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Final MU provost candidate discusses adversity

By Ashley Jost

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The fourth and final candidate vying for the top academic post at the University of Missouri is no stranger to controversy. But some faculty members say that plays in her favor.

Garnett Stokes, provost at Florida State University, has been a department head, dean and provost. Until midnight Monday, she also was interim president of FSU, a position that came with its share of adversity.

The day Stokes took office as interim president, FSU administrators were told the school was under investigation for the way it handled rape allegations against football player Jameis Winston and for whether the university violated Title IX laws against sexual discrimination and violence. That same day, the Florida Legislature proposed funding that would break up FSU’s joint engineering college with another area school. Additionally, the school’s new athletics logo was leaked.

All of the issues predated her time in the top role, Stokes told a room of MU faculty, staff and students Monday afternoon, but she was the person responsible for addressing them.

Stokes discussed her leadership style with the several dozen people in the audience at LeFevre Hall. She described her style as “collaborative.”

“I am a careful decision-maker,” she said. “I like to communicate with people. I’m straightforward: What you see is who I am.”

Stokes said she seeks other opinions before making a decision, but she also looks at data.

As FSU provost, Stokes created an incentive program to increase the base salary of faculty who received an award recognized by the Association of American Universities — a prestigious organization that has MU as one of its members.
“I liked the challenge of building a university’s reputation — build up faculty, build up faculty morale,” Stokes said.

During Stokes’ introduction, MU search committee Chairwoman Judy Hall noted research funding has increased by about 15 percent at FSU in the past year alone, with the majority of that boost coming from federal sources.

Craig Roberts, MU Faculty Council chairman, said he was impressed with the final provost candidate.

“She was leading at a university when there were problems with the budget, personnel issues and Title IX,” Roberts said. “She inherited those problems. The train is already moving on Title IX here, so she would have to jump on it” if she was chosen, “but she could bring a lot of that experience with budget cuts and faculty issues.”

Stokes has been the FSU provost since 2011. She acted as the university’s interim president after Eric Barron became president of Penn State University earlier this year.

Stokes was one of several candidates competing for the FSU presidency, along with another MU provost candidate, Michele Wheatly. Neither was chosen.

Before Florida State, Stokes was dean of the University of Georgia College of Arts and Sciences for seven years. The University of Georgia is where she gained tenure before moving up the ranks, including several years as the psychology department head.

Stokes is the third female candidate for the provost position. Roberts said some faculty have advocated for diversity in the upper ranks of the administration.

**Provost candidate Stokes emphasizes faculty morale, communication**

The former interim president at Florida State University spoke to MU faculty and staff about AAU metrics and increasing faculty morale.

**Garnett Stokes, candidate for MU executive vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost and former interim president at Florida State University, spoke to students, faculty and staff in an open forum Nov. 10.**

Stokes holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Carson Newman College in Tennessee and from the University of Georgia a master’s and doctoral degree. She served as provost and
executive vice chancellor for academic affairs at FSU before becoming interim president. She has previously held professor, department head and dean positions at Georgia.

“My time as an interim president will make me a better provost,” she said. “It’s fascinating to see the world from that perspective.”

Stokes said she has a history of boosting faculty morale at FSU and Georgia during periods of budget cuts. She hired over 100 faculty members as a dean at Georgia.

Stokes said she has also made counteroffers to keep valuable faculty from competing universities, hired new tenured and tenure-track faculty and cited communication as her strategy of working with faculty.

“My strategy is always just to talk to small groups of faculty about where we’re going and what we can do,” she said. “My focus is on trying to build faculty morale and build excellence.”

Stokes addressed the Association of American Universities’ evaluation metrics by explaining that she believes there are many important disciplines outside the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

“A great university has strength across many different disciplines,” she said. “It’s about recognizing what it is you need to focus on. Missouri needs to look at where it is and see if there’s something that needs to be tweaked that would move metrics to the other direction.”

She said that although FSU isn’t a land-grant university like MU, she has experience with community engagement and promoting relationships throughout the state.

“I appreciate the value of land-grant universities in public higher education,” Stokes said. “It’s a role I’m familiar with and one I always embrace. You don’t have to be land-grant to value what it is that you can do to serve the citizens of the state.”

In response to questions regarding recent FSU incidents with sexual assault, Stokes said she has dealt with controversial issues in the past.

“I’ve seen the firestorm,” she said. “Universities are stymied by what they can say or can’t say regarding controversial situations. I believe in being as fair to our students as possible. I believe that one’s decisions cannot be driven by what the media might or might not say. They have to be driven by the information you have and what you believe to be right in protecting the rights of your students.”

Stokes described her leadership style as collaborative and said she is a careful decision maker.

“I’m a big believer in talking with people, gathering information from people, looking at data to drive decision making,” she said. “I like to communicate with people and I’m very straightforward.”
Stokes said if she were offered the position, the first thing she would do in office is learn about the university’s workings and its people.

“My highest priority would be getting to know the people on this campus, the departments, faculty, staff and students,” she said. “I want to understand where this campus is and where it’s trying to go.”

Stokes is the fourth candidate for the position. Her visit follows forums for candidates Nancy Brickhouse, John Wiencek and Michele Wheatly.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Wreath-laying at Memorial Student Union sparks memories of veterans

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 | 5:42 p.m. CST

BY ALEKSANDR GORBACHEV

COLUMBIA — Rich Grant, president of the Mizzou Military Veterans Association, couldn’t hold back his tears when he read a letter written in 1919 by Sgt. Seth Turner to the girlfriend of Cpl. Roscoe Young, Grant’s own great-uncle.
Neither could dozens of people who gathered Tuesday before Memorial Student Union for the annual wreath-laying ceremony in honor of Veterans Day.

In the letter, Turner described how he met Young while in the Army and quickly became friends, how they fought in the same platoon in Europe during World War I and how Turner witnessed Young’s death in the early morning of Nov. 11, 1919 — just hours before the armistice was signed that ended the war.

"Sharing this letter is probably the most difficult thing I do this week," Grant said. "But I shed tears not so much for Roscoe and Seth, but for all the men and women who lived through hell on earth protecting freedom so many Americans take for granted."

**Grant’s speech was the emotional peak of this year’s wreath-laying ceremony. Before his eulogy, a beautiful wreath was placed beneath Memorial Tower. A bugler then played taps, and the names of the soldiers from Missouri who died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the 21st century were recited in the roll call.**

This year’s wreath-laying ceremony was preceded by the opening of the new Blue Star Memorial next to a sidewalk on the east side of the Memorial Student Union. The memorial was dedicated by the Columbia Garden Club.

The Blue Star program was started by the National Council of State Garden Clubs shortly after the end of the World War II in recognition of American men and women who have served in the armed forces. It was named after a tradition where banners with a blue star were posted in homes, churches and businesses, with each star representing family members or townspeople serving in the Army.

Blue Star Memorial Highways grew out of that program, with markers placed across all 50 states, said Alice Harvard, president of the Columbia Garden Club, in her speech.

"Those who walk down this walkway will go past this marker and note it as a reminder of those who sacrificed," said Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, who also took part in the ceremony. "All of us have some connection to those who served and those who have died in service."

Despite temperatures in the 30s and cutting wind, several dozen people showed up to witness the ceremony and the wreath-laying. Many were veterans themselves.
"It’s a good thing for people to rally around patriotism, and recognizing veterans is an important part of being patriotic," said Charles Paxton, assistant director for landscape services at MU, who served in the Air Force from 1973 to 1977. "This kind of event gives you the opportunity to realize that other people feel the same way."

Clayton Boessen, who served in the 101st Airborne Division from 2006 to 2011 and was deployed to Baghdad and Kandahar, Afghanistan, during his service, agreed.

Boessen, now a junior pursuing a degree in international business at MU, said, "I think it’s just important to remember all the sacrifices that have been made to ensure that the U.S. remains a free and wonderful place to live."

**Actor, veteran discusses experiences and adversity at MU**

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 11:47 am Comments (1)

J.R. Martinez tells the story of his harrowing experience as a 19-year-old Army infantryman in Iraq with humility and humor.

Martinez was driving a Humvee, following two other vehicles, in Iraq in 2003 when one of the tires struck a roadside bomb. After the explosion, he was trapped in the burning vehicle for five minutes and suffered significant burns on one-third of his body.

**Martinez, now 31, told his story at the Missouri Theatre on Monday night as part of a week of events at the University of Missouri honoring veterans.**

“Even though war was a possibility, I never thought war would be a reality,” he said, recalling his time at an Army post in Kentucky before he was deployed.

Martinez remembers believing he was invincible and laughing while driving the Humvee with one hand on the steering wheel. He joked that the way he drove that day, an onlooker would think he believed he was “driving a Ferrari down Sunset Boulevard.”
The plans he made for himself — including big dreams to one day play professional football — were gone, as he found out after waking up from a medically induced coma.

Since the injury, he has had 34 surgeries.

Martinez said he learned that he had to adapt his life plan.

After several years of being a spokesman for a not-for-profit organization related to the military and a motivational speaker, Martinez accepted an acting opportunity with “All My Children,” a daytime soap opera. He was on the show for three years. He later won “Dancing With the Stars.”

Teachers don’t teach you to write “adapt” when having you outline your five-, 10- or 15-year plan, Martinez said, but that is a lesson he learned.

“For the last 11½ years, I have had an amazing opportunity that a lot of people in the world never get: to tell my story to people who have never walked in my shoes,” he said. “It’s not necessarily the journey that connects all of us, but the adversity that all of us face on our own personal journeys.”

Martinez left the Army years ago and now advocates for many causes related to veterans, such as fighting unemployment and suicides among that population.

“Now, my uniform is my scars, my weapons are my words,” he said.

Jason Kelley, a veteran and MU student, commended Martinez after his talk.

“A lot of us, like myself, I don’t have a big voice, but you have such a big, strong voice. Thank you.”

Veteran, actor J. R. Martinez speaks on service and adversity

At 19 years old, Martinez enlisted in the U.S. Army, where his Humvee hit a roadside bomb that burned 34 percent of his body.

Standing on the stage of the Missouri Theatre, U.S. Army veteran J. R. Martinez separated the stage into boxes, each one being someone else’s comfort zone. Each person, whom a box represents, he said is dealing with his or her own adversity.
Martinez addressed the crowd as the Veterans Week speaker. People may recognize him from “Dancing With the Stars” or his role on “Days of Our Lives,” but before he was on TV, Martinez was a soldier.

At 19-years-old, Martinez enlisted in the U.S. Army. He planned on serving three years. While in Iraq, his Humvee hit a roadside bomb, where 34 percent of his body was burned.

For the last 11 and a half years of his life, he has had the opportunity to tell his story and make a difference in the lives of people not only affected by war, but by those who are simply looking for guidance.

Starting at 9-years-old, Martinez faced his first obstacle — a move from his home state of Louisiana to Arkansas.

“I had three things going against me,” Martinez said. “I was being picked on because I was the new kid, I had a deep southern Cajun accent, and the other kids found out, so strike number three, that my middle name is Rene.”

Because of this, Martinez learned to adapt and focus on being himself. One of the ways he did this was by putting all his attention on the game he loved — football.

Martinez had a dream that one day he would play football in college and then go into the NFL.

“I had a long-term goal,” he said. “But in order to do that, I had to have a lot of short-term goals for motivation that kept me focused.”

His dream was cut short when he realized his academics were subpar.

“They always tell you to write down your goals for where you want to be in the next five, 10 or 20 years,” Martinez said. “But there’s a reason you do that with a pencil instead of a pen. Sometimes the plan changes and you have to change it.”

Martinez said he was focusing on not only where he wanted to end up, but how he was going to get there. He fixed his game plan after he talked to an Army recruiter.

His mother shot down his idea immediately.

Martinez graduated high school in 2002, just months after the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks. His mother knew the possibility of her only son getting deployed was high, and she wasn’t willing to lose him.

“I didn’t blame her,” Martinez said. “If I were in her position, I would probably say the same thing.”

After some time, he convinced his mother that the Army was the best course of action for him so he could force himself out of the box that was his comfort zone. He was sent to basic training
camp at Fort Benning, Georgia, in September 2002 and graduated three months later as an infantryman.

Martinez was assigned his unit in January 2003 with men whom had served at least five years in the Army.

“These guys knew about life,” Martinez said. “These guys were tough. These guys were infantryman.”

One day, Martinez’s sergeant came to him and told him that he wanted him to be prepared because he was going to be deployed some time soon. Because he had just graduated from basic training, Martinez didn’t think he was going anywhere anytime soon. He was only 19-years-old.

“I thought war was a possibility, but I never thought war would be my reality,” Martinez said.

Two months later in March 2003, Martinez was on a plane with the rest of his unit to Iraq. His job there was to secure areas and safely transport convoys of the military from one location to another.

On April 5, 2003, the left front tire of the Humvee he was driving hit a roadside bomb.

The three other passengers were thrown variance distances from the vehicle and walked away with minor physical injuries, while Martinez was trapped inside. Seconds later, he and the vehicle were engulfed in flames.

“Here I was, at 19-years-old, trapped inside a burning truck completely conscious,” Martinez said. “I could see my hands changing in ways that we only see in those high-dollar Hollywood movies. I could feel this pain coming over my face. I was screaming and yelling at the top of my lungs for someone to please come and pull me out.”

Even though he was only trapped inside the truck for five minutes, Martinez said he slowly started to lose hope because it felt like he was inside for five years.

“It’s plenty of time to think about all the things about life,” Martinez said. “It’s plenty of time to think about how my mom’s life was completely going to change, knowing she’s going to lose her only son.”

He said he gradually started to come to terms with the fact that he was going to die. As Martinez struggled to keep his eyes open, two of his sergeants reached in and pulled him out of the vehicle.

Following the initial injury, it was an uphill battle to recovery. Martinez spent three months in the hospital and had 34 surgeries to reconstruct the burns that took over a third of his body.

Eventually, he wanted to look in the mirror at what the inferno had done to his appearance. He was able to look into the mirror for three seconds before he pushed it away and had to ask why.
Distraught and discouraged, Martinez considered himself alive but said he never thought he’d live again, until his mother persuaded him otherwise.

“She told me, ‘you have to stay strong,’” Martinez said. “‘You have to believe it’s going to get better.’ I was willing to listen to her, not just hear her.”

Once he was discharged from the hospital, Martinez continued to go back regularly for appointments. Six months after he was injured, his nurse asked him if he’d be willing to talk to a victim who was struggling with his injuries.

Though originally he didn’t want to, Martinez found that because he was a veteran himself, he was able to get through to others. After that initial visit, he continued to see patients every day in between his own appointments.

“It gave me purpose,” Martinez said. “Every day I woke up with purpose. I was helping somebody else by doing something as simple as talking about my own experience.”

Martinez emphasized that people have to be willing to listen and grow. His newfound weapon isn’t an M16, he said, but his voice.

“You have to believe that every adversity you’ve been through in life, whether it’s major or it’s minor, has prepared you for this moment,” Martinez said. “I’m not supposed to be here. Society tells me I’m supposed to be part of a statistic, but life is short, and life is beautiful. You can’t control what happened, but you can control your attitude and what happens from this point on.”

‘Not just on Veterans Day, but every day’

A 24-hour vigil, the Veterans Day parade, a blood drive and the Wreath Laying MU celebrated American veterans this weekend with a variety of events.

MU celebrated American veterans this weekend with a variety of events.

MU’s ROTC chapters honored veterans who have passed with a 24-hour Veterans Day Vigil which began Saturday, where volunteers from MU’s Joint ROTC marched outside Boone County Courthouse.

The event was headed by senior and Cadet Capt. Laura Walker. She said the vigil was similar to the guard posted outside the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

“We’re just honoring our fallen veterans by guarding this memorial for 24 hours,” Walker said.
Sunday, the vigil came to an end with the Mizzou Joint ROTC 29th Annual Veterans Day Parade and Closing Ceremony. The parade featured a variety of local groups, starting on MU’s campus and proceeding down Ninth Street to end with a ceremony outside the Boone County Courthouse.

During the closing ceremony, former JAG officer Lt. Gen. Richard Harding addressed the crowd.

“There’s a spark inside each young man and each young woman who volunteers to serve the cause of freedom that tells them to make a difference in their lives, to find purpose in their brief time on this planet, and they are, indeed, wise beyond their years,” Harding said.

The Veterans Week Blood Drive was held Monday. Freshman Allison Rapp was one of the students who donated during the blood drive.

“I actually am weirdly passionate about donating blood,” Rapp said. “I feel like it’s one of the greatest things people can do.”

On Tuesday, Veterans Day and the 95th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, students came together to celebrate a cherished MU tradition, the Wreath Laying Ceremony, with the addition of the Blue Star Memorial dedication. A crowd gathered around Memorial Union despite the cold weather.

Ted Zeiter, veteran and American Red Cross volunteer, said that Veterans Day is not about him.

“It’s remembering those who came before me that kind of paved the way,” Zeiter said. “Those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for this country.”

Graduate student Lauren Trimble said she likes getting involved in the Mizzou Student Veteran’s Association events because her husband is serving abroad in Japan.

“On the surface, (Veterans Day) means giving thanks to anyone who has served both past and present,” Trimble said. “For me, personally, it also means giving thanks to everyone who has also supported veterans in their journey.”

Tuesday’s ceremony featured an emotional speech from Rich Grant, who started the Mizzou Military Veterans Alumni Association. Grant read a 1919 letter from a friend of his great-uncle, who was killed on Armistice Day, 95 years ago.

“Most would tell you, ‘I was just doing my job’ and might seem a little embarrassed by the attention,” Grant said. “But everyone one of them deserves to hear, ‘Thank you for your service.’ Not just on Veterans Day, but every day.”
Committee searches for new Title IX administrator

Tim Evans said an advisory committee will likely provide feedback and oversight for the new administrator.

President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into federal law on June 23, 1972, with hopes of finally eliminating “discrimination based on sex in federally funded education programs or activities,” according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

More than 40 years later, officials are still working to carry out this policy. Recently, MU announced the creation of the Title IX administrator position.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said the new administrator would replace Interim Title IX Coordinator Linda Bennett. The administrator will ensure all aspects of the policy are observed by the university and investigate complaints of sexual misconduct.

Bennett has held her current post since June and is the university’s first full-time Title IX coordinator. Basi said Bennett is not applying for the new position.

A search committee consisting of various campus administrators, faculty and staff will work with Daniel Sinton, a managing partner for the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, to find a candidate who they believe would best fit the position.

The committee has eight members: Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward as the committee chairman; Mary Austin, executive associate athletics director of compliance; DeAngela Burns-Wallace, assistant vice provost for undergraduate studies; associate professor and Faculty Councilman Tim Evans; UM System Assistant Vice President Deborah Noble-Triplett; Deborah Pasch, chief nurse executive for MU Health Care; Student Conduct coordinator Donell Young; and Karen Touzeau, associate vice chancellor of human resource services.

Out of all the committee members, only Evans was available for comment.

He said the committee is primarily seeking candidates who have already dealt with personnel issues, whether they have already been a Title IX administrator for another university, have been involved in human resources or counseling or served as an attorney either as a prosecutor or a public defender.

“Obviously, we’re looking for the absolute best person with experience and abilities to be able to effectively administer our Title IX program here at Mizzou,” Evans said.

Evans said there will be an opportunity for various university groups to meet the finalists. Through this process, he said, the committee hopes to receive further input on the candidates.
Evans said the new administrator will likely have an advisory committee that will provide feedback and make sure the administrator fulfills all of his or her duties.

“This is a position that’s going to be under a great deal of scrutiny, and a lot (is) going into developing our Title IX program,” he said. “It’s going to be pretty visible how they’re doing.”

Basi said members of the search committee are taking on their roles at no additional cost to the university. However, there will be other expenses associated with the search.

The search itself has a flexible budget that could change. Basi also said the salary of the Title IX administrator will be negotiated and is unknown at this time.

The committee hopes to begin interviewing potential candidates in December.

IFC develops sexual assault prevention course

19 men from 10 campus fraternities have signed up so far to be peer educators.

Beginning next fall, the Interfraternity Council will begin educating members to become peer educators in sexual assault prevention, masculinity, gender roles and other issues that young men in today’s society face.

**IFC President Alex Dyer said the program is in response to “a growing trend, not just in our community here at the University of Missouri, but across the country in general. We decided it was important for the Interfraternity Council to be proactive and take a strong stance against sexual assault.”**

Applications went out to all 31 fraternity chapters in September, said Creighton Hayes, outgoing IFC vice president of risk management. Nineteen interested members applied; they represent 10 of the IFC member fraternity chapters.

“Ultimately, we would like to see at least one member from every member chapter of the Interfraternity Council become an IFC Peer Educator,” Dyer said.

Hesitation from other chapters could be because of the newness of the program, Hayes said. However, he said he is still pleased with it.

“(IFC is) very adamant and very positive the program is going to work, so we are pretty excited to have those 19 guys help us with it,” he said.
The 19 men will be eligible to participate in the program after grade and conduct checks, which Hayes said should be passed easily, but that everyone who applied ultimately had the intentions they were looking for.

Danica Wolf, coordinator of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, is working with Dyer and Hayes to develop the course curriculum. Members will take a course similar to the one offered at the RSVP Center.

RSVP Center graduate assistant Timothy Maness said the center offers a three-hour course that anyone can take either for or for not credit.

The course focuses on presentation skills, Maness said, to educate students on how to speak with sensitivity on the topics of domestic violence and sexual assault.

RSVP peer educators are then able to go out and give “multiple presentations that have already been written, and they’ll tailor those presentations to whatever demographics they are trying to serve,” Maness said.

IFC peer educators will learn the skills necessary to present and have open dialogue with chapters, pledge classes, executive boards or whatever subsectors of the IFC community want those presentations, Hayes said.

Wolf will meet with the participants in two meetings this semester, Hayes said. She will have final say in who can participate, and be directly involved with what they participants want to cover in the program.

“The overall goal of this program is put an end to the threat of sexual violence and assault in our community,” Dyer said.

The program will emphasize the importance of bystander intervention, illustrate the role of alcohol, drugs and consent and educate the men on masculinity and gender roles.

“We hope to educate these young men on what sexual assault is and what it looks like from as many perspectives as possible,” Dyer said.

The program will help participants see these issues as a men’s issue over a woman’s issue, and make men more accountable for their actions and promote self-awareness, Hayes said.

This new program is IFC’s most expensive, Hayes said, with a budget of $22,000. Numbers for the program were not as high as expected, however, so all of the budgeted allocations will likely not be used.

The course is a credit-hour course, just like any other course at the university. Therefore, IFC will use the budgeted money to pay for the class in order to “alleviate that financial burden, if that would have been a barrier to someone participating.” Hayes said.
IFC plans for this program to continue, and peer-educators will be able to train others to take the same job, Hayes said.

The program will be passed into the hands of the new IFC president, Jason Blincow and vice president of risk management, Trace Murray.

“Although we are not the only community afflicted by this issue, we as the representatives of the Interfraternity Council believe that it is our duty to work towards making our community as safe for everyone as possible,” Dyer said.

Manor House’s future remains uncertain

The decision over the building’s use reflects larger student housing problems.

As MU considers plans to renovate Manor House, university officials are still debating whether the building should be remodeled into a new residence hall or remain as an apartment format.

Currently, the complex provides housing for graduate students and students who are older than 21 or have families.

“Demand for student housing is always in excess of capacity,” Director of Residential Life Frankie Minor said about the dilemma.

Lack of housing has been an especially relevant problem for graduate students since the University Village apartments closed after a walkway collapsed, killing a firefighter.

University Village and other university-run apartment complexes — University Heights, Tara Apartments and Manor House — cater to three groups of students: graduate students, undergraduate students older than 21 and students who live with spouses or children.

Eric Hucker, vice president of the Graduate and Professional Council, said there are more students who seek housing that offers options like daycare and transportation to and from campus than the university can currently provide.

Minor said with undergraduate enrollment quickly rising, MU can’t prioritize graduate and family housing when there may not be enough space for future freshmen to live on campus.

According to the University Registrar Office’s fall 2014 report, undergraduate enrollment has increased 2.6 percent since 2013, while graduate student enrollment has fallen by 0.9 percent in the same period. This trend is generally reflected across the past four years.
Hucker said he has been concerned with decreasing availability of graduate and family housing since the closing of University Village.

“We care very deeply about the issue,” he said.

Hucker said the GPC would like to see Manor House remain open to graduate students so that fewer graduate students would have to move off campus.

Minor said one of the main causes for the scarcity in graduate housing is MU’s use of public-private partnerships with housing developers. The companies are more interested in working on undergraduate housing projects because they cost less to build and are more profitable.

“I’ve always suggested that developing affordable family and graduate student housing is something I would encourage them to consider,” Minor said.

Hucker agreed that the involvement of private contractors is a major cause of the problem.

“The undergraduate housing market is far more lucrative for them,” he said.

Minor also said that Residential Life has been conducting ongoing maintenance work on Manor House, a relatively old building that needs to be modernized.

Minor said issues with the elevators and fire alarm system have already been addressed.

The concerns left to address include replacing the plumbing and windows, which have not been replaced since the building opened, and making the building accessible to students who use wheelchairs.

Residential Life also plans to increase Manor House’s electrical capacity to accommodate the increasing number of electrical devices that students use.

Minor said that though Manor House may ultimately become a residence hall, it will remain open to its current clientele through at least fall 2015 and likely into 2016 so that current residents will have at least a year’s notice if they have to leave.

Hucker said the GPC will “take every opportunity” to make its viewpoint clear as the debate continues and that they have a “good working relationship” with Residential Life.

Although Residential Life can provide advice, the decision over what will happen to Manor House is up to those who Minor called MU’s “senior decision-makers,” including those in the chancellor’s office.

Vice Chancellor for Operations Gary Ward was unavailable for comment.
Editorial: Graduate students deserve better housing

Manor House may be remodeled as a residence hall, which would be detrimental to our graduate community

One month ago, we discussed why undergraduate students deserve affordable, close-to-campus housing, but we did not mention that graduate students deserve the same opportunity for housing.

**University officials are still debating whether to remodel Manor House as a new residence hall or to maintain it as an apartment complex geared toward graduate students, as it is currently. If officials renovate Manor House as a residence hall, it would try to attract third and fourth-year undergraduates and graduate students.**

Manor House is one of the three remaining university-run apartment complexes that currently cater to graduate students, along with University Heights and Tara Apartments. After a balcony collapsed at University Village and killed a fireman in February, the apartment complex, along with the adjacent Student Parent Center, was torn down. If the university decides to make Manor House a residence hall, graduate students will be left with even fewer housing options than they currently have.

We believe that MU must keep Manor House as an apartment complex tailored toward graduate students. While there is also a great demand for undergraduate housing, the university should not attempt to address this issue at the expense of our graduate students and their housing needs.

It is not realistic for graduate and undergraduate students to live under the same roof when the two student groups have different housing demands. Many graduate students have family and children, and they require quiet spaces to focus on their research and studies.

Turning Manor House into a residential hall also does not make much sense for undergraduate students who would live there. Manor House is not located near any dining halls, which could be problematic for tenants with university meal plans.

The university itself stands to benefit from taking better care of its graduate students’ needs. Attracting more graduate students would be beneficial for the university since many of these students are assets to MU’s research missions. But lack of proper housing can be an inhibitor for prospective graduate and professional students. Having plenty of affordable housing close to campus could be a selling point the university could tout when recruiting and retaining these students.

We believe that the business model for the Department of Residential Life could be at odds with its goal of providing affordable student housing. The department funds itself and must constantly balance generating enough revenue to maintain its facilities and keeping its prices affordable for
students. The university should reconsider this aspect of the department to make affordable housing a bigger priority.

However, this task cannot be accomplished without more support from the state. As we stated in our editorial on state funding two weeks ago, when the state grants necessary funding to the university, we increase the amount of immediate, localized stimulus to the Missouri economy. As the state’s flagship institution, we shouldn’t have to struggle to fund housing for our students.

Graduate students are already in a difficult situation trying to find affordable housing near campus. If Manor House is converted into a residence hall, these students will be put in an increasingly worse situation. As a university, we cannot ignore the graduate student population as did during the University Village incident. Now is the time to show our graduate students that they are valuable members to our university by giving them the housing that they need.

Universities Blast Congressional Probe of NSF Grants
November 11, 2014

NO MU MENTION

The Association of American Universities, a group of the nation’s leading research institutions, on Monday criticized an inquiry by the U.S. House science committee into specific National Science Foundation grants. The panel, led by Republican Representative Lamar Smith of Texas, has been requesting information from the NSF about specific grants the agency awarded through its peer review process. Smith has long criticized some NSF research grants as an example of unnecessary or wasteful government spending. Earlier this year, he led efforts in the House to pass new restrictions on how the NSF could fund social science research, a singling out of that discipline that was widely criticized among academic researchers. It also drew a rare
critique by the National Science Board.

Tensions between the scientific research community and the House committee have escalated again recently, as committee staffers have been poring over individual NSF grant applications.

The AAU said in a statement that while Congress needs to provide “constructive oversight” of agencies like the NSF, the Science committees current inquiry “is having a destructive effect on NSF and on the merit review process that is designed to fund the best research and to remove those decisions from the political process.”

“If the committee wishes to override the merit review process or if it wants NSF to stop funding research related to certain issues, its members owe it to the American public to say clearly what they are doing: substituting their judgment for the expertise of scientists on the vital question of what research the United States should support,” the statement continues. “The long history of success at NSF in making U.S. science the best in the world would be undermined by such a change.”

Wellness Center recognized nationally for awareness programs

The center was praised for its alcohol awareness and smoking cessation programs.

MU’s Wellness Resource Center was named fifth best in the nation by TopCounselingSchools.org, ahead of fellow SEC schools like Auburn University, University of Georgia and Vanderbilt University.

According to Amy Bell, the author of the list, the site began its search by looking at the best student recreation centers. This search showed which universities offer good wellness provisions.

According to the list, MU is “certainly leading the way when it comes to alcohol awareness.” The list also said the center was recognized by the Department of Education and the Higher Education Center for its “model prevention initiative” in 1999, 2006 and 2010.
Kim Dude, associate director of Student Life and the Wellness Resource Center, attributed the success of the center’s alcohol awareness program to the duration of the program.

“The Alcohol Responsibility Month that we just had in October was our 32nd,” Dude said. “This office has existed since 1990, (and it) was a major turning point on being able to focus on the topic.”

During MU’s Alcohol Responsibility Month, peer educators from the center reach out to residence halls, fraternities, sororities and classrooms with presentations.

Dude said the center has many programs besides the Alcohol Responsibility Month that promote MU students to make better choices about alcohol.

The center pairs with the Missouri Students Association in an initiative called “Take 5.” Dude said the idea behind “Take 5” is that for every five people going out, one person stays completely sober.

She said the center has hosted two “summits on alcohol use” in past months. Participants have included not only faculty and staff members, but also law enforcement officers and high school counselors, and representatives from treatment centers, the school board and City Hall.

Wellness Center Coordinator Tiffany Bowman said “social norming and environmental management with alcohol, and programming throughout the year” are the secret to the center’s success. She also said the peer educator program is key.

Bell said the MU Values Exercise and Eating Well is a program that sets the university apart.

Dude said the center houses a registered dietician and personal trainer who can help students find ways to exercise if they are intimidated by the recreation center.

The MUVE program encourages students to take advantage of all the opportunities that Columbia offers, from going to the MU Student Recreation Complex or running the MKT trails, Dude said.

According to Bell, the center also offers a “quit smoking scheme.”

Dude said the center has been able to afford to give free smoking cessation counseling and nicotine replacement therapy to students, staff and faculty through grants.

Bowman said participants in the program receive “two weeks of nicotine replacement products and come back every two weeks for up to eight weeks of free NRT” if they wish to use those products.

She said these free products include “over-the-counter nicotine replacement forms such as patches, gum, or lozenges.”
Follow-up procedures set the Wellness Resource Center’s smoking cessation program apart from those of other universities.

“We do three-, six- and 12-month surveys, and get a quitting rate,” Bowman said. “We know from that we have a pretty good success rate.”

Bowman said the new rankings surprised her.

“We didn’t know it was even being written,” she said. “It is a neat pat on the back for all the work everyone in this office does.”

Dude said the effort of the staff made the center’s recognition possible.

“This award is the result of a lot of wonderful staff members and a lot of wonderful student leaders who work with us,” she said. “We have peer educators that are the backbone of what we do here. It is students and staff who made that recognition possible.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Documentary screening highlights dangers of plastic

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 | 10:03 p.m. CST
BY NICOLA DALLASEN

COLUMBIA — After a screening of the documentary "Bag It," a full room of people at Ragtag Cinema left feeling shocked, angry and concerned.

The Sierra Club Osage Group partnered with Missouri River Relief to host a free screening of the film Tuesday as part of an effort to limit use of plastic bags in Columbia. The Osage group proposed an ordinance to Columbia City Council last month that would eliminate single-use plastic bags from the checkouts of stores that sell perishable foods.

The documentary highlighted society's dependence on plastic packaging, particularly the packaging used to store food, such as single-use plastic bags, soda bottles and cans, which are lined with plastic.

The plastic, the film emphasized, is made from dangerous chemicals such as bisphenol A and phthalates that easily enter humans' bloodstream and disrupt hormonal
functions. Bisphenol A, commonly known as BPA, has been linked to cancer, obesity, infertility and behavioral disorders, especially in infants and young children.

After the screening, Frederick vom Saal, an MU biology professor who has spent many years researching plastic additives, answered questions from a curious and uneasy audience.

Members of the audience asked how much BPA is in common plastic products. Although the removal of BPA is a growing trend in the plastic industry, the chemicals replacing it are just as dangerous.

"There are no regulations regarding replacing chemicals in the United States," he said.

"We have BPA being replaced by a chemical called BPS (bisphenol S)."

BPS is even worse than BPA because it is more environmentally persistent, vom Saal said.

"That's the kind of craziness that we have in our regulatory system," he said.

After seeing the documentary, Columbia resident Paul Blakely now wants to change his lifestyle and home. He went to the screening to learn about single-use plastic bags but left with more knowledge than he expected.

After learning from vom Saal that BPA is in PVC pipes, he wants to find alternatives for his future house that is currently under construction.

"It's stunning," Blakely said. "The plastic bag thing is the tip of the iceberg."

During the screening, members of the Sierra Club Osage Group passed around their petition. The proposed ordinance will be reviewed Thursday by the council's Citizen Advisory Commission on Energy and the Environment.
Joel Gold founded MU's Maneater student newspaper, promoted 'watch-your-step-in-my-jungle' style

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 | 10:06 p.m. CST; updated 6:55 a.m. CST, Wednesday, November 12, 2014
BY CLAIRE BOSTON

COLUMBIA — An excerpt of the editorial policy Joel Jay Gold penned when he took over The Missouri Student campus newspaper in 1955 is taped on the walls of The Maneater's newsroom in the basement of the MU Student Center.

"If you want to keep us out, better bar the door. And don't try getting rough or screaming 'libel' when a Maneater reporter crashes your meetings. When The Maneater gets mad, all hell is going to break loose. You've been warned."

Nearly sixty years later, Maneater staffers still take heed to Mr. Gold's words. In fact, "You've been warned" serves as the newspaper's de facto mantra.

"I definitely looked to that a lot during my tenure to keep our readers in mind and to keep in mind that that's why the Maneater is here — to kind of keep an infinite watch on the university," said Ted Noelker, who served as The Maneater's editor-in-chief for the 2013-2014 school year.

Mr. Gold died Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014, in Lawrence, Kansas. He was 82.

Mr. Gold was born Dec. 19, 1931, in Brooklyn, New York, to Hannah and Henry Gold. He came to MU at the suggestion of his family butcher and became a part of many campus media outlets.

Mr. Gold served as editor of Showme, a campus humor magazine, from October 1953 to June 1954. He once convinced his fellow dorm residents to show up for Sunday dinner in coats and ties, but not shirts, to exploit a loophole in the dorms' Sunday dinner dress code.
The MU Publications Board asked Mr. Gold to take over the troubled Missouri Student newspaper in February 1955, which had been controlled by Delta Upsilon fraternity brothers for five years. Under their leadership, circulation fell and the newspaper developed a reputation as a Greek life gossip rag.

Mr. Gold took over and changed the paper's name to The Maneater. The new name was meant to represent the paper's shift in editorial tone.


A doctor later told Mr. Gold that tigers don't become maneaters until they're too weak to hunt other prey. Mr. Gold said he didn't share that revelation with his staff.

Under Mr. Gold's leadership, the paper adopted the irreverent, biting tone apparent in his editorial policy.

"Joe Gold is a very interesting figure in Mizzou and specifically Maneater history," Noelker said. "He wasn't a journalism major, he was just some sociology student from Brooklyn, and he totally revolutionized how a lot of j-schoolers come through this school."

Although The Maneater long ago shed the swear words and innuendo that dominated its copy in its early years, managing editor Scott MacDonald said staffers still uphold much of Mr. Gold's editorial spirit.

"The legacy of Gold is that he gave something of a fiercer element to the paper," MacDonald said. "That legacy ensures that our intentions are a little deeper than just being the student voice. It's about being a student force."

Mr. Gold married Ellen Reid in 1956. He worked briefly in advertising and pharmaceutical sales before returning to graduate school. He received a doctorate in English from the University of Indiana in 1962 and taught English at the University of Kansas from 1962 until his retirement in 1999.

He received an Amoco Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri's Distinguished Alumni award in 1998. He belonged to
several scholarly organizations, including the Modern Language Association. He was president of the Johnson Society of Kansas.

In addition to his scholarly writing, Mr. Gold published humorous essays about teaching in a number of outlets. A collection of those essays appeared as a book called "The Wayward Professor."

He is survived by his wife, Ellen, of Lawrence; his sister, Marti; three children, Jennifer and her husband, Luke, Alison, and Katy and her husband, Greg; and five grandchildren.

His brother Richard died earlier.

A service will be held at the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence in the spring.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Lawrence Humane Society, 1805 E. 19th St., Lawrence, KS 66046, or the March of Dimes, 1275 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10605.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Historic mural at Fort Leonard Wood illustrates segregation in Army

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 | 6:09 p.m. CST; updated 6:58 a.m. CST, Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Samuel Countee’s oil painting of a black couple’s picnic will be restored with the help of MU professors. “This mural represents a middle-class image of African-Americans, rather than stereotypical images of blacks as minstrels, former slaves or the urban poor,” said Kristin Schwain, an MU art history professor.

BY JASMINE YE HAN
COLUMBIA — A mural that represents the history of racial segregation in the Army is going to be restored with the help of MU professors.

The mural was painted by a black soldier during World War II in Building 2101 at Fort Leonard Wood. The building was used as a black officers' club separate from the white officers' recreational facility.

The 4-by-10.5-foot oil painting depicts a black couple enjoying a picnic, the male figure playing a banjo and the female lounging on the grass, listening.

The mural, as well as the building, was determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places in August of 1998 by the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office.

Shatara Seymour, a spokeswoman for Fort Leonard Wood, said the mural was appraised by PB Fine Art Appraisal of Pennsylvania at more than $350,000.

Rediscovered: the mural and Samuel Countee

Kristin Schwain, an MU art history professor serving as principal investigator of the restoration project, said the mural "counters many of the negative images of African-Americans so prominent throughout the 19th and 20th centuries."

"This mural represents a middle-class image of African-Americans, rather than stereotypical images of blacks as minstrels, former slaves or the urban poor," Schwain said.

Schwain also said she believes the peaceful scene gave the black officers an image of themselves. "They hoped that the war would prove them as patriotic as their white counterparts," she said.

Although the mural is a valuable work of art on its own, the identification of Samuel Countee as the painter has made the mural even more significant.

Schwain described Countee as "a very up-and-coming artist" at the time he painted the mural.

Schwain said Benjamin Brawley, a leader of the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural movement in the 1920s that can also be called the New Negro Movement, mentioned Countee as an "artist that bears watching" in his 1973 book, "The Negro Genius."

She also said Alain Locke, another leader of the movement, reproduced Countee's painting "Little Brown Boy" in his 1940 study, "The Negro in Art." By that time, Countee had been
awarded a Harmon Foundation scholarship in 1933 — one of the most important sources of financial support for African-American artists during the Harlem Renaissance — and had his work shown in exhibitions across the nation, she said.

The identity of the mural painter wasn't known until 1998, said Steven Smith, a researcher at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Only "S/Sgt"; two letters in the artist's first name, "M-L"; and the last four letters of his last name, "N-T-E-E," were legible. Attempts at cleaning removed more of the signature.

Countee entered the Army and served at Fort Leonard Wood in 1942, he wrote in a report after he discovered the artist's name. According to Smith's accounts of his discovery in an article in the institute's public newsletter, he was hired in 1997 by Richard Edging, cultural resource manager at Fort Leonard Wood.

Smith wrote in a report after he discovered the artist's name. After exhausting Army records, Smith switched his search to art indexes with assumptions the artist was black and that he earned a reputation that would ensure his listing. After poring over indexes of black artists' names, he found the name Countee, which fit the legible letters.

He also found an original copy of Locke's "The Negro in Art" that published Countee's painting, and the style of the signature on the painting matched the mural.

Countee painted the mural in 1945 to enhance the interior of the club after the expansion of Building 2101.

According to an article on the Army's website, this mural was thought to be the only surviving example of Countee's military art career. Countee's "talent was unrecognized outside of the black art world," Smith said in the report. "What we're hoping is that this discovery will lead to a greater appreciation of Samuel Countee's art."

Building 2101, the black officers' club and segregation:

The mural still hangs above the fireplace at the gable in Building 2101, which was built in 1941 and first used as an administration building until it was reassigned as a club for black officers between June 1942 and January 1943.

The building was expanded in the summer of 1943 to accommodate the growing corps of black officers. The mural was painted in the addition after the expansion.
The black officers' club could be a result of a provocation by black officers to assert their right to enter the installation's officers' club, according to the report.

Another possible reason for the black officers' club could be that the authorities realized black officers needed to have their separate recreational facility to "maintain racial harmony," Smith said in his report. Although there was no official policy requiring recreational facilities be segregated, the housing policy of unit segregation was carried over into recreational facilities.

Officers' clubs were the places where officers of different ranks could freely interact, and socializing in these clubs was critical in unit cohesion and to officers' advancement, according to Smith's report. Black officers were routinely denied access to the officers' clubs across the country. Few white officers wanted to socialize with black officers, and sometimes vice versa.

Complaints prompted the government in March 1943 to prohibit the designation of recreational facilities by race at any military posts, but the policy was too late to have effect in practice.

**Restoration**

Seymour said the mural is in generally good condition but needs some stabilization.

The restoration team at MU received a grant from the Kansas City Corps of Engineers and is tasked with finding a conservator to restore the mural and with increasing the audience for the work. Schwain, who is leading the search for a conservator, said she hopes the restoration work will begin next spring.

Schwain said her goal is to bring the mural into scholarly conversation by writing about it for a major journal. She will also create educational materials for visitors at Fort Leonard Wood.