Drones Eyed by Paparazzi, J-School Teaching Reporters How to Fly Them

By COLLEEN CURRY
March 22, 2013

Reporters looking to get close to a crime scene, take video footage of a raging wildfire, or chart the changes in an ecosystem may soon turn to drones, the little flying helicopters used mainly by the military.

In fact, the emergence of drone journalism is expected to become such a mainstay of the media industry in the next few years that undergraduate journalism students at the University of Missouri Journalism School, in Columbia, Mo., are now taking courses how to use drones to report stories.

"We have a class here of journalism students who are learning to fly J-bots, for journalism robots, or drones," said William Allen, a professor of journalism who pioneered the course.

"So they learn to fly them, and also do what reporters do: brainstorm ideas, go out and do reporting, do drone based photography and video. We're trying to see if this is going to be useful for journalism," he said.

The university course emerged from a growing interest in the variety of ways civilians can use drones, including farmers who want drones to spray pesticides or monitor crops and livestock on sprawling acres of land; cops who want to use drones to help search for suspects or missing children; and energy companies who want to keep watch over oil or gas pipelines.

This week, the Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the future use of drones in America, weighing their possible commercial usefulness against privacy concerns. They are expected to lift the current ban on drone use in populated areas by 2015, and are exploring whether to create new laws by then to govern their use.
"In 2015, when the FAA is set to begin to relax its prohibition on use and integrate civilian use of drones, then I would think the first folks in the door would be media because there's such an obvious use," said Ryan Calo, a law professor at the University of Washington who testified at the Senate hearing.

The University of Missouri course, operating under current FAA regulations, can only use their drone in rural areas, and so has focused on conservation and agriculture stories, Allen said.

But the leaders of the drone journalism movement envision a time when news organizations replace costly helicopters and pilots with cheap drones to get closer to breaking news or weather stories, along with using them to uncover investigative pieces they may normally not see.

"The other aspect is investigative, the idea is you put a drone up in the air and look around. Maybe you'll find things, who knows what yet," Allen said. "We need to explore that and see. Many journalists can't afford to rent a helicopter and fly around."

A group of Pakistani journalists who visited Allen's course noted that they would want to use drones to act as first responders to terrorist bomb explosions in Pakistan, rather than risk sending reporters there only to have a second bomb go off moments later.

Scott Pham, director of content at the University of Missouri's public radio station KBIA, described the story of a drone hobbyist flying a camera-equipped helicopter over a field in Texas near his home capturing images. When the man looked at the images later, he noticed a creek he had never seen before that was flushed red. When he looked into it, he discovered a meat processing plant that was illegally dumping into the creek.

"That's news gathering that can happen in your backyard," Pham said. "That's where the real value is. From my perspective that's what actually expands journalism. Tools that allow us to get new information and report it, and that's what I think a drone can do."

The information captured on cameras, however, is exactly what leaves many Americans feeling unsettled when it comes to civilian drone use, Pham and Calo said. Many people are uncomfortable with the idea of unmanned, tiny helicopters circling over their homes and yards, snapping photos of them.
Snapping photos also raises the specter of using drones to chase down people in the news, especially celebrities.

"I worry about drone paparazzi," Calo said. "For celebrities, obviously it's a burden they must bear for being in the public eye, but the possibility of constant surveillance and possible danger to a celebrity I think are real concerns."

Allen and Pham, along with experts at the University of Illinois and University of Nebraska who study drone use in journalism, said that they hope regulations will allow for the use of drones in journalism without invasions of privacy.

"I just hope people will not throw the baby out with the bathwater," Allen said, "the baby here is the great benefit of using drones, and the bathwater is the dirty stuff about privacy concerns."

"But part of my job is to get students ready to go into these new organizations, and to know how to fly and do a story safely, legally, ethically, and responsibly, and tell stories that way. I think there will be a demand for it, just like any technology in the journalism tool box," he said.
Happy wife, happy life: A willingness to help out with the housework is the key to a good marriage, new survey reveals

- Study done by the University of Missouri and Utah State University
- Chores should be done together rather than split, researchers found
- Fathers typically double the amount of chores they do after a child arrives
- Mothers, however, find themselves doing five times as much as before

By Ruth Styles  PUBLISHED:06:32 EST, 22 March 2013  UPDATED:07:19 EST, 22 March 2013

Fathers who have a good relationship with their children and are happy to help out with household chores have happier marriages, a new study has revealed.

But the survey, conducted by researchers from the University of Missouri and Utah State University, also warned of the pitfalls of divvying up chores between husband and wife, finding that marriages were happier when couples worked together on each job.

Men, traditionally, are made responsible for heavier jobs such as taking out the dustbin, while women tend to take on chores such as washing up and hoovering. This, say researchers, is a mistake.

'We found that it didn't matter who did what, but how satisfied people were with the division of labour,' said Brigham Young University professor Erin Holmes.

'We found that when wives are doing work together with their husbands, they are more satisfied with the division of labor.'

The study, which was published in the Journal of Family Issues, looked at how 160 couples handled housework and child-rearing duties in an attempt to discover what contributed to the quality of a married relationship.
The quality of the fathers' relationship with their children was found to be the single most important factor, followed by willingness to do the housework alongside their wives.

'For women, their husband having a good relationship with the kids means that the parents are probably going to have a better relationship,' Holmes said.

The study measured fatherly involvement in a number of ways including playing with children, engaging in shared interests and providing teaching moments.

'Something as simple as reading a book with your children every night and talking with them about their day can really go a long way," said Adam Galovan, a graduate of Utah's Brigham Young University who co-authored the study.

Most of the parents were between the ages of 25 and 30 and all of the couples had a child age 5 or younger.

'This stage of life, where couples have young children, is potentially really challenging for couples,' Holmes said.

Previous research by Holmes showed that both husbands and wives dramatically increase their household tasks during the transition to parenthood.

Typically fathers do twice as much housework after the first baby arrives. Mothers, however, do about five times more housework than before.

'When wives are satisfied with the division of labor, both spouses report higher marital quality,' Holmes said.

In other words, couples who clean together, stay together.
Editorial: MU who?

By J-W Editorial March 22, 2013

Last week’s Big 12 Conference post-season basketball tournament in Kansas City was a smashing success in most every category, particularly for the Kansas Jayhawks, who dribbled away with a 70-54 win over Kansas State and the tournament championship. KU is now 9-1 in the Big 12 tournament finals.

This year’s gathering was unusual in one respect: the absence of the University of Missouri, a longtime member of the Big 12 — and the previous Big 8, Big 7 and Big 6 conferences — which elected to opt out of the conference and saddle up with the Southeastern Conference.

Some Kansas City business people, city officials and loyal MU boosters lamented the loss of the Tigers, predicting major negative economic impacts on the city. Others talked about how the conference tournament would lose much of its excitement without the emotional rivalry between Missouri and foes like the Jayhawks.

What happened?

There was record attendance this year at the four-day tournament, and nearby businesses reported record sales. Some may have missed the Tigers, but not many, and there certainly wasn’t much interest or concern for how the Tiger basketball team was performing in the SEC tournament, which was running concurrently with the Kansas City show.

There are those in Kansas City trying to build a case that the KU-MU rivalry should be renewed in Kansas City, with an annual football game in Arrowhead Stadium and a basketball game in the Sprint Center. Those pushing this idea are primarily interested in how a game or games would enhance retail sales and tax revenues for the state of Missouri and the city.

Missouri walked away from the Big 12 Conference and its long association with KU and other conference schools. For whatever reason, MU leaders thought the Southeastern Conference was a better, more rewarding, fit so they turned their backs on the Big 12.

Hopefully, KU officials will not be swayed by the sure-to-come appeals from Kansas City business and political leaders to schedule a KU-MU athletic event in Kansas City. If such a game is ever revived, it should be in Allen Fieldhouse or KU’s remodeled and expanded Memorial Stadium.

Better yet, why is there any need to schedule the Tigers any time or any place?
Gov. Jay Nixon announced this morning that his week-long trade mission to South Korea and Taiwan has resulted in agreements to sell $1.9 billion in Missouri goods to those countries’ residents over the next four years.

“That means more good jobs for Missourians,” he said during a phone call from Seoul to Missouri media.

Five trade agreements were signed between the state Department of Economic Development and trade organizations in South Korea and Taiwan. Nixon said the agreements will touch different sectors in the state, including agriculture and manufacturing.

“Missouri products are known for their quality and our workers are known for their skills,” Nixon said.

Joining Gov. Nixon on the trip: First Lady Georganne Nixon, state agriculture director Jon Hagler, Missouri Department of Economic Development acting director Chris Pieper, state Sens. Jay Wasson (R-Nixa) and Jolie Justus (D-Kansas City), and state Reps. Lincoln Hough (R-Springfield) and Gail McCann Beatty (D-Kansas City).

On the business and agriculture side, the delegation included representatives from RIBUS Inc., NeCo Seeds, Monsanto, Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Co., Missouri-Pacific Lumber Co., Energy Saver LED, Diva Maker, American Botanicals, the Missouri Energy Development Association, the Missouri Corn Growers Association, the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the University of Missouri-Columbia.

According to a news release from Nixon’s office, the trip gave businesses a chance to pursue and close agreements. As examples, his office said St. Louis-based RIBUS Inc., a manufacturer of rice-based natural and organic food ingredients, reached a deal to expand its distribution agreement with its Korean distributor, Ju Yeongns. And Garden City-based NeCo Seeds closed deals with two major distributors to expand the availability of Missouri soy products throughout Taiwan.

Nixon said the trip also has given him a chance to meet with several dignitaries from the countries, as well as Korea-based executives from Monsanto and Boeing and importers of Missouri products.

Thursday morning at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul (Wednesday morning in Missouri), Nixon and the First Lady participated in a wreath-laying ceremony to honor Missouri troops who died in the war there.
Flight demand exceeds expectations, airline says

By Andrew Denney

In American Airlines' first month of service at Columbia Regional Airport, passenger loads for flights to and from Chicago and Dallas were better than expected, with high demand at an off-peak time for travel, the airline reported.

From Feb. 14 to March 14, American reported an 85.4 percent overall load factor for incoming and outgoing flights to Chicago and Dallas, said Will Livsey, a member of American's regional partnerships team.

Outbound planes to both destinations reported an 88.9 percent load factor, with 81.9 percent for inbound flights. Load factor is a measurement airlines use to determine the proportion of seats filled with paying passengers on a flight.

Load factors for Chicago and Dallas flights broke down to 85.7 percent and 83 percent, respectively.

"The Mid-Missouri region exceeded our expectations by virtue of having high demand during a period where air travel is at its lowest demand time," Livsey said in an email. "The ideal route launches aren't typically scheduled right after Christmas in the winter season."

Livsey said American plans to continue with its current level of service in Columbia. He said if demand warrants it, though, the air service provider will consider "other opportunities for enhancing service" at Columbia Regional Airport.

Steve Sapp, a spokesman for the Columbia Public Works Department, which owns the airport, said there also are promising numbers for pre-booked future flights.

"We're seeing a lot of flights are full, so the demand is there," Sapp said.

American announced late last year it would begin providing flights to Chicago and Dallas after the city of Columbia, Boone County, the University of Missouri, Cole County, Jefferson City and private investors joined to establish a two-year, $3 million revenue
guarantee to attract the air service provider. The deal means American will be subsidized by the guarantee fund if it doesn't make enough money on each flight.

Delta Air Lines had been providing service to Atlanta and Memphis, Tenn., from Columbia without a revenue guarantee and decided to pull its flights from Columbia by the time American's flights began. In the months before Delta announced it would leave town, its load factors hovered around 90 percent, according to previous reports.

American is in the process of merging with U.S. Airways, and in testimony Tuesday before a U.S. Senate subcommittee on antitrust and consumer rights issues, the CEOs of both companies said the merger was not expected to affect airfares for consumers or result in cuts to service.

According to a joint statement from U.S. Airways CEO Doug Parker and American CEO Tom Horton, the merged airline could provide better service for "small and medium-sized communities" by creating additional connecting routes.
County reports growing number of sexually transmitted infections

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Boone County continues to report sexually transmitted infections at a much higher rate than national benchmarks, and the rates among young adults and the black population are growing.

County commissioners said this week they were "alarmed" by the data that were presented during a work session Monday with the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services.

The numbers for 2012 are considered "provisional" because they haven't been finalized by state health officials.

"We know we're above the national benchmark and the state average," said Sarah Rainey, epidemiologist for the city/county health department.

The provisional data show 1,117 cases of chlamydia in Boone County for 2012, with a breakdown of 359 men and 758 women. The highest case rate — the number of cases based on a population of 100,000 — was among 18- and 19-year-old black women, with 76 cases, or a case rate of 14,074, compared to 76 cases among 18- and 19-year-old white women, which equated to a case rate of 1,795.

"It doesn't tell the whole story," Rainey said, "but it helps you know where to focus your efforts."

Reports on sexually transmitted infections came in from a variety of locations — the local health department, the University of Missouri Health Care system, Planned Parenthood, Family Health Center and other states where patients were tested and diagnosed but reported they were from Boone County.

The provisional data include only lab-verified cases, and not every medical clinic or physician reports cases that are treated but not verified by testing.
The prevalence of testing locations and clinics throughout Columbia probably also leads to a number higher than other counties and more rural areas that don't have ready access to testing sites, Rainey said.

The Trojan Sexual Health Report Card, which ranks 141 major university campuses nationwide for sexual health resources, includes a statement that the age group from 15 to 24 years old accounts for almost half of all newly diagnosed sexually transmitted infections. The 2012 Trojan report listed the University of Missouri at No. 46, a marked drop from 2011 when MU ranked No. 26.

MU student health officials were not available this morning to comment on the report.
MO. NOT YET INVOLVED IN COLORADO INVESTIGATION

16 hours ago • Associated Press

Missouri officials said Thursday the state is not yet involved in Colorado's investigation into the killing of its corrections director.

Tom Clements was shot Tuesday night when he answered the front door of his home north of Colorado Springs.

The spokeswoman for the Missouri Corrections Department, Mandi Steele, said in an emailed statement that the department is not currently involved in any formal investigations but has notified Colorado authorities it would be willing to help if needed.

The Missouri Highway Patrol also said it has told Colorado investigators it would assist in the investigation if asked. The gunman was still at large Thursday.

Clements, 58, worked in Missouri's prison system for more than 30 years, starting as a probation and parole officer in St. Louis. After working his way up to chief state supervisor for probation and parole, Clements was named the head of the state's 21 adult correctional facilities in 2007.

He left Missouri in 2011 to become executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Clements received both a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia. While working for the Missouri Corrections Department, Clements lived in Columbia with his psychologist wife and two daughters.