Claire McCaskill Presses Education, Justice Departments On College Sexual Assault

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) is pushing Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to reveal how well their agencies are enforcing existing measures to ensure schools are handling sexual assaults on campus appropriately.

McCaskill sent letters to Duncan and Holder on Tuesday asking for a briefing. She requested that they provide her with detailed information on how the Education Department and Justice Department enforce the laws regulating how colleges handle sexual violence.

She asked for copies of any written guidance, information on all enforcement action since 1991, how many sexual assault cases are adjudicated by the universities as opposed to the criminal justice system and how many full-time employees each department has on the issue.

"I fear that, like the U.S. military, we're going to find problems on college campuses just as systemic as our troops faced -- including very low reporting due to lack of protections and resources," McCaskill said in a statement. "No young man or woman should be left on their own after being victimized, and our schools must provide the highest level of responsiveness to ensure victims are empowered, and perpetrators are held accountable."

McCaskill asked the Education Department for the number of schools that the department has cut off from federal student aid funding for inadequate sexual violence policies since such funding began in 1991; department officials have acknowledged the agency has never taken such action against a school.

McCaskill requested the briefing as soon as possible, but no later than April 11.

The letters to come as the Education Department ramps up enforcement measures under the Obama administration, with a record number of students, faculty and alumni accusing their schools of failing victims of rape and harassment. President Barack Obama ordered a White House task force on college sexual assault in January, which is expected to make recommendations in the next couple of weeks.

A former sex crimes prosecutor, McCaskill recently led an effort to reform how the U.S. military handles sexual violence, in light of an estimated 26,000 assaults in fiscal year 2012, with dismal prosecution rates.
Her military sexual assault legislation is currently held up in the House, where it may not receive a vote this year despite clearing the Senate 97-0. McCaskill's bill passed after legislation from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) to take prosecution of such cases out of the military's hands failed to overcome a filibuster.

McCaskill's proposal would eliminate the "good soldier" defense and extend recent reforms to the military service academies, in addition to other new measures already law, like appointing a special victims counsel to advise victims of their options and stripping commanders of the ability to overturn jury convictions.

The senator's office spent recent weeks in Missouri speaking with college officials about their process for handling sexual violence on campus. The University of Missouri is currently reviewing how it handles sexual violence after revelations that the state's flagship campus had failed to investigate the reported rape of a student who later committed suicide. Police are currently reviewing the case.

Consensus on Campus Safety Rules

April 2, 2014

By Michael Stratford

NO MU MENTION

WASHINGTON -- Colleges would be required to expand their reporting of campus crimes, publish more robust information about how disciplinary hearings work, and maintain sexual assault prevention programs under a proposal endorsed Tuesday by a U.S. Department of Education rulemaking panel.

A 15-member committee representing victims’ advocates, institutions, law enforcement, and other groups reached consensus on a draft of new campus safety rules that would implement the changes Congress made last year to the Clery Act as part of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

The proposal adds domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking to the types of incidents that
colleges must report and include in their annual crime statistics. It also includes national origin and gender identify as two new categories of hate crimes that must be reported.

A large part of the negotiations over the past several months centered on how the new incidents should be defined. Colleges would be required to report instances of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking even if the behavior isn’t considered a crime in the jurisdiction where they are located.

Several victims’ advocates on Tuesday lost a bid to include emotional or psychological abuse in the definition of dating violence along with sexual or physical abuse. Education Department officials said they did not want to develop such an expansive definition.

In addition, the proposed regulation would require colleges to have ongoing programs and awareness campaigns aimed at preventing dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Those programs would need to be tailored to the culture and needs of a campus and be based on research or assessed for effectiveness.

The proposal also features new requirements on how colleges must conduct campus disciplinary proceedings that involve domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Congress mandated last year that such proceedings must be resolved in a “prompt, fair and impartial” manner. The draft rules would leave it up to institutions to determine what a reasonable time frame is, but would require institutions to have “good cause” to delay proceedings.

Under the proposal, both the alleged victim and accused person would have the right to select any person as an adviser. Colleges would be required to allow those advisers to be present at any meeting or hearing about the case, prohibiting the practice by some institutions to bar lawyers from attending proceedings, for instance.

The draft regulation approved Tuesday also scrapped a controversial effort by the Education Department to require campus sexual assault proceedings to adhere to guidance issued by the department’s Office for Civil Rights. In 2011, that office told colleges they must use a “preponderance of the evidence” standard for such proceedings, a lower threshold than the “clear and convincing” standard that many institutions had been using.

Some individual rights advocates, who oppose using the lower evidence standard, had derided the department’s proposal as a back-door way of codifying the “preponderance of the evidence” standard into law, which Congress had specifically declined to do. While guidance from the Office for Civil Rights is watched closely because it reflects the administration’s interpretation of the law, it is not binding on institutions.

Because the rulemaking committee achieved consensus on the draft on Tuesday, the Education Department is now required to push the committee’s draft through the regulatory process.
Gail McLarnon, who represented the department on the panel, said she expects to put the proposal out for public comment in the coming months and to meet the department’s November 1 deadline for publishing the final regulations.

Performance funding for higher education moves forward

By Rudi Keller

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — A proposal to substitute performance measures for political power in the distribution of higher education funds moved a step closer to becoming law Tuesday with a quick and friendly hearing in the House Higher Education Committee.

There are unresolved issues on the proposal, which has passed with variations in both chambers. The committee held a hearing on the Senate version, sponsored by Sen. David Pearce, R-Warrensburg, which excludes community colleges from the performance distribution and requires legislative review of changes in the performance standards.

None of those issues seems insurmountable, said Chairman Mike Thomson, R-Maryville. The bill, although not as ambitious as a proposal last year, is a major step forward, Thomson said.

"At this point in time, we have no accountability when we give them money," he said.

In the past, state support for colleges and universities has been subject to immense political pressure. Cuts and increases are generally given as a percentage of the previous year's allocation, with special earmarks added depending on a school's waxing and waning clout.

The bill to incorporate performance measures in state law as the basis of funding decisions would cut down on the politics, Pearce said, adding that funding "shouldn't be based on who has the toughest senator or the most aggressive representative."

Performance funding for colleges and universities distributes new state aid based on five measures that include student retention, graduation and job placement rates.
When a school meets all five measures, it gets a full share of the new money. If it falls short, its portion is reduced.

In this year's budget proposal, Gov. Jay Nixon sought a 5 percent overall increase for four-year universities, about $36.7 million. Five of the state's 10 four-year universities met all five goals under the plan and were slated to receive a 5.2 percent funding boost. Three schools met four goals and would have received a 4.2 percent increase. Two schools, Lincoln University and Missouri Western State University, met only three of the five goals and were set for a 3.1 percent increase.

In the budget that passed the House, Nixon's total for higher education was cut but the performance funding standards were retained.

The major difference between the House and Senate versions is whether community colleges are included. The House version includes those schools. Pearce said he's comfortable with that step.

A bigger issue is whether any future changes in the performance measures should be made by administrative rule or whether an agreement between the schools and the coordinating board will be enough. Paul Wagner, director of the Council on Public Higher Education, said the bill's requirement to review the standards every three years should be a quick, smooth process.

Making a change using administrative rules means a review by legislators on the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. "I don't see why there would be a need to open it up to a lot of other kinds of pressures," Wagner said.

Thomson, however, said the committee would provide oversight of the changes.

The bill's big achievement, Thomson said, is the cooperation it inspired in higher education.

"We have more cooperation among the four-year schools in the last year than since I have been here," Thompson said.

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**Senate votes along party lines to pass tax cut bill**

By Rudi Keller

*Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 1:55 pm*
JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Senate on Tuesday voted along party lines to approve a tax cut bill that might set up another major veto battle with Gov. Jay Nixon.

By a vote of 23-9, the bill was sent to the Missouri House, where it is expected to undergo changes but should find strong support. The vote came a day after Nixon denounced the measure, arguing it "would permanently undermine Missouri's ability to support K-12 and higher education."

The bill cuts the top personal income tax rate to 5.5 percent in five steps and exempts 25 percent of business profits from income taxes, also in five steps.

**The Economic and Policy Analysis Research Center at the University of Missouri estimates the bill would reduce state revenue by $620 million annually when fully in effect.**

"This bill is a people's tax cut," said Sen. Will Kraus, R-Independence. "It will send money back to the people and grow the economy."

The 23-9 vote, with all the Republicans present supporting the bill and all the Democrats opposed, is enough to override a veto. Last year, Nixon and Republicans fought through the summer over a bill cutting taxes by about $800 million, a debate Nixon eventually won when 15 House Republicans voted to sustain his veto.

Nixon announced in February that he would accept a tax cut with conditions, but the bill approved today does not include the items he demanded.

Missouri's top income tax rate of 6 percent would be cut by 0.1 percent on Jan. 1 each year if revenue in the previous fiscal year is at least $150 million higher than the highest level for the preceding three years. The exemption for business profits included on personal income tax returns would start at 5 percent, growing each year when revenue growth met the $150 million target.

Several lawmakers suggested there were pressing needs for state money that the tax cut ignores. Sen. John Lamping, R-Ladue, has proposed shifting general revenue to road needs. Highways and mass transit need money, he said, and a proposed 1-cent sales tax won't be enough.

"The money that a 1-cent sales tax would generate would be one-third of the money needed in the long run," Lamping said.

Lamping supported the tax cut and said if it helped reduce the size of government, it would be a good result.

Democrats, however, reflected Nixon's views as they argued against the bill. "I am in fundamental disagreement with lowering revenues on things that we need to get done," said Sen. Paul LeVota, D-Independence.
As one of his first orders of business, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin decided to implement a shift in financial oversight for the university.

Departments that had previously reported to interim Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services Gary Ward and Budget Director Rhonda Gibler are being reallocated. They will respectively be known as the vice chancellor for operations and the vice chancellor for finance.

Loftin appointed Gibler as the new vice chancellor for finance, a role known to the general public as chief financial officer.

Gibler is beginning to familiarize herself with areas of finance oversight that will now be integrated into her job. She is also continuing her role in the budget office, with which she is already familiar.

“What we’re hoping to do is align all the finance functions so we can see which effective processes to put into place,” she said. “I’ll be more involved in understanding the financial health of the entire scope of the university, versus in the budget role it was more intensely on the academic side.”

Loftin said he consulted with faculty about the structural changes to better streamline communication.

Gibler’s previous role as budget director entailed examining the colleges’ financial health. She spent time understanding the colleges’ budgets and outlooks and had limited interaction with overarching financial functions, a fact that Loftin found disturbing.

“There was no single person here who actually was in charge of finances,” Loftin said. “And that made no sense to me. I really wanted one person I could go to for the information I needed, and hold accountable for how we operated the finances of the university.”

In addition to changing Gibler’s role, Loftin also retitled Administrative Services to Operations. Ward’s position will be known as vice chancellor for operations and chief operating officer.
The former Administrative Services Division oversaw MU Business Services, which includes Accounting Services, the Office of Cashiers and the Student Loan Repayment Center, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

Now various aspects of Administrative Services will be under Gibler’s watch instead. Ward will serve in a different capacity.

“(The operations) division will continue to oversee Campus Facilities, (MU Police Department), Environmental Health and Safety,” Basi said. “But departments that are involved with financial functions are now being shifted to the vice chancellor for finance.”

Ward previously had a subset of people in Administrative Services handling financial operations, such as paying bills and keeping records. Meanwhile, Gibler had a small budget staff that reported directly to the chancellor during her time as budget director.

Loftin did not like the differentiation of the departments, and he cited a need for change.

“The current structure was successful largely based on the institutional knowledge and history of key individuals who have now retired,” he said in an email sent to all faculty concerning the change. “There is a need going forward to find additional ways to streamline processes.”

Gibler said helping people adjust to this change is what’s important right now.

“Even if it’s finance that you’re talking about, it’s the actual people you have to count on that make it work,” she said. “So far I’ve been trying to meet with people, versus counting how many heads that is. At this point, I’m thinking of the mission level of it.”

**Editorial: Mizzou Athletics must increase accountability**

Run-ins with the law for Mizzou Athletics affiliates are above par this year.

Last week, after an NCAA wrestling tournament win, Brandon Orr, a graduate student and Mizzou Athletics team sports psychologist, was arrested for public intoxication in a Sheraton Hotel lobby. The police report stated that there was a lobby party that got a bit rowdy, and when the police showed up, Orr refused to return to his hotel room. This isn’t the first arrest of a person affiliated with Mizzou Athletics this school year.

In September 2013, a book titled “The System” was released. It detailed sexual assaults of tutors in Mizzou Athletics’ “Total Person Program.” On Jan. 11, Dorial Green-Beckham was arrested for possession of marijuana. On Jan. 23, Levi Copelin was arrested for peace disturbance in the
ID office in The Mizzou Store. On Jan. 29, the Sasha Menu Courey story broke on Outside the Lines and caused ripples in the MU and athletic community across the nation. On March 17, Shane Rector, Wes Clark, Aarion Penton and Shaun Rupert were arrested for marijuana possession. On March 10, Tony Criswell’s rental late fees and attorney’s fees, which registered in the thousands, came to light. And, most recently, the incident with Brandon Orr. We see a trend.

There is plenty of evidence that a number of transgressions have occurred on the part of student athletes and sports staff. These are just the ones that have come to light most recently. Mizzou Athletics needs to hold its athletes and staff more accountable, and this accountability takes different forms. Don’t get us wrong, there is fault on the parts of both student athletes and the athletic department.

Student athletes, remember that you are public figures who represent MU. When you make a bad choice, MU and Mizzou Athletics get a bad reputation. You aren’t above the law, and neither are we. Remember that whether or not you’re wearing a “Mizzou” jersey, your actions still affect the university.

Mizzou Athletics has a moniker called “#MizzouMade” used to showcase the best and brightest of Tiger sports, namely football. #MizzouMade is about claiming stake on the greats that got their start on Faurot Field or in Mizzou Arena. Michael Sam was #MizzouMade. Phil Pressey was #MizzouMade. The football player that gets caught for drunk driving, well, he’s #MizzouMade, too. All those associated with the athletic department are #MizzouMade, and Mizzou Athletics needs to claim all their actions, both good and bad.

Mizzou Athletics, it’s your job to protect your athletes and that means holding them accountable. It’s great that Mizzou Athletics works hard to build up student athletes with methods such as the “Total Person” tutoring program. It’s great that they’re whole people and such, but what happens when things go awry? A one-game suspension for marijuana possession seems like just a slap on the wrist, and chastisement isn’t really holding anyone accountable.

Speaking of holding people accountable, Mike Alden, where art thou? All the incidents that have happened this school year are under your leadership, yet we haven’t heard a peep from you. We’d also like to point out that Alden is a finalist for the Sports Business Journal’s Athletic Director of the Year. We suspect that it’s because of the success of the football program this year, volleyball’s undefeated regular season, a third consecutive wrestling conference win and much more athletic success. This is what a successful athletic program looks like on the scoreboard and on the trophy shelf, but the police record shows Mizzou Athletics, to use NCAA wording, “lacks institutional control.”

All of Mizzou Athletics is held to a higher standard. This is evident when DGB’s marijuana possession makes the news, and “the kid who got caught in the dorm with weed last night” doesn’t. Student athletes are public figures and with that comes a bit of special treatment. This, undoubtedly, is due to the huge college athletics industry and the financial emphasis placed on it. When a player who sports a Mizzou jersey only gets suspended for one game after an arrest,
what does that say to the larger community about how seriously Mizzou Athletics takes incidents like those that have taken place this school year? It’s a slippery slope.

Mizzou Athletics has the ability to reel in its players, and holding all student athletes to the same standard is a major part of that. Whether it’s DGB or a freshman on the track team, all Mizzou athletes should be held accountable in the same way. The penalty for Green-Beckham shouldn’t be less of a punishment that a lesser known athlete would face for the same offense. And at that, penalties need to be more of a deterrent. If players feared a heavy, multi-game suspension, there might not be a rising crime problem.

Most importantly, we’d like to see transparency going forward. Instead of vague media statements, tell us how student athlete conduct works and what type of penalty the athlete will receive. Without this, for all we know, incidents could be swept under the rug, and we’d hate to see what those dust bunnies (monsters) will look like in a few years.

Mizzou Athletics, the ball’s in your court.

**MU-owned Manor House apartments to close May 2015**

Located on Hitt Street near the MU Memorial Student Union, the eight-story brick building for single graduate students will close in May 2015, according to the MU Department of Residential Life's website. It is one of MU's four University Student Apartments, designed for grad students or students with families.

The announcement comes a little more than two weeks after the school announced it would close and demolish another of its University Student Apartments. University Village, where part of a walkway collapsed Feb. 22, killing Lt. Bruce Britt of the Columbia Fire Department, will close June 30 and be torn down. The closure will
displace the building’s roughly 100 residents — many of them graduate students, some with children.

**However, Manor House's closing is not related to a safety issue, nor is it a reaction to what happened at University Village, MU spokesman Christian Basi said. "Manor House has been slated for renovation for quite some time," he said.**

In a 2012 MU Residential Life Master Plan, Manor House was described as needing:

- new windows and elevators
- better ventilation
- improvements in plumbing
- "major electrical service upgrades."
- construction of a new exit stair to eliminate a "dead-end corridor condition" or "major reconfiguration of each floor to meet life safety requirements."

**A structural inspection of all MU-owned housing following the University Village collapse found no safety issues at Manor House, Basi said.**

The closure of the two complexes would bring the university’s available housing options for graduate students down to two: Tara Apartments and University Heights.

After the University Village walkway collapse, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin requested an assessment of MU’s future campus housing needs, including how to deal with the shortage in graduate housing, Basi said. That process is ongoing.

Between 1997 and 2013, MU’s grad student population increased 61 percent, from around 3,992 to more than 6,439, according to MU Institutional Research data.
MU offices relocate during Jesse Hall's summer renovations

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 | 6:27 p.m. CDT; updated 7:05 p.m. CDT, Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Terrence Grus, director of graduate admissions and records at the MU's graduate school, moves personal items into boxes March 26. Grus said this will be the first time Jesse Hall has been empty in over a hundred years.  

COLUMBIA — **MU's graduate school office moved to McReynolds Hall on Monday, the latest of several offices to vacate Jesse Hall in preparation for this summer's building renovations.**

The office reopened Tuesday on the second floor of the McReynolds west wing, which is on Elm Street west of Peace Park.

The move will cause a slight lapse in processing graduate admissions, but those computer operations will be the first to go back online, said Leona Rubin, associate vice chancellor for graduate studies.

Restructuring the office under new Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin has complicated the move, Rubin said.

"It's been stressful for people, but they're managing," she said. "Some people feel a bit uprooted."

Last year, about 600 faculty and staff members with offices in Jesse Hall were told they would be temporarily relocated during construction, which is expected to begin in July and end during late spring or summer 2015. All offices will be vacant during the project.
The faculty and staff are moving to 10 locations on and off campus: Mizzou North, formerly Ellis Fischel Cancer Center on Business Loop 70 West; Reynolds Alumni Center; Ellis Library; McReynolds Hall; the General Services Center; Gannett Hall; the Heinkel Building; Rock Quarry Center; the Hillel Building; and the Missouri Theatre.

A few offices — the Office of Research, the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration, Business Services and Accounting Services — have already moved to Mizzou North.

Other offices that regularly deal with students will stay on campus in central locations. Admissions, financial aid and some of the registrar’s, cashier’s and accounting staff will be relocated in June to Ellis Library’s west reading rooms, accessible from the library’s north entrance on Lowry Mall.

Jesse Auditorium will also be closed during the construction. Concerts and other events will be moved to Missouri Theatre until the building reopens.

The chancellor’s and deputy chancellor’s offices, University Affairs and Visitor Relations will move in June across Conley Avenue to the Reynolds Alumni Center. The provost’s and deputy provost’s offices, as well as various administrative personnel, will move during the next two months to the General Services Building off Stadium Boulevard.

All of the offices are expected to be vacant by the end of June.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said there is no strict schedule for the moves because each office has its own challenges. No work will begin in Jesse Hall until the building is empty, he said.

The cost of repairing Jesse Hall is estimated at $9.85 million. A sprinkler system, a new fire alarm system and a second elevator will be installed at MU’s main administrative building. The heating and cooling system will also be upgraded, according to the MU News Bureau.

The project is part of the Renew Mizzou project that also includes construction on Pickard and Swallow halls. Staff from Pickard Hall and MU’s Museum of Art and Archaeology, which was also housed in the building, have already moved to Mizzou North. Swallow Hall staff and the Museum of Anthropology will join them in May.
When the plans for Renew Mizzou were announced in May, university officials were unsure where KBIA's newsroom would be relocated during the construction, according to previous Missourian reporting. The newsroom will be moved to Gannett Hall and other programming staff will be in McReynolds Hall, KBIA News Director Janet Saidi said.

Faculty and staff in the offices are expected to move back in by June 2015.

*Daniel Roe contributed to this article.*

**Jesse Hall renovations: What moves where and when?**

- **March**
  - Office of Sponsored Programs Administration moved to Mizzou North
  - Graduate School moved to Mizzou North

- **April**
  - KBIA moves to McReynolds Hall and Gannett Hall
  - Constituent Relations moves to Hillel Building

- **May**
  - Provost moves to General Services Building
  - University Events moves to Hillel Building
  - Accounting Services moved to Mizzou North
  - Concert Series Staff moves to Missouri Theater and McReynolds Hall

- **June**
  - University Affairs moves to Reynolds Alumni Center
  - International Programs moves to Mizzou North
  - Vice Provost for Enrollment Management moves to Ellis Library
  - Admissions moves to Ellis Library
  - Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies moves to General Services Building
  - Visitor Relations moves to Reynolds Alumni Center
  - Registrar moves to Ellis Library and Heinkel Building
  - Deputy Chancellor moves to Reynolds Alumni Center
  - Registrar moves to Ellis Library
  - Vice Chancellor for Finance moves to General Services Building
  - Student Information Systems moves to Heinkel Building
  - Student Financial Aid moves to Ellis Library
  - Cashiers (certain functions) moves to Ellis Library

Source: MU NEWS BUREAU

*Graphic by Amy Nemeth/Missourian*
The University of Missouri and Boone Hospital Center are making investments toward online technology geared to improve provider/patient communication in the office and out.

Online training to improve communication during appointments

From the first moment of, “How many alcoholic drinks do you consume a day?” some of us may be on edge and reluctant to talk to our doctors. We might be afraid of being judged, or we don’t even want to discuss the negative behavior with this highly educated person in a lab coat. Here’s the thing: Our doctor knows misuse of alcohol and drugs can affect our health; they just aren’t sure how to help us open up and talk about it.

MU ADEPT, Alcohol and Drug Education for Prevention and Treatment, is working to clear up the judging lab coat stigma and turn medical visits into teachable moments. Using SBIRT, a nationally recognized, evidence-based approach, the program works to put patients at ease and make them more receptive to the idea of adopting healthier behaviors.

The training is required for MU medical students, residents in several specialties, School of Nursing and social work students. The online training component is also available to the public at no charge. SBIRT training starts online with a pretraining survey and then moves into a series of videos and learning modules followed by online quizzes. At the end of the online training, students participate in clinical practice followed by a competency evaluation to ensure their newfound skills are ready for use to fight negative health behaviors and the lab coat stigma.

Boone Hospital also uses online training to keep its professionals on point. Its website, bjclearn.org, is a center for lifelong learning providing personal and professional learning opportunities for staff.

Continued communication and education between appointments

The concept of staying connected online isn’t a new one. We’ve all used email for years, and social media keeps us even more connected than we need at times. As we turn more to the Internet for communication, it may seem odd that the only times you communicate with your doctor are during face-to-face five-minute sessions, sometimes scheduled months apart. When the doctor asks, “Do you have any questions or concerns?” patients can feel like a deer in the headlights and forget all the things on the must-ask list or successes to share about progress toward the goals outlined at the last appointment.
Boone Hospital Center provides patients with a website enrollment option. The site allows patients to access and review their information such as lab and radiology results. The website also provides secure email correspondence with the patients’ health care providers as well as helpful information about testing, health topics and other related news.

The Tiger Institute for Health Innovation was founded in 2009 as a partnership between MU and Cerner Corp. The institute initiates projects pairing health professionals with developers to marry advanced programming techniques and Web interfaces with a goal of improved patient care.

One such project, Gateway to Health, is geared toward educating patients about unhealthy behaviors they seek to overcome such as quitting smoking or lowering alcohol consumption. These patients are taken through a step-by-step process online starting with educational resources, moving toward setting goals and then recording progress toward those goals.

The doctor is automatically notified each step of the way through a widget on his or her patient chart summary starting first with a suggestion to enroll a patient based on health history. As the patient completes the educational and goal-setting components of the online program, the doctor is kept informed via the chart summary application. This keeps everyone in the loop and ready to discuss potential challenges and celebrate successes at the next appointment.

Some legislators choose not to accept lobbyist gifts

April 01, 2014 12:00 am

State Rep. John Wright's commentary, "Our million-dollar Legislature" (March 23), rightly draws attention to Missouri’s nonexistent regulation of campaign finance and lobbyist gifts. Unfortunately, the commentary erroneously painted the entire Missouri General Assembly with blanket accusations.

"Your elected representatives are letting you down, and it’s time that we do something about it."

"Your elected representatives accepted more than ..." $xx,xxx in professional sports and
concert tickets, golf outings and high-priced dinners.

I couldn't agree more that the amount of money in politics is obscene and that a comprehensive ethics law that limits lobbyist gifts and campaign contributions is long overdue.

Last year, Professor John Messmer began a pledge asking state legislators to forgo gifts from those holding a vested interest in the performance of our duties. That's fair enough and is certainly a noble cause. I haven't signed his pledge or a pledge for any other cause, even if I'm in agreement, except for taking the oath of office.

"I do solemnly swear, or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri, and faithfully perform the duties of my office, and that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the performance or nonperformance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law." Do the words "other than the compensation allowed by law" create a loophole since Missouri lacks law regarding lobbyist gifts and campaign finance limits? I don't know. That's for legal scholars to decide.

What I do know and the people of Missouri should know is that there are state legislators who choose not to accept lobbyist gifts and who attend lobbyist-sponsored dinners on their own dime.

State Rep. Jeanne Kirkton • D-Webster Groves

College athletes take labor cause to Capitol Hill

NO MU MENTION

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of a group seeking to unionize college athletes are looking for allies on Capitol Hill as they brace for an appeal of a ruling that said full scholarship athletes at Northwestern University have the right to form a union.
Former Northwestern quarterback Kain Colter and Ramogi Huma, the president of the National College Players Association, are to meet with lawmakers Wednesday. The meetings are expected to give athletes a chance to spell out one of their chief concerns, which is providing for the medical needs of athletes.

Last week's ruling by a National Labor Relations Board official in Chicago said Northwestern football players on full scholarships are employees of the university and have the right to form a union and bargain collectively. The university says it will appeal.

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“It occurred to me early on that we were going to need an increase in funds to do what we needed to offer students a much better education,” he said. “We have the same needs in the (College of Arts and Science) that all the other colleges have.”

O’Brien proposed the idea of a fee to Faculty Council during the Fall 2013 semester with the help of Sudarshan Loyalka, Fiscal Affairs Committee chairman. Shortly after, Faculty Council passed a resolution to approve the fee Oct. 17.

The university originally did not charge a fee for the college because Arts and Science teaches 60 percent of all undergraduate credit hours, O’Brien said.

The college had to consider the potential repercussions of having almost the entire MU student body pay an additional fee on top of the tuition. This especially applied to lower-division Arts and Science classes taken to fulfill general education requirements, said Rhonda Gibler, vice chancellor for finance and chief financial officer.

But O’Brien decided the fee was necessary to provide resources for the students in the college.

So with the help of Gibler, Loyalka and interim Provost Ken Dean, he made a successful case to the university for the benefits of the fee.

“No one takes lightly charging students additional fees because we know the cost of education is expensive,” Gibler said. “But our first priority is to make sure that students get the quality of education that they come to Mizzou to get. We make very difficult choices about how we’re going to spend our money every day, but when we see potential issues with continuing quality, that’s when we start to think about a fee.”

Loyalka said during the 2012-13 school year, the total for supplemental fees for the 10 colleges that had them was roughly $22 million.

Starting in summer 2014, the schools of Public Affairs and Health Management and Informatics will also charge a supplemental fee. The schools of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Law do not charge supplemental fees, Loyalka said. Professional schools can control tuition independently from the university as a whole.
MU students spend spring break serving others

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm

When Cara Hartwig and Nick Ehrhard were planning where they wanted to go for their alternative spring break trip, they had two criteria: somewhere warm and somewhere they could work with Habitat for Humanity.

The two are site leaders for Mizzou Alternative Breaks, which organizes service trips for students. Site leaders get to choose where they want to go. Hartwig and Ehrhard ultimately chose to go to Taos, N.M.

"I went to Alabama as a freshman," said Hartwig, now a sophomore. "It was such an awesome experience. I applied because I wanted to do more with my spring break than go on vacation, and I absolutely loved it. We worked with Habitat then, too."

A few months after getting back from last year's trip, Hartwig started planning for her 2014 venture as a site leader.

The Mizzou Alternative Breaks program started at the University of Missouri in 2002. It has expanded from seven trips the first year to almost 40 last year, according to the group's website. The trips take place during spring break, Thanksgiving break and winter break.

The guiding principles for the organization include unplugging from technology, appreciating every moment and communicating love.

"Mizzou Alternative Break trips are service trips," one of the principles reads. "There is a subtle, but crucial difference between helping someone and serving someone. We don't go on these trips to help poor, sick and helpless people. We go to humbly serve them."

After students attend a trip, they have the chance to apply to be a site leader and choose the people who will join them on their next service adventure.

Hartwig said her experience with Habitat for Humanity in Taos was "unique." Much like other trips with Habitat for Humanity, the group of 12 MU students in Taos helped build a home for a
local woman. The house, however, was a traditional adobe home, as are most in the area, made from natural materials.

"Everything about it was special," Hartwig said. "Each of us was fully invested in the trip."

The group raised $8,000 — $3,000 more than its goal for lodging, food and travel. The surplus was donated to the Habitat group in Taos.

Michaela Cohen, a participant on the Taos trip, said one of the best parts of the experience was learning about the "sweat equity" that goes into Habitat homes. Habitat requires people to commit at least 500 hours of their own time to building their homes. A portion of those hours can be donated by friends and family.

"Like they say, 'It's not a handout; it's a hand up,' " Cohen said. "They have such a great sense of community."

Elise Balzraine was a site leader for Habitat for Humanity in northwest Alabama. Balzraine said her group worked on building a new, energy-efficient office building for Habitat for Humanity in Guin, Ala. She said it was an easy effort to support because Habitat would be able to branch out and support more people with the help of its new space.

"I'm a senior, so I could've gone on the usual last spring break trip to Florida or wherever," Balzraine said. "I wouldn't change what I actually did."

The stories of all of the student groups are cataloged at asb.missouri.edu.

Public Enemy rapper Chuck D visits MU, discusses rap, education
Wednesday, April 2, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY REBECCA MCGEE

COLUMBIA — "D, the enemy tellin' you to hear it/ they praised the music, this time they play the lyrics." These words and those of other Public Enemy hits blared through the speakers in the Missouri Theatre as people wandered in and settled in their seats.
The music faded away before the rapper who helped create it took the stage, but Public Enemy rapper Chuck D's music and the genres of hip-hop and rap stayed constant in his talk, "Race, Rap and Reality," on Tuesday night.

"For the longest period of time, hip-hop has been my religion," Chuck D said.

The lecture, a part of MU's Black History Month programming in February that was postponed because of inclement weather, hit on a wide range of topics including the importance of intelligence, self-definition and selfies.

In his "conversation," as he called it, Chuck D explained the histories and the relationships between rap, hip-hop and DJ culture. Rap and hip-hop, originally a rebellion to what was currently on the radio, have yet to be defined by America's curriculum of culture and music, he said. But he encouraged his listeners to define the things that they love, like he has been a part of defining rap and hip-hop.

Although the two may not be defined, both rap and hip-hop are high art and should be treated as such, Chuck D said. Treating them as low art would be like "sagging at a wedding."

"The music doesn't mean that we don't salute intellectualism," Chuck D said. "Rap and hip-hop can be considered high art."

He congratulated all of the college students in the crowd and emphasized the importance of education.

"Coming to a college in a fine building like this, in a fine campus like this, where students have been coming for a hundred years, I salute y'all if you're a collegiate here," Chuck D said.

Chuck D graduated from Adelphi University in 1984. A few years ago, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the university.

"Don't keep intelligence to yourself," Chuck D said. "It's to be spread around."

But he also warned his audience to not be consumed by technology and to be "smarter than your smartphone." It's important to keep engaged with the rest of the world, he said.
"Pay attention. It's the cheapest price you'll pay," Chuck D said.

Innovating for the Animal Kingdom

April 01, 2014  BY Jim Camoriano

The University of Missouri is known for many things. When it comes to fields of study, conversation more often than not revolves around the journalism school. In sports, it’s the SEC. In the music and entertainment world: Sheryl Crow, Brad Pitt or Chris Cooper. And in the business sector, it’s Sam Walton.

What you might not realize is the impact MU has had on the animal kingdom, well beyond its mascot, Truman the Tiger. Inventions keep springing up from the halls and labs of the College of Veterinary Medicine, where a few instructors with the entrepreneurial bug have taken their research to a whole new level.

Researchers at MU are responsible for many animal health products on the market today. Some of these include the use of a computer tablet and sensors to detect where a horse may be hurting, the prevention of pink eye in cattle, acceleration of an animal’s immune system and a oral cleansing gel for dogs.

Honing the big idea

Going from a big idea to a business is no small task. It takes an enormous amount of networking, persistence and funding. The good news for entrepreneurs in mid-Missouri is a culture dedicated to making those dreams reality. The Missouri Innovation Center plays a big role in this effort. Under its auspices, the Life Sciences Business Incubator opened five years ago to help companies develop viable ideas. The incubator rents lab space near the university’s football facilities and MU’s nuclear reactor.

Jake Halliday, CEO of the Innovation Center, said the 20-plus companies at the Incubator are thriving in a market conducive for entrepreneurship. “In Columbia, we have all the elements of the infrastructure you need to launch high-tech ventures,” he said. “We have physical lab space
and legal, regulatory, and grant-writing support. It’s not Boston, but it’s a nice-sized community that has everything you need to get going.”

One of the companies operating out of the Incubator is Equinosis, makers of the Lameness Locator, an increasingly popular system among veterinarians across the country. Its founder is Dr. Kevin Keegan, a professor of equine surgery at MU’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

The system identifies lameness in a horse via electronic monitors placed at several points on the animal. The monitors transmit data wirelessly to a computer, which can detect any irregular or uneven body movement. What makes it unique is that it measures the energy of the vertical motion of the horse’s torso rather than observing the gait with the naked eye, which has been the traditional method for determining lameness.

A U.S. patent for the system contains the names of three men with connections to MU. Besides Keegan, the other creators are Dr. P. Frank Pai and Dr. Yoshiharu Yonezawa. Pai is a professor in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department at MU, and Yonezawa had worked at the university in years prior.

Keegan says their creation, which is now being used in about 140 locations across the United States, was more of an evolution than a single concoction in a lab.

In the 1990s, Keegan put horses on treadmills and used high-speed cameras to complement the subjective evaluation of lameness. He teamed up with Pai to develop a way to measure a horse’s movement. Then came the chance meeting that would change everything.

A colleague encouraged him to attend a conference in Colorado put on by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. “It was strange that a veterinarian would go to a conference full of engineers,” he says. While there, Yonezawa, a Japanese engineer from the Hiroshima Institute of Technology, approached him.

“He noticed I was from Columbia, which is where he had come many years ago to do a post-doctorate,” Keegan says. Keegan shared his work and the science behind it. Yonezawa was all in.

“I supplied the horses and the idea, Dr. Pai pioneered the algorithms, and Dr. Yonezawa made the sensors,” Keegan says.

Their ideas would need significant financial backing for them to progress from their lab to nationwide vet clinics. A local angel investment group, Centennial Investors, provided early money, which was then used to apply for more funding. They received an initial grant from the National Science Foundation’s Small Business Technology Transfer Program. “From there we sold prototypes, got matching funds and then sold more prototypes,” Keegan says. “It has been a good process, and we have generated more revenue than funding, so we’re in the black.”
Financial partners and translational research

Investing money in a startup is not as easy as meeting up, pitching an idea and walking away with a big check. “If it’s an idea we really want to pursue, we’ll start peeling back layers of the onion, looking at their financials, intellectual property, competition and claims,” says Bruce Walker, president of Centennial Investors, a local angel investing group that provides funding for early-stage enterprises. “If it passes our tests, then members who are interested will ante up, typically $7,500 to $10,000 each.” Walker says the range of their startup funding is from $150,000 to just more than half a million dollars.

Centennial Investors has early funding to several successful startups, but every once in a while, companies decide to expand to other areas, such as Immunophotonics (cancer therapies).

“Companies may have another medical partner in a different city,” Walker says, offering a reason for local departures. “They sometimes feel the need to move where the venture capital is.” After startups get some measure of funding, programs will begin holding competitions for grant money. Nonprofit Arch Grants of St. Louis has already provided almost $2 million to 35 programs, including a $50,000 check to Immunophotonics. Although their funding is fairly small, Arch Grants touts its relatively easy application process as an attractive draw for entrepreneurs; it does not take equity from firms and only requires startups to have a presence in St. Louis.

Walker, who also served as dean of MU’s Business School for 20 years, says he’s seeing much more local support for commercializing inventions. “There’s a real culture of entrepreneurial support in Columbia.”

Keegan agrees, though he says the environment in Columbia was challenging at first. For example, the first NSF grant required the primary investigator for a startup to be employed by the business concern. “I couldn’t leave my university job, so it was rough at first.” But the university, he says, was gracious enough to allow him to take a sabbatical so he could focus on the project. “The administration has been very open.”

Carolyn Henry, a veterinary oncologist at MU, says she sees a positive level of collaboration on the MU campus. “We now have curriculum related to entrepreneurship and a culture that encourages multidisciplinary, translational research and development,” she says. Translational refers to treatments for animals that hold promise for crossing over and benefiting humans. An example is Henry’s own study of drug development for anticancer therapies. She has worked with a radiopharmaceutical compound originally developed in Columbia that was used on dogs with bone cancer. Dow Chemical eventually developed it as a therapy for human cancer patients under the name Quadrant.

In addition, MU’s College of Veterinary Medicine was one of the institutions that carried out the pivotal trial for approval of the drug Palladia, the first ever FDA-approved anticancer therapy for dogs.
More evidence of the collaboration of translational research and development in Columbia is the fact that Henry helps direct research at Columbia’s Ellis Fischel Cancer Center.

**Spirit of entrepreneurship**

Although most undergraduates look to start their own private practice, a spirit of entrepreneurship is also rising within the student ranks. Henry says they have recognized the need to provide students with exposure to alternative career options.

The college’s small animal clinic has an oncology clinical trials service separate from its typical trials service. “Students learn what is truly involved in conducting clinical research to the level of quality that will result in products making it through the approval process and to the health care market,” Henry says. “The typical barriers to innovation and entrepreneurship are simply being pushed aside by the energy on this campus.”

The serious focus on merging the talent of academia with business can also be seen in the number of area partnerships. You can count on one hand the number of universities in America that house a school of medicine, veterinary medicine, engineering, agriculture and law all on the same campus. When colleagues at these schools interact, innovations result. By the time you add the support of local Regional Economic Development Inc., the Columbia Chamber, angel investors and the Life Sciences Incubator, you have acquired significant momentum.

It also helps that mid-Missouri has the prestigious Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, the stretch between Columbia and Kansas City housing firms specializing in animal health nutrition, innovation and production. The KC animal health and nutrition industry accounts for nearly one-third of the total sales in the global animal health market.

The animal health corridor was a great bonus for Bruce Addison, founder of Addison Biological Laboratory. The longtime Missouri resident wanted to remain in the state, and he got his wish; most of his clients are within a few hundred miles of his operation in Fayette. In addition, they export products to more than 25 countries around the world.

Addison counts himself blessed to have the College of Veterinary Medicine within a small commute from his operations. “When I’m on a research project, I can pay bright and talented people right there [at the college], instead of having to hire somebody outside, bring them in, only to see them leave,” he says. “You can solve a lot of problems and make a lot of breakthroughs here in mid-Missouri with the talent we have.”

The company is perhaps best known for its licensed vaccine for bovine pink eye, a product Addison himself invented that stems from his research in graduate school.

Addison Labs is one of the older vet technology companies in the area. It has learned what it takes to survive the economic upswings and downturns for the past three decades. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce selected it for the prestigious Regional Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative Award, and last year the Missouri Chamber selected Addison’s company as a Fast Track Award.
winner, which recognizes the fastest-growing companies in Missouri over the past three years. “Sometimes you get lucky,” Addison says.

It’s luck, perhaps, and a lot of investment. Aside from financial help from private investors, Addison kept his nose to the grindstone to get his company up and running. “I spent the first seven years working 90 hours a week,” he says. “A lot of people will tell you that you can’t do it, but if you listen to them, you might as well work for someone else.”

Another very successful product for Addison is the Maxi/Guard Oral Cleansing Gel for dogs and cats. Many dogs by the age of 3 have developed significant gingivitis. Addison says the overwhelming majority of owners just don’t think to brush their dogs’ teeth on a regular basis, which can shorten the lifespan of their pets.

The oral care product had its roots at the University School of Medicine, where Addison was working as a microbiologist and part of a research team. While they were working on a mouthwash for people, Addison began thinking toward an animal solution. “I figured a spray wouldn’t be effective for dogs because it would get in their face,” he says. So they developed a gel. Its success has been incredible. One story is of toy dog bred in Dallas that, after going on a daily application of the product, went beyond a year without needing its teeth cleaned.

The application is relatively simple: Put a drop on your finger, and apply it on each side of the dog’s mouth. “When dogs usually undergo traditional oral treatments, they don’t sit in a chair and listen to you talk,” he says. “They have to be put under general anesthesia, which scares a lot of pet owners. With this product, you don’t have to worry about that.”

Nose to the grindstone

One thing aspiring entrepreneurs need to be aware of, Addison says, is the cost associated with going to market. He reiterated the need for angel investing by groups such as Centennial Investors to get projects off the ground.

“It took four years and $2 million to license our original pink eye vaccine,” he says. “Federal regulations and pricing continue to increase, and what used to take six months to realize now takes five years.”

That hasn’t stopped Addison’s group from plowing ahead though. More products seem to be on the way. They recently returned from a Las Vegas conference and had sales meetings with representatives from Japan, Britain and Brazil.

Keegan also has advice for those getting into startups. One must balance the promise and pitfalls and be diligent. “You have to have a strong family because it’s very difficult,” he says. “You have to surround yourself with people who are facilitators and get rid of people who are obstructionists.”
Dropping the Ball on Disabilities

April 2, 2014

By Allie Grasgreen

NO MU MENTION

INDIANAPOLIS -- New college students with disabilities are often insecure. Navigating a complicated bureaucracy for the first time with far less institutional support than they had in high school, these students often must overcome stigma and ignorance surrounding their disabilities and advocate for themselves, which they're often not used to doing. The alternative: risk not getting the tools they need to succeed academically.

That's difficult enough. But some people make it harder.

"I literally had a professor say, 'Well, I've never had a student of that kind before, so I don't know what to do,' " one college employee said here Tuesday at the American College Personnel Association's annual conference. "But the student was standing right there ready to take their test. It felt so violating."

At a session here exploring what students with physical and psychological disabilities have to say about their collegiate experiences, it was clear that professors have a lot of learning to do.

"I have faculty who are more dismissive of something like bipolar disorder than they would be of something like cerebral palsy," one attendee said. Because the affliction is psychological rather than physical, she said, "they don't see it as being as challenging."

But the student affairs and services staff in the room blamed themselves, in part. One person admitted it's "embarrassing" that his small private college does not offer any disabilities service training to workers in the campus writing center.

The situation is so bad on some campuses that one student said it feels like "a luxury" when professors and staff actually work with them. Other times, students will simply go without the necessary accommodation, whether it's extra time on an exam or keeping a therapy dog in the dorm.
"Learning should be a right, not a luxury," said Jackie Koerner, the Saint Louis University graduate assistant who presented a literature review and some of her own dissertation research at the session. "Many faculty members say they would love to present these options to students, they just don't know what's appropriate."

The siloed, dispersed nature of higher education institutions means getting students with disabilities the accommodations they need can be complicated. So rather than a professor approaching the disabilities services office every time he or she needs, say, a textbook converted to digital, campus staff should work to make sure everything is accessible to everyone. (It's called universal instructional design.)

That way, there will be no more requiring disabled students to move to the front of the classroom when a lecture starts, or asking in front of everyone whether they need email versions of today's lecture (to use two more examples from Tuesday). Just always use a microphone and make sure (as Koerner does) that all the text is on Blackboard already.

It'd be a good way to help those with disabilities, of course, but also might not be a bad idea from the institutional liability perspective. In a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department last year, Louisiana Tech University agreed to stop using and purchasing learning materials that limit access for students with visual disabilities. Experts said the conclusion of the lawsuit, which alleged that the university violated the Americans with Disabilities Act, signaled a broader shift in the extent to which colleges are expected to address accessibility. (The ADA doesn't require that students with disabilities receive accommodations, just that they have equitable access.)

Students with disabilities report having a rough first year academically as they transition to a new learning environment, Koerner said, but also have trouble making social connections with professors, staff members and peers. They worry that others won't -- or don't, as the above examples demonstrate -- accept their needs as a learner, and often they end up moving closer to home or to another, perhaps two-year, institution.

Two-thirds of college students don't receive accommodations simply because their colleges don't know about their disabilities, according to studies Koerner cited.

Many ACPA attendees were surprised to learn that the law does not require medical documentation of a student's disability in order for the college to provide an accommodation, and speculated that the misconception might contribute to students' unwillingness to disclose.

"You don't just take someone's word for it -- the documentation is the interview process for classroom accommodations," one person said. But if the need for accommodation isn't clear through the interview alone, the college may request documentation.

Joint initiatives between offices and departments could help disseminate information more efficiently and effectively, Koerner said. She also suggested creating "safe zones" where students can go to relax and talk to a counselor if they feel overwhelmed. The concept has been popular for gay and lesbian students and those with autism.

"If we just provide the information, they will come," Koerner said -- and in turn, lighten the load
for the practitioners. "The disability services offices on our campuses are so overwhelmed with accommodation requests, and they are small offices. They cannot possibly support the needs of training the entire campus."

Lecture to examine cultures and stars

**Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm**

This month's "Cosmic Conversations" presentation called "Connecting the Dots" focuses on how different cultures view the sky.

**Nick Parmley, a graduate student at the University of Missouri, will present his lecture at 7 p.m. tomorrow in Room 120 of the Physics Building, 701 S. College Ave.** Parmley will discuss how various cultures incorporate constellations into their beliefs and philosophies, according to a news release.

This event is free. The observatory will be open, weather permitting.