



## Sibling fights may lead to depression, self-esteem issues

Sibling rivalry may not be as harmless as we once thought.

**Researchers from the University of Missouri discovered that teens that fought with their brothers and sisters showed more anxiety, depression and/or self-esteem issues a year later.**

"Our findings may help parents, psychologists, and others who work with and support teens to understand that all sibling conflicts are not created equally," author Nicole Campione-Barr, assistant professor of psychological sciences at the University of Missouri, said in a press release.

Researchers studied 145 pairs of siblings on average between 12 and 15 over the course of one year.

They discovered that most teen sibling fights were about why things aren't fair/how they aren't being treated the same or the need for personal space.

Teens who had more fights over equality and fairness had more depressive symptoms a year later. Campione-Barr said to USA Today that teens normally believed that fairness issues revolved around "shared resources and responsibilities within the family," meaning they felt that they were not getting enough attention from their families and felt less important.

"This is why we think it's particularly problematic for depressive symptoms," she added to USA Today.

When it came to arguments about personal space, teens were more likely to have self-esteem issues.

Teens with more depression and anxiety were also more likely to have more fights a year later. Those with higher self-esteem had less fights.

Boys with older brothers and girls with brothers, regardless of order, were more likely to have anxiety. Teens whose sibling was a different gender were also more likely to have lower self-esteem.

Susan McHale, director of the Social Science Research Institute at Penn State University, told USA Today that this study showed how parent's differential treatment of siblings could affect

sibling relationships and lead to youth depression. But, parents shouldn't necessarily step in and stop fights. Instead they should help set up rules and be fair when it comes to enforcing chores and time limits.

The study was published on Dec. 20 in *Child Development*.

# The Chronicle of Higher Education

December 19, 2012

## The Multibillion-Dollar Threat to Research Universities

By Michael A. McRobbie

### NO MU MENTION

With each day, the so-called fiscal cliff looms larger as Congress and President Obama work to come to agreement on a federal-deficit compromise, which so far has proven elusive. Absent such an agreement by year's end, far-reaching spending cuts will be triggered as result of the Budget Control Act of 2011, through a mechanism called sequestration.

These reductions in federal spending, expected to total more than \$1-trillion over the next nine years, would reduce the country's budget deficit—but would almost certainly come at a perilously high cost to the short-term stability and long-term vitality of the U.S. economy.

The stakes could hardly be higher for research universities, which are the engines that power much of the country's scientific, technological, and economic growth. Universities account for more than half of the basic research conducted in the United States, work that often serves as the backbone of commercial research-and-development efforts by private-sector companies.

Those companies, which already collectively invest \$250-billion a year in such efforts—much of it focused on the development side—simply don't have the resources to devote to pure research on a scale needed to keep the United States at the forefront of scientific and technological innovation.

That funding void has been filled to a large extent by the U.S. government, which pays for about 60 percent of the basic research conducted by American universities. The historical return for that federal investment has been spectacular by any measure—jobs created, economic output, contributions to the well-being of people around the world.

Indiana University, for example, has a long history of research discoveries that have yielded advances in human knowledge and produced some of the world's most ubiquitous commercial products. But many of those discoveries would not have been made without support from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense.

In the 2010-11 fiscal year, the university spent \$509-million on research, much of it the result of the types of federal grants that would be at risk if the budget sequestration occurs. The same story is being played out across the United States, where research-university faculty and students are every day engaged in work that has the potential to save lives and improve the standard of living of Americans today and well into the future.

This significant economic force for societal good is being jeopardized by sequestration, which would require across-the-board spending cuts of as much as 9 percent from 2011 levels for most federal agencies. The result in 2013: A \$12.5-billion reduction in federally financed research, which could cost the U.S. economy an estimated 200,000 jobs, according to the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation.

Over the nine-year course of the Budget Control Act, the shortfall in federally supported research from 2011 levels would reach \$95-billion under the most conservative assumptions, according to the foundation, using data from the Congressional Budget Office. If one assumes that federal funds for research would otherwise have grown as a constant percentage of gross domestic product—still a conservative assumption—then the gap as a result of sequestration balloons to \$330-billion during the period 2013-2021.

The loss of such funds would curb key research efforts and reduce university-powered economic activity in the short term and would undoubtedly result in an even larger drag on the country's knowledge economy in the long run. It also would jeopardize this country's standing as the world's pre-eminent technological and scientific power, as China, India, and Brazil, among other countries, continue to pour money into government-sponsored research in an effort to emulate the formula that has worked so well for so long in the United States.

Sequestration is not the answer to our nation's fiscal challenges. We should address them through comprehensive measures that focus on the real causes of these problems, measures that do not indiscriminately cut a wide swath through programs that enable scientific research at the highest levels and serve the long-term interests of our economy.

*Michael A. McRobbie is president of Indiana University.*

**AP** Associated Press

COLUMBIA DAILY  
**TRIBUNE**

**The★Star**  
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

## **MU faces suit over man's fall**

### **Camera operator injured at arena.**

By Janese Silvey

Thursday, December 20, 2012

**A Kansas City cameraman is suing the University of Missouri after he fell off a platform from which he was asked to videotape a Missouri basketball game three years ago.**

Jeron Swann was working for Time Warner Sports/Metro Sports in December 2009 when he was directed to record the game in Mizzou Arena from atop a wooden platform about 4 feet above the concrete floor, according to a lawsuit filed in Boone County Circuit Court this week. The lawsuit alleges the platform had no stairs, handrails, guards or any other method to climb on or off, and Swann fell trying to get down.

Swann had shot MU basketball games in the arena previously, but this was the first time he had seen the platforms, said his attorney, Tom Thompson. The idea was to be able to film the game over the heads of spectators.

Thompson said Swann pushed his equipment onto the platform and climbed up.

"At halftime, he had to go to the bathroom, and there was no way to get down," Thompson said. "You just had to jump or fall or do something."

Swann attempted to climb down but fell head first onto the concrete floor and injured his shoulder, he said.

"He suffered terrible injuries to his shoulder, back and neck," Thompson said. "They patched him up there for a short while and sent him home."

Swann has had several operations since, he said.

Other entities, including ESPN, got word of the accident and refused to broadcast basketball games unless stairs and guardrails were installed, Thompson said. The petition says MU has since installed those safety features.

Chad Moller, spokesman for the MU Athletics Department, said he was not aware of the incident and referred questions to the UM General Counsel's Office. The UM System does not comment on pending litigation, spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

Worker's compensation has paid some of his bills, but Swann is suffering from lasting problems, Thompson said.

"He is working some but not able to do some of the things he used to be able to do," Thompson said. "He can work a stationary camera but can't work anything else. When you're a cameraman for sports, you want to catch the action; all he can do is stand at the back on a stationary camera and take long shots."

He also has lost sensation in his shoulder, arms and hands and is unable to control certain muscles, the lawsuit says.

The petition says MU was negligent and is asking for damages in excess of \$25,000 for Swann and another \$25,000 for his wife, Marjana Swann.

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## Solstice heralds a winter that's a little colder than last year

7 hours ago • By Harry Jackson Jr. [harry.jackson@post-dispatch.com](mailto:harry.jackson@post-dispatch.com) 314-340-8234

Winter officially started at 7:12 a.m. today with the winter solstice. That's when the North Pole of the earth's axis tilts farthest away from the sun. It's the shortest day of the year and the longest night.

**Even though it's winter, if you're dreaming of a white Christmas, you're going to be disappointed, says a University of Missouri meteorologist.**

"There's not much chance for a white Christmas this year," said Anthony Lupo, professor of meteorology at the university. And Missouri and Illinois will continue to be dry this winter, he said.

"But it will be better than last year," he said. "Temperatures will be closer to normal and we'll get some rain and snowfall, but not enough. But you may be able to wear that winter coat a couple of times this year."

For some, the winter solstice starts or ends important events and cultural changes depending on how the stars and planets are aligned at the time of the solstice — for example, the end of the world, an interpretation of the Mayan calendar.

Its importance dates back thousands of years, says Michael Ohnersorgen, professor of anthropology and archaeology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

"These were people without that paper calendar to look at to make a schedule," Ohnersorgen said. Instead their (prehistoric) scholars put together monuments that helped plot the movement of the sun, especially when the sun was believed to be divinity.

"They needed to know the time of rainy seasons, when to plant crops ..." Ohnersorgen said. That even set a point when some cultures sacrificed animals or people to ensure prosperity, abundance and security for the coming year.

See an example locally at "Woodhenge" at Cahokia Mounds near Collinsville. Observers have found the positions of the red cedar posts that helped calculate the seasons. (Cahokia Mounds has its annual solstice gathering at 6:50 a.m. Sunday at Woodhenge.)

## **Dry spells**

The current dry spell looks like it's going to hang on for at least another season, Lupo said.

"Eastern, southeastern Missouri will see some relief. Northwest and western won't," he said.

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center says it's a coin toss as to whether conditions will be normal or too warm and dry again through March.

States south and southwest of Missouri are in for drought conditions. States north of Missouri are experiencing blizzards.

Lupo hopes the snows this year from mid-Iowa through the Dakotas and across to the Rocky Mountains will help cool off Missouri. "If they get a good snow pack up there, that could help cool it off here," Lupo said.

## **La Niña**

Lupo blames the dry spell on the stubborn "La Niña" that has been sitting off the coast of South America for three years. That's a swirling patch of cooler water in the southern Pacific that among other things causes extremes of weather to divide into regions.

So the northern United States and Canada have gotten cold and record-breaking blizzards the last two years. The southern U.S. and Mexico have been suffering droughts and nearly no rain. Missouri and Illinois have been dry and hot with mild winters, almost as bad as the southern U.S.

Normally, "El Niño" — when the patch of water warms about two or so degrees — alternates with the La Niña and moderates the weather. But it failed to do so this year, Lupo said. "We don't know what triggers either of them," Lupo said.

Even if El Niño pushed through, drought-stricken regions of the country are so dry they will need more than what a change in natural weather patterns can provide.

"We need about 12 to 13 inches to get us where we need to be," Lupo said.

# MISSOURIANI

## MU professor debunks Mayan calendar apocalypse theories

BY Ashley Fowler

COLUMBIA — The Mayan long-count calendar has created a stir among those believing the world will end Friday. Most scholars of the Mayans have tried to assure folks that imminent apocalypse is just not so.

**During a talk at the Columbia Public Library on Wednesday evening, Robert Smale, a MU professor of Latin American history,** said that not even the Mayans believed the world would end this year. The Mayan calendar does not "run out," but starts from year zero and has no end, similar to the Gregorian calendar, he said.

"I want to dispel any anxiety or tension you might have about the date of Dec. 21, 2012, feeling that the predicted end of the world is upon us," Smale said. "I can tell you definitively from the Mayan texts that we have, books that we have, inscriptions, that the Mayas never predicted an apocalypse, cataclysm, a last judgment or an end of the world on Dec. 21, 2012."

The Mayans and their predecessors, the Olmec, figured out the concept of zero hundreds of years before other parts of the world including the Mediterranean and Europe. But the confusion about the end of the world occurred because the same marker used to indicate zero also could be used for 13.

The Mayan long-count calendar has names for certain chunks of time. A baktun is a unit of time that represents close to 400 years. On Friday, there will have been 13 baktuns passed since the Mayan "year zero." The baktun is the largest chunk of time depicted on most long-count calendars, but there are also pictuns, or 20 baktuns.

Smale explained that the fear surrounding the end-of-the-world scenario started in the 1960s, before the great revolution in Mayan studies. Smale said Mayanist Michael Coe may be responsible for the hubbub surrounding the end of the world and that Coe "perhaps misspoke."

"This was before the advances in decipherment in classic Maya writing and inscriptions," Smale said. "He only speculated as to how the Mayan people might have envisioned the end of 13 baktuns."

Smale quoted Coe: "This, our present universe, would be annihilated when the great cycles of the long-count reached completion."

Since Coe made his claims, scholars have been able to decipher ancient Mayan glyphs and have found examples of Mayan calendars with the potential to extend into the future indefinitely.

"Coe's ideas have been thoroughly debunked by Mayanists," Smale said. "Most long-count inscriptions only go up to baktuns, but there are some that go higher."