Hank Foley wants to give the University of Missouri System’s research efforts a face lift.

Shortly after Foley joined the UM System as vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development in August, he began putting together a five-point strategic plan to bolster research. In March, Foley was given a role on the MU campus: Senior vice chancellor for research and graduate studies.

His plan has a strong focus on MU’s status in the Association of American Universities. The association, dubbed the AAU, is a prestigious organization that includes only 34 public universities. Part of MU’s strategic plan is to improve its AAU ranking from No. 32 to No. 28 by 2018.

Universities are ranked on four metrics — federal research funding, National Academy of Science members, faculty awards for quality work and faculty citation in high-impact journals. MU’s ranking determines how much money the campus gets from the UM System.

Another factor in the development of Foley’s plan was listening to federal agencies that fund research.

“Traditional measures of research — aptitude, excellence, performance — are still there, but they are also modified with new measures that seek to provide some return on investment for the federal government so that they can turn around to taxpayers and legislators and say, ‘Look, supporting this really does work,’ ” Foley said.

Federal research expenditures are the primary measure the AAU considers when deciding a school’s ranking, making it the basis for Foley’s plan. Although a lot of the pressure to improve
the AAU ranking falls on the MU campus, all of the campuses can help boost the ranking and reap the reward of an increased AAU status, Foley said.

Foley’s first two strategies are based on the idea of using existing resources. With four campuses, Extension offices and other operations that cover the state’s urban and rural areas, Foley argues for increased collaboration.

“It seems logical to promote collaboration, but there has been competition in the past,” he said of campuses. “Competition was fine when there was a lot of money around to do these things.”

Foley said he hopes to use each campus’ strengths in various fields to “help drive the university up as a whole.” Foley said he is meeting with vice chancellors and vice provosts for research at each campus to create a common agenda and to talk through issues that have caused rifts in the past. They also are discussing how to promote the existing interdisciplinary, intercampus research program to start fostering these collaborative efforts.

The second strategy focuses on fostering entrepreneurship.

“It’s much more than understanding science now,” Foley said. “It is understanding the context, and that context is changing. Entrepreneurship, innovation and invention are considered more important today than they were before. The translation of research from the lab to the marketplace is much more crucial.”

Foley said he has some seed money specifically for entrepreneurship. He hopes to create a program so students can add entrepreneurship courses on the university’s dime.

The campuses graduate thousands of students every year. If some choose to stay in town to be entrepreneurs, then after five years, Foley said, there could be “an entrepreneurial ecosystem” where people are advancing their ideas. The hope is that there would be a program for those graduates, too.

Foley has started bringing his presentation to community groups as well, including Regional Economic Development Inc. Mike Brooks, REDI president, said because the goal of REDI is to facilitate job growth, there is “no part of Hank’s plan that we can’t get on board with.”

Foley’s third strategy is to overhaul the university’s policy on intellectual property.

In the next few weeks, Foley said, deans and faculty will receive information on the university’s new approach, which gives faculty members the ability to decide whether they want the university to own their intellectual property or the company or group with which they conducted their research.
This change didn’t require a Board of Curators vote, though Foley has presented this information to curators, or even a stamp of approval from campus administrators. There never was a policy mandating the university maintain intellectual property rights; it was just the accepted practice. So, much like he did in his previous job at Penn State University, Foley changed the policy. The benefit of the change is broadening the university’s relationship with businesses.

“If we can assure corporate sponsors that they will have a crack at the IP, then we’re really in a much better place,” he said. “That’s important because we can produce better students with better pipelines to the industry and better practitioners who know more about what’s going on in their field.”

Foley said if universities had not automatically retained intellectual property rights as common practice in the past, universities could have three to four times the amount of corporate-funded research than they currently do. This isn’t a University of Missouri problem, he said, but a higher education problem.

“As federal support for research becomes stagnant or decreases over time, this becomes a good way to help our faculty stay active through research,” he said. “But there is good corporately funded research and very, very bad corporately funded research. We don’t want to hamper our independence or show bad positions of advocacy. People have to become more sophisticated, and that’s on us to give them the information they need. That hasn’t been done at many universities, but we will have to do that here.”

Foley’s fourth strategy addresses the existing research culture at the university, and he’s urging officials to recognize and reward people for taking their research to the marketplace.

“We should recognize those who are interested in cultivating products, commercializing or creating a business,” he said. “Now, I’m not saying I want all of our faculty to go out and become CEOs. That is not the way to do it. But, I’m very happy to see them be the founders of companies, to remain engaged in companies or be shareholders. The same applies to graduate students, post-doctoral students and even undergraduates.”

Foley said this could help increase federal funding for research, thus boosting MU’s AAU ranking.

To make this possible, Foley said the university needs to offer tools and resources to show faculty and students how to move forward with research, regardless of their field of study. His plans on what type of education would be best suited for the campuses is in the works.

The final strategy is simply encouraging the borrowing of good ideas from other universities.

Foley said he has adopted some of his ideas for this five-point plan from other universities, including the IP-related strategy, which is an adoption of developments from European
universities, particularly in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. Even the idea about collaborating with other campuses is adopted.

“We need to be open to partnering more than we have in the past, and savvy schools are already doing this,” he said.

John Fougere, chief communications officer for the UM System, said the top leadership is pleased with the plan. “We’re excited about Vice President Foley’s innovative five-part plan, which is a completely new strategy for the university that ties together raising research expenditures and boosting economic development in Missouri while also empowering faculty and students to be deeply involved in helping keep the University of Missouri among the nation’s finest universities in the AAU,” he said in an emailed statement.

Many faculty and community members who have heard Foley’s talk about his plan have reacted positively. The most-discussed subject, which also is the most complicated, is intellectual property rights because that relates directly to faculty work.

Randy Curry, the Logan Distinguished Professor of electrical and computer engineering, was one of about 150 MU faculty members who attended a forum earlier this week to hear about Foley’s plan.

Curry said giving faculty members the choice about their patents is a positive change.

“If the patent process becomes more transparent, I think that’s a very good thing for the university,” he said. “I’ve been citing universities to review them for my daughter to attend college, and I’ve noticed that universities that have a transparent and streamlined patent process that lets them work with businesses are growing at an astronomical rate.”

Curry does have some concern about the process Foley used to come up with his plan.

“It’s positive to see the changes that Foley is making, but I would like to see more faculty input. Especially from top researchers,” Curry said.

Tom Payne, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, also was at this week’s forum.

He said he thinks Foley’s plan “will carry the campus and our research portfolio to a new level” and sees the changes as positive.

Payne called the intellectual property rights policy “very progressive” and said it will help carry faculty projects further.
Foley said it’s “crucial” to get moving on his plan, and he hopes to see “real progress” within the next two years. “We owe it to the state and the region to be trying as hard as we can to help create an economy where more people can be more successful,” he said.

This article was published in the Saturday, April 26, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "Research Renaissance."

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Posted in Saturday Business on Saturday, April 26, 2014 2:00 am.

UM System panel studying changes to benefits

Increasing cost drives process.

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 2:00 am Comments (7)

Slowly but surely, change is on the way for the University of Missouri's benefit-eligible employees and new retirees.

A group of faculty, staff and others served on a task force for eight months creating broad recommendations that would address existing issues in the university's total rewards package. The UM curators approved the recommendations during their April meeting, giving the green light for another human resources committee to start gathering input and begin figuring out what changes need to be made.

Betsy Rodriguez, UM System vice president for human resources, presented the eight recommendations to Staff Advisory Council and Faculty Council this week.
"This is not a, 'Here is how we're changing, how do you like it?' kind of thing," Rodriguez said to Staff Advisory Council. "These are directional recommendations and us asking for your input."

Campus discussions, such as the ones Rodriguez held this week, will continue through May, after which the Retirement and Staff Benefits Committee — which includes faculty and staff from multiple campuses, as well as retiree representation — will begin work on the recommendations. Rodriguez assured MU's faculty and staff governing bodies that the committee will keep them up to date and seek their input. Two recommendations eventually will affect new retirees. Rodriguez said she anticipates the retiree-related recommendations will be among the last policies to roll out. Anything that affects retirees requires approval from the curators.

One recommendation suggests simplifying the retirement plan for future employees. This could include giving employees the option to opt out of the university's pension plan for other retirement opportunities. The second retiree-related proposal addresses medical benefits. Rodriguez said the task force found that "what's out in the marketplace is really good."

"We would be spending a lot less money at the university and put that toward other things that could be more valuable," she said about retirees finding their medical benefits elsewhere.

She anticipates this recommendation leading to the university no longer carrying retiree medical plans. Rodriguez said she understands this could be an area of stress for employees thinking about retirement.

"They might think, 'Oh, you're taking something away from me when I don't have anything better to replace it with,' " she said after the curators meeting. "We think there is something better, but we need some time to communicate that."

The task force also proposed a cap on the cost of benefits, which cost the university about 30 percent of each eligible employee's salary. Rodriguez said the cost for the same benefits have increased $80 million during the past 10 years, and that has worked to keep down employee pay. Details will be determined by the benefits committee, as well as how the cost the university saves from creating a cap will affect what employees pay for their insurance.

Evaluating paid time off plans for staff and using medical plans to incentivize healthy behaviors were among the other recommendations. The eighth and final proposal addressed the need for the university to effectively communicate any changes and existing options to its employees.

Many of the questions from Faculty Council members were about details that have yet to be determined. Staff Advisory Council was more concerned about the lack of involvement they have had so far.

Chairwoman Becky Stafford said she has received several emails from staff members asking questions about the recommendations, and she hasn't been able to address those questions.
"Staff feel blindsided and think" Staff Advisory Council "should have warned them it was coming down the pike," she said at the beginning of the meeting. "My response was that it was difficult to warn them because we hadn't heard it ourselves."

Rodriguez said the hope is to develop and implement the recommendations within the next three years. She said she plans to bring a timeline to the curators during their June or July meeting so they know what to expect.

This article was published in the Saturday, April 26, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "UM System panel studying benefits shift: Increasing cost drives process."

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Educational Rundown: Tests, Technology And Tuscaloosa

BY SUSAN HEGGER

By the numbers

NO MU MENTION

After Missouri lawmakers passed a tax-cut bill, Gov. Jay Nixon wasted no time branding it a measure that would hurt the state, particularly students from public schools to college campuses. Calling the bill an "all-out attack on public education," Nixon asked: "Why should we give lawyers and lobbyists tax cuts and raise tuitions on kids going to college?"

Then the governor's office sent out a chart that showed how much each of the 520-plus school districts in the state would lose if the bill were to become law, compared with his recommendation for schools. He proposed $223 million for the foundation formula than the tax-cut bill would provide.

The chart, put together by the Missouri School Boards Association, puts the potential loss in state money for St. Louis Public Schools, for example, at $2.5 million. In St. Louis County, the shortfalls range from $5.5 million in Hazelwood and $5.1 million in Rockwood down to $6,600 in Brentwood. (We mapped these shortfalls as well.)
The chart isn't the only graphic representation of possible harm to public schools. The Children's Education Alliance of Missouri has a new map showing school districts that are either unaccredited, provisionally accredited or in danger of falling into that territory. It's a pretty graphic representation to show that the troubled districts aren't just in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas but can be found throughout the state. (Dale Singer)

**University of Missouri brings drones class indoors after feds complain**

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The University of Missouri has brought a class on using aerial drones indoors after a federal government agency told the journalism school last summer to stop flying them outdoors.

The School of Journalism grounded its outdoor use of the unmanned aircraft for news gathering after receiving a cease and desist letter from the Federal Aviation Administration last summer.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reported Wednesday that a judge in early March ruled that the federal agency lacks the authority to enforce such a ban. The ban remains in place while the FAA appeals that ruling to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Students in a new, one-credit drone journalism class instead learn to fly the devices indoors. The FAA has said it hopes to issue revised rules on commercial drone use by next year.

"There has been mounting interest within the science community on campus, especially in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, to do research and teach using drones," said Bill Allen, who teaches agricultural journalism.

Allen said the 17 students in his class also include those studying business, agriculture science, life sciences and education. The higher-than-expected interest comes as unmanned drones move from military use to civilian and commercial use. That includes a Texas company which uses the devices to search for missing persons -- and which has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the FAA order.
The federal agency has spent a decade working on regulations to give commercial drones access to the national airspace without endangering manned aircraft and the public. Congress then set a September 2015 deadline to get commercial drones back into the sky.

The FAA calls the dividing line between a model aircraft and a small drone more one of intent, rather than of technology. If it is used for commercial purposes, it's a drone. If it's used purely for recreational purposes, it's a model aircraft.

MU police on lookout for man who inappropriately touched student
Saturday, April 26, 2014 | 8:40 p.m. CDT; updated 8:57 p.m. CDT, Saturday, April 26, 2014
BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — A man grabbed a student's breast and buttocks at MU on Saturday evening, according to MU police, who are asking anyone with information about the incident to call the department at 882-7201.

MU police issued a Clery release to students, faculty and staff detailing the incident on Saturday evening. Here is the text of that release:

"On todays date, around 5:45 p.m., two female students were walking east on the sidewalk between The Residence on the Quad and Pickard Hall. They were stopped by a Middle Eastern male who asked one of the students if she would take a picture with him. She agreed and the second student took a picture with suspect’s camera. He didn’t like the first picture and wanted a second so the friend took another. In the process of the second picture the suspect grabbed her buttocks and she relocated his hand to her waist. He then grabbed her breast and fondled it. She pushed him away and left the area.

"The suspect is described as a Middle Eastern male, around 60 years old, dark brown skin, black hair with a little white in it, not balding, little to no facial hair, and a thick accent. He was wearing a white button down polo with light brown/tan plaid and khaki pants. The suspect had a digital camera in his possession.

"Anyone with information is asked to call the University Police Department at 573-882-7201."
Learning Curve

Round up: Changes, FYIs and leadership updates

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 9:30 pm

If you are an adjunct professor, or were at one point, and would be interested in talking for a feature I’m working on, please email me and let me know. (aljost@columbiatribune.com)

Inside the system:

- Change is afoot at the University of Missouri.

  - Hank Foley is giving research a face lift, per this week's Saturday Business cover story.
  - A task force's recommendations on new benefits packages at the university is also in the works. Details are still fuzzy, but more information was in a Saturday story.

- University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin sent out a response to the Dowd Bennett report last Monday. There wasn’t really any new information in his letter, per say, but he did make mention of work “to engage a respected firm specializing in risk management” in the area of sexual assault.

- It’s hard to choose what to repost from what schools send me about cool stuff their students are doing. I couldn’t pass this one up. Lara Edwards, a senior in biological sciences at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, painted a mural in the Leola Millar Children’s Library in the Rolla Public Library. How cool? The pictures and her story are pretty neat.

- Six Missouri universities were named at “Green Colleges” by the Princeton Review for 2014, including MU, UMKC, Lincoln University, Drury University, Saint Louis University and Washington University in St. Louis. Schools were chosen based on 2013 surveys of
administrators regarding environment and sustainability on campus. A total of 322 schools were profiled in the 216-page booklet.

- The University of Missouri-St. Louis student newspaper, The Current, appears to have been salvaged with the help of administrators. (Hat tip to John Combest.)

**Outside the system:**

- The Missouri Department of Higher Education announced last week that the state was chosen to participate in the Council for Adult Experiential Learning for its Competency-Based Education Jumpstart Program. The Jumpstart Program uses competency-based education and credit for previous learning to help reduce the amount of time it takes to earn a degree, and therefore helps increase completion rates at two and four-year institutions. DHE and the Missouri Community College Association, which was also selected for participation, will work together to implement everything over the next few months.

- Truman State University President Troy Paino recently announced the candidate finalists for the provost position.

- Remember the Hooked on Phonics commercial from the early 90s featuring the little girl saying, “Hooked on Phonics worked for me?” She now runs the literary magazine at Stephens College.

- Harris Stowe University named its new president this week. Dwaun Warmack, current vice president at Bethune-Cookman University in Florida, was named Tuesday as the new leader of the St. Louis-based public university.

- Sen. Claire McCaskill made a stop last week at Saint Louis University to talk about her effort to end sexual assault on college campuses. Dale Singer, education reporter for St. Louis Public Radio, wrote about the event.

- Time Magazine has a really interesting, interactive graphic that incorporates the ongoing discussion about the White House’s proposed rating system for universities - which many college leaders or higher education organizations are skeptical of - based on a handful of metrics. This graphic lets you dial the metrics how you see fit, and find out where schools rank. There’s also a search option to find the school of your choice and see how they rank on some of the chosen metrics, like affordability, percentage of students receiving a Pell Grant and graduation rates.

- Moberly Area Community College’s Board of Trustees elected new officers Monday during an organizational meeting. According to a news release, James Cooksey was elected President and John Cochran was elected Vice President. Denise Calderello will remain in her position as secretary. Gary Steffes, Vice President for Finance, was re-elected as Board Treasurer. The new officers will have their first monthly meeting this coming Monday.

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Key themes emerge from Columbia violence task force, but no action

Saturday, April 26, 2014 | 7:15 p.m. CDT
BY TIMOTHY MAYLANDER

NO MU MENTION

COLUMBIA — Although members of the Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence had billed Saturday's work session as their first chance to make recommendations to the City Council, no action was taken during the six-hour meeting.

The task force came to a consensus on 12 common themes in regard to violent crime in Columbia, but it stopped short of making recommendations.

Michael Trapp, task force co-chair and Second Ward councilman, said he didn't know if there were many proposals that all the task force members could readily agree upon, though there seemed to be general agreement on a "ban the box" ordinance. The proposal would prevent the city from asking on an application whether a person seeking employment had been convicted of a felony. That question would instead be asked during an in-person interview. Private-sector jobs would not be affected.

Trapp said earlier in the meeting that the community would notice if the task force didn't take action Saturday.

However, members stressed the importance of homing in on the common themes, which are based on data the task force's four subcommittees have accrued in the past half-year.

Of the data generated by the task force, members found the information on drug use among suspects of violent crime in Boone County to be the most surprising. Task force member Dan Hannekin reported that 70 percent had severe or intensive drug problems.

"The presence of drugs is overwhelming," task force member Jerry Taylor said. "To somehow stop the drug thing is hugely center stage."
Laura Nauser, task force co-chair and Fifth Ward councilwoman, said that economic conditions appeared to be a secondary factor related to community violence, but task force member Pam Hardin disagreed.

"We can sit and say that's not a big issue, but I'm going to tell you now, if we do, we're going to come out of here with nothing because that is the No. 1 issue," Hardin said. "Unless we provide something not just for the youth but also for young men between the ages of 17 to 29 ... we're just running in circles."

Another key theme is a lack of economic opportunity. Task force member Tyree Byndom said that in the 1950s, 5 percent of Columbia businesses were owned by black people, but that has dropped to 1 percent today. Hardin said it was easier in the 1970s than today for a black person to get a job.

The task force will seek community advice as it develops its recommendations to the council. Hardin, Byndom and task force member David Thomas will organize community forums called "Let's Talk About Violence." Dates and other details about the forums are expected to be set before the task force's next meeting May 8.

Talk of legalization pervades Missouri Cannabis Conference

By Ashley Jost

Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 2:00 am Comments (6)

Attendees at the Missouri Cannabis Conference, held Saturday at the University of Missouri campus, agreed that simply by talking about marijuana they are benefitting the legalization movement.
The daylong conference — sponsored by several groups, including Show-Me Cannabis, NORML and the MU student chapter of NORML — included speakers ranging from a state legislator to national marijuana legalization advocates.

Mason Tvert, communications director for the Marijuana Policy Project, offered the keynote address. He said multiple times during his address that his experience is that the more people talk about an issue, the easier it is for them to understand and come to accept change.

Tvert has been part of the marijuana legalization effort in Colorado and continues to advocate for legalization in other states through talks such as the one he gave yesterday at MU. Tvert also has appeared on multiple cable news networks, including MSNBC, HLN and Fox News, advocating for the cause.

During his talk, Tvert explained that he and the Marijuana Policy Project channel the discussion "solely on pot being safer than alcohol." He said the majority of people who agree with that idea also agree with legalization.

So, the discussion starts with what Tvert calls "education" on viewing marijuana as a "safer alternative."

One of the most important places those types of discussions should take place is in college, he said.

"It's the perfect setting because binge drinking is a huge thing," he said.

Tvert also noted marijuana legalization would generate tax revenue and do away with the black market, but he said although "those are great arguments, those can't be the first argument you make."

"The places that are having these discussions are where the support is growing," he said.

Rep. Paul Curtman, R-Pacific, spoke before Tvert. Curtman chairs the House Downsizing State Government committee, which has heard from Show-Me Cannabis and other pro-marijuana groups multiple times during a statewide tour last year gauging issues that matter to the public.

Curtman spoke about his involvement as a co-sponsor of a bill about the production of industrial hemp, which received a stamp of approval from the House Economic Development Committee this week.

John Payne, executive director of Show-Me Cannabis, said he considered the conference to be successful, and he hopes everyone who attended shares what they learned with others.

"Obviously, we don't need to communicate to the people in this room the importance of what we're doing," Payne said. "They know it. But they need to tell others."
Choosing a college? Look into campus rape rankings before you start packing

Every university has a rape problem. But when administrators discourage victims from reporting, potential students need to ask tougher questions

theguardian.com

Friday 25 April 2014 06.45 EDT

NO MU MENTION

When I was 17 years old and choosing between Cornell and Wesleyan, rape was the farthest thing from my mind. And it's probably not high on the list of the millions of high school seniors and their parents who have to decide by May 1 which college is The One. They're often looking at student/faculty ratios and financial aid offers, major programs, Greek life and sports teams.

But high-school seniors pouring over rape reporting statistics instead of acceptance letters? Not usually.

When I think back to my undergraduate days and my experience being sexually assaulted by a fellow student – let alone the secondary trauma of how badly the school treated me in the aftermath – it is one of the first things that springs to mind. That sexual assault was, without a doubt, one of the most formative things that happened to me in those four years. So why don't more people ask questions about a school's approach to preventing sexual violence before they choose a campus?

Those precious few who ask at all tend to check a school's reporting numbers, assuming that a low rate of rapes reported on a campus is a good sign. But most of the time the reverse is true: every campus has a rape problem – the ones where students feel comfortable reporting are actually safer campuses.

Reporting even on the best of campuses is shockingly low. The US Department of Justice estimates that one in five female students will be the victim of a sexual assault while she's on campus. While there are
no reliable estimates about male sexual assault on campus, statistics indicate that at least one in 10 straight men, one in five bisexual men and one in three gay men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetimes, and half of trans people will be, and some of those almost certainly happen at college.

So a college that says, "Nope, no rape here!" is likely a college that's doing everything it can to discourage victims from reporting, as numerous investigations have found – and a campus with a low reporting rate is likely a campus where rapists are free to keep finding more victims, as statistics show that most undetected rapists continue to offend. On the other hand, a university with a relatively high number of reported rapes is likely to be a place where victims expect to be taken seriously, and where rapists come to know that they may face real consequences.

Yet nearly a third of campuses surveyed aren't even meeting the minimum reporting standards required by the federal government via the Clery Act, according to a study by Safer and V-Day. That's to say nothing of what many schools are failing to do when it comes to providing avenues for anonymous reporting, running transparent and just judicial hearings, developing effective prevention programs, or even defining "sexual misconduct" in a way that requires students to practice affirmative consent.

It's no accident that many of the schools with open or recent Title IX investigations for violating their students' right to a violence-free campus have also investigated for Clery violations. The University of North Carolina, Occidental College, the University of California at Berkeley, Dartmouth University and many other well-known institutions of higher learning are all facing investigations into and lawsuits over their handling of sexual assault cases. Yet click the link on the Department of Education's website that's supposed to allow "[p]arents and students" to "use the Internet to review campus crime statistics for colleges and university campuses online" and all you'll get is a "Service Unavailable" error message.

It's long past time to stop trusting schools (or the federal Department of Education) to report their numbers accurately or to do the right thing for the right reasons. Imagine what would happen if admitted seniors and their parents regularly asked real questions about campus efforts to prevent sexual violence. What if, acceptance letter in hand, students and parents asked not just what the reported numbers are, but what the school was doing to increase reporting on campus, how they define sexual misconduct, how community members are treated (and what their options are) if they're violated, and how schools regularly evaluate and improve the effectiveness of their prevention programs?

If colleges administrators knew their ability to actually improve safety on campus would impact their ability to attract the students they need to stay competitive, you'd see colleges competing to prove their campus is the leading innovator in reducing sexual assaults rather than just shoving violence into a dark corner where no one from the "outside" can see it.

The Star
THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Missouri curators set to approve contract, but new basketball coach still not publicly known
COLUMBIA — The contract for Missouri’s next men’s basketball coach will be approved when the university system’s Board of Curators meets at 1 p.m. Monday, a source with knowledge of the situation told The Star.

Who that coach will be was still a mystery as of Sunday night. Missouri and its search committee has kept its process under wraps, and only one coach — Central Missouri’s Kim Anderson — is a publicly known candidate. Other possible candidates include former UCLA coach Ben Howland.

The source would not confirm that a contract with the next coach had been reached in principle as of Sunday night, but said Missouri has been in talks with more than one coach about its position.

As has been the case throughout the week, Anderson remains the only coach publicly identified as a finalist for the Tigers’ vacancy, which opened up when Frank Haith left last week for Tulsa.

Anderson told The Star in a text Sunday night he had no comment. He said Friday that he had not been offered a contract.

As of Sunday evening, neither Missouri or Central Missouri had called its players together for a team meeting, according to sources.

Anderson starred at Missouri under Norm Stewart during 1973-77 and later served on Stewart’s staff for 11 seasons during two stints.

Missouri athletic director Mike Alden asked Central Missouri for permission to speak with Anderson earlier in the week.

It’s unclear what other candidates MU may have spoken with this week.

Louisiana Tech’s Michael White may have been a candidate, but he withdrew from consideration Sunday afternoon, according to CBS Sports’ Jeff Borzello.

Howland, who took UCLA to three straight Final Fours during 2006-08, has been the subject of social media attention. He sat out of coaching last season after he was fired despite leading the Bruins to a Pac-12 championship and 25 wins in 2012-13.

Still, there has been no public indication from Missouri or Howland’s camp to confirm if he’s a serious candidate.
The University of Missouri System announced Monday’s special executive session of the Board of Curators on Friday “for consideration of certain confidential or privileged communications with university counsel, negotiated contracts and personnel matters,” a necessary step before a major hire could be made.

A source with strong ties to Missouri was told before the search started that Alden wanted no leaks during the process, and Missouri has done a remarkable job keeping anything tangible under wraps.

It reflects a wider trend in major-college coaching searches, but Alden and Missouri also have ample reason to be cautious after the last coaching search.

Purdue’s Matt Painter was the top target, and it was his job if he wanted it. Those reports surfaced before Painter rebuffed Missouri and signed an eight-year extension to stay with the Boilermakers.

In the end, Haith was hired in a move that surprised at least one curator, who said the first time he’d heard Haith’s name was when he read it in the paper.

Mizzou coaching search still a mystery

April 26, 2014 12:00 am • By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

COLUMBIA, Mo. • This much became clear Friday during the Mizzou basketball coaching search that grows more mysterious by the day: a contract is in the works.

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators announced a meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday. After calling the meeting to order, the Board will go into closed executive session, according to the university’s public notice, for “consideration of certain confidential or privileged communications with university counsel, negotiated contracts and personnel matters all as authorized by law and upon approval by resolution of the Board of Curators.”

This is typical procedure for a major university hire, such as a new men’s basketball coach, which Mizzou just happens to be lacking since last Friday. A university source indicated Monday’s meeting will be just that, a chance for the board to approve the contract of the yet-to-be unveiled head coach.

Does that mean the search is complete? Possibly. Who’s still on the radar? As of Thursday, a university source confirmed Missouri was still considering former UCLA coach Ben Howland, who won a Pac-12 championship in 2013 before getting fired. He’s since been out of coaching. Howland has not returned several messages from the Post-Dispatch.
Then there’s Kim Anderson, the former Missouri player and assistant coach who for the last 12 years has been the head coach at Division II Central Missouri. Sources confirmed earlier in the week that Anderson is a viable candidate for the job. After a Kansas City radio station erroneously reported Friday that Missouri had offered the job to Anderson on Tuesday, UCM released a statement on behalf of Anderson to several media outlets, including the Post-Dispatch: “I have not been offered the Missouri job. I am still coaching the Mules.”

As for Wichita State’s Gregg Marshall, he declined interview requests at Thursday’s postseason team banquet but told the crowd, “There’s some work left to be done. The best is yet to come,” according to the Wichita Eagle. Further evidence Marshall is staying at WSU: Marshall signed Tevin Glass, a junior college forward from Atlanta, to a national letter of intent on Friday.

A coaching search that’s been unusually secretive for Missouri’s standards might have hit a low point with Friday’s rumor du jour — that Villanova’s Jay Wright had emerged as a candidate and was headed to Columbia on a flight from Philadelphia. A few reporters gathered at Columbia Regional Airport just in case, only to watch a group of middle-aged men exit the plane carrying their golf clubs — and not a basketball coach.

Missouri curators to meet amid new coach search

April 25, 2014 1:52 pm

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — University of Missouri curators have called a special meeting for Monday amid a search for a new men’s basketball coach at the flagship Columbia campus.

A public meeting notice released Friday makes no mention of the vacancy created when Tigers coach Frank Haith left one week ago to coach Tulsa. Haith spent three years in Columbia, leading the team to two NCAA Tournament appearances but also consecutive early exits.

The curators' agenda doesn't list any meeting topic but instead notes that the nine-member board plans to immediately go into a closed-door discussion. Such executive sessions are allowed in limited circumstances under state law, including for personnel moves. The university's Board of Curators would have to approve a new coach’s
Letter to the editor: MIZZOU DID THE RIGHT THING

As a graduate of the University of Missouri, and a Mizzou supporter, I read with interest all the newspaper articles about Dorial Green-Beckham. I fully support coach Gary Pinkel’s decision to dismiss this young man from the team.

My wife and I have established a small academic scholarship at the university, and I also contribute to the Tiger Scholarship Fund for student-athletes. These funds, contributed by me and many like-minded supporters of Mizzou, should go to students and student-athletes who respect the principles and traditions of the university, understand the difference between right and wrong and respect other peoples’ rights and privileges in our society.

Mr. Green-Beckham appears unable to live under those rules, regulations and laws. He certainly exhibits the behavior of a criminal more than that of a student-athlete. We will continue to take pride in our alma mater and hope that the university and the athletics department stand firm for appropriate conduct and against thuggish behavior. My wife and I look forward to the coming football season, and plan to continue our support for the students and student-athletes at Mizzou.

Phillip Skelly • St. Louis

Students, faculty celebrate Gwynn Hall renovations at grand opening ceremony

Sunday, April 27, 2014 | 6:55 p.m. CDT; updated 6:33 a.m. CDT, Monday, April 28, 2014
From left, MU Deputy Chancellor Mike Middleton, College of Human Environmental Sciences Dean Stephen Jorgensen and Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Suzanne Rothwell cut a ceremonial ribbon at the newly renovated Gwynn Hall on Sunday at MU. Benefactors and educators gathered to celebrate the building's official reopening.

BY Elian Peltier

COLUMBIA — **The MU College of Human Environmental Sciences is back in its first home: Gwynn Hall.**

Dean Stephen R. Jorgensen told a crowd of about 50 people at a reopening celebration on Sunday that the hall he calls "this grand old lady" is now brand new and operational after more than a year of renovations.

The grand old lady, built in 1920, had serious structural problems and a foundation in need of repairs, Jorgensen said.

There were electrical circuit problems and leaks on the roof. Students said the basement used to be moldy and the building sometimes scary. But that was the old Gwynn Hall.

Sunday's reopening ceremony was only symbolic, as professors and students have been back at the building since January. The 15-month renovation project started in October 2012 and was completed in December 2013.
Sunday was the day all the faculty had been waiting for to celebrate their improved facilities, research laboratory supervisor Tina Roberts said. During the event, visitors were allowed to explore one of the renovated laboratories, which is used for research on nutrition, human tissues and more.

Although the stone exterior of the building was preserved, the rehab project included a full renovation of the basement and new accommodations for all three floors.

Jorgensen said the renovation project for Gwynn Hall included:

- New foundations of the building
- Renovation of the Gwynn lounge
- Accommodations of faculty and staff offices
- Student advisory offices
- Two new classrooms
- A metabolic kitchen, part of the MU Nutritional Center for Health

Jorgensen said the kitchen is one of the most innovative services the College of Human Environmental Sciences now provides. Researchers are already working on nutrition programs, monitoring the progress subjects’ nutrition by preparing precisely calculated meals in the kitchen and running an analysis of their reactions to those meals, Jorgensen said.

“We can be proud of our building now,” said Laura McAndrews, a graduate student who also teaches in the College of Human Environmental Sciences.

McAndrews also said the three classrooms, located on the second floor, including two new ones, are now more convenient. Classroom 220, where she teaches, is fully equipped with new technology and a large white screen.

“It’s better than the projector we used to have,” McAndrews said.

On the first floor, Marcia Healy was proud to present the renovated Gwynn lounge she had redesigned. A 1968 graduate of the College of Human Environmental Sciences, Healy financed the renovation of the lounge, trying to keep the same atmosphere she used to know. She kept the old fireplace intact but changed the furniture, the ceilings and the windows.

On a wall in the lounge, a portrait hangs of the building’s original grand old lady, benefactor and namesake, Marie Louise Gwynn. After the renovations, her portrait is now surrounded by three abstract paintings that Healy and MU students made as a final touch.

*Supervising editor is Zachary Matson.*
Scholarship benefits medical students

Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 2:00 am

Medical students at the University of Missouri and UMKC will benefit from a new scholarship endowment created by a Kansas City-area doctor.

Edward Baumhardt gave $923,395 from his personal trust to create one or more annual scholarship awards for MU medical students.

The scholarships will be named in Baumhardt's honor.

Additionally, a $2,000 award will be given to one medical student or resident at the MU medical school on even years, and the UMKC medical school during odd-numbered years. The scholarship will be given to the student who writes the best paper on a subject related to schizophrenia, according to a news release.

According to the news release, Baumhardt wanted the trust to provide assistance for medical students in the region.

MU’s iLab opens doors to promote interaction
Open houses spark interest.

By Alex Schiffer

Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 2:00 am

The Immersive Visualization Lab, or iLab, in the University of Missouri Department of Architectural Studies is opening its doors this weekend as it aims to find more students, researchers and community members interested in its capabilities.

The lab, which opened in 2011 in Stanley Hall, was designed to allow students studying architecture and interior design to better visualize their ideas. It has 3-D visualization and virtual reality equipment, among other technologies, that can give students a chance to see rooms and buildings they've designed in a life-size format.

The first open house was held Friday afternoon. Another is scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

"Last year, we had a lot of people" at the open house "who were just excited about the technology, but this year I think we have a lot of people here who are not necessarily here for the technology," iLab Director Bimal Balakrishnan said. "Instead, they want to collaborate on research. … We've been showing more of what the technology can do rather than what it is."

When the lab first started, the entire staff was faculty members, but there now are more graduate and undergraduate students joining the program each year.

"The tools that they have here are amazing," graduate student Michael Law said. "The technology here really lets me stretch out my legs and improve in a lot of different areas."

Balakrishnan said it's good to get people into the lab because that can spur ideas.

"We rarely have everything on display at once, but we decided to do this" open house "once a year to form better connections on the campus and to the city," he said. "If we can have a connection with the city on new ideas they're thinking about, that's something that has some potential."

The lab was designed to be adaptable as technology changes.

"The good thing about this lab was that it was done in segments," faculty collaborator Newton D'Souza said. "It was not done in one big shot, so it's very flexible with different components and not one specific piece of equipment."

"We're completely free to change any piece of technology that we want," Balakrishnan added.

Balakrishnan and D'Souza would like to see increased research collaboration and eventually more partnerships. Students used the lab in 2011 to design a hypothetical building on Ninth Street for the Missouri School of Journalism's strategic communications department.
"Students benefit from the interaction of real clients like what we did with the J-School," Balakrishnan said. "This lab is always a work in progress because technology is always changing and new research questions are always popping up."

This article was published in the Saturday, April 26, 2014 edition of the Columbia Daily Tribune with the headline "iLab seeks interaction: Open houses spark interest."

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Posted in Education, Local on Saturday, April 26, 2014 2:00 am.

MU iLab showcases 3-D, virtual technology
Saturday, April 26, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY CHRISTA CORRIGAN

COLUMBIA — Bimal Balakrishnan has a vision for using 3-D and virtual technology to put people in the midst of historical events like the Kennedy assassination or in the crowd of a riot continents away.

Balakrishnan is one of the creators of the Immersive Visualization Lab, or iLab, where students are experimenting with technology that makes virtually visiting such places possible.

The Department of Architectural Studies, which created the iLab, invited the public to visit an open house Friday and another from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Unveiled in December 2011, the lab serves as a training ground for students to experiment with virtual technology and experience their architecture designs in 3-D.

The lab's mission is to advance immersive visualization techniques, said Balakrishnan, an assistant professor of architectural studies. Immersive visualization techniques are used to make people feel like they are a part of 3-D and virtual environments — to create the high-end sensation of "being there."
The open houses are an opportunity for people from other disciplines to see how the students are using the technology, Balakrishnan said. Anyone can come, but he said he hoped that people from other university departments, at MU and beyond, would visit with an eye for future collaborations and exchanges of ideas.

At the Friday open house, architectural studies students were set up in stations around the iLab to showcase their projects. Their equipment included motion capture technology, interactive 3-D models and virtual reality systems such as Oculus headsets.

'You are in the building'

Oculus headsets, more commonly used with video game software, were set up for people to try on. With the headset on, people looked at a computer monitor to experience a virtual walk-through of a Gandhi memorial museum in India. The museum was digitally replicated by an architectural studies graduate student.

The headset tracks head movements creating an authentic, virtual tour of the museum — even Gandhi’s portrait on one of the walls is visible.

"People say the Oculus can be disorienting because you really feel like you are in the building," said Rachael Liberty, an undergraduate in architectural studies who was showing visitors how the technology works.

The graphics viewed through the Oculus headset were slightly fuzzy, but students said they will receive an updated version this summer. The equipment will make the graphics appear much clearer and more detailed, they said.

The Oculus equipment is only available for software developers, but because the brand was recently purchased by Facebook, the students think the equipment will become available for consumer purchase in the near future. Students see the equipment drastically changing the scope of technology development.

"You had the Internet, then mobile, and now the next major platform is going to be virtual reality," said Michael Lam, a graduate student in architectural studies.

'A library of movement'
In another part of the iLab, students dressed in black motion capture suits moved around on a grid. They were demonstrating how one might move around a kitchen. A 12-camera system captured the movements, which were interpreted by a computer software program.

The equipment is used by the entertainment industry to create digitally animated movies like "Avatar." Benjamin Schrimpf, an undergraduate student in architectural studies, said the iLab's motion capture gear isn't quite as expensive as what the movie industry uses, but it's the same basic software.

In the iLab, motion capture is used to replicate the movement of humans and create digitally animated 3-D characters, which are then inserted into the 3-D building models. This helps students visualize how a human being might move around in the interiors of a building before it's constructed, Schrimpf said.

He said they are creating movements based on different scenarios, such as if a person has physical disabilities.

"The intention is to create a library of movement," Schrimpf said.

A recent experiment used the animated characters in a building model to demonstrate a nurse catheterizing a patient.

Josh Fraser, a doctoral candidate in computer science, said he came to the open house to check out the motion capture equipment. Fraser teaches two computer modeling and animation classes and said motion capture would be a useful tool for his students' animated short films.

'What if' games
The iLab students are also researching how motion capture data can simulate human behavior to create intelligent "agents." These agents are more of an advanced version of the digitally animated characters and have an "intelligence" that powers their behavior, which is programmed using computer software.

Using the software, the students can make the digital agents replicate human reactions to certain events. For example, students can see how easily the animated characters
could evacuate a building if there were a fire.

"We’ve been wishfully simulating the geometry of the space and the look and feel of it, but for any space to be successful, it depends on how well it can afford human behavior," Balakrishnan said.

He said such experiments are useful in examining how humans might react in crisis situations.

"We design buildings and we meet the code (with fire escapes and similar requirements) ... but we don’t know how a crowd would behave in a situation," he said. "So with some of those things, we can play ‘what if’ kinds of games."

James Hopfenblatt, an architectural studies graduate student, has spent much of the year researching behavioral simulation and mastering software to develop the intelligent agents.

Hopfenblatt’s next stage in his experiment will be inserting the intelligent agents into a virtual model of adjoining Stanley and Gwynn halls. The iLab is in Stanley Hall.

"This building has a lot of potential to study for a crisis situation," he said.

Possibilities of collaboration

Balakrishnan said that since the iLab opened, students have continually researched new uses for the equipment — and looked for collaborative opportunities.

So far, the iLab has partnered with disciplines such as astrophysics and textile and apparel management. With the Department of Textile and Apparel Management, the iLab’s technology was used to create virtual models of clothing designs fitted on digital human models.

"There are a lot of possibilities," he said. "And personally what I would like to see is a lot more."
Balakrishnan said a proposal for a partnership with the Missouri School of Journalism would look at how immersive technology could be a tool for news dissemination by allowing audiences to experience real-world events in 3-D.

"What would the news experience of the future look like?" he said. "We are used to seeing it on a screen, but imagine if it was much more immersive."

MU researcher finds cancer clue in blood of female dogs

Sunday, April 27, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY JIA YUAN LIM

COLUMBIA – Sometimes, Jeffrey Bryan treats sick dogs whose owners have had their own painful experiences with cancer.

Survivors bring their pets to see him hoping the dogs, too, will be cancer survivors.

Bryan said he sees cases where those who have lost family members to cancer are unwilling to give up on their pets.

"One of my favorite things is to be able to keep people and their dogs together," said Bryan, 46, an associate professor of oncology with the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

These stories have been a motivation for Bryan to continue his research on cancer in animals.

Bryan was the first to discover Y chromosome DNA in the blood of female dogs. This was surprising, he said, because, in fact, a female should not have the Y chromosome.
His research has found that one-third of female golden retrievers carry male cells in their bodies. The females picked up the cells from their babies during pregnancy. This occurrence has also been found in dachshunds and mixed-breed dogs.

"When I first heard about it, it was just a mind-blowing thing," Bryan said. "It never occurred to me that more than one person would live inside another person."

Scientifically, this is known as fetal microchimerism, the persistence of fetal cells in the mother's body for years after pregnancy.

He said the cells can contribute to autoimmune diseases and some cancers, and they can also be useful in preventing cancer. He is using his results to develop treatment options.

As an illustration, he described a mother diagnosed with lymphoma, a type of blood cancer. If she has cells from her son in her body, those cells could be infused into her blood to provoke an immune response against the cancer.

"I think the dog's immune system is ideal for testing this strategy to see if this would work in treating cancer," Bryan said.

He is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. He spent nine years in general veterinary practice in San Francisco before coming to MU in 2002 for a residency in medical oncology.

Bryan earned his master of science in biomedical sciences and a doctorate in pathobiology at MU. In the teaching hospital, his focus is on comparative oncology.

"Of everything I did in practice, treating cancer patients is the most rewarding thing." he said.
MU researcher develops way to process soybean with no trans fats
Sunday, April 27, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY DANIEL ROE

COLUMBIA — The processed food industry may soon be seeing a healthier, soybean-based alternative to trans fats, based on the research of **MU plant sciences professor Grover Shannon**. Shannon has developed a method of breeding soybeans with the naturally occurring genes of high oleic acid.

Right now, a partial-hydrogenation process is required to stabilize the oil from soybeans and other plants for use in processed food. Hydrogenation is a chemical reaction that adds hydrogen to a compound.

Last November, the FDA tentatively determined that foods containing partially hydrogenated oils are not safe for consumption, due to the trans fats content that causes heart disease.

The FDA is now going through an additional review process. If the findings are confirmed, food manufacturers will no longer be permitted to sell products containing partially hydrogenated oil.

Enter the high oleic acid soybean. Fat can be extracted from these carefully bred soybeans without hydrogenation, meaning the resulting soybean oil will be free of the unhealthy fat.

Shannon partnered with **Kristen Bilyeu, a professor in the plant sciences department and former molecular geneticist, to find the high oleic acid trait in soybeans**. The discovery is one that soybean researchers have been searching for since the 1980s.
“We combined two genes with 35 percent and 30 percent respective oleic acid content,” Shannon said. “We got a super increase in oleic acid for 80 percent content.”

Shannon said that oleic acid normally occurs at a rate of about 23 percent in soybeans.

The discovery will not only impact the health of consumers, but also help soybean farmers in Missouri and across the nation who have lost market share due to the growing health concerns about trans fats.

Using off-season nurseries in Costa Rica, the Caribbean and Puerto Rico, Shannon’s team is testing the yield of seeds as quickly as it can. Shannon said that in order for farmers to begin planting the high oleic seeds, they must equal the yield of the existing seeds.

“So far, the yield seems to be looking better every year,” Shannon said.

At 5 billion acres, Missouri has the eighth largest soybean crop in the nation.

Will Spargo, chairman of the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council, said he expects the repurposed soybeans to sell at a higher price per bushel, so long as they live up to yield expectations.

“We’re thinking that the soybean industry will recapture lost market share,” he said. “This will make soybeans more valuable and provide more profit back to farmers, and provide better food for consumers.”

Spargo said the seeds may be distributed to farmers in limited quantities by next year for trials to test their yield.

At present, farmers can choose to grow soybeans with or without the presence of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, that make the plants more resistant to disease, harsh weather conditions and chemicals.

Non-GMO seeds with naturally occurring genes are in growing demand because of the organic preferences of American and international consumers, especially in European countries where there are strict regulations on genetically modified foods.
Farmers, who grow soybeans with GMOs, purchase their seeds from agriculture companies such as Monsanto and DuPont. With Monsanto's permission, Shannon said he plans to develop seeds for GMO soybeans like Monsanto's popular herbicide-resistant Roundup Ready Soybeans.

Monsanto has already spent approximately $100 million developing a high oleic trait that does not occur naturally in its Roundup Ready varieties. The patent for Monsanto's primary variety, Roundup Ready 1, expires in 2015. At the end of the year, Shannon's team will be able to develop a product for Roundup Ready 1 without needing Monsanto's permission, which he says will likely half the price of the high oleic GMO seeds.

This flexibility means that the soybean industry has high hopes for the new breed. The United Soybean Board recently invested $60 million into research and marketing over the next five years, which Shannon said puts his research team under the gun.

"We're still in its infancy, we're still moving forward and still finding out things every day," Shannon said. "If it takes off, it'll be a huge thing. It'll have a huge impact on not only growers but also consumers."

A life of passion: letters, edited by Mizzou professor, reveal Elia Kazan

April 26, 2014

By Harper Barnes Special to the Post-Dispatch

In 1943, Elia Kazan, a 34-year-old Greek-American director, was the toast of Broadway with his hit musical “One Touch of Venus.” But he had his eye on Hollywood, despite considerable misgivings about the movie business. Kazan was in Los Angeles negotiating a movie contract when he wrote his wife that he “didn’t like the place.”
“I hate it,” he continued, “in a shrieking insane way. ... It’s no good, like the grave, the tomb, the charnel pit ...”

But he said he had finally decided to accept the challenge of “bucking the system” to “make pictures that are fine.”

He made some fine pictures indeed. His first was “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn,” an Irish-American coming-of-age story. It was released in 1945, and James Dunn won an Academy Award as best supporting actor, the first of nine Oscars won by actors in Kazan movies. At the same time, Kazan continued to flourish on Broadway. In the late 1940s, he directed the Broadway debut of the two most-acclaimed American plays of the mid-20th century, Tennessee Williams’ “A Streetcar Named Desire” and Arthur Miller’s “Death of a Salesman.”

But he was increasingly drawn to Hollywood. Kazan went on to direct some of the most honored films of the late 1940s and 1950s. Often described as an “actor’s director,” he became known for pulling stunning performances out of young actors schooled in “the method,” a process by which actors infused their characters with the emotions of real life. Kazan was perhaps best known for directing young method actors Marlon Brando (in “Streetcar,” 1951; “Viva Zapata,” 1952, and “On the Waterfront,” 1954) and James Dean (in “East of Eden,” 1955).

Kazan demanded passion, and he also displayed it. Brando said of Kazan, “I've never seen a director who became as deeply and emotionally involved in a scene ... he got so wrought up that he started chewing on his hat.” He also co-founded the illustrious Actors Studio, home of method-trained actors ranging from Brando and Dean to Paul Newman and Marilyn Monroe to Jack Nicholson and Al Pacino.

The story of Kazan’s life and work is told well in “The Selected Letters of Elia Kazan.” About 300 letters have been chosen from 1,200. They are arranged in date from 1925 to 1988, but of most interest are the hundreds of pages of letters from the 1940s and 1950s. The correspondence is fleshed out by excellent notes by editor Albert J. Devlin that accompany every letter. (Devlin is professor of English emeritus at the University of Missouri and the editor of “The Selected Letters of Tennessee Williams.”) The letters, as Devlin writes, “tell the story of an actor-director” who, among other things, “brought artistic rigor to Broadway” and “inspired a generation of young actors.”

What many people remember about Kazan, however, was that he “named names.” A former member of the Communist Party, he succumbed to pressure and in 1952 testified in front of the Red-baiting House Un-American Activities Committee. He identified by name eight theater people who had also been party members, alienating many of his former friends and colleagues, including Arthur Miller.

His rejection of communism is evident in letters written years before his testimony. In a 1948 letter, he says of the Soviet Union, “I’m against their political system in every way ... I detest their aesthetics. I gag at their philosophy. I really believe in democracy, but
not what they mean by the word.” He describes himself as “liberal ... but thoroughly anti-communist.”

The House committee episode was to haunt him for many years. It’s interesting that “On the Waterfront,” about a longshoreman (Brando) who defies union thugs and testifies against corrupt labor leaders, is the movie he made right after his testimony. He and Budd Shulberg were in the Connecticut countryside in early 1953 working on the script for “On the Waterfront” when Kazan wrote that the movie was “about citizenship — about the obligation of a citizen to testify against something when he finds it to be evil.”

The work Kazan liked best had a social conscience, like “On the Waterfront”; “Gentleman’s Agreement” (1947), a drama about anti-Semitism, and “Pinky” (1949), about white racism. He seemed to understand that his righteous anger helped drive him artistically. When Tennessee Williams found himself unable to write in Rome, Kazan wrote him, “It seems to me that the very things that make you uncomfortable here are the things that make you write ... the things that make a man want to write in the first place are those elements in his environment ... that outrage him, hurt him, make him bleed.”

He could have been talking about Elia Kazan. Perhaps he was.

*Harper Barnes is the former film critic of the Post-Dispatch.*

**Robo-advice: Cheap, but is it good?**

April 26, 2014 5:00 am • By Jim Gallagher jgallagher@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8390

Will your next stockbroker be a computer in the cloud?

About 1.3 million human brokers certainly hope not. But worry is building among the fancy-suit set. New tech competitors argue that their electronic brains can outperform human brokers — at a fraction of the cost to investors.

Firms such as Wealthfront, SigFig and Betterment are offering cheap automated advice and account management over the Internet.

Other players are combining computers with human planners to give cut-rate advice via the Internet and phone. The entry of mutual fund giant Vanguard into that business is prompting nervous twitches among brokers.
Oxygen-breathing brokers dismiss the silicon competitors as “robo-advice.” A machine can’t really outthink a human adviser, they say.

Of course, that may depend which person or machine is giving the advice.

I ran Wealthfront, SigFig and Betterment through their paces. All have weaknesses, but Betterment seemed the best of the lot.

They seem best suited for people looking for a low-cost way to invest for a goal that’s many years away — such as retirement, or bigger house 10 years from now. They’re also an option for people who want to start investing, but know little about it and don’t have enough money to interest a good human adviser.

They’re not for people looking for detailed help running their financial lives.

“This is a financial plan on autopilot,” says Andrew Zumwalt, who teaches financial planning at the University of Missouri-Columbia. “It’s terrifying because some people don’t fit an easy mold.”

The robo-advisers generally recommend mixes of low-cost index funds — which simply match an index of stocks or bonds, rather than try to beat it. That is a wise way to invest.

Their system keeps clients away from picking individual stocks or chasing hot actively managed mutual funds. Lucky folks can sometimes beat the market that way, but most of us aren’t so lucky.

The recommended asset allocations are based mainly on past history — how certain mixes of stocks and bonds have performed over the past half-century or so. They consider anomalies, such as today’s low interest rates. But they don’t attempt short-term maneuvers, such as guessing whether European stocks may outperform U.S. stocks this year.

Wealthfront and SigFig offer a very simple process — too simple, in fact.

They ask a client questions about risk tolerance. Then they suggest an investment mix intended produce a good return without causing the investor to panic during market drops.

There are no questions about the client’s goals. Is he or she saving for retirement? That allocation ought to be a lot different than if he is saving for to buy a house in five years or college in 10.

Any financial plan that doesn’t consider goals and timelines is deficient. Still, the robo-advisers offer automatic rebalancing (regularly selling winners and buying losers to keep the same balance of assets). That can add significantly to returns over long periods.

They are also cheap. In fact, Wealthfront is free for portfolios of $10,000 or less, and charges just 0.25 percent of the assets per year for bigger accounts. SigFig charges $10 a month, and it’s free if you have less than $10,000 to invest. Betterment charges 0.15 percent to 0.35 percent depending on the balance.
By contrast, a full service brokerage may charge 3 percent of your money per year to manage a small account. Others will charge fat commissions. They will often put you in “load” mutual funds that can run up your expenses.

Theoretically, Wealthfront’s advice could be completely free. It names the ETFs it suggests, mainly low-cost Vanguard index funds, and provides the allocation before someone signs up. An investor could copy it without paying anything.

Betterment does ask about your goals — house, car, college, retirement or other stuff. Then it gives options for reaching each goal with varying investment mixes. Generally speaking, the tamer the investment mix — more bonds and fewer stocks — the more you have to put aside to meet the goal.

That gets to Betterment’s weakness. Unlike its competitors, it asks no questions at all about risk tolerance, claiming that such tests don’t work. It has a dial, allowing investors to adjust the riskiness of their investments. That’s linked to a moving graph that shows how much they might gain, or lose, over the goal’s time period.

By contrast, Wealthfront and SigFig recommend investments intentionally matched to a client’s stomach acid.

The stock market crashes now and then, and amateurs often sell out at the bottom. For a scaredy-cat, Wealthfront and SigFig will limit your downside and the chances that you’ll panic.

In fact, human advisers say that one of their major jobs is hand-holding. They coo soothingly during downturns, keeping investors calm. Good ones also curb client enthusiasm when stocks are booming, suppressing the urge to buy high.

Besides cooing, what can a human adviser do that the machine can’t?

A good one can do quite a bit. He considers your income, spending and goals, checks your insurance, then recommends investments to match both your needs and your risk tolerance, while minimizing taxes.

A bad one will stick you in an annuity so that he can land a big commission and put you in load-heavy mutual funds that fatten his employer’s bottom line. He will convince you to turn over your 401(k) investments to him even though he’ll charge a lot more to manage it than the employer will. Then he’ll make wrongheaded stock recommendations to boot.

That gets us to the likely future of robo-advice.

“I do not believe it will obliterate the need for human financial advisers. Rather, the disruption will expose the industry’s mediocre advisers for what they really are: slick salespeople who make up for their lack of sophistication with the gift of gab,” writes Elliot Weissbluth, CEO of HighTower, a Chicago-area investment advisory that runs $25 billion in investments.

Along with the all-electric entrants, there are competitors that combine human advisers with machines at cheap prices.
Vanguard, which manages $2 trillion in assets, is taking such a middle ground. It’s experimenting with a program with an annual fee of 0.3 percent for people with $100,000 to invest. Vanguard plans to bring the limit down to $50,000 in the future.

For that, you get phone consultations with a certified financial planner, and a “personalized financial plan.” The offering includes “behavioral coaching” from the adviser, along with automatic rebalancing and efforts to limit taxes. They recommend mainly Vanguard funds, but Vanguard is a champion of low-cost index investing.

MU researcher aids new anthrax detection development

Thursday, April 24, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by a bacteria. Anthrax is not contagious, but it can quickly infect humans by varied means. Delaying treatment by only a few days can increase the chance of death. Bond Life Sciences Center has helped test a new and different way to detect anthrax. This new method only needs about five hours to get results. The traditional way usually takes one to two days. | LAISHI ZHOU
BY MARY RYAN
COLUMBIA — Although anthrax scares are more common than actual threats in the U.S., anthrax detection demands speed.

It’s costly and panic-inducing to contain and decontaminate when anthrax exposure is suspected. If gone untreated, those infected can die within a day or two of showing initial symptoms, according to the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program.

An MU researcher played a key role in testing a new method that reduces the time it takes to identify anthrax from 24 to 48 hours to about five hours.

The new method, developed by David Schofield, chief scientist at Guild BioSciences in Charleston, S.C., was tested by MU medical bacteriologist George Stewart in the Laboratory for Infectious Diseases Research.

"David had tested his virus against non-virulent strains, but in order to make sure they would work in a real-world situation, he needed to test them against highly virulent strains," Stewart said. "And we were able to do those experiments for him ... and we showed that his system works quite well."

The bacteria
Anthrax is caused by the bacteria Bacillus anthracis. It can hibernate in the form of spores, sitting in the soil for years at a time, Stewart said. When the spores are introduced to warm, nutrient-rich environments — like mammalian blood and tissue — the spores revert to their bacteria form and infect the host. Like cows, or humans. But it's a much bigger problem among cows.

Anthrax is detected through a procedure called polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, which involves growing more of the material in a controlled environment called a culture, extracting its DNA and copying it until there are millions of copies. Once the DNA has been copied, scientists compare the material's DNA sequence to the known recorded sequence of Bacillus anthracis, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"All of those steps take more time, especially the culture steps in order to get enough bacterial cells to actually do the PCR reactions," Stewart said.
Those steps could take one to two days to complete, meaning the government has to spend time and money on decontamination. Cleanup from a real anthrax attack takes anywhere from 24 hours to two months, according to a 2012 report in the journal Biosecurity and Bioterrorism: Biodefense Strategy, Practice, and Science. The 2001 anthrax attacks, which targeted the postal service, cost the government about $3.2 million. Being able to determine more quickly that a substance is not anthrax could save on unneeded decontamination.

**Shedding light on anthrax**

Schofield applied for a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant in 2007 to develop a sensor to detect anthrax in contaminated food.

Because of that grant, researchers will now be able to use the new detection method to find anthrax.

The new key to anthrax detection lies in a virus that infects the bacteria called a luminescent reporter phage. The virus, engineered by Schofield, contains a light-producing gene that normally stays inactive within the virus. When the virus enters the anthrax bacteria, however, the gene activates and glows. By measuring the amount of light produced with a luminometer, a sensory device used to measure low levels of light, scientists can determine whether anthrax is present. If scientists see enough light, anthrax is present.

Schofield was able to develop and test this method, but only with non-disease-causing strains of the bacteria. There are only 12 regional biocontainment laboratories in the U.S. that are capable of handling highly toxic strains of anthrax — MU has one of them. Schofield sent his project to Stewart, who found that the virus made the more dangerous strains light up as well.

So well, in fact, that the system separates strains of the bacteria that are extremely similar to the strain that causes anthrax.

"Part of the problem we also have in terms of trying to identify this (anthrax) quickly is that there are other organisms in soil that look a heck of a lot like Bacillus anthracis but are not disease-causing," Stewart said. Luckily, the virus is able to tell the difference.
"It's highly specific and highly sensitive," Stewart said. "Dr. Schofield tested in his system in South Carolina a whole variety of other organisms that are similar to Bacillus anthracis, and there were only a few odd strains that gave a positive reaction. So the false-positive rate is very low, and it's a very sensitive virus so the false negatives are very low as well."

**Infection**
Anthrax bacteria can enter the body in three ways: inhalation, cuts and ingestion, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov). Once inside, it can take anywhere from a day to several months before symptoms of anthrax disease appear. Symptoms are similar to those of the flu, including fever and chills, vomiting, diarrhea, body ache, headaches and shortness of breath. Although anthrax is deadly if left untreated, it is not contagious.

Before you rush off to check your symptoms on WebMD.com, know this: Naturally occurring anthrax disease is rare in humans in the U.S., and is treatable with antibiotics. The most recent anthrax threats to occur in the U.S. were the postal mailings of 2001. Since then, there have been several scares that were ultimately nonthreatening, including the [2007 threat at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla](https://www.missouri.edu) that was later deemed a hoax. Although the bacteria can be found almost anywhere in the world, its victims are generally bovine.

"It's more of a threat if you're a cow," Stewart said. "Cows are killed by anthrax when they pick up the spores when they’re grazing in grass or drinking water out of ponds, and that sort of thing."

The next step is more research. Schofield has acquired more funding, this time from the Department of the Army, to develop sensors that can detect anthrax in environmental samples like dirt and water. He has also received funding from the National Institute of Health to develop clinical diagnostic sensors that would be able to detect traces of anthrax in blood samples if anthrax were ever used as a weapon, Schofield said.

Stewart and his team published their study in *The Journal of Microbiological Methods* in August 2013.
Hog farmers live on edge with deadly virus

April 26, 2014 11:00 pm • By Tim Barker tbarker@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8350

MONROE CITY, MO. • It’s hard to blame Scott Hays for waking up each morning, wondering if this is the day death pays a visit to his hog farm.

He’s a partner in family-owned Two Mile Pork, based in this small farming community 20 miles west of Hannibal. And like thousands of other hog producers across the nation, he spends a lot of time these days worrying about porcine epidemic diarrhea, referred to as PED in hog circles.

The vicious viral disease has dealt the pork industry a staggering blow since appearing in the U.S. last spring. The disease poses no risk to humans, but it kills virtually every piglet, 14 days and younger, that it touches.

Increased anxiety over the virus prompted the fifth-generation farmer last fall to put together a step-by-step plan for employees in the event of an outbreak. More than anything, he wanted to get everyone ready, emotionally, for what would happen.

“To show up for work and know that everything that’s born today is going to die, I don’t think you can ever really be prepared for that,” Hays said.

But that’s what farms in 27 states, including Missouri and Illinois, have been dealing with over the past 12 months. Estimates vary, but somewhere between 5 million and 10 million piglets have died from dehydration caused by the diarrhea.

From a pocketbook perspective, it’s something consumers will become well acquainted with throughout the year, with prices for bacon and other pork cuts climbing into record territory.

But what’s most frightening for farmers such as Hays is the simple fact that we still don’t know how the disease made it to the U.S. — or how to keep pigs safe from it.

“We can’t control it. We can’t stop it,” Hays said. “And it doesn’t seem to be going away.”

the UNKNOWNS

The disease was first diagnosed in this country in April of last year, popping up in several states at the same time. Researchers say the virus is virtually identical to one
originating in China. But they haven’t figured out how it jumped continents, or even how it spread once it got here.

Missouri saw its first case late last year. Since then, roughly 5 percent — 119 farms — of the state’s hog producers have claimed outbreaks. Illinois farmers have reported 360 cases spread throughout the state’s 2,900 hog farms.

“It’s not like there’s one pocket that’s worse than other areas,” said Tim Maiers, spokesman for the Illinois Pork Producers Association.

Across the nation, at least 5,000 farms have been hit. As a result, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s March report on the industry estimated there’s been a 3 percent drop in the nation’s pig inventory over the past year. Though that is, at best, an informed guess.

Because reporting has been voluntary, many in the industry think the tally may be considerably higher. But we may soon have a better idea of the damage, following last week’s announcement by the USDA that farms and testing labs will be required to report outbreaks of the disease that’s proving troublesome to fight.

The virus is known to spread through the transfer of tiny amounts of fecal matter. It may have an airborne element as well. The fact that it popped up in several states at the same time suggests it could be related to some product used on farms. Among those suspects is starter feed — given to piglets to bridge the gap between nursing and eating grain — that includes plasma from slaughtered hogs.

“This virus doesn’t have the ability to crawl under doors or jump from tall buildings. But there is something that’s happening that we don’t yet understand,” said Paul Sundberg, vice president of science and technology for the National Pork Board, which has invested $1.7 million researching the virus.

‘NOBODY’S SAFE’

Even in good times, a hog farm isn’t the sort of place a visitor simply strolls into unannounced. These farms rely on strict biosecurity measures to keep their vulnerable nurseries safe from disease.

At Two Mile Pork in Monroe City, for example, workers and visitors already were required to shower and change into farm-provided clothing before entering the facility.

But with the new virus stalking the nation, farms such as Two Mile have been forced to re-evaluate, and in some cases tighten, their precautions. Particularly when it comes to the heart of the operation — the sow farm.

An outbreak wouldn’t knock the farm out of business. But it would claim the lives of thousands of young pigs, while inflicting considerable financial damage.

“We used to pride ourselves on farm tours,” Hays said. “But we had to stop those.”
The closest thing to a tour these days is pulling over on the dirt road running along the southern border of the farm, where 4,400 sows turn out 300 piglets each day. From the road, you can see the largest of the four barns and the one most vulnerable to the virus. The birthing barn stretches more than 600 feet, broken into 19 rooms, each with 48 sows.

With few exceptions, the only people allowed inside are the farm’s 25 employees. The only vehicles permitted on site are feed delivery trucks and those belonging to workers. Supplies bound for the farm are fumigated with disinfectant before being carried inside.

Two Mile also keeps an office in town, away from the sow farm and finishing sites scattered across the area.

Across the street from the office is the local feed supplier, Farmers Elevator & Exchange.

The company’s drivers carry large bottles of disinfectant to clean their tires after every delivery. They use disposable shoe covers at every stop to avoid transferring anything from one farm to another.

Their trucks are washed at least once a day now.

“We were washing our trucks basically weekly at best,” said Marlin McCormick, the facility’s general manager. “You could say this is only because of the pig virus.”

**What’s happening in Monroe City is pretty much the norm these days in the state’s pork industry, said Marcia Shannon, a professor with the University of Missouri-Columbia’s division of animal sciences.**

Shannon, who routinely consults with farmers about pig nutrition, said producers are doing everything they can to limit the potential for tires and shoes to spread the virus. She knows of at least one farmer who bought his own grinder and mixer to make pig feed — eliminating one of the reasons trucks visit his farm.

She’s even noticed a difference in the way farmers interact with her.

Before the virus came along, half of her consultations were done in person. Today, everyone wants to talk by phone — fearing contact with anyone else from the industry.

“That’s the anxiety,” Shannon said. “Nobody’s safe.”

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

It’s difficult to say where things go from here.

The good news, experts say, is that the disease spreads much more slowly during warmer months. So the number of outbreaks should fall substantially in summer. But, they caution, that doesn’t mean the virus is gone.
“We expect it to return in the winter,” said Sundberg, with the National Pork Board. “The question is: To what degree?”

There’s also hope for a vaccine, though some are skeptical, considering the type of virus that causes the disease. Initial efforts by veterinary medicine companies to develop a vaccine have produced limited results.

In Monroe City, Hays has a rather sobering view of the situation and what it portends for the future.

Even if this particular virus is defeated, he figures it’s just a matter of time before something else works its way into the country. There are, after all, a lot of nasty livestock diseases lurking outside the nation’s borders.

“The world’s just a smaller place,” Hays said. “And there’s so much stuff moving around.”

Music professor teaches students to market their skills, as well as perfect their talents

Sunday, April 27, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY ADITI SHRIKANT

COLUMBIA — Jonathan Kuuskoski never saw a division between being a pianist and making a living.

Coming from a family of artists, he understood what it took to be a performer and put food on the table.

Kuuskoski brought his understanding of business and music to Columbia in 2011 when he accepted the job of coordinator of outreach and community programs at the MU School of Music.

While he was initially hired to coordinate local music programs, he soon spearheaded the task of building a new curriculum that would teach students how to self-start their careers.
The result is the Music Entrepreneurship Certificate, a program that will become available to both undergraduate and graduate students. The program is designed to help students market their talent to potential employers in the music industry.

Classes for the certificate are already being offered. Topics include learning how to budget, event promoting and branding.

In a course called Career Development for Musicians, Kuuskoski engages eight students in conversations about music lesson pricing, taxes and student loans.

He encourages students not to undervalue what they do. He even had them fill out an algebraic worksheet to determine how much to charge for their time, whether it be teaching or consulting.

"If you are undercharging people, they will start thinking that is what you're worth," Kuuskoski told them.

He knows that the circumstances of full-time musicians have changed in the past 10 years, and the way music is being taught should change as well. Although the certificate is not meant to replace the rigorous course work of a music student, understanding the music business can be as important as sustained music practice.

According to the Strategic National Arts Alumni Project, 76 percent of music majors are self employed at one point in their lives, but many have no formal business education. "The goal of the certificate is to prepare students to take the next step," Kuuskoski said "They need to know how to collaborate with someone else and develop a network."

Students who aspire to work in the music industry but are not music majors can also benefit from the certificate.

Communications major Erica Whyman is interested in the business side of music and belongs to the Mizzou Music Management Club. Her favorite course is Art Marketing, she said, because of its creative approach to entrepreneurship.

"The certificate would show employers that you are self-motivated and you are willing to take risks," Whyman said. "Also that you have an appreciation for the arts."
While the courses let Whyman visualize her goals, Kuuskoski also teaches her how to execute them. He motivates students to be persistent when contacting people and identifying resources.

Whyman and the Mizzou Music Management Club recently put together a Battle-of-the-Bands-style benefit concert called Battle for Benefit to be held in May. The project was fostered through the music entrepreneurship courses.

"He is always telling us to dream big," Whyman said.