Missouri curators approve 1.7 percent tuition hike for state residents, boost room and board

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — University of Missouri undergraduates who are state residents will pay 1.7 percent more in tuition next year as the four-campus system holds its annual hike to the rate of inflation.

The Board of Curators approved the tuition increase Thursday while meeting at the Kansas City campus. Room and board will also rise.

The increase for the 2013-14 academic year is slightly less than earlier estimates of a 2 percent boost. State law limits annual tuition increases to the federal Consumer Price Index. Larger increases require approval by Missouri’s higher education department.

Annual in-state tuition at the flagship Columbia campus will rise to $9,343, an increase of $158.

Out-of-state undergraduates will see similar increases in Columbia and Kansas City but pay 4.4 percent more at the Rolla campus and 6.8 percent in St. Louis.
University of Missouri System will raise tuition

January 31  By MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS

University of Missouri System curators agreed Thursday to raise tuition and required fees 1.7 percent for in-state undergraduates at all four campuses, beginning this summer.

The increase will add about $160 to student costs in the 2013-2014 academic year. But that does not include the increases being imposed on dormitory living and food.

For undergraduates at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, the annual base tuition plus fees that all students pay will go from $8,926 to $9,076, the lowest of all the campuses.

Students at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla will pay the highest amount, $9,450.

At UMKC and in Columbia, graduate students and out-of-state undergraduates also will see a tuition/fee increase of 1.7 percent, equal to inflation. The increases are more on the Rolla and St. Louis campuses.

“The base tuition is the sticker price, but it is important to factor in grant and scholarship aid,” said Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration, who presented the increases during the curators’ board meeting at UMKC.

Based on 2012 data, the average grant aid for UMKC students was $4,546. If that amount holds for the coming year, the average student will pay less than half the posted costs.

Depending on what courses a student takes, though, the sticker price could be higher. Curators also approved increases in activity, facility and health service fees, plus varying increases for certain courses, professional schools and laboratory use.

Rates for the predominant housing and dining plan jumped between 1.3 percent on the St. Louis campus and 3 percent in Columbia. UMKC students will pay 2.5 percent more to live and eat on campus.
UM curators approve tuition increase

By Rudi Keller
Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 2:45 pm

KANSAS CITY — Basic undergraduate tuition for the University of Missouri System will increase 1.7 percent beginning this summer, the Board of Curators decided Thursday.

By a unanimous vote, the curators approved the increase that will add about $160 to the cost of attending the university for in-state students, not including increases in fees and other costs such as housing. Increases for out-of-state students and graduate students, both from Missouri and elsewhere, will be 1.7 percent as well at the Columbia and Kansas City campuses, but costs for those students on other campuses, and in professional programs, will climb at faster rates.

After the boost, basic annual tuition would range from $9,076 at UMKC to $9,450 at Missouri Science & Technology University in Rolla. For MU students in Columbia, basic tuition would be $9,343 for the coming year.

The recommendation is based on a budget plan presented by Nikki Krawitz, vice president of finance and administration. The plan assumes the system will not receive an increase in state funding in the coming year, and it projects a $30 million shortfall between expected revenue and expenses.

Gov. Jay Nixon, in his budget plan presented this week, recommended a $16.9 million increase for the university, a boost of about 4 percent.

“Clearly, if we get the $17 million that would come as a result of the governor’s recommendation, for which we are very grateful, it would reduce that amount to $13 million,” Krawitz said of the shortfall. “That will really give us flexibility as we move forward.”

Nixon’s budget uses a new performance funding model for higher education funding. “Just basing funding on performance does not take into account that we have had a 30 percent increase in enrollment in the last decade,” Krawitz said.
The board also approved a series of other fee increases, some of which are paid by a handful of students and others which have a wider impact. The cost of housing and meals on the MU campus in Columbia, for example, would increase by 3.3 percent, or about $255 more than the $8,525 average for the current year.

Other new fees approved by the curators would add $200 to the cost of pursuing a degree in accounting at MU, part of a plan to add $1,000 to that cost over the next three years. Students in the College of Arts and Sciences would see lab fees expanded to laboratory classes outside of traditional science fields in addition to a $4.30, or 35.2 percent, increase in the current fee of $12.20.

Campus officials plan to increase the lab fee to $25 over the next three years.
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Missouri Senate has confirmed two new appointees to the University of Missouri system Board of Curators.

Senators on Thursday approved the appointments of former Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ann Covington and Kansas City attorney John Phillips to the nine-member board.


Covington served on the Supreme Court from 1989-2001 and was the first woman on the high court. Phillips is a partner at the law firm of Husch Blackwell LLP.

The Board of Curators was meeting Friday in Kansas City.
UPDATE: Curators approve tuition and fee increases for UM System

By Dan Burley
January 31, 2013 | 2:33 p.m. CST

KANSAS CITY — An MU in-state undergraduate can expect an average annual tuition and fee increase of $158 beginning this summer session.

The UM System Board of Curators unanimously agreed Thursday to increase tuition and required fees at all four University of Missouri System campuses in fiscal year 2014 by 1.7 percent, or an average of $157 more per year throughout the system for an in-state undergraduate. The 2014 fiscal year includes the 2013-2014 academic year.

The increases set the average annual tuition and required fees for an MU in-state undergraduate at $9,343.

Roughly 77 percent of MU’s 26,966 undergraduates in fall 2012 were Missouri residents, according to the most recent statistics from the university registrar.

MU non-resident undergraduates and graduate students will also see their tuition and fees increase by 1.7 percent.

The system's approved increase is down slightly from a 2 percent jump in tuition and required fees discussed at the board’s meeting in December.

Over the past five years, tuition and required fees have been raised by an average of 2.3 percent annually for in-state undergraduate students in the UM System, according to a statement released by UM System President Tim Wolfe.

Required fees for students at MU include an information technology fee, a recreation facility fee and a health services fee. Other additional fees such as student housing and food plans are not incorporated into the required fees.

The curators’ approval also allows the University of Missouri-St.Louis to restructure its base tuition to include such activity, facility and health services fees as one flat fee.
UMSL Chancellor Thomas George said the single price makes it easier for students and parents to view their payment statements and understand exactly what they're paying for.

Curator Don Downing was complimentary of UMSL's decision. He said he foresees other UM campuses transitioning to the "one sticker price" approach.

Along with the tuition increase, the curators approved several supplemental course-fee increases at each campus.

The additional fee for MU engineering courses will rise more than $4 per semester to $78.40 per credit hour to accommodate additional teaching assistants and graders for increased class sizes, according to system documents.

MU's College of Arts and Science will expand its laboratory fees to courses that aren't traditional science courses but have laboratory components such as anthropology, film studies and theater. The laboratory fee also will rise by more than $4 per credit hour.

The curators agreed to boost the cost for the average housing and food plan to $8,780 a year, $255 more than the package costs in fiscal year 2013.

The curators will reconvene Friday morning at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Wolfe will present his first State of the University address.

Other items of note from Thursday's meeting:

**Budget assumptions**: Nikki Krawitz, the system's vice president for finance and administration, presented budget assumptions for the next three fiscal years. Krawitz’s scenarios projected the system running a $16.2 million to $30.9 million deficit within that time.

She also gave a preliminary description of next year's budget but said she couldn't provide definitive details until the system's official operating budget for fiscal year 2014 is presented to the board at its June meeting.

"Something tells me that this year is like other years. We won’t know exactly what our budget is until May," Downing said, referring to the state legislature's budget deadline, which affects the system's final budget.

**UMKC housing**: The board approved $24.8 million in debt financing for UMKC housing. UMKC plans to build a 245-bed student-housing complex next to its Hospital Hill
campus, the location of the university's dentistry, pharmacy, nursing and medicine schools. UMKC will fund the debt through housing and parking revenue. The project costs $29.3 million in total.

**Sequestration update:** Steve Knorr, system vice president for government relations, gave the board an update on the potential federal sequestration in March. Sequestration would bring about deep, across-the-board cuts to vital segments of the system, including federally supported research and student financial aid.

Sequestration was postponed on Jan. 1 when the White House and Congress managed to strike a deal before the nation went over the "fiscal cliff."

Knorr said he's seen no signs of an agreement this time around. "Congress seems to be OK with allowing sequestration to go through," he said. "It could have a real impact on this fiscal year."

*Supervising editor is Elizabeth Brixey.*
Records show murder suspect had violent past

Violence cited in court cases.

By Andrew Denney and Jodie Jackson Jr.
Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Court records show that the man University of Missouri police say killed a professor in a campus parking garage eight years ago had a violent past before the murder and unsuccessfully filed a personal injury lawsuit after being hit by a car in the years afterward.

Campus police yesterday identified Timothy Hoag, 35, as the killer of Jeong Im, the 72-year-old whose body was found in the trunk of his car on Jan. 7, 2005. Im had been stabbed. Blood, hair and DNA evidence collected at the crime scene on the third level of the Maryland Avenue By that time, though, Hoag was dead himself, having jumped from atop a city parking garage Aug. 9.

Court records detail Hoag's legal troubles, including a conviction for third-degree assault and victim tampering related to a 2001 case. He was sentenced to six months in the county jail and two years probation.

According to a probable cause statement filed in the Feb. 5, 2001, case, Hoag went to local chiropractor Mark Pressley's business and threatened to break his hands and arms so he "couldn't practice again." He also said he would "hurt his wife and make the children watch" and that he would "get some sick twisted pleasure from it," the statement said. It alleged the threats occurred because Hoag was trying to extort $1,200 from the business.

The statement, written by a Columbia police officer, also said Hoag should be considered "extremely dangerous" because of his stature — 6 feet 7 inches tall and 235 pounds.
According to Missouri and Illinois online court records, Hoag was extradited in 2004 to Pike County, Ill., in connection with a 1995 incident in which he was suspected of a felony count of "mob action." According to the Illinois Compiled Statutes, that charge can include the "knowing or reckless use of force or violence."

The year of Im's murder, Hoag pleaded guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia in Boone County. Then in 2008, he filed a personal injury lawsuit against Columbia resident Jennifer Wingert. Wingert, Hoag alleged, hit him with her car as he was trying to cross Bernadette Drive on foot because she was driving at an "excessive speed" and was not keeping a "careful look out." Hoag claimed injuries and trauma to his "entire body," including a head injury, and medical expenses totaling more than $15,000.

The case was dismissed with prejudice in August 2010. Attorneys for both parties declined to comment.

A former staff member at Moberly Area Community College's Columbia site remembered Hoag as a bright student but also an unpredictable loner.

"He was a pretty scary dude, really," said the former staff member, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "I knew he was somebody you wanted to stay away from."

University police Capt. Brian Weimer said Hoag didn't know Im, and investigators don't know why he killed him. Hoag was recently implicated in Im's death by two witnesses whom police do not consider accomplices. The witnesses said they hadn't come forward earlier because they were afraid of Hoag.

"He was a pretty wild dude," the former MACC staffer said, noting that Hoag was frequently belligerent and had to be escorted out by campus security. "He had gotten in trouble over his lifetime — made a bunch of bad choices. He still had that monkey on his back, alcohol and stuff."

Hoag attended MACC's Columbia campus as a full-time student in the summer and fall of both 2010 and 2011. James Grant, dean of student services, said Hoag was on the president's list for both semesters in 2011. "What that means is he was a straight 'A' student," Grant said, noting that Hoag enrolled for the spring 2012 semester then withdrew.

Grant said there was nothing on Hoag's academic record to indicate he had caused problems on campus, but that information wouldn't necessarily come across his desk. "They'd have to do something extremely awful to come to me."

_This article was published in the Thursday, January 31, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Record shows suspect had a troubled past: Violence cited in court cases."_
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Thomas Jefferson tombstone prepped for trip to Smithsonian for repairs

By Shannon Robb
January 31, 2013 | 8:38 p.m. CST

Marianne Marti, president of Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc., prepares the tombstone of Thomas Jefferson for shipping to the Smithsonian Institution for repair Thursday on the fourth floor of Jesse Hall.  Ben Walton

COLUMBIA — With focus and gentle hands, Marianne Marti worked to stabilize damaged areas of the marble epitaph stone that once marked Thomas Jefferson's grave. The roughly 180-year-old monument, which has rarely been publicly displayed since it was dedicated to MU in 1855, will be sent to the Smithsonian Institution for repairs on Friday.

After Jefferson died in 1826, visitors to his grave at Monticello took pieces from it and marred the slab, which was originally part of the six-foot-tall granite obelisk that now stands on Francis Quadrangle, according to a historical booklet by William Peden. Marti, president of Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc., which was hired by MU to prepare the stone for shipment, said the monument is delicate.

The stone, inscribed, "Here was buried Thomas Jefferson Author of the Declaration of American Independence of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom & Father of the University of Virginia," was surrounded by computer parts in the back corner of a fourth-floor hallway in Jesse Hall on Thursday. The edges were broken away, and dust lined its wooden storage box. Surface marks indicated where the stone had been broken into three pieces and put back together.
Alex Barker, director of the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology, originally contacted the Smithsonian.

"We've known for years that the Jefferson tombstone needed conservation work done," Barker said. "It really requires a very skilled conservator, specializing in works of this kind, to treat it."

Carol Grissom, senior objects conservator at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institution, conducted a preliminary assessment of the stone and expressed interest in repairing it. The Smithsonian is covering the cost of repairs, though MU is paying for the preparation of the stone and the shipping. Barker said the cost to the Smithsonian will not be known until the stone has been evaluated further. The anticipated high cost of any repairs led MU to put it off for so long, said John Murray, assistant director of MU business services.

"When the Smithsonian agreed to do it for free, that price was right," Murray said. "That certainly sped up the process."

Back at Jesse Hall, Marti cut small pieces of tissue paper to size before dipping them in cyclododecane, a material that acts as a binding agent, but will change from a solid to a vapor when it is unpacked at the Smithsonian. This will allow conservators there to easily remove the tissue paper and begin repairs. Once Grissom receives the stone at the Smithsonian next week, Marti said conservators will likely X-ray the stone and begin to take it apart and determine what material is original.

"Depending on the extent of loss, decisions will have to be made as far as what to reconstruct," Marti said. The Smithsonian estimates the repair will take one year. MU will then display it in the first floor lobby of Jesse Hall. Students also might design its new display case as they did for the cornerstone display in 2010, Murray said.

"Where we're thinking of displaying it," Murray said, "you'll actually be able to see the obelisk (near the Thomas Jefferson bronze statue) through the window."

Kee Groshong, vice chancellor emeritus of MU administrative services, who worked with Barker during the initial planning, said he's excited to see the epitaph restored.

"It's a piece of history so everyone should get to see it," Marti said. "After the restoration, everyone will get to."
Gitmo military psychologist draws MU protest

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The prospective hiring of a retired Army psychologist who has faced abuse accusations at the Guantanamo Bay military prison is drawing protests at the University of Missouri.

The mid-Missouri chapter of the anti-war Fellowship of Reconciliation planned a Friday afternoon protest outside Hill Hall. That's home to the College of Education, which has selected Larry James as one of two finalists for a top leadership job.

James is dean of professional psychology at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. He previously served as chairman of the psychology department at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and led a team of psychologists assigned to interrogators at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay.

Human rights groups have accused James of violating his professional duties by allowing interrogators to mistreat military detainees.
APNewsBreak: Nixon got kind of donation he decried

16 hours ago • Associated Press

MU MENTION P. 2

At the same time that Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon called for an end to big political donations in his State of the State address, the Democratic governor’s campaign committee received a five-figure contribution from a technology firm whose multimillion-dollar state contract is up for renewal.

State records reviewed Thursday by The Associated Press show that Nixon received $10,000 from St. Louis-based World Wide Technology Inc. on Monday, the same day that Nixon proclaimed in a televised address that large political donations were eroding the public’s trust in elected officials.

Additional state records reviewed by the AP show that World Wide Technology has been paid nearly $42 million by Missouri over the past three years under a statewide contract to provide networking services that is up for potential renewal Feb. 28.

Spokesmen for Nixon’s campaign and World Wide Technology both said Thursday that the $10,000 contribution was intended to help pay for Nixon’s inaugural festivities, which occurred Jan. 14.

"World Wide Technology has a proud history of supporting a wide range of organizations and activities that benefit the state of Missouri, including nonprofits, foundations, educational institutions and political parties," said company spokesman Edward Levens.

But some Republican lawmakers suggested the contribution creates the appearance of impropriety and highlights the hypocritical nature of Nixon’s call for lawmakers to reinstate "strict campaign contribution limits."

"At a minimum, that doesn't look too good," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia.

"It just doesn't meet the smell test," added Senate Majority Leader Ron Richard, R-Joplin. "He ought to practice what he preaches."

Nixon has long been an advocate for campaign contribution limits, which first were adopted by Missouri voters in 1994. Although that voter-approved law was struck down, separate limits
approved by the Legislature later were upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. Nixon, who was state attorney general, argued the case before the high court in October 1999, telling justices that abolishing contribution limits would lead most Americans "to believe that their government is literally for sale."

The Republican-led Legislature in 2008 repealed Missouri's limits on how much money individuals, businesses and political committees can give to candidates.

In his State of the State address Monday, Nixon warned lawmakers that he would lead an initiative petition effort to place contribution limits back on the statewide ballot, if lawmakers would not reinstate the limits.

"The single most destructive force to our system is the unlimited sums of money pouring into the campaign accounts of candidates seeking public office," Nixon said in his speech.

"Each time a wealthy individual or business or special interest sends a check for $20,000 or $50,000 or $100,000 to a candidate, the public's trust erodes a little bit more. And eventually, if we continue on this path, there will be no trust left at all," Nixon added.

Yet Nixon has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of large checks.

From mid-December through this week, Nixon received $295,000 of contributions from 16 donors who gave at least $10,000 each, including World Wide Technology, according to online records of the Missouri Ethics Commission. Some companies gave checks of $20,000 and $50,000 - the same amounts decried by Nixon. The money rolled in as Nixon was hosting his inaugural festivities, which the campaign previously estimated to cost $150,000 from campaign funds and $30,000 in tax dollars.

Nixon campaign manager Oren Shur said Thursday that a wide range of businesses and other supporters helped pay for the inauguration.

"The governor's objective was to minimize costs to the taxpayers, while making sure that this special event was enjoyable for the public," Shur said.

But Schaefer said Nixon had adopted a "do-as-I-say, not-as-I-do" approach to political money.

"When the governor makes the statement that large checks from individuals undermine the public's confidence in their elected officials ... well then no one has done more to undermine the public's confidence than him," Schaefer said.

Nixon has close ties to David Steward, the founder and chairman of World Wide Technology. Steward was the keynote speaker at the governor's prayer breakfast in early January, and Nixon appointed him to the University of Missouri Board of Curators in 2011. The company, which describes itself as the largest privately held minority-owned business in the nation, has long been a state contractor and has been a major political
donor to Democrats and Republicans alike. It also gave $10,000 to Nixon's campaign in December 2008 to help cover the costs of his first inaugural.

In March 2010, the company was awarded a three-year state contract to install and service Cisco networking products in state buildings. Under the terms of that deal, World Wide Technology is paid on a per-project basis at rates that are discounted from Cisco's standard pricing. Online state records show the company has been paid $41.8 million under that contract, which expires Feb. 28 but has an option for three annual renewals.

The state Office of Administration said Thursday that no decision had been made yet on whether to renew the contract.
MU Athletics break academic records

By Andrew Beasley

Published as a part of Maneater v. 79, Issue 32

The MU Athletics department has the second-highest graduation rate in the SEC.

MU athletes set a school record last semester, earning an average 3.02 GPA, according to a university press release.

A record 284 student athletes, 55 percent of all MU athletes, received a 3.00 GPA or higher.

The university athletic department also had an 84 percent graduation rate in the last year, placing it second only to Vanderbilt University in the SEC.

These numbers are not just a result of the student-athletes’ work but also of the initiatives taken by athletic department, said Joe Scogin, associate athletic director for academic services and head of MU Athletics’ Total Person Program.

“The goal of the Total Person Program is to provide holistic student-support programming to our student-athletes,” said Scogin. “Our student-athletes face the same transitional issues that the general student population faces, but they also have to deal with 40 hours per week of practice, preparation, treatment and body maintenance. Even the most intellectually prepared student-athlete can struggle with the physical and emotional demands that are thrown on them.”

Because of these demands, the department has two phases to help first with the transition into college then to help set a path for post-graduation with a program called Tigers for Tomorrow.

“We have changed the culture from looking at graduation as the ultimate goal to an extremely important step in the journey,” Scogin said. “That graduation accomplishment is important, but if they are not prepared for the transition they will face after that, we haven’t done our job. A phrase we use on our staff is ‘Life doesn’t end at graduation, life begins at graduation’ and we challenge our students to invest in their future by engaging in the programming that we have developed to help them.”

The Total Person Program’s impact can be seen in the graduation numbers, but the coaches as well have helped their teams become both excellent students and athletes.
The men's basketball team had a 2.55 GPA before Frank Haith became head coach, according to an athletic department press release. Once he took control of the program, that number rose first to 2.74 GPA in the 2011-2012 school year and then to 3.06 GPA last semester, giving the team the second highest GPA for a men's sport at MU, falling only behind the men's golf team, which had an average of 3.26 GPA.

Forty-five students also received SEC honor roll recognition in football, soccer and volleyball.

The success in academics reflects a belief held by the department that success in the classroom helps lead to success in athletics.

"A person cannot achieve their potential in one aspect of their life if other areas are falling apart," said Scogin. "They may have the ability to achieve short term success, but long-term elite performance is enhanced by having all aspects of a person's life in order."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Returned volunteers in Columbia further Peace Corps' goals

MU Mention on Pg. 2

By Allie Hinga
February 1, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — When Karen Davis was a volunteer with the Peace Corps in Guatemala from 1992 to 1994, she paid a woman named Clarisa to wash her clothes every week.

For the first couple of months, Davis tried to do her own laundry. Then she realized that the women around her were experts with an outdoor sink and a washboard.

Clarisa washed and made clothes for a living. She didn't have a formal education, but she found ways to fit classes in baking and sewing into her spare time. She wanted to improve life for herself and her children.

Davis keeps a picture of Clarisa in her guest room to this day, alongside pictures of her own family.

Clarisa’s story keeps Davis grounded. She comes to mind when Davis becomes frustrated with "First World problems" — a dropped phone call, a poor Wi-Fi signal, a satellite dish that drops her TV show.

Clarisa reminds her of the people she met in Central America who seem to face difficult circumstances with courage and determination.

"That is one thing that I think people going into the Peace Corps don't often realize," she said. "The greatest change they will experience is a change within themselves."

A need to tell stories about her service in the Peace Corps has driven Davis, now 43, to remain involved long after her adventure ended. When she moved to Columbia in 1999, she joined the Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and is now the organization's president.
"They don’t have a platform to tell their stories, but I can be their mouthpiece," she said.

On Saturday, **the group will hold the Third Goal International Film Festival at the MU Student Center with five films about regions where the organization has sent volunteers.**

The feature film, "Kinyarwanda," is based on Rwandan genocide survivors, and Director Alrick Brown — another former volunteer — will talk about it. Other films take a look at the commercial lobster diving industry in Nicaragua and Peace Corps volunteers in Colombia.

After each film, former volunteers or community members from the featured regions will share their experiences.

"We always have to cut it off," Davis said. "The conversation is rich with many different points of view and a genuine curiosity and will, if allowed, go on and on and on and on."

**Making the ultimate impact**

The Peace Corps, founded under President John F. Kennedy in 1961, has recruited more than 210,000 American volunteers. More than 3,100 of them have come from Missouri.

The average volunteer is 28 years old, and more than 60 percent serve in either Africa or Latin America. **About 30 MU graduates are currently serving in the Peace Corps, said Claire Lea, MU's recruiter.**

Davis admits that her motive for joining the Peace Corps was a bit self-serving.

"In school, I studied to be a Spanish teacher and figured I had no business teaching Spanish in the classroom unless I had talked the talk and walked the walk, quite literally," she said.

She began looking for ways to go overseas and landed on the Peace Corps. In 1992, she traveled to the highlands of Guatemala, where she worked to raise nutrition levels in the area.

Part of the problem was rooted in the economy. Guatemalan farmers grew produce like broccoli, green beans, peas and cauliflower to sell to large vegetable companies. The country's year-round spring climate made it an ideal location for these crops.

But if the produce wasn't grade A, the companies wouldn't buy it. Because they were cash crops, farmers would typically dump the surplus.
"It was not uncommon to go through the highlands of Guatemala and see huge piles of grade B broccoli being eaten by the cows," Davis said. "Meanwhile, the farmer's children could very well be suffering from malnutrition."

Her job was to figure out how to integrate these discarded vegetables into the local diet. The job was rewarding, but she found the lasting value of her Peace Corps experience to be more personal — adapting to a village where people don't have the privileges Americans take for granted.

In the end, the relationships she forged would have the biggest impact.

**Returning, connecting, sharing**

In Guatemala, Davis and other volunteers wore T-shirts with lyrics based on the Grateful Dead song "Box of Rain" printed on the back — "Such a long, long time to be gone, such a short time to be there."

Her 26 months in the Peace Corps seemed like a sprint.

"It's a two-year service, and you think 'Oh my goodness, that sounds like a huge, long time to be gone.' But when you're there, and you're in the midst of it, it goes by very, very quickly," she said.

Coming back to the United States was difficult for her.

"The Peace Corps tries to prepare you for the end of your service," Davis said, "but nothing can adequately prepare you for the reverse culture shock of coming back to your own country."

So when Davis moved to Columbia after her husband's job transfer, she decided to connect with people who had similar experiences. She happened upon the Central Missouri Returned Peace Corps Volunteers shortly after she arrived.

"We get great joy from sharing our stories with each other, but it's like preaching to the choir. It's the experiences of serving on a speakers' panel or coordinating a film festival that offer an opportunity to open up the dialogue with community," she said.

The group was founded in 1996 by a returned volunteer living in Jefferson City, and another volunteer named Don Spiers was leading the group when Davis joined. Spiers, who had
served in Venezuela, would co-lead with her for several years before she became president four years ago.

"When Karen took over, it was great," he said. "It brought a lot more people into the organization, and it just kind of blossomed into really what it is today, which is huge."

At least 200 former volunteers are on the organization's email list. Between 25 and 30 people make up the core of the group, plus a few more who consistently come to specific group events, said Lindsey Smith, vice president of the group, who served in Armenia as an English language teacher trainer from 2001 to 2003.

Members come with a mix of experiences — a teacher trainer in South Africa, a volunteer who helped organize a trash collection system for a town in Honduras and another who helped start a goat cheese factory in Cape Verde.

Spiers said the experience sticks with returned volunteers because it throws them into situations where they need to adapt and work with people they might never see again.

"There's before Peace Corps, and there's after Peace Corps," said Tim Wall, who volunteered in Honduras from 2005 to 2007. Those are two distinctly different periods, he said.

Spiers likens the nostalgia of volunteers to the memories of war veterans.

His father fought in World War II and spent the last 20 years of his life telling stories about being a mortar operator in the Philippines, he said. With other veterans, it was an inevitable topic of conversation.

He also likens it to a religious conversion.

"Karen and I have discussed this at times, that it's almost like being born again," Spiers said. "It's almost like an evangelical experience."

'Responsible for the rest of your life'

The Peace Corps mission includes three goals that guide its operation, according to the agency's website.

The first is providing practical assistance to countries that ask for help. The second is promoting a better understanding of Americans among the people served.
The third refers to the obligation among volunteers to share their Peace Corps experience after they return home.

"Like, you're sort of responsible the rest of your life for the third goal," Smith said.

Mike Burden, who is coordinating the Third Goal International Film Festival this year, credits Davis' enthusiasm for helping the community understand the Peace Corps experience.

"She's got a real passion for pushing the third goal," he said, "and through the third goal comes the first goal."

The first goal depends on inspiring others to serve in the Peace Corps.

Davis calls Burden and his wife, Ashley, "full-circle volunteers." The group of returned volunteers sent the Burdens into Peace Corps service, stayed connected while they were overseas and welcomed them back when their tour of duty was over.

At the film festival on Saturday, Davis said she hopes to attract an audience of at least 400.

"We're gaining some traction within the community; it's becoming more recognizable within the community, and that only opens more doors for us to be able to have the dialogue that brings the third goal of the Peace Corps to life," she said.

That will affirm the purpose of the local organization, which survived a setback a few years ago after a number of students in leadership positions graduated and left. The remaining members had to decide whether to dissolve or rebuild.

They resolved to continue the organization and attract returned Peace Corps members in new ways, such as the film festival and sponsoring the Burdens, two of the first full-circle volunteers.

"That, I think, was proof positive to me that the vision that we had cast several years prior was really something that was realistic, something that we could achieve," Davis said.
Billingsley, other seniors chosen from MU

By Hanna Jacunski

There are currently 34 MU grads in the Peace Corps.

Xavier Billingsley has worked in many organizations while at MU. He is a member of a Greek-letter organization, has worked as a peer advisor in Hudson residence hall, worked in the Homecoming Steering Committee, worked as a Summer Welcome Leader and served as Missouri Students Association president.

Billingsley is now sending his spirit of volunteerism on a larger adventure and adding his name to a service organization that includes Chancellor Brady Deaton and 980 other MU graduates since 1961: the Peace Corps.

Billingsley is one of more than a dozen students from MU, Missouri State University, UM–Kansas City and UM–St. Louis who have been invited to volunteer with the organization, MU’s Peace Corps recruiter Claire Lea said.

“(The Peace Corps is) such a great experience to live and learn,” Billingsley said. “You get to learn a language, get a feel for international relations and learn about yourself.”

Billingsley said every past volunteer he spoke to has positive things to say about the experience.

“It’s a great mission and great work,” Billingsley said. “Being part of the Peace Corps movement is good for learning about myself as well.”

Lea interviews applicants, recommends candidates and speaks to classes. She also oversees the monthly informational meetings that allow students to learn more about becoming a Peace Corps volunteer.

Lea said, to become a volunteer, students must be nominated, interviewed and then matched to a project or emphasis of best fit. Applicants also have to pass a number of medical and legal clearances to be accepted as volunteers, according to the Peace Corps website.

“Xavier was such a strong candidate,” Lea said. “He works a lot in Columbia, making a difference in lives of students and lives of community. Like most competitive candidates, he is working already in something that he’s interested in in his local community, and looking to expand into the global community.”
Lea said she truly saw Billingsley’s commitment to helping people and his interest in building cross-cultural skills. In addition to these assets, the strongest quality in a volunteer is flexibility, Lea said.

“When you’re working in an unfamiliar situation or language that isn’t your own or culture that has different cultural expectations, you have to let go of pre-conceived notions,” she said. “You have to work with the community in a more positive way.”

Lea said volunteers must be flexible to overcome these hurdles.

“You have to be willing to go anywhere in the world and help a community who is asking for your help in any way you can,” she said.

Billingsley is interning with the U.S. Embassy’s foreign policy department in Jamaica. He said he is interested in going into foreign policy and international relations.

“The Peace Corps opens doors to foreign service in the State Department,” Billingsley said. “You can get a better sense of foreign policy and what better way than living in a community and learning directly from them?”

Billingsley is assigned to work in Youth and Community Development, one of the areas volunteers can focus on in their service, but will not know his exact location or his exact assignment until after he passes all security clearances.

“Youth in development can be anything – anything from Boys and Girls Club of America-style group, tutoring, athletic training after school or working with at-risk youth,” Billingsley said. “Nothing is quite set in stone.”

Senior Laura Ebune was also selected as a Peace Corps volunteer.

“I have always wanted to work internationally, and upon changing my career focus from medical school to public health, I re-looked into the Peace Corps,” Ebune said.

Ebune said she hopes to take away lessons from her time as a volunteer.

“(I want) a better idea of who I am and where I want to go next, as well as a more global perspective on the issues of the world,” Ebune said. “The thought of a new adventure excites me beyond belief.”
MU celebrates MLK with speech by Judge Glenda Hatchett at Missouri Theatre

By Jack Howland

Judge Glenda Hatchett met Martin Luther King, Jr. at a piano recital.

Glenda Hatchett warned the audience she was a storyteller Thursday night at Missouri Theatre.

She said she was long-winded like most Southern Baptists. She said she liked to move around when she spoke. She said she wasn’t interested in telling people to “climb every mountain” or “forge every stream.” Hatchett, whose lecture was part of MU’s Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, told the Missouri Theatre crowd she wanted to keep it real.

“I want to speak to you as a community of brothers and sisters,” Hatchett said. “And I call you my brothers and sisters without regard to race or religion or culture – wherever you’re from – because we are brothers and sisters in this amazing journey.”

The presentation, entitled “Dare to Take Charge: How To Live and Lead With Purpose,” focused on the lessons Hatchett has learned from King. Hatchett, who is the centerpiece of the nationally syndicated program called “Judge Hatchett,” said everyone is a beneficiary of King’s dream. His life’s story, Hatchett said, can inspire a generation of dreamers.

When King was born, he was “just a little colored boy” in the deep, segregated South, Hatchett said. The “vast majority of people” in the world had low expectations for him. Hatchett described how this “colored boy” would “liberate the hearts and souls of all people.”

“Destiny basically said that there would be higher expectations of this little colored boy and a marvelous outcome would flow from his life,” Hatchett said. “And so Martin Luther defied all of the low expectations of era and set out on a mission of mercy.”

Hatchett, who also grew up in the Deep South, told the story of how she met King after a piano recital she had with his daughter. She said he walked in late and wanted to hear what he missed. After his daughter played for him, he asked Hatchett to play, too.

Her piece only lasted about two seconds but he sat and listened, Hatchett said. He took his hat and overcoat off and listened from a metal folding chair. In the old building with the “faded drapes” and “broken tile,” Hatchett said it seemed like King was sitting in Carnegie Hall.
“This was a man who changed the world,” Hatchett said. “But he was also a man of deep faith, a man that loved his children, that loved his wife and tried to balance this enormous responsibility he had for all of us.”

Hatchett said people need to focus on what this generation is going to do instead of what King would do.

“We’ve got to get to a place in this country where we are putting a premium on what is important if we are ever going to have a chance at a loved community,” Hatchett said. “We have got to order our communities in what makes sense.”

Deronne Wilson, Unit Director for the Boys and Girls Club of Columbia, attended the presentation. He brought six of his involved club members with him. Wilson said his hope was that they would leave with a “positive outlook” on issues involving diversity.

“I just think that with all that’s going on, all the tragic events, (it’s good) to hear inspirational words instead of dwelling in the negative,” Wilson said.

Wilson, who has been with the Boys and Girls Club for 10 years, had seen Hatchett on television many times before. Some of his kids had heard of her, some had not. He said he was excited for them to hear from an expert.

One of his club members was 11-year-old Matthew Porter. Porter, who has been involved with the club for about four years, said he often hears about shootings on television. He described how Hatchett’s presentation on diversity ties in with greater problems involving violence. People need to think more about what they’re doing, Porter said.

“(It’s important to attend events like this) because teenagers are going around shooting each other,” Porter said. “And I think they need to stop.”

At the end of the presentation, in a night that was filled with stories, Hatchett said she wanted to tell one more.

She was a freshman at Mount Holyoke College in Hadley, Mass. She made it to the university mainly on scholarship money, she said. Her roommate, on the other hand, was a wealthy European.

The roommate inherited a $6 million fund when she turned 21, Hatchett said. She had a rug that depicted a bleeding bull. She spoke with an accent. Hatchett, who described how she had never been in a class with a white student before, described how she never made an effort to understand the student.

Hatchett preached to the crowd that tolerance is not enough.

“I tolerated her, I never worked to try to understand her,” Hatchett said. “And it was my loss, because it was just barrier after barrier after barrier – and it was my loss.”
Sophomore Chelsea Land was in attendance at the lecture. Land said she was moved and inspired by the presentation.

"I want to make a change," Land said. "I don't know how, but I want to make a change."
New MLK Memorial replica finds a home in Ellis Library

By Beatriz Costa-Lima

The statue was a gift from MU alumnus Ty Christian.

Ty Christian grew up in St. Louis and attended Christian Brothers College High School. Across town, Wally Pfeffer studied at De Smet Jesuit High School.

Today, Christian, chief marketing strategist on the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, and Pfeffer, Chair of the Mizzou Legislative Network Committee, are great friends.

The two come from drastically different backgrounds, but they are living proof that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message is still alive, Christian said at the start of his speech Tuesday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the installation of a Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Replica statue in Ellis Library.

"The wonders of Dr. King are truly working today," Christian said. "Imagine being a poor young black boy growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, and off the track, there was a rich white kid growing up, who happened to go to De Smet, and I went to CBC. Wally Pfeffer has been a dear friend for a number of years and this goes to show you that Dr. King's words are truly working today — that we can come from such vast backgrounds and can work together."

Christian presented a miniature statue, a replica of the MLK memorial monument in Washington, D.C., to MU at an event Tuesday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. The event was hosted by the MU Libraries and Chancellor's Diversity Initiative. Despite the rain, various members of the Columbia community, students and MU faculty members were in attendance.

Christian, an MU alum, received the replica for his work with the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation.

Under his tenure, the foundation raised $115 million to build the memorial. In 2004, Christian received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Mizzou Alumni Association.

Christian said the issues that Dr. King fought for are still pertinent today and the statue can serve as a reminder for students of Dr. King's message.
"I hope when people see that statue, that they think about the opportunity to work together," Christian said. "At the end of the day it's about teamwork. As simple as that sounds, we're much better working together than working against each other."

While placing the statue in the library may seem strange at first, the choice as the statue's new home has meaning, Pfeffer said.

"(The library) is a place where people come looking for answers," Pfeffer said. "Dr. King raised questions that we've been dealing with for centuries and he guided people with his non-violent approach to find answers. We haven't answered all those questions yet, and Dr. King reminds us that we need to pursue those answers."

Placing the statue in the library also reflects Dr. King's ideas of diversity and inclusion, Christain said.

"If you'd have put it at the Black Culture Center, it would have been a rightful place, but the whole thing with Dr. King and what I represent is more about diversity," Christian said. "When we were working on the memorial, it wasn't a memorial to a black man, it just happened to be the first memorial on the national mall that honored a person of color. It was honoring one of America's greatest patriots. So having it here at the library, more and more people are going to have a chance to see it. I can't think of a better place."

After Christian received the replica for his services to the memorial project, the decision to give it MU was an easy one, Christian said.

"It wouldn't have made sense to have it sitting around my house," Christian said. "I thought it was much bigger to share and be unselfish about it. Without the University of Missouri, I would've never been able to work on the project. They both gave me the educational foundation and the ability to be able to dream and to have the courage to continue to get up when you get knocked down and to continue to do your best."

After the ribbon cutting, the library hosted a reception with displays of photos of Dr. King and the memorial in Washington D.C., as well as books about Dr. King the library has in its catalogue. Pat Jones, safety and security coordinator in Ellis Library, displayed artwork and responses to Dr. King's teachings by fifth-grade students of Blue Ridge Elementary School.

Chancellor Brady Deaton and Chief Diversity officer Noor Azizan-Gardner also spoke at the reception.

"It's not intended merely as a static display honoring a single individual," Deaton said. "Instead, we intend to use this space to showcase area events and programs related to human rights and the principals Dr. King stood for."

The connection of the MLK memorial to an MU grad makes the statue especially meaningful, Information Services Librarian Darell Schmick said.
"The fact that one of the fabricators of the moment is a Mizzou grad speaks to all of us," Schmick said.

Since Dr. King's teachings and MU have done so much for Christian, he said he hopes the statue can inspire people in its new home at Ellis.

"With the placing of this replica at the university my goals and desires are very simple," Christian said. "This piece of art represents the fact that the University of Missouri offers anyone and everyone the opportunity to dream; to dream not in black and white, but to dream in rainbow colors, and to dream big."
New MSA executives sworn in

By Jill Deutsch  Published as a part of Maneater v. 79, Issue 32

The CCRC chair and Academic Affairs chair positions are also in transition.

NO MENTION

The Missouri Students Association is beginning a year of new leadership and new direction in its executive positions and Senate chairman positions.

At full Senate on Wednesday, MSA Chief Justice Bailey Otto swore in MSA President Nick Droege and Vice President Zach Beattie. Both were elected Nov. 7.

The Senate also approved Droege and Beattie’s cabinet nominations unanimously. The Senate confirmed Sam Green as legislative advocacy officer, Joey Greenstein as director of student activities, Jimmy Hibsch as director of student communications, Sean Joy as department of student services, Mahir Khan as secretary of auxiliaries and Mason Schara as chief of staff.

The Senate’s approval followed a more than 2 1/2-hour Operations Committee meeting Tuesday in which senators interviewed the cabinet nominees.

“They have been grilled and we 100 percent back each one of them,” Operations Committee Chairman Ben Bolin said.

Other transitions are occurring in Senate as well.

To begin his position as chief of staff, Schara resigned as the Campus and Community Relations Committee chairman. The Senate approved Alyssa Noce as his replacement.

Academic Affairs chairman Ben Levin announced his resignation as well. Levin will serve as an advisor to the executive cabinet and assume the legislative advocacy officer position when Green graduates.

Applications for Academic Affairs chairman close Friday.

Senate Speaker Jake Sloan is also at the end of his second term. Nominations for the next Senate Speaker will begin next Wednesday and the selected speaker will take over on March 6.

The new leaders expect to impact the current direction of MSA.
"We are definitely trying to stay true to all our campaign promises," Droege said. "A large part of our campaign is focusing on socioeconomic issues students are having."

Droege, Beattie and their cabinet have already begun work on a $500 emergency loan program and business attire lending program, two of their campaign programs.

Droege appointed Green as the legislative advocacy officer, the newest cabinet position. Green said she plans to push the legislative advocacy platform forward by working with the Associated Students of MU and developing a team of legislative advocates with Levin.

Greenstein said he plans to make the Department of Student Activities a close group, focusing on large events that draw many students and events that impact a smaller audience. He also plans to engage members of the Greek community.

"To say I'm excited is an understatement," Greenstein said to the Senate. "I practically live (at the MSA offices) already."

Hibsch said his focus as director of student communications is to spread awareness of MSA by utilizing contacts he made as a staffer at The Maneater and other organizations.

Joy is taking over Droege’s previous position as director of student services. Joy said he will work with Droege on implementing the business attire lending program. He said he also wants to help international students and students with disabilities to get involved on campus.

"I want to make sure everyone on this campus has a voice," Joy said to the Senate.

Khan already has connections with the auxiliary directors and there will be little transition from Lauren Damico, the former director of auxiliaries, Droege said.

The chief of staff’s direction typically changes from year to year because it has few defined roles beyond aiding the MSA president. This year, Schara said he plans to improve relations between MSA and other organizations such as the Legion of Black Collegians and Four Front.

New leaders in the Senate are also producing new ideas.

MSA Senate Speaker Jake Sloan and former CCRC chairman Schara selected Noce as the next CCRC chair. Noce said she wants to continue projects CCRC already started, while also starting new projects, one being a CCRC focus project.

"Leadership changes are always going to bring some kind of change," Droege said. "The positive aspect of it is its allowing new people to step up and prove themselves."

Despite the changes in leadership, there will be a focus on uniting the branches of MSA.

"What we are really trying to do is gauge and set our priorities not just as execs, not just as a senate, but as a collective MSA," Droege said.
MU finance team wins first round of CFA challenge

By Joyce Peng

Published as a part of Maneater v. 79, Issue 32

The team of MU students is ranked among the top 40 in the nation.

An MU finance team won the first round in the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute Research Challenge, a competition in which teams of college students work with local, publicly traded companies to research and prepare a company analysis report.

The MU students placed in the top five teams in the annual local, regional and global competition hosted by the CFA Institute. The institute is a company of investment professionals that champions ethical behavior in investment markets, according to the CFA Institute website.

The annual challenge began six years ago and, in 2012, involved more than 3,000 students from more than 650 universities in multiple countries, according to the CFA Institute website.

MU’s finance team, made up of MBA students Brooke Donley, Aamer Trambu, Mark French, Thomas Schmidt and senior Tyler Huez, started competing in September.

“We had a diverse group,” Schmidt said. “Everyone had their specialties in different aspects of the report, and it helped leverage the team to have a very comprehensive final product.”

Led by Schmidt and mentored by assistant professor Michael O’Doherty, the team was assigned the Kansas City-based company Cemer, which specializes in healthcare software. Team members used in-depth analysis to evaluate the company based on factors such as stock performance, debt and profitability, Schmidt said.

Using that information, the team put together a 10-page report that evaluates the company on how it will perform in the next five years. They will present the report in front of a panel of judges Feb. 9 at the regional finals.

The presentation is graded on several criteria, including how well the team answered questions, the team’s poise and the quality of the team’s argument, according to the CFA Institute Research Challenge presentation scoringsheet.
The written report makes up 50 percent of the team's score, and the remaining 50 percent is based on the 10-minute presentation, Schmidt said.

"Some of the challenges were to understand what products they made and the future of those products," Schmidt said. "Cerner is part of a dynamic industry that has a lot of government regulation and investments such as subsidies. We had to break down how government investments can change the company for years to come."

The team was formed mostly by recruitment, Schmidt said. Most of the members attended the same investment-fund class together and teamed up from there.

"We were looking for students who had prior exposure to equity analysis and investments," O'Doherty said. "To be successful in the competition, team members would need to be able to analyze company financial statements and filings and construct sophisticated valuation models."

The team will compete against four other universities from the Kansas City area at the regionals, Schmidt said. A win in Kansas City would allow them to advance to the national round in Toronto. If the team advances further, it will travel to London for the international final.

Schmidt said the competition was a good experience for the team.

"I felt it was a good opportunity to work with a strong team," he said. "We put ourselves in a tough situation and we had to work through as a group."

Last year, the team placed first in the St. Louis regional round and represented MU in New York City in the national round. MU finished among the top 40 teams in the nation.

O'Doherty said the competition provided the students with a hands-on experience.

"It's hugely valuable for the students," O'Doherty said. "It allows students to network with members of the local CFA Society in Kansas City. These contacts should be helpful down the road. By researching Cerner, students also gained some familiarity with a local business and the research methods used by professional analysts."