COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Post-practice discussion part of sexual assault reporting conversation at MU
Monday, August 25, 2014 | 9:39 p.m. CDT; updated 7:15 a.m. CDT, Tuesday, August 26, 2014
BY KEVIN MODELSKI, WADE LIVINGSTON

COLUMBIA — Missouri's Mitch Morse only knew Derrick Washington a couple of months before Washington was dismissed from the team — but Morse will tell you that Washington's presence lingers.

"They don't want you to say it," Morse said, "but ... there's a special emphasis brought upon that subject (sexual assault and rape) that's kind of correlated to what happened prior to Derrick Washington leaving."

On Friday, when head coach Gary Pinkel and Missouri athletics director Mike Alden responded to an ESPN report released Thursday, Pinkel said defensive backs coach Cornell Ford "handles" sexual assault education "every year in August" with the team.

Monday, in the wake of Sunday's "Outside The Lines" segment titled "Victims of Inaction," players such as Morse commented on Ford's training and the football program's emphasis on sexual violence prevention. Missouri's inclusion of education in fall camp illustrates Title IX's impact on college campuses.

Morse, a team captain and senior offensive tackle, said that "treating women with respect" is one of the football team's "core values."

"They're constantly harping on it," Morse said. "And after every two-a-day practice in the morning, they have a coach come and give a certain specific life lesson. So that's coach Ford's life lesson."

Morse remembered Ford talking with the team about respecting women and sexual assault for five minutes at one point during two-a-day practices. Darius White, a senior wide receiver, remembered a 10- to 12-minute conversation after practice.
"It’s right after practice, so it’s always a good learning experience," White said.

Ford was not available for comment Monday.

In addition to post-practice speeches, Pinkel said in the press conference that during Thursday team meetings, the team talks about the different aspects of assault and being respectful to women.

Matt Gregory is the associate dean of students at Louisiana State University and president of the Association for Student Conduct Administration, a professional organization of college administrators responsible for overseeing student discipline processes. Gregory said the number of complaints of sexual misconduct rose in the past 15 years, especially among the 19- to 24-year-old age group.

The rise in reported complaints paralleled two documents released by the United States Department of Education and the Office for Civil Rights, both pertaining to Title IX.

Title IX, a portion of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972, requires all universities to properly report cases of sexual assault on campus.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights' 2001 guidance focuses on peer sexual harassment, misconduct and violence. The office’s revised guidance, released in 2011, supplements the 2001 guidelines by clarifying schools’ obligations to prevent and address sexual violence on campus.

Within months of the release of the guidance, more than 50 colleges and universities revised their sexual violence policies and procedures consistent with the guidance, according to the Department of Education.

A violation of Title IX compliance could result in an Office for Civil Rights investigation and an agreement between the Department of Education and the institution in question on what went wrong, how it will be fixed and how to progress going forward.

Gregory said schools have reflected on their practices and policies of reporting sexual assault. From his standpoint as a dean charged with upholding the student discipline process, he recommends these three steps.
First, reports of alleged sexual assault should be investigated by someone who will not be involved in adjudicating a discipline case that might result from the investigation. Second, if the investigation warrants further action, a swift and thorough student discipline process should ensue. Third, the student discipline process should be facilitated by a highly trained.

Anyone involved in the investigation or adjudication processes should receive ample training in trauma, victimization and stereotypes, Gregory said.

Changes in the way universities report Title IX violations were implemented at MU in the spring.

In April, University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe issued Executive Order 40 that requires all UM System employees — excluding those bound by confidentiality such as health care providers, counselors and lawyers — to report all known information about sexual harassment or assault of a student to the Title IX coordinator. The Title IX coordinator position, currently held by Linda Bennett, was made a full-time job in June.

Two ESPN’s "Outside The Lines" episodes focusing on MU’s failure to report sexual assault — the recent piece on Washington and the January report on Sasha Menu Courey, a former Missouri swimmer who committed suicide after being sexually assaulted by one or more football players — both alluded to MU’s cultural problem related to Title IX compliance.

When Morse was asked about ESPN’s portrayal of his team and university, the offensive tackle’s face sank. It was difficult for him to talk about Washington’s association with Missouri football.

"I heard about it, and it was a little upsetting," Morse said. "Nothing we can do about it. The only thing we can focus on is playing our best football out there. I watched a little bit of it — turned it off."
MU marks enrollment records on first day

By Roger McKinney

Monday, August 25, 2014 at 11:46 am Comments (3)

A record number of students — including a record tally of minority students — attended the University of Missouri on Monday for the first day of the fall semester, according to university figures.

The numbers include a record number of undergraduate students, international students and high-ability students, those with an ACT score of 30 or higher.

There were 34,935 students enrolled, the most in MU’s 175-year history. That’s a 2.4 percent over last fall’s enrollment of 34,111.

The first day totals are preliminary and are expected to increase in the coming weeks, said Ann Korschgen, MU vice provost for enrollment management.

The incoming freshman class has an ACT mean score of 25.9, up from 25.7 for the past three years. The university has increased the amount of scholarship awards and added a new scholarship to try to attract the high-ability students. Those efforts included the new Chancellor’s Award, worth $6,500 for Missouri students in the top 10 percent of their graduation classes who had an ACT composite score of 31 or higher.

The Curator’s Award was increased by $1,000 to $4,500. It is for Missouri students in the top 5 percent of their high school graduating classes with an ACT composite score of 28 or higher.

The range for the Mark Twain Nonresident Scholarship was increased to $5,000 to $10,000. It is for out-of-state students in the top 50 percent of their high school graduating classes with a composite ACT score of 27 or higher.

“The scholarships worked,” Korschgen said.

Korschgen said the number of high-ability students increased by 25 percent. The number of those students from out of state increased 40 percent. The largest number of those students were from Illinois.
“We’re importing intellectual talent to the state of Missouri” through the scholarships, Korschgen said.

She said the high-ability students also are more likely to stay at the university.

The student retention rate is 86 percent, also the highest on record. It is measured as the percentage of the freshman class that enrolls as sophomores. International student enrollment is 2,323.

Korschgen said preliminary numbers indicate enrollment is increasing in the colleges of business, engineering, health professionals and journalism.

MU students also are enrolled in a record number of online courses, with students registered in nearly 24,000 credit hours.

MU reports record enrollment at Columbia campus

08/25/2014 3:59 PM

COLUMBIA, MO. - The University of Missouri reports record enrollment at its flagship Columbia campus as fall classes begin.

KRCG-TV reports (http://bit.ly/1BWe1BP) Monday's first-day enrollment totaled 34,935, an increase of 2.4 percent from last year. The total includes 27,411 undergraduates.
The university reports a record number of minority students with 5,386, up 5.3 percent from the start of last year's fall semester.

Slightly more than 2,300 international students are enrolled at the Columbia campus. The university says that's also a record, and a 10 percent increase from the start of classes last fall.

Mizzou, Wash U count record fall enrollment

The University of Missouri-Columbia's fall enrollment reached 34,935, the school said Monday, up 2.4 percent from last year.

That total includes 27,411 undergraduates. Mizzou reported 5,386 minority students were enrolled, up 5.3 percent from the beginning of the fall 2013 semester. And international students totaled 2,300, up 10 percent.

Washington University announced that its 1,740 first-year students were the most ever.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU starts school year with more students than ever before

Monday, August 25, 2014 | 5:17 p.m. CDT; updated 6:46 a.m. CDT, Tuesday, August 26, 2014
BY KARA TABOR, RYAN MCELROY

COLUMBIA — MU has the largest student body it has ever had: 34,935 students, according to the MU News Bureau. The first-day enrollment record was one of several set Monday, the first day of classes.

First-day numbers also show:
- The largest number of undergraduates: 27,411, up from 26,715 last year.

- The number of international students has increased 10 percent, up to 2,323 from 2,109 last year.

- The number of minority students has increased 5.3 percent, up to 5,386 from 5,116 last year.

- Students are taking almost 24,000 credit hours of online-only classes.

- The highest retention rate ever, with 86 percent of first-time freshmen returning for their sophomore year.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Change in MU refund policy brings students full reimbursement

Monday, August 25, 2014 | 5:17 p.m. CDT
BY KATHERINE KNOTT

COLUMBIA — **MU students who drop classes before Sept. 2 will get 100 percent of the course fee refunded rather than the 90-percent refunds they used to get.**

The Registrar's Office, which handles all class scheduling, worked with the cashier and financial aid offices to push for the policy change.

"**It should eliminate the confusion we've had in the past,**" Registrar Brenda Selman said. "**It gives students the opportunity to change their schedule early in the semester without financial penalty.**"

Selman said students in the past asked a lot of questions about refunds and why they were being charged for dropping classes.

The full refund only applies to regular-length courses.
After Sept. 2, students will get a 50 percent refund if they drop a class without a grade. After Sept. 30, the refunds fall to 25 percent.

Eating and Exercise Needs to Be Part of Heart-Health Counseling, Say Docs

A government panel of experts found that behavioral counseling to help people at risk of heart disease to adopt healthier habits can lower their risk of having heart events. But it’s not easy

We know how to lower our risk of heart disease, yet it remains the leading killer of Americans year after year. That’s because the most powerful ways to fend off heart attacks and strokes are also the hardest. Changing our diet and exercise habits involves changing our lifestyles, and doctors have yet to come up with the perfect prescription for that.

But a group of government-convened experts says that one strategy shows promise. They studied the latest trials investigating what works and what doesn’t in getting people to eat healthier and move more, and found that behavioral counseling, either by physicians or nurses or specially trained counselors, can lower risk of heart problems in people who are overweight or obese.

“Intensive behavioral counseling does seem to move the needle,” says Dr. Michael LeFevre, chair of the U. S. Preventive Services Task Force and vice chair of family and community medicine at the University of Missouri Columbia. “We can take people at elevated risk — for starters, people who are overweight or obese and have at least one other risk factor for heart disease — and saw modifications in their risk factors that we think are great enough to have an impact on their health down the road.”

The task force reviewed 74 trials of intensive behavioral counseling – which included education about heart health, nutrition and physical activity, as well as individualized programs in which the participants were provided feedback and problem-solving strategies – and heart outcomes. The counseling was not associated with any harms or serious adverse events, but the sessions did lead to lower cholesterol levels and blood pressure over two years and a decrease rate of diabetes over four years. About a quarter of people were exercising at a moderate to intense level (150 minutes of exercise per week) after several years compared to 10% who were at the start of the studies.
That’s good news, says LeFevre, and prompted the task force to recommend behavioral counseling in a statement published in the Annals of Internal Medicine to help people reduce their risk of heart disease.

The advice is an endorsement of the more formal counseling that more primary care doctors are relying on help their at-risk heart patients. It’s also a definitive statement against the current standard in which doctors merely urge their patients to lose weight or exercise more. “What we didn’t find evidence to support is what most of us do in our practice,” says LeFevre, who is a practicing primary care doctor. “And that is, we just say to John Doe sitting across from us who is overweight, has high blood pressure and smokes, to lose weight. John says, ‘I’m working on that.’ And I say ‘Let me know if I can help – just cut back to eating 1500 calories a day and walk every day.’ We don’t find any evidence that helps.”

What does work, he says, is a program that links both diet and exercise interventions, and that typically helps participants over several sessions occurring over several months, and involves many hours of interaction with a counselor. In those sessions, setting goals and addressing barriers to reaching those goals is an important part of the behavioral counseling – that’s what helps the patients to actually change their behavior rather than simply think about it.

But as a primary care doctor, LeFevre admits that the counseling isn’t exactly practical or widespread – yet. “One of the major barriers for implementation is that the resources aren’t out there. Many physicians simply don’t have the personnel, programs or location to which to refer people to make this happen.”

That’s the purpose of the USPSTF recommendation—by providing the scientific evidence supporting the benefits and effectiveness of behavioral counseling, LeFevre and the task force members hope that more doctors and hospitals will provide such programs to help their patients—and potentially contribute to lowering heart attacks and heart disease deaths. “We know the risk factors for heart disease pretty well, and we know that behavior change can alter your risk. So the question is, what can the health care community do to support that behavior change? We combed through the literature and looked at all the studies, and this is what seems to work,” he says.