Pinkel, Alden say protocol followed for Washington

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COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri coach Gary Pinkel and athletic director Mike Alden say they followed what they believed to be the school's protocol when former running back Derrick Washington was accused of rape in 2008.

Pinkel said Friday at a news conference that he learned of the allegation in October 2008 but did not take action because no charges were filed.

"I can't go and call up the victim," Pinkel said. "I'm not able, legally, to do that. It's all about the information.

"If they decide they're not going to press charges, then I'm not going to remove a player from the team."

Alden said he was not aware then of reporting requirements for sexual violence to the Title IX coordinator. Legislation mandates schools to investigate instances of alleged sexual discrimination or violence once it has evidence of an incident.

"There's many of us that are much more aware of reporting requirements here on campus," Alden said. "But back in 2008, I was not aware of those types of procedures and how they took place on campus."
ESPN reported Thursday that two former University of Missouri female students made assault allegations against Washington before two other cases for which he eventually served jail time.

University Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who took over in Columbia in February, said Thursday that the school "made mistakes in the past" by not investigating the alleged sex assault as required by the federal Title IX law.

Loftin said the claim against Blitz was found to be "unsubstantiated."

Washington, a former co-captain and starting running back, was suspended from team on August 26, 2010. Later that month, he was charged with deviate sexual assault in connection with a June 2010 sexual assault of former athletic department tutor Teresa Brackel. In 2011, Washington was sentenced to five years in prison for the sexual assault.

He also pleaded guilty in February 2012 to third-degree domestic assault of an ex-girlfriend.

The report did not name either woman. Police reports and university documents connected to the two incidents also don't identify the complainants.

Missouri hired an outside law firm to review its policies after another ESPN investigation in January into the alleged off-campus rape of a former university swimmer by several football players in February 2010. Sasha Menu Courey later left school and committed suicide.

The outside review faulted the university's response and determined that the school's Title IX coordinator and local police should have been alerted to Menu Courey's claims in November 2012 after a public records request by her parents produced documents alluded to a possible attack.

Missouri has since hired a full-time Title IX coordinator as well as a full-time sex assault investigator. Overseeing the school's compliance with the federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education had previously been handled on a part-time basis by an administrator with other duties.
Alden, Pinkel say they weren't aware of Title IX procedure

By David Morrison

Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 1:00 am Comments (3)

Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden and football Coach Gary Pinkel said Friday they knew about the 2008 rape allegation concerning former running back Derrick Washington shortly after the incident occurred and, to the best of their knowledge at the time, followed the proper chain of command.

Alden and Pinkel met the media a day after ESPN’s “Outside the Lines” published a story uncovering the 2008 allegation against Washington, as well as an incident from May 2010 in which he allegedly punched a Missouri women’s soccer player during a fight involving her and his ex-girlfriend.

When Pinkel found out police had interviewed Washington on Oct. 24, nearly two weeks after the player allegedly forced himself on a female student, he told Alden. When Alden found out from Pinkel, he alerted then-Chancellor Brady Deaton, the university’s public affairs staff and other officials.

Alden said he and Pinkel were not aware of their responsibility to also report the incident to the campus’ Title IX coordinator for a possible university investigation into the instance of alleged sexual violence.

“Today, I am aware of all of that,” Alden said. “I think the majority of us on our campus are aware of that, with a number of the efforts that have taken place with President” Tim “Wolfe,” Chancellor R. Bowen “Loftin and the leadership they’ve displayed. There’s many of us that are much more aware of reporting requirements here on campus. But back in 2008, I was not aware of those types of procedures and how they took place on campus.

“Certainly I felt like we were reporting it the way we would normally report things.”
Washington, on Thursday, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that he did have sex with the alleged victim in the 2008 case but did not assault her. He denied punching the soccer player in 2010. Pinkel suspended him indefinitely from the team on Aug. 26, 2010, four days before he was arrested and charged with felony deviate sexual assault for sneaking into the bedroom of former athletic department tutor Teresa Braeckel and sexually assaulting her in June 2010. He later left the university.

Pinkel said he discussed the 2008 allegations with Washington at the time but did not take any disciplinary action against him because no charges were going to be filed against him.

University police did file a warrant request to Boone County assistant prosecutor Andrew Scholz on Nov. 5, 2008, but he did not press charges. He told the Tribune there were multiple points in police interviews with witnesses who the alleged victim told of the assault would have made it very difficult to prosecute the case.

“IT’s all about the information. When the police get involved then, certainly, they are investigators. They are professionals. That’s what they do,” Pinkel said. “And if they decide that they’re not going to press charges, then I’m not going to remove a player from the team for that. I’m not doing that. It’s not consistent with any way I’ve handled any situation that I’ve had here before. That’s kind of what happened in that case.”

Pinkel said he referred to the 2008 allegations in a conversation with Washington after he found out about Braeckel’s claim in 2010.

“I said to him, ‘Two years ago and now? This is serious,’ ” Pinkel recalled. “ ‘You might be dismissed from the program. The police are investigating this. We’ve got problems here.’ ”

Pinkel said he made the decision to suspend Washington once he felt there “was a greater than 50 percent chance they were going to arrest him” either by the end of August or a couple of weeks into September.

Alden said it was not departmental policy in 2008 to withhold punishment for a player unless he is arrested for a crime. He said that there was a policy that mandated an immediate suspension for an arrested player.

Pinkel said he broke with past precedent in dismissing star wideout Dorial Green-Beckham in April because he was privy to more information from a “confidential” source.

Green-Beckham, now at Oklahoma, was accused of breaking into a woman’s apartment and pushing her down stairs, although he was never arrested or charged with a crime.

“I had other information, quite honestly, that I knew that would help me make a decision. The decision was I had to remove him,” Pinkel said. “I could have thrown it out. I didn’t, because I had to do what’s right. I got that information so, regardless of what the police did, I did the right thing. That’s why I say you have to get all the information.”
Alden also addressed another potentially problematic part of the ESPN report pertaining to Washington’s incident with the soccer player in 2010. The network obtained a police document saying that the player did not want to press charges because she felt that soccer Coach Bryan Blitz was threatening her scholarship if Washington’s role in the incident hit the media.

Alden echoed Loftin’s message from Thursday, saying his understanding of the conversation was that Blitz was trying to convey to the player that her scholarship could be in limbo because of her involvement in the fight.

“She was a post-eligible student-athlete. We know she finished her degree here on scholarship,” Alden said. “What we do know from that review was we weren’t able to substantiate” her allegations.

Pinkel and Alden both said that the efforts Loftin and Wolfe have made to clear up Title IX reporting procedures and requirements in the past six months should help if similar situations to the 2008 Washington incident crop up in the future.

Loftin and Wolfe’s actions came in large part as a response to a January “Outside the Lines” story about former Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who said she was raped by a football player in February 2010. The story alleged that multiple university officials knew of the Menu Courey incident and should have reported it. She committed suicide in June 2011.

Pinkel said the football program has looked into providing counseling for any player accused of a crime. He also said cornerbacks coach Cornell Ford addresses the team about sexual-assault awareness before the season starts and Pinkel often goes into “different aspects of assault and respect for women” during Thursday team meetings in season.

“We know that mistakes were made in the past. We understand that,” Alden said. “For that, it’s incumbent upon all of us to learn from those mistakes. How do we analyze those, learn from those and improve?”

Pinkel, Alden defend MU's handling of case

August 23, 2014 12:10 am
By Dave Matter dmatter@post-dispatch.com 314-340-8508

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Four years ago, when Missouri running back Derrick Washington was the target of a possible sexual assault case, Tigers coach Gary Pinkel called him into his office to revisit some history.
Two years earlier, a female Mizzou student had accused Washington of raping her in her dorm room. Pinkel was aware of the accusation. Police questioned Washington but never arrested him. He avoided any criminal charges. He remained on the team.

In August 2010, Pinkel learned Washington was the subject of an order of protection related to an allegation of sexual assault — a separate incident.

“Two years ago and now? This is serious,” the coach told Washington during a meeting in his office, Pinkel recalled Friday. “You might be dismissed from the program. The police are investigating this. We’ve got problems here.”

In late August, Pinkel suspended Washington indefinitely. Voted a team captain by his teammates a few weeks earlier, Washington had his suspension become permanent Sept. 1 when he was charged with felony sexual assault. He was convicted in 2011 and served four months in prison.

On Friday, Pinkel and Mizzou athletics director Mike Alden found themselves revisiting the 2008 rape accusation after ESPN’s “Outside the Lines” uncovered the incident for a story about college programs that have failed to report sexual assaults as required by Title IX regulations. ESPN.com profiled Mizzou’s handling of the 2008 rape allegation in an online story published Thursday. ESPN will explore the case on the 8 a.m. Sunday episode of “Outside the Lines.”

Pinkel knew his running back, a sophomore at the time, was questioned by police during the 2008 season about the rape accusation. Pinkel told Alden, who relayed the information to Mizzou chancellor Brady Deaton and other campus officials. Alden did not report the incident to the school’s Title IX coordinator.

“Back in 2008, I was not aware of those types of procedures and how they took place on campus,” Alden said.

Over the past several months, MU has made sweeping policy and structural changes to clarify how its employees report sexual assaults. The school has hired a full-time Title IX coordinator to further examine such incidents.

In 2008, however, the school essentially handled the situation internally.

“To my knowledge, for me, with MU PD being involved and other people I informed, I felt like we were reporting it the way we would normally report things,” Alden said.

Andrew Scholz, the Boone County assistant prosecutor at the time, declined to charge Washington, later telling ESPN that his evidence was not strong enough to convince a jury that Washington had raped the woman.

In an interview with the Post-Dispatch on Thursday, Washington admitted to having intercourse with the woman for “20 to 30 seconds” but said he stopped when she told him to stop.

Washington did not face any team-imposed punishment for the 2008 incident, he said.
“I make all my decisions on the information I get,” Pinkel said. “I can’t legally call the victim up. I can’t do that. I wouldn’t do that. But it’s all about the information. When the police get involved, they’re investigators. They’re professionals. That’s what they do. If they decide that they’re not going to press charges, then I’m not going to remove a player from the team for that.”

In April of this year, Pinkel handled the case of Dorial Green-Beckham differently. The star wide receiver was the subject of a felony burglary investigation in Columbia for an incident in which a woman’s apartment was broken into and she was pushed down several stairs. The woman in that case declined to press charges.

Green-Beckham was never questioned by police or charged with a crime, but after suspending him indefinitely, Pinkel dismissed Green-Beckham from the team on April 11.

Pinkel said Friday that other circumstances led to Green-Beckham’s dismissal.

“I had other information, quite honestly, that I knew that would help me make a decision,” he said. “And the decision was I had to remove him. That’s confidential where I got that and how I got that.”

The ESPN report also uncovered another incident involving Washington. In May 2010, a female Mizzou soccer player was arrested along with another woman for getting in a fight at a Columbia bar. According to the police report, the soccer player accused Washington of punching her in the face during the fight. He was never arrested.

In the police report, the soccer player said her coach, MU’s Bryan Blitz, indicated that her scholarship would be in jeopardy if she pursued charges against Washington. Alden said outside counsel investigated the case and could not substantiate that Blitz said her scholarship was at risk for anything related to Washington’s involvement. The player remained on scholarship and graduated from MU, Alden said.
COLUMBIA — **When Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel learned that then-running back Derrick Washington could be arrested for sexual assault before the 2010 season began in August, it was time for a conversation.**

Pinkel said he sat Washington down in his office.

"We've got problems here," Pinkel said he told Washington.

Pinkel said he then had a discussion with Missouri athletics director Mike Alden, telling Alden there was "no way" the senior captain could be played in the season opener due to his likely arrest. Washington was charged with felony deviate sexual assault Aug. 30, 2010, and was dismissed from the team that September.

Pinkel and Alden spoke to reporters Friday about the subject, addressing questions sparked from an ESPN "Outside The Lines" report released Thursday. The ESPN report alleged that MU mishandled reported instances of assault committed by Washington before his dismissal. Although he was booted from the football team, Washington still had a scholarship to continue attending school at Missouri; he withdrew from school shortly after his suspension, though.

One allegation in the report describes an incident in which Missouri soccer coach Bryan Blitz used a scholarship as leverage to keep one of his players from reporting that she was assaulted by Washington. According to the ESPN report, Washington punched the player in the face after an altercation that resulted in the arrest of the soccer player and Washington's girlfriend.

In Friday's news conference, held at Mizzou Arena in front of assorted media from the state, Alden said he was aware of the soccer player's arrest. It wasn't until February 2014, Alden said, that he learned of the allegation that Blitz used the player's scholarship as leverage. He said he found out about this when ESPN filed a request for documents, and was "surprised" at first.

**In a teleconference Thursday, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said Blitz was clearly trying to tell his player that her arrest could result in her scholarship being revoked.**
The ESPN report includes the details of two incidents involving Washington — one being the sexual assault of former MU student and tutor Teresa Braeckel in June 2010. That incident is what led to Washington's dismissal in September and his eventual 2011 conviction.

Washington was sentenced to five years in prison but served a 120-day shock sentence. He pleaded guilty to third-degree assault in the attack of his ex-girlfriend — which occurred three months after the 2010 assault — and served a 90-day sentence concurrently with the shock sentence.

The ESPN report describes two other incidents that occurred prior to his removal from the team. The first was in October 2008, when Washington was reported to have raped a sophomore student in her MU residence hall room. The second incident occurred in May 2010, when the aforementioned soccer player said Washington punched her at a bar.

Alden said he became aware of the 2008 allegations at that time and alerted Pinkel, who decided not to discipline Washington.

"It's all about the information," Pinkel said. "If they decide they're not going to press charges, then I'm not going to remove a player from the team for that. I'm consistent in how I handle any situation before."

Pinkel did, however, remove a player in April, despite no charges.

The 14-year coach dismissed wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham, who was listed in a police report for a burglary incident but was not charged with a crime.

Pinkel said Friday he had "other information, quite honestly" to help make his decision about Green-Beckham.

"It's confidential where I got it," Pinkel said. "I could have thrown it out, but I didn't, because I have to do what's right. Regardless of what the police did, I did the right thing."

When it comes to evaluating the discipline of players, Pinkel and Alden said each case is unique, and a decision is made depending on information on hand.
Pinkel said he believes new policies on campus regarding Title IX — which covers all forms of discrimination — will help minimize problems on campus.

New attention was brought to how MU and the UM System handles Title IX cases in January when ESPN reported on the suicide of Sasha Menu Courey. That report — also produced by "Outside The Lines" — occurred roughly 16 months after the former MU swimmer was allegedly assaulted by one or more football players.

Alden said he is aware of the Title IX reporting procedures in place at MU but was not aware of said procedures when he learned of Washington's alleged 2008 rape.

"To my knowledge, for me, with MUPD being involved and other people that I informed, certainly I felt like we were reporting it the way we normally report things," Alden said.

"Those types of things are much, much better today than they would have been in 2008," Alden added.

Pinkel said that during football team meetings on Thursdays throughout the season, discussions include "different aspects of assault and being respectful to women."

Pinkel and Alden began speaking at 2 p.m. and held court for about 27 minutes.

The final question any reporter asked was when Pinkel last spoke to Washington.

"I can't remember," Pinkel replied. "I don't think I've talked to him since he left."

Then Pinkel and Alden stopped fielding questions and walked off into an adjacent room.

The complete "Outside The Lines" television report will air at 8 a.m. Sunday* on ESPN.
Mike Alden and Gary Pinkel on the Derrick Washington "Outside the Lines" Story

By David Morrison

A day after ESPN's "Outside the Lines" reported on two previously unknown allegations of violence against women involving former Missouri running back Derrick Washington, athletic director Mike Alden and Gary Pinkel met with the media.

Here's a transcript of that media session:

When were you made aware of the 2008 allegations regarding Washington?

Alden: "We were aware of those allegations at that time. In 2008, we were made aware of those allegations. Certainly, upon becoming aware of that, I inform the people I need to, which would be Chancellor" Brady "Deaton, at that time, and Chris Koukola, our campus public affairs person, and a few other folks as well. We discussed it. Obviously Coach Pinkel was aware of that, too. So we were aware of allegations back in 2008, at that time."

What steps did you take once Washington was questioned by police?

Pinkel: "What happened was, like we generally handle any situation from a disciplinary standpoint -- obviously, police were involved with this -- we find out that Friday morning that Derrick met with the police" Oct. 24, almost two weeks after the alleged incident. "They talked with him and what have you. Then they released him and they didn't file any charges. Obviously, when we found out he met with police, I called Mike right away. Mike goes through what we do. That's how we handle things.

"When we found out they did not have any charges, I make all my decisions on the information I get. I can't go and call the victim up. I'm not able, legally, to do that. I'm not going to do that. It's
all about the information. When the police get involved then, certainly, they are investigators. They are professionals. That's what they do. And if they decide that they're not going to press charges, then I'm not going to remove a player from the team for that. I'm not doing that. It's not consistent with any way I've handled any situation that I've had here before. That's kind of what happened in that case."

**Were you aware that you're supposed to report allegations of sexual violence to the Title IX coordinator?**

Alden: "You know, today, I am aware of all of that. I think the majority of us on our campus are aware of that, with a number of the efforts that have taken place with president" Tim "Wolfe," chancellor R. Bowen "Loftin and the leadership they've displayed. There's many of us that are much more aware of reporting requirements here on campus. But back in 2008, I was not aware of those types of procedures and how they took place on campus."

**And nobody else you mentioned it to was aware?**

Alden: "To my knowledge, for me -- with MUPD being involved and other people I informed -- certainly I felt like we were reporting it the way we would normally report things. I don't have an answer to that part of the question."

**How would you have handled this differently today?**

Alden: "I think certainly there have been many things that have changed on our campus with regards to knowledge of reporting, knowledge of what needs to take place at appropriate times. Today, what you would do in a situation like that -- if you became aware of that -- certainly people recognize that we need to have that reported immediately to the Title IX coordinator on our campus, who is Linda Bennett. But there are other people besides us in athletics that know that. There are many people around campus who would know that. Also, you would know that there is, generally speaking, student conduct policies that go through in regards to if there's any allegations toward students, whatever that may be. Those would be referred to" vice chancellor "Cathy Scroggs and people in that area. So those types of things, today, are much better known today than they would have been in 2008."

**When did you first hear of the former women's soccer player's allegation that Bryan Blitz threatened her scholarship if she pressed charges on Washington in the May 2010 fight?**

Alden: "When I first heard about that was actually in February of 2014. We were aware a former soccer player was arrested -- along with another woman -- in 2010. So back in May of 2010, we were aware that arrest had taken place for a fight downtown. As far as the accusations or allegations in that police report, we were not made aware of that until February 2014. How we became aware of that was there was a pretty massive Sunshine request from ESPN and, throughout that Sunshine request, it uncovered that police report with that statement that was in that police report."

**What was your reaction when you found out about it?**
Alden: "The first reaction was I was very surprised. Second reaction was I wanted to reach out to the soccer coach and make sure he was aware of what I had just found out about. The third reaction was I would call Dr. Loftin to let him know what we had determined, what we had found in that, and certainly wanted to review that to see what the accuracy of that is, what the background of that was, whatever that may be. There was a review that was done on that with regards to 23 people. That was a review that was conducted outside of the university, that looked with that. The allegation that went along with that was just not substantiated, throughout that review."

Was there a policy back then that if you weren't arrested or charged with a crime, you wouldn't be kicked off the team?

Alden: "There was not a policy that referred to that. There was a policy that referred, in 2008, to if you were arrested for anything, you were immediately suspended. Could be for five minutes, could be for five hours, five days, five weeks. It didn't matter whether you were arrested for a misdemeanor or whatever, that would take place. That was policy that we had in place at that time."

So was that more of a personal policy for Coach Pinkel?

Pinkel: "It's based on information. I have to have information to make decisions. He said, she said, unless I have some other information, that's what I go with. If the police after they investigate it -- they do a lot more than I can do. Certainly, I look at that. If they don't charge him, how am I supposed to ... unless there's other circumstances, other things I know. And sometimes that's happened before. But that's how I've always done it. I've been very consistent. I think we run a very disciplined, structured program and I think that we do the right thing. That's the most important thing we do. We try to do the right thing in every decision that we make."

"I think now in place the Title IX on campus is exceptionally good for the University of Missouri. When something like this happens now, all of a sudden, it goes through them right now, too. You have police who are investigating and now you have Title IX and they're investigating. It's more information you can get. I judge everything from the information I get. It's got to be credible and it's got to be such that it really applies to what we're talking about."

Did you talk with Washington about the 2008 incident after police did?

Pinkel: "I always talk with every player. Always. And I talked to him right away. He certainly denied it. Again, I go back to the" police "report. They study it. They do what they do. They're professionals at it. That certainly helps me make the decision, one way or the other, what I should do."

MU dismissed Dorial Green-Beckham without being charged. How do you evaluate a situation like that?

Pinkel: "I get all the information. And when I get all that information, I've got everything. Sometimes I don't have anything but the police investigation and, if they don't have charges, I
also look if there's anything else I have. I had other information, quite honestly, that I knew that would help me make a decision. The decision was I had to remove him. It's confidential where I got that, but I got it. I could have thrown it out. I didn't, because I had to do what's right. I got that information so, regardless of what the police did, I did the right thing. That's why I say you have to get all the information. Sometimes you have some more, sometimes you don't."

Alden: "We have to always look at situations, they're always unique. There are unique situations in every type of issue like this you may be dealing with in college athletics, or anywhere. So I think those two situations are pretty different. As one, with regards to you may have a pattern you know of -- a pattern of behavior that may have taken place -- and another where it's the first allegation you receive. Those kinds of things weigh into it. As he adds to gathering all the information he can, I think it's almost important to recognize if there's a pattern of behavior, too."

With Green-Beckham and Mike Dixon, there was the sense they had to go so it wouldn't happen again. Since it did happen again with Washington, did that shape future policy?

Alden: "The way that those types of issues unfold, all of them are unique. All of them are unbelievably challenging. Each situation is going to have various circumstances that are specific to those situations. When you go through those, do those help shape your thought processes on any other situations that may come up? Absolutely. It's no different than us learning, as we've gone through, all the improvements we need to make relative to Title IX reporting, student conduct reporting, all these types of initiatives President Wolfe, Dr. Loftin and all of us are trying to do at Mizzou. You take those situations and you're trying to learn from those. That's what we've tried to do in each of those. I believe it's made us a better athletic program, more knowledgeable of all the things we need to do and made us, hopefully, even a stronger partner for all we're trying to do at Mizzou."

The 2008 victim's ex-boyfriend -- a former Missouri football player -- suggested she could sign a contract of silence with the coaching staff in return for a scholarship. Is there any truth to that?

Pinkel: "I have no idea where he got that. I don't know anything about that."

Have you implemented any new programs for athletes to avoid such instances in the future?

Pinkel: "There are a lot of things we're doing. One thing we've talked about doing is, any player who had any kind of issue at all -- sexual assault, anything he's accused of, whether he's charged or not -- counseling him right away. That's something that we did. I've always talked a lot about it with our football team. We have coach" Cornell "Ford who kind of handles that every August with our team. He goes into specifics about rape, 'no is no,' so on and so forth. During the season often in our team meetings on Thursday, we talk about different aspects of assault and respect for women. 'Men for Men' on campus, that started a few years ago, where we get all the student-athlete men and have classes. That's often brought up. We bring a guest speaker sometimes."
"In our society, sexual harassment is awful. It's something we've got to -- and sexual assault -- we have to do the best we can to help these girls. I've got a daughter, two daughters-in-law and four granddaughters. I think that Title IX being on campus is great for the things the chancellor and president have done. It's a real ugly part of our society right now and we have to do everything we can to help fix it."

**What can the athletic department do to aid in Title IX issues?**

Alden: "One incident is too many. We know that. Any incident is too many. From an athletic department standpoint, we have to constantly be educating. We have to constantly be reminding, constantly be reinforcing the messages of our core values, what's appropriate, what's not appropriate, how do you report? How are you supposed to handle particular situations. And so that's something we constantly strive for and work on all the time. That's a requirement of us, an obligation of us, and it's important that we do that. It's part of who we are. And that's something that we have to focus on every day."

**How did the 2008 incident impact how you handled Washington's discipline in his 2010 sexual assault incident?**

Pinkel: "When I heard about this, I had him in my office. Quite honestly, I said to him -- and you've got to understand, there's nothing in Derrick's background, anything that would invite us to think there were issues he had. But when that happened, I said to him, 'Two years ago and now? This is serious. You might be dismissed from the program. The police are investigating this. We've got problems here.'

"What we did is just followed along as these reports -- and obviously Mike was aware of it and the chancellor -- and we were just getting reports as often as we could, kind of where the investigation was. I needed information. Actually what happened on that is Mike and I were meeting quite a bit about it and right about the middle of August, there was a point where we got the feeling where there was a greater than 50 percent chance they were going to arrest him. Mike and I are talking about this. What they're saying is that possibly he'd be arrested at the very end of August or sometime in the middle of September.

"Mike and I met on that and one evening we were talking about it. I just told Mike, 'There's no way in the world, knowing that he very likely is going to get arrested in the middle of September, that we can play the first game with him. We can't do it.' I had enough information so that we could make that decision, and that's what we did. We suspended him prior to -- whether it was going to be an assault charge, which we didn't know, or a felony charge, which we didn't know -- that was the process that we went through. Knowing the possibility of him in the middle of September playing two games, we can't do that. It's not the right thing to do. We suspended him and, later on, he was removed from the program."

**Are you comfortable with everything you and your staff did in 2008?**

Pinkel: "Certainly, you're always trying to make yourself better. That's my job. That's what I do, coaches, players, everybody, you're trying to make yourself better. Our campus is better right
now. That's helped. The reason Title IX is significant to me is there's another source I have to make decisions. I can instantly get counseling for anybody that's involved, even if they're not charged. As much information as I can get so I can make the right decision and do the right thing is kind of what I need. That's why I think the Title IX aspect, that part of it, is going to really help this campus and help these young ladies."

Alden: "We know that mistakes were made in the past. We understand that. For that, it's incumbent upon all of us to learn from those mistakes. How do we analyze those, learn from those and improve? I'm not talking just as an athletic program. I'm talking about as a university."

ESPN requested emails from Coach Pinkel. What kind of communication does he engage in with staff and department during these incidents?

Pinkel: "You ask any of my friends, I don't email a whole lot. Hardly at all. So I have no idea. They've got what they have. I do the right thing, but I'm not a big email guy."

Are you saying the conversation between Blitz and the soccer player was unsubstantiated? Or the allegation he threatened her scholarship if she pressed charges?

Alden: "The outside review did not substantiate that there was a situation where a scholarship was going to be in jeopardy based upon what had taken place. For our former soccer player, we know her scholarship was never in jeopardy. She was a post-eligible student-athlete. We know she finished her degree here on scholarship. What we do know from that review was we weren't able to substantiate it."

Why did you decline comment to ESPN when they asked for it?

Alden: "I believe that as broad as the Sunshine requests had been, as broad as the issues were, it was impacting and looking at not only intercollegiate athletics, but it was looking at the university, the system, whatever that may be. We just felt as an institution and as a team of people -- our communications team -- that it would be more appropriate for us to decline comment."

When was the last time you spoke with Washington?

Pinkel: "I don't know. I can't remember. I don't think I've talked to him since he left."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

ESPN report on Derrick Washington to air Sunday morning

Saturday, August 23, 2014 | 7:44 p.m. CDT; updated 9:06 p.m. CDT, Saturday, August 23, 2014
BY KEVIN MODELSKI

COLUMBIA — For the second time in 2014, MU will make an appearance on ESPN's "Outside The Lines" program because of an alleged lack of action in reporting assault.

An "Outside The Lines" report released Thursday, titled "Athletes, assaults and inaction," will air at 8 a.m. Sunday on ESPN and will follow with big-picture commentary on its subject matter. The report alleged that MU mishandled instances of assault committed by running back Derrick Washington before his dismissal from the football team in 2010.

The report lists four cases in which Washington allegedly committed assault. The first came in 2008 when Washington was reported to have raped an MU sophomore in her dorm room. No charges were filed against Washington.

In a press conference Friday afternoon, Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel said he had become aware of the allegations against Washington in 2008, but he did not discipline the star athlete.

"If they decide they're not going to press charges, then I'm not going to remove a player from the team for that," Pinkel said. "I'm consistent in how I handle any situation before."

Pinkel did, however, remove a player in April, despite the lack of charges.

The 14th-year coach dismissed wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham, who was listed in a police report for a burglary incident but was not charged with a crime.

Pinkel said Friday he had "other information, quite honestly" to help make his decision about Green-Beckham.
"It's confidential where I got it," Pinkel said. "I could have thrown it out, but I didn't because I have to do what's right. Regardless of what the police did, I did the right thing."

Another allegation in the Outside The Lines report describes an incident in which Missouri soccer coach Bryan Blitz reportedly used a scholarship as leverage to keep one of his players from reporting that she was assaulted by Washington. According to the ESPN report, Washington punched the player in the face after an altercation that resulted in the arrest of the soccer player and Washington's girlfriend.

Although he was aware that the soccer player was arrested, Missouri athletics director Mike Alden said in Friday's press conference that he did not know she and Blitz had a conversation about the status of her scholarship until February 2014.

**In a teleconference Thursday, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said Blitz was trying to let the soccer player know her scholarship could be in danger because she was arrested.**

"What seems to be clear is the soccer player and coach had a conversation," Loftin said. "Sometimes two people talk to each other and leave the room with a different understanding of that conversation."

The third instance involving Washington occurred in June 2010 when former MU student and tutor Teresa Braeckel reported that Washington entered her bedroom in the middle of the night and sexually assaulted her.

Pinkel said he learned that Washington could be arrested for the sexual assault before the 2010 season began. He sat down with the senior captain and discussed the severity of his actions.

"We've got problems here," Pinkel said he told Washington.

Washington was charged with felony deviate sexual assault Aug. 30, 2010, and was dismissed from the team in September. He still had a scholarship to continue attending school at MU, but he withdrew from school shortly after his dismissal.

Washington was sentenced to five years in prison but served a 120-day shock sentence for the assault. He pleaded guilty to third-degree assault in the attack of his ex-girlfriend.
— which occurred three months after the 2010 assault — and served a 90-day sentence concurrently with the shock sentence.

Alden said although he knows of the Title IX reporting procedures in place at MU now, he was not aware of said procedures when he learned of Washington's alleged 2008 rape.

"To my knowledge, for me, with MUPD being involved and other people that I informed, certainly I felt like we were reporting it the way we normally report things," Alden said about Washington's assault in 2008.

"Those types of things are much, much better today than they would have been in 2008," Alden added.

New attention was brought to how MU and the UM System handles Title IX cases in January when ESPN reported on the suicide of Sasha Menu Courey. That report — also released on ESPN by "Outside The Lines" — occurred roughly 16 months after the former MU swimmer was allegedly assaulted by one or more football players.

MU athletic director explains why 2008 Derrick Washington allegation wasn’t investigated by school

BY TOD PALMER

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Missouri athletic director Mike Alden said Friday he wasn’t aware of Title IX-mandated reporting procedures for sexual assaults in 2008.
That’s why, when former tailback Derrick Washington was investigated by MU Police for allegedly raping a female student in her dorm room in October 2008, the university didn’t launch an independent investigation. Washington wasn’t dismissed from the team until September 2010, after he was charged with felony sexual assault in a different case in which he was ultimately convicted and sentenced to prison.

**Speaking at a news conference at Mizzou Arena with Tigers football coach Gary Pinkel, Alden said he was aware of the allegation six years ago and that he informed then-chancellor Brady Deaton and former chief public affairs officer Chris Koukola about it.**

But MU never conducted an investigation into the alleged rape, which became public Thursday as part of an ESPN “Outside the Lines” story about lax Title IX reporting practices.

“Today, I am aware of all of that,” Alden said of the mandatory-reporting requirements, citing recent efforts by University of Missouri system president Tim Wolfe and chancellor R. Bowen Loftin to increase awareness on campus.

But in 2008, Alden said he believed police involvement was sufficient. “I felt like we were reporting it the way we would normally report things,” he said.

Pinkel also was aware that Washington was investigated for an alleged rape in 2008, but no disciplinary action was taken after the Boone County Prosecutor’s Office declined to press charges.

“(The police) investigate, and they know a lot more than I do,” Pinkel said Friday. “Certainly, I look at that, but if they don’t charge him, what am I supposed to do unless there’s other circumstances, other things I know, and sometimes that has happened.”

Pinkel dismissed wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham from the team in April despite the fact that no charges were filed after witnesses refused to cooperate with the Columbia Police Department’s investigation into an alleged burglary and assault.
“I had other information, quite honestly, that I knew that helped me make a decision, (regarding Green-Beckham)” Pinkel said. “The decision was that I had to remove him. That’s confidential where I got that, but I got it. I could have thrown it out. I didn’t, because I have to do what’s right.”

Alden also said his department was aware that a women’s soccer player had been arrested during a bar fight at the Field House, a Columbia sports bar, in May 2010, but he didn’t learn about the allegation that her scholarship was threatened if she pursued charges against Washington until February 2014.

Washington’s girlfriend and the soccer player got into a fight that spilled outside the bar. The soccer player told police Washington punched her in the face, but he was never arrested or charged.

Alden said Friday that ESPN’s Sunshine Law request brought to light the accusation that she was pressured not to pursue charges against Washington, but after speaking with Tigers soccer coach Bryan Blitz and ordering an outside review, he found the claim to be unsubstantiated.

“Oh obviously, we know that mistakes were made in the past,” Alden said. “We understand that. For that, it’s incumbent upon all of us to learn from those mistakes. How do we analyze those? How do we learn from those? And, how do we improve? I’m not talking about just as an athletic department. I’m talking about as a university.”

Missouri’s Title IX reporting practices already were under scrutiny after an earlier ESPN story about the alleged rape and subsequent suicide of former MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey.

In that case, an independent investigation found that MU fell short of its obligations to report, investigate and make support services available when a student has been the victim of sexual assault.

*Spearheaded by Wolfe, all four of the University of Missouri system’s campuses reviewed Title IX reporting procedures. Each campus also took*
an inventory of resources available for students and took steps to ensure students knew about those resources.

At MU, a full-time Title IX coordinator and support staff was put in place by Loftin.

Pinkel said players who get into trouble are now required to attend counseling, whether they ultimately are charged with a crime or not. He said issues of sexual assault and respect for women are frequent topics of conversation in team meetings.

“Certainly, there’s been many things that have changed, particularly on campus with knowledge of reporting and knowledge of what needs to take place at the appropriate time,” Alden said.

Pinkel said Friday that Washington denied the sexual assault allegation in 2008. Washington also denied it to The Star on Friday when reached by phone.

The alleged 2008 victim told police and ESPN that she engaged in several consensual sex acts with Washington, but she said she told Washington to stop when he wanted to have intercourse.

Washington admitted having intercourse, but he said she didn’t tell him to stop until after the act had started.

“It was probably like 30 seconds and she said, ‘I don’t want to do this anymore,’ so I stopped,” said Washington, who denied grabbing her wrists or pinning her down, causing bruises or a gash in her neck as alleged in the ESPN story.

On Friday, Pinkel said the 2008 allegation still factored into his decision to suspend Washington before he was charged with felony deviate sexual assault after a former female tutor reported a June 2010 rape.

“When that happened,” Pinkel said, “I said to (Washington), ‘Two years ago and now, this is serious. You might be dismissed from the program and the police are investigating this. We’ve got problems here.’”
Pinkel said he was getting regular updates about the police investigation and had a series of meetings with Alden.

He decided to suspend Washington when “we got the feeling there was a greater than 50 percent chance they were going to arrest him,” Pinkel said.

Pinkel said he told Alden, “There’s no way in the world, knowing that he very likely is going to get arrested in the middle of September, that we can play the first game with him. We can’t do it.”

Washington was arrested and charged Aug. 30 with felony deviate sexual assault. He was arrested about two weeks later for third-degree domestic assault, a misdemeanor, against a girlfriend. He was convicted in both cases.

Washington was sentenced to five years for the sexual assault and 90 days for the domestic assault. He served four months as part of a first-time offenders program and was released from prison in February 2012. He finished his football career that season at Tuskegee, where he is working toward completing a degree.

“I’ve already done my time and I’m trying to move on in my life,” Washington said.

University of Missouri set to roll out Title IX training

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (2)

The University of Missouri is rolling out training for university employees, students and visitors to better understand their responsibilities as mandated reporters under Title IX.
Training will be coordinated primarily on the UM System level, as well as on each campus. The system is taking a lead in training after an executive order from President Tim Wolfe made every university employee a mandated reporter, with the exception of legal and medical professionals.

Title IX, a provision in the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibits sex discrimination in education. That extends to instances of sexual violence, which the U.S. Department of Education views as a form of sexual harassment.

An April 2011 letter from the Department of Education informed all entities that receive federal Title IX funding that schools are obligated to investigate and attempt to resolve sexual-assault claims once they “reasonably should know” of an incident, regardless of whether it has been reported by the student, his or her family or a third party.

The topic of MU’s handling of Title IX-related issues, including sexual assault, reemerged this week after an ESPN “Outside the Lines” story that featured a 2008 situation involving MU athletes. According to an email from MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken, the Title IX office at MU is currently investigating reports of sexual assault.

Training will start in phases. First, each campus’ Title IX coordinators, deputy coordinators and first responders will be trained. Their training, which will be a hybrid of online and in-person, is expected to start next week, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said on a conference call Thursday.

The next group to be trained will be those on campus who deal with victim responses, are involved in student conduct processes and those who have investigative capabilities related to Title IX. At MU, Loftin said the number of employees with investigative capabilities is “well over 20.”

The final stage of training will be online training for all mandated reporters, which includes faculty, staff, students and campus visitors.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said the online training program is still under construction, so details aren’t available. The university is creating content for the program with the help of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, a consultant company the university hired earlier this year.

“We’re taking time on this to make sure we’re going to do it right,” Fougere said.

In addition to system-wide training, there also will be programs and other forms of training on the four campuses, he said.

Fougere said the UM System’s approach to sexual assault and mental health issues is addressing three areas: training, prevention and consultation/assessment.
While training programs soon will be unveiled, the prevention aspect could take some time. Fougere said the goal is to inventory resources on all four campuses that address bystander awareness, alcohol intervention and similar programs that Fougere said are “critical for success” in addressing sexual assault.

“Compassionate and effective treatment of those who are victimized is extremely important,” Fougere said. “At the same time, the more we can prevent this from happening, the safer the campuses will be.”

The third aspect — consultation — will involve administrators continuing to consult the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management for advice and input on programs as they’re rolled out.

MUPD, Columbia police to target public drunkenness

By Alan Burdziak

Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (5)

With the fall semester set to begin, the University of Missouri said Friday its police force will increase its presence in areas under the purview of the Columbia Police Department to increase safety around campus.

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said the efforts will include proactive patrols in the East Campus and Greektown neighborhoods and will focus on public drunkenness, driving while intoxicated, underage drinking and other alcohol-related infractions.

Officers from both police departments frequently have to not just arrest young people accused of booze-induced crimes but also assist people sometimes too intoxicated to find their way home or even identify themselves to law enforcement.

Weimer said that includes partiers passed out in public after an evening of revelry. It is a small portion of students who create these types of issues, he said. “Hopefully that will help send a message out to many of the students who are coming back that this” kind of behavior “will not be tolerated,” Weimer said.
The enhanced cooperation will hopefully prevent more serious crimes from being committed, he said, because a lot of the most serious crimes on campus involve an intoxicated perpetrator. Alcohol often puts people at a higher risk of making bad decisions, Weimer said, and the effort is meant to show there are consequences.

Weimer added that MU’s police force will not be taking over jurisdiction in Greektown. There is not expected to be any added costs for overtime, Weimer said, but the university did approve the hiring of a few more officers.

“The crimes and disorder related to overuse of alcohol are unfortunately common in university communities,” Columbia police Chief Ken Burton said in a statement. “This partnership should enhance both agencies’ efforts in addressing these issues.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Human Environmental Sciences dean announces retirement
Saturday, August 23, 2014 | 3:14 p.m. CDT; updated 7:42 p.m. CDT, Saturday, August 23, 2014
BY YIZHU WANG

COLUMBIA – The dean of MU’s College of Human Environmental Sciences announced that he would retire near the beginning of the 2015-16 school year.

Stephen Jorgensen, who has worked at the university since 2001, will retire on Aug. 31, 2015, according to an MU news release. He oversaw a 160 percent increase in his college’s endowment, while the number of credit hours taken in the college doubled during his nearly 15-year career.

“(I)t has been rewarding to be part of the growth the college has experienced,” Jorgensen said in the news release. “I’ve enjoyed helping students, faculty and staff resolve problems and break down barriers as they strive to achieve their goals.”

In addition to advancing the College of Human Environmental Sciences, Jorgensen helped secure support for the MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders in 2005.
“It was a fantastic experience to work on an effort that is now touching the lives of so many children and their families in such positive ways,” he said in an interview.

Jorgensen completed a doctorate in family sociology at the University of Minnesota in 1976. He served on the faculty at the University of Arizona, Texas Tech University and the University of Arkansas before coming to Columbia.

Outside of his education work, Jorgensen is an avid scuba diver. The 65-year-old plans to expand the range of places he visits for diving after retirement, especially in Micronesia and other destinations in the South Pacific Ocean.

“I plan to travel for fun more than I have been able to do,” Jorgensen said.

The university will conduct a national search for Jorgensen’s replacement, the interim provost said in the news release.

MU professor experiments with crowd funding to finance research

Monday, August 25, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY MICHELLE TODD

COLUMBIA — MU scientist Susan Nagel had already found that groundwater near drilling sites where fracking was used had elevated levels of hormone-disrupting chemicals. Her research, published in the online peer-review journal Endocrinology, cited other research linking these chemicals to birth defects and infertility.

The next step was to identify specific hormone disruptors in the water, develop methods to measure these chemicals in human urine and blood, and identify potential health trends associated with the chemicals used in fracking — a process that injects fluids into the ground under pressure to fracture rock and extract oil and natural gas.
Nagel, an associate professor at MU School of Medicine, turned to crowd funding to continue her research after deciding she couldn't afford the time-consuming process of waiting for federal grants.

She used a website dedicated to scientific research, Experiment. Denny Luan, co-founder of Experiment, said the site has funded more than 150 projects and has raised nearly $1 million. Nagel raised her goal of $25,000 on June 28, three months after creating the campaign, from 133 people around the world. She said a $7,500 grant from MU, which she applied for early January, took around six months to arrive.

One contributor was Caitlin Johnson, a support technician for the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Johnson first heard about the project through a Facebook page dedicated to Gasland, a documentary that investigated the environmental fallout of fracking. She funded the project because of issues brought up by the film.

"Funding a scientific research study seems like a good use of my limited funds, in terms of contributing to an effort that has a chance of making a difference," Johnson said.

Nagel said she applied for government funding from the National Institute of Health in October 2013 and did not receive it. She applied again in July 2014 and will find out the results in February.

"Crowd funding allowed us to continue the project during this time, which is very important," she said.

Although crowd funding was a way to continue the fracking research while waiting for more funding, Nagel said she is not enthusiastic about using it in the future.

"I'm very pleased with the results," she said, "but it was a huge amount of work that didn't have a lot to do with science."

Nagel said even with help from the marketing department at MU, she spent around two hours a day driving traffic to her fundraiser, and it took on average 40 page views to get just one donation. She said she thinks that more people will try to use crowd funding, and as more people start to use it, the process will become more streamlined.

David Beversdorf, an associate professor for psychological sciences at MU, is also using crowd funding through Fundly. His focus is on how brain chemistry affects autism. His goal on the website is $50,000.
Beversdorf said he turned to crowd funding due to the exploratory nature of his research and because it would be too difficult to build the amount of supporting evidence that is required for grant funding.

"So far, we have raised several hundred dollars," Beversdorf said. "We are planning to spread the campaign farther and hope to do much better."

According to an article on Sciencedirect.com, named "Crowdfunding: Tapping the right source," the idea of crowd funding came from the broader term crowdsourcing—using the crowd to collect ideas, feedback, and solutions to problems. Crowd funding refers specifically to collecting money.

According to fundable.com, a business crowd-funding platform, the first recorded successful crowd funding was in 1997 when a British rock band reached out to fans online to fund their reunion tour. The first crowd funding platform, ArtistShare, was created in 2000, the website said.

An article by Dawn Cadogan, a social sciences librarian at University of Connecticut Libraries, lists two "research only" crowd funding websites and four "general" websites with research sections. Other schools, including the University of Virginia and the University of California, have their own crowd funding sites.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the application process for federal grants has taken more time in recent years due to new disclosure requirements and training for conflicts of interest. The number of proposals submitted has also increased, he said.

Basi said the amount of money received also appears to have lowered in recent years. He said there was a dramatic increase in funds in fiscal 2009-2010 due to an economic stimulus package that has since been phased out.
Activate Your Company's Potential by Teaming Up With a University

Top-notch talent is critical for any business. For a growing company, universities are the perfect place to hunt for the most ambitious and passionate entry-level employees.

For my company, developing a relationship with the University of Missouri made perfect sense. It has one of the best journalism schools in the country and makes an effort to instill an entrepreneurial mindset in its students. Professors are looking for real-world opportunities for their students, and offering that experience through our internship program gives us access to top journalism students. All it took was contacting a few professors, speaking in classes, and finding ways we could provide value to the university.

Teaming up with students helps them shape their futures and gives your business a fresh outlook. Here are a few reasons forming a relationship with a local university makes sense:

1. Students Are Enthusiastic Learners

Every company wants passionate employees who are eager to learn and are genuinely interested in the company’s expertise.

When you find schools that emphasize hands-on experience like MU does with the Missouri Method, you’ll find students who are already passionate about their chosen field. Take those students who are enthusiastic and knowledgeable, and put them to work.

Doan Winkel, assistant professor of entrepreneurship at Illinois State University, has also noticed the growing demand for real-world experience.

“[Students] don’t want to sit back and read case studies or textbook analogies about the past,” says Winkel. “They want to engage with the messiness that’s going on right now in small businesses and corporations.

2. There’s Always New Talent

Recruiting can be stressful for small businesses. As we’ve grown, our biggest challenge has been finding qualified people who want to settle in Columbia, Missouri. But having a college or university nearby provides constant access to a new pool of candidates who already love the area. And one of the best ways we attract them is through content. There’s a fresh batch of students every year who are being trained in the latest industry trends. So, if they’re keeping up to date with our blog and trends in the space, it’s a perfect match.
3. You Get Them Early

*When you hire students as interns, you catch them before the job search even begins.* This reduces competition and allows you to groom them into your ideal full-time employees.

I love speaking in front of freshmen and sophomores. These talks shape their view of our company and position it as a desirable place to work. When filling out applications years later, they’ll want to choose a familiar company, and these talks keep us top of mind.

4. Students Aren’t Set in Their Ways

You shouldn’t underestimate the value of seasoned industry veterans, but for some positions, it’s often more valuable to have a fresh mind that hasn’t already adopted a distinct way of doing things. It’s easier for us to train students on the way our company operates and instill the importance of continually challenging the status quo.

5. Students Are Affordable

When your diet consists of pizza, beer, ramen noodles, and other things I remember from college, even the smallest amount of discretionary income from a side job or internship can help. Leaders don’t have to spend much to hire students part-time.

Obviously, you need to devote time to training interns, but the investment pays off when they increase your staff’s capacity — especially if they transition into full-time employees.

6. The University Benefits, Too

When you develop a close relationship with professors, you’re helping them out, as well. Instead of relying on textbook material, professors can call on you to offer real-world examples in class and provide students with hands-on learning.

“Coming in and giving talks to local students, serving on panels, and being involved with clubs and organizations are all positive things that can be done by individual firms to build alliances with universities as a whole,” says Kofi Kankam, founder and CEO of Admit Advantage.

Our company is constantly communicating with the university to find new ways to work together. Professors are thrilled that their students get a chance to tackle real client work instead of making copies or getting coffee.

You don’t have to look far to find great talent. By making connections with nearby universities and colleges, you’ll snatch up the most talented employees and give hard-working students some real-world experience. So clear off that extra desk, give your old professors a call, and put their students to work.
Movers and Shakers: September

Carrie Gartner

Executive Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs Harold Williamson Jr. announced that Gartner will join the University of Missouri Health System as director of communications and public relations. Gartner has served as an adjunct faculty member at Stephens College. She received a Ph.D. in communications from the University of Utah.

Teresa Snow

The MU Health System announced that Snow will join the health system as the corporate director of strategic communications and media relations. Snow previously worked as a news anchor and reporter for KRCG-TV in Jefferson City. She received a bachelor’s degree in communications from Florida State University.

Frederick Fraunfelder

The MU School of Medicine named Fraunfelder as the chair of its Department of Ophthalmology. Fraunfelder received his degrees from the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon. He specializes in corneal disease, laser eye surgery and cancers of the eye.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Hundreds of MU students volunteer community service for Step Forward Day

Saturday, August 23, 2014 | 8:52 p.m. CDT

BY YIZHU WANG, JINGHONG CHEN

COLUMBIA — Long lines of volunteers stood under the scorching sun at Tiger Plaza, waiting for their turn to check in and kick off the 13th annual Step Forward Day on Saturday morning.

“The number of people increased by a lot. Last year, I didn’t have to wait in a line really.” MU student Brandon Spink said.
Step Forward Day, an MU tradition, offers freshmen and transfer students an opportunity to do community service. This year, 409 volunteers were assigned to 16 groups to serve 14 agencies, including the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, D&D Animal Sanctuary and UCP Heartland Child Development Center.

Student Lauren Magarino spent the day at the D&D Animal Sanctuary, cleaning cages under the hot sun. She was expecting an indoor shelter but found that the sanctuary is more like a farm and is home to a wide variety of animals, including a tiger.

Despite the heat and the mess, she was positive and laughing about the experience.

"Oh, it was really awesome," she said. "It was a really good experience."

Nearly 80 more students participated in the event this year compared to 2013. Organizer Alyssa Bilyeu was part of a group of students who promoted the event, aimed partially at getting Residential Life staff more involved in community service.

“We had an official partnership with Residential Life this year, partially because Residential Life wanted to have their community advisers do more service,” said Bilyeu, a graduate assistant for Leadership & Service.

MU’s Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs said that an emphasis was placed on involving first-year students to let them know that organizations in Columbia needed help.

"I think for these students, they're new to university and new to Columbia, and I think we want them to start off their semester realizing that they have an opportunity to give back," she said.

Residential Life’s community advisers such as MU student Melody Myers were required to participate in this year’s event. The junior is no stranger to service; she volunteered at the Boys & Girls Clubs' previous Step Forward Day and is thinking about minoring in public service.

“I really like sitting down, talking to different people. You never know what you will learn by talking to them,” she said.

Truman Veterans' Hospital welcomed Myers and 13 other volunteers. This year, volunteers sat at tables with patients, staring at bingo boards and listening for numbers to be called out.

Patient Roger Kent Arrowsmith beamed after his student partner yelled "bingo!" He leaned forward and took a bite of his doughnut and a sip of his coffee.
The hospital "is alive a little bit," Arrowsmith said, still smiling.

“I think they are great; they are awesome,” said Erin Carr, a recreational therapist at the hospital. “Hopefully we can get them back again and again.”

**Bedbugs show up at Oak Tower**

By **Jodie Jackson Jr.**

**Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (2)**

An apartment at Columbia Housing Authority’s Oak Tower recently was treated for bedbugs, marking the first time that building has had a confirmed bedbug issue.

“We have identified one unit at Oak Tower that has bedbugs,” said Phil Steinhaus, CEO of the housing authority. “They’re pretty much epidemic across the country.”

All housing authority apartment buildings have now had at least one bedbug issue. The agency spends roughly $60,000 annually to treat bedbug infestations. Steinhaus said half of that is from bedbug treatments at Paquin Tower, 1201 Paquin St.

“We have been kind of battling them since 2008 over there,” Steinhaus said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says bedbugs cause property loss, expense and inconvenience, but do not transmit disease and that their presence is not determined by the cleanliness of living conditions where they are found.

“We’re not the only ones out there that have bedbugs,” Steinhaus said. The 147-unit Oak Tower at 701 N. Garth Ave. is designed primarily for seniors and disabled adults age 50 or older.

“We were crossing our fingers this whole time that we haven’t had any” bedbugs “at Oak Tower,” he said. “The way things are going across the country, it was just a matter of time.”

Steinhaus said regular visitors to public housing apartments, such as home health workers, are educated about how to avoid bringing in pests. The agency also does not allow residents to bring in furniture that is left at the curbside.
“We try to minimize the use of pesticides, just because we really don’t want to soak our buildings down with pesticides,” he said.

Steinhaus said the agency’s pest control provider treats bedbug problems with a thorough cleaning, taping seams of mattresses where the bugs like to lay their eggs, and then applying heat to the entire apartment to kill the bugs.

“This is something the community needs to be aware of,” he said. “It’s not just us. It’s a much broader issue.”

**Frankie Minor, director of Residential Life at the University of Missouri, said in the past academic year, MU had two bedbug confirmations in the graduate and family apartments and one issue in the residence halls. He said the department had one incident in the leased Campus View apartments, but pest control there is the responsibility of the property owner.**

Minor said heat treatment is the most common and most effective treatment for bedbugs, and that MU has even made use of a specially trained dog that can locate bedbugs.

Last year, MU spent about $2,000 on bedbug treatment on top of its annual contract for routine pest management that totals around $22,500.

Minor said bedbugs shouldn’t be associated with “poor hygiene or living conditions” because “many fancy hotels and private homes with outstanding cleaning schedules encounter this problem.”

“They are a nuisance but not a danger,” Minor said.

Kala Wekenborg, environmental health supervisor for the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, said her office doesn’t have authority to inspect public housing units, student housing or private homes. Her staff encounters bedbug issues when hotel and motel visitors make complaints.

Those complaints “ebb and flow,” she said, depending on tourism traffic.

“Occasionally, we’ll find presence of bedbugs” in annual inspections of lodging facilities, she said. When that happens, the department takes those rooms out of service and operators are required to work with pest control companies to address the problem before the rooms can be reopened.

Minor said a brochure made available to students emphasizes that “prevention is always the best idea.”

“Also, we suggest that they pay attention to bites, but not every bite is a bedbug — and most aren’t,” he said. A pattern of three successive bites is common for bedbugs, he said. Bug
sightings and bites should be reported to staff, who will call a pest control company to evaluate and treat the area if necessary.

Minor said that in graduate and family apartments where students supply their own furniture, his department cautions against sharing furniture or picking up discarded furniture to prevent the possible spread of bedbugs.

“We actually have very few incidents,” Minor said.

Leading the Field

August 25, 2014  BY Vicki Hodder

Look no further than this year’s World Cup to get a handle on the rapid growth of new sport management programs at the University of Missouri. The 2014 soccer tournament was noteworthy as much for the unprecedented size of its U.S. audiences as for the games themselves, prompting press reports about American soccer fever and record-breaking television viewership. High-profile sports competitions such as the World Cup are one reason demand for education programs focusing on the business side of sports is surging.

“Part of it’s just the culture in which we live,” says Robin Ammon, North American Society for Sport Management business office manager and University of South Dakota sport management associate professor.

Academic sport management programs actually have been around for a while. Ohio University launched the first American sport management program in 1966, and enough programs existed by the late 1980s for NASSM and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education to start working together on curriculum guidelines. Now more than 450 universities report on the NASSM website that they offer some type of sport management program. But the popularity of sport management programs is cyclical, reflecting an array of social factors as well as demand for program graduates, Ammon says.

Most of MU’s sport management programs started during a global growth spurt that Ammon says the field has witnessed during the past four or five years. In 2011, MU kicked off two new sport management emphasis areas in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. In 2013, the university began offering a new athletic training bachelor’s degree within the School of
Health Professions. A longstanding sports turf focus within CAFNR’s Division of Plant Sciences also continues to prepare students for jobs maintaining and managing athletic fields.

Student response to the new sport management academic tracks has been enthusiastic. Below are snapshots of the various MU sport management programs that have drawn students into the field.

**Sport management**

CAFNR’s sport management emphasis within its parks, recreation and tourism bachelor’s degree is the fastest-growing of MU’s relatively new array of sport industry academic tracks. Students in this emphasis learn how to manage collegiate or professional sport day-to-day operations, which prepares them for careers ranging from sports marketing to ticket sales. Emphasis classes include Sport Economics and Finance, Business of Sport and Legal Aspects of Sport.

“What sport management does, at least on the business side, is produce the event, manage the event, sell and market the event and make it as fun as possible so people will come back over and over again,” says Nicholas Watanabe, parks, recreation and tourism assistant teaching professor, who helps run the program.

Students apparently see the fun in the field. Enrollment in the sport management emphasis jumped by more than 120 percent during its first two years, going from 220 students in the fall of 2011 to 487 students in the fall of 2013, according to Bryan L. Garton, CAFNR associate dean and director of academic programs. That increase is “way beyond” what MU officials anticipated, though administrators expected growth when they began the program based on industry demand, Garton says.

Program administrators point to several factors to explain its popularity. MU focused on building the sport management programs, planning and investing resources in them, Watanabe says. Recruitment and advertising also have played their roles, he adds. More generally, Watanabe cites a nationwide awareness of the field that has sparked sport management programs in high schools as well as colleges. Students may be drawn to the program by their interest in sports and find unexpected opportunities in the industry once they’re admitted, Watanabe says.

Watanabe believes the sport management program will continue growing at a slower pace but notes limits to growth such as classroom size and the number of professors involved in teaching courses.

Garton cautions that future program growth depends a great deal upon the job market. Relatively few of the program’s participants have graduated to test those waters, so MU does not yet have a track record by which to gauge potential growth, he says.

“It’s one thing to have great enrollment growth,” says Garton. “We don’t want to be producing graduates who can’t get jobs.”

**Athletic training**
Launched in 2013, MU’s athletic training bachelor’s degree is built on a network of collaborations that administrators aim to use to make it a nationally prominent program. The four-year degree housed in MU’s School of Health Professions focuses on the skills required to keep athletes healthy and injury free. After graduating from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education and passing the Board of Certification Inc. exam, athletic trainers often work in high schools, colleges, hospitals and fitness centers. Demand for athletic trainers is on the rise, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicting the number of jobs will grow by 19 percent from 2012 to 2022. The field’s promise helped prompt interest in the development of MU’s athletic training bachelor’s degree, says Kyle Gibson, chair of the department of physical therapy.

“By far the most common degree program requested that Mizzou didn’t have was athletic training,” Gibson says.

The program began with 44 students, with about 60 students applying for the 20-plus spots open this year, Gibson says. Although administrators are managing enrollment to abide by space limitations, MU’s athletic training program has been growing in other ways. Most notably, MU hired David Colt, who Gibson describes as “incredibly well known in the field,” as its new athletic training program director.

Colt, a nationally recognized athletic trainer and former Northwest Missouri State University head athletic trainer, stepped into his position at MU in mid-June. Colt plans to use the athletic training program’s strong relationships with the area’s medical community and MU’s athletic department to create a leading athletic training program replete with hands-on learning opportunities. And because they are based in the School of Health Professions along with occupational therapy and physical therapy students, athletic training students also will benefit from interdisciplinary education opportunities, Colt says.

“We should be one of the best programs not only in the Midwest but in the country,” Colt says. “We can do that.”

That said, Colt’s first goal is to earn CAATE accreditation within the 2015-2016 academic year. From there, Colt says, his goal is to produce outstanding athletic trainers who will lead the field.

**Sport venue management**

MU stepped into the evolving field of sport venue management a couple years ago by providing a new emphasis within its hospitality management bachelor’s degree. The program includes courses on sport venue promotion, security and operational risk management and delivering “the fan experience” in its focus on the requirements of running stadiums, arenas and other centers used to stage sports events.

Enrollment in sport venue management has grown by nearly 18 percent since the program’s inception. Sixty-six students enrolled in the emphasis in the fall of 2011, compared to 79 students in the fall of 2013, CAFNR’s Garton says.
The program’s specialized instruction makes sense in the face of what has become a rapidly changing field, says Jeff Mann, chief operating officer for the International Association of Venue Managers. Although it shares core competencies with other types of venue management, sport venue management is adapting to the challenge presented by advanced home viewing technology, Mann says. Along with handling quick influxes of large crowds and rapid event turnover, sport venue managers also must be adept at luring people out of their homes and into their facilities.

“It’s not as much about the game as it used to be,” Mann says. “It’s a big social experience.”

MU’s curriculum tackles such industry challenges, covering customer service and meeting guest expectations. The program also looks at the field’s increasingly specialized business practices, such as the variety of premium seating options and other special amenities.

**Sports field management**

CAFNR’s undergraduate degree in turfgrass science is the oldest — and lowest profile — of its academic tracks with a sport management focus.

The program began with the renovation of MU’s Simmons Field in 1992. Brad Fresenburg, an MU assistant extension professor and turfgrass specialist, says his involvement in the baseball field’s renovation gave rise to his specialization in sports field management. It also prompted Fresenburg to develop an academic focus on creating and maintaining sports fields that has as its highlight internships at MU’s baseball, softball and football practice fields. Since then, 52 students have completed internships with MU athletics, Fresenburg says.

“Once we renovated the field, it looked so nice, we thought this was an opportunity to get the students involved,” Fresenburg says. “Now we’re up to five interns per year.”

Fresenburg’s commitment to the sports turf industry earned him the 2013 Dr. William H. Daniel Award from the Sports Turf Managers Association, a Kansas-based professional association for sports field managers throughout the world. Despite such industry recognition, Fresenburg considers sport turf management a largely overlooked opportunity on the roster of sport management careers. Indeed, Fresenburg says the typical number of students in the MU sport turf program has dropped from 20 to 25 students during the 1990s to between 10 and 14 students nowadays.

Yet demand for sports turf interns as well as managers outstrips supply, Fresenburg says.

“If I had 10 or 20 more students in our program, I could find internships for them,” he says. “In my mind, it’s a great opportunity.”
Steve Nagel, revered astronaut, former MU professor, dies at age 67

By Alan Burdziak

Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (3)

Steve Nagel, an accomplished astronaut and aviation enthusiast who moved to Columbia in 2011 to teach at the University of Missouri, died Thursday evening of complications related to an aggressive form of melanoma.

A scientist with a love for travel in the air and in space, Nagel, 67, was a veteran of four NASA shuttle missions and a longtime U.S. Air Force pilot. He and his wife, Linda Godwin, also a former NASA astronaut, moved to Columbia from Houston and joined the MU faculty.

Nagel, who had a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Illinois and a master’s degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Fresno, taught mechanical engineering at MU for two years before his condition forced him to quit, Godwin said. Godwin, a graduate of MU, still teaches physics at the university.

Even though Nagel’s curriculum vitae is impressive, Henry White, MU professor emeritus of physics, said Nagel never let his success go to his head. White said Nagel’s stories were never about an astronaut’s glory and always were told with an exceptional sense of humor.

“Most of the time they were self-deprecating,” White said. “Instead of describing his heroics, he would describe how he screwed up.”

Nagel was born Oct. 27, 1946, to Ivan “Pete” Nagel and Helena Nagel in Canton, Ill. Before he got his driver’s license, Godwin said, Nagel had flown a solo flight in a small plane. His love of aircraft was present throughout his life as he served in the Air Force as a flight instructor and test pilot beginning in the 1970s. In all, he logged 12,600 hours of flying time, 9,640 of which was in jet aircraft, according to his bio on NASA’s website.

Nagel joined NASA in 1979 and flew his first mission, as a specialist, in 1985. During that mission he was in space for 170 hours. His next mission, in October 1985, he orbited the Earth...
111 times in a week. In 1991, on his third NASA flight, he served as the commander, and he was commander of his fourth and final shuttle flight in 1993. His time in space totaled 723 hours, according to NASA.

It was in the mid-’80s that he and Godwin first met, she said, but they didn’t know each other until she served on his shuttle flight in 1991. They began dating in early 1995 and married in December of that year. He retired from the Air Force in 1995 and from NASA in 2011.

The couple were part owners of a small plane, Godwin said, and Nagel flew frequently. He was passionate about flying and astronomy but also a devoted family man and devout Christian, Godwin said. Some of his favorite moments were spent with his two daughters, she said.

“I would say that as a husband, a father and colleague to so many, he was an outstanding individual,” White said. “He had a jovial spirit, very upbeat, very positive.”

Nagel never did anything halfway, Godwin said, and echoed what White said of her husband’s humility. “There’s a lot of big egos around there at NASA, and he was always very grounded in how he treated everybody,” she said.

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Health information exchanges focus on security

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Sunday, August 24, 2014 at 12:00 am

Two Columbia-based organizations that help connect hospitals, clinics and physicians to separate digital networks of patient health and medical records say they are routinely audited for security and compliance with health privacy rules.

Digital security was in the headlines last week when Tennessee-based Community Health Systems, which operates Moberly Regional Medical Center, disclosed a data breach that affected as many as 4.5 million patients. The system, which has hospitals in 29 states, revealed that the Social Security numbers and other personal information of those patients were obtained in April or June as a result of a cyber attack by hackers in China.
The data breach was apparently limited to personal information of patients and not medical records or credit card data for patients who received medical attention at the clinics in the past five years. Company officials said they are working with federal authorities to investigate the crime and will offer free identify theft protection services to the affected patients.

In response to questions about cyber security, officials at Missouri Health Connection, the state-designated and largest health information exchange in Missouri, said its health management record-sharing system has been certified by national organizations for meeting security and privacy standards.

“Protecting and securing the information is of the utmost importance to MHC and its contractors,” said Mark Pasquale, president and CEO of Missouri Health Connection, which has more than 70 hospital and 350 clinic members throughout the Midwest in addition to more than 7,000 physicians. BJC Healthcare, which operates Boone Hospital Center, is a member of Missouri Health Connection.

Tiger Institute for Healthcare Innovation, the hub of a health information exchange for 16 hospitals, 140 clinics and 736 providers including University of Missouri Health Care and University Hospital, has constant monitoring with “proactive and reactive standards,” said Bryan Bliven, chief information officer for MU Health Care and executive director of Tiger Institute.

“Cyber security is really about a process you follow. The threat’s always evolving,” Bliven said. “We’re aware of the situation” with Community Health Systems, he said. “There’s people that are monitoring the situation to see what we can learn from it. Absolutely the industry learns from one of these.”

Pasquale said Missouri Health Connection uses a “federated model” of information sharing, meaning that information is retrieved from other health systems and consolidated into one record, but the record is not stored on data servers.

“Providers using our network can assure their patients their medical record information cannot be illegally accessed through MHC in the extremely rare chance of a cyber-attack,” Pasquale said.

Bliven said Tiger Institute’s health information exchange has separate databases for shared patient medical information and payment information. He said it uses a combination of risk analysis, audits and attention to industry standards or best practices to assure security. Tiger Institute also invites third parties to conduct “attack and penetration audits,” where they try to hack into the system.

“You learn from those and make adjustments to your system,” he said, noting that technicians are always evaluating potential weaknesses.
Nine months out of the year, Andrew Nelson works about 50 hours a week, driving his 1995 Mazda on either 50- or 100-mile round trips every weekday to his college teaching gigs at Lindenwood University in St. Charles and East Central College in Union.

He gets paid just $22,000 a year combined — without the benefit of a retirement package or health care coverage.

Nelson is one of an estimated 4,000 adjunct faculty working in the St. Louis area. All together, they make up the working class of the academic community. They are the low-wage earners who teach classes when full-time faculty are already overloaded with heavy course loads, and they fill in when teaching departments are short-staffed.

For the past few years, a number of shadow campaigns to unionize adjunct faculty have bubbled up at area colleges in the hopes of giving those workers job security, a voice in campus decision-making and to negotiate for benefits and better pay.

While a number of those campaigns have fizzled out before they could gain traction, college leaders have been reluctant to speak about the issue publicly. Privately, however, they acknowledge that it’s a growing movement nationally.

Colleges and universities around the country have been relying on adjuncts more and more as a way to save money as state funding for higher education continues a steady decline now approaching 25 years.

That trend picked up steam in recent years. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that states spent about $2,300, or 28 percent, less per student in 2013 than in 2008.

What the money crunch means for teachers such as Nelson, who has a master’s degree in English from the University of Missouri-Columbia, is that low-paying adjunct positions are plentiful, while full-time faculty jobs are not.

Nelson gets paid about $2,500 a semester for every three-credit course he teaches. So he picks up as many courses as he can, splitting his time between two universities to make ends meet.

But, he said, it’s not just about money.
“The most important thing is that we have no input into the departments we work in. We have no say on textbooks, either,” he said. “So other people determine what we are going to teach and how we are going to teach it.”

Nelson also said adjuncts miss out on holding office hours to better connect with students, plus paid faculty development days which help instructors become better at their jobs.

UNCERTAIN WORK
A congressional report released in January by the Democratic staff of the House Education and the Workforce Committee suggests that Nelson’s concerns are shared broadly by adjunct professors nationwide. The report found that 98 percent of respondents to an online forum said they were “missing opportunities to better serve their students because of the demands of their schedule.”

The report acknowledges that some who serve as adjunct professors do so to supplement the income from other full-time jobs. But increasingly, the report found, instructors are cobbling together multiple adjunct jobs as colleges rely on them “to do the bulk of the work of educating students.”

“The trend should be of concern to policymakers both because of what it means for the living standards and work lives of those individuals we expect to educate the next generation of scientists, entrepreneurs, and other highly skilled workers, and what it may mean for the quality of higher education itself,” the report states.

The report, titled “The Just-in-Time Professor,” draws connections to trends in fast food and retail employment, where workers have little to no means of predicting their work schedules.

That’s been a complaint of Gail Brody, one of six adjunct faculty working alongside two full-time instructors in the architectural program at St. Louis Community College at Meramec in Kirkwood.

Brody has been at the school for 20 years, but, as an adjunct, her schedule is determined by which classes fill up with students and which faculty are available to teach those classes.

She said she generally only finds out whether she will be teaching and what courses she will have just days before each semester starts.

“So you don’t really know if you are going to have that part of your income,” she said. In the meantime, Brody works a retail job that offers her health care coverage.

“The school wouldn’t keep me around for 20 years if I wasn’t a good instructor,” she said. “But you can’t depend on adjunct money. I would be on board with unionizing if it would lead to health care benefits and some consistency.”

‘A SERVANT SUBCLASS’
The Service Employees International Union has been leading the push at several St. Louis-area colleges, and while the organization doesn’t like to state publicly which schools it is looking at, teachers at Lindenwood, St. Louis Community College at Meramec and St. Louis University have said they have been approached.

Nancy Cross, vice president of the SEIU Local 1, said unionizing adjunct faculty has taken on greater significance over the years as full-time faculty positions dry up.

“You have people who spent a lot of time and money to get highly educated with the idea that there was going to be full-time positions available,” she said. “So they leave college with a lot of loans and the full-time positions aren’t there anymore.”

Cross’ point is one that has some traction in Washington. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., has been pushing a loan forgiveness program for adjunct faculty.

Durbin’s office reports that from 1991 to 2011, the number of part-time faculty doubled, with many of those workers being adjunct teachers who have an annual income of $25,000 or less, on average.

Durbin argues that adjunct faculty who try to support themselves solely by teaching end up working at multiple schools and carrying a full-time workload but without benefits including paid sick days, vacation and access to health care.

“The vast majority of these educators hold advanced degrees, and as a result, bear the heavy burden of student loan debt,” Durbin said in a statement. “It is only right that we expand their access to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, a benefit already available to many of their full-time colleagues.”

Even though adjunct faculty appear to have some national support, it’s unclear how their attempts to unionize will play with full-time faculty in the area.

St. Louis University mathematics professor Steve Harris said he welcomes unionization for adjuncts. He said their current role is that of “a servant subclass,” and that needs to be fixed.

But Dennis Michaelis, St. Louis Community College’s interim chancellor, said he knows of full-time faculty who are against collective bargaining for adjuncts.

Michaelis wouldn’t elaborate, but the common argument is that as adjuncts get a larger share of the pie, there is a possibility that full-time faculty will see their share shrink.

Bob Thumith, SLCC’s director of human resources, said the SEIU’s aggressive tactics — petitioning faculty outside classrooms and elsewhere on campuses — has turned a lot of people off.

“These types of things are supposed to happen organically,” he said. “A lot of teachers don’t like to be bothered in their classrooms.”

Thumith said a push for unionization at SLCC campuses is dying down, as far as he knows.
Whether unionization for adjuncts takes off in the St. Louis area, Southern Illinois University President Randall Dunn said schools will have to adapt.

Forming a union is the logical “response to the second-class-citizen status adjunct faculty have at many institutions,” Dunn said.

If a push to unionize at one of his campuses was successful, it would simply become a more complex budgeting matter.

“We’d have to find the money from other sources,” he said. “Some administrators look at collective bargaining as this terrible thing. I don’t view it that way. It’s a part of doing business.”

Permit-only parking for East Campus remains stalled

By Andrew Denney

Friday, August 22, 2014 at 12:20 pm Comments (6)

With an effort to establish a permit-only parking program in the East Campus neighborhood going nowhere, the city of Columbia is hiring a facilitator to find common ground among the neighborhood’s residents and property owners and get the stalled talks moving again after several months of no activity.

After the city deemed the permit-parking program for the North Village Arts District a success more than a year ago, it began drawing up proposals to bring similar programs to the East Campus and Benton-Stephens neighborhoods, which are located just east and northeast, respectively, of downtown.

The city has not held a meeting about a permit-only program for East Campus — which residents say is increasingly being used as a parking lot by University of Missouri students, faculty and staff who do not live in the neighborhood — since March, when neighbors were presented with four options for how the program would be structured.
The options presented were: sell as many as two passes per residence for $20 apiece and install parking meters in the neighborhood near the MU campus; sell permits for $10 and make no restrictions as to how many permits may be sold to individual residences; issue two permits to each residence free of charge and install parking meters in select locations; or just scrap the idea altogether.

“It just didn’t seem that there was really one option that everybody could just get behind,” said Richard Stone, a city traffic engineer who has been coordinating the effort to establish the parking programs. He said the city’s Public Works Department will spend as much as $3,000 to hire a facilitator and plans to have one chosen by the end of September.

Stone said it is the city’s goal to have a program up and running in East Campus in time for the fall 2015 semester. He said today that no meetings have been scheduled to discuss the issue, though on Monday at the Columbia City Council’s regular meeting, Sixth Ward Councilwoman Barbara Hoppe — whose ward includes the East Campus neighborhood — called on city staff to get a meeting set up.

The North Village permit-only program, which included the installation of parking meters, was launched early last year after Brookside on College residents moved in and available parking began to dwindle. East Campus residents are a blend of property owners and student renters, and the neighborhood itself is larger and denser than the North Village neighborhood.

Some property owners who live in the neighborhood have been supportive of limiting the number of permits issued to each household, which Stone said would make the program easier for staff to manage and would help to free up some parking.

But limiting each household to two permits would prohibit some residents from having parking spaces, which has drawn concern from MU officials. “I just want to make sure our students are being treated fairly,” said Kim Dude, director of MU’s Wellness Resource Center, who has taken part in meetings about the program.

Stone said bringing a facilitator in could help the city “refine” the process for setting up permit-only programs if it decides to propose the idea for other neighborhoods. Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas, whose ward encompasses neighborhoods near the intersection of Garth Avenue and Stewart Road, announced earlier this month that he plans to pull together city staff and residents to find a way to implement a permit-only parking program in that area.

Neighbors living in the Garth-Stewart area have complained of students using their streets for parking and walking from there to campus, Thomas said in an interview. He said the neighborhood predominately consists of single-family, owner-occupied households but said that might not always be the case as MU’s enrollment numbers continue to swell.

“We need to have the rules for residential parking in effect before the makeup of the neighborhood changes too much,” Thomas said. He said he hopes to have a public meeting about the idea within the next few weeks.