MU News Bureau
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Initiative against domestic, sexual violence
kicks off Wednesday

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 11:57 am

With participation from several Mid-Missouri organizations, the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is kicking off a new initiative Wednesday that encourages men to lead by example to reduce violence against girls and women.

The initiative, dubbed “Missouri Men Say No More,” is a statewide effort to promote healthy relationships and conversation about domestic and sexual violence, said Colleen Coble, the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence’s chief executive officer.

The initiative begins with a kick-off breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Columbia. Though registration is closed for breakfast, Coble said anyone can still come and listen to the speeches and participate in discussion.

Coble said more than 150 people, including legislators, businesspeople, clergy and academic leaders, are attending the breakfast.

“We’ve got a diverse response, which proves the point that men are waiting to be asked how they can make a difference and change the culture around domestic and sexual violence,” Coble said.

Coble said efforts through the initiative will be based on feedback from people at the breakfast. The initiative is for men of all ages.

“What they need runs the gamut from, ‘How do I have a conversation with my son about this?’ or ‘How do I talk with those I work with?’ to ‘How do I help a friend who I am worried might be in a relationship that’s abusive?’ ” Coble said. Additional input includes addressing workplace safety and providing information to youth groups through churches.

The breakfast’s two presenting sponsors are the University of Missouri System and State Farm Insurance. Leaders from both organizations will address the crowd.

“President” Tim “Wolfe very decisively indicated several months ago that as the state’s public land-grant university, it’s important that our four campuses set a national example of dealing
with the difficult issue of sexual assault on college campuses,” said John Fougere, spokesman for the UM System. “This is another example of that commitment.”

Each presenting sponsor contributed $5,000 toward the initiative.

The kickoff breakfast will include speeches from community leaders and sponsors, as well as the inaugural Missouri Men Say No More award, which Coble said is going to outgoing Rep. Chris Kelly for his work in and out of the legislature addressing domestic and sexual violence and victim support.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Loan for rare MU-Italy art project covers shipping, insurance costs

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 | 6:47 p.m. CST
BY MICHAEL ALVEY

COLUMBIA — In September, MU and the Italian government announced an agreement for a loan of 249 vessels of previously unstudied black-gloss pottery from the Capitoline Museums in Rome to be examined by MU students and scholars.

It was the launch of an extremely rare project, as Italy had done only temporary international art loans in the past.

Funding the project is Enel Green Power, a renewable energy firm that is headquartered in Rome but also has operations across Europe and in North and South America. EGP is a subsidiary of Enel, which is Italy's largest power company, according to its website.

An EGP spokeswoman said the firm is involved with the "Hidden Treasure of Rome" project because it is committed to promoting culture in various forms and expressions. She said the project at MU and potential subsequent projects would cost 100,000 euros, or $130,000, but that costs would vary from project to project.

Although neither EGP nor MU could contractually share a copy of the art-loan agreement, Alex Barker, director of the MU Museum of Art and Archaeology, shared its general contents.
"The loan is covering shipping costs, insurance to protect from loss or damage to the materials and partial analytical costs at the (MU) Research Reactor," Barker said.

The contract also states that the U.S. Department of State certified that the project was of national interest so that the loaned art can't be seized by judicial acts.

MU did share the cultural agreement between the university and the Cultural Heritage Superintendency of the city of Rome. It states: "The implementation of this agreement has been made possible by the technical, financial and logistic support of the Enel Green Power SpA who has expressed and formalized a willingness to participate as a main partner, supporting the above ambitious project in Rome and the United States of America."

The cultural agreement requires that all of MU's findings, such as reports, databases and records, be made available to the Capitoline Museum. MU and the Capitoline also agreed in principle to possible exchanges of students and staff.

The "Hidden Treasure of Rome" project came about shortly after EGP began working with the Capitoline Museums in 2013. The firm sponsored an exhibit of the "Fauno rosso," an ancient Roman red-marble statue that was showcased at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. That loan coincided with the inauguration of an EGP wind farm in Kansas.

When talks began of a potential large-scale loan of unexamined antiquities as old as the fourth century B.C. to a university for research purposes, curators in Kansas City suggested MU as an ideal partner to start the project. After over a year of negotiations, the loan agreement was signed Sept. 15.

The New York Times reported in September that EGP would be involved in similar partnerships with the Rhode Island School of Design, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Oklahoma. The article also stated that EGP was in preliminary talks for projects with the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of California, Berkley; Stanford; New York University; Harvard; and Yale.

EGP would not confirm any of those plans because nothing had been finalized as of last month. But the spokeswoman did say that the group expects new announcements to be made in the first half of 2015 and that it would be reaching out to more universities to participate in the "Hidden Treasure of Rome" project.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Study: BPA absorption accelerated by skin care products
Tuesday, November 4, 2014 | 6:31 p.m. CST
BY RYAN MCELROY

COLUMBIA — Avoiding certain plastic bottles and canned foods may not be enough to avoid bisphenol A, according to a new study.

The study suggests that BPA is absorbed through the skin and that skin care products such as hand sanitizers accelerate absorption, according to an MU news release about the study.

"Our research found that large amounts of BPA can be transferred to your hands and then to the food you hold and eat as well as be absorbed through your skin," Frederick vom Saal, MU curators' professor of biological sciences and an internationally recognized BPA researcher, said in the release.

BPA is a chemical found in many consumer products such as plastic bottles and metal cans, according to the Food and Drug Administration. BPA may have health effects on the brain, behavior and prostate gland of fetuses, infants and children, according to the Mayo Clinic and to other studies.

The chemical affects hormones and high levels can impact fetus development, said Annette Hormann, lead researcher on the study. BPA absorbed through the skin may have other negative health risks as well.

"Throughout a person's life cycle, environmentally disruptive chemicals (such as BPA) can disrupt messages that are essential to a healthy, well-balanced communication system in the person's body," Hormann said.

The new study was published Oct. 22 on PLOS ONE, an international, peer-reviewed, open-access online publication that publishes primary research from many scientific disciplines.
A study released in 2010 and conducted at MU reported that BPA is also found on the surface of thermal paper, commonly used for receipts, and contact can leave the chemical on skin.

During the new study, participants used hand sanitizer, held thermal paper receipts and then ate french fries. BPA levels in the blood of participants increased significantly after holding the paper.

While avoiding receipts altogether may not be possible, it is possible to limit exposure to the BPA found on them. Only taking needed receipts and holding them for as little time as possible helps, among other things, Hormann said.

"Try not to touch receipts with wet hands, not very much of it transferred with dry hands," Hormann said. "Wipe your hands on cotton or rinse first with cold water, then use soap."

Working with the paper industry to find an alternative to BPA is an important next step, Hormann said.

**What a GOP-Led Congress Means for Higher Ed**

November 4, 2014

by Michael Stratford

**NO MU MENTION**

With victories in several key Senate races last night, Republicans will take control of both chambers of Congress heading into the final two years of the Obama presidency -- a balance of power that sets up a much-changed dynamic for federal higher education policy making in the coming months.
The change will likely be something of a double-edged sword for colleges and universities, higher education advocates said. On the one hand, colleges will find more help from Republicans in their longstanding efforts to roll back federal requirements they view as burdensome. At the same time, higher education may be in store for tougher battles on federal funding for academic research and student aid programs, as GOP majorities embrace more austere budget caps.

**Election Results on "This Week"**

Daniel J. Hurley, associate vice president for government relations and state policy at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and Christopher P. Loss, author of *Between Citizens and the State: The Politics of American Higher Education in the 20th Century*, will discuss the election results and their impact on higher education Friday on Week,” Inside Higher Ed's free weekly news podcast. Sign up here to be notified of new podcasts.

Republican leadership of the Senate is also likely to complicate the Obama administration’s agenda for executive action, namely its regulations clamping down on the for-profit college industry as well as its desire to put into effect its full proposal for a college ratings system.

Policy priorities led by Senate Democrats that affect higher education are also expected to take a back seat under Republican leadership. Some of those proposals, such as allowing existing student loan borrowers to lower their interest rates, were featured prominently in Democratic campaign ads this year. Senate Democrats had also pushed new policies that sought to hold colleges more accountable for loan defaults and clamp down further on for-profit institutions.

The shift in power is likely to result in continued deadlock on higher education and other issues, especially since Republicans will not enjoy veto-proof margins in either chamber. As a result, they'll be unlikely to enact into law policies that the administration completely would reject (such as blocking of gainful employment).

**New Committee Leadership**

The next Congress will bring fairly significant changes to the lawmakers in charge of shepherding higher education legislation through the House and Senate; Last night’s Republican victories are expected to catapult Senator Lamar Alexander to chairman of
the Senate education committee from his current post as ranking member.

Alexander, a former U.S. education secretary and university president, has said that his higher education priority will be reducing federal regulation of college and universities. He has also pushed strongly a simplification of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as the FAFSA, as well as some student loan and grant programs.

Alexander has said he wants to “start from scratch” on rewriting the Higher Education Act in an attempt to de-clutter the massive statute that governs federal student aid. But beyond removing federal requirements viewed as burdensome and streamlining student aid programs, Alexander has not said publicly what else he wants to see in a new Higher Education Act.

One question for the next Congress will be the extent to which Alexander embraces some of the other “more imaginative” higher education policy ideas that have been offered in recent years by other Republicans, said Andrew Kelly, who directs higher education research at the American Enterprise Institute. Several of those ideas, which have been put forward by Senators and Marco Rubio and Representative Paul Ryan, revolve around making it easier for nontraditional programs to get access to federal aid through new accreditation entities.

“Alexander doesn’t seem as skeptical of the accreditation system as some other Republican lawmakers, so I don’t know that those would be at the top of his list,” Kelly said. “But it’s a big question mark.”

Kelly said that he sees an opportunity for a Republican-led Congress to embrace “some of the more imaginative ideas out there” by those Republicans, “who see student debt and college affordability as a campaign issue that families, their constituents are going to care about for a long time coming.”

In the House, Representative John Kline, Republican of Minnesota, is expected to continue as the chairman of the education committee. Kline won his re-election bid last night in spite of a high-profile effort by the comedian Bill Maher to unseat the seven-term Congressman, in part, because of his support of for-profit colleges. Democrats, meanwhile, are losing two longtime education policy makers to retirement, as Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and Representative George Miller of California leave
Congress.

Senator Patty Murray of Washington, who currently chairs the budget committee, is expected to become the top Democrat on the Senate education committee. In the House, Representative Bobby Scott of Virginia is in line to take Miller’s place as the top Democrat on that chamber’s education panel.

Several other Democrats who had played prominent roles on higher ed issues lost their re-election battles. In the House, Reps. Tim Bishop (N.Y.) and John Tierney (Mass.) were both aggressive advocates for colleges and students -- Tierney more of a partisan bulldog, Bishop having developed his expertise as a longtime college administrator, at Long Island’s Southampton College.

Sen. Kay Hagan, a North Carolina Democrat, also lost her re-election bid; she has been a member of the Senate’s education panel.

A New Budget Dynamic

Beyond changes to the makeup of the education committees, higher education advocates said that they’re concerned about what a completely Republican Congress would mean for funding to student aid and academic research.

While both research and financial aid have historically enjoyed relatively strong bipartisan support from both Democrats and Republicans, advocates said that the more austere budgetary conditions that Republicans are likely to create may not bode well for funding to those discretionary programs.

“We’ve got a number of conservative Republicans who have been pointing to the Budget Control Act and sequestration and the fact that that has contributed to deficit reduction,” said M. Matthew Owens, vice president for federal relations at the Association of American Universities. Those automatic budget cuts and limitations on the overall pool of money available to be allocated to domestic programs will “hamstring the ability of Congress to make investment in scientific research and student aid,” he said.

“We have a number of Democratic leaders who have made it clear that they would like to see some relief from the Budget Control Act caps,” he said. “In that environment it
Another round of automatic budget cuts, which are set to take effect in the 2016 fiscal year, is “less likely to be averted with Republican control of the Senate,” said David Baime, senior vice president for government relations and research at the American Association of Community Colleges. He noted, though, that there was bipartisan support to provide some relief from budget caps in last year’s agreement to fund the government after the shutdown.

“There is a lot of concern on our campuses about the implications of a sequester taking effect in 2016 and what that might mean for specific programs,” Baime said. “If the overall budget pie gets shrunk through sequestration, you could see it meaning a narrower slicer for many programs that benefit our students and our colleges.”

Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, said that advocates for student aid may find themselves in the position of having to stave off reductions or fight for at least flat funding. Increased funding appears to be far out of reach, he said.

“We’re not going to see significant new investments either way, simply based on where we’ve seen Republican talking points and rhetoric on cutting spending,” he said.

Draeger also said that colleges would have concerns about Alexander’s efforts to simplify federal loan and grant programs if they were to lead to effective cuts to the money the federal government spends on student aid.

“We want to be sure that simplification doesn’t become a way for us to make cuts to students,” he said. “We would draw a pretty bright line in paying down the deficits on the backs of students.”

However, Draeger said, Alexander had been “willing to engage” on the issue, and there was likely common ground over making loan programs easier for students to access.

More Roadblocks to Obama Agenda
President Obama’s plan to develop a ratings system for higher education and then link colleges’ performance in the ratings to their federal aid has always faced long odds since it was announced in August 2013. The administration has, on its own, been
putting together the ratings system, an outline of which is set to be publicly released in the coming weeks.

But the White House would need Congressional approval to tie the ratings to federal funding. That proposal has already received a cool reception among many Democrats on Capitol Hill, not to mention the Republicans who have actively sought to block the Education Department’s power to produce any type of ratings system.

Republican control of the Senate now means that the president’s goal of linking student aid to colleges’ performance in a ratings system has an even slimmer chance, if any, of becoming law.

“A united Republican Congress, I think, basically spells a death knell for any effort to tie college ratings to student aid,” said Kelly, the AEI scholar.

The Obama administration’s other higher education policy efforts are also likely to come under greater scrutiny by newly empowered Republicans in the Senate, especially its recently released “gainful employment” rule that targets mostly for-profit colleges.

November 5, 2014

Decision 2014: The Higher-Ed Outlook
By Paul Basken, Kelly Field, and Brock Read

NO MENTION

The broad story of this year's elections was the Republican wave that tipped control of the Senate. What does it all mean for academe? Here's what you need to know about the results.
**Lamar Alexander gets his shot.**

With Republicans taking over the Senate, leadership of the all-important education committee will transfer to the lawmaker who already has terms as U.S. secretary of education and as the University of Tennessee's president on his CV. His main higher-education goal: "to deregulate it."

As the man charged with driving the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, he's certainly got cards to play. What should we expect out of Senator Alexander? Staunch opposition to President Obama's accountability agenda, an attempt to shift accreditors' focus away from regulatory compliance, and a push to streamline student aid—including, possibly, a simplified federal student-aid form. Here's Kelly Field's profile of the Tennessee Republican, the new committee chair.—*B.R.*

**Mr. Brat goes to Washington.**

When it emerged that two professors at Randolph-Macon College would square off in the race for Virginia's Seventh District, the jokes wrote themselves. ("I hope the loser at least gets tenure" seemed like the pick of the bunch.)

The race itself was never terribly close. The Seventh is a conservative stronghold, so David A. Brat, an economics professor with Tea Party backing, coasted to a comfortable win over Jack Trammell, a Democrat who is both an associate professor of sociology and director of disabilities support services. But at Randolph-Macon—a college with an enrollment of about 1,300 and an average class size of 16—the campaign was singular and enthralling. Becky Koenig spent Election Day on the campus. Here's her report.

Meanwhile, a couple of other academic upstarts took expected losses: Tom Poetter, a professor of education at the University of Miami, couldn't unseat the Republican John Boehner, the House speaker, in Ohio's Eighth District. And Paul Clements, a professor of political science at Western Michigan University, was defeated by Fred Upton, the Republican incumbent in Michigan's Sixth District. Mr. Clements, at least, has a couple of very solid Rate My Professors scores to fall
In Nebraska another Tea Party favorite, Benjamin E. Sasse, waltzed to victory in the race to fill the Senate seat vacated by the retiring Sen. Mike Johanns. When he launched his campaign last year, Mr. Sasse was serving as president of Midland University. After he won the Republican primary, though, he stepped aside. Mr. Sasse is credited with pulling Midland back from the brink; one presumes the Senate will pose a stiffer challenge.—B.R.

**Two budget-cutters escape the ax.**

On Tuesday *The Chronicle*'s Eric Kelderman looked at the 36 gubernatorial races and homed in on three first-term Republicans who had taken heat for scything higher-ed spending. Two of them made it out of Tuesday's elections alive. In Florida, *Gov. Rick Scott* scored a minor upset, squeaking out a victory over Charlie Crist, his Republican predecessor turned Democratic challenger. In Wisconsin, *Gov. Scott Walker*—castigated not just for budget cuts but also for stripping collective-bargaining rights from faculty members and other state workers—defeated Mary Burke, a Democrat.

*Gov. Tom Corbett* of Pennsylvania wasn't so lucky: As expected, he lost to his Democratic opponent, *Tom Wolf*, by a convincing margin. But it's hard to escape the conclusion that this year, at least, taking a hard line on college and university budgets didn't bring electoral repercussions. Here's Eric's look at the backstories in all three races.—B.R.

**Researchers keep their heads up.**

Given the GOP’s heavy emphasis on cutting budgets, you'd think the ascent of Republicans into key committee posts would cause panic among advocates of research spending. Not so. The three Republicans slotted to lead the Senate's appropriations and science committees all have records of supporting the main federal science agencies:
Sen. Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, the top Republican on the appropriations committee, has repeatedly endorsed budget increases for the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas, on the appropriations subcommittee responsible for the National Institutes of Health, is such a strong backer of the agency that he has at times pushed to give it even more money than did the panel's Democratic chairman, Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, who is retiring.

Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, on the science committee, has called for bipartisan compromise in the face of House Republicans' efforts to limit the NSF’s freedom to set scientific priorities.

That said, the new chairmen may have limited room to maneuver. In recent years, even Senators Shelby and Moran—after publicly demanding more money for the NSF and the NIH—have ended up following their party’s lead.

"While their words have been very supportive," says Jennifer L. Zeitzer, director of legislative relations at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, "their actions have been somewhat to the contrary."—P.B.

Goodbye and hello.

Through a combination of looming retirements and electoral defeats, Congress's education committees are losing a lot of expertise on higher-education policy—and students and colleges are losing some of their strongest advocates. Here are a couple of the biggest names who are leaving:

- **Rep. George Miller** of California, the top Democrat on the House education committee and its former chair, is retiring. Mr. Miller has been a longtime champion of working-class and poor students. Among his recent successes: securing mandatory funds for Pell Grants and introducing the legislation that created income-based repayment for student-loan borrowers.

- **Sen. Tom Harkin** of Iowa, chair of the Senate's education committee and an appropriations subcommittee on education, also declined to run again. During his
four decades in Congress, Mr. Harkin fought for increased funding for student aid and led a bruising investigation into for-profit colleges.

And here are the lawmakers who will be trying to fill those shoes:

- **Rep. Bobby Scott** of Virginia, an 11-term congressman best known for his support of minority-serving institutions and college-prep programs, is poised to take Mr. Miller’s seat as the top Democrat on the House education committee.

- **Sen. Patty Murray** of Washington is the presumptive top Democrat on the Senate education committee, and she’s a candidate to replace Senator Harkin as chair of the appropriations subcommittee on education.

Want to know who else came and went? [Here's a longer list of moves.](#) — K.F.

**No change in North Dakota.**

The state’s university system might have its share of internal struggles, but voters didn’t think reconfiguring the State Board of Higher Education was the solution: They resoundingly rejected a ballot measure that would have dissolved the volunteer board and replaced it with a commission of three full-timers. Max Lewontin has more on the measure here.— B.R.

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**Actor, veteran coming to MU to discuss his story**

*Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 10:01 am*

An actor, *New York Times* bestselling author and Army veteran is coming to the *University of Missouri* to share his story.

J.R. Martinez — known for his appearance on “Dancing with the Stars” and his book, “Full of Heart: My Story of Survival, Strength, and Spirit” — will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Missouri Theatre.
Martinez will discuss his story of survival as part of Mizzou Veterans Week. He suffered significant burns on more than one-third of his body in 2003 after his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

In addition to being a speaker, Martinez starred in “All my Children” and currently has a role in the TV drama “SAF3.”

Martinez’s presentation is free and open to the public.

MU students sell turkeys for fundraiser

Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 10:13 am

Students with the Food Science Association at the University of Missouri are hosting their annual smoked turkey fundraiser. Students are accepting orders for smoked turkeys, ranging from 15 to 28 pounds, until Nov. 10. The turkeys are purchased from Cargill, and students prepare them for sale by curing and smoking them. The students then package the turkeys and freeze them. The turkeys are $30 each.

Association member Charlie Hall said in an email that people who purchase a turkey can pick it up frozen or refrigerated from Nov. 18-21. Reheating instructions will be included.

The students use the money raised to pay for industry tours, a college bowl competition and the group’s other programs.

#RespectZouFood targets dining hall food waste

The task force’s three-month study estimated 16.4 percent of dining hall food is wasted.

“Waste Not, Want Not,” a task force that studies food waste and how to decrease it on campus, is launching a two-week campaign to raise awareness of food waste generated by campus dining halls.
The food waste task force is a Mizzou Advantage-sponsored undergraduate research team made up of students from a wide range of majors.

LuAnne Roth, assistant teaching professor of English who is working with the task force, said because creating awareness about food waste is half of the task force’s goal, the success of the campaign will be partly gauged by tracking the reach of the social media campaign.

“We want to create the positive social norm to not waste food and have students think about personal reasons why they shouldn’t waste food,” she said.

Roth said the project’s success will also be determined by measuring the plate waste generated after the campaign and comparing it to the amount of food waste generated previously.

“We have an entire semester of food waste data measuring the amount of waste produced in different categories of food,” she said. “Grains, for example, have less of an environmental impact than beef.”

Christine Costello, assistant research professor of bioengineering and a task force member, said in an email that the group conducted a three-month study in spring 2014 to examine food waste at Dobbs, Rollins, Plaza 900 and the MARK on Fifth Street dining halls.

The study found approximately 246.3 tons of food reached the retail level of the facilities during the study period. An estimated 232.4 tons were served and 13.9 tons — 10.1 tons of edible and 3.8 metric tons of inedible food, parts of food products not normally eaten such as corn cobs — were lost as pre-consumer waste.

The study also estimated that 26.4 tons — 21.2 tons of edible food and 5.3 tons of inedible — of post-consumer food waste was generated at the four dining halls over the period. Out of the food categories examined by the study, fruits and vegetables constituted the largest amount of food waste by weight.

In all, 16.4 percent of the food that reached the retail level in the study was estimated to have been lost as waste.

Campus Dining Services spokesman Michael Wuest said each year CDS sends approximately 180,000 pounds of food and compostable waste from its six kitchens to Bradford Research Center to be converted into compost.

Wuest said wasting food can create issues for both the university and dining halls themselves.

“It’s a greater financial commitment the more food you waste,” he said. “The average price of food goes up when you waste it, (and) there’s also the logistics of getting staff to compost food.”

Wuest said inspiring students to be more conscious of only taking the amount of food they will actually eat is the project’s main focus, but reducing food waste may benefit students in other ways as well.
“The biggest thing we try to influence is to have people only get what they’re going to eat and eat what they take, which can also keep prices low in the dining halls,” Wuest said.

The campaign targets Plaza 900, Rollins, Pavillion at Dobbs and the MARK dining halls. To promote the campaign, new posters and literature will appear in dining halls to remind students to be conscious of how much food waste they are producing when eating.

Roth said during the second week of the campaign, the task force will launch the hashtag #RespectZouFood, which students are encouraged to use to post photos of themselves holding a finished plate and explain how and why they avoid wasting food.

Roth said those reasons may be moral, economic or environmental, depending on the person.

Dining halls will also have a whiteboard where students can write their reasons for avoiding food waste. Roth said working with the dining halls, which have partnered with the project from the beginning, has been a very convenient way to conduct research.

“We helped with design work for the campaign, helped them plan, and we are helping to launch the social media campaign,” Wuest said. “We’ve been with them every step of the way.”

Roth said she hopes the social media campaign will extend past students and faculty to others in the community. She added that though the campaign originally came together as a research project, the task force’s other goal is education.

“We are an educational institution, and we want to teach students how to live sustainably,” she said. “Reducing food waste is second nature, and (I hope) they can take it forward into their lives.”

Editorial: Students, CDS must help reduce food waste

Getting rid of all-you-can-eat options and reducing prices on individual food items is crucial to preventing the production of more food waste.

MU is ranked 16th on the Environmental Protection Agency’s list of the top 30 green-power-using schools, and yet we are perpetuating a serious environmental problem due to our high levels of food waste on campus.

“Waste Not, Want Not”, a Mizzou Advantage-sponsored task force that studies food waste, is launching a two-week campaign to bring attention to food waste produced by campus dining
halls. A recent study the group conducted found that during a three-month period, Dobbs, Rollins, The MARK on Fifth and Plaza 900 lost 16.4 percent of all food that reached the retail level as waste.

The food waste generated in the dining halls also produced 67.2 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in food waste, 34.1 metric tons of which came from meat and poultry.

In the final results of the 2014 Recycle Mania Tournament, MU ranked 133rd out of 162 schools competing in the category of food service organics. Comparatively, the University of Kansas and Syracuse University, both schools of relatively similar size to MU, were ranked 58th and 41st, respectively.

Food waste is a growing problem on campus. If we keep wasting food at this level, we will likely see continued increases both in food prices and in the amount of greenhouse gases emitted from the waste. We must improve the way we deal with food waste on this campus to curb these environmental costs.

Campus Dining Services has been doing good work in trying to effectively decrease the amount of food waste produced from our dining halls. By going trayless and giving 160,000 pounds of food waste to Bradford Research Center for composting, they have made a significant impact. However, there is still room for improvement.

CDS needs to change the way students purchase food. Having affordable singular items at their to-go locations is one way to change this. Creating more affordable prices for singular food products that students can save and eat later would be an effective way to curb food waste. With lower prices on these items, less students will waste food in the dining halls.

The all-you-can-eat style currently present in dining halls is problematic. Allowing students to get as much food as they want with a single swipe tends to lead to students taking more food than they will eat and create more waste. Starting with the replacement of Dobbs, CDS should work to redesign the overall system of residential dining halls.

Consider introducing a new system in which every meal a student takes is worth one meal swipe, as opposed to using one meal swipe to get as much food as they want. This way, students would be less inclined to go get another plate of food that they won’t finish.

Another problem that contributes to more food waste in dining halls may be the quality of the food being served. If a student takes a plate of food, tries it and dislikes it, they’re going to throw it away. Providing students better quality food is not only healthier for them, but would help conserve food in dining halls.

That said, CDS cannot be solely held responsible for reducing food waste on campus. Students must make a serious effort to take they will eat and to eat what they take. If you aren’t sure whether or not you’re going to finish a part of your meal, take less food. Don’t force yourself to overeat, but don’t waste food that you take from dining halls. Look at the way you consume food, and take food accordingly.
MU’s sustainability mission statement says the university is “committed to leadership in demonstrating local and global environmental stewardship”. But reducing emissions and increasing efficiency must be an across-the-board effort, and our dismal ranking among U.S. schools in food waste detracts from MU’s other efforts to be “green.” If we truly want to be leaders in sustainability, then let’s be a leader in all categories.

Meet Mizzou’s wishmaker, Hai Kim

Kim created Mizzou Wishmakers and has helped Mizzou Alternative Breaks grow and evolve.

*In 2012, Hai Kim went on his first Mizzou Alternative Break.*

After an EF5 tornado struck Joplin, Missouri, in 2011, Kim was sent to the site by MAB (then known as Alternative Spring Break), an organization that sends groups of students around the country during various breaks during the school year to volunteer at places in need.

When Kim found out he was headed to a location only four hours away in the same state, he wasn’t ecstatic, especially when he had friends going to places like Florida. But once Kim got on site, his perspective changed completely.

“I remember seeing Joplin High School in a complete state of rubble,” Kim said. “I, as an outsider, was filled with a sense of dread and hopelessness. Yet everyone I had the fortune to interact with was filled with optimism and vision for the future.”

Kim’s experience in Joplin fueled his passion to continue with organizations like MAB. He saw light through the darkness and believed he had the mindset to help those who couldn’t help themselves.

He has been on other MAB trips to sites such as Atlanta, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida.

“Serving with my group in these various sites of tragedy, I was both humbled and grateful to be invited to serve people in what was likely one of their most vulnerable points of their lives,” Kim said. “I distinctly recall becoming very aware of my own mortality and realizing how fleeting and transient life is. This experience truly cemented not only my passion for service but also my place at Mizzou.”

Now, as a senior, Kim’s involvement in the program has grown. He holds a position on the MAB Board of Directors as the Director of Spring Service.
Senior Katie Yaeger, the MAB Director of Logistics, said that Kim is enthusiastic and passionate about many different things, especially for MAB.

“He always makes sure everyone is excited for the alternative break trips,” said Yaeger, a former Maneater staffer. “He’s very friendly and a really great guy who gets excited about MAB and everything else he does. He always tried to do a little bit more than he has to.”

Graduate student Dawn Schillinger met Kim while on a MAB site retreat in 2013.

“Hai is an absolute bright spot to that memory,” Schillinger said. “It was the first time I got to witness his trademark friendly attitude and positive leadership, a trend I have seen numerous times in our friendship. It sounds cheesy, but Hai is a passionate human dedicated to high ideals.”

MAB was not the only organization Kim became involved with during his freshman year. He also co-founded Mizzou Wishmakers, an organization that works with the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Missouri to grant wishes for children who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation provides a variety of resources for Wishmakers to facilitate wish granting. They try to grant wishes of children around the Columbia area or from more rural parts of Missouri.

Kim refers to Mizzou Wishmakers as his “child.” Before Kim created it, there wasn’t anything like the program at MU before.

Over the past years, Mizzou Wishmakers has granted wishes to five children.

Though he holds all the kids they work with close to his heart, Kim’s favorite wish was to a child named Austin who has cerebral palsy. The Wishmakers program sent him to Atlantis Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Austin’s wish was the first one the program was able to grant, and Kim said he considers Mizzou Wishmakers to be the most rewarding organization in which he participates.

“We work directly with the kids,” Kim said. “We get to pick kids in the Columbia area who are usually forgotten about when it comes to granting wishes. Usually the kids from St. Louis or Kansas City get their wishes granted first. But, by doing this, we get to fundraise ourselves and make the wishes happen. It’s really cool and impactful to see a wish being granted.”

Senior Ashlie Anderson-Rice has been with Kim through his development of Wishmakers and considers seeing him grow through it one of her fondest memories because of his leadership and perseverance.

“This was a time when there were many uncertainties on where the organization was going to go but Hai's leadership skills helped guide all of the executive board into success,” Anderson-Rice
said. “I had the opportunity to serve as the treasurer, while he was president, on the founding executive board. Hai’s high spirit and eye for detail really kept the new organization together.”

Along with MAB and Mizzou Wishmakers, Kim has delved into other various organizations such as Alpha Kappa Psi, Caring for Columbia, the College of Business Ambassadors and the Cornell Leadership Program. He’s also a Sam M. Walton Scholar and made the 2014 Homecoming royalty.

On top of his schoolwork, Kim has a lot to balance. But he stays involved, he said, because it’s something he enjoys and he wants to do his best to give back.

Kim sees a lot of advantages from working with different organizations. He said he considers himself the type of person who likes to be involved and take action. Student organizations have a lot of impact, and he said he appreciates the opportunity to help.

Through his involvement, Schillinger said Kim has grown as a person and impacted not only those he volunteers for with MAB and Wishmakers, but his peers around him as well.

“When Hai is confronted with challenges, he doesn’t let them set him back,” Schillinger said. “Instead, he finds workarounds and overcomes them. Whether it’s leading the largest group of spring service trips in Mizzou history or listening to ‘Problem’ until he knows all the lyrics in the Iggy Azalea rap, Hai just strives to succeed.”

Anderson-Rice also said she sees Kim in a light that shows his passion for change and leadership.

“He is the type of person who would do anything for anyone, wanting nothing in return,” she said. “He is one of the greatest people on Mizzou’s campus. Overall, Hai is an incredible human who will go on to change the world.”

Kim has walked away from his experiences with a lesson that will be difficult to forget.

“Everything comes down to how much you can serve others,” Kim said. “No matter the organization or the task, at the core is the people you interact with, the choices you make, and how those define you as a person.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MISSOURIAN MINUTE: For MU student, learning to adapt is part of the performance

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST BY EMMA NICOLAS
COLUMBIA – Julie McGinnity is just another MU graduate student. She’s out the door by 8 a.m., barely has time to eat lunch and doesn’t get home until late evening.

The 24-year-old vocal performance student spends countless hours at choir rehearsal pouring over sheet music for University Singers’ next performance.

The only difference is that McGinnity reads the notes by running her finger over each line of the page. She started singing when she was 10 years old, and she’s read her music in braille since.

Although she was born blind, McGinnity doesn’t want other students to identify her by her blindness.

"Blindness is important to me, don’t get me wrong," she said. "It’s part of who I am, but it’s not all I am and it doesn’t necessarily define me."

The MU Disability Center provides McGinnity with all her music in braille, which she said is extremely accommodating. All she has to do is request it.

"It’s almost like magic," she said.

Cate Cooper, access adviser for the disability center, said the center’s goal is to give students with disabilities access to everything they need.

The center is able to provide braille textbooks or hire people to assist students who are blind in classes, Cooper said.

In most cases with students who are blind, Cooper begins working with the student and their parents months before they even begin their first semester.

Cooper, who works with McGinnity, said she is constantly busy with her music, work, studying or her teaching job at the university.

"I don’t want to sit still," McGinnity said.

When she’s not sitting still, her Guide dog, "Billy Bob," helps her navigate the world. McGinnity describes Bill as a 2 1/2-year-old "hot mess." The pair have been working together for more than four months. Bill often lies at her feet and looks up at her during rehearsals or while she works on her laptop.
McGinnity wants to continue performing in operas and hopes to teach music in either a church or university setting one day, but sometimes peoples' expectations of her blindness get in her way.

People try to push and pull her, both literally and figuratively, in different directions based on what they see fit for her without asking her opinion, she said. Multiple people have told McGinnity she should not participate in a performance because they didn't think she could navigate the stage.

But learning to adapt to people and situations, especially as a performer, is one of her greatest achievements, she said. She could even hot wire a car if she wanted to, she joked.

Editorial: Missouri has ignored municipal courts for generations. It's time to fix them

By the Editorial Board

Before the Arch City Defenders, there was T.E. Lauer.

The Defenders are a not-for-profit law office that has examined how, in both legal and practical terms, the 81 municipal courts in St. Louis County trample on the constitutional rights of the poor.

Mr. Lauer was a law professor at the University of Missouri who wrote a stinging indictment of the municipal courts in Missouri long before anybody had heard of 18-year-old Michael Brown, long before Ferguson became a trending hashtag.

Here’s what he wrote:

“Unfortunately, the functioning of Missouri’s municipal courts leaves much to be desired. In many respects they represent a modern anomaly, the result of ill-defined legislation and inconsistent judicial decisions extending across more than a century. Generally they have been overlooked or ignored as the misshapen stepchildren of our judicial system.”

Mr. Lauer died two years ago at age 81. He wrote that paragraph in 1966.
So if you want to better understand the generational unrest going on in north St. Louis County, read that last sentence again, the part about the “misshapen stepchildren.”

For 48 years, Missouri’s legal community — the judges and lawyers and law schools — has known the state’s municipal courts were a problem. It has known they function better as a fundraising tool for small cities than sources of justice or protectors of public safety. The legal community has known that the constitutional rights of defendants, most of them poor, many of them black, were regularly trampled upon. That the municipal courts’ very existence often turns police forces against the citizens they are supposed to protect. That the courts were in serious need of reform, that the Missouri Supreme Court needed to step in and do something, that the state’s faith in its entire judicial system was at risk.

Forty. Eight. Years.

Mr. Lauer’s paper, “Prolegomenon to Municipal Court Reform in Missouri,” was published in the winter edition of the Missouri Law Review that year. (“Prolegomenon” means “prefatory remarks.”) It called for the Missouri Supreme Court to review its “Rule 37” procedures for how all courts in the state are operated. It said it was “imperative” that the municipal court system in Missouri be fixed — or possibly eliminated.

Nothing happened. And here we are again.

Much like the 1960s, when the civil rights movement was at its peak, the nation is focused on the problem of race, but this time St. Louis is ground zero, and the problem is the same one our region never dealt with.

We are divided by race. We lack the political will to do what is right. Ferguson isn’t anything new; it’s the same old story being told to a new generation of people given the opportunity to succeed where past generations failed.

This week, a group of law professors at St. Louis University, and the Arch City Defenders, wrote a letter to the Missouri Supreme Court calling for roughly the same reforms outlined by Mr. Lauer’s 1966 paper. The attorneys, on behalf of the indigent clients they represent, want the court to rewrite the rules governing municipal courts. Overseeing the courts so that the rights of the indigent are protected is a constitutional mandate for the Supreme Court. It’s the second letter the attorneys have written the court in the past two months.

This editorial page more than a month ago suggested that the high court appoint a special rules committee to rewrite Rule 37 so that poor defendants have the right to counsel; so that their ability to pay will be taken into consideration; and so that they can’t be jailed for inability to pay a civil fine.

The attorneys, including SLU professors Brendan Roediger and John Ammann, and Arch City Defenders executive director Thomas Harvey, are basically asking the court to enforce the same rules in municipal courts that are in place in the state’s circuit courts.

Next, they ask the court to appoint a special master — we would recommend former Supreme Court Judge William Ray Price Jr. — to implement and enforce the rules.
These are not complicated requests. The Missouri Supreme Court would be derelict in its duty if it ignored them. The municipal court problems have festered for decades with no action by the court. It’s a travesty that has left a generation of poor people in north St. Louis County feeling that the system is out to get them. It is.

There is no time to waste.

The attorneys advocating for change have already filed one lawsuit, against the village of Bel-Ridge, alleging constitutional violations in its court, and more lawsuits are likely on the way. The Justice Department is likely to expand its existing inquiry into civil rights violations in Ferguson to other parts of north St. Louis County, and that inquiry will undoubtedly call for major court reforms.

What is the Missouri Supreme Court waiting for?

Every day the court allows municipal courts in north St. Louis County to continue to violate the constitutional rights of citizens, it sullies the entire Missouri judicial system.

Mr. Lauer’s prolegomenon was intended as an introduction. Following a citizens’ commission that uncovered many of the problems with municipal courts, he intended it as a call for change, the beginning of a massive reform movement.

Missouri’s leaders, however, never wrote the rest of the book. The division that has come to define St. Louis has remain basically untouched, for the benefit of a few and the detriment of many.

“We cannot tolerate a court system which is anything less than the finest that man can devise,” Mr. Lauer wrote.

That would be good. But the court doesn’t even have to reach that high.

Just devise a system that stops trampling on the rights of the indigent. Do that and maybe some of the other dominoes brought to light by the Ferguson Movement can begin to fall.