COLUMBIA — Joan Hermsen had been at MU for only a few years when a student confided to her that she had been sexually harassed on campus.

"The student was very adamantly that she did not want to report the situation," said Hermsen, now chairwoman of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. "I was very new ... and I didn't know at the time what one should do. There needs to be clear guidelines for what we as faculty do when this happens."

If a student walked into her office today with that same complaint, Hermsen said she is still unsure what university policies, if any, govern her response.

"I wouldn't make her report if she didn't want to," said Hermsen, who has been at MU for 15 years. "We probably are required to report — I just don't know."

MU is finalizing a policy that would clarify the responsibility of employees in such a situation, said campus Title IX Coordinator Noel English. The policy will take the form of a reporting requirement for select faculty and staff, known as "required reporters," when a student tells them about sexual violence, sexual harassment or other discrimination prohibited by the federal law.

The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights recommended universities adopt a reporting requirement in an April 2011 letter. Three years later, an ESPN investigation into the alleged sexual assault of former MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey has highlighted the lack of a reporting requirement at the university.

English said it is premature to talk about the new policy in detail before it is released.
"Suffice it to say for now that we are concerned about the possibility that students will feel less inclined to seek help because of the reporting requirement," English said. "We are doing our best to come up with a policy that fulfills the institution’s obligations under Title IX while not deterring individuals from seeking assistance from those they trust."

**Title IX and colleges**

_Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972_ prohibits discrimination on college campuses based on a person’s sex.

Right now, there is no reporting requirement or mandatory training for MU faculty or staff on how to handle the reporting of Title IX incidents, such as cases of sexual harassment or violence.

When sexual harassment rises to the level that it interferes with employment or with education, it becomes illegal and also violates the university's policy on sex discrimination, according to the MU Equity office website. But even lesser levels of sexually harassing behaviors might be inconsistent with MU’s commitment to a safe and inclusive work and learning environment, it also states.

If a student makes a complaint that falls under Title IX, MU faculty and staff are encouraged to report the incident through an online form or to contact English directly to receive information or referrals, according to the MU Equity office website. According to the _April 2011 letter_, student-on-student sexual harassment and sexual violence are forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX. Public universities and colleges also should take steps to protect a student who was assaulted off campus from further sexual harassment or retaliation from the perpetrator, according to the letter. Responsible employees who knew, or should have known, about a student affected by sexual violence or harassment are obligated to report the complaint to appropriate school officials — at MU this would be English and department heads — and the school is required to address it, according to the _2001 Sexual Harassment Guidance by the Office for Civil Rights_.


Recommendations, such as the reporting requirement under Title IX, that come from the Office for Civil Rights are not mandated by law but are presented as blueprints for university processes, English said.

The Office for Civil Rights encourages schools to take proactive steps to prevent sexual harassment and violence before it occurs, and to take immediate and effective steps to address the situation when it does occur, according to a statement for this article from the Office for Civil Rights.

These encouraged recommendations are not required by law, according to the statement; however, it added universities have an obligation to address sexual harassment and violence.

All four University of Missouri System campuses are taking inventory of their programs and reporting mandates, said John Fougere, UM chief communications officer. He said he did not know a timeline for when these specific campus policies will be updated.

Sasha Menu Courey
A recent ESPN "Outside the Lines" investigation called into examination the responsibility of university employees to report sexual harassment complaints. The investigation focused on Menu Courey, a swimmer on scholarship at Missouri, who committed suicide in June 2011, about 16 months after she was allegedly assaulted by one or more football players, according to previous Missourian reporting. Menu Courey was hospitalized several times for psychological problems before committing suicide. A May 2011 journal entry from Menu Courey recalls a phone conversation with her athletic academic adviser, Meghan Anderson, in which Menu Courey said she mentioned the assault. The university has denied that Anderson knew about the alleged assault.

One in five women is sexually assaulted during her college years, according to a 2007 National Institute of Justice report, which is used by the Office for Civil Rights. A task force — created by UM President Tim Wolfe after the ESPN report was released — is reviewing current policies and procedures for the reporting of sexual assaults and the accessibility of mental health resources at the four UM campuses, Fougere said. The review should be completed by the end of the month, he said.
Hermsen said she hopes the new campus policy will make clear the expectations of student confidentiality and what will occur after a report is filed. Faculty and staff also need to know what is at stake if they do not report an incident, she said.

"I suspect women faculty and staff are more likely already to hear first-hand accounts about harassment, sexual assault and rape," Hermsen said. "If that is true, then women faculty and staff are more likely to be caught in the bind of whether to report or not, and then to bear the consequences of that decision."

**Defining responsibility**

According to the 2001 Sexual Harassment Guidance, "responsible employees" obligated to report are defined as any employee who:

- has the authority to redress sexual violence;

- has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual violence or other misconduct to the Title IX coordinator or school officials;

- a student could reasonably believe has this authority.

This definition has allowed universities to interpret who their required reporters are differently. At one university, "responsible employees" could be seen as all employees, while another university may interpret the definition to mean only certain employees. MU has not defined who its "responsible employees" will be.

MU has been working to assess and improve its process for handling student complaints of sexual harassment since the April 2011 letter was published, English said.

"Every time we think we have things covered, we discover new, recommended practices from OCR (the Office for Civil Rights)," English said. "Our job has been to evaluate and implement those recommendations in a way that best protects all the members of the MU community."

The recommended practice of "required reporting" was stated in the 2011 letter from the Office for Civil Rights. Three years later, MU has not made a decision on the reporting requirement.
While MU is one of many universities in the nation grappling with the issue of mandatory reporting, it is time to make a decision, said Brett Sokolow, executive director of the Association of Title IX Administrators.

"A university shouldn't wait until its campus is the one on the front pages," Sokolow said. "There is no reason for schools not to make a decision on this and move forward."

The University of Louisville, a public university of about 22,000 students in northern Kentucky, implemented a required reporting mandate in 2012, said Mary Elizabeth Miles, Louisville associate Title IX administrator.

"This is such a complicated and gray area, but we tried to make our policy as clear to our faculty, staff and students as possible," Miles said. "Our mandatory reporters tell the student upfront that they will have to make a report, but that doesn't mean the student has to be a part of an investigation or loses control of the situation."

A mandatory reporter at Louisville includes any employee in a supervisory or management role and any faculty member supervising programs that include direct contact with students outside of the classroom, Miles said.

According to Louisville's mandate, when a student reports a Title IX incident to a mandatory reporter, that employee must immediately:

- Provide the alleged victim with a brochure outlining resources and reporting options;
- Contact the Title IX administrator, coordinator or investigator.

The biggest hesitation for Louisville employees, at first, was the feeling they would violate students' privacy or trust, Miles said.

Two years later, Miles said she has seen a comfort level grow among employees that wasn't there before, due to written policy Louisville has published on mandatory reporting and training courses.
"You feel better when you've been really educated in how to handle situations like a student coming into your office with a Title IX issue," Miles said. "Our faculty and staff trust that what they tell the student is really the truth. They know what to tell them."

**A blanket reporting mandate**
The simplest option that addresses all of the legal issues in play is a blanket reporting mandate, said Sokolow.

This mandate would require all MU faculty to report a complaint of sexual harassment to the Title IX coordinator or other appropriate authority.

There should be a crucial exception to the rule, Sokolow said, in which employees who are not in supervising positions are allowed to file Jane or John Doe reports.

"This approach allows a report to be created without compromising students who need a safe, confidential place to go," Sokolow said. "The Title IX coordinator will then be able to go back to the RA (residential assistant), counselor or teacher and say look, there's an imminent threat here and we need more information about this student."

MU senior Sheridan Brown said having the option to leave her name out of a report may help more victims of sexual harassment and assault come forward.

"A reporting requirement could be a really helpful thing, as long as it doesn't affect the victim in a negative way," said Brown, who founded the MU anti-bullying organization Peer-to-Peer. "Having the option to leave your name out of the situation would be really reassuring for some."

**Is current training enough?**
According to the 2001 guidance, schools need to train employees so those with authority to address harassment know how to respond appropriately and other responsible employees know they are obligated to report harassment to appropriate school officials.

Training that includes practical information about how to identify and report sexual harassment and violence should be provided to teachers, school law enforcement unit employees, school administrators, school counselors, general counsels, health personnel, and resident advisers, according to the 2011 letter.
Faculty and staff at UM campuses have been required to take an online training on the prevention of sexual harassment since 2008, Fougere said, and must pass an online test on the subject.

These online trainings are reviewed periodically, he said, and the sexual harassment training has undergone revisions in recent months.

English said she thinks the revised course will meet the technical Office of Civil Rights requirements, as would the new reporting requirement.

"When the reporting requirement is rolled out, there will have to be training to go with it," English said. "We will likely have some additional education for employees specifically regarding our new MU policy."

**MU professor Deborah Huelsbergen said she seeks out training for how to handle disclosures of sexual harassment and assault, such as a mental health first aid class she took over the summer.**

"When you suddenly find yourself in a situation like this, you have to quickly make a call on how to handle it," said Huelsbergen, who recalled several situations in which students approached her with complaints of sexual harassment. "But that doesn't mean everyone on this campus knows what to do."

Huelsbergen said she was unsure if current MU-required training adequately prepares employees for these situations.

Fougere also said each campus and the health system provides periodic, in-person training and seminars, and UM is in the process of inventorying that training.

Title IX training for employees should be more than a one-time event, said Sokolow, executive director of the **Association of Title IX Administrators**.

"If schools want to use an online method for basic training, that's great, but there needs to be more added to it," Sokolow said. "Depending on the department or job, specific training is important because employees play different roles in students' lives."

**MU theater professor Cheryl Black said she has not been trained specifically in how to handle Title IX incidents. She said that while she feared a mandate might discourage students who experience sexual**
harassment or assault from talking to anyone, these conversations about sexual assault and harassment are crucial moving forward.

"I really do have mixed feelings based on all my experiences as a woman, and as an advisor and mentor, for that matter," said Black, who has had a student confide in her in the past.

Hermsen said that based on her experiences and those of people she knows, it is not a common event for students tell faculty members they have been harassed or assaulted, so it may feel like Title IX recommendations don't have big impact on the day to day.

"But when those rare moments do happen, a clear set of guidelines is really needed," Hermsen said. "We also need to have conversations of treating other with the respect deserved. We need to focus on fixing the cause, rather than just reporting the aftermath."

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI**

**Missouri coach Frank Haith suspends Wes Clark, Shane Rector for NIT game after arrests**

March 18

BY TOD PALMER
The Kansas City Star

COLUMBIA — **Missouri’s bench got even shorter Tuesday when coach Frank Haith announced on Twitter that freshmen guards Wes Clark and Shane Rector had been suspended for the National Invitation Tournament opener against Davidson at Mizzou Arena.**

Clark and Rector were arrested Saturday in Columbia along with two Tigers football players, sophomore cornerback Aarion Penton and redshirt sophomore Shaun Rupert, for misdemeanor possession of less than 35 grams of marijuana.
The suspensions of Clark and Rector leave Missouri without a guard on the bench and with only two regular reserves, freshman Torren Jones and sophomore Ryan Rosburg. Junior Keanau Post is expected to start for the third consecutive game.

However, junior Danny Feldman is another option off the bench if needed. He’s only played 45 minutes in 21 games during the last two seasons with the Tigers since transferring from Columbia University.

Clark, who is from Detroit, is Missouri’s backup point guard and had averaged 4.1 points with 2.2 rebounds and 2.1 assists in 33 games this season.

Rector, who is from the Bronx, N.Y., had played in 22 games this season.

Missouri already is without senior forward Tony Criswell, who isn’t practicing with the team though he hasn’t officially been dismissed either.

Criswell missed the SEC Tournament last week and was recently sued by his landlord for failure to pay rent.

Meanwhile, Penton and Rupert were suspended from the Tigers’ spring practice.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/18/4899210/missouri-coach-frank-haith-suspends.html#storylink=cpy

Rock Bridge High School and MU College of Business join in Women’s Leadership Day

March 18, 2014 BY Kaylie Denenberg

On Tuesday, March 4 a group of about 20 girls from Rock Bridge High School and gifted education teacher Kathryn Fishman-Weaver attended the first ever Women’s Leadership Day at the University of Missouri’s College of Business. The day was made possible through a
partnership between the high school and college that manifested itself about a year ago, said Fishman-Weaver.

Fishman-Weaver runs an Empowering Young Women’s group at Rock Bridge for high-achieving junior and senior girls. Meetings to discuss wellness, balance, healthy relationships, leadership and more are held a couple times a month. The grade levels meet separately but come together on occasion.

Leadership was a consistent topic throughout their sessions and sparked the idea for Women’s Leadership Day, Fishman-Weaver said. It was a point of interest and importance to the girls, who are already engaged in activities with leadership components including service organizations, clubs and sports.

She worked closely with Michelle Kemp, the director of the professional development program at MU, to reach out to contacts that would be useful resources for the girls.

“I am an ambitious and energetic high school teacher,” Fishman-Weaver said. “I met with Michelle and explained my vision and we put our heads together to work out the logistics of the day.”

Joan Gabel, dean of the business school at MU, was an enthusiastic supporter of the event and helped it succeed along with the rest of the professional development staff at the business school, Fishman-Weaver said. Gabel gave the opening address for the event.

Other parts of the day included a leadership panel, an etiquette lunch, sessions on online presence and professionalism including resume writing and interviewing, and speakers sharing personal experiences.

“I want the girls to be inspired that they can be leaders in whatever field they choose to study,” Fishman-Weaver said. “I also want the girls to be informed by putting more practical skills in their tool kits like networking, shining in an interview, writing thank you notes and making business small talk.”

A highlight of the day for many of the students was the panel providing tips on finding one’s leadership style. Mentorship was another key point mentioned in the panel.

Following the panel, senior Abrianna Porter connected with Dr. Shubhra Gangopadhyay, the LaPierre Endowed Chair in the electrical and computer engineering department at MU. Gangopadhyay offered to mentor Porter, who plans to attend MU in the fall.
“No matter what happens, keep a positive attitude,” Gangopadhyay said. “Use your mentor to help you find your path.”

Fishman-Weaver said she would love for this to become an annual event. She hopes to bring more students in the future, and many have already asked about attending next year. She also wants to build in a section with practice interviews.

Maybe creationists are on to something

Banning evolution might make kids more interested.

By FRANK SCHMIDT

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 2:00 pm Comments (6)

As a professor at the University of Missouri, I've spent more than 30 years working to ensure all Missouri students get a good science education. That includes evolution, the cornerstone of biology. But a bill in the General Assembly is making me think I've been going at it all wrong.

House Bill 1472, introduced by Rep. Rick Brattin, R-Harrisonville, is a bit different from previous legislative efforts to put creationism into the K-12 curriculum. If it passes, any Missouri school that taught "evolution by natural selection" would have to notify parents about the content of the curriculum and offer them the opportunity to take their children out of class for those periods.

My first inclination was to oppose the bill, testify against it — easier said than done because the committee hearing had only one witness, Rep. Brattin — and organize my fellow scientists to write their legislators and all that. Although there's not much chance HB 1472 will become law, we have to take these efforts seriously. If we don't, sooner or later creationism will sneak into the statute books, and we'll have to deal with the harm it does. This vigilance takes up time scientists and educators could better spend using evolutionary biology to fight human diseases, improve agricultural crops and so on. Nonetheless, the effort seems to be necessary — an anti-evolution bill is introduced every legislative season, right about the time of the first ice storm.
We card-carrying evolutionists also get some grief when these bills appear in the news. Our colleagues call us up or seek us out at conferences to commiserate about the sorry state of science in Missouri. They look behind our backs to see whether they can move one of our bio-based businesses across the border, into Iowa or Illinois. Even worse, they cluck their tongues semi-sympathetically, telling us to be glad we're not in Kansas. As someone who has lived in Missouri longer than Rep. Brattin has been alive, I regard this last point as particularly cold comfort.

Even so, HB 1472 just might be worth supporting. Before you start praying for my soul, from whichever direction, bear with me while I explain.

Missouri already has a parental choice bill. It's about sex. Any Missouri school that offers sex education to its students has to notify parents of the fact, show them curricular materials if they ask and give them the option to remove their children from these classes. The idea, I guess, is kids will only be curious about things they hear in school. It's not true — the kids are finding out about sex, anyway, as indicated by Missouri's teen pregnancy rate, which is 10 percent higher than the national average.

So maybe if the General Assembly puts evolution on a par with sex, the young ones will decide it's worth learning about. Otherwise, why take them out of class? Soon, they will be passing around fossil pictures on the playground, hiding the "Origin of Species" under the mattress and doing the Miller-Urey experiment in their bedrooms. They will tell each other fanciful stories about Tiktaalik and argue whether it was a fish or an amphibian. They will want to vacation at the Burgess Shale instead of Disney World. When out on a date, they will park by the side of the road to look for crinoids instead of gazing at the moon.

Eventually, we will need to deal with all this playground wisdom and provide the young ones with counseling and accurate information — safe evolution, if you will. Imagine their shock when they learn we humans have been on the planet for only a tiny fraction of its lifetime but much longer than 10,000 years, in any event; that our DNA is 98 percent the same as the chimpanzee's because we share a common ancestor; and that if you look deeply enough, all of the world's creatures are related by common descent. They might even learn natural selection isn't the only mechanism that gives rise to new species. It's going to take a lot of effort.

But at least they will be interested. Thank you, Rep. Brattin.

Frank Schmidt is a professor of biochemistry at the University of Missouri and president of Missouri Citizens for Science. He emphasizes the above views are his own and that at least part of this piece is satire and/or irony.
Invasive Pythons Can Find Home 20 Miles Away, Study Says

For Burmese pythons, there’s no place like home—and now a new study shows the snakes can navigate from over 20 miles (36 kilometers) away to get there.

At up to 18.8 feet (5.7 meters) long, Burmese pythons are among the world’s largest snakes, and they have become notorious in the past decade as one of South Florida’s worst invasive pests.

The alien reptiles—which likely are descended from animals that escaped captivity—have been eating many of the native animals. In the Everglades, some of the python’s native prey are at risk of going locally extinct.

Figuring out how Burmese pythons navigate might help scientists learn how to stop their spread, so reptile and amphibian expert Shannon Pittman wanted to find out if navigational abilities found in other snakes also exist in Burmese pythons.

“Most snakes have a home range and like to stay in that area. When they are moved to a new location, they tend to wander and try to figure out where they are,” said Pittman, who recently received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri and is now a postdoctoral fellow at Davidson College in North Carolina.

Finding Their Way Home

To determine how well the pythons could navigate, Pittman and colleagues moved the snakes out of their home range in the Everglades and tracked how the reptiles moved.

Although scientists can readily track species like wolves and birds with GPS trackers attached to the body, snakes don’t have a convenient neck or leg on which to secure the unit.

That meant each of the 12 snakes Pittman collected had to be anesthetized and get a small radio tracker implanted in its body.
As Pittman and colleagues followed the snakes over time, she was surprised to learn that the
snakes were able to reliably head in the direction of their home ranges where they were captured,
according to results published March 18 in *Biology Letters*.

Pittman isn’t sure how the Burmese pythons can home, but she believes that celestial cues are a
possibility, since other snakes are known to navigate by the stars.

Overall, Pittman said that the results are important for scientists working to control the snakes.

“Biologists need to know how fast the snakes might spread and what corridors they are likely to
use,” Pittman said, “so that conservationists can prevent population expansion.”

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**Subcommittee to study possible change to school district’s grievance policy**

By [Catherine Martin](mailto:catherine.martin@columbialdailytribune.com)

**Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 2:00 pm**

A discussion Monday about Columbia Public Schools’ grievance policy raised more questions
than answers.

The district's policy committee started discussing its grievance procedures at its January meeting.
Staff noted the policy, which was adopted in 2003, is outdated and unclear but said it is rarely
used. Dana Clippard, assistant superintendent of human resources, said her office has received
only one grievance in the three years she has been in her current job.

The committee has looked at a 2010 grievance policy from the Missouri School Boards'
Association that outlines a very specific process, and yesterday members discussed that policy
again. Several members brought up concerns about the proposal.

One concern was that a grievance policy is one of the issues Columbia Missouri National
Education Association, the district's exclusive bargaining representative, is discussing with the
district's bargaining team during negotiations.

Some members suggested waiting until negotiations are complete in May to revisit the policy.
Superintendent Chris Belcher pointed out that any policy the Columbia Missouri National
Education Association negotiates will apply only to teachers. He said the Missouri School Boards' Association policy still could be used for other employees.

Susan McClintic, Columbia Missouri National Education Association president, said the policy her group negotiates could be used for all employees.

Policy committee member Blake Naughton, an associate clinical professor of education policy and executive director of The Hook Center for Educational Renewal and District Leadership at the University of Missouri, questioned the timing of when the district brought up the grievance policy. The Missouri School Boards' Association released its policy four years ago, but the district raised the issue "in January, right before the bargaining process."

Clippard said that during negotiations last year, teachers asserted that the grievance policy "was a poor policy to begin with," which prompted officials to bring the issue to the policy committee.

Other committee members had questions about specifics outlined in the policy, such as a stipulation that a grievance does not include concerns regarding employee discipline. Ben Trachtenberg, a committee member and associate professor of law at MU, questioned the purpose. "I can't begin to vote" on this policy "until I see a two-sentence summary of what do we want this policy to do," he said.

Some members also questioned the step of the policy that requires the employee to report a grievance to his or her immediate supervisor, which could be an issue in an instance when the employee's grievance is with his or her immediate supervisor.

After a lengthy discussion, the committee decided it was best to have a subcommittee consisting of committee members with expertise in the area look at the policy and work on a revised draft. The group also will invite a representative of the Missouri School Boards' Association to its next meeting to answer questions about specifics of its policy.

In other business, the committee voted to move a boundary policy to the Columbia Board of Education. The policy says the district will annually review boundaries, although that doesn't necessarily mean boundaries will change every year. The policy will get a first reading at the board's April 14 meeting.
BILLIONAIRE PHILANTHROPIST JIM STOWERS DIES AT 90

By Michael D. Sorkin msorkin@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8347

Jim Stowers, who died this week at age 90, became a billionaire by shrewdly investing other people’s money.

After both he and his wife, Virginia, were diagnosed with cancer, they gave away most of their fortune to find cures for cancer and other deadly diseases. They established a world-class institute in their hometown of Kansas City.

In 2006, the institute’s medical research was threatened when Missouri legislators tried to criminalize some forms of embryonic stem cell research.

The couple almost single-handedly bankrolled the fight to pass a constitutional amendment to protect a form of embryonic research. Voters narrowly approved the amendment in a bitter statewide battle.

“He provided most of the funds for the campaign,” Dr. William Danforth, chancellor emeritus at Washington University, recalled Tuesday.

The two wealthy men, from opposite ends of the state, joined forces in 2006 to create Missouri Cures. The organization won passage of the amendment with a sea of TV ads.

Opponents called the funding “clone-to-kill money.”

Danforth said Mr. Stowers was committed to making the world a better place.

He recruited some of the best scientists and physicians to the Stowers Institute for Medical Research, putting Kansas City on the map for disease and gene research.

The Stowerses spared no expense. Their institute opened in 2000 and has a $2 billion endowment.

To recruit top talent, they showered the institute with Persian rugs on the floors, leather furniture in lobbies, and original artwork on the walls. Researchers dined on alligator tails, mussels and other exotic cuisine, a Post-Dispatch reporter found during a 2006 tour of the $300 million research complex.

Researchers are offered customized lab spaces and renovations that can cost more than $500,000.
Much of the work focuses on stem cells, which have the rare ability to form other kinds of cells. A process called somatic cell nuclear transfer is a cloning procedure that involves extracting the nucleus of a human egg and replacing it with the nucleus of another cell. The resulting cluster of cells is destroyed to harvest stem cells.

While the institute was trying to recruit top scientists, legislators were threatening to ban somatic cell nuclear transfer in Missouri.

They introduced bills to put doctors in prison for 15 years, “if they would do the same kind of research that was being done in other states,” recalled Donn Rubin, chairman of Missouri Cures.

The threats to criminalize the research never passed, but were coming up every year, he added.

The campaign to protect stem cell research brought together patient organizations, business groups, universities and scientists.

Researchers at the Stowers Institute, Washington University and other facilities continue their efforts to find cures.

Danforth said laws that sought to make their work illegal “would have sent a signal to the rest of the world that medical scientists are not welcome in Missouri.”

James Evans Stowers grew up in Kansas City, the son and grandson of doctors. He attended Kemper Military School in Boonville and the University of Missouri before joining the Army Air Corp to become a fighter pilot in World War II.

He returned home and completed three years of course work to become a physician before a stint selling mutual funds led him to change course. In 1958, with $100,000 from 24 investors, he founded what was to become American Century Investments.

Today, it manages $141 billion in assets for millions of investors.

Mr. Stowers was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1987; his wife had surgery for breast cancer six years later. They opened their institute in 2000.

“They wanted to make sure that their grandchildren and future generations had more options to treatments than people of their generation had,” Rubin said.

Mr. Stowers died early Monday (March 17, 2014) in bed at his home in Kansas City, according to a spokesman for his company.

Survivors include his wife, four children and his brother. Funeral arrangements are pending.