COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) - A St. Louis couple has pledged a $2.5 million donation to the University of Missouri's veterinary school.

Gary Savill and his wife Barbara Stampfli-Savill own Silver Wraith Choppers, a custom motorcycle business in Ballwin. Neither has a previous connection to the university or its College of Veterinary Medicine.

The university says the gift will be used to create an endowment to provide partial scholarships for veterinary students. Scholarship recipients will be required to perform at least 120 hours of animal-related community and volunteer service annually.

A St. Louis couple today announced an estate commitment of $2.5 million to the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.
The endowment created by the gift from Gary Savill and Barbara Stampfli-Savill will support scholarships for veterinary students that will encourage volunteer work from its recipients.

According to a news release from MU, the couple has no prior affiliation with the university or the veterinary school. The couple was inspired to give after reading about the philanthropy of other donors.

“We are thrilled to be able to give this gift to the College of Veterinary Medicine with the intent that it will support the development of future veterinarians for years to come,” Gary Savill said in a statement. “Barbara and I are animal lovers, and we hope this gift will help care for animals around the nation and the world by educating future classes of veterinarians.”

The Stampfli-Savill endowment will provide one or more scholarships to cover 50 percent of all tuition and fees each year to students with financial needs. According to the news release, preference will be shown to students from underrepresented ethnic groups.

Students who receive scholarships from the endowment will be required to perform at least 120 hours of animal-related community and volunteer service every year. Gary Savill said the couple hopes “students who receive this scholarship will be inspired to continue such charitable work throughout their careers.”

“We are grateful to Barbara and Gary for their generosity to the college and appreciate their desire to help increase diversity within the veterinary profession,” Neil Olson, dean of the MU College of Veterinary Medicine, said in a statement. “Their additional aim of fostering community service is one we as a college also embrace.”

The couple owns Silver Wraith Choppers LLC, and also has donated a motorcycle to the veterinary school to be raffled off at the school’s annual Gentle Doctor Benefit on April 5.
"Myself and Barbara, we don't have any children," Savill said Monday during an announcement ceremony. "We were looking around, trying to think, 'What are we going to do with our estate when we go? What can we do that's going to be worthwhile — something that's going to last?"

The gift will fund one or more scholarships covering 50 percent of all tuition and fees for veterinary students, according to a release from the MU News Bureau. Preference will be shown to students from underrepresented ethnic groups.

An established college scholarship committee will select recipients, said Neil Olson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Recipients will be required to complete at least 120 hours of animal-related volunteer service each year, according to the release. Volunteering is important to both Savill and Stampfli-Savill, who volunteer at Gateway Pet Guardians in St. Louis and the Endangered Wolf Center in Eureka, respectively.

"We wanted to make sure that the folks who benefited from the scholarship paid it forward," Savill said.

The couple, who own the motorcycle-building shop Silver Wraith Choppers in St. Louis, also donated a motorcycle, custom built by Savill, to be raffled off during the college's annual Gentle Doctor Benefit on April 5.

**MU is having a record-setting fundraising year, but this estate commitment of $2.5 million will not be counted in the fundraising total, said University Advancement Vice Chancellor Tom Hiles. Estate gift amounts are counted differently and will be included in overall campaign numbers released in fall 2015, he said.**
MU on track to set record fundraising goal

March 03, 2014  BY Kaylie Denenberg

The University of Missouri Advancement Office pushes to a new limit as it tries to reach this year’s fundraising goal of $150 million. So far, the university is tracking ahead of that number with $101 million toward the end goal, said MU Vice Chancellor for Advancement Tom Hiles.

“We need to be more ambitious at Mizzou about advancement,” he said.

While some of the donations the university receives are from loyal supporters and alumni, there is a great deal of legwork involved in raising funds for MU’s programs. Gift officers gather information from referrals and computer databases that help them strategically focus on people they believe will be good donors. The next step is to start building relationships, Hiles said.

“Our job is to find the match between the donor’s passion and the university’s priorities,” he said. “We’re like matchmakers.”

Hiles emphasizes the importance of showing a return on investments to those who donate to the university. Explicitly explaining where the money is going, the results of projects and why they have an impact are key to developing a sense of trust with donors.

 Funds are distributed across MU’s many programs, with about 25 percent going towards athletics and the remaining 75 percent towards academic initiatives. The money is used to create new scholarships, fund new programs and support new technologies and research. A major initiative this year is to increase the endowment fund to continue building a bright future for Mizzou, Hiles said.

“The advancement team wants to take it to a whole new level,” he said about this year’s goals. “Mizzou doesn’t have to take a backseat to anyone.”

According to a press release, recent major gifts include:

[Further details on recent major gifts]
• $1 million from Molly Bean Phelps for the Missouri School of Journalism
• $1 million from Betty Francis for scholarships
• $1 million from a confidential donor for scholarships for veterans
• $1.57 million from Chuck Wall for the MU School of Law
• $14 million in confidential gifts for several schools
• $6.7 million from Jon Murray for the Missouri School of Journalism

Loftin

Getting a good start

By Henry J. Waters III

Monday, March 3, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (1)

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin is off to a very good start.

The new man on campus first had to make people like him. By all accounts he is succeeding with his sprightly combination of humility, humor and easy access. Within weeks he had students making snowmen festooned with his trademark bow tie. Every report of his interaction with campus constituents is positive — even his moments with faculty representatives, who report what they believe will be a new day in their relationship with Jesse Hall.

As Loftin no doubt would say, it's early in the game. Plenty of opportunity will arise for friction. But from this so-far distant perspective, important groundwork is being laid.

Loftin seems smart and energetic in his approach. He seems determined to institute shared governance involving faculty, staff and students in a new Council for Strategic Budgeting. "Shared governance means you consult the university's constituents before you make decisions that affect them," he says. "And I don't mean just faculty."

This promise is important if the initial saying is not just rhetoric. Put another way, if it does turn out to be empty talk, the negative fallout will visit more ferociously than if the new leader had cautiously gone about smiling and shaking hands without diving so deeply into sensitive areas of constituent relationships.

I am encouraged by the way Loftin describes the process. He says if you give advisory groups a serious job, they will take it seriously. Instead of coming to meetings half angry and ready to gripe, if they believe their advice will be taken seriously, they will learn to be serious participants, diligently studying the issues at hand and ready to make
responsible suggestions. Loftin says all he wants is for advisers to take the time necessary to invest in the learning process and be well informed.

Even if final decisions don't seem perfect, this sort of collaboration will cause constituent groups to be more accepting. They will see their suggestions were taken seriously and often followed. The advisers will become more invested in making reasonable contributions.

Faculty leaders have traditionally complained about stonewalling from Jesse Hall. If Loftin follows through with a credible version of shared governance, how can such gripes persist? Faculty is constitutionally skeptical but, like all humans, subject to softening.

Yes, it's early, but first impressions are important if they go beyond mere window dressing. The new chancellor has set out a promising course for himself and his constituents. If he forges a truly strong bond, it won't merely be because he knows how to whip on his trademark bow with alacrity.

HJW III

If you always tell the truth, sooner or later you will be found out.

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**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**

**Missouri reportedly agrees to $3 million per year contract extension for coach Gary Pinkel**

March 3

*BY TOD PALMER*

The Kansas City Star

COLUMBIA — **Missouri coach Gary Pinkel reportedly has reached an agreement on a contract extension after a 12-win season.**

PowerMizzou.com reported Monday that Pinkel has reached a deal in principle that will pay him roughly $3 million annually.
Athletic department spokesman Chad Moller could not confirm the report and said he had “no idea” whether a contract announcement would be forthcoming this week, but he said all contracts must be approved by the university’s Board of Curators.

The board announced Monday that it would have an executive session Wednesday morning to discuss, among other things, “negotiated contracts and personnel matters.”

Pinkel made $2.8 million in 2013 under the terms of a contract extension signed in April 2011. That contract ran through the 2017 season, but it is unclear how long the new extension would run.

Last season, Pinkel also received $350,000 in incentive-based pay for attendance goals and team performance.

He is 102-63 in 13 seasons at Missouri, the most wins of any coach in Missouri history.

Athletic director Mike Alden said Pinkel and his staff were in line for raises after an SEC East championship and an appearance in the conference title game.

However, Pinkel expressed frustration with the pace of negotiations in January.

According to the USA Today college football coaches’ salaries database, Pinkel was the 20th-highest paid coach in the country last season.

However, Pinkel’s salary ranked only eighth in the SEC ahead of Florida’s Will Muschamp, Mississippi State’s Dan Mullen, Auburn’s Gus Malzahn and Mississippi’s Hugh Freeze.

New associate A.D.

MU announced Monday that Tim Stedman had been hired as an associate athletic director and will be in charge of the department’s fund-raising as head of the Tiger Scholarship Fund.

Stedman, 49, had been Michigan State’s associate athletic director for development since 2005.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/03/4863397/missouri-reportedly-agrees-to.html#storylink=cpy
WASHINGTON -- President Obama’s budget for the 2015 fiscal year will call for extending a tuition tax credit and providing tax relief to student loan borrowers whose debt is forgiven under income-based repayment plans.

The White House on Monday night outlined, in broad terms, several of the tax proposals in the president’s budget, which will be released formally today.

The budget will ask Congress to make permanent the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which currently expires in December 2017. The administration says the credit will provide an average benefit of $1,110 to 11.5 million families. The benefit provides up to $2,500 in partially refundable tax credits for tuition.

Obama is also proposing a simplification of taxes for nearly all Pell Grant recipients. The administration wants Congress to clarify tax credit rules and simplify calculations for the credit so that Pell recipients see a reduction in their taxes or an increased tax credit.

A tax proposal unveiled by some House Republicans last week called for a permanent American Opportunity Tax Credit but also proposed consolidating numerous higher education tax breaks.

A range of different groups focused on redesigning federal student aid have pushed for simplifying the billions of dollars that the federal government doles out each year in loans, grants and tax credits for higher education.

The Obama budget will also seek to exempt from taxation the student loan forgiveness the federal government provides to borrowers after they have made payments for at least a decade through income-based repayment programs. The federal government forgives the debt of borrowers working in the public or nonprofit sectors after as few as 10 years. Other income-based repayment programs forgive outstanding debt after 20 or 25 years of repayment.
Student advocacy groups and think tanks have previously called for such a change, but previous Congressional efforts to stop taxing federal student loan forgiveness have been unsuccessful.

The budget plan is largely a political document aimed at highlighting the president’s priorities and is geared toward rallying the Democratic base in an election year. The proposal comes several months after Congressional negotiators struck a two-year budget agreement that set top-line spending levels for the current 2014 fiscal year as well as the 2015 fiscal year that begins this October.

Senate Democrats have said they will not produce a 2015 budget but will instead proceed to the process of allocating money to individual programs across the government within the confines of the two-year budget deal.

House Republicans, meanwhile, plan to unveil a budget later this month that will propose an overhaul of many social programs. Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the House Budget Committee chairman, on Monday published a precursor to the Republican budget, releasing a 204-page report that criticizes the efficacy of a wide range of federal anti-poverty policies, including several programs related to higher education and student aid.

For instance, the report says that “though research is mixed, there is empirical evidence that increases to Pell [grants] do increase tuition in some situations.”

The Ryan report is also critical of the American Opportunity Tax Credit, pointing to evidence that suggests the credit is not effective in boosting college access and does not make college more affordable because the benefits are absorbed by states and institutions. The document does not offer any policy prescriptions but says the program-by-program evaluation is a “first step” in overhauling federal social policies.

ILL. BILL COULD MEAN INTEREST-FREE COLLEGE LOANS

NO MU MENTION

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — An Illinois state lawmaker says he's sponsoring legislation that would give what could amount to interest-free loans to college students.

Under it, students attending community colleges or state universities would have to sign a contract to repay the costs of their education to the state from a portion of their adjusted gross income following graduation.

Hoffman says that the recent explosion of student debt requires a new approach.

The measure last week unanimously passed the House Higher Education Committee and goes to the House floor.

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March 4, 2014

Swings in Credit Ratings Hint of Challenges Ahead for Colleges

By Goldie Blumenstyk

NO MU MENTION

From 2009 through 2013, the number of downgrades of colleges' credit ratings by Moody's Investors Service outpaced upgrades by nearly five to one.

More evidence of colleges' weakening financial picture? Yes, but that picture is not as clear-cut as it might seem.

The period examined by The Chronicle covered the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, so those 141 downgrades versus 33 upgrades are not so surprising.
Of perhaps more significance: Of the 500-plus colleges, universities, and higher-education systems that Moody's rates, more than two-thirds were able to keep their credit ratings intact during the era of economic turmoil.

"We view higher education as a remarkably resilient industry," said Susan Fitzgerald, senior vice president at Moody's, who oversees the higher-education practice. "Most institutions took steps to adjust to the challenging financial times in which they found themselves."

Still, there's plenty of reason for continued worry. For one, not all of those steps came easily. While some institutions maintained their financial equilibrium by controlling costs and expanding graduate and online offerings, plenty of others, particularly public colleges, were able to do so only by raising tuition.

Also, the colleges rated by Moody's—which enroll about 70 percent of all college students—are generally the ones with sturdier financial footing to begin with, so their ability to withstand financial pressure doesn't necessarily carry over to those institutions on shakier financial ground. Over the past few years, dozens of such colleges, public and private, have closed, merged, or cut back programs.
And the financial trends are not promising, particularly for **public colleges**. As Ms. Fitzgerald notes, even as states seem to be restoring support, many are linking that support with tuition freezes or caps—welcome news for students but problematic for institutions. And many private colleges have been able to attract students only by upping their spending on financial aid.

"They've adjusted well so far, but that doesn't mean the pressure is lessening," she said. "Where we're really seeing the pressure is in the public sector."

**Public Colleges at Risk**

That pressure seems to be building. Among public universities over the past five years, downgrades outnumbered upgrades by more than four to one. No public colleges were upgraded in 2013, while four in Illinois—Governors State University and Eastern, Northeastern, Northern Illinois Universities—were downgraded twice in a single year, in part because of declining enrollments and in part because of the state's delays in providing the money it had appropriated and concerns about underfunded pension liabilities.

Among private institutions, downgrades outnumbered upgrades by two to one. Some of the effects of that shift can be seen in the comparison (see chart, below) of the ratings profile of all Moody's-covered institutions as of the summer of 2009, before the effects of the financial crisis began to fully reverberate, with those as of the summer of 2013.

Alan Phillips, executive deputy director at the Illinois Board of Higher Education, called the 2013 downgrades of institutions in his state "unfortunate" but noted that many of the circumstances driving them were out of the universities' control. The "cash-flow problem" and the pension issues emanated from the state, he said.

Illinois lawmakers passed a pension-reform measure this winter that could "take somewhat of the pressure off," said Mr. Phillips, but that may not happen so quickly. The measure is being challenged in the courts.

And like other institutions, the universities face a demographic challenge because of declining numbers of high-school students. Moody's cited similar concerns about attracting students in its 2013 downgrade of Michigan Technological University.
A ' Vuca ' Approach

According to Ms. Fitzgerald, one common factor in nearly all of the recent downgrades by Moody's has less to do with finances and more to do with leadership. "Weak governance and weak management" play a key role, she said, particularly in this "disruptive period" when colleges face mounting demands to control costs, improve quality, and adapt to new academic models.

What's crucial, she said, is, "How good are institutions at dealing with disruptive change?"

Colleges are getting that message, said John Walda, president of the National Association of College and University Business Officers. "Becoming more focused is part of the new business model," he said, citing steps like the series of mergers of public colleges in Georgia as one example.

But while Mr. Walda said he was "optimistic because I see lots of innovation wherever I go," others worry that too many colleges still don't appreciate the challenges they face or have the tools to assess, analyze, and act on them.

"My impression is we haven't begun to see the bottom," said Ellen Chafee, a former college president and now a senior fellow at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Governance "has been much more backward looking than forward looking," she said.

Ms. Chafee said colleges needed more "Vuca"—an acronym that has long been used in the military to mean volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity but that today has been updated to mean vision, understanding, clarity, and agility. With more Vuca, she said, colleges could do a better job of shifting their organizational cultures, developing leadership from within the campus, and better understanding the needs of students and employees.

"We don't need a bunch of solutions" from outsiders, said Ms. Chafee. "We need a bunch of tools for people to find their own solutions."
LIFTING UP YOUNG MEN OF COLOR

Rep. William Lacy Clay

NO MENTION

This is about my son and his generation ... and this is also about all the young men we have already lost.

As I sat in the East Room of the White House, joined by fellow members of Congress and an incredible gathering of African-American and Hispanic luminaries, I was struck by how deeply President Obama’s words affected me as he announced his “My Brother’s Keeper” national initiative to lift up young men of color.

This privately funded, five-year, $200 million project will connect the best of American philanthropy, corporate leadership, organized labor, educational institutions and nonprofit groups who have answered the president’s bipartisan call to step up and reach out to young, male African-Americans and Hispanics to guide them toward good decisions, better life opportunities and positive outcomes.

As the president noted, even with the incredible progress we have made in this country, young men of color are still far more likely to grow up in a home without a father, get caught up in the criminal justice system for minor offenses, fail to achieve in school, and tragically, much more likely to become the victims of violence.

President Obama said, “We assume this is an inevitable part of American life, instead of the outrage that it is.”

He’s absolutely right. For far too many of our young men, we have allowed the abnormal to become the norm. We have accepted failure and futility as the most likely outcomes for them. For the sake of our people and for the future of this great country, that’s unacceptable.

This is a great moral challenge for America, and it’s also a vital economic issue because we can’t afford to allow another generation of young men to fall prey to the disparities that too often divert them off the path of productivity toward violence, lack of opportunity, persistent poverty and despair.

They need to share in our economy’s future and have the opportunity to become true stakeholders in the life of our nation.

As the president continued, I reflected back on my own life, and just like him, when I was a young man, I made mistakes, and I certainly received more than my share of second chances to get back on the right path.
Then I thought about my 13-year old son. I am so blessed and proud to be his father, and I have so many hopes for him.

But for his sake, and for the future of all our young men of color, we need to end the punitive and racially stacked pipeline to prison, and replace it with a positive track that leads to a job, and a chance for a fulfilling life. Programs like my ninth annual Career Fair, which will be held June 2 at Harris-Stowe State University, do just that by matching eager young job seekers with over 100 top local employers who are actually hiring at all levels.

**Those of us in leadership positions, regardless of party, have an obligation to support President Obama’s bold new effort to bring together the tremendous resources available across this country to create ladders of opportunity for young black and Latino men to overcome the very real obstacles they still face in employment, education, health care, the justice system and the right to live up to their full potential, without fear.**

It’s too late for Trayvon Martin, Jordan Davis and Emmett Till, but it’s not too late to lift up tens of millions of our young men who are hungry for our time, for our loving and persistent discipline and for our unyielding high expectations for their future success.

They have a responsibility to do the hard work that is required to overcome the many obstacles they must face, and we have an obligation to let them know that this country still cherishes their hopes and values their lives.

As the president concluded his remarks, I observed how the audience, both young and old, were deeply moved by his emotional appeal to help our young men.

Once again, President Obama reminded me why I chose to become one of his earliest supporters back in 2007.

He is today, as he was then ... a brilliant young leader with a great heart and a bold vision of equal opportunity for every young American, regardless of the circumstances that they were born into.

I share that vision, and I am glad to stand with him as we push forward in this year of action.

*U.S. Rep. William Lacy Clay is a Democrat from St. Louis.*
Missouri tornado drill postponed to Thursday

ST. LOUIS — The Missouri statewide tornado drill scheduled for Tuesday is being pushed back two days because of the recent winter weather and other factors.

The Missouri State Emergency Management Agency says the drill will now be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday. The drill is part of Missouri 2014 Severe Weather Awareness Week, which runs through Friday.

March typically is the start of the tornado season and the drill will include the sounding of warning sirens. Residents are encouraged to seek shelter during the drill just as they would if an actual tornado was imminent.