MU celebrates 175 years with a weeklong series of events

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Friday, September 12, 2014 | 8:37 p.m. CDT; updated 11:16 p.m. CDT, Saturday, September 13, 2014
BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin is expected to talk about the university’s course over the next 25 years at his inauguration on Thursday.

Shortly after Loftin arrived from Texas A&M University in February to become chancellor, MU communications administrators suggested that an inauguration be held in conjunction with the campus celebration of its 175th anniversary, spokesman Christian Basi said.

"We realized it was an opportunity to end the week with a message from our new chancellor looking forward to our 200th anniversary," Basi said.

From Monday through Friday, a series of events — beginning with a public display of Thomas Jefferson’s newly restored epitaph marker and concluding with a lighting ceremony at the columns — will mark the university’s 1839 founding.

The inauguration itself will involve a level of pomp and circumstance that has not been seen at the chancellor level in some time. Faculty members, who have been encouraged to wear academic regalia, will walk from the Reynolds Alumni Center to the Missouri Theatre starting at 3 p.m. Thursday. The inauguration will follow, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Faculty and students in the MU School of Music have composed and will perform music for the occasion. And a ceremonial mace — a highly ornamented staff — has been created out of recycled building materials from around campus, Basi said.

Basi said guests are coming at their own expense from across the country, including representatives of Harvard, Princeton, Duke, Rice and Michigan State universities, the universities of Kansas and Pennsylvania, the California Institute of Technology and Virginia Tech.
"It gives us the opportunity to raise our profile among our peers," specifically members of the Association of American Universities, the Southeastern Conference and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Basi said. Other organizations that will be represented include Phi Kappa Phi and the National Academy of Inventors.

As of Friday afternoon, the cost of the inauguration was $43,198.25, Basi said. With the exception of a MO-X shuttle costing $782, the costs are internal to MU, he said.

"Money has changed offices, but it has stayed within the university," he said.

Loftin is the university's 22nd leader. Until 1963, when the four-campus University of Missouri System was created, MU had a president. Thereafter, the president had authority over the system, and chancellors were created at the campus level.

Because MU was the first land-grant university in the Louisiana Purchase territory, ties to Jefferson — who is credited with making the deal with the French — have been strong. The first formal events of the anniversary week reflect that.

On Monday, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jon Meacham will talk about Jefferson's influence on the history of higher education at 7 p.m. in the Missouri Theatre, 203 S. Ninth St. Meacham wrote the well-reviewed "Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power," which The New York Times considered one of the top 100 books of 2012. He won the Pulitzer in 2009 for "American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House."

Jefferson's original epitaph marker, recently restored by the Smithsonian Institution, will be on display starting at 6 p.m. at the theater. After Jesse Hall is renovated, the marker will be placed in a student-created display, said John Murray, senior director of event operations at MU.

In the 19th century, the marker was displayed in Academic Hall — the building once attached to the columns — but was damaged in the consuming 1892 fire. It was later moved for safekeeping to the attic of Jesse Hall, until it was shipped off for restoration last year.

When the Smithsonian restored it, two copies were made. One will be mounted on the obelisk next week. The other will be a sort of traveling marker, to be used at academic events as needed, Murray said.

The original marker will also be on public display on Thursday, for Loftin's inauguration.
In addition to the Monday events and the inauguration, the schedule looks like this: (All information came from the MU News Bureau).

**TUESDAY**

"Is the Future of Science Communication Online?" symposium, 9 a.m., Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Center.

The discussion will focus on science news and how it’s reported online and in print. Panelists are David Grimm, Joe Hanson and Karyn Traphagen, representing online academic science, popularized science and science journalism, respectively.

"Is 'Liberal' Education Out of Style?" symposium, 3 p.m., Stotler Lounge, Memorial Union.
Is liberal education more important today than ever? MU Chancellor Emeritus Richard Wallace and MU President Emeritus Mel George will discuss why they think this is true, as well as how a liberal education's vitality and role in American education must continue.

**WEDNESDAY**

"Actualizing One Health: The Role of the Public-Private-Academic Partnership," symposium, 11 a.m., Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Center.

The USDA's Tracey Lynn discusses how the USDA and the One Health Collaboration Center are working to develop partnerships with academia via a One Health approach.

"MU Values in a Global Context," symposium, 3 p.m., Jesse Wrench Auditorium, Memorial Union. MU’s core values will be explored as panelists from a variety of disciplines share their experiences in the context of current world conditions and contemporary trends, as well as identify some of the challenges and opportunities MU may face over its next 175 years.

"Completing the Constitution," symposium, 3 p.m., 215 Tate Hall.
University of Notre Dame history professor Michael Zuckert will offer a "Constitution Day" lecture, exploring several issues that surrounded the ratification of the 14th Amendment.

**THURSDAY**

**Buck's Unlimited Oak Tree Planting**, 9 a.m., Peace Park.

Three Buck's Unlimited Oak Trees will be planted in Peace Park. Buck's Unlimited is a new species developed by Mark Coggeshall, a professor in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, that produces acorns after only five years of growth. The three oaks will
finalize the Mizzou Botanic Garden's goal of planting 175 trees this year in honor of the anniversary.

"Extension: Taking the Long View," symposium, 10 to 10:50 a.m., Fred W. Smith Forum, Reynolds Journalism Institute. Michael Cook, Ron Turner and Robert Kallenbach – three former Ratchford Memorial Fellowship recipients – will participate in a panel discussion hosted by MU Extension. The panel will delve into the future of extension over the next 25 years, examining the value of higher education to Missouri citizens and how content will evolve to meet the advancing needs of society.

"The Future of the Land-Grant Institution and the Innovation Deficit," symposium, 11 to 11:50 a.m., Stotler Lounge, Memorial Union. The discussion will look at what is ahead for land-grant institutions and how the innovation deficit affects higher education and research at MU, as well as the nation. Peter McPherson, president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and Kevin Reilly, presidential adviser for leadership with the American Council on Education, will participate.

MU Campus Gallery & Museum Crawl, 4 to 8 p.m., MU. It's a self-guided tour to nine galleries and museums, concluding with star-gazing at the Laws Observatory. Crawl maps are available at artifact.missouri.edu.

FRIDAY

"Engineers Turned Entrepreneurs," symposium, 3 to 5 p.m., Fred W. Smith Forum, Reynolds Journalism Institute. A panel of MU College of Engineering faculty and alumni will share entrepreneurial stories, advice and techniques. Panelists will include Sheila Grant, Randy Schilling, Matt Klaric, Floyd Simms Jr. and Nick McLean.

Mizzou on the Quad, 8 p.m., Francis Quadrangle.
As MU celebrates its 175-year anniversary, students and their families are invited to attend Mizzou on the Quad for an evening of fun. Those attending are asked to bring five cans of nonperishable food items that will enter them into a raffle for prizes, as well as benefit MU's Tiger Pantry.

175th Anniversary Column Lighting Ceremony, 9:30 p.m., Francis Quadrangle.
People can gather on Francis Quadrangle for a special ceremony illuminating the columns in commemoration of MU’s 175th anniversary.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Eager Jane Goodall fans anticipate her visit to MU on Wednesday

Monday, September 15, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY ANNIE REES

COLUMBIA — When Cale Sears, senior chair of MU’s Department of Student Activities, got an email with the subject line, "Jane Goodall ACCEPTED!", he ran across the office and barged into his adviser's meeting.

"WE GOT JANE!" he shouted.

This week marks a rare occasion: Jane Goodall will speak in Missouri, according to her assistant. Goodall's legacy has grown steadily since July of 1960, when she first arrived at Gombe Stream National Park, now a part of Tanzania, to study chimpanzees.

In her lecture entitled "Sowing the Seeds of Hope" on Wednesday, Goodall will discuss her more than 50-year career in primatology and activism, including and Roots & Shoots, the global environmental and humanitarian youth activist program by the Jane Goodall Institute.

"Jane is a speaker we never thought we'd get," said Lauren Rutherford, junior chair of the student activities committee. "It's wild to think an event that's been nearly seven months in the making is here."

Originally, Goodall's engagement was booked for the Missouri Theatre, but when Sears heard that Goodall drew about 5,000 people at the University of Iowa last spring, the lecture was moved to a smaller setup within Mizzou Arena. The goal is to draw about 4,000 attendees; as of Friday, the event was nearly sold out, Sears said.
"I hope she fills up Mizzou Arena like it's a basketball game," said Greg Blomquist, an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology.

The event listing on Facebook reflects the excitement of more than 700 community members.

It's no wonder: Goodall's footprint is huge. Since the 1960s, generations have grown up watching her on the National Geographic channel and reading about her research in Gombe, where she was pioneering in the field of primate personality and behavior.

Her work extends beyond that: Goodall has published more than 15 books. Two children's books have been written about her in the past four years. Since the 1980s, she has continually globe-hopped, giving lectures for organizations such as TED and visiting Roots & Shoots programs all over the world. And when she can, she returns to her institute at Gombe.

Kevin Stockard, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Medical Pharmacology & Physiology at MU, still remembers the reaction he and his first-grade classmates had in the 1970s when they watched a film of Goodall in elementary school.

"We were a little scared," he said. "We thought that she was so brave to be studying primates who were very strong."

Stockard, who has since made a career in science, said the greatest lesson he has learned from Goodall is to not be afraid to challenge the establishment. "There are experts in science, but there are no authorities," he said.

"She challenged the notion that only humans had the capability to make and use tools," he said. "She challenged that convention and proved that chimps make and use tools as well."

There is a sense of constancy to Goodall and her work. For more than 50 years, she has been a tireless advocate for humanitarian, conservationist and environmental causes.

"I'm young enough that I can't remember a world without Jane Goodall," Blomquist said.

Goodall, 80, travels more than 300 days each year.
"One of the things that distinguishes science from other fields of work is that so long as you have a great mind, there is no retirement in science. There are always discoveries to be made," Stockard said. He also hopes never to retire.

Perhaps, he mused, it's because the scientific pursuit has parallels with childlike curiosity.

"Children are natural-born scientists. They're always asking why, why, why, to the point where it gets annoying," he said. "But scientists never stop asking why."

For MU junior Bianca Zachary, the attraction to Goodall is about her attraction to primates. Zachary's Facebook profile photo shows her grinning ear to ear while a monkey perches atop her head. The photo was taken this summer while she was in India.

"I've always been obsessed with anything to do with primates — I want to have a pet monkey when I graduate college," Zachary said. "I love how closely related we are to apes. They are our closest relatives. I love how intelligent they are."

Zachary knows seeing Goodall in person will be a special experience. "I can't think of another chance I'll have to see her in my lifetime," she said.

Goodall has been a confirmed speaker for about seven months now. Because she travels so frequently, her booking team used the engagement at MU as an anchor event this fall and planned all other engagements around that.

She will be paid $62,000 for the appearance, which is being funded through the Delta Gamma Lectureship Series, the Department of Student Activities, the DSA Speakers Committee and several other sponsors. The lecture is free for MU students and $10 for others. Tickets are available at the MSA/GPC Box Office in the MU Student Center and at Ticketmaster.com.

"I've been trying to get away from the word 'event,'" Sears said. "This is an experience. Experiences have more impact: Ideas have power, and speakers can have a lot of impact on people. We take speaker selection really seriously."

Stockard also hopes to see a full house on Wednesday.
"I hope anyone who is interested in learning about how science can advance humanity and society attends," he said. "How could you study any sort of non-human primates and not learn something about humanity?"

For Sears and the rest of the Department of Student Activities, Wednesday will be the culmination of months of work and excitement.

"The coolest part of my job is being able to put the van keys away at the end of the day, and know we really had an impact on the students who were there," Sears said.

Mizzou to inaugurate new chancellor Loftin

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri's flagship Columbia campus celebrates its 175th anniversary this week with five days of events that include the inauguration of new Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

Loftin came to the university in February but will be formally installed in office Thursday at the Missouri Theatre in downtown Columbia.

The free, 90-minute event begins at 3:30 p.m. It will be preceded by an inaugural procession of faculty and administrators wearing academic regalia. The procession starts at the Reynolds Alumni Center.

Other activities include a series of lectures and a Monday night speech by author Jon Meacham, also at the Missouri Theater.
The University of Missouri System will pay nearly half a million dollars to the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management for consulting services to help create polices and training regarding Title IX. NCHERM is charging a flat fee of $495,000 for one year of its services, according to the Columbia Daily Tribune. The consulting began in July. Brett Sokolow, president of NCHERM, said that the contract is “among the biggest contracts” the center has.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Risk management firm could also prioritize mental health services in UM System

BY CAITLIN HOLLAND

COLUMBIA — The University of Missouri System is working with a risk management firm to improve Title IX training and procedures, but mental health may become more of a priority later on, a consultant from the firm said.

"I wouldn’t be surprised if the mental health portion becomes of added focus as we move forward," said Daniel Swinton, who has been a managing partner with the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management for just over two years.
Swinton reports to UM System President Tim Wolfe and the UM System Board of Curators on progress relating to Title IX across the system's four campuses.

The risk management firm was hired to advise Wolfe’s sexual assault and mental health services task force. The UM System is paying the firm $495,000 over installments with $345,000 being used for Title IX training and sexual assault prevention and $150,000 for consulting. Of that amount, $10,000 will cover mental health consultation.

Swinton said the risk management firm has counselors and therapists who work with schools' mental health centers to determine how efficiently they address situations.

He said that the relatively low $10,000 amount does not mean mental health isn’t a priority, but that certain Title IX elements need to be addressed first.

"There are a lot of things that need focus, and what’s getting a lot of focus for right now is the sexual violence, sexual discrimination and sexual harassment elements," he said.

The firm started with a four-day initial training session with the Title IX coordinators from all four UM System campuses, Swinton said. The training addressed appropriate responses to the federal legislative requirements for Title IX.

Other areas of focus Swinton said the firm would address include:

- Updating Title IX policies and procedures.
- Training Title IX coordinators from all four campuses.
- Developing prevention plans for each campus.
- Addressing perception issues regarding the universities’ treatment of the accused and victims as well as the discipline process.
- Developing online resources so employees know how to report issues.
- Meeting with student groups on campuses.
- Conducting a climate survey to help determine where the biggest issues are on each campus.

Swinton said that in his experience as a consultant, universities want to handle Title IX issues the right way but often aren’t sure how to do so. That’s where the firm enters the picture.
"I think what we try to do is help people understand not just what they need to do, but why, and put it in perspective of the lives of the people involved in the situations," he said.

Nixon releases over $140 million for education

Higher education institutions will receive more than $43 million.

By Isabella Alves

Governor Jay Nixon announced on Thursday that he will release $143.6 million to fund K-12 schools and higher education institutions after vetoing bills proposing tax cuts.

Public Missouri universities will receive over $43 million of new funding. The MU had made two budget cuts in July — 2 percent cut of general operating funds to support the MU Strategic Operating Plan and $3.8 million to cover a state funding shortfall.

UM System spokesman John Fougere said the system will receive approximately $21 million to split among its four campuses.

At this time, it is unclear how much funding MU will receive to alleviate the previous budget cuts. Fougere said the system will make an announcement by the end of the month regarding how the funds will be distributed.

Local schools will also be spared $93 million in cuts after Nixon vetoed a bill which proposed to cut the Proposition C sales tax.

Nixon said in a news release that providing children with the best possible education is an obligation.

“The future of our state depends on a strong public education system that delivers the high quality education our students deserve,” Nixon said in the release. “While there is still much work to be done, I’m pleased we’re able to make these investments that will help our students succeed and our economy thrive.”

UM System President Tim Wolfe said on Twitter that he is pleased with the release of funds to higher education institutions.
Economic impact of MU athletics estimated at $247.1 million

By Alicia Stice

Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 12:00 am

For Columbia businesses, University of Missouri athletic events play a crucial role in their bottom lines. But the economic impact of MU sporting events is even broader than that, and the influence seems to be growing with construction work on venues and visitors pumping money into the local economy.

At a news conference Friday, University of Missouri MBA students Parker Leppein and Heather Webster presented the results of their economic impact survey of MU athletics in Columbia. The study, which Leppein and Webster conducted with five other students, found that MU athletic events had a total economic impact of just more than $247.1 million last year.

The Trulaske College of Business has partnered with the Columbia Chamber of Commerce for five years to conduct the study. The results were presented Friday at the chamber offices on South Providence Road. This year, the students focused on the effect of construction on athletics facilities, such as Memorial Stadium, and MU’s status in the Southeastern Conference had on Columbia’s economy.

Direct spending, which includes restaurant tabs, hotel stays and ticket sales, was estimated to be about $142.1 million for fiscal 2013, up from $114 million last year.

Revenue from visitors coming to Columbia on football game days played the single biggest role in the total economic impact. They spent about $31.2 million, compared to about $13 million spent by local residents.

Fans of visiting teams highlighted how Missouri’s move to the SEC has boosted the cash flow surrounding games.

“What we found with hotels is that their fall schedules started to fill up as soon as the fall football schedule was announced,” Leppein said.
MU Athletic Director Mike Alden said although the athletics program is not the most important thing the university does, it gives MU a chance to reach out across the country and attract students and visitors to Columbia.

“I think the value we get goes way beyond the numbers you see here,” he said. “It’s a chance to provide exposure.”

The study found that Central Missouri Aviation, which handles general aviation traffic at Columbia Regional Airport, also saw a bump in revenue, likely because SEC schools are located farther away than teams MU used to play and most fly into town.

“Before, in the Big 12, you’re a lot of bus trips away,” Leppein said.

Although Missouri’s move to the SEC has not led to many new businesses in Columbia, Leppein said it seems like some traditionally southern companies are making their way to Columbia as a result.

He cited Zaxby’s as an example of this phenomenon.

Some franchisees of the Georgia-based restaurant chain visited Columbia in 2012 for the Missouri-Georgia football game and started talking with people here about their business. Local franchisee Greg Jarvis announced in July 2013 that he was opening the state’s first Zaxby’s restaurant in Columbia. Now there are two here.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said the university’s national exposure only would grow with its involvement in the SEC. The launch of the SEC Network gives it a broader platform and will attract visitors to Columbia for games, he said.

“The trend line won’t change,” Loftin said. “This is not going to be a static kind of impact.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

United Way launches MU campaign with goal of $610,000

Friday, September 12, 2014 | 8:12 p.m. CDT
BY BRIELLE GREGORY
COLUMBIA — Truman the Tiger and Mayor Bob McDavid were among the attendees at the Heart of Missouri United Way's campus campaign launch Friday morning.

McDavid joined Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, MU athletic director Mike Alden and University of Missouri System President Timothy Wolfe as key speakers at the launch for the 2014 UM/MU Campus Community Impact
Campaign. Through the campaign, MU and the University of Missouri system raise money to support local agencies, including the Salvation Army, Rainbow House, Youth Empowerment Zone and Great Circle.

"We all come together for a common purpose, which is to raise money for agencies," Wolfe said at the event.

The MU campaign funds made up about 18 percent of the Heart of Missouri United Way's overall funding for the agencies last year.

Heart of Missouri United Way campaign manager David Holtgraewe said the organization has approved 32 agencies for funding in 2015, up from 29 in 2014.

Last year, the MU impact campaign raised $526,000 with a 19 percent employee participation rate. This year, its goal is to raise $610,000 with a 25 percent employee participation rate, Holtgraewe said.

Heart of Missouri United Way is committed to raising $3.02 million overall in 2015, Holtgraewe said, but they hope to reach the $4 million mark to fully meet agencies' needs.

The agencies go through a competitive process and submit applications to the Heart of Missouri United Way Board, Holtgraewe said. The Community Impact Committee then reviews the applications to choose which agencies will be funded and goes on to allocate funds based on need.

The Heart of Missouri United Way established a new community impact model in October 2012 to better distribute funds throughout the community, Holtgraewe said. The model aims to help people get out of poverty, rather than offer them temporary fixes, he said.

"It's measuring the outcome that agencies have and how it will affect the future," Holtgraewe said. "The goal is to get (people) out of poverty."

According to the Heart of Missouri United Way website, 80 percent of the people it helps live at or below the poverty line. According to U.S. Census data, 23.6 percent of Columbia residents are below the poverty line.
"As successful as Columbia is, we still have a lot of work to do," McDavid said at the event.

No one injured in fire at MU residence hall

By the Tribune's staff

Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 9:36 am

Columbia fire crews responded to a fire at a University of Missouri residence hall early Sunday morning. The fire was contained to one room, and no one was injured.

Units from the Columbia Fire Department were dispatched at 1:51 a.m. to Hudson Hall, 1202 Rollins St., for a water flow alarm, according to a news release. One minute later, the call was upgraded to a structure fire.

Crews arrived at 1:56 to find a fire contained to a room by the sprinkler system, the news release said. All occupants had evacuated. MU residential life staff evacuated residents from the hall, MU said in a news release.

Assistant Fire Marshal Brian Davison is investigating the fire. No damage estimate was available Sunday morning.

Some areas of the hall sustained water damage because of the sprinklers, the MU news release said. Residential life staff members are working with students who have reported damage to personal items.

In response to a tweet from a student, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said he was "Grateful that all students were safely evacuated and for" the Columbia Fire Department's "rapid response."
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

No injuries reported after early morning MU residence hall fire
Sunday, September 14, 2014 | 2:02 p.m. CDT; updated 3:37 p.m. CDT, Sunday, September 14, 2014
BY BRIANNA ARPS

COLUMBIA — The Columbia Fire Department responded to a fire shortly before 2 a.m. Sunday morning in MU's Hudson Hall.

Units were originally dispatched to the residence hall for a reported water flow alarm at 1:51 a.m., but at 1:52 a.m. the situation was changed to a structure fire.

According to an MU news release, residential life staff evacuated residents from the hall in response to the fire alarm.

When firefighters arrived at the scene, they discovered the residence hall's sprinkler system had contained the fire to one room, and no injuries were reported, according to a news release from the Fire Department.

According to the MU release, some areas of the hall sustained water damage due to building's sprinkler system being activated.

According to the Fire Department's release, Assistant Fire Marshal Brian Davison is investigating the incident.

Fire at Hudson Hall prompts evacuation

Basi said about 25 rooms in the first three levels have suffered water damage.

By Maddie Foster

Residents of Hudson Hall were evacuated early Sunday in response to a fire that reportedly started in room 337.
According to a Columbia Fire Department news release, all residents were evacuated and no injuries were reported.

“The evacuation went on for between 1 and 2 hours,” MU spokesman Christian Basi said. “The students were moved to a climate-controlled location so they weren’t outside in the cold.”

Columbia fire personnel were initially dispatched at 1:51 a.m. in response to a “water flow alarm.” The call was upgraded to a “structural fire” response at 1:52 a.m.

Fourth floor resident Rachael Miller said she heard the incident was sparked by an electrical fire.

Assistant Fire Marshall Brian Davidson is currently investigating the incident and has not released the official cause of the incident or an estimate of the damage at this time, according to the release.

An MU news release said the building’s sprinkler system contained the fire within the room of origin, but caused water damage in parts of the building.

“About 25 rooms within the first 3 floors were affected by water damage,” Basi said. “The residential life staff responded quickly so those rooms are still liveable.”

Some residents’ personal belongings were damaged by the water.

Basi said the Department of Residential Life staff are taking an inventory of the damage incurred to repair or replace items, and have already taken steps to alleviate some of the damage.

“The residential staff actually paid for laundering sheets and clothes that got wet during the incident and got them back to the residents in a timely manner,” he said.

Third floor resident Zach Shikles said he lives in a separate wing of the floor so his room was spared from the water damage.

However, Shikles said some of his peers were not as lucky.

“By the time the fire department got there, the water had flooded a good portion of the wing and leaked down to the second and first floors as well,” he said.

Basi said the room where the fire started suffered water and smoke damage and is currently not in a liveable condition.

Basi said ResLife staff have worked with the residents affected to find temporary residence.

In response to a student’s critical tweet, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said on Twitter that he is grateful no injuries were reported from the fire.
McCaskill talks about Ferguson, foreign policy during MU visit

Friday, September 12, 2014 | 9:54 p.m. CDT; updated 11:09 p.m. CDT, Saturday, September 13, 2014

BY JARED MCNETT

COLUMBIA — Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., told law students Friday that she and her husband are creating a candidate school to prepare African-Americans for public office in Missouri.

"We need that," she said in a forum at MU’s Hulston Hall courtroom. "We particularly need it in places like Ferguson."

"A community that is 70 percent African-American has an almost entirely white police department, city council and mayor," McCaskill said. "And the saddest part of that is five-of-the-six city councilmen and the mayor ran unopposed."

Though the former MU School of Law graduate was there to talk to law students and the Missouri Law Veterans Society about veterans' issues, she took a variety of questions for 20 minutes on topics from Ferguson to sexual harassment in the military and finding compromise in Congress.

After wrapping up in Hulston Hall, McCaskill walked across the Mel Carnahan Quadrangle to the Bush Auditorium in Cornell Hall to give the Schram Lecture in International Business.

Talking to business students, she discussed the backing of Republican candidates by the U.S Chamber of Commerce.

"One of my years in the Senate I was given an Enterprise Award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for my great record supporting business in the United States Senate based on my voting record," McCaskill said.

"Now imagine my surprise when I ran for re-election and they immediately pulled out 3 or 4 million to try to take me out," McCaskill said.

She also said she supported the re-authorization of the Export-Import Bank of the U.S., which fuels the economy by guaranteeing sales of American goods abroad.
Here is a range of topics that McCaskill touched upon during her two appearances:

**Export-Import Bank**

Created as a New Deal program in 1934, the congressionally charted bank’s mission is "to provide guarantees, direct loans and other financing to foreign buyers," and "to help U.S. companies compete in the global marketplace," McCaskill said.

The bank assures that an American company will never lose out on a foreign sale because it could not find backing in the private sector.

According to a 2013 report, the Export-Import Bank supported $37.4 billion in U.S. exports and over 200,000 jobs, while producing a profit that chipped off $1.057 billion from the national debt.

"This is a tool for American manufacturing to allow them to compete in the global marketplace," McCaskill said.

McCaskill cited American Ramp Co. in Joplin, Mo., which has built parks in Egypt, China and Australia as a major benefactor of the bank's work.

**Ferguson**

McCaskill said the challenge to preventing a future situation like the Michael Brown death in Ferguson does not rest on the shoulders of the federal government but on local police departments.

"I'm encouraged by how many departments across the country announced just in the last two weeks they're going to body cams, including Ferguson," McCaskill said. "I honestly believe that within the next 10 years this is not even going to be something anybody thinks about."

McCaskill said she thinks that body-camera usage will not only protect officers from unfair claims but also expose claims of brutality and profiling.

"And as a former prosecutor, it'll catch a lot more criminals. I like that part," McCaskill said.

**Foreign policy**

McCaskill thinks Congress "will exercise a new use of military force agreement," as a revision of the 2001 authorization for use of military force that President Barack Obama wants to use to launch attacks on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Syria and Iraq.
"I don't know that we'll do it before everyone goes home to campaign in October, but I would be surprised if we didn't have some kind of new one that would be applicable to the situation before the end of the year," McCaskill said.

**Sexual harassment**
McCaskill said Congress has made major reforms to confront the rape culture in the U.S. military, which saw just under 1,400 cases of sexual harassment in the last year.

The main change, which McCaskill wants extended to college campuses, is that victims will get their own lawyer the moment they report a sexual assault.

"That lawyer can then give you the best information, the best advice on whether to make your report restricted or non-restricted, whether or not you want to come out of the shadows and hold your perpetrator accountable," McCaskill said. "We've seen a spike of 50 percent in reporting since we put have this reform in."

**Veterans**
McCaskill, whose father was a World War II veteran, said Congress has more work to do on the "Hire Heroes Act," which gives employers incentives to hire returning soldiers.

"We still have more work to be done there to make sure that the skills that are mastered in the military easily transition over to civilian jobs when you come back to the United States," McCaskill said.

McCaskill said Congress also wants to make sure that every veteran has access to mental health care.
"It is unconscionable the high rate of suicide we have in the armed services," McCaskill said.

According to a 2012 Department of Veterans Affairs report, 22 veterans commit suicide each day. McCaskill said she wants to make sure the mistakes of handling post-traumatic stress disorder victims of the Vietnam War are not repeated with veterans of recent wars.
"Our country can't afford to make that mistake again, and we should all be ashamed that we allowed it to happen," McCaskill said.
McCaskill speaks about Ferguson, veterans affairs

McCaskill said she plans to fund organizations that train African Americans to assume leadership roles in their communities.

By Quinn Malloy

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., joked about her reputation as a moderate to lighten up the crowd in Hulston Hall on Friday.

“I got 35 percent of Missouri that thinks I’m Satan on a horse,” McCaskill said. “They’re watching Fox News. I got 35 percent of Missouri that thinks I can do no wrong. They’re watching MSNBC. And I got 30 percent of Missouri that’s watching The View and think we’re all crazy.”

McCaskill visited MU on Friday to speak to students and locals in Hulston and Cornell halls.

She touched on the recent events in Ferguson during her lecture in Cornell Hall.

McCaskill said there is a need for reform in what she called a “racially divided community,” in which little has been done to hire a police force that proportionally represents the 70 percent of Ferguson residents who are African American.

McCaskill said she plans to fund organizations that train African Americans to assume leadership roles in their communities.

Students at both lectures were given the opportunity to ask McCaskill questions.

MU law student Anthony Vibbard — president of the Federal Society, a student organization that organizes debates around campus — asked McCaskill what young people can do to help improve bipartisanship in Congress.

McCaskill was quick to highlight redistricting policies as a cause for political divide. She said that only 12 of the 435 members of the House of Representatives represent swing districts.

“What we need most in our democracy right now is someone fighting for compromise,” McCaskill said. “Everyone is so wedded to an ideology that is so far to the right or to the left. You guys can change district lines. Make politicians earn the support of the voters.”

Curtis Soul, a Vietnam War veteran in attendance, thanked McCaskill for the work she has done for veterans — specifically the benefits veterans receive for their service.
Soul said he it took 16 years before he received the payment he needed to treat a spine injury he received during his service after 16 years.

Soul thanked McCaskill for investigating medical personnel and holding them accountable.

“If you had a problem with your shoulder from firing a gun, doctors would say: ‘Everybody did that to your shoulder except the military,’ (and) they’d withhold your benefits,” Soul said.

Junior Gunnar Johansson asked McCaskill what she thought of the role of corporations in campaign finance.

McCaskill began by noting, with a palpable degree of disgust, that Missouri is the only state in the union that allows unlimited campaign donations from lobbyists.

She went on to denounce secret campaign finance money coming from 'super' political action committees, and joked that some of them have preposterous names.

“If there’s an ad on the TV that says, ‘paid for by the American flag,’ ‘apple pie,’ or ‘your mom,’ don’t pay attention to those ads,” she said. “They’re usually 95 percent wrong anyway.”

McCaskill closed her visit with advice for all the students at MU.

“If you’re not doing anything that’s bigger than your immediate friends and family, then figure it out and do better,” she said. “If you do something that is outside your frame of reference, you will be rewarded.”

UM is wrong on education syllabi debate

By MICHAEL PODGURSKY

Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (1)

For the past several years, a national organization promoting school reform, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), has undertaken studies of the content of teacher education courses in every state. Of particular interest is whether courses for future reading teachers include scientific research on how children learn to read. For the study, NCTQ requested course syllabi from education schools across the country. Because the study was the first of its kind and undertaken by an outside group, it was controversial among professors of education, and many
refused to cooperate. NCTQ thus had to resort to the use of “sunshine” (FOIA) laws to get the documents from education schools at public institutions.

Institutions in other states mostly complied with these requests. **The University of Missouri System, however, refused. Course syllabi, administrators argued, are the intellectual property of professors and thus not subject to conventional open records requests. Thus far the courts — including the Missouri Court of Appeals in a recent decision — have sided with UM.**

NCTQ is asking perfectly reasonable questions. I have spent the past 20 years writing and teaching in the area of the economics of education and serve (pro bono) on an academic advisory board for NCTQ. I served on a panel of the National Research Council (an arm of the National Academy of Sciences) that examined reform of teacher training and sought exactly the type of information on course content that NCTQ is collecting.

The position of UM leadership is misguided. Let’s start with the question of whether faculty syllabi are public documents. I was chairman of the Economics Department from 1995-2005. During my term, and continuing to the present, the Economics Department has had a policy of putting all of our course syllabi on the Web. This is a simple courtesy for our students and is completely uncontroversial in our department. Students should be able to know the content of a course, the readings and procedures for grading and so on before they enroll. We owe it to the students (and their parents) to help them make the most informed choices about courses they take. Should we force them to sign up for a course, come to the first day of class and only then learn that the course does not fit their needs?

Even if we accept the dubious proposition that a course syllabus is subject to copyright protections, this does not mean the public can be prevented from seeing them, as taxpayers pay the salaries of the professors who teach the courses. Copyrights protect authors from those who would try to unfairly exploit their works for commercial gain. NCTQ is using the syllabi for a perfectly legitimate research purpose and therefore is not infringing on any faculty member’s rights.

In fact, the intellectual protectionism asserted by UM flies in the face of professional norms and practice. Plagiarism of written work is seen as intellectual theft and is appropriately censured. However, it is routine for a professor teaching a new course to “adopt” (without attribution) all or part of the syllabus of a professor teaching the same course at another university. Rare, indeed, is the new assistant professor who does not borrow copiously from the syllabi of his mentor professors when he starts a new teaching job.

Nor is this a question of academic freedom. NCTQ is not telling anyone what to say in class. However, the taxpayers certainly have a right to know some basic information about what I’m doing in my class. If I’m using a Jane Austen novel instead of an economics textbook in my principles of economics course, the public certainly has a right to know that.

The case for hiding syllabi for education courses is weaker still. We require by statute and regulation that all prospective teachers take certain education courses, but the content of those
courses as described in the syllabi is, in this view, walled off as private intellectual property. NCTQ is asking perfectly reasonable questions about the content of teacher training in a critical area of education policy. But the nature of their questions is irrelevant: Reasonable or not, any taxpayer or organization should have access to such information from a public university.

UM is trying its best to block what is an important inquiry based on an absurd legal fiction that the syllabi distributed to 35,000 MU students cannot be disclosed to an organization making use of the state’s Sunshine laws. In the short term, this is simply a ruse to shield education school courses from public scrutiny. However, the long-term effect of this position undermines the operating principles of an open university. Perhaps MU faculty should be adding a new statement to our syllabi: “Not to be distributed to unauthorized third parties. Violators subject to fine and imprisonment.”

Michael Podgursky is a professor of economics at the University of Missouri.

MUPD, CPD to increase collaboration, patrols

The departments hope to reduce alcohol-related crimes by increasing patrols.

By Maddie Foster

MU and the Columbia police departments are planning to strengthen the collaboration between the two agencies and increase patrols near campus.

The departments will increase their patrols in Greektown and East Campus during the evening hours from Wednesday through Saturday.

MUPD spokesman Brian Weimer said patrols in those areas are being increased due to the high rates of crime.

“These are areas where individuals live so there (is) more (crime) during the evenings,” he said. “Residence halls are more closely monitored with staff.”

In addition to the increased patrols, the departments will work on increasing crackdowns on alcohol-related incidents.

“We are concentrating on alcohol as it is often a contributing factor in major crimes (such as rape and sexual assault),” Weimer said. “We hope that reducing alcohol related-crimes will also curb the more major crimes that stem off from it.”
One step in reducing alcohol related crimes is to make students aware of the serious consequences they can face.

“Being part of a crowd does not make you immune from getting in trouble,” Columbia police officer Robert Dochler said. “Underaged drinking is an area of focus for our department, especially with the downtown units.”

Columbia Police Chief Ken Burton said in a news release that the departments hope to make campus safer through their increased cooperation.

“We are delighted to be working with MUPD on this important effort,” Burton said in a news release. “The crimes and disorder related to overuse of alcohol are unfortunately common in university communities. This partnership should enhance both agencies efforts in addressing these issues.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU walk-in clinics open in Columbia Hy-Vees

Friday, September 12, 2014 | 5:17 p.m. CDT; updated 11:12 p.m. CDT, Saturday, September 13, 2014

BY ALEXA AHERN

COLUMBIA — MU Health Care has opened walk-in clinics in two Hy-Vee locations, 25 Conley Road and 405 E. Nifong Blvd., this week, with a third arriving later this month at the 3100 W. Broadway store.
The Mizzou Quick Care clinics will offer routine check-ups and services, according to the clinics' medical director, Susan Pereira.

Services range from treatment of cold, cough and flu symptoms to burns, cuts and wounds, infections and other minor medical issues. Additionally, the clinics offer exams like strep and pregnancy tests.

Appointments can be made online or by phone. Walk-ins are also accepted. The clinics will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Services vary in prices. The clinics will serve patients who carry insurance accepted by MU Health Care facilities. Patients without insurance pay an $89 clinic fee and additional test fees if necessary. The patient amount depends upon the co-pay of the insurance provider. After check-in and initial assessment, patients will be seen by physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

The aim of the Quick Care clinics is to provide convenient access for Columbia residents, said Mitch Wasden, CEO of MU Health Care. The clinics hope to assist more residents to get the care they need.

"There is a big problem here for access to care at all times," Wasden said Thursday during the opening of the first clinics.

Pereira said she sees the clinics especially assisting those who have basic health needs but no general care provider.

The clinics will keep an electronic medical record of all patients to allow them to transfer documents and diagnoses to patients' regular care doctors or other medical facilities.

"We kind of want to be seamless," Pereira said of the health care system.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Grant funds MU, Lee Elementary Science ARTreach program
Monday, September 15, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY RYAN MCELROY
COLUMBIA — Scientists and elementary school students are teaming up to create art projects at Robert E. Lee Elementary School.

The Science ARTreach program, set to begin this academic year, will have MU science professors working with elementary students to create science-based art projects that will be displayed around MU.

The art projects will be based on what the students are covering in their science curriculum.

Jona Toalson, Lee Elementary's liaison for the program, said she hopes working with scientists will "get kids hooked on science."

"Part of the grant is that students will go to the university and scientists from the university will come to Lee," said Toalson, also a fourth-grade teacher and director of science curriculum at Lee Elementary. "I think that’s going to be very powerful for students, getting to meet those real life scientists."

Eventually, all Lee Elementary students will be involved with the program, Toalson said.

Funding for the program comes from a larger biochemistry research grant which began Sept. 1 and was awarded by the National Science Foundation.

The program will receive $500 a year for three years, said Lesa Beamer, an MU associate professor and principal investigator of the grant.

Beamer said she will continue to work with third-graders at Lee Elementary as part of the program.

"I talk to them about germs once year," Beamer said. "They make models of germs and we brought those to campus and had them displayed in the (MU’s) Life Sciences Center."

Although the program only includes Lee Elementary, Beamer said she hopes it will eventually spread to other schools.
Academia and athletics often are thought of as two separate worlds. Patricia Okker, an English professor at the University of Missouri, knows from personal experience that this doesn’t have to be the case. As part of the MU Honors College’s Speaking of Culture lecture series, she will be presenting a program called “What I Learned about the Liberal Arts by Becoming a Marathon Runner and Weightlifter at 52” today at 2 p.m. at Orr Street Studios, 106 Orr St.

As the title of her presentation suggests, Okker wasn’t always an athlete. But the self-described “nerdy bookworm,” now 54, has accomplished much in the past two years. She has run two marathons — including the Boston — and set world records in powerlifting.

Okker’s foray into sports started with a couch to 5K program, which she hated for the first several weeks. Nonetheless, she worked through it, eventually finding her rhythm and deciding that, even if she didn’t love it, she was content enough to want to continue.

“I did the 5K, and at the time enjoyed it enough,” Okker said.

So she decided to start training for a half-marathon.

“I actually thought I was going to stop there,” Okker said.

But she didn’t. After finishing the 2013 New Orleans Marathon with a time of 3:54:59, she qualified for the Boston Marathon, which she finished this spring with a time of 3:47:08. This time qualifies her to run it again, and next spring, she is hoping to break 3:45:00.

Additionally, Okker started powerlifting with a group called the OWOWs — Older Women On Weights.

“I loved it right away,” Okker said.
Big crops have big consequences

By Pat Westhoff

Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 12:00 am

August U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates suggested that the United States and the world could harvest record corn and soybean crops this year. The final size of this year’s crops will not be known for several months, but it is clear that big crops will have big consequences.

From a crop farmer’s perspective, record yields are a mixed blessing. It’s great to have more to sell, but more often than not, more production means a lower price.

Crop prices are far below what most people expected just a few months ago and dramatically lower than the record prices that resulted from the 2012 drought. Not only are soybean and corn prices down sharply, but an index of all U.S. crop prices is down by 20 percent from the March 2013 peak.

In many cases, these lower prices can more than offset the benefits to crop farmers of bigger harvests. If a farmer harvests 10 percent more bushels but sells the crop for 20 percent less per bushel, overall revenue per acre declines.

In 2014, corn and soybean producers might see lower revenue than in any year since the depths of the recession in 2009, based on estimates prepared by our institute last month. Those who are paying high cash rental rates might experience actual losses, even if they harvest a record crop.

Lower prices and profits for crop producers have lots of consequences. Machinery sales might slow, and farmland values might stop increasing or actually decline.

Of course, not all the news is bad. Livestock, poultry and dairy producers pay less for feed. At the same time, reduced cattle numbers caused by past and current droughts, a virus that has killed millions of pigs, and strong international demand for dairy products and meat have all contributed to high prices for cattle, hogs and milk.

The result is a major reversal of fortunes: After years when most crop producers had strong profits but many livestock producers had constrained margins, the opposite is true this year.
Where agricultural prices will go from here depends on factors that are difficult or almost impossible to predict. For example, a drought in 2015 could cause crop prices to rebound, while another year of good growing conditions could push prices even lower.

Still, some outcomes are more likely than others. Profitability in the livestock sector should eventually translate into more beef, pork, chicken and milk production, and that, in turn, is likely to push prices back down.

How long that takes to play out depends in part on some basic biology: It takes a long time to get from a cow to a calf to beef on the plate, while poultry production can expand more quickly.

Higher meat and dairy prices have pushed up consumer food price inflation in 2014, but MU economists collaborating with our institute report that consumer food price inflation might slow in 2015.

The outlook for consumer food prices depends not just on what happens on U.S. farms and ranches, but also on what happens to the wages of food-sector workers, energy prices and all the other factors that affect the cost of getting food from the farmer to the consumer.

Pat Westhoff is director of the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri and a professor of agricultural and applied economics.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Council agenda dominated by fiscal year 2015 budget items

Sunday, September 14, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY ALLISON WRABEL, ETHAN COLBERT

COLUMBIA — The public will have its last chance to offer feedback on the city's $429 million proposed budget for fiscal year 2015 at a hearing before the Columbia City Council on Monday night.

The council is scheduled to vote on the budget after the hearing. The spending plan has caused some controversy due to proposed cuts to the city's black trash bag voucher program, increases in utility rates and enforcement of parking meters.

In response to previous public and council feedback, City Manager Mike Matthes and his staff have drafted the following proposed budget amendments:
Parking enforcement
An amendment is proposed to extend parking enforcement downtown by one hour to 7 p.m. and to delay that change until Jan. 1. The budget had already called for an increase in parking fines to $15 for tickets paid within 15 days and to $30 for those paid later.

Sewer connection fees
The council will decide on one of the following four options:

- Keep the connection fee at the current rate of $800.
- Increase the fee to $960 and phase in a fee of $2,400 over 10 years.
- Increase the fee to $1,333 and phase in a fee of $2,400 over three years.
- Increase the fee to $1,200 and phase in a fee of $2,400 over four years.

The budget already called for a 6 percent increase in city sewer bills to help pay off a $32.3 million bond issue approved by voters in November 2013.

Trash bag program
The council will vote on whether to provide vouchers for two rolls, or 50 trash bags, per year to solid waste customers with no rate increase. Residents currently receive 75 bags per year. Matthes had proposed eliminating the free bag program entirely, but public input prompted Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas to find some middle ground.

A cost-of-service study for the trash and recycling utility will be presented to the council in early October. It will explore other options for trash and recycling collection, including a switch to a roll-cart system.

Stormwater fund
The council will decide whether to move replacement of the West Worley Street stormwater system up to fiscal year 2015 rather than fiscal year 2016. The project would cost an estimated $800,000.

Columbia Access Television
The council will vote on a proposal to provide $50,000 in guaranteed funding to the public access cable channel and another $50,000 that would be used to match private donations. The city would tap the City Council’s reserve fund for $28,000 of that money.
In other action
The council will also discuss and vote on whether to solicit bids for a College Avenue project intended to improve pedestrian safety and a proposal to hire engineers for sewer projects in the Flat Branch basin.

The College Avenue project would feature a concrete median and fence in the center of the highway between University Avenue and Rollins Street near MU. There would be two mid-block pedestrian crossings.

A 2014 report compiled by Engineering Surveys and Services of Columbia said an estimated 2,500 pedestrians cross College Avenue outside designated crosswalks each day. About 19,000 cars pass through the area every day.

The council approved construction of the median by a 4-2 vote in May. It would be made of concrete stamped to look like stone and would have a short fence on top. The construction also would eliminate left turns on College Avenue.

An April 2014 report to the council estimated the barrier would cost about $750,000. A Missouri Department of Transportation grant will fund a maximum of $659,000, with the remaining balance being split equally by MU and the city. The city's share of the money would come from its annual sidewalk fund.

The project also would feature two activated crosswalk signals in front of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house at 520 S. College Ave. and the Christian Campus House at 704 S. College Ave.

Flat Branch sewer work
The council also will decide whether to hire Engineering Surveys and Services to design two sewer projects designed to address problems with sewers in the Flat Branch watershed and to increase sewer capacity downtown. The firm would be paid $811,500.
In Sexual-Misconduct Cases, Hear the Facts

By Gary Pavela

NO MENTION

Many years ago, Alfred P. Murrah, then a federal court-of-appeals judge, told me that judges must "hear cases before they decide them." I was an inexperienced law clerk who needed that advice, but the wisdom in Judge Murrah’s observation also constitutes good guidance for colleges struggling to resolve sexual-assault allegations.

Administrators are under intense pressure to hold students accountable for sexual misconduct. If that pressure results in eviscerated due process and ideological fact-finding—basically, deciding cases before hearing them—aggrieved plaintiffs will turn to state and federal courts for relief. Early indications from several decisions this year suggest judges may be receptive to some of their arguments.

A decision last month in King v. DePauw University, for example, is especially instructive. The federal judge in that case issued a preliminary injunction requiring the fall-2014 reinstatement, "without restriction," of Benjamin King, a student suspended for sexual assault. The court rejected King’s argument that he was the victim of gender-based discrimination but concluded he was "likely to succeed in demonstrating at trial that DePauw’s decision to find him liable for sexual misconduct ... was reached in an illegal, arbitrary, or capricious manner."

DePauw had created a Sexual Misconduct Hearing Board consisting of trained administrative staff members appointed by the assistant dean of students. The court challenged the board’s core finding that "it should have been apparent" to King that the accuser "was extremely intoxicated, to the point that she could not give consent" to sexual activity. "Quite frankly," the judge wrote, "the Court sees very little evidence that supports this conclusion."
The court also found it "problematic" that the investigation consisted almost exclusively of interviews of witnesses suggested by the accuser: "There was no attempt to use those interviews to ferret out other students who might have additional information." This is precisely the kind of concern raised by accused students who assert that colleges are not evenhanded in investigating sexual-misconduct allegations.

A determined effort to punish sexual misconduct is necessary but must be balanced by an equally passionate commitment to disciplined, impartial fact-finding. The following suggestions may help define the appropriate balance:

"Due process" is more than a procedural checklist. Due process encompasses a judicial temperament, as well as a list of procedures. Judge Murrah’s advice to "hear the case before deciding it" captures the essence of what a judicial temperament means. This kind of truth seeking requires investigators and hearing-board members to follow the facts wherever they lead, regardless of ideological predispositions. Since no checklist can encompass all contingencies, it is the "judicial temperament" component of due process—vitally important to both accuser and accused—that requires sustained attention as we appoint and train Title IX coordinators and hearing-board members.

Reasonable levels of procedural due process promote a sense of fairness that strengthens communities. The 1997 Office for Civil Rights Sexual Harassment Guidance states that "procedures that ensure the Title IX rights of the complainant while at the same time according due process to both parties involved will lead to sound and supportable decisions." That perspective is rarely heard in 2014. Colleges and federal regulators increasingly articulate a "victim centered" approach conveying a subliminal message that due process to the accused is a legalistic impediment. Accused students and their families quickly perceive this attitude and feel driven to seek a more neutral forum in the courts. Our educational efforts will be undone if groups of students eventually ally with "plaintiffs" or "defendants" rather than with a community effort to reduce sexual violence.

Determining a level of due process that generates broad support is best done locally. I managed the student-conduct system at the University of Maryland for more than 25 years. Much of my time was spent trying to convince student and faculty leaders that accused students should be
advised but not actively represented by lawyers. I eventually realized, however, that our efforts to increase sanctions for serious misconduct generated resistance if we minimized the role of counsel. After many compromises (including limiting the role of lawyers in academic-integrity cases but not other kinds of serious offenses), we developed a system that seems to work for College Park.

This example of internal compromise—typically seen as a component of institutional academic freedom—should be remembered as regulators and lawmakers endeavor to micromanage college sexual-assault policies from afar. If change is imposed from without, the legitimacy of college rules is likely to be undermined within. Experienced educators know it is the sense of legitimacy in their policies that will determine their ultimate success in influencing student behavior.

A sense of legitimacy in university policies is also enhanced when students are given responsibility to help define and enforce them. Except on smaller campuses where issues of confidentiality can be insurmountable, the current trend of removing student members from sexual-assault hearing panels looks suspiciously like an effort to predetermine results. Adult college students sit on juries in the most serious criminal cases; it is intellectually indefensible to argue that they lack comparable capacity in campus disciplinary proceedings.

Indeed, on troublesome issues like assessing "consent" to sexual contact, we need student perspectives to fashion policies that will attract widespread support. Based on past experience, too many Title IX "experts" gave us consent definitions that played out in late-night television comedy routines rather than in the behavior of our students.

"Mandatory sentencing" policies widely criticized in the criminal-justice system have no place on campus. Activists who demand automatic expulsion in sexual-misconduct cases don’t realize more acquittals will probably result. Colleges typically resolve sexual-misconduct allegations no prosecutor would pursue. In many cases both parties were drinking; both may have hazy recollections of events; one or both were inhibited about verbalizing sexual wishes; words or actions were ambiguous or misconstrued. When these factual patterns arise, thoughtful people on hearing panels—given no discretion—may refuse to find the accused student responsible. Complainants will be outraged and the benefits associated with more moderate penalties lost.
The purpose of mandatory sanctioning is to preclude thinking, a strategy incompatible with the aims of education. A better idea is to guide and structure discretion, without eliminating discretion altogether.

A concluding observation: The philosophical imperative to "know thyself" applies with as much force to institutions as to individuals. Do colleges have the capacity to resolve sexual-assault cases fairly and accurately? Powerful internal and external constituencies pull them in multiple directions, yet decision makers have little of the training or protections of state or federal judges.

Failures in addressing sexual misconduct run the gamut from a rush to judgment in the Duke-lacrosse case to many examples of inexcusable indifference to sexual misconduct by athletes. Furthermore, we're subject to ethical questions too long swept under the rug. Are we creating "special" sexual-assault tribunals available to comparatively wealthy college students who want to avoid the indignities of the criminal-justice system? If so, do we help perpetuate those indignities for the less privileged?

Polarization over sexual-assault adjudication will accelerate as more lawsuits are brought by accused students. Educators who acquire the discipline to hear cases before deciding them will weather the storm. Those who follow ideological imperatives will foster a regrettable, but inevitable, result: national legislation requiring that sexual-assault cases be resolved in criminal courts, not on university campuses.

Gary Pavela is a fellow of the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

September 14, 2014

Friends Don’t Let Friends … Get in Trouble at Frat Parties

NO MENTION
To the Editor:

We can put our heads in the sand and pretend that drinking on campus and sexual assaults are unrelated, but it would be a big mistake. While drinking is no excuse for sexual assault, it often brings out loutish, or worse, behavior in some people. This is when the intended victim should demonstrate good judgment. If someone accepts a car ride with a driver who is obviously drunk, we would shake our head and mutter, “What was he thinking by accepting that ride?” after an accident occurred. If someone flashes $100 bills as he walks down a poorly lit street where known hoodlums lurk, wouldn’t everyone question his judgment after he got mugged? If female students attend a party at a fraternity which has a known reputation for heavy drinking along with lewd and lascivious behavior, wouldn’t we all say, “They should have thought twice about leaving earlier?” after hearing that there was a sexual assault. Lawyers sometimes refer to this as contributory negligence, although no law was broken until the assault took place. Old fashioned though it might be, there is always room for good judgment to be on display.

The other protector from the unwanted is the friend. A number of years ago, the idea of the designated driver was developed. Here there was no attempt to pretend that drinking and accidents are unrelated. And the designated driver abstained so he or she could safely drive the friends home. Why are there not such friends available to whisk a female student away from trouble after too much drinking? Or, of equal importance, why are there not more friends around to halt impending bad behavior of a male friend after too much drinking? Just as we made the designated driver a campus fixture, might we not develop “The Friend Who Cares” program? Of course, some may oppose it because it recognizes that drinking and sexual assaults often occur in close proximity.

Robert V. Iosue
Retired President
York College of Pennsylvania
York, Pa.