Governor says he will boost education

Student aid also in line for hikes.

By Karyn Spory

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 2:00 pm

NO MU MENTION

During a meeting with academic leaders of Missouri's public colleges and universities Monday, Gov. Jay Nixon said he hopes to increase funding for education significantly in the fiscal year 2015 budget.

"For several years we've had to make some tough choices, and so have you. Now, with our perfect triple-A rating intact and our economy picking up steam, we have a unique opportunity to invest the dividends of that responsible fiscal measurement in our students and institutions," Nixon said.

Nixon said his 2015 budget proposal would increase funding for higher education substantially.

"Nothing will have a greater impact on" students' "futures and the future of our state than the commitment we make now," he said.

Nixon declined to put a specific number to the increase and said the administration would continue to monitor the economy's performance and revenue projections before releasing a number.

"Clearly, I've said on a number of occasions that education is the best economic development tool there is, both for K-12 schools and higher education," he said.

Nixon said his fiscal 2015 budget, which takes effect July 1, 2014, will also include resources for financial aid and scholarship programs.

"We want to put more dollars in the hands of more students," he said.

Nixon said his administration is working on a proposal to enhance the Bright Flight scholarship.

"It's not certain yet, but increased funding would be a wonderful thing," University of Missouri Provost Brian Foster said. "We'll see how it plays out."
Foster said the announcement was in line with the governor’s agenda for the past several years, but "he just hasn't had any money."

During the meeting, Nixon thanked the audience of higher education administrators for their support during the fight to sustain his veto of House Bill 253, a tax cut bill passed by the General Assembly last spring that opponents said would have stripped funding for public schools. Nixon said although his veto was sustained, similar bills will likely surface again. He said the best way to combat such bills is to educate the public about what resulting cuts will affect.
The University of Missouri in Columbia received a $1.8 million grant from the federal government to fund nuclear energy development.

The funds will support supply chain, logistics and infrastructure needed to manufacture small modular nuclear reactors, KSDK reports. Modular reactors are smaller than large nuclear power plants.

In July, the university announced it was partnering with Westinghouse Electric Co. and Ameren Missouri to work on research related to modular nuclear reactors.
MU wins training grant connected to modular reactors

By Jacob Barker

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 4:55 pm Comments (1)

While Ameren Missouri and Westinghouse Electric continue to wait for a multimillion-dollar federal grant to develop a new nuclear reactor design, the University of Missouri just won some cash to start training the workers needed to build them.

The U.S. departments of Labor and Commerce announced today they had awarded MU $1.84 million to develop the supply chain and infrastructure needed to manufacture small modular reactors, or SMRs. The grant was one of 10 awarded as part of the administration’s “Make it in America” initiative, which was announced during last year’s campaign season as a $40 million push to encourage companies to invest more in domestic workforces.

The grant awarded to MU would be used “to develop a high-skill, high-quality workforce for manufacturers in the nuclear power industry” and study what education and training is needed, according to the commerce department.

The training is the latest word on a project that state officials have been hoping for since spring 2012, when Gov. Jay Nixon announced St. Louis-based utility Ameren Missouri had partnered with manufacturing and engineering firm Westinghouse to apply for a piece of $452 million in federal funding to develop and manufacture SMRs.

Local elected officials, economic development types and university administrators all rallied around the effort, hoping a big funding award could lead Ameren to build a small reactor — or even the capability to manufacture them — in Mid-Missouri near its existing nuclear plant in Callaway County.

However, the Department of Energy has only made one award, announcing in November that the Tennessee Valley Authority and Babcock & Wilcox had won the first round of funding. Still, a coalition of industry, government and University of Missouri officials are holding out hope that a second award could benefit the state.
Joseph Smith, a professor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, is leading the university consortium aimed at educating the workforce to build and design the reactors. He said in July he expected the next round of funding to be worth around $150 million.

Those close to the project also expected an announcement on the next round of funding last month, but there has been no word from DOE yet. The office of U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, who is among several lawmakers from Missouri’s delegation pushing the project, expects an announcement soon.

Todd Culley, the head of Boone Electric Cooperative, leads a local economic development task force on the issue and said he has also heard an announcement is expected soon. “I think, cautiously speaking, we can be reasonably optimistic.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UM System wins $1.8M federal grant for nuclear energy development

By T.J. Thomson
October 22, 2013 | 7:42 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri System on Tuesday won a $1.8 million grant aimed at including Missouri manufacturers in the supply chain for small modular nuclear reactors.

The funding will help develop the supply chain, logistics and infrastructure to build the smaller reactors.

These smaller plants generate 300 megawatts of electricity or less. Unlike larger site-based plants, the small reactors are primarily factory-assembled and can be transported by truck or rail.

The smaller reactors are also less costly and more flexible compared with their more traditional counterparts, according to the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy.

"Small modular reactors offer the advantage of lower initial capital investment, scalability and siting flexibility at locations unable to accommodate more traditional larger reactors," according to the Office of Nuclear Energy's website.

The grant has a three-year horizon, said David Schmidt, associate professor and state specialist with the MU Extension's business development program.

"It will probably start around the first of January," Schmidt said. "We don’t have that nailed down yet."

None of the smaller modular reactors has been designed, licensed or constructed, according to the Department of Energy. The department estimates that the first commercial small modular reactor, a result of the mPower America Partnership, will begin to operate in October 2021.
Since this summer, MU has been working with two corporate partners — Ameren Missouri and Westinghouse Electric Co. — and its sister campus, the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, to improve existing nuclear research.

The corporate partnership had applied for up to $452 million in federal funds but failed to receive a contract.

With its $1,842,977 grant, the UM System was among 10 winners in a $20.5 million government-sponsored challenge to accelerate job creation and encourage business investment.

The university system entered the Make It in America Challenge, hoping to further develop the state's role in nuclear energy creation.

About 75 percent of the UM portion will come from the Employment and Training Administration under the U.S. Department of Labor. The rest will be allocated by the Economic Development Administration under the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Missouri coach Frank Haith was suspended for five games by the NCAA on Tuesday after it was found that he inadequately monitored his former assistants’ interactions with a disgraced Miami booster and then tried to cover up a five-figure hush money payment to keep potential violations hidden.

The Committee on Infractions report also found that Haith provided inconsistent answers during multiple interviews with investigators, including conflicting accounts of when he reported the shakedown attempt by since-imprisoned felon Nevin Shapiro to Hurricanes athletic director Paul Dee.

In a statement released by Missouri, Haith said he "strongly" disagreed with the report "and the inference on how the program was run at the University of Miami" but won't appeal the findings. He told reporters in Columbia he plans to donate 18 days' worth of his salary from his suspension to the Boys and Girls Club of Columbia. His base annual salary is $450,000, though he earns a guaranteed $1.6 million each year.

"I was truthful in my communication with the NCAA," Haith said. "If I wasn't truthful, I think I would have been hit with unethical conduct."

Instead, the two-year NCAA investigation found that Haith, the former Hurricanes basketball coach, failed to promote an atmosphere of compliance.

Haith and Miami assistant coach Jake Morton provided Shapiro $10,000 after he threatened to expose previous improper contact with high school recruits and amateur coaches, the NCAA said.

Shapiro, who is now serving a 20-year prison term for masterminding a $930 million Ponzi scheme, had basketball season tickets with a courtside seat and had donated an estimated $500,000 to Miami. He initially demanded a large loan from Haith after he experienced financial trouble or the return a $50,000 donation from a benefit bowling tournament he had hosted. The coach refused.

Morton, who joined Western Kentucky as an assistant coach in 2011 but resigned in April as its director of basketball operations, then loaned Shapiro at least $6,000, which he later repaid. The NCAA also said that Haith helped Morton and two other assistants pay $10,000 to Shapiro's mother and "attempted to cover up the booster's threats to disclose incriminating information."

Haith's statement was accompanied by supportive statements from Chancellor Brady Deaton, the university's top compliance officer and athletic director Mike Alden, who also joined Haith at a previously scheduled preseason press conference.
"After all this time, Coach Haith, his family, the University of Missouri, our student-athletes and our fans deserve closure," Alden said. "I’m proud to have Frank Haith as our men’s basketball coach."

"We’re looking forward to working together for a long time," added Alden, who hired Haith in 2011 after the former Texas and Wake Forest assistant spent seven years at Miami in his first head coaching job.

The allegations from Haith’s time in Coral Gables surfaced several months after his surprise hire by Alden from a .500 program that had reached the NCAA tournament just once under his watch.

While much of the 102-page report focuses on the Miami football program, the NCAA inquiry also opens a rare public window into the seamier side of cultivating big-money boosters _ even those, like Shapiro, with substantial baggage.

Shapiro told Yahoo! Sports that he steered a $10,000 payment to secure recruit DeQuan Jones’ commitment to Miami in 2008 with Haith’s knowledge. The NCAA said it found no conclusive evidence to support that claim, though it noted multiple phone calls among Haith, Morton and an unidentified "high-profile prospect" on the same day Shapiro’s mother was paid.

The report also said an associate athletics director in charge of fundraising guided Shapiro toward the Miami men’s basketball program after the booster became disenchanted with the football team’s losing 2007 season. Haith and Morton told NCAA investigators they shared several meals with Shapiro, attended a concert together and visited a strip club “to create donor relationships.” Haith also sought legal advice from Shapiro when one of his players got into trouble.

In Haith’s three interviews with NCAA investigators between October 2011 and September 2012, he provided three different explanations as to why he paid his assistants $3,200 advances that they normally would have had to wait to receive from summer basketball camps.

Haith requested the third interview soon after his second sit-down, citing concerns that he had given "inaccurate" information and was "confused about the timing of what (he) knew and when (he) knew it."

The committee concluded that Haith’s "version of events (is not) credible" due to "the many inconsistencies the former head men’s basketball coach reported during his interviews with the enforcement staff and the institutions."

Infractions Committee Chairman Britton Banowsky, who is also Conference USA commissioner, reiterated those concerns.

"It was difficult for the committee, and maybe even the members of the enforcement staff, to know precisely what really was going on in the program, given all the conflicting information,” he said.

Haith was strikingly clear on at least one point: the intense pressure to win, even at a football-first school like Miami.

"Did we win enough games for the Miami supporters?" Haith said in an NCAA interview. "You read the papers. I don’t think they felt great about what we did there. I didn’t recruit, I didn’t get the five-star guys ... Let’s don’t be naive about the level. Our business is corrupt."
Missouri plays four of its first five games this season at Mizzou Arena, starting with Southeastern Louisiana on Nov. 8. Haith will also miss home games against Southern Illinois, Gardner-Webb and IUPUI, as well as a Nov. 16 game against Hawaii in Kansas City. He also must attend an NCAA rules seminar next summer.

Online:

NCAA report: http://tinyurl.com/msydfxl
NCAA suspends Haith for five games

MU coach cited for failure to promote NCAA compliance.

By Steve Walentik

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 2:00 pm Comments (3) Updated: 2:41 pm, Tue Oct 22, 2013.

The NCAA suspended Missouri basketball Coach Frank Haith for the first five games of the regular season for his role in the Nevin Shapiro scandal that has embroiled the University of Miami for more than two years.

Haith will have to sit out games against Southeastern Louisiana, Southern Illinois, Hawaii, Gardner-Webb and IUPUI and will have to attend an NCAA Regional Rules seminar after the 2013-14 academic year.

The NCAA's Committee on Infractions released its decision in a report this morning, signaling the end of a saga that has hung over the coach for all but four months of his tenure at Missouri.

"As it relates to the former men's basketball coach, as with all head coaches, he clearly had a responsibility to promote an atmosphere of compliance within his program and take demonstrative steps to ensure the program was operating in compliance, which includes an obligation to monitor," Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky, who chairs the Committee on Infractions, said in a teleconference this morning. "Although the allegations against the former head coach were limited to a failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance, the report details various facts, which support the committee's conclusion that he failed in this responsibility."

Banowsky said the Committee on Infractions didn't rely solely on the word of Shapiro, who is in jail for running a $930 million Ponzi scheme.

The NCAA admitted its investigation was tainted. It was revealed in January that investigators improperly worked with one of Shapiro's attorneys to get information in court proceedings, though Banowsky said the tainted information was not considered by the Committee on Infractions.

Haith could have appealed the ruling but is choosing not to do so.

"While I strongly disagree with today’s report, and the inference on how the program was run at the University of Miami, as head basketball coach during that period, I accept responsibility for
all actions in and around that program," he said in a statement released Tuesday afternoon. "This has been an excruciating ordeal for my family. **An appeal, which would likely drag further into the season, would only prolong what has already been a lengthy and trying period of time for our student-athletes, the University of Missouri and our fans, and it's time for closure.**"

The investigation of Miami began in earnest in August 2011 after a Yahoo! Sports report alleged widespread rules violations in the Miami athletic department.

The Committee on Infractions, in its report, determined that two former Haith assistants — previously identified as Jake Morton and Jorge Fernandez — looked to Shapiro to entertain high school and nonscholastic coaches of prospects, without oversight from Haith.

When Shapiro got into financial trouble, he requested that Haith loan him a large sum of money or return a $50,000 donation. The report states that Haith denied the booster's request, but an assistant agreed to loan Shapiro $7,000, which was eventually repaid.

When Shapiro was incarcerated in 2010, the report states that he began to threaten Haith and Morton and demand money. The report states he threatened to tell then-Athletic Director Kirby Hocutt that he had "entertained the coaches at a strip club and that he once provided the coaches with $10,000 to facilitate the recruitment of a prospect."

The committee determined that Haith and the assistant worked together to make sure the booster received $10,000 to end the booster's threats, rather than investigate the basis of the threats and the relationship his assistants had with Shapiro or report the issue to Miami's compliance department.

Haith's punishment is similar — though longer — than those handed to other coaches who faced charges of failure to monitor the activities of his staff or promote an atmosphere of compliance. Former Connecticut Coach Jim Calhoun was suspended for the first three Big East Conference games of the 2011-12 season and Baylor's Scott Drew was forced to sit out his team's first two Big 12 Conference games last season.

Haith is not being punished as severely as former Tennessee Coach Bruce Pearl, who was slapped with a three-year show-cause penalty in 2011 after the Committee on Infractions determined he provided misleading information to the NCAA. The show-cause penalty states that sanctions leveled against the coach follow him to a new school and requires any school that wants to hire him to show cause to the NCAA.

The Committee on Infractions said during his three interviews — on Oct. 6, 2011, on Sept. 5, 2012, and on Sept. 25, 2012 — Haith provided three different explanations for why he wrote advance checks to his assistant coaches worth $3,200 each in June 2010 for working at a camp. Those checks were cashed on the same day at the same bank branch. The committee deduced that one of the assistants combined the money totaling $9,600 with money he already had to make the full $10,000 payment to Shapiro.
The report states that phone records show that on the same day Haith wrote the checks and Morton delivered the cash to Shapiro's mother, there were multiple calls from Morton to a high-profile prospect and to Haith.

In the Oct. 6 interview, Haith explained the checks, saying his assistant coaches "had personal obligations and were 'financially struggling.'"

In the Sept. 5 interview, Haith reportedly said he knew of Shapiro's threat to talk about their evening at the strip club and was embarrassed by it. The report states that Haith told the enforcement staff that he also knew the booster claimed to have helped secure a prospect's commitment, but he discounted that claim because he was certain Shapiro didn't know the prospect or his family.

The report states that on Sept. 25, the enforcement staff interviewed Haith a third time at Haith's request. It said Haith did so because "he claimed that some of the statements he made during the second interview were 'inaccurate' that that he was 'confused about the timing of what [he] knew when [he] knew it.'"

The committee's report indicated that it didn't find Haith's testimony believable.

"The only reason the former head men's basketball coach came forward and requested a third interview on September 25 was he realized earlier that, by telling the truth during the September 5 interview, he had implicated not only himself, but also former assistant men's basketball coach A, in a scheme to cover up NCAA violations," the report stated. "The committee finds the former head men's basketball coach's September 25 version of events and his explanation (or lack thereof) for the significant changes in his statements of facts not persuasive."

Banowsky was asked how much latitude the committee gives when individuals change their stories.

"It was difficult, I think, for the committee and maybe even the members of the enforcement staff to know precisely what really was going on with the basketball program given all of the conflicting information," he said.

"We felt like we had a responsibility to review that and to publish it just because it was information that we felt like ultimately required us to draw some conclusions. But I can tell you he was only charged with failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance."
FRANK HAITH, HEAD BASKETBALL COACH

"While I strongly disagree with today’s report, and the inference on how the program was run at the University of Miami, as head basketball coach during that period, I accept responsibility for all actions in and around that program. This has been an excruciating ordeal for my family. An appeal, which would likely drag further into the season, would only prolong what has already been a lengthy and trying period of time for our student-athletes, the University of Missouri and our fans, and it’s time for closure.

I’m pleased with the positive working relationship we have with our compliance staff at Mizzou and we will continue our focus in that area as we move forward. I am very humbled and grateful for the support that I have received from the University of Missouri, its leadership, and our tremendous fans."

BRADY DEATON, UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI CHANCELLOR

"I have reviewed the findings of the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions related to the University of Miami athletic program. Given our respect for the principles of compliance in intercollegiate sports, we will not appeal the sanctions placed on our Head Men’s Basketball Coach, Frank Haith.

The University of Missouri has a strong culture of compliance. I can firmly say that since April of 2011 when he joined our family, Coach Haith has reaffirmed our values of compliance in every way, and we fully expect that to continue. We owe our student-athletes, our university, our state, and Mizzou Nation no less."

MIKE ALDEN, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
"We certainly recognize the serious nature of the allegations included in today’s report. At Missouri, we take great pride in our conduct with regard to NCAA rules and regulations. During his time here, Coach Haith has been forthright with me and our compliance staff throughout this long process. **After all this time, Coach Haith, his family, the University of Missouri, our student-athletes, and our fans, deserve closure.** We are extremely excited about the direction of our program and look forward to his continued leadership for our young men. I’m proud to have Frank Haith as our men’s basketball coach."

**MARY AUSTIN, SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR - COMPLIANCE**

"We have reviewed the NCAAs ruling on the University of Miami’s infractions case, particularly its ruling on the allegations against Frank Haith. We are supportive of Coach Haith’s decision to move forward, even though the option to appeal was there. It’s very important to note that Coach Haith has been diligent and consistent in his efforts to promote an atmosphere of compliance at Mizzou. Frank Haith is a head coach who exhibits cooperation and support of all compliance efforts with his program, and we are pleased to move forward as a team.”
Frank Haith disagrees but won't appeal NCAA's 5-game suspension

Former Miami men's basketball coach Frank Haith, now the head coach at Missouri, will serve a five-game suspension for failing to monitor the activities of his assistant coaches and attempting to "cover up the booster's threats to disclose incriminating information," according to a Tuesday NCAA press release.

The NCAA announced the findings of its investigation into disgraced Miami booster and convicted felon Nevin Shapiro's relationship with Miami athletics on Tuesday.

It found that then-Miami coach Haith and an assistant coach provided Shapiro $10,000 after he threatened to expose previous improper contact with high school recruits and amateur coaches. Shapiro initially demanded Haith return a $50,000 donation, but the coach refused. The unidentified assistant then loaned Shapiro $7,000, which he later repaid. The NCAA also found that Haith helped his assistant pay off Shapiro's mother.

Haith issued a statement Tuesday afternoon:

"While I strongly disagree with today's report, and the inference on how the program was run at the University of Miami, as head basketball coach during that period, I accept responsibility for all actions in and around that program. This has been an excruciating ordeal for my family. An appeal, which would likely drag further into the season, would only prolong what has already been a lengthy and trying period of time for our student-athletes, the University of Missouri and our fans, and it's time for closure. "I'm pleased with the positive working relationship we have with our compliance staff at Mizzou and we will continue our focus in that area as we move forward. I am very humbled and grateful for the support that I have received from the University of Missouri, its leadership, and our tremendous fans."

Haith had the support of school officials at Missouri, including athletic director Mike Alden:

"We certainly recognize the serious nature of the allegations included in today's report. At Missouri, we take great pride in our conduct with regard to NCAA rules and regulations. During his time here, Coach Haith has been forthright with me and our compliance staff throughout this long process. After all this time, Coach Haith, his family, the University of Missouri, our
student-athletes, and our fans, deserve closure. We are extremely excited about the direction of our program and look forward to his continued leadership for our young men. I'm proud to have Frank Haith as our men's basketball coach."

Haith spoke to the enforcement staff on Sept. 5 of his time at Miami, and noted that it's a larger issue at hand.

"Did we win enough games for the Miami supporters? You read the papers, I don't think they felt that great about what we did there," he said. "I didn't recruit, I didn't get the five-star guys. And let's, like I said, let's don't be naïve about the level. Our business is corrupt and how we got to deal with these guys at the high level kid."
COLUMBIA, Mo. • Missouri men’s basketball coach Frank Haith was visibly angry with the NCAA’s decision to suspend him for five regular-season games, but for the sake of his team, his school and, most important, his family, Haith decided against appealing the penalty.

In February, the NCAA charged Haith with failure to promote an atmosphere for compliance while coaching at the University of Miami. The NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions concluded that Haith failed to monitor his assistant coaches’ relationships with Miami booster and convicted felon Nevin Shapiro, approved payments to cover up incriminating evidence from Shapiro and later gave NCAA investigators conflicting answers about his staff’s dealings with the booster.

On Tuesday, 27 months after the Miami scandal became public, the Committee on Infractions released its findings and suspended Haith for the first five regular-season games of the upcoming season.

“I strongly disagree with the report,” Haith said Tuesday at Mizzou Arena, sitting alongside Missouri athletic director Mike Alden. “I’ve chosen not to appeal the process and for this reason: No. 1, I care a lot about this university and the support they’ve had for me. I care about our student-athletes. And first and foremost, I care about my family. What my family’s been through the last 27 months, I cannot tell you what we’ve had to endure.”

“This signifies closure,” added Haith, who’s about to start his third season at Mizzou. “We can move forward. Understand, this is not an admission of guilt, because I do not agree with the findings of the NCAA.”

Under the suspension, Haith will not be allowed to coach Missouri’s regular-season games against Southeastern Louisiana (Nov. 8), Southern Illinois University Carbondale (Nov. 12), Hawaii (Nov. 16), Gardner-Webb (Nov. 23) and IUPUI (Nov. 25). Four of the five games are set for Mizzou Arena. Missouri hosts Hawaii at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. Haith’s first game back on the bench would be the Tigers’ game against Northwestern on Thanksgiving, Nov. 28, in Las Vegas.

According to the NCAA’s public infractions report, Haith cannot be present in the arena during the games or have any contact with his coaches or players during the suspension. Haith may not take part in any activities including, but not limited to, team travel, practice, film study and team meetings. Results of the games during his suspension will not count on his career coaching record.

Haith must attend an NCAA Regional Rules seminar at the conclusion of the 2013-14 academic year. He said he’d also donate a portion of his salary to the local Boys and Girls Club chapter.

Alden said the university has also declined to appeal the penalty, though in subtle comments and less subtle tones expressed frustration with the NCAA’s investigative process but continued support for Haith.
“We, too, are looking for closure on this,” Alden said. “We have a bright future ahead of us.”

“The University of Missouri has a strong culture of compliance,” university chancellor Brady Deaton said in a statement released by MU. “I can firmly say that since April of 2011 when he joined our family, Coach Haith has reaffirmed our values of compliance in every way, and we fully expect that to continue. We owe our student-athletes, our university, our state, and Mizzou Nation no less.”

The investigation has hovered over Missouri’s program since it first became public in August 2011 — before Haith coached a game for the Tigers — and Tuesday’s report came nearly four years after Miami first notified the NCAA of an internal investigation into potential violations. The case involved 18 allegations with 79 subparts and 118 interviews with 81 individuals related to violations involving Miami’s football and basketball programs.

According to the report, when Shapiro began experiencing financial trouble in November 2009, he requested that Haith loan him a large sum of money or that Haith return his $50,000 donation to the basketball program. Haith denied Shapiro’s request, but an unidentified assistant men’s coach, known to be former aide Jake Morton, agreed to loan Shapiro $7,000, which the booster later repaid.

After Shapiro was incarcerated in 2010, he began to threaten Haith and Morton and demand money. Shapiro threatened to tell Miami’s athletic director that he had entertained the coaches at a strip club and once provided the coaches with $10,000 to lure a recruit.

In interviews with the NCAA, Haith told more than one account about how he handled the threats. The committee found Haith’s account inconsistent and not credible. The NCAA enforcement staff interviewed Haith Oct. 6, 2011, Sept. 5, 2012, and Sept. 25, 2012, the last of which Haith requested, according to the report, because he claimed some of his earlier statements in the second interview were “inaccurate” and that he was “confused about the timing of what (he) knew when (he) knew it.”

In each interview, Haith provided a different response to allegations that his assistants paid Shapiro with advance payments from summer basketball camps. The committee determined that Haith and Morton worked together to make sure Shapiro received $10,000 to end the booster’s threats and that Haith wrote camp advance checks to three assistant coaches for $3,200 to cover the payment.

Haith denied knowledge of the payment and said he was confused and “blown away” by the enforcement staff’s theory on the case, according to the report. The committee found Haith’s explanation of the situation not persuasive.

Haith insisted Tuesday that he told the truth regarding the payments.

“If I wasn’t truthful, I think I would have been hit with unethical conduct,” he said, referring to a more severe charge.

“As the leader of a high-profile basketball program, he had a responsibility to make sure he and his staff followed the rules,” the report stated. “However, the former coach did not meet his responsibilities and this conduct resulted in violations.”
The report also concluded that Shapiro and football and basketball assistants provided illegal benefits to recruits and their coaches, family and friends, creating an environment where coaches and athletes “were comfortable, if not encouraged, to develop relationships with the booster.”

Haith, the report concluded, “had a responsibility to encourage rules education and for he and his coaches to abide by those rules” and that he failed to “set clear expectations of rules compliance of his staff.”

“Frankly, it was difficult for the committee, and maybe even the members of the enforcement staff, to know precisely what really was going on in the program, given all the conflicting information,” Infractions chairman Britton Banowsky said during a conference call Tuesday.

The case against Miami came under fire in January when the NCAA admitted its enforcement staff improperly used outside counsel to collect information for the case. NCAA fired its enforcement chief Julie Roe Lach and investigator Ameen Najjar and has since reviewed its investigative process. Banowsky said those missteps during the investigation did not affect the penalties.

“There is, as we all know, national concerns about the governance of the NCAA, the consistency with how they apply or not apply rules and regulations,” Alden said.

Haith declined to elaborate on any mistakes he made at Miami or whether he’s changed the way he monitors his current staff in light of the findings. Instead, he mentioned a text message he recently received from former Missouri player Laurence Bowers.

“It was unbelievable,” Haith said. “He talked about how he learned to deal with adversity by watching me. So, I think we all grow from adversity. I know that I have.”
COLUMBIA, MO. — Missouri men's basketball coach Frank Haith wanted closure.

That, in a nutshell, explains Haith's decision not to fight a five-game suspension, which the NCAA handed down Tuesday in announcing rules violations stemming from a two-plus-year investigation into the University of Miami athletic program.

"What my family's been through the past 27 months, I cannot tell you what we've had to endure," Haith said of his daughter, Brianna, son, Corey, who plays for the Tigers, and wife, Pam.

"This morning when my daughter wakes up and my wife tells her what we're going through - not specifics, but generalized things - and to see her crying again, I don't want to put her through that, or my son . . . any more than what we've already been through."

Haith said that the decision to abide by the NCAA's ruling was "not an admission of guilt, because I do not agree with the findings of the NCAA."

The NCAA ruled Haith, who coached the Hurricanes from 2004-11, did not "promote an atmosphere of compliance" and "failed to meet his responsibilities as a head coach when he did not monitor the activities of his assistant coaches, and attempted to cover up" former booster and convicted felon Nevin Shapiro's "threats to disclose incriminating information."

Miami's football program also committed violations and the school was found to lack institutional control, resulting in a decade of violations, but the NCAA accepted Miami's self-imposed penalties.

Haith will be suspended Nov. 8-25, and will miss Missouri's first five regular-season basketball games - against Southeastern Louisiana, Southern Illinois, Hawaii, Gardner-Webb and IUPUI.
Each game is in Columbia except for the Hawaii game, which is at the Sprint Center. He will return to the bench Nov. 28 when the Tigers play Northwestern at the Las Vegas Invitational.

Britton Banowsky, the Conference USA commissioner who chairs the NCAA Committee on Infractions, said the NCAA's mismanagement of the investigation, including unethical evidence-gathering practices in conjunction with Shapiro's attorney, had no impact "with respect to deciding the penalties."

Missouri athletic director Mike Alden and chancellor Brady Deaton both affirmed their support for Haith in statements released by MU.

During the afternoon news conference, Alden said, "We're supportive of Coach Haith and we're supportive of the job he's doing with our basketball program at the University of Missouri. We, too, are looking forward to closure on this. We have a bright future ahead of us and continue to have a bright future ahead for our basketball program at Mizzou."

According to the NCAA report, Shapiro was in financial trouble and asked Haith to loan him money or return a $50,000 donation. Haith refused, but former Miami assistant coach Jake Morton loaned Shapiro $7,000.

After Shapiro was sent to prison in 2010, he began to threaten Haith and Morton, demanding money or else he would tell the athletic department that he entertained the coaches at a strip club and once provided them with $10,000 to facilitate the recruitment of a player.

Shapiro said in a 2011 Yahoo Sports report, which triggered the investigation, that Haith was complicit in a $10,000 payment to a family member of player DeQuan Jones with Morton serving as the primary liaison in the deal. Haith and Morton deny Shapiro's claim, which was not proven in the NCAA report.

However, the infractions committee ruled Haith and Morton worked together to make sure Shapiro received $10,000, by way of a payment to his mother, to end the threats, instead of investigating Shapiro's claims of potential NCAA violations or reporting the matter to Miami's compliance department.

The NCAA's evidence - a series of phone calls and three checks Haith wrote for $3,200 written to his three assistant coaches as a camp advance, which were cashed on the same day at the same bank - was largely circumstantial.

The NCAA report also states Haith told more than one account of the threats and what he did to stop them, deeming his story of the events not credible.

"Frankly, it was difficult for the committee and maybe even members of the enforcement staff to know precisely what really was going on with the basketball program given all of the conflicting information in the record," Banowsky said.
But in the end, "He was only charged with failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance, which is a responsibility every coach has. . . . We were able to determine that he did not meet that responsibility," Banowsky said.

Asked about the inconsistencies in his story, Haith said, "I was truthful in my communication with the NCAA."

Pressed to explain the discrepancies from the three interviews, he said, "If I wasn't truthful, I think I would have been hit with unethical conduct."

Haith, who asked for a third interview during the investigation, initially told the NCAA he did not become aware of Shapiro's involvement with the basketball program until September 2008, but later recalled earlier interactions.

In one prior instance, Haith asked Shapiro to recommend an attorney for a player. Haith and coaches also previously met with Shaprio for lunch and dinner and, at one point, discussed how difficult it was to recruit high-profile players.

In an interview with the NCAA enforcement staff, Haith shared his opinion on college basketball recruiting.

"Did we win enough games for the Miami supporters? You read the papers, I don't think they felt that great about what we did there. I didn't recruit, I didn't get the five-star guys. And let's, like I said, let's don't be naćve about the level," Haith said. "Our business is corrupt and how we got to deal with these guys at the high level kid."

One of Haith's former assistants at Miami, Jorge Fernandez, received a two-year show-cause penalty for unethical conduct, essentially banning him from college coaching for two years. According to the NCAA, Fernandez provided false information during his interviews about making personal airline points available for a flight to a prospect and his high school coach.

Morton did not receive any penalty. The Miami basketball team will also lose one scholarship during the next three seasons. Haith also must attend a NCAA regional rules seminar after this academic year.

Haith, who is 53-16 at Missouri with two NCAA Tournament appearances in two seasons, said he hasn't made a decision on which of his assistants will serve as acting head coach.

Missouri was seeking final clarification of what role, if any, Haith could have with the program during his suspension. The expectation is that he won't be allowed to attend practice or work with players in any capacity, but Haith said he will still be allowed to recruit.

He did, however, indicate that he'll donate a portion of his salary to the Boys & Girls Club of Columbia during his suspension.
Shapiro also claimed he spent millions between 2002 and 2010 on football and men's basketball recruits, athletes and coaches.

But Miami's football program will not receive an additional bowl ban. Instead, it will lose three scholarships over the next three years. Miami skipped the last two postseasons as a self-imposed penalty. This year the Hurricanes are 6-0 and ranked No. 7 in the BCS standings.

Banowsky said the infractions committee hoped to resolve the case in six to eight weeks but it "had a lot of complexities to it that were extraordinary."

"Our first responsibility is to do the best we can to understand the case record and to get it right," he said.

Kansas City Star writer Vahe Gregorian contributed to this report.
Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith: 5-game suspension 'signifies closure'

By Joseph Trezza
October 22, 2013 | 8:41 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith said he will not appeal the five-game suspension he received Tuesday following a 27-month NCAA investigation into Haith's time at the University of Miami.

Haith, who coached at Miami from 2004 to 2011, was suspended for “failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance” after an NCAA committee found inconsistencies in his explanations of a loan given to former booster Nevin Shapiro by a former Miami assistant coach.

“Each time the former head men’s basketball coach (Haith) gave a different explanation as to why he wrote the camp advance checks,” according to the 102-page report released by the NCAA.

Haith was notified of the suspension late Monday night and said he immediately contacted Missouri athletics director Mike Alden.

“I was truthful in my communication with the NCAA,” Haith said at a news conference Tuesday at Mizzou Arena, his knuckles planted on his cheek and his eyes tired. “If I wasn’t truthful, I think I would’ve been hit with unethical conduct. I was very truthful.”

Neither Haith nor the university will appeal the suspension, meaning Haith will be away from his team for five games. Haith is allowed to coach practices prior to the season opener.

“What my family has been through over the last 27 months, I cannot tell you what we’ve had to endure,” Haith said. “Nor do I want to put the university through any more. This
signifies closure. We can move forward. Understand that this is not an admission of guilt, because I do not agree with the findings of the NCAA.”

Haith’s suspension spans from the season opener Nov. 8 until Nov. 25. Missouri will be without him for games against Southeastern Louisiana, Southern Illinois, Hawaii, Gardner-Webb and Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis (IUPUI). He is also required to attend a NCAA Regional Rules seminar at the conclusion of the 2013-14 academic year.

Missouri will continue paying Haith during the suspension because it is not imposed by MU, MU Associate Athletic Director Chad Moller said. Haith said he plans to donate a portion of his salary during the suspension to the Boys and Girls Club in Columbia.

It has not been decided who will serve as the head coach in his absence. Haith is allowed to recruit during his suspension. At this point, it is his understanding that he cannot be at practice during the suspension.

“We certainly are supportive of coach Haith,” Missouri athletic director Mike Alden said. “We’re supportive of the job he’s doing with our basketball program at the University of Missouri, and we too are looking forward to closure on this. We have a bright future ahead of us.”

Yahoo Sports reported in 2011 that Haith had knowledge of a $10,000 payment to a family member of former Miami player DeQuan Jones during Jones’ recruitment. Shapiro, the former booster who is now serving a 20-year federal sentence for running a $930 million Ponzi scheme, said he gave the money to former Miami assistant coach Jake Morton for that purpose.

When Shapiro began experiencing financial trouble, he requested Haith loan him a large sum of money or return the $50,000 Shapiro donated to the Miami program, according to the NCAA report. Haith declined both options, but assistant coach Jake Morton loaned Shapiro $7,000, which Shapiro repaid, the report said.

After Shapiro was incarcerated in 2010, he began threatening to disclose incriminating information about his relationship with the Miami athletic department. The NCAA committee determined that Haith and Morton worked together to end Shapiro’s threats, which ended with Shapiro receiving $10,000.
Why and how Haith’s assistant coach was able to give Shapiro that amount of money are the questions Haith failed to explain consistently, the report said.

“As the leader of a high-profile basketball program, he had the responsibility to make sure he and his staff followed the rules,” the report said. “The former head men’s basketball coach failed to meet his responsibilities as a head coach when he did not monitor the activities of his assistant coaches, and attempted to cover up the booster’s threats to disclose incriminating information, according to the committee.”

After news of the suspension became public Tuesday morning, Haith received a text message from Laurence Bowers, a former Tiger forward. Bowers told Haith in the message that he learned how to deal with adversity by watching Haith, referring to the year he sat out due to anterior cruciate ligament surgery.

Twenty-seven months after the Shapiro scandal leaked, at a different school in a different state, Haith now has some adversity of his own to deal with.

"Adversity is a part of life," Haith said at the news conference. "We all grow from adversity."

*Supervising editor is Erik Hall.*
The National Collegiate Athletic Association’s investigation of the University of Miami – whose athletics department and top football and basketball players received hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of goods either through or directly from a now-imprisoned booster -- finally drew to a close Tuesday, three years and 11 months after Miami first alerted the NCAA to potential violations.

Among the findings, announced Tuesday, of the NCAA’s investigation: Booster Nevin Shapiro gave one athlete $50,000 to persuade him to sign with an agent. Others received food, clothes, housing and cash prizes for fishing contests on Shapiro’s yacht. He raised money for the university, which named a student lounge for him, and coaches paid him off once he threatened to talk. (He did anyway.)

“The University of Miami lacked institutional control when it did not monitor the activities of a major booster, the men’s basketball and football coaching staffs, student-athletes and prospects for a decade,” the NCAA declared in its news release. Lack of institutional control is the most serious NCAA violation.

Yet all the association itself gave Miami for those sizable transgressions was three years’ probation, a loss of 12 scholarships, and some suspensions and show-cause orders for former coaches.

Importantly, Miami had already self-imposed significant penalties, including a two-year ban on playing in the postseason. And the NCAA had to throw out 20 percent of its findings after discovering that its investigators were paying to glean information through Shapiro’s bankruptcy proceedings.

Once, after Yahoo Sports reported in a 2011 expose that far more players (73), money (more than $170,000) and benefits (including access to prostitutes and an abortion for one of them) were
involved, it seemed like the death penalty -- an almost-never imposed ban on football (not even Penn State got it) -- was plausible.

It’s fair to say that the investigation – one of the longest, strangest and most closely followed in recent memory, if not NCAA history – was complex, enormous and unique, as Committee on Infractions Chair Britton Banowsky said in a call with reporters Tuesday (which, in a fitting metaphor for the investigation itself, kept reporters on hold several minutes past the start time and had a connection so poor that it was difficult to hear what was said).

But that’s partly because the NCAA botched the investigation by paying Shapiro’s bankruptcy lawyer to subpoena witnesses for the Miami case, while the booster served jail time for the Ponzi scheme through which he supported Miami. That misstep didn’t just delay the investigation even further, it called the integrity of the review – and the ability of the NCAA’s enforcement process to function – into question.

The infractions committee used none of the improperly obtained information, Banowsky said, and in fact did not even consider the enforcement staff’s mistakes when deciding on penalties.

Rather, he suggested that Miami’s self-imposed penalties were hugely consequential. The two-year bowl ban that Miami gave itself in an attempt to head off major punishment down the road resulted in recusal from the 2012 Atlantic Coast Conference championship game (and a subsequent bowl game). The university also levied significant recruiting restrictions against itself.

“Our hope is that this frustrating and disappointing chapter for the institution and the NCAA can be one step closer to being closed,” Banowsky said, and that all those impacted “can now move forward.” Donna E. Shalala

Miami President Donna E. Shalala didn’t quite get what she wanted. After the NCAA admitted it erred in the investigation, she said the university should not be further penalized beyond its self-imposed bowl ban.

“The NCAA has not lived up to its core principles,” Shalala said in February. “We have been wronged in this investigation, and we believe that this process must come to a swift resolution.”

The whole debacle put the NCAA in a precarious position. Some speculated that Shalala was prepared to sue if she didn’t like what the NCAA decided. But on Tuesday, Miami officials said they accepted the findings and would not appeal.

“The Committee on Infractions report closes a challenging chapter in the history of the University of Miami,” Shalala said in a statement. “I want to apologize to the Hurricane family, as we have asked for your patience, faith and support during a difficult time.”

To be sure, the nine football and three basketball scholarships the NCAA tossed are not a throwaway to the students who won’t be able to get them despite having nothing to do with the scandal. But considering the extensive detail with which the NCAA documented Miami’s
violations – in a 102-page public infractions report – the NCAA did not use a particularly heavy hand.

The University of Southern California, for instance, lost triple the number of scholarships, got a bowl ban of its own and was crippled for years when Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush received impermissible benefits. USC Athletic Director Pat Haden, who has been vocal in his opposition to the penalties, said in a statement Tuesday that “We’ve always felt that our penalties were too harsh. This decision only bolsters that view.”

But Miami’s response to the investigation seems to have made all the difference. In addition to the bowl ban, Miami cut 20 percent of football's official paid visits and 20 percent of days the coaches could visit with recruits in 2012-13.

“We felt like the institution’s self-imposed penalties were absolutely significant -- unprecedented, really -- and also the level of cooperation in this case was commendable,” Banowsky said. Those penalties indicated that Miami took the case seriously and understood the need to respond internally, he said. “To impose these bowl bans is a big deal. A very big deal.… The committee appreciated those decisions and it’s reflected, I think, in our report.”

The NCAA’s penalties should be considered as add-ons to those self-imposed by Miami, said Josephine R. Potuto, a University of Nebraska at Lincoln law professor and former infractions committee chair. If the NCAA believed a two-year bowl ban was appropriate, it wouldn’t smack another two-year ban on top of the one that’s already been imposed.

“What the committee always does is consider the institutional penalty as part of the committee penalty. You have to do it that way,” she said in an interview. “Otherwise it’s not fair to the school that was proactive.”

'A failure to monitor'

The infractions report details how Shapiro, coaches and athletics staff violated NCAA rules, mostly through recruiting inducements and extra benefits for athletes. In addition to providing for athletes, Shapiro “was a significant donor” to the football and men’s basketball programs and also conducted personal and financial dealings with coaching staff, including gifts and loans.

The staff include the former head basketball coach Frank Haith and two former assistant coaches, and four former assistant football coaches.

Miami first reported impermissible phone calls and text messages to the NCAA in November 2009. In February 2011, Shapiro reported to the NCAA about more serious violations that he said he was involved in. Shortly thereafter, the investigation formally began.

The dealings with Shapiro’s lawyer took place in fall 2011, but NCAA President Mark Emmert says he didn’t learn of the inappropriate conduct until early this year, when he fired several enforcement staff members and announced an internal NCAA review of the Miami investigation.
A few days later, Miami received its notice of allegations, the formal notification of NCAA charges against an institution. The investigation covered 18 allegations with 79 subparts, 118 interviews with 81 people, and 15 binders of documents, totaling thousands of pages.

Then the infractions committee took over, using a special process to account for the enforcement staff’s mistakes and to try to speed up the process.

“Although the institution and involved individuals, except one, asked in some form that the allegations be dismissed or limited in some fashion due to the bankruptcy depositions and other numerous and evolving complaints about the investigation, the committee heard the case on the merits,” the report says.

“The institution demonstrated a failure to monitor its programs and the booster’s activities,” the report concludes. “The institution also failed to have the proper policies and procedures in place during the relevant time period, which led to the committee concluding that there was a lack of institutional control.”

**Haith, who is now head coach at the University of Missouri at Columbia, and an assistant coach gave the booster $10,000 after he threatened to expose impermissible contact with recruits and coaches, the NCAA says. Then, Haith helped pay off Shapiro’s mother.**

One of the NCAA’s penalties is a five-game suspension for Haith at Missouri, but he will stay on the staff.

A former assistant football coach, Clint Hurtt, who the NCAA says received and provided extra benefits for athletes and lied to investigators, received a show-cause order. University of Louisville officials said he will remain on the staff there, as associate head coach for the defensive line, but “will be closely monitored” and have his salary frozen for two years, according to a university statement.

“No doubt folks will have a difference of opinion,” Banowsky said when asked why the scholarship reductions seemed light compared to other instances. “We don’t put cases up against each other because of the unique nature of each case.”
The NCAA couldn’t come down hard on Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith. It just couldn’t.

It butched its years-long examination of epic rules violations of the University of Miami program. Handed a mountain of evidence by investigative journalists, the NCAA managed to bungle its probe so badly that it invited litigation from the very coaches it so sought to punish.

This led to widespread ridicule of the NCAA, serious erosion of its credibility and wholesale changes in the enforcement division.

**From that chaos came a five-game suspension for Haith, who will shrug off the punishment and move on with his career with the full backing of the University of Missouri administration.**

Had the NCAA come down harder on Haith and the University of Miami basketball program – which absorbed a wrist whack Monday -- its enforcement division would have spent the next few years enduring intense scrutiny through civil suits.

Lawyers would have had a field day with all the NCAA’s procedural errors and ethical lapses.

Did Haith get away with something? Probably, but coaches get away with worse every week in this billion-dollar industry.

Major college basketball and football coaches are in an untenable position, trapped between the laughable “amateur ideal” and several pounds of NCAA rules on one side and the need to deliver big results in a high-stakes industry on the other.

Coaches know the deal coming in. A few are brazen outlaws, a few are highly principled saints and the rest operate as best they can somewhere in between.

Naturally some reformists found the outcome of this “investigation” emotionally unsatisfying. Here is a sampling of their outrage:

**Linda Robertson, Miami Herald:** “Former basketball coach Frank Haith is portrayed as a liar who changed his story three times and a manipulator who let his assistants do the dirty work. Haith escaped Miami for a better job at Missouri as the scandal was unfolding. Because of his ‘unethical conduct,’ he will be suspended the first five games of the season, but two UM assistants left holding the bag have been blackballed from coaching.”
Gary Parrish, CBSSports.com: “So, to summarize, (former Tennessee coach) Bruce Pearl got a three-year show-cause penalty for lying to the NCAA about a cookout while Frank Haith got nothing more than a mostly meaningless five-game suspension for lying to the NCAA about money the NCAA 'factually concluded' was designed to keep a booster quiet about an alleged major recruiting violation. I'll let somebody else decide whether Pearl's penalty was too harsh or Haith's penalty is too light. All I know is that the penalties aren't even close to consistent with each other, and that's why most fans of college athletics -- and all fans of Tennessee athletics -- are baffled this afternoon.”

Eamonn Brennan, ESPN.com: “Compared to what might have been -- a ‘lack of institutional control’, the grim specter of a show-cause penalty and even seeing the Missouri job slip through his grasp after one or two seasons -- the damage Haith took Tuesday was little more than cosmetic. He got out clean, or cleaner than most. A sigh of relief is warranted. A lucky rabbit's foot demands a hearty rub. Whatever Haith's preferred superstition is, he should thank it. For both him and his athletic director, this could have been -- and probably should have been -- so much worse.”

Jeff Eisenberg, Yahoo! Sports: “It's clear the NCAA believes its evidence suggests Haith knew about a $10,000 payment to a recruit, attempted to pay off a booster to keep him quiet, failed to come clean to investigators and then arranged a third interview to attempt to fix his botched cover-up. The only question that remains is why the NCAA determined Haith's punishment should only be a five-game suspension? For the NCAA's rules to mean anything, its penalties for rule breakers have to have teeth. Haith will sit out games against Southeastern Louisiana, Southern Illinois, Hawaii, Gardner Webb and IUPUI, not exactly a devastating penalty considering Missouri could beat those teams without a coach. How did Haith avoid a stricter penalty? Why was Pearl's punishment so much harsher when his violations were so much less severe?”

Because the NCAA screwed up the Miami investigation so badly that it was scrambling just to save face.

MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE

Questions to ponder as the Brady Quinn Era dawns at Rams Park:

Who are the most hated players in the NFL?

What were the stupidest plays of the week in the NFL?

Why can't high school take one-sided losses in stride?

TALKING UP THE CARDINALS

Here is what some of our favorite sports pundits have been writing:

Jayson Stark, ESPN.com: “It's October, and here they are again. It's October, and here are the St. Louis Cardinals, doing what they do. They're back in another World Series, for the second time in three years, the third time in eight years, the fourth time in 10 years. It's their ninth trip to the postseason since the year 2000. They just made their sixth trip to an National League Championship Series in the past decade, their seventh in the past 12 Octobers. It's October, and this has become a way of life. It's amazing, really. They play in a smaller TV market than Tampa-St. Petersburg, Minneapolis-St. Paul or (we kid you not)
Cleveland. They've spent 429 million fewer payroll dollars over the past seven seasons than the Yankees, $154 million fewer than the Tigers, $72 million fewer than the White Sox and -- here it comes -- $114 million fewer than (gulp) the Cubs.

**Scott Miller, CBSSports.com:** “There are a lot of things to like about these Cardinals, and one of them is the way they've hoisted up Beltran, 36, and made a mission out of getting him to a World Series. Since signing a two-year, $26 million deal before the 2012 season as part of the Albert Pujols Replacement Program, (Carlos) Beltran has become, in a sense, the Cardinals' spiritual leader.”

**Tom Verducci, SI.com:** “The St. Louis ethos revolves around the power and aggressiveness of its young pitchers. The Cardinals beat the Dodgers 9-0 in the clinching game of the NLCS with a two-hit shutout from three rookies -- Michael Wacha, 22, Carlos Martinez, 22, and Trevor Rosenthal, 23 -- each of whom throws 95 to 100 mph. Along with relievers Kevin Siegrist and Seth Maness, St. Louis used five rookie pitchers in the NLCS who combined to allow one earned run in 25 2/3 innings, while striking out 26.”

**Anthony Castrovince, MLB.com:** “The best description of the Cards' relief corps that I've heard this October is that it's a 'clown car.' It's amazing how many young, power arms or otherwise effective options stroll out of it. Between Carlos Martinez, Kevin Siegrist, John Axford, Seth Maness and lefty specialist Randy Choate, Mike Matheny won't have to take the same late-inning gambles that Jim Leyland -- burned by two late-inning grand slams served up by the 'pen in the ALCS round -- did. And closer Trevor Rosenthal has an electric arm to shut the door.”

**MEGAPHONE**

“I can't tell the backups not to play hard. They've worked their tails off all week. They've lifted weights in the offseason. I'm not going to tell them not to play.”

Aledo (Texas) High School football coach Tim Buchanan, after his team thrashed Western Hills 91-0. (Parents of a Western Hills player filed a formal “bullying” complaint against Buchanan.)
Nevin Shapiro, the imprisoned former Hurricane booster at the center of the University of Miami NCAA scandal, is locked away at Butner Federal Corrections Complex near Raleigh-Durham, N.C., in the heart of ACC country. He is serving a 20-year sentence for orchestrating a $930 million Ponzi scheme, and is surrounded by Duke and North Carolina grad students who work at the low-security prison.

Among his fellow inmates is Bernie Madoff, 75, whose multi-billion-dollar Ponzi scam is considered the largest financial fraud case in U.S. history.

Shapiro was moved to Butner after serving at Oakdale, La., where, according to a Sports Illustrated report, he worked in the prison library, which allowed him to keep up with media coverage of the UM case. He also played basketball with inmate Rumeal Robinson, the celebrated point guard of Michigan’s 1989 Final Four team who went on to play in the NBA. Robinson was convicted of bank fraud and bribery.

Shapiro, 44, instigated the NCAA investigation into the Hurricanes program when he claimed he showered UM players, coaches and recruits with cash and lavish gifts over an eight-year period in violation of NCAA rules.

The rest of the cast of characters in the saga have not been incarcerated, but they have not been completely free, either. Their lives have been in various states of limbo for the past two and a half years while they awaited the NCAA verdict. Some – Frank Haith, Clint Hurtt and Aubrey Hill – are still coaching. Others – Jorge Fernandez and Jake Morton – left the profession and are hoping to get back in once this is all over.

Here’s where they are now …

Sean “Pee Wee” Allen, former UM assistant football equipment manager

Accused of: Shapiro said he used Sean Allen as a middle man to deliver benefits to multiple players, and that he paid Allen $200,000 over several years to repay gambling debts and to fund NCAA-prohibited gifts to players and coaches.
Where is he now? Allen admitted to the Miami Herald last October that the investigation had taken a heavy toll on him, led him to drinking, and that he was having trouble finding a job. Allen, a New Jersey native, splits time between Miami and the Northeast. Allen’s testimony was thrown out as part of the NCAA’s tainted evidence, so he received no penalties on Tuesday.

Frank Haith, UM head basketball coach from 2004-11

Accused of: “Failure to promote an atmosphere for compliance’’ and failure to monitor activities of his staff because of Shapiro’s relationship with Haith’s assistant coaches.

*Where is he now? Haith left UM in April 2011 to become the head coach at the University of Missouri. A year later, he was named 2012 Associated Press National Coach of the Year. He testified before the NCAA infractions committee in June and told reporters: “I think that it’s been a tough two years. I look at any negative and find a positive out of it. I’ve grown from going through this existence. I talk to my team about adversity and how to handle it. Everybody’s going to have some adversity. This has been something we’ve had to go through for two years.’’ Haith received a five-game suspension.*

Jake Morton, former UM assistant basketball coach

Accused of: Committing three recruiting violations between October 2008 and April 2009. He was alleged to have arranged meetings between Shapiro and Brian Clifton, the high school coach of recruit John Wall, and also of taking Durand Scott’s high school coaches, Mo Hicks and Howard Dwayne Mitchell, to a Miami Beach nightclub and Shapiro’s home. The NCAA also said he accepted “at least $6,000’’ of supplemental income from Shapiro between October 2007 and October 2008.

*Where is he now? Morton was hired by Western Kentucky University as an assistant coach in June 2011. He was named director of basketball operations following the 2011-12 season. He resigned on April 3, 2013, to pursue coaching opportunities, according to the school’s spokesman. Morton, reached by email, said he still hopes to land a job in basketball, but for now, “all doors are closed until this case is over.’’ Morton received good news from the NCAA when he escaped any penalties.*

Jorge Fernandez, former UM assistant basketball coach

Accused of: Providing impermissible transportation and entertainment in the recruitment of three players, including prospect John Wall, who wound up at Kentucky and was the top pick in the 2010 NBA draft.

*Where is he now? Fernandez, a Miami native, spent seven years as an assistant at UM, and was left without a job when Haith took the position at Missouri. Fernandez wound up as an assistant at Marshall University for the 2011-12 season, but resigned on May 25, 2012 amid the NCAA investigation. The press release said he left the school for “family reasons.’’ He moved back to Miami to be with his wife and two young daughters, sold cars for a while and is now selling sporting apparel. Like Morton, he hopes to someday return to coaching. But it may be difficult*
because Fernandez received a two-year, show-cause penalty, which means any school that employs him would have to show cause for hiring him and restrict his responsibilities.

Clint Hurtt, former UM assistant football coach

Accused of: Receiving and providing impermissible benefits while at UM. The NCAA says Hurtt received a $2,500 loan from Shapiro and provided perks to Hurricanes recruits. He is also accused of providing false and misleading information during the NCAA investigation, a violation of ethical conduct rule 10.1.

Where is he now? Defensive line coach and recruiting coordinator at Louisville. Hurtt returned to the team last Tuesday after being placed on paid administrative leave March 22, 2013 to allow him to respond to the NCAA allegations.

“We’ve given him that time, and I think it’s good that he’s doing that,” Louisville head coach Charlie Strong said when Hurtt took the leave. “With the many distractions, he just can’t do the job that we’re asking him to do right now.” Hurtt also received a two-year, show-cause penalty. Louisville said Tuesday it will keep him on staff despite his restrictions.

Aubrey Hill, former UM assistant football coach/recruiting coordinator

Accused of: He is also accused of providing false and misleading information during the NCAA probe.

Where is he now? Hill was recently hired as head coach at his alma mater, Carol City High. He replaced Harold Barnwell, who was promoted to athletic director.

“When any person has ups and downs, trials and tribulations, you either are going to show your true character or you’re going to fold,” Hill told the Herald.

“I’ve always been a guy that’s going to give his best, work as hard as he can and pour my heart into young men. There is so much on my plate now. All I want to do is talk about Carol City football. You learn from the past and move forward.’’

After he left UM in 2011, he took a job as wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of Florida, where he played from 1991-94. He left UF before the 2012 season, saying he didn’t want to be “a distraction” during the Shapiro investigation.

“I have too much love and respect for this program to become a distraction as I deal with some personal issues,” Hill said at the time. “I’m thankful for the opportunity to have worked with coach [Will] Muschamp, a tremendous staff and great group of players. The future is very bright here, and the University of Florida will always have a special place in my heart. Go Gators!” Hill also received a two-year, show-cause penalty.

Julie Roe Lach, former NCAA vice president of enforcement.
Where is she now? Roe Lach was fired on Feb. 18, 2013 after 16 years at the NCAA. She was dismissed after an external review found that she had approved an improper financial relationship between an NCAA investigator and Shapiro’s attorney, Maria Elena Perez.

She is now working as a consultant with universities, conferences and other affiliated organizations in the area of enforcement matters and women’s leadership.

Ameen Najjar, former NCAA investigator

Where is he now? Najjar was fired from the NCAA in Spring 2012. He joined the Indianapolis law firm of Taft Stettinius and Hollister, where he is practicing labor and employment law, specializing in college
NCAA suspends Mizzou’s Haith 5 games

By Jacob Bogage

Men’s basketball coach Frank Haith has been suspended for the first five games of the Tigers’ season for “failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance” during his time at the University of Miami, the NCAA announced Tuesday.

“The former head men's basketball coach failed to meet his responsibilities as a head coach when he did not monitor the activities of his assistant coaches, and attempted to cover up the booster's threats to disclose incriminating information,” an NCAA release stated.

Haith and Athletic Director Mike Alden each said neither the coach nor the university would appeal the suspension.

“I strongly disagree with the report,” Haith said. “I’ve chosen not to appeal the process.”

Chancellor Brady Deaton also announced the university would not appeal the decision.

“Given our respect for the principles of compliance in intercollegiate sports, we will not appeal the sanctions placed on our head men’s basketball coach, Frank Haith,” the chancellor said in a written statement.

During the Nov. 8-25 suspension, Haith may not be allowed to attend team practices or meetings, he and Alden said. He will be allowed to continue recruiting.

Haith, who coached at Miami from 2004-2011, had been a subject of the NCAA’s 27-month probe into the activities of Hurricane booster Nevin Shapiro, a convicted Ponzi scheme facilitator who is accused of providing impermissible benefits to Miami student-athletes in the football and basketball programs.

Haith cited his desire to shield his family from continued scrutiny as reason to accept the suspension.

“What my family has been through the last 27 months, I cannot tell you what we’ve had to endure,” said Haith, who also announced he would donate a portion of his salary to the Boys and Girls Club of Columbia. “This morning when my daughter wakes up and my wife tells her what we’re going through, not specifics, but generalized things, and to see her crying again, I don’t want to put her through that, or my son, who’s been very supportive. This signifies closure.”
Mary Austin, Missouri’s senior associate athletic director for compliance, said in a written statement Haith did have the option to appeal and had been “diligent and consistent in his efforts to promote an atmosphere of compliance at Mizzou.”

Alden, who sat beside Haith at his Tuesday press conference, originally planned to include former coach Norm Stewart to discuss arrangements for the Tigers’ upcoming scrimmage at Hearnes Center.

Instead, Alden and Haith spoke first about the suspension and the NCAA’s investigation, one marred by repeated snafus on the part of NCAA enforcement staff, according to an external NCAA report filed in February.

In January, NCAA enforcement staff paid Shapiro’s defense attorney to obtain evidence that could continue to help the college athletics’ governing body.

At Shapiro’s sentencing, the NCAA submitted a letter to the presiding judge requesting leniency so Shapiro could continue to be an informant.

“There are national concerns about the governance of the NCAA,” said Alden, who will address NCAA leaders next week as the president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics to communicate concerns about the institution.

“Twenty-seven months, thousands of pages of testimony, hundreds of investigations, the enforcement or process itself questioned, of course, and millions of dollars spent on this entire deal. I think looking at that, at the conclusion of that, certainly anything could be speculative,” Alden said of Haith’s punishment.

An official NCAA report said Haith and an assistant coach provided Shapiro $10,000 to keep him from exposing previous compliance violations at Miami.

The report also states Shapiro demanded Haith return a $50,000 donation to Miami athletics, but Haith refused. One of Haith’s assistants loaned Shapiro $7,000, the report said, and Haith helped one of his assistants pay off Shapiro’s mother.

Haith denied those claims.

“I was truthful in my communication with the NCAA,” he said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Frank Haith got off 'easy,' says son of ex-Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl

By Ryan Hood
October 22, 2013 | 10:58 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith "got off a little easy" with a five-game suspension, said former Tennessee basketball player Steven Pearl, comparing the penalty to that of his father, former Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl.

Haith's suspension, as well as required attendance at an NCAA rules seminar, is the most recent in a series of NCAA suspensions of men's basketball coaches for "failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance."

In August 2011, Bruce Pearl, who declined comment Tuesday, was given a three-year show-cause penalty for admitting he gave investigators false information when asked about a cookout at his home attended by high school juniors. Pearl was charged with unethical conduct by the NCAA for misleading investigators.

While happy that Haith and his family won't have to endure what he did, Steven Pearl said he disagreed with the NCAA's ruling.

"By NCAA rules, I think Haith's situation is a bit more serious," said Pearl, comparing Haith's discipline to that received by his father.

An NCAA committee found inconsistencies in Haith's explanations of a loan given to former booster Nevin Shapiro by a former Miami assistant coach while Haith coached at Miami.

"You're dealing with donors and impermissible benefits versus a barbecue," Steven Pearl said. "But at the same time, what Bruce did was wrong. He went back and told the truth, and that's essentially what got him fired."
"If you compare the two cases, I'd say he (Haith) got off a little easy."

Charges of "failure to promote an atmosphere of compliance" have also hit Saint Mary's, Connecticut and Central Florida.

Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennet was suspended five West Coast Conference games this season and won't be allowed to recruit off campus this season. Two years ago, the NCAA suspended former Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun for three Big East Conference games due to recruiting violations by a team manager. Central Florida's Donnie Jones was also suspended for three games that year after the UCF basketball program was found to be involved with runners for sports agents and making cash payments to recruits.

Missouri athletics director Mike Alden is scheduled to meet with the NCAA in Indianapolis on Oct. 29. As president for the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, he will represent all 351 Division I college athletic institutions.

Alden said at Haith's news conference Tuesday afternoon that the meetings will revolve around communicating concerns relative to the governance, leadership, application of rules, enforcement process and competitive equity issues.

Alden was asked Tuesday about the NCAA's consistency on rulings.

"As we all know, there are national concerns about the governance of the NCAA, the consistency with how they either apply or not apply rules and regulations, the governance itself and who makes up that governance, and the reporting structure and on and on," Alden said. "And as we know, the NCAA is doing an extensive review of all of that."

It's too little, too late for that, Steven Pearl said.

"The only thing I have an issue with is the lack of consistency," Steven Pearl said over the phone Tuesday. "With our situation, I know Bruce lied. I know Bruce was wrong, but he didn’t get fired for lying. He got fired for telling the truth. So, the severity of his punishment and the severity of a few others, it's just inconsistent.

"It's like there's a dartboard in the NCAA office and it has a list of penalties, and they kind of just throw it (the dart) and see what they hit, and they go from there."
Steven Pearl said he wasn’t surprised by the ruling and attributed the drastic differences in punishments to the universities and how they handled the situations.

"With Tennessee, they went to bat for us at the beginning, and then towards the end, they completely bailed," he said. "If Tennessee had stuck with Bruce and kept him as their head coach, his penalties wouldn't have been nearly as severe. They maybe would have lost a scholarship or two. The biggest thing was Miami and Missouri both stayed behind Frank Haith and supported him the whole way through."

That support continued Tuesday.

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, Mary Austin, senior associate athletics director for compliance, said Haith has been diligent and consistent in promoting an atmosphere of compliance at Missouri.

"Frank Haith is a head coach who exhibits cooperation and support of all compliance efforts with his program, and we are pleased to move forward as a team," Austin said.

Alden echoed that sentiment during the news conference.

"We certainly are supportive of coach Haith, and we're supportive of the job he's doing with our basketball program at the University of Missouri," Alden said. "We too are looking forward to closure on this."

*Supervising editor is Erik Hall.*
Miami loses scholarships but avoid bowl ban

By SUSAN MILLER DEGNAN, MICHELLE KAUFMAN AND BARRY JACKSON

MIAMI — The NCAA delivered what appeared to be a gift to the University of Miami in the case involving rogue booster and convicted Ponzi-schemer Nevin Shapiro - after making the Hurricanes wait more than two-and-a-half years in anguish.

Cited by the NCAA for a lack of institutional control "resulting in a decade of violations," the Hurricanes' football program will lose nine scholarships over a three-year probationary period (2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17) and will not be penalized another postseason ban. UM athletic director Blake James said the NCAA gave Miami the option to remove the nine scholarships any way it deems fit over the three years.

UM basketball will lose three scholarships, one each for the next three years.

According to UM and the NCAA, the Hurricanes did not self-impose any scholarship sanctions, though they did "internally impose some scholarship reductions," James said, with hope that the NCAA will take those measures into account.

NCAA Committee on Infractions chair Britton Banowsky gushed in a teleconference about UM's "significant" self-imposed penalties, namely the two postseason bans that encompassed three games. He also said the Committee was impressed with UM's cooperation in the case.

Miami later indicated it will not appeal the sanctions, and, as UM football coach Al Golden said all along, the multiple years it took to process the case was as much a penalty as any other.

UM president Donna Shalala told the Miami Herald that "the athletic program suffered greatly as much by the timeline" of the case "as anything else. But we were responsible, and it was very clear we broke NCAA rules and we admitted that and were penalized appropriately for it."

Golden, whose undefeated Hurricanes can now breathe easier heading into Saturday's noon game against Wake Forest at Sun Life Stadium, thanked the UM "student-athletes and their families who, not only stood with the University of Miami during this unprecedented challenge, but
subsequently volunteered for the mission. They shouldered the burden, exhibited class and exemplified perseverance for Hurricanes everywhere."

Golden came to UM in the wake of the scandal and indicated when the story broke publicly in August of 2011 that he had no idea an investigation had been launched. He went unscathed Tuesday, but individual coaches who previously served at UM did not escape punishment.

FORMER COACHES PUNISHED

Former UM and current University of Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith was suspended for the first five games of the 2013-14 season. He also must attend an NCAA Regional Rules seminar at the end of the 2013-14 academic year.

"The former Head men's basketball coach failed to meet his responsibilities as a head coach when he did not monitor the activities of his assistant coaches, and attempted to cover up the booster's threats to disclose incriminating information," the NCAA wrote in a release. "Additionally, two assistant football coaches and one assistant men's basketball coach did not follow NCAA ethical conduct rules."

Haith said he will not appeal. "While I strongly disagree with today's report," he said in a written statement, "and the inference on how the program was run at (UM), as head basketball coach during that period, I accept responsibility for all actions in and around that program."

Former UM football assistants Clint Hurtt and Aubrey Hill and former basketball assistant Jorge Fernandez each received a two-year show cause order from Tuesday through Oct. 21, 2015 ï¿½ usually meaning they are effectively banned from coaching in college for two years, unless they can show cause as to why the penalty is inappropriate. Hurtt, however, is being retained by Louisville under a zero-tolerance policy through 2014-2015, and will have to follow strict guidelines implemented in conjunction with the NCAA ï¿½ including a recruiting ban through the spring of 2014 and his compensation being frozen for two years, the Courier-Journal reported.

Hill is the current head coach at Miami Carol City High.

Former UM basketball assistant Jake Morton did not receive any penalties.

Former UM head football coach Randy Shannon was given a letter of reprimand for an infraction involving illegal text messages and/or impermissible calls.

UM's self-imposed postseason bans in 2011 and 2012 ï¿½ which included last season's Atlantic Coast Conference title game along with the lengthy wait and the NCAA's admitted failures in processing the case contributed to a less severe punishment.

"What the self-imposed penalties represented was an indication by the university that it was taking the case very seriously," Banowsky said. "To impose these bowl bans is a big deal, very big deal. The fact that it also prevented an ACC competition in terms of the champ game which
potentially could have led to a BCS bowl berth, was a very big decision made by the University and the committee appreciated (that).

The NCAA also ruled that UM football may only provide a prospect on unofficial visits complementary tickets for one home game during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons.

Here are UM's self-imposed football penalties, besides the two-year postseason ban already served:

- Reduction of official paid visits for 2012-13 by 20 percent to a total of 36 visits.
- Reduction of fall evaluations in 2012-13 by six (from 42 to 36).
- Reduction of available contact days during the 2012-13 contact period by 20 percent.

Miami's two-day hearing before the NCAA Committee on Infractions (COI) took place in Indianapolis. When asked why it took so long to deliver the sanctions, Banowsky said the case "had a lot of complexities to it that were extraordinary. ...The sheer volume of the case was enormous."

Said Banowsky: "This case is among the most extraordinary in the history of the NCAA."

Banowsky also was asked about the difference between a case i½ Southern California comes to mind i½ in which a school has similar violations and gets 10 scholarships a year compared to an average of three a year for Miami.

"As you know," he said, "each case is unique and no doubt folks will have a difference of opinion whether the penalties were too severe or too light depending on your perspective. We don't put cases up against each other because of the unique nature of each case. In this particular case we felt like the institution's self-imposed penalties were absolutely significant i½ unprecedented really. And also the level of cooperation in this case was commendable. Those were factors that weighed in to the committee's thinking."

In the USC case, for example, the NCAA mandated that the Trojans vacate all wins in which former Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush competed while ineligible, and said he could no longer associate with the school. UM did not receive any similar penalty for former players involved with Shapiro.

A TWO-YEAR ODYSSEY

The NCAA investigation began in March of 2011, NCAA president Mark Emmert previously acknowledged. It stemmed from Shapiro's accusations of rampant violations and improper benefits to former UM players and coaches. Those accusations were publicly documented for the first time in a Yahoo! Sports report in August 2011.
Shapiro, serving a 20-year prison sentence for a $930 million Ponzi scheme, said that among the impermissible benefits he provided were cash, prostitutes, entertainment in his multimillion-dollar homes and yacht, paid trips to expensive restaurants and nightclubs, jewelry, bounties for on-field play and travel to athletes.

The NCAA noted in the summary of its report Tuesday that the case "involved 18 general allegations of misconduct with 79 issues within those allegations," and that 81 individual were involved in 118 interviews. The NCAA said the Committee on Infractions "found, in most instances, corroboration through supporting documentation and the statements of individuals" other than Shapiro.

The NCAA began its 23-month investigation and delivered its Notice of Allegations to UM on Feb. 19. Less than a month before that, however, the NCAA's Emmert used the words "grossly inappropriate" and "shocking" to reveal that it improperly obtained information from the attorney for Shapiro and paid her during its investigation.

The NCAA's punishment could have been much worse for UM had the organization not discarded "about 20 percent" of all the evidence in the case because some of it had been improperly gathered through a separate bankruptcy proceeding involving Shapiro and his former investment business.

The NCAA's investigative staff hired Shapiro's criminal defense lawyer, Maria Elena Perez, to conduct bankruptcy depositions with two key witnesses who were uncooperative with the NCAA. Those depositions highlighted Shapiro's relationship with the sports agency and its attempts to improperly land UM players as clients who received impermissible gifts from the UM booster.

But the NCAA threw all that evidence out, weakening the strength of its case against UM, and the eventual punishment.

Back in 2003, Shapiro invested $1.5 million in a sports agency Axcess Sports. Shapiro's role was to sign up as many star UM football players as he could so that the agency could represent them in the NFL Draft. His first big recruit was former UM defensive lineman Vince Wilfork, who allegedly received $50,000 in cash from the UM booster. Wilfork signed with the agency, but then, at the 11th hour, backed out and went with another agent.

Miami Herald staff writers Manny Navar and Jay Weaver contributed to this report.
MU theater troupe sparks breast cancer dialogue

By Emma Reynolds
October 22, 2013 | 8:35 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU's Interactive Theatre Troupe has expanded its repertoire to start discussions about breast cancer in mid-Missouri.

The troupe typically performs these shows during October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The first show of the season was performed in Lafayette County on Oct. 17. The next performance will be at 3 p.m. Oct. 28 at the MU School of Medicine. More performances will be held next spring.

Two years ago, the troupe's producer and director Suzanne Burgoyne and Heather Carver, chairwoman of the MU Theatre Department, began discussing how to use interactive theater as a way to teach medical students, health care providers and the community about dialogue surrounding breast cancer. They aim to have an open conversation about sensitive situations such as giving a breast cancer diagnosis or discussing treatment.

They collaborated with James Campbell, professor of family and community medicine at MU, who consulted on the medical issues and doctor-patient communication. Together they created an experience where actors and the audience can interact.

Students are allowed to freeze actors at any time during the performance and explain why they would perform the scene differently or ask why the actors made certain decisions. This allows the audience to clear up any confusion or concerns the audience may have, Carver said.

Carver is a breast cancer survivor and wrote the three five-minute scenes that make up each performance. Burgoyne, who is a curator's teaching professor of theater at MU, directs the plays.
Carver said she based some scenes in these plays on her experience as a breast cancer survivor in order to capture real stories. She talked to other breast cancer patients, medical caregivers and family members to help mold these scenes into real-life situations.

"The idea of the plays is to show complexity of the relationship between the patient and the doctor, instead of just the consequences," Carver said.

Burgoyne specifically worked with the actors to develop a biographical background for their characters in order to better perform their roles. Campbell said the audience engages in "transformation learning," and they learn to solve the dilemma through interaction with the characters.

"For example, one of the medical students will come down and replace the role of the doctor and improve the performance," Campbell said. "It gets them to kind of practice in their own minds how they would make the situation better."

In addition to performing for medical students at MU’s School of Medicine, the troupe also performs for students in the School of Nursing, School of Social Work, and audiences in the community, including breast cancer survivors.

This is the first time the troupe has done an interactive collaboration with the medical school. Burgoyne has been using theater as a teaching tool for other disciplines since the 1980s. For example, other performances stage discussions on difficult topics such as domestic violence or body image. After meeting with Campbell, who specializes in breast cancer dialogue, they came up with the idea of combining his research with Burgoyne's involvement in theater.

"I keep my eyes out for opportunities," Burgoyne said. "It's quite amazing how once you see something and start expressing interest, a network forms."

Actors in the plays are current and former MU students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the Columbia community. Burgoyne said many of the actors in this project have a personal connection to breast cancer.

The project started in 2011 after the troupe received a grant from Susan G. Komen Mid-Missouri to perform plays throughout the mid-Missouri region on the topic of breast
cancer. The troupe received a Mizzou Advantage grant in 2012 and plans to apply for additional grants.

Supervising editor is Katherine Reed.