MU PLANS EVENTS ON PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri's flagship campus in Columbia is planning a month of activities related to preventing sexual assaults.

Activities in April include a legal panel discussion Thursday night and a medical panel discussion next week. An advocacy organization that uses music therapy to help victims of sexual violence will perform on April 15.

The events come as university curators await an outside legal review of the Columbia campus' response to a case involving former school swimmer Sasha Menu Courey.

The Canadian swimmer's parents have said their daughter killed herself 16 months after an alleged off-campus rape by as many as three football players in February 2010. University officials have said they didn't learn about the attack until after Menu Courey's death. No charges were ever filed.

MU surprises five teachers with 2014 Kemper Fellowship awards

By Ashley Jost

University of Missouri administrators this morning surprised five teachers with 2014 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence awards.

Award winners are: Leigh Neier, an assistant teaching professor in the Department of Learning, Teaching and Curriculum in the University of Missouri College of Education; Bryon Wiegand, an associate professor of animal science in the Division of Animal Sciences in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Ann Harrell, an associate professor of voice and voice area coordinator in the School of Music in the MU College of Arts and Science; Jeff Krug, an assistant teaching professor of physical therapy in the Department of Physical Therapy in the MU School of Health Professions; and John Bennett, associate teaching professor of marketing in the MU Trulaske College of Business.

Administrators surprised the recipients in their classrooms this morning. Each award comes with a $10,000 check.

"I'm so overwhelmed," said Neier, the first recipient, as MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin told her about the check.

Neier has taught at MU since 2005. She is an undergraduate faculty academic adviser and a graduate student adviser. Neier also partners with the Athletic Department to recruit future students and has received multiple awards for her work. "Leigh has that indescribable element that makes her an exceptional educator," Kristen Berghoff, a 2013 graduate of the College of Education, said in a statement. "She makes a difference in the lives of her students as educators and people."

Testimonials such as Berghoff's were collected in nomination packets that deans, department chairs and professors filled out to support faculty for the fellowship award.

"I thank you all from the bottom of my pounding, pounding heart," Neier said after Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz presented her with a letter telling her about her reward and her options to claim it.

When administrators dropped in on Wiegand, he complimented their stealthy nature.

"Well done, sneaky people," Wiegand joked while thanking Loftin and Schatz.

Wiegand said he's rarely speechless but this morning was an exception.

Since 2007, Wiegand has worked in the Division of Animal Sciences within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, teaching meat science, introductory animal science and several areas in between. Outside the classroom, he is the co-adviser for the Block and Bridge Club and supervisor of the MU meat-judging team.

"Dr. Wiegand has utilized his teaching approach to give students the confidence to engage in defending and supporting their decisions," Rodney Geisert, professor in the Division of Animals Sciences, said in a statement.
Harrell joined the faculty in 1992. She is nationally renowned for her music teaching and prepares her students for the variety of music they will encounter in their singing careers, MU said in a news release.

"Professor Harrell, aside from being a phenomenally talented vocalist and musician, was put on this planet to teach," said Jason Forbach, an MU alumnus and former student of Harrell who has performed in numerous operas around the world.

Krug has been an assistant teaching professor of physical therapy since 2001. He is being recognized for creatively considering how to best equip students for the workplace and proactively making his educational ideas into realities.

"Jeff regularly receives the highest student ratings of all professors in the physical therapy program, but his appeal as an instructor transcends the profession," Kyle Gibson, associate teaching professor and chair of the MU Department of Physical Therapy, said in a statement.

Bennett, who has been a full-time member of the MU faculty since 2005, was named the MBA program's Teacher of the Year in 2010. His students say he has an unparalleled love for teaching, MU said in a news release.

"There are no students in his classes; Professor Bennett refers to everyone as scholars," Julie Niehaus, a former student of Bennett, said in a statement. "He says scholars are life learners. By referring to us in this manner, he grants us respect and challenges us to live up to our full potential and to master the information he is teaching."

The fellowships were established in 1991 with a $500,000 gift from the William T. Kemper Foundation. Kemper was a 1962 MU alumnus. Kemper died in 1989. His trust fund is managed by Commerce Bank.

Administrators surprise five MU professors during class with $10,000 award
Monday, March 31, 2014 | 6:38 p.m. CDT; updated 7:20 p.m. CDT, Monday, March 31, 2014
BY JOEY FENING, WENDY PENNINGTON

COLUMBIA — Five MU professors started their week $10,000 richer after Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin surprised them Monday with the 2014 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence.
The annual award recognizes outstanding teachers at MU. This year's recipients were:

- John Bennett, an associate professor in the Trulaske College of Business.
- Ann Harrell, an associate professor of voice in the School of Music.
- Jeff Krug, an assistant teaching professor of physical therapy in the College of Health Sciences.
- Leigh Neier, an assistant teaching professor in the College of Education.
- Bryon Wiegand, an associate professor of animal science in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

The educators' colleagues nominated about 20 people for the award. All the nominees knew they were in the running, but none of them knew the winners until administrators walked into their classrooms.

Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz presented the educators with their awards. The Kemper Fellowship, which was established in 1991 with a $500,000 donation, is named after the Kansas City civic leader who graduated from MU in 1926.

"The most rewarding part," Schatz said, "is the spontaneous reaction of the students. You know you've made a good choice when the students, without being prompted, react enthusiastically."

**John Bennett**

John Bennett could barely hold back his tears as Schatz presented him the award at the start of his marketing class. Cameras flashed and students rose from their seats to give him a standing ovation.

"I'm not normally speechless," Bennett said, his voice wavering. "I'm greatly moved. This is not something I expected."

Bennett is "a star among stars," said Joan Gabel, the dean of the Trulaske College of Business. "The students' response just proves how lucky we are to have him."

**Ann Harrell**
Ann Harrell was finishing a private voice lesson with her student Melissa Nichols when Loftin arrived.

“This has been a wonderful environment to work in,” Harrell said as dozens of her colleagues crammed into the hall outside her office to congratulate her.

“My students have been incredible,” she added.

Administrators told Nichols not to cancel her lesson, even though she had been feeling a little sick, so Harrell would be in her office. Nichols told them not to worry — it would take more than a cold to make her miss one of Harrell’s lessons.

"You can just sit and talk with her," Nichols said. “She makes each and every one of us feel special.”

**Jeff Krug**

Jeff Krug was poised to give a quiz to his clinical pathophysiology students when chaos broke out.

As Loftin and his posse strolled into Krug's classroom, his students started blowing noisemakers and cheering. A few of his students wiped tears from their eyes when Krug thanked the class.

“Ultimately, you guys make it great to come to work everyday,” he said.

In addition to his passion for teaching, Krug was recognized for establishing PhysZOU, a pro bono physical therapy clinic that combines learning with real-life clinical experience.

**Leigh Neier**

Leigh Neier expected the Monday after spring break to be a quiet one.

When the chancellor led a parade of businessmen, cameras, and reporters into her classroom, her surprise showed all over her face.

"I have the best job in the entire world," she said, laughing. "Thank you, from the bottom of my pounding heart."
Neier's reputation for keeping in touch with her students as they look for internships and jobs won her a nomination for the award. Her students' testimonies clinched it for her.

**Bryon Wiegand**

Wiegand kept his cool when Loftin surprised him during class, but he didn't quite know what to say.

"I very rarely have a shortage for words," he said. "But I'm speechless."

When Schatz told him he won $10,000, a hush fell over the room, followed by a round of applause.

Wiegand founded MU's Meat Science Research program and supervises MU's Meat Judging Team. He was also instrumental in establishing [JudgingPro](#), a multimedia teaching tool for livestock judges.

"It is his friendship and advising, however, that set him apart from most other exceptional educators," said graduate student Claire Ohman, according to a media release.

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### U.S. Corn Farmers Cut Back Plantings as Global Competition Grows

After years of planting one massive crop after another, U.S. corn farmers are planning to pull back for the first time since the recession, signaling a new era of uncertainty for the nation's largest crop.

Midwest farmers ramped up production in recent years as biofuels boomed at home and demand around the globe soaked up nearly every last kernel. But the rest of the world boosted output too.

The result is increasingly competitive markets for U.S. farmers, who saw corn exports hit a four-decade low last year. Long the first call of foreign buyers, the U.S. now finds China, the fastest-growing market for corn, looking to South America and the Black Sea region.
"It's a different world than we were in just a couple years ago," said Patrick Westhoff, director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri.

The new competition from abroad, and a flattening out of federal ethanol mandates, mean U.S. farmers are starting to turn cautious. On Monday, federal forecasters said farmers are planning to plant their smallest crop in four years as they switch millions of acres mostly to soybeans. The U.S. Department of Agriculture expects 91.7 million acres of corn to be planted this spring, down nearly 6% from the record crop farmers intended to sow last spring. Actual plantings in 2013 ended up lower because of wet weather, but farmers still produced a record harvest.

Corn prices have been down around a third from last year, though they rallied Monday on expectations that the sharp cut in plantings will combat rising production. Chicago Board of Trade corn futures expiring in May settled 2% higher at $5.02 a bushel, a seven-month high.

John Davidson, who runs a family farm near Creston, Ill., is cutting his corn plantings by nearly two-thirds, switching most of the acreage to soybeans. While corn prices have fallen, soybean prices are above year-ago levels amid strong global demand, and federal forecasters expect a record planting this spring. Still, world competition is building, with Brazil surpassing the U.S. last year as the world's largest soybean exporter.

"Our exports are hurting a little, but world consumption is going to handle most of that," Mr. Davidson said.

Midwest farmers have long counted on growing global demand to soak up new production as technologies from genetically modified seeds to computer-controlled tractors boost output. But record-setting corn prices spurred production elsewhere. Federal data show farmers outside the U.S. will harvest 349 million acres of corn in the current crop year, up 35 million from five years ago—an expansion larger than the area of Greece.

For much of the past four decades, the U.S. has accounted for two-thirds or more of global corn exports. That fell to a record low of less than 20% last year as the 2012 drought made U.S. corn too expensive for many countries. Exports are now rebounding, but forecast to make up 36% in the current crop year, according to federal projections.

Growing global competition is emerging as rapid growth in corn demand at home ends. Starting in 2005, federal law required increasing amounts of ethanol to be blended into the U.S. gasoline supply, with ethanol production claiming more than 40% of corn consumption last year, up from less than 15% in the 2005-06 crop year. But the buildup of demand from ethanol makers has ended, and a reduction in fuel use because of more efficient cars and people driving less has federal officials looking at scaling back the requirement.

The rise in ethanol production came amid disappointing harvests and growing hunger for corn from China as that nation's economic growth fueled greater demand for meat. The result: Corn prices eclipsed $8.30 a bushel in 2012 at the height of the U.S. drought, compared with an average of $2.90 in the 2000s.
One of the fastest responses to the record prices is coming from Ukraine, which is on track to become the world's third-largest corn exporter. This year, its shipments are expected to surge 45% to 18.5 million metric tons.

Fueling that growth is interest from China, which has emerged as a major buyer after avoiding corn imports for several years. The Asian nation wants suppliers beyond the U.S., with not just Ukraine but Argentina and Brazil competing to sell crops there. The U.S. recently has seen hundreds of thousands of metric tons rejected by China because they contained a genetically modified trait that is unapproved in that country.

Growing competition is fueling volatility in prices for U.S. farmers. Political unrest in Ukraine, where Russia annexed Crimea, has rippled through global markets. Traders fear financing will dry up and costs to import fuel and fertilizers will rocket, bringing a sharp decline in spring planting in Ukraine.

On the Kansas-Oklahoma border, Kenny Mitchell is trying to navigate continued price swings. A 50-cent change in prices equals $1 million in revenue for the 10,000 acres of corn he plants on his farm. The 75-year-old said he spends most of his time in his office following grain markets rather than in the fields.

"I have never seen the markets as volatile as they are," Mr. Mitchell said. "Selling the corn is almost as important as raising it."

Beef Prices at Record Highs as Cold Weather Hits Cattle Herds

By Reuters
The price of choice-grade U.S. beef at wholesale has set a new record as already tight supplies were further squeezed by harsh weather that reduced the number of cattle coming to market in parts of the country.

The wholesale price, or cutout, for choice beef on Thursday hit $212.05 per hundredweight (cwt), eclipsing the record of $211.37 last May, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Retail beef prices in November climbed to $5.41 per pound, topping the $5.36 October record, according to monthly data compiled by USDA that will be updated on Jan. 16.

"Tight beef supplies is the underlying principal factor," said University of Missouri livestock economist Ron Plain.

Packers hiked the price of beef it sells to grocers and restaurants after last week paying up to $138 per cwt for slaughter-ready cattle in the Plains—also a record high, he said.

The U.S. herd, at a 61-year low after years of drought, forced processors to spend more for supplies. Additionally, ice and snow-packed roads snarled transportation of cattle to packing plants.

March 31, 2014

Pay Increases for Academic Professionals Outpace Inflation

By Benjamin Mueller

The median base salary of professional staff members on college campuses rose by 2.1 percent this academic year, outpacing the 1.5-percent rate of inflation, according to an annual report being released this week by the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.

For the first time since 2009-10, median salaries for professionals at public institutions climbed at a pace equal to that at private institutions, according to the report, suggesting that the effects of the economic recovery are spreading to more institutions.

Across all institutions, the overall median base salary increase in 2013-14 was slightly larger than the year before, when professionals’ salaries rose by 2 percent.
The data reflect the salaries of employees at four-year and two-year colleges whose primary responsibilities require professional-level expertise and those who work in special functional areas like academic or student services, facility management, human resources, and athletics.

The median raise for these professionals across all institutions is weaker than the 2.5-percent increase in administrators’ salaries, and equal to the 2.1-percent increase for tenured and tenure-track faculty members, according to data the association reported in March.

Unequal Gains

The gap in professional pay raises between private and public institutions has narrowed in recent years, from two percentage points in 2010-11 to 0.4 percentage points last year.

But not all professionals at public institutions saw gains equal to those of their peers at private institutions in 2013-14. In fact, in eight of the 10 job categories for which data were available, median base salaries rose more at private institutions than at public ones. The most significant gap was reported among research professionals, whose median base salary rose by 2.4 percent at private institutions and 1.8 percent at public ones.

Only athletic-affairs professionals had greater salary gains at public institutions (where the median increase was 2.4 percent) than at private ones (2.1 percent).

Athletic coaches were among the highest-paid positions in the report. The median base salary for head football coaches was $99,967 across all institutions; at research institutions, head football coaches’ median pay was $316,598.

In basketball and ice hockey, an already large gap between coaches’ salaries for men’s and women’s teams grew from last year. Men’s ice-hockey coaches at research institutions made $132,365 more than their counterparts on women’s teams, a gap that grew by almost $20,000 from last year. The disparity in pay between coaches of men’s and women’s basketball teams was $82,817, up more than $7,000 from last year.

The highest-paid individual position across all institutions in the report is that of staff physicians, who earned a median base salary of $142,106. They are followed by staff lawyers, who had a median salary of $112,972, and veterinarians, who made $108,462.

The association’s report reflects the salaries of 186,688 professionals in higher education at 1,138 private and public colleges nationwide. Of the colleges surveyed, 54 percent were private and 46
Staff-Member Salaries Grow Across Sectors

For the first time in at least four years, professionals at public universities saw their salaries increase at the same rate as those of their colleagues at private universities.

Median percentage increase from previous academic year

Sources: CUPA-HR; Bureau of Labor Statistics