MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

Feb 18, 2014
University of Missouri professor on team that helped create anti-violence app

By Ashley Jost

Monday, February 17, 2014 at 2:00 pm

To help combat relationship violence involving college-age women, a group of researchers created a smartphone app to help victims and their friends create a safety plan. One of those researchers works at the University of Missouri.

Tina Bloom, MU nursing professor and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar, is MU's representation in a group of researchers from across the country who teamed up to investigate computer-based ways of addressing domestic sexual violence.

According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 24 percent of women ages 18 and older have been victims of "severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime."

Statistics like that are what Bloom and the team of researchers aimed to address.

The project started almost 10 years ago and became an interdisciplinary effort to create an Internet-based program for victims. That effort went through trial phases before the team received a $25,000 grant from the One Love Foundation to create an app. The foundation works to end relationship violence through education and technology, according to its website, and was created by the parents of a college senior who was killed by her former significant other.

"We know that the vast majority of women who find themselves in an abusive relationship will never call a hotline or a shelter," Bloom said.

Bloom said college-age women, 18 to 24, are the target audience. She said younger women are even less likely to call a hotline or shelter but more likely to talk to a friend — a dynamic app creators hope to use to benefit victims.

The app is broken down into two pathways, one for "the victim," or the person who is analyzing their own relationship, and the second for a friend who might be concerned about what they're seeing or hearing about a friend's relationship.
Both sections take the app user through a list of questions that help them better understand the relationship. At the end, the app provides a personalized safety plan. A user can email herself the plan.

"This has been so well received by abused women because of the privacy and the chance to learn and weigh information," Bloom said. "As survivors tell us, the computer doesn't judge."

Nancy Glass, nursing professor at Johns Hopkins University and principal researcher on the project, said the app is a tool for women who aren't quite sure about where to start to get help.

"This app is not to replace the amazing work that domestic violence advocates do, or health providers and other people working with victims, but rather it's another option — a first-step option," Glass said.

The app is live and available to anyone. Bloom said data are collected for statistics and for future version development. Currently, the group is waiting to hear if it will receive a grant for further research from the National Institutes of Health.

Highland student who died in MU dorm had enlarged heart

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, Mo. • A medical examiner says an 18-year-old Metro East man found dead in a University of Missouri dormitory room in October died from natural causes.

Boone County Chief Medical Examiner Carl Stacy says Gregory G. Holthaus, of Highland, died from sudden cardiac arrest caused by an enlarged heart.
The Columbia Daily Tribune reported Holthaus was found dead Oct. 13 in the Pershing group of residence halls in Columbia. He was visiting a friend who was a Missouri student.

Stacy's report was released to the Tribune late Friday. It says no medications or drugs, and only a small amount of alcohol, was found in Holthaus' system.

The report said Holthaus woke up, took a shower and ate Oct. 13, and a friend found him dead about three hours later.

**Man found in University of Missouri dorm died of natural causes**

By Alan Burdziak

Monday, February 17, 2014 at 2:00 pm

Boone County Chief Medical Examiner Carl Stacy said an 18-year-old man found in a University of Missouri dorm in October died from complications caused by an enlarged heart.

**Highland, Ill., man Gregory G. Holthaus was found dead at about 9:07 a.m. Oct. 13 in the Pershing group of residence halls. He was in Columbia visiting a friend who was an MU student.**

Holthaus' cause of death is listed in the autopsy report as "sudden cardiac arrhythmia due to dilated hypertrophic cardiomyopathy," or sudden cardiac arrest caused by an enlarged heart. Stacy signed the report Jan. 14, and it was released to the Tribune late Friday.

Soon after Holthaus was found, police said foul play was ruled out. Stacy did the autopsy Oct. 15, and urine and blood samples were sent to a laboratory at Saint Louis University for a toxicology screen, as is normal procedure for his office. The toxicology screen came back negative for any medications or drugs, and the teen had a small amount of alcohol in his system, 23 milligrams per deciliter in his blood. The legal threshold for intoxication in the state of Missouri is 80 milligrams per deciliter, Stacy said.
Medical Examiner Eddie Adelstein, a colleague of Stacy's, said cases like this are not uncommon. Although they know Holthaus' death was related to his enlarged heart, which weighed 540 grams — Adelstein said for a man his size, 5 feet 7 inches tall and 205 pounds, it should have been around 350 to 400 grams — the specific event that led to his sudden cardiac arrest will likely never be known.

"Whenever you see a student or a young person who dies, there could be some things you can't diagnose," Adelstein said this morning.

People with enlarged hearts are more susceptible to arrhythmia, an abnormal heart rhythm, Stacy said, and alcohol can lead to complications, though no evidence was found that it contributed to Holthaus' death. Abnormal heartbeats and abnormal electrical impulses are common in people with the condition and can also contribute to a sudden death, Adelstein said, but without knowing Holthaus' medical history and exactly what happened at the time of death, what triggered the arrhythmia cannot be ascertained definitively.

Holthaus had been drinking the night before he died and woke up at about 6 a.m. and took a shower and ate, according to the autopsy report. A friend found him three hours later. Per Stacy's policy, Holthaus' family was notified before the report was released to reporters, he said.

"It's very difficult for families to accept sudden deaths," Adelstein said. "They're not supposed to."

Mizzou stands with Sam, stands down
Westboro protesters with human wall

When 14 members of the anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church showed up at the University of Missouri Saturday to protest the presence of openly gay football player Michael Sam at an NCAA basketball game against Tennessee, they were in for a bit of a surprise.

Sam, who acknowledged he is gay on February 9, has received a great deal of support from around the globe, but his fellow students were about to go one step further.

Missouri students Kelaney Lakers and Alix Carruth organized an event called "One Wall, One Mizzou," which drew hundreds of people to the campus Saturday afternoon for the purpose of
supporting Sam. According to the group event's Facebook page, the students planned to form a human wall to block off the Westboro protesters.

"The focus of this wall is unification behind Sam to represent this school as One," the Facebook page stated. A total of 4,952 people responded to the page.

The Westboro protesters had announced that they planned to show up at 1:30 p.m., so the Mizzou students assembled at 1 p.m. and formed a long human chain that surrounded the campus. Many wore the school colors of black and gold and carried handmade signs that used the hashtag #StandwithSam. By the time Westboro protestors did arrive, all they could do was wave their signs, because they couldn't get close to the school.

HLN affiliate KMIZ reported that police were on hand for the event, but that the Westboro protesters and the event attendees did not have any negative interactions.

"We're thankful that both groups kept it professional in the fact of how they expressed their points of view," university police department Capt. Brian Weime told KMIZ. "There were no problems or issues between the groups which is good."

University Vice Chancellor Dr. Catherine C. Scroggs, who also attended the event, told HLN that she was very happy with the way students conducted themselves.

"The way they addressed it made us proud," Scroggs said. "The Missouri Students Association was also on hand, giving out 'Stand with Sam' buttons to administrators and students. They ran out and they had a thousand, so we know at least that many people were there!"

The university tweeted photos from the event from their official account:

Tweet: @Mizzou The line of Mizzou students stretched from Providence to nearly Champions Drive at its peak. #StandWithSam

Tweet: @Mizzou #Mizzou students linked arms and sang our fight songs and the alma mater. #StandWithSam

Sam showed his gratitude by tweeting to supporters: @MikeSamFootball Thank you for all of my Mizzou family for your support. Divided we are weak, Together We are Strong. #OneMizzou

At halftime of the basketball game, the school presented its football team with the Cotton Bowl trophy. Sam raised it high, to a standing ovation.
Board of Curators student representative continuing duties; Nixon yet to name successor

By Crystal Duan

UM-Kansas City senior Amy Johnson will continue to serve as student representative to the UM System Board of Curators until Gov. Jay Nixon announces her successor.

Johnson's term expired Jan. 1, but she will be present at the next board meeting in April.

As the 2012-2013 student representative, Johnson acts as a liaison between the curators and the four UM System campuses’ student populations at the meetings. Johnson has a two-fold role in preventing a disconnect with the administration and students, she said.

"I ensure that if students have issues, concerns, things they want changed, that they are heard,” she said. “And (I make sure) that things actually happen from the grassroots up, as opposed to just decisions being made from the administration downward.”

UM System General Counsel Steve Owens said the student representatives have traditionally arrived at board meetings well-prepared.

“They enhance their viewpoints during the meetings in the same way as other board members, through well-informed and respectful discourse,” Owens said.

Johnson said the system’s primary focus should be on helping the students, and representatives sit in meetings to ensure that the curators’ decisions concerning students reflect their best interests. Although Johnson cannot vote on issues, she can voice the opinion of students before the Board decides what to do.

Johnson said she was initially attracted to the student representative role because she has a passion for advocacy work and empowering others to use their voices to make positive changes.

The senior pre-medical biology major worked as the National Youth Advocate for the American Diabetes Association in 2011. Now she sees parallels to her role as student representative.

“Then, I was the voice of all youth with diabetes in the U.S.,” she said. “And I worked to ensure that youth with diabetes realize they really do have power and that one individual can make a change. It’s really similar to my position now, in that instead of youth with diabetes, it’s 70,000
students in the UM System, and (I make) sure these students realize they do have a voice, that their voice counts, and they can do things on their own that'll make big changes in the end.”

To do her job of advocating for college students, Johnson said she utilizes the four campuses’ student governments and councils to learn of any student issues.

The issues do not necessarily always concern the Board of Curators, however.

“We are a fiduciary board, which means we are more of an oversight,” Johnson said. “There are a lot of issues I can discuss with the board members and UM System administrators but not bring forward to make a decision upon as this would be micromanagement on behalf of the board. The individual campuses retain a lot of power as they are well-suited to make decisions in the best interests of their unique university.”

Johnson said she has, nevertheless, enjoyed working with the student governments and campus officials.

“I’ve actually enjoyed doing that sort of work because I get to know administrators, and they’re familiar with me,” Johnson said. “And it’s a lot easier for me to work with them regarding student issues and direct students to the correct point of contact to get things done. It’s something I enjoy because I like seeing change happening from the students.”

A student representative’s term is two years, and the role of representative rotates between campuses each time.

The campus’s student government sends out applications in the fall, and it is the individual campus’s job to advertise the role and conduct interviews. The board position can be either an undergraduate or graduate student.

“(What) I value in our student representatives are intellect, hard work and civility,” Owens said. “I also appreciate it when they can balance their duty to act as an advocate for their constituency group with their duty to act in the best interests of the entire institution.

Johnson said she believes the strength of the candidate is contingent on the individual regardless of age but sees advantages to being an undergraduate.

“Because I am an undergrad student and I live on campus, I am even more able to speak on the college culture,” Johnson said. “As an undergrad, I’m also not as busy as a grad student would be, and there are a lot more undergraduates than graduates (on the campuses), so I actually think being an undergrad is a great strength.”

Johnson’s predecessor came from the Missouri University of Science and Technology, and her 2014-2015 successor will come from UM-St. Louis.

MU will have a student serving as representative in 2016-2017.
It is not uncommon for students to be appointed after the previous representative's term expires, Johnson said.

Johnson said she will be in contact with the new representative when he or she is appointed to help with the learning curve.

“The views of a student representative are always appreciated on issues directly involving students,” Owens said. “And it has been my observation that their views on non-student matters carry equal weight.”

Nixon’s office did not respond to interview requests for the story.

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**History conference to send MU back to the Middle Ages**

Friday, February 14, 2014 | 7:27 p.m. CST
BY NICOLE MEYER

COLUMBIA — **MU hasn't hosted the Mid-America Medieval Association Conference since 2004, but this year it's back with a focus on the global context of the Medieval ages.**

The conference will take place from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 22 at MU's Tate Hall. Attendees can expect to learn about topics like the global culture's influence on European science and art, the connection between global trade and medieval practices, and the preservation of medieval art.

**Graduate students, undergraduates and all members of the community can enjoy the conference, said Lois Huneycutt, president of the Mid-America Medieval Association.**
"I think anyone who has a slight interest in history, even if it's just watching the History Channel occasionally, can get something out of this conference," Huneycutt said.

Sahar Amer, professor of Arabic and Islamic studies at the University of Sydney, will give the plenary address titled "Reading Medieval French Literature from a Global Perspective." Throughout the day, others will speak on topics such as history, literature and religion. There will also be more discussion-based sessions on similar themes.

This year also marks the first year Columbia College and MU have come together to co-host the conference.

"Hopefully, it will be a long-lasting community-building activity between the scholars at both schools," Huneycutt said.

For these scholars, the conference is more than just an opportunity to teach others and share their work.

"It's a way for those of us in this field to talk about our research before it goes to publication," Huneycutt said.

Huneycutt, who is also a professor and the director of graduate studies for MU's History Department, said there are no problems with filling up classes dedicated to the subject.

"There's actually a great deal of interest in the Medieval ages. I think a lot of people just find the Middle Ages inherently fascinating," she said.

Mizzou professor is finalist for $50,000 book prize

By Jane Henderson jhenderson@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8107

University of Missouri history professor Jeffrey L. Pasley is a finalist for the George Washington Book Prize.
Worth a handy $50,000, the prize is given to a book on early American history. Pasley's "The First Presidential Contest: 1796 and the Founding of American Democracy" came out last year. It was published by the University of Kansas.

The other finalists are "The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire" (Yale) by Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy and "The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832 (W.W. Norton) by Alan Taylor.

A press release said:

“These books are just too good to miss. Everyone should know about them,” adds James Basker, the president of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, which co-sponsors the George Washington Prize with Washington College and George Washington’s Mount Vernon. “We want the George Washington Prize to bring great history to a larger public — to teachers, students and general readers everywhere.”

The winner will be announced May 20 at a gala dinner at Mount Vernon.

GUEST COMMENTARY: Peoples' Visioning addresses energy needs in Columbia

Monday, February 17, 2014 | 3:58 p.m. CST; updated 6:41 p.m. CST, Monday, February 17, 2014
BY MONTA WELCH

This past year, Peoples Visioning quickly began pursuing our renewable energy, conservation and energy efficiency list with good results.

In February 2013, the People’s Visioning creative concept for a low-income, Net-Zero energy affordable family home was achieved. A partnership with Habitat for Humanity, as builders of the People's Visioning concept, brought a win for both of us, the city of Columbia and the region.

The design concept from our excellent "Green Design Team" was the only Net-Zero energy demonstration of its kind in the state. Thanks to our project partners and the design team for helping bring this "building of the future" to show that Net-Zero energy building is both affordable and possible through improved conservation, design, energy-efficiency and generation on site.
Efforts to direct us to abundant, free, far less toxic, renewable energy choices has led People's Visioning to oppose public investment in new, nonrenewable, challenging, costly-to-extract, polluting energy sources. This includes the damaging and unproved technologies now demonstrating further harm to the surrounding environment and human health.

**Recent MU research on fracking and the endocrine system are gaining national attention. The studies show that more research and strong caution regarding technologies such as fracking are highly advisable and are sounding alarms.**

Taken together with a strong increase in disasters the size and scope of the West Virginia chemical spill; multiple spills and explosions of Tar Sands bitumen, "fracked" oil or other natural gas pipeline or rail explosions; the ongoing disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant with its catastrophic and far-reaching impacts; the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, still not resolved; not to mention various climate change and weather disasters, it is easy to see why we need to quickly move to cleaner, safer, healthier technology and energy sources.

Join Peoples’ Visioning for an evening on these topics, highlighting MU’s research on fracking chemicals and public health with guest speaker, study author and researcher Susan Nagel, associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women’s health, to learn more about this important topic and solutions People’s Visioning is advocating.

*The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Friends Room, Columbia Public Library, Broadway and Garth.*

People’s Visioning led the community to greater renewable energy standards with our push at City Hall and with appropriate boards and commissions who took up our call. We advocate plans in order that new and existing environments can quickly become Net-Zero energy, bringing greater wealth and better health to the owners.

The People's Visioning plan proposes appropriate considerations so low-income, special needs, disabled and elderly customers can use our public utility’s **Home Performance with Energy Star program.** Homeowners in this group do not have to pay, in many cases, to accomplish the required energy audit and pay for energy-saving upgrades. Investing in the energy-saving upgrades will lower utility bills.
Other homeowners and landlords can already take advantage of this program with its benefits and reduced energy bills in a different financial category. Additional cost-effective energy savings or energy-creating incentives could also be included.

People's Visioning encourages participation in locally generating renewable energy, after conservation and efficiency have been achieved through the Home Performance with Energy Star program. We encourage landlords to participate in these appropriate, energy-investment opportunities for all.

To assist renters and property owners alike, we propose a program to highlight rental properties with low utility rates. We also suggest establishing a "participating landlord" list and website for rental shoppers to access information about various landlords and properties that offer lower-energy expenses, are well-maintained and thus more comfortable.

This list, with related energy and other relevant landlord or rental property information, could be a separate website or data kept on the city's website.

We also recommend community and/or neighborhood solar and renewable energy generating sites to keep energy-loss costs down. In addition, we encourage policies and energy economy captured from beautiful, cooling, CO2 storing trees.

These are the kind of initiatives we want, instead of nonrenewable energy directions that divert investment in renewable energy and a cleaner, healthier future.

Mo.-Kan. border schools vie for law students

NO穆MENTION
The University of Missouri-Kansas City and the University of Kansas are in a border war of sorts as they vie for law school students.

For the last four years, Missouri-Kansas City's law school has provided the equivalent to in-state undergraduate tuition for most Kansas residents. Now, the Kansas School of Law is responding, saying it will use a new scholarship program to allow residents of 11 Missouri counties to pay the equivalent of in-state tuition — $19,623 a year instead of $33,067 for out-of-state students.

Missouri-Kansas City's law school does not formally waive out-of-state tuition, but nearly all of those students get in-state tuition rates. For Missouri residents, tuition and fees at the law school are $17,885 a year, compared with $35,995 a year for out-of-state students, The Kansas City Star reported (http://bit.ly/1hpz08C).

In 2012, Missouri-Kansas City had 25 first-year law students from Kansas; only three of them did not get the in-state tuition rate. Last year, four of 37 first-year students from Kansas did not get the in-state rate, the university said.

"We've always considered ourselves Kansas City's leading law school," assistant dean Steven Freedman of the University of Kansas Law School said in a news release. "Now with the Vantage Scholarship, we feel we can recruit just as well on both sides of the border."

Leaders at the Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, of course, disagreed about which law school was the leader in the Kansas City region.

"I don't know what that means," said Ellen Suni, the school's dean. "We have for a long time been Kansas City's law school. We have a great relationship with the Kansas City community. We are the only law school in Kansas City."

For Courtney Stout of Kansas City, the new Kansas program "changed the playing field."

Stout, a 22-year-old University of Missouri senior who plans to go to law school in the fall, wants to be closer to home.

"KU is close, but with the out-of-state tuition I couldn't consider it," said Stout, who is living in Columbia until she graduates. "The Vantage grant put KU on the same field now with any of the Missouri law schools. It makes KU more feasible for me."

Students from Bates, Buchanan, Cass, Clay, Clinton, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray counties are eligible for the discounted Kansas Law School tuition.
FROM READERS: Getting to know MU's Olympics prospect and record holder

Tuesday, February 18, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST

Kearsten Peoples, ready to throw and in shot put form.  \[ ILHYUNG LEE/MISSOURIAN READER \]
BY ILHYUNG LEE/MISSOURIAN READER

Ilhyung Lee is an MU professor of law. (He is not related to Coach Krishna Lee of the Missouri track and field team.)

Kearsten Peoples of the MU track and field team first began competing in the shot put and discus when she was in the seventh grade. A native of Ottawa, Kan., about an hour southwest of Kansas City, she added the weight throw and the hammer throw as a freshman at MU.

For the less acquainted, each of the four pieces — or “implements,” as they are called in the trade — is weighted. For the women, the shot put and hammer weigh almost nine pounds each, the discus is just over two pounds and the weight, the heaviest of them all, is 20 pounds. The shot put and weight throw are events for the indoor season; the outdoor season offers the shot put, discus and the hammer throw.

The simple part of the sport is that the athlete who throws the implement the farthest wins. The more complex part is what occurs before the release, which entails a combination of form, muscular strength, and fine technique. The entire body is used. For the weight throw, the thrower first puts the piece in motion, then twirls it over her head, and then will rotate her body for two or three full revolutions (building momentum and power) before launching the piece into the air. At that point, some throwers can be heard letting out a yell or grunt. It is similar to a ki-ya in the martial arts.

Of the four events, Kearsten tends to favor what she is doing well in at any given time. “It’s nice to have two or three different events to toss around, just in case I am having a downward slope with one of them,” she said.
Currently in her junior year of intercollegiate competition, Kearsten has already enjoyed quite a career. As a redshirt freshman, she was the Big 12 Champion in the discus, and an All-American in the discus and outdoor shot put. The following year, she claimed the SEC conference championship and All-American honors in the outdoor shot put.

The 2014 season to date has been one of top finishes and school records. Kearsten’s most recent victory came at the prestigious Armory Collegiate Invitational in New York City, where she broke her own school record. Eight days later, on February 15, at the Tyson Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., she repeated the dual feat: a first place finish and a new school record, which currently stands at 57 feet, 5 inches. Does she hold all of Missouri’s records in her events? “Not yet,” said assistant coach Krishna Lee, herself a former All-American at Missouri, who still has the record for the hammer throw.

For now, Kearsten is a college student and is focused on the current season. She is majoring in human development and family studies, which brings her close to infants and toddlers at the MU Child Development Laboratory. After graduation, “There will be a year break, and then I’ll train to go to the [2016 U.S.] Olympic Trials.” For the 2012 London Olympics, she fell just short of making the U.S. team in the shot put, by five inches. Coach Lee likes her chances: “She’s the right kind of person to be successful. She sure has the talent. Great work ethic.”

The final indoor home meet for Kearsten and her Tiger teammates is the Missouri Collegiate Challenge on February 21 at the Hearnes Fieldhouse.

For the record, Kearsten prefers three revolutions for the weight throw. She does not usually let out a yell.