married on the third Saturday in October," Compton said, as he prepared to head out from Shiloh's pre-game party to Faurot Field. "I skipped the wedding and went to the game."

As the pre-gamers made their way down Providence Road to Memorial Stadium before kickoff yesterday, splotches of crimson stood out in the black-and-gold crowd. Columbia got a taste of the fervor that is Southeastern Conference fandom during the Georgia last month, and the fans of defending BCS champion Alabama were just as enthusiastic.

Columbians apparently made a good impression, because the consensus from many of the Alabama fans was that the town was more than welcoming.

"The people are awesome," said Wane Cleghorn of Birmingham, Ala. "I've had four or five people stop and say, 'Welcome to Columbia.' "

But when you compare Missouri fans to the roughnecks who root for those other SEC teams, apparently we don't have to work that hard to come off as hospitable.

"When you go to Auburn, you go to Baton Rouge, you don't get folks welcoming you to town," said Joey Olive of Tuscaloosa, Ala. "They try to run you out of town."

Paul Allen, an Alabama fan who drove in from Nashville, agreed. Columbia has an "SEC feel" to it, he said, but the people have been much nicer than in some of the towns where he has traveled to see his team. Especially Florida. "The Florida fans are pretty god-awful," Allen said.

Although the Alabama fans enjoyed the absence of hostilities yesterday, they're pretty sure that might change once Mizzou gets settled in the SEC.

"You know how it is once you get the rivalries going," said Brian Thomas, who drove to Columbia from Memphis to see Alabama. "It changes a little bit."

The pull of Crimson Tide fandom is so strong, even some Mid-Missourians took the opportunity to don their crimson for the game.

Chanda Lusk has lived in Jefferson City for the past 10 years, but her husband grew up in Alabama, so she's had to adjust. She promised today's game would be the last time she didn't cheer for Mizzou.

"We were about to cross over," she said, donning crimson. "But this is a touchy subject for us."

# MU fraternity gathers more than 100 protesters with mysterious tweets

By Ie'shia McDonald, Janine Brownridge

October 12, 2012 | 8:25 p.m. CDT

**COLUMBIA — Intrigued by a series of mysterious tweets and Facebook posts, more than 100 MU students showed up at Tiger Plaza on Friday afternoon.**

It turned out to be a protest in response to reports that four students at the University of Texas at Austin were targeted with bleach-filled balloons over the summer.

The Texas students, who were Asian and African Americans, did not file complaints at the time, according to police statements in various news media. The Austin Police Department is still investigating.

Students were drawn to Tiger Plaza via a flurry of tweets as well as pictures and videos promoted over social media. The posts asked people to come out and be heard.

MU student Curtis Taylor Jr. said he was inspired by the message of empowerment in his fraternity's national program "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People." This led him to organize Friday's protest called "The Epiphany" along with his fraternity brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha.

On Thursday night, Taylor and his fraternity brothers began posting and tweeting messages about "The Epiphany" without revealing any details. The messages went viral.

When students arrived at Tiger Plaza, they had no idea what would occur until Taylor stood on a wall and began to speak to the crowd. He told them "The Epiphany" was a symbolic protest in support of the victims at the University of Texas.

He invited them to have their photos taken for Facebook and Twitter to spread awareness. Those who participated put duct tape with the word "speak" on their mouths and wrote "change" on their right forearms.

"I thought that this was a way to make a statement in response to the balloon-bleaching," Taylor said. "Just to let those minority students know that they have allies at the University of Missouri-Columbia."

Taylor thought of holding "The Epiphany" while talking to one of his friends last week about a way to impact the campus environment.

"I wanted to incorporate what I do personally with the national campaign to make a change on campus," Taylor said.

He explained that the tweets were meant to be teasers for the event, a tactic to draw a crowd. He used this as an opportunity to educate those who did not know about the incident that occurred in Texas.

"Events like this are important because they can be a part of something bigger, and no one should ever feel like they're isolated or alone," MU student Jessi Loos said.

"If we continue to keep pushing ourselves and be innovative and use ingenuity, then we can all create something great," Taylor said.

*Supervising editor is Jeanne Abbott.*