New trend: Colleges taking money from scholarship funds

By Michael De Groote, Deseret News
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Scholarships help many students who can't afford college to get ahead — but now some universities are beginning to take a percentage of the money donated for these funds, leaving less for students.

Alison Tatum can't see William R. Gann as she plays the violin in a performance of Shostakovich's Piano Quintet in G minor, but in some way he is present.

_Tatum received the William R. Gann Music Scholarship a few years ago when she was studying the instrument at the University of Missouri-Columbia._

Gann, however, isn't happy about a new trend that siphons away 3 percent of his donations to the University of Missouri. It isn't a practice that is unique to Mizzou, but it isn't quite yet universal either.

"They are taking that money away from the student," says Gann, a former dean at Harvey Mudd College (a member of The Claremont Colleges in Claremont, Calif.), who graduated in music from the University of Missouri in 1953. "It may seem like a small amount of money they are taking out, but for some students that can amount to lunches and dinners."

Statistics from the National Association of College and University Business found that 39 percent of higher education institutions received less gifts to
their endowment funds in fiscal year 2012 than in the previous year, while 41 percent reported an increase. With average gifts at $8 million, even small percentages going to fees can mean a lot of money.

**Like cold water**

Carrie M. Collins doesn't think the practice taking a percentage of money donated for student scholarships is a good idea and wonders how it would affect fundraising for colleges.

"I think it throws cold water on fundraising," says Collins, vice president of institutional advancement at University of the Sciences in Philadelphia. "It isn't exactly a warm fuzzy."

Scholarship donations are usually endowed funds — meaning the money is invested and managed in perpetuity and the scholarship awards are taken from the interest made on the investments. A gift fee percentage (usually in the range from 1 percent to 5 percent) are taken out of the money when it is donated.

Collins says it would be awkward to talk to potential scholarship donors and tell them all the good their money would do for students and then tell them that 5 percent will be taken off the top of the donation.

"You shouldn't be passing the operating costs onto the donor," she says. "There are other ways to increase operating revenues."

Unlike Gann, however, Collins doesn't see any ethical problems, if donors are notified and agree to the practice.

"As long as the universities are upfront in the gift agreement, then it is above board," she says. "I just don't think it is the optimal way to operate. You'll get more money, if you can tell donors it is all going to the student."

A search on the Internet for universities and colleges charging gift fees find a wide mix of institutions.

UCLA, for example, announces on its foundation website: "As is customary with universities and other non-profit organizations across the country, a one-time administrative fee is applied to all new gifts, providing essential support to UCLA's overall operation. The fee is currently 6.5 percent."
The University of Arizona charges a 6 percent "University Development Fund fee" on charitable grants.

Lane Community College in Eugene, Ore., assesses a 5 percent "administrative fee."

Collins says it seems that taking percentages of scholarship money is being implemented more often in public institutions rather than private institutions. But she says this distinction may not last forever: "It may be, in 15 years, that private schools might be saying, 'Of course we take a percentage,'" she says.

**Money costs money**

Steven Roy Goodman, an education and admissions advisor in Washington, says schools taking a percentage of scholarships isn't strange to him. He says universities do other things that lower the amount of money students might get — such as decreasing financial aid, if a student gets an outside scholarship.

But, like Collins, he speculates taking a percentage of a scholarship can't make it easier to find people to give money to the university.

"It raises the issue," says Goodman, who founded the website www.topcolleges.com, "of backlash on the part of donors."

Backlash from donors like Gann.

"They don't have to take this from what is meant to be aid for needy students," says Gann, who lives in Independence, Mo. "I'm on the side of the students."

**Tom Hiles, University of Missouri vice chancellor for advancement, explains, however, that more is going on than just applying a fee for gifts: "Most donors know that it costs money to raise money," he says.**

Research grants, for example, take large percentages for administrative costs. Applications for grants build those administrative costs into the research grant package. When looking for scholarship endowment money, however, administrative fees are often not a part of the donor's consciousness.

The administrative costs for fund raising are often paid out of a university's central foundation. Missouri, however, doesn't have central foundation as most private schools have.
Hiles also says the cost ratio for raising money is better than at most non-profit agencies.

He says the endowment assets are well-managed and returned about 13 to 14 percent last year. Since the scholarships are paid out depending on how large a particular endowment fund is, the amount earned in interest affects how much money gets to scholarship recipients.

Currently, he says, there is about a 50/50 mix between using central funding and the gift fee funding to support the fund raising programs of the university.

Hiles says the university started its gift fee about two years ago.

"I think all of our donors know that it costs money to run a major operation that is raising gifts and pledges," he says.

At the same time, Hiles says he certainly understands the sensitivity some donors might have to the fees, and appreciates the support and pride in the university. He also says he would welcome discussing the issue with any donors who are balking at the fees.

Collins says she would also like to talk with disaffected donors such as Gann.

"How about donating to the University of Sciences?" she says with a laugh. "We'd be happy to take his very generous donation."
In some quarters of college basketball fandom, derisive chants directed toward opponents are considered high art. Look no further than the Cameron Crazies, the famed student section at Duke University's Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The less heralded Antlers from the University of Missouri are also adept at what their student leader, known as the Grand Poobah, called "getting into the heads" of opposing players.

But after a second straight ejection from Mizzou Arena _ this time mid-game Monday night _ school officials say the unsanctioned group has crossed the line of good taste, trafficking not in animated school spirit but something that amounts to hate speech.

"This is actually laughable to me, but let me just say this .... We have high expectations for our students and our staff at the University of Missouri," Athletic Director Mike Alden told reporters Monday after Missouri's 78-64 win over IUPUI. "Our core values are respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence, and it's critically important that we represent those values every day in everything we do."

"We just want to make sure that folks are representing the institution with class," he added.

Many fans booed loudly as the ousted students departed barely five minutes into the second half, just two days after the group was also escorted out of the arena by campus police before tipoff against Gardner-Webb. Missouri forward Tony Criswell high-fived several of The Antlers.
Fans who sent angry emails to Alden were provided with a list of "observations" that The Antlers had said at games, including a half-dozen sexually suggestive chants, as well as jokes about abortion, masturbation, sexually transmitted diseases, animal cruelty and the deadly typhoon in the Philippines.

During an opponent's free throw attempt in the season opener against Southeastern Louisiana, The Antlers shouted, "Raise your hand if you thought Hurricane Katrina was a good thing." In that same game, the group hollered "Just take him back out and throw him in a Dumpster" as an otherwise-silent arena watched an injured player get carried off the court.

The Antlers have been at Mizzou basketball games 1976, but the ZouCrew is the official school-sanctioned student cheering section.

Grand Poobah Emmett DeLaney, a junior business major from Festus, met last week with university leaders, including the vice chancellor for student affairs and the student government president.

DeLaney said he acknowledged in the meeting that his 30-member, all-male group had gone too far.

"Do we really want to keep going down this direction, or are we funnier, more smart and creative guys?" he told The Associated Press in a Tuesday interview. "It's time to turn over a new leaf."

DeLaney said he and his friends were kicked out Monday over a sexually suggestive chant that's been in use for at least a decade. The chant includes a pelvic thrust and an act of groping "the guy's shoulder you're next to," DeLaney said.

Saturday's offending cheer repeats a line of dialogue from the 1989 Chevy Chase movie "Fletch Lives" _ "Scum, scum, go back to where you're from."

The chant previously ended with the directive, "And die." DeLaney said the kinder, gentler Antlers substituted "And cry."

DeLaney said the group has no interest in being asked to leave a third straight game. Missouri's next home game is Dec. 5 versus West Virginia.

But he's also concerned that school officials are unfairly targeting The Antlers, noting that both the school band and the arena "kiss cam" have recently featured sexually suggestive songs, including Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines."

"Why is the line there for us, but not everyone else in the facility?" said DeLaney, conceding those songs were instrumental versions.
Antlers ejected from arena again

By STEVE WALENTIK

The Antlers spirit group was ejected from Mizzou Arena for the second straight game Monday night after what Missouri game-operations officials determined was an inappropriate chant.

Their exit during a timeout with 14:48 remaining in Missouri's 78-64 victory over IUPUI produced one of the loudest moments of the night as many fans booed loudly while members of the unsanctioned group made their way down the steps of the student section and exited through the tunnel at the northwest corner of the court.

MU forward Tony Criswell gave high-fives to several Antlers as university police officers ushered them away from the floor.

Athletic Director Mike Alden appeared agitated after the game when approached by a small group of reporters inquiring about what happened that led to their dismissal.

"This is actually laughable to me, but let me just say this, is we have high expectations for our students and our staff at the University of Missouri," Alden said. "Our core values are respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence, and it's critically important that we represent those values every day in everything we do."

Asked specifically what The Antlers said or did, he said: "I'm just going to come right back to what I said right there, and that has to do with when we see people that don't reflect the values of what we're trying to do as an institution — and certainly those are things that are disappointing to us as a university — and we just want to make sure that folks are representing the institution with class."

MU spokesman Chad Moller later sent an email to reporters that listed some observations of The Antlers' chants and behavior at games against Southeastern Louisiana and Hawaii that were deemed crude of offensive, as well as some favorite "go-to cheers" that university and athletic department officials believe fit that description.
Most were sexually suggestive or homophobic. The list also indicated that the group said, "Raise your hand if you thought Hurricane Katrina was a good thing," during a free throw in the season opener against Southeastern Louisiana.

Emmett DeLaney, The Antlers' Grand Poobah, received the same list during a meeting he had Friday morning with university and athletic department personnel, including Cathy Scroggs, the vice chancellor for student affairs.

"The things on that list, some of them are pretty rough, and it's regrettable that it's said," DeLaney said. "But I myself am proactively trying to put that to an end, and that's in the past of the group. Saturday, I feel like we did a great job of avoiding those kinds of things."

He said the group had the same intention to clean up their act last night.

Their ejection came just after they completed a chant he said The Antlers have used for at least a decade.

"'Pelvic thrust, churn the butter, step to the left, cop a feel,' " he said, relaying the chant. "And you pelvic thrust, act like you're churning butter, turn and squeeze the guy's shoulder you're next to."

"Then they booted us right after that, and while we were down there, they said references to sexual content won't be tolerated inside the arena."

Like the "Scum, scum, scum, go back to where you're from …" chant that apparently led to their dismissal before Saturday afternoon's game against Gardner-Webb, the "pelvic thrust" chant was not specifically cited on the list of inappropriate chants presented to DeLaney on Friday.

"That was basically our baseline that this and anything like this is no more, so when people emailed Mike Alden complaining about why we were kicked out Saturday, he emailed that list, making it seem like that's why we were kicked out of that game, and Saturday and tonight, none of that was said," DeLaney said.

He said the group will continue to edit its antics before the Tigers' next home game against West Virginia on Dec. 5.

"Because even when we ask what it was" that led to the ejections, "they don't tell us, we just kind of have to feel it out every game," DeLaney said. "At this point, I don't think we're trying to push the line. I think we're trying to find out where it is."
The Antlers came into being on nights like Monday in Columbia, when Mizzou’s game with IUPUI drew a small gathering of friends, relatives and transfers to Mizzou Arena.

Empty seats were common in the late 1970s. Games against Kansas or Kansas State would fill the Hearnes Center to the distant D Section seats, but otherwise the old multi-purpose center featured the same buzz as bingo night at a mausoleum.

Your cyber-correspondent began going to Mizzou games as a student from 1975-79. My roommate sent me to tag along with Bruce Breslow, a New York-bred master of the random insult. Breslow, who went on to a distinguished broadcasting, business and political career in Reno, Nev., was a creative inspiration.

Soon, Rob “The Hammer” Banning, a human foghorn with pit bull-like intensity, joined the fray. From the front row of Section A-16, our voices could fill the building.

The referees could hear every word that was yelled. So could the opposing players and coaches. It was magical.

At the time, I had no intention of becoming a sportswriter, so I didn’t see the obvious conflict of interest with this activity. Also, as a college student, it was mandatory to do stuff you would come to regret.

Only later do you start to fret about statutes of limitations.

Other fellows from the Hudson Hall dormitory began following The Hammer’s lead. Drawing material from Monty Python and the Holy Grail, we started taunting opponents as if we were the French guys atop the castle wall.

When we mixed in an “antler dance,” inspired by a Saturday Night Live skit, we got a name. Soon we had theme shirts and the whole thing took off.

If you got 15 to 20 young men chanting Andre Smith, eat my shorts, while the Nebraska center was shooting free throws, he might snap and throw a ball at you.

That happened. It made us feel powerful.
If you chanted “Uthoff, you doorknob, you gravy-sucking pig” at the Iowa State center for four years, he might show up at your dorm room on a football Saturday. An angry Dean Uthoff might come looking to bring all of his 6-foot-11 and 260 pounds down on your head.

That apparently happened, too, according to the one engineering student lingering in the dorm on a Saturday when the Iowa State football team was in town. The rest of us were out partying in a field somewhere. After all, it was a football Saturday.

And so here we are, decades later, confronted with another Antler Controversy. A new set of young people have run afoul of the University of Missouri athletic department with some of their exuberant actions and colorful word choices.

This latest First Amendment kerfuffle raises lots of questions.

Should college students yell and chant and carry on at games? I am biased, of course, but I believe a rowdy student section is good for college basketball.

Should fans also get after opposing players via social media? I believe if a player eggs on the public via Twitter or Facebook, then he can't complain if some yolk flies back into his face.

Otherwise, leave 'em alone. Like it or not, an unofficial fan group still represents the school.

Should fans use profanity and vulgar imagery as common forms of expression? That was never a good idea — and it is a really bad idea in these days of political correctness.

While withering, profane and often threatening verbal assaults have become the norm on Internet message boards and in the social media, oral discourse is held to a much higher standard these days.

That is the oddest thing. In our culture, we are expected to word all public utterances carefully. But in the digital world, people attack each other like rabid wolverines.

This is especially true in college sports. The Internet cruelty is way, way out of control. It becomes desensitizing, like violent video games.

The Antlers could tone things down without risking folks tuning them out. You don't need to be obscene or excessively cruel to be effective.

Back in the day, the original Antlers tried to be funny. But comedy is difficult. Most attempts at comedy fail.

So the original Antlers also tried to be abstract, figuring that we could confuse the opponents as easily as we angered them.

Let's go back to the Uthoff chant. The first part — “Uthoff, you doorknob” — came from a National Lampoon comic strip called “Underwear for the Deaf.” (Don't ask. That magazine was inappropriate to the hilt.)
The second half — “you gravy-sucking pig” — came from a Steve Martin bit. We thought this was a perfectly ridiculous hybrid chant, but today it would lead to outrage and ejection.

And even though the original Antlers included brilliant students who went on to big things — bigger than sportswriting in nearly every case — we didn’t always mind the boundaries of taste.

The heat of competition does that to people. This group lived and died on every possession of every game. When one of our beloved Tigers became the victim of an uncalled infraction, somebody might blurt out a terrible, terrible thing.

(One of the early members liked to yell “DIE ON CHRISTMAS!” a lot. While this phrase is not profane, it proved understandably upsetting to folks nearby, especially those with small children wearing Santa Claus footies.)

During my era, we did have one member detained by University Police for rushing a referee, known to us as “Hamsterhead,” after a game. It seemed Hamsterhead cut the visiting Kansas State team every break during a game played at Hearnes and, well, an angry young man can only take so many blown calls.

Given all of that history, I am in no position to go “tsk, tsk” on the current Antlers. I can only encourage them to work on their material and rise to this challenge.

Aim to become more insidious than outrageous. Mix more irony and sarcasm. Become faux goodwill ambassadors for the program. Have fun with your outlaw status.

Make the opponents laugh. Make them think. Engage them. Confuse them.

The spotlight is on the Antlers now. From great challenge comes opportunity. As John Belushi said back in 1978, “this could be the greatest night of our lives . . .”
MU coach Frank Haith happy to return from suspension

November 26
BY TOD PALMER
The Kansas City Star

COLUMBIA — Frank Haith lived a fairy tale as Monday rolled into Tuesday, sort of like Cinderella in reverse.

As the clock struck midnight, Haith was officially reinstated as the Missouri basketball coach.

“It feels great,” Haith said Tuesday morning in a teleconference with reporters. “I came over to the office last night around midnight and spent about an hour in there just going through some stuff. It feels good, really good, to be back.”

Last month, the NCAA suspended Haith, who is in his third season with the Tigers, for the first five games of the season — his punishment for failing to promote an atmosphere of compliance during his tenure at Miami.

From Nov. 8 to Nov. 25, Haith couldn’t have contact with his coaching staff or Missouri’s players. It made for a long 18 days.

“I missed the guys and I missed doing what I do, so it’s truly a blessing to be back on the court with these young men and the coaching staff,” Haith said.

The Tigers went 5-0 during Haith’s absence. It wasn’t easy at times for Missouri to get to that record, but it was probably even more taxing on Haith.

Haith said it was very tough “just being separated from what you do and your team for about 18 days, not being there and being a part of what I’m hired to do, and that’s have an impact on young people’s lives. To have that taken away from me, it was the hardest thing (in my career), sure, by far.”

The Tigers also missed Haith.

“I can’t wait to have coach Haith back,” said junior Jordan Clarkson, a transfer from Tulsa who has yet to play a game with Haith on the bench. “I miss him, man.”

Junior Jabari Brown expects Haith’s return to provide a spark.
“We were playing for him while he was gone, so we’ll continue to do that now that he’s back,” Brown said. “It’ll be like another burst of energy.”

Associate head coach Tim Fuller, who assumed head-coaching responsibilities with Haith unavailable, was thrilled to be able to turn the program over with an unblemished record.

“I will finally be able to sleep,” he joked.

Fuller also said that he has a new appreciation for Haith’s job and looks forward to seeing Missouri continue to evolve with all of the pieces back in place.

“The guys are definitely ready for coach Haith to come back,” Fuller said. “It was kind of a housesitting thing or a babysitting thing for me, just to manage everything. Now that he comes back and everything’s intact, he’ll be able to put his stamp on it and help us move forward to the place we need to go. I’m thankful that he’s coming back.”

Haith vowed to turn the suspension into a positive as best he could. He spent a lot of time on the road recruiting but also enjoyed being a family man during the NCAA’s recruiting dead week.

He said he “was not a good person to be around” when watching the Tigers’ games alone at home during the suspension, but he also got a different perspective on the team.

“I was able to see a lot and learn a lot about our team, about everything,” Haith said. “It’s helpful to me to come back to the team and be able to share with them the things that I learned watching them from afar and talking to people that watched our games.”

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/26/4652268/mus-haith-happy-to-return-from.html#storylink=cpy
Nixon wants more money for Bright Flight program
Focus on keeping students in state.

By RUDI KELLER

Nixon wants more money for Bright Flight program
Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 2:00 pm

Gov. Jay Nixon's proposal to double funding for Bright Flight scholarships was welcomed Monday by Republican lawmakers who will have to shepherd the plan through next year's legislative session.

At appearances in Kansas City and Kirksville, Nixon said he wanted to add $15 million to the program to provide an extra $5,000 annually to students who promise to live and work in Missouri after they graduate. The proposal, which Nixon calls "Bright Flight Boost," will need legislation to authorize the new program and support in the appropriations process to fund it.

"For the state, Bright Flight Boost is a smart investment with a big return in the form of a well-educated, highly qualified workforce," Nixon said in a news release. "For students, it's a significant incentive to not only go to college but also to graduate and then stay to pursue rewarding careers and follow their dreams in the Show-Me State."

Bright Flight, known formally as the Academic Scholarship Program, was established in 1986 to provide grants to students who score at the top of their class on the SAT and ACT college entrance exams. Under current rules, it provides as much as $3,000 annually to students who score in the top 3 percent on those tests and, if money is available, $1,000 per year to students who score in the top 4 or 5 percent.

The state spent $11.8 million last year on Bright Flight scholarships and provided an average award of $1,908. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, criticized Nixon for withholding money from the program in past years but added he's willing to help expand it.

"He hasn't told me what his proposal is, but if he is serious about it, I look forward to helping him on it," Schaefer said.
Last year's grants were less than the amount originally authorized in 1986. The value of the scholarship has been further diminished by inflation, House Higher Education Committee Chairman Mike Thomson, R-Maryville, said.

"It is probably not very effective, and it is not enough to entice our very sharp kids to stay here," Thomson said.

**Recipients can attend any college or technical school in the state, public or private. Last year, 6,192 students received awards, with about half attending one of the four University of Missouri campuses.**

Awards are larger this year, with a pool of $15.6 million available. Providing additional incentives to keep students in the state makes sense, Senate Education Committee Chairman David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, said.

"I think the main focus of Bright Flight was to keep them here originally, and we just haven't kept pace with inflation," Pearce said. "It is not really achieving what we set out to do, and" Nixon's proposal "is an incentive to not only keep them in school here but to stay here after they graduate."

Under the rules proposed by Nixon, students would have to work a year in the state for each year they received the additional aid. If they moved from Missouri, they would have to pay back all or part of the grant.

The Coordinating Board for Higher Education has not discussed Nixon's proposal, said Liz Coleman, spokeswoman for the Department of Higher Education.

*This article was published in the Tuesday, November 26, 2013 edition of the Columbia Daily tribune with the headline "Nixon seeks more Bright Flight money: Focus on keeping students in state."*
The University of Missouri Board of Curators voted unanimously Friday morning to merge the St. Louis Beacon and St. Louis Public Radio.

After a presentation by Tom George, chancellor of the university’s St. Louis campus, the curators approved the merger that has been more than a year in the making.

George cited the opportunities to bring together the two news organizations and the St. Louis and Columbia campuses for opportunities to practice journalism in an urban setting and conduct research into sustainability of non-profit news organizations.

The Board of Curators had the final say because it holds the license for the radio station, which is based at the university’s St. Louis campus.

Beacon editor Margaret Wolf Freivogel will oversee news operations for the new entity. Tim Eby, who heads St. Louis Public Radio, will be the general manager of the new operation.

An academic component, using the radio station’s new facility at 3651 Olive St. and the UMSL campus, will conduct research into the sustainability and structure of newly configured news operations as well as train reporters and editors who will be working in them. The journalism school on the university’s Columbia campus will be involved as well.

“Nowhere has there been an attempt of this kind,” said Dean Mills, dean of the J-school at Mizzou, “to provide in-depth public affairs reporting to a community that combines not just an online news outlet and a public radio station but also some of the community leaders. To me, that’s really the heart of this experiment: people in the community who care enough about good journalism that they care to support it financially.”

The combination of St. Louis Public Radio and the St. Louis Beacon will have about 60 employees and an annual budget of $7 million. For the transition to the new operation, $2.5 million in private funds have been raised, with a total goal of $3 million, to be spent over five years. Those who work at the new entity will be employees of the University of Missouri.

The two entities will formally merge next month. No name for the new organization has been selected yet.
ASHLAND — The truck had arrived. The boxes unloaded. Cars lined up around the parking lot.

Volunteers from the Ashland Baptist Church were ready to provide more than 100 families from southern Boone County with boxes of food delivered to the church by one of the mobile pantries operated by the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

The MU Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security combines data about a variety of factors, including poverty, race and unemployment, to determine how many households are “food uncertain.” The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, which serves Boone and 31 other counties, distributed more than 28 million tons of food in 2012.

A similar scene plays out at nine rural locations throughout central and northeast Missouri every month. The mobile pantries, such as the one parked outside the Baptist church on the rainy Tuesday afternoon, allow the Food Bank to help families who are unable to make it to the central pantry in Columbia.

The Food Bank distributed more than 90 million pounds of food in Missouri last year from five regional centers. Nearly 6.5 million pounds of that food went to families in Boone County.

"Last month we helped out 130 families," Adele Pauley, organizer of the Ashland operation, said as she readied her volunteers.
Food banks have served communities around the country for decades. The Ashland Baptist Church has served hungry families for more than 20 years.

But food banks in Missouri and across the country have still not been able to keep up with increased demand.

According to a recent report released by the MU Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security, the number of Missouri residents who are food insecure has nearly doubled in the past decade.

Households that are food insecure worry about not having enough food. While many of those households don't go hungry, the majority are only one injury, layoff or credit card payment away from rationing food or going without it.

The report, the Missouri Hunger Atlas, found that food insecurity had increased from an average of 8.6 percent of households in the 1990s to 16 percent in 2013. In the study, nearly 14 percent of the households in Boone County were classified as food insecure.

Across the country, the national average for food insecure households reached 14.5 percent — 17.6 million people — in 2012, according to data collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The growing number of food insecure families in Missouri places the state either first or second in the country in food insecurity growth, said Sandy Rikoon, a sociology professor at MU and the lead researcher of the Missouri Hunger Atlas.

"We've gone from the middle of the pack to one of the leaders," Rikoon said. "That's not the way you want to go."

The aging population has contributed to the growth in food insecurity, Rikoon said. It's especially difficult for elderly people on fixed incomes to keep up with inflation.

“Those are people that are chronically food insecure,” he said.

Minimum wage workers are the other large segment of the population that contribute to the rise in food insecurity, Rikoon said.

"Many food stamp recipients are working people," Rikoon said.
“Even during the so-called years of economic prosperity, that prosperity wasn’t shared by all,” he said. "When there’s been economic gains, it’s helped a bunch of people, but it hasn't necessarily helped the poor or the working poor."

The rise in food insecure households in Missouri and across the country comes as benefits under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — food stamps — have been cut. The federal nutrition program provided food assistance to 46.6 million people in 2012. More than 900,000 of those people live in Missouri.

On Nov. 1, funding for food stamps through the federal stimulus package — American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 — ran out because of congressional inaction. The loss of funding reduced benefits for all food stamp recipients. For the average family of four, the monthly benefits were cut by $36.

Legislators in Washington, D.C., have also targeted the supplemental nutrition program in the 2013 farm bill. The Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives has proposed $40 billion in cuts over the next 10 years, and the Democrat-controlled U.S. Senate has asked for $4.1 billion in cuts over the same period.

The differences over funding for food stamps are being negotiated in two separate committees, said Ellen Vollinger, the legal director at the Food Research and Action Center, a nonprofit organization advocating for hunger issues in the U.S..

One congressional committee has sought to resolve the differences between the two versions of the farm bill, and another committee has attempted to include agricultural legislation into a broader budget deal.

"There’s very wide ranging opinions on the hill," Vollinger said.

It's quite possible that neither committee "will get the job done," she said.

Food assistance programs have also come under attack at the state level.

In October, Gov. Jay Nixon advocated for an executive rule that would have removed many single, low-income adults in Missouri from the federal food assistance program.

Under the rule, an estimated 58,000 Missouri residents would have lost federal benefits. But after public outcry and opposition by Democrats in the state legislature, Nixon dropped the proposal.
Republicans in the state legislature have said that they plan to take up the issue again when the next legislative session begins in January.

"It's very hard to imagine these proposals getting enacted and not causing great hardship," Vollinger said.

Emergency food providers — food banks — are already having trouble meeting the needs of food insecure families, Vollinger said.

“The charitable sector is a wonderful sector, but it's basically there to fill in a small gap,” Vollinger said.
“There’s just no way that they can replace the numbers of meals that would be lost with any of these proposals.”

For the families that patiently waited outside the Ashland Baptist Church for a donated box of food, federal assistance and the donations from the Food Bank meant less rationing and worry about hunger.

As the volunteers began handing out boxes of food, more people made their way into the church to register.

Among the people registering were retirees, whose Social Security payments weren’t enough to cover food costs, people who had lost jobs in the down economy and others who need assistance because their limited or fixed incomes had been spent on medical bills, gas and electricity.

“We have a lot of children and families that need food, and it breaks my heart," said Susan Light, a two-year volunteer with the mobile food bank, as she waited to help people sign up.

“Before I started here, I had no idea that there were so many people that needed food,” Light said.

“There are older people who come in here who have worked their whole lives, and now, Social Security just isn’t enough,” she said.

Light said she doesn’t understand why some people are ashamed to seek food assistance. For some, she believes, it’s an issue of pride.

“If I had children or grandchildren that needed food, I would be coming to the food bank," Light said.

For Mary Moore, a resident of Ashland, and others in communities across Missouri, the food bank is a necessity.
“We have to come to the food bank,” Moore said, as she leaned heavily on the cane she relies on to walk. “It’s the only way we can get by.”

Moore said the rent-to-own trailer that she and her family are living in is falling apart, and nearly all of her income has gone toward purchasing a replacement trailer.

“We would love to make it on our own, but we can’t afford it,” Moore said. “I thank God for the food bank.”

**Programs like the food bank only alleviate the symptoms of hunger, Rikoon said.**

"**There's a difference between trying to meet the short-term needs of people who are food insecure and trying to provide some sort of long-term solution to the problem,"** he said.

**In order for the trend in food insecurity to change, basic living expenses need to come down or incomes need to come up, Rikoon said.**

**Social Security, disability or minimum wages need to increase, and the cost of health care, utilities, rent and food need to decrease, Rikoon said.**

"**I would love to be out of business,"** Rikoon said. "**I would love to not have to produce a Hunger Atlas because there was no hunger, but it hasn't happened yet."
Smoked turkey an educational delicacy at Mizzou Meat Market
Tuesday, November 26, 2013 | 6:26 p.m. CST; updated 12:27 a.m. CST, Wednesday, November 27, 2013

COLUMBIA — Clarissa Brown found out what too much turkey can do to you. It almost bottomed out her car.

On Nov. 7, Brown and a friend were in the parking lot of the Walmart off Grindstone Parkway, trying to cram 58 frozen turkeys into the backseat of Brown's four-door sedan. The birds weighed about 15 pounds each, meaning there was almost 900 pounds of poultry packed into the vehicle. Adding the women's weight pushed the total over a half-ton.

"We noticed my car was getting lower and lower," Brown said.

She said that she had so many turkeys in the car that, "my, like, wheel well was hitting the top of my tire, so I couldn't go anywhere."

Not wanting to risk an overloaded 4-mile drive back to campus, Brown called her boss, Rick Disselhorst, for help. After waiting for half an hour — during which time the women attracted curious onlookers — a disbelieving Disselhorst pulled up in his truck and began a turkey transfer. Moving 20 birds did the trick.

Brown and Disselhorst drove back to the Mizzou Meat Market, where frozen turkey becomes a smoked delicacy.

Disselhorst is the plant manager for the market, which is staffed by Brown — a junior agricultural education major — and 14 other students in Missouri’s College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Beginning in mid-November, Disselhorst and his staff buy, smoke and sell roughly 200 turkeys — that's literally a ton of turkey — for the holiday season.

The end product, a pink-but-fully-cooked, mildly smoked bird, has won over loyal customers as a tasty time-saver during the holidays. And in a time when people are
"farther from their food," as Disselhorst says, the Mizzou Meat Market's educational mission is one more thing to be thankful for.

The Mizzou Meat Market is tucked into the east wing of Eckles Hall, across the street from Sanborn Field. There's a loading dock in the back of the building with a set of black metal stairs — climb those, enter the building, and the market is the first room on your right. The small market contains a cash register, scales, two double-wide freezers packed with various cuts of beef, pork, fish, lamb and goat and a refrigerator filled with bacon, cured ham and beef sticks.

Disselhorst oversees the market and its sister facilities, the meat processing lab, adjacent to the market, and the abattoir, or slaughterhouse, located across the street. As he explained, the whole operation is first and foremost an educational endeavor. While it brought in around $300,000 in sales last year, the goal is not profit. The students who work in the market facilitate a "harvest-to-sale" process; they slaughter the animals, butcher the meat, price and package the product, make the sales at the cash register and manage the inventory.

Markets like this aren't unique to Missouri. In fact, fellow Association of Public Land Land-grant Universities and SEC schools like Auburn, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky and Texas A&M have similar operations. And while you'll see a variety of different meat cuts and sausages on the schools' product lists, you won't find much turkey, or any fowl for that matter.

According to Disselhorst, the Mizzou Meat Market doesn't have an FDA Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP — pronounced "ha-sup") plan in place for poultry. Plans like these, which the market has for its other products, provide sanitation guidelines for the harvest-to-retail process. The Mizzou Meat Market chooses not to have a poultry HACCP plan because slaughtering and butchering fowl is too time intensive and doesn't fit into the market's operations strategy, Disselhorst said. The absence of a HACCP poultry plan makes Brown's double-shopping-cart Walmart turkey runs a necessity. Mizzou Meat Market turkeys start out as "generic Riverside (that's the brand) birds," Disselhorst said, adding that — aside from price — there's not much difference between a name-brand bird and its knock-off budget counterpart.

"Turkey is turkey," Disselhorst said.

That may be the case, but regular customers like Candace Galen, a professor of biological sciences, seem the think there's something special about the Mizzou Meat Market's turkey. Galen has taught at Missouri
since 1990 and has frequented the market and Buck's Ice Cream — another food program within the college — for the past 23 years.

"One of the things I love about Mizzou is that you can get great smoked turkeys here, you can get wonderful ice cream here — sort of your one-stop shop for all sorts of delicious foods 'cause it's a land-grant university," Galen said, smoked turkey in hand as she walked through Eckles to get to Buck's.

She's bought a turkey "every few years" and has even taken one out West to her family in Utah.

Galen admires the turkey: "Its got, obviously, a smoky flavor that you don't get when you roast a turkey at home. And it's mild, it's not too strong for smoked flavor. They last if you keep 'em in the fridge. It's convenient, delicious — can't beat it."

The convenience factor is a plus, Disselhorst said, but folks are sometimes confused by the turkeys' pink meat. The turkeys are sold fully cooked, Disselhorst said, explaining that the nitrite, a preservative, in the brown sugar brine causes the meat to turn pink during smoking.

If you happen to try a pinkish Mizzou Meat Market smoked turkey over the holidays, remember that it took a team effort to get it to your table.

"We're all a big family here at the meat lab, so we give each other a lot of gruff," Brown said, explaining how she was appointed as the market's "Turkey Girl," a title she's known by at both Walmart stores in Columbia. She makes it clear that she didn't volunteer for the role.

"But I enjoy doing it, and I love working here," she said with a grin.
MU frat brothers use holiday to help tornado victims
Students spend their break in Illinois town.

By KARYN SPORY

MU frat brothers use holiday to help tornado victims
Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at 2:00 pm

With Thanksgiving break upon them, 10 members of the University of Missouri's Delta Tau Delta Gamma Kappa Chapter decided to use their free time to give back and help out.

The fraternity brothers met up at 3:30 a.m. yesterday in Columbia and drove the nearly 4½ hours to Washington, Ill., to help out with disaster relief after an EF-4 twister ravaged the city last week.

Keith Himebaugh, a junior biology major and president of Delta Tau Delta, said after seeing photos of the devastation, he and his brothers felt they needed to help out.

"We figured we were off for Thanksgiving break, we might as well take some time to come up here and help out; we didn't have much of anything better to do," Keith Himebaugh said. Himebaugh said the group arrived in time for the morning meeting and was then sent to work, picking up debris on Locust Street.

For Dominic Peters, a junior communication major, the trip to Washington has been a little more personal.

"I have family that lives in" the Washington "area," Peters said. "My family was in their house, in the basement, when the tornado came over, and their house got blown away; I came down because I really wanted to help out my family."

Peters said the fraternity teamed up with Samaritan's Purse, an organization that partners with local churches in disaster areas to host teams of volunteers and staff.

Peters said the amount of destruction has been mind-boggling. "It's a disaster; there's debris everywhere," he said.
Peters said he and his fraternity brothers were cleaning up a backyard near a creek, and all the trees had been torn down by the cyclone, leaving debris from people's homes scattered everywhere.

Peters said their job yesterday was to organize the debris, separating the metal, wood and turf into different piles on the street so dump trucks can come and collect the garbage.

Peters said he had never had family affected by a natural disaster before, and he's thankful they're unhurt. He said he wanted to come to Washington right after the tornado struck but was thankful his fraternity brothers were able to come with him.

"It's really good to know that other people, especially my brothers, care and come together to help out on such a great cause. … It feels amazing," Peters said.

Himebaugh said seeing the devastation in Washington has opened his eyes to how life can change in just an instant. "I think this has been a very valuable experience for all of us," he said.

Himebaugh said the fraternity brothers planned to work until dusk yesterday before heading back to St. Louis — where most of them are from — to spend the holidays with family.

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