Association of American Universities commissions study on sexual assault

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, November 15, 2014 at 12:00 am

The Association of American Universities announced Friday it has hired a company to help design and administer a sexual assault climate survey to member institutions, including the University of Missouri.

The survey, which will be optional to the 60 public and private U.S. member institutions, is slated to be prepared by April, according to a news release from the association. MU is one of 34 public universities that are members of the association. All member universities are research institutions.

Mary Jo Banken, spokeswoman for MU, said the university fully supports the study and will gladly participate.

The AAU hired Westat, a Rockville, Md.-based national research firm, to aid in the design and administration of the survey. The survey will be uniform across all participating campuses except for five questions that will mention campus-specific resources, reporting policies and support services to assess how familiar students are with them, according to the news release.

The goal of the survey is “to document the frequency and characteristics of campus sexual assault and sexual harassment and to assess campus climate in a way that ensures comparability of data across institutions and that protects the confidentiality of respondents,” according to the news release. It will be administered to all undergraduate, graduate and professional students at institutions that decide to participate.

University professionals, led by a researcher at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, will work with Westat to develop the survey.

Barry Toiv, vice president for public affairs for the Association of American Universities, said in an email that additional professionals who will work on the survey development haven’t been chosen.
“Sexual assault is unquestionably one of the most important and complex issues our campuses face,” association President Hunter Rawlings said in the news release. “The first priority for our universities is the safety of their students. That is paramount. Universities also have a responsibility to ensure that adjudicatory processes are trustworthy and fair.”

In the release, Rawlings identified two purposes for the surveys, including to provide member institutions with information as they address internal protocols for dealing with sexual violence.

“Second, we have been deeply concerned about the possibility of Congress or the Administration mandating that campuses conduct a government-developed survey,” Rawlings said in the release. “Such an initiative would likely be a one-size-fits-all survey that would provide potentially misleading data, given the extraordinary diversity of higher education in our country, and would not reliably assess the campus culture on this issue.”

Creating a survey for member institutions that would provide data for the association to pass on to policymakers will show the diversity of higher education in the United States, Rawlings said.

The association will publicly report cumulative survey results and will provide each participating school with its own data.

University leaders can decide if or how they want to publicize the results.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Sexual assault survey being created by Association of American Universities

Saturday, November 15, 2014 | 5:28 p.m. CST

BY GEORGE ASH

COLUMBIA — The Association of American Universities, a group of 62 prestigious research universities that includes MU, is drafting a survey to assess the climate of sexual assault on member campuses.

Undergraduate, graduate and professional students will take the survey in April. No faculty or administrative staff will be polled. Universities may decline to participate, according to a news release from the AAU.

It will aim to document the frequency and characteristics of sexual assault and harassment on campus, according to the release. Respondents will remain confidential.
The point of the survey is both to inform the schools and to preempt any "one-size-fits-
all" government survey that produces "potentially misleading data," AAU President
Hunter Rawlings said in the release.

The surveys will include the same questions for each campus, along with five questions
tailored to specific schools.

The results from participating AAU campuses will be combined before being publicly
reported, but each university will also receive its own results.

November 17, 2014 by Nick DeSantis

AAU to Conduct Sexual-Assault Climate Survey of
Its Members

NO MU MENTION

The Association of American Universities will conduct a sexual-assault climate survey of its
members, the AAU announced on Friday.

The association said the survey would be carried out next April at “as many of its 60 U.S.
research universities that choose to participate.” The survey will be administered to
undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but not faculty members or administrators.

“Sexual assault is unquestionably one of the most important and complex issues our campuses
face,” Hunter R. Rawlings III, the AAU’s president, said in a written statement. “The first
priority for our universities is the safety of their students. That is paramount. Universities also
have a responsibility to ensure that adjudicatory processes are trustworthy and fair.”

Mr. Rawlings said the AAU hoped the survey would offer its institutions “solid information on
the incidence of sexual assault and sexual harassment on their campuses and on attitudes on the
issue among their students.”
Mr. Rawlings added that the AAU was “deeply concerned” about the possibility that Congress or the Obama administration would require the distribution of a survey developed by the government. He said such an effort would most “likely be a one-size-fits-all survey that would provide potentially misleading data, given the extraordinary diversity of higher education in our country, and would not reliably assess the campus culture on this issue.”

Research Universities Will Conduct Sex Assault Survey

November 17, 2014

**NO MU MENTION**

The association representing the nation’s leading research universities said Friday that it planned to develop and administer a sexual assault climate survey for its members, in part to fend off efforts in Congress to mandate such surveys. The Association of American Universities said that it had hired a research firm to design a survey that its 60 U.S. member institutions may choose to have conducted on their campuses next April. The group plans to then publicly report the “cumulative results” from those surveys.

AAU President Hunter Rawlings said in a statement that the surveys were aimed both at helping inform university decision-making on campus sexual assault issues and also at preempting a efforts by the federal government to force colleges to conduct the surveys. “[W]e have been deeply concerned about the possibility of Congress or the administration mandating that campuses conduct a government-developed survey,” he said. “Such an initiative would likely be a one-size-fits-all survey that would provide potentially misleading data, given the extraordinary diversity of higher education in our country, and would not reliably assess the campus culture on this issue.”

A bipartisan group of U.S. Senators, led by Senators Claire McCaskill and Kirsten Gillibrand, have proposed requiring all colleges to conduct such surveys and post
Hand transplant recovery sheds new light on touch

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER
11/17/2014 3:10 AM

Washington – Recovery of feeling can gradually improve for years after a hand transplant, suggests a small study that points to changes in the brain, not just the new hand, as a reason.

Research presented Sunday at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience sheds light on how the brain processes the sense of touch, and adapts when it goes awry. The work could offer clues to rehabilitation after stroke, brain injury, maybe one day even spinal cord injury.

"It holds open the hope that we may be able to facilitate that recovery process," said Dr. Scott Frey, a cognitive neuroscientist at the University of Missouri in Columbia.
When surgeons attach a new hand, nerves from the stump must regenerate into the transplanted limb to begin restoring different sensations, hot or cold, soft or hard, pressure or pain. While patients can move a new hand fairly soon, how quickly they regain feeling and what sensations they experience vary widely.

After all, the sense of touch isn't just about stimulating nerves in the skin. Those nerves fire signals to a specific brain region to decipher what you're touching and how to react. Lose a limb and the brain quickly rewire, giving those neurons new jobs. Frey's work shows the area that once operated a right hand can start giving the left hand a boost.

Brain scans suggest those changes are at least partially reversible if someone gets a hand transplant years later. But little is known about how the brain's reorganization affects recovery.

Telling where on the palms or fingers they're being touched without looking is a persistent problem for hand transplant recipients, and a function of the brain's main sensory area. Frey's team compared four transplant recipients, four patients whose own hands were reattached immediately after injury, and 14 uninjured people.

The longer the time since their surgeries, the more accurately patients located a light touch, Frey reported. Two who've had transplanted hands for eight and 10 years, respectively, were almost as accurate as uninjured people. So were two patients whose own hands were reattached 1½ and three years earlier.

**Nerve regeneration is thought to take about two years, Frey said.**

"Yet their sensory abilities and motor abilities continue to improve, albeit gradually, as long as we've been measuring," he said, suggesting the brain continues to adapt.

Hand transplants are relatively new and rare. The United Network for Organ Sharing last summer began regulating them like it does organ transplants, and knows of about two dozen recipients in the U.S. since 1999.
But they offer a model for the brain's ability to reorganize after a stroke or other injuries that are harder to study, said Dr. Gordon Shepherd, a Yale University neuroscientist who wasn't involved in the work.

"It has quite broad implications" for research on recovery, he said.

Touch isn't just a functional sense: Another study presented Sunday examined its emotional side.

Certain nerves register pain or itching. A completely different nerve detects the pleasure of a caress.

Those nerve fibers have been studied mostly in animals. They're found on the backs of mice, less on the limbs and never the paws. In humans, they've been found only in hairy skin. Previously, researchers measured the nerves' activity in human forearms, and found they fired mostly after a gentle stroke that people called pleasurable but not after a fast pat.

The theory is that these nerves evolved for social bonding. So Dr. Susannah Walker of Liverpool John Moores University tested if people experienced empathy when viewing video clips of different touches.

Observing someone being gently stroked, people rated the touch to be pleasurable on the back and shoulder, but less so the forearm and not the palm, Walker found. A fast pat wasn't deemed pleasurable.

"It shows how our brains actually can vicariously take part in not only our own feelings, but in the feelings of those we see about us," said Yale's Shepherd.

Touch is crucial for infant development, and Walker says a next step is learning if these nerves behave differently in developmental disorders such as autism.

Read more here: http://www.kansascity.com/living/health-fitness/article3977088.html#storylink=cpy
MU, United Way announce 'community impact' partnership

By Ashley Jost

Friday, November 14, 2014 at 11:55 am

Heart of Missouri United Way announced a partnership with the University of Missouri School of Social Work on Thursday that will create a support network for student interns placed at United Way-funded agencies.

Tim Rich, executive director of the local United Way chapter, said the partnership will connect those MU students who are placed at many of the chapter’s 55 partner agencies with other MU interns and a fellow who are stationed in the United Way office.

Many of the students within the MU School of Social Work learn through their coursework about evaluating the success of an organization’s programs.

The local United Way has increased its focus on evaluation while implementing its community impact model, which is broken down into areas of need: education, health, income and safety net. The model includes a rubric that helps identify how well the partner agencies are meeting their goals, which comes into play when the United Way allocates funding.

“This is an example of how we’re getting out of the ivory tower of the university and taking our knowledge and applying it to the community to help community agencies understand how to evaluate their programs to measure impact,” Marjorie Sable, director of the MU School of Social Work, said during a news conference Thursday.

Sable said students take courses specifically focused on the what not-for-profit groups need to do to track data and evaluate their own programs.

“Most all of the agencies that you fund are where our students do their field practicums,” Sable said. “That’s not isolated. We know those agencies well; they’re important to us. So this is great for us.”

Rachel Finch, an MU graduate student and the new community impact research fellow for the United Way, said this collaboration “just makes sense.” She said she realized from working with
the United Way that students could be an asset to agencies where employees have no training in how they can better explain the work they’re doing.

The peer-learning network begins next semester, Finch said.

Suzanne Cary, director of field education with the MU School of Social Work, said the school has as many as 140 interns each year between first- and second-year students. Students are being placed right now for their internships for this fall.

High-quality early-childhood education touted at panel discussion

By Roger McKinney

Friday, November 14, 2014 at 11:49 am

Studies show that when children receive high-quality education in early childhood, they will succeed when they start school, said Kathy Thornburg, professor emeritus at the Center for Family and Policy Research at the University of Missouri.

“The high quality is the key,” Thornburg said at a Thursday panel discussion on early-childhood education at the Columbia Public Library. The event was presented by the library and the League of Women Voters.

Thornburg said too many preschools have unqualified staff receiving low pay in locations that serve only as warehouses for children.

“Missouri is the only state that doesn’t have a quality rating and improvement system” for early-childhood programs, Thornburg said.

Other speakers were Stacy Preis, assistant commissioner for early and extended education with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Belinda Masters, Parents as Teachers coordinator for Columbia Public Schools. The moderator was Vena Long, professor emeritus at the University of Tennessee. About 30 people attended the event.

Thornburg said social and economic factors are a big indicator of which children will succeed in school, but a high-quality preschool can make a difference.
“Almost 9 out of 10 children, if they have difficulty reading at the end of first grade will have difficulty at the end of fourth grade,” Thornburg said.

She said only 4 percent of the children who are eligible are in early Head Start, and just 40 percent of eligible children are in Head Start.

Thornburg and the other presenters discussed the wide variety of preschools available, from unregulated home day cares to private day cares and preschools offered by school districts.

“In Missouri, we don’t have a good way to show quality programs or to indicate programs of lesser quality,” she said.

Preis said the state monitors the Parents as Teachers program, which provides parent education, developmental screenings and home visits.

The Missouri Preschool Program provides funding for five years to help school districts start a preschool program. The state has budgeted $15.7 million for that program.

“We aren’t able to provide ongoing funding for a district’s preschool program,” she said.

She said a positive note from the past legislative session was passage of House Bill 1689. In the future, it will provide state funding to school districts that have or start program for 3- and 4-year-olds from the foundation formula. The law, which takes effect in July, allows districts to count preschoolers eligible for free and reduced-price lunches in the formula and caps the number of students for which a district can receive funding to 4 percent of the total number of students receiving the free and reduced-price meals.

It will be available to unaccredited school districts in 2015-16; to school districts with provisional accreditation in 2016-17; and beginning in 2017-18 to all school districts, but only after the state fully funds the foundation formula.

Masters said Parents as Teachers is voluntary and free to parents. The program started in Missouri in 1984 to work with parents from before the birth of their children until they enter kindergarten.

“The brain is the only organ at birth that is unfinished,” Masters said. “What happens in the first five years are critical.”

She said Parents as Teachers staff can identify developmental delays through screenings and increase the child’s readiness when entering school.

She said the state budget for Parents as Teachers was $34 million in 2009. It dropped to $13 million in 2011. This year, it’s $15 million. She said the result has been fewer parents and children served in Columbia.
Thornburg said standards and salaries need to be raised for early-childhood education. “We have a long way to go in terms of educating everyone about this early-childhood issue,” she said.

Violent crime is down 5 percent compared to last year, police say

By Alan Burdziak

Sunday, November 16, 2014 at 12:00 am Comments (5)

Through the beginning of November, violent crime is down 5 percent in Columbia and property crime is down 11 percent compared to the same period last year, according to information provided by police.

Columbia Police Department administrators meet monthly to review crime statistics to identify trends and make tactical adjustments. The most recent 28-day reporting period is compared to the previous period and to the previous year.

Crime analyst Jerry East said the idea is to compare the same days during the same time of year because many crime trends are cyclical. For instance, burglaries increase when University of Missouri students arrive in the fall and when they leave town during breaks, Assistant Chief John Gordon said. Violent crime also peaks during the summer months.

So far this year, burglaries are down 5 percent, larcenies are down 12 percent and motor vehicle theft is down 1 percent, according to the stats. All Part 1 crimes — murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, arson, larceny, auto theft and burglary — are down 10 percent through Nov. 2. The FBI uses data on Part 1 crimes from local jurisdictions to determine annual crime rates.

With the exception of homicides, the three other main violent crimes the department tracks — forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault — are down by 9 percent, 6 percent and 4 percent, respectively, compared to the first 11 months of 2013. There have been five homicides in the city so far this year, the same total for all of 2013.

The goal of regularly reviewing crime stats is to take a data-driven approach to policing, Gordon said.
“It’s great that” crime is “down, but for us, we know that as the holiday season approaches, property crimes are going to go up,” he said. “What we’re doing is looking to: How do we keep it down?”

With the holiday season coming up, Gordon said, the department expects there to be an uptick in shoplifting, drunken driving incidents and burglaries. The stats Columbia police officials examine monthly do not include crimes reported to MU police or to the Boone County Sheriff’s Department, though the agencies often do work together.

A change in stats is not considered a trend until it spans three reporting periods, East said. When trends are identified, police develop ways to target specific areas or prevent crimes. “That’s the thing we want to get out of this,” East said. “We want to see stuff earlier, before it becomes a big issue.”

Awareness is one way the department tries to prevent crime. In about 75 percent of burglaries, the culprit enters through an unlocked door, East said. Leaving doors unlocked is a common problem for students, and Columbia police work with MU police to remind students to lock doors and secure their valuables.

The Columbia Police Department recently hired a civilian public information officer, Bryana Maupin, to help communicate such messages, Gordon said.

Larcenies from cars have accounted for a significant number of thefts over the year. Although it’s normal for the number to fluctuate, Gordon said lately police have used the data to zero in on people they believe are responsible for a string of incidents in a few neighborhoods.

By plotting the thefts and comparing each occurrence, officers can find similarities and often form a reliable theory on method. In the case of the group suspected of stealing from cars, police know they only go into unlocked vehicles and believe they’re using a car to get around based on the quick succession of incidents, Gordon said.

Number of foreign students in US hits record high
By KIMBERLY HEFLING

NO MU MENTION

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of foreign exchange students studying at U.S. colleges and universities is at a record high, with nearly one-third coming from China.

A report by the Institute of International Education, in partnership with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, said nearly 900,000 international students were studying in the U.S. during the 2013-14 school year, up 8 percent from a year earlier.

During the same period, there was a nearly 17 percent increase in the number of Chinese students.

The other top countries of origin were India, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Canada.

The United States hosts more of the world's 4.5 million globally mobile higher education students than any other country, but just a little more than 4 percent of all undergraduate and graduate students are international students.

A burgeoning middle class combined with a view that America has quality colleges and universities are factors cited to be pushing the demand from China. Kuwait, Brazil and Saudi Arabia were also among the countries that have seen double-digit gains in the percentage of students coming to the United States to study, and government-funded scholarships have likely contributed to the growth.

In addition to contributing billions to the U.S. economy, study-abroad programs strengthen ties "necessary to solve global challenges," Evan Ryan, a State Department official, told reporters.

A record number of Americans are studying abroad, although their stints overseas tend to be shorter and there are far fewer American students who participate in such study programs than foreign students who come to the U.S.

About 289,400 U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit in 2012-13, the most recent year data was available. There was 2 percent growth from a year earlier. Overall, less than 10 percent of American students study abroad during their college years.

The United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France and China were the leading destinations.

"There is work to be done to make it more accessible and affordable," Ryan said.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

At 109, Columbia's Loren Reid reflects on long life
Friday, November 14, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST; updated 5:31 p.m. CST, Sunday, November 16, 2014
BY ANNIE REES, PHOTO AND VIDEO EDITING BY TJ THOMSON AND ALEX SCOTT

COLUMBIA — It was a crisp morning in October. In a room at a Columbia nursing home, two round, Mylar birthday balloons swayed in gusts from an air vent.

The room is the home of Loren Reid, who celebrated his 109th birthday in August.

"What’s the next good thing that’s going to happen to me?" he asked me.

"110?" I ventured.

Reid nodded. "Yes, 110," he said. "Then 111."

Since his birth in 1905, Reid has seen the advent of the automobile, the airplane, the telephone, television, microwave ovens and the Internet. He’s lived through two world wars. He’s lived through 19 American presidents. He and his wife, Augusta Reid, had four children, 15 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

Reid was 21 when he boarded his first commercial airplane in 1926 and was among the first 500,000 people in the United States to experience commercial air travel. He was 36 when Pearl Harbor was bombed and 58 when President Kennedy was shot. At 70, Reid retired as a professor of speech at MU.

He celebrated his 80th birthday in 1985 by getting a word processor. By the time Reid was 99, in 2004, he was on his fourth computer.

That was 10 years ago.

Reid may never be in a history book. But his life has been a testament to human constancy in an otherwise rapidly changing century of technological and industrial advances.
To report this story, we sifted through dozens of photographs, old letters and historical documents, much of which are at the State Historical Society of Missouri. We visited Reid on three occasions and read three of his published memoirs, "Hurry Home Wednesday" (1979), "Finally It's Friday" (1981) and "Professor on the Loose" (1992).

What emerged was not so much a biography as a portrait: Reid has lived, by his account, a wonderful life. And you can hear it from him because he has lived to tell the tale. Click here to view a Q&A video with Reid.

We tell it here through selected photographs, short text stories and recent video interviews with Reid.

**Long love**

On what Reid described as "a cool, misty morning" in 1926, he met the woman who would become his wife of almost eight decades, Augusta "Gus" Towner, at Grinnell College in Iowa. She was two years younger than him, and they ran in similar circles of friends.

**Loren and Gus Reid's marriage lasted almost eight decades.**

In 1930, Gus and Reid were married in a small ceremony in front of the fireplace of the Towner family home.

What’s the secret to a 79-year marriage? Is there one? "We liked doing so many of the same things," Reid recalled in a recent conversation. "She was a little bit athletic; I was a little bit athletic." Gus was, in fact, very athletic: She lettered in swimming and basketball at Grinnell.

The pair waterskied and played tennis into their 80s. In an email to his family in 1989, Reid wrote: "Gus, now a pleasant 82, is up and attem this morning, playing tennis. Doubles, to be sure, but still tennis. (She came home Monday and I asked, 'Did you have a good game' 'Not bad ... you know it helps when the other girls are not all that good.' 'Well, thank God for patsies and hit-and-giggles,' I comment, husbandly.)"

In 1967, the Reids took a trip around the world, just the two of them. They visited 27 destinations.

Gus died in 2004, at age 102.

In "Professor on the Loose," Reid expressed awe at the big family they created:
"I am amazed at all this family, which happened because once I took Gus to a movie. I explained this predicament to my Aunt Grace Doak, my mother’s youngest sister, age 96, now many times a great grandmother. She smiled and said, 'Of course. With me it was a buggy ride.'"

**Long career at MU**

When Reid was growing up in Gilman City, Missouri, northeast of Kansas City, he thought for sure that he would be a journalist. The family business, after all, was newspapers: His father was publisher of the Gilman City Guide and, later, the Osceola Tribune in Osceola, Iowa.

Reid paid for much of his undergraduate education at Grinnell and master's and doctoral degrees at the State University of Iowa (now the University of Iowa) by working part time as a linotype operator, a person who set metal type for newspapers and magazines.

But at Grinnell, one of Reid’s teachers persuaded him to get a teaching license. He fell in love with teaching and academia.

In 1935, **Reid accepted a position as an assistant professor of speech in the Department of English at MU. He and Gus remained in Columbia for the rest of their lives, except for five years when he lived in Syracuse, N.Y., from 1939 to 1944. He came back to MU as a professor of speech in 1944. In 1946, he became department chairman.**

At MU, **one of Reid’s most well-known classes was called Great Speakers, which focused on speakers such as Frederick Douglass, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman and Martin Luther King Jr.**

"It really filled the biggest classroom we had. The idea was to talk about present-day good speakers and not ancient cronies," he said, referring to the likes of Aristotle and Cicero.

**In 1975, when Reid retired, he had taught more than 9,000 students.**

In a letter congratulating another colleague on retirement, he wrote:
"Welcome to the Retirement Club of Columbia. This is the most exclusive outfit in town, with the longest waiting list. Our list is long because our requirements are so weighty. We take only mature, ripe folk — gently speckled, like a banana."

**Long history in Columbia**

When Loren and Gus Reid arrived in Columbia in 1935, the city looked very different than it does today.

"We entered Columbia by U.S. 40, which had been paved during the furious highway construction of the previous decade," Reid wrote in "Professor on the Loose." "... Columbia was then a modest city of 15,000, barely larger than Moberly’s 14,000 and not so large as the state capital’s 22,000." Today, Columbia’s population has topped 115,000.

In 1935, however, Columbia was still in the throes of the Great Depression, and then World War II began. Rationing was strict for basics such as sugar, butter and gasoline.

When the war ended, the country was flooded with returning soldiers who needed places to live, study and ways to reintegrate themselves with society. The Reid family stretched its home to the breaking point, converting a musty basement into a room in which GIs could live.

"No one who taught during the decade after the war is likely to forget it," Reid wrote in "Professor on the Loose." "Those were the golden years of teaching, with mature students, eager to catch up, wanting to learn, willing to work. Classes were jammed and packed. Morale was high. Learning can be one of the world’s truly exciting adventures."

On April 12, 1945, Franklin Roosevelt died and vice president and Missouri native Harry Truman became president. Reid, long an admirer, penned him a letter. A month later, Truman’s secretary wrote back.

Reid doesn’t remember penning the letter but, after being told about it, called it "a remarkable thing to do."

As the times changed, Reid adapted. He updated typewriters, telephones and televisions. In 1989, one of his sons installed ProComm software, a kind of analog email messaging system on the word processor Reid had bought in 1985.
Reid took it all in stride. On BitNet notes in ProComm (and later on email), he wrote to his children and grandchildren, connected with scholars across the country and world, and learned to work out kinks in new technology. After all, it couldn't have been harder than learning to operate a linotype, which has 90 keys.

Today, Reid lives in a private room at The Neighborhoods Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing by Tiger Place. His life appears comfortable, if quiet. On Aug. 26, he celebrated his 109th birthday with his four children, plus two of their spouses and a couple of family friends.

During our interviews, Reid sometimes asked if he is the oldest man in the world. The answer, for now, is still no. According to Census data from 2010, there are 53,364 people older than 100 in the United States, which is less than 0.1 percent of the population.

There is no data on the number of 109-year-olds in the U.S. or in Missouri, but an organization called the Gerontology Research Group tracks supercentenarians — age 110 or older. It has validated that there are 75 supercentenarians in the world, the majority of whom are women. Of those supercentenarians, only 22 live in the United States and none live in Missouri.

Any way the data is sliced, Reid is a bit of an anomaly.

In one of our interviews, one of the people with me told Reid he was impressed that he still seemed to have all of his marbles. Reid paused.

"Yes," he said, his nearly toothless smile spreading wide. "Mostly agates."

Reid has good days and less good days. On good days, he can converse, maybe crack a few jokes, tell a few stories. He's happy to have a few visitors. On less good days, he just wants to stay in bed and rest.

Perhaps the myriad stories hidden in this man are best summed up in his own words, from "Finally It's Friday:"

"Next time you walk down Main Street and see a well-coifed lady, 70 or 80 or whatever, obviously a picture of refinement, you can be sure that as a teenage girl she had wild escapades never reported at the supper table. And if you see a gentleman shuffling along, perhaps with a cane, perhaps without, white-haired, bleary-eyed, arthritic, you
can, if you look carefully, see in him the boy that once climbed a water tower and stood on his head on the top, and lived to be 70 or 80."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Amid criticism, Boone County commissioners explain reason for covering Christian symbol

Friday, November 14, 2014 | 9:38 p.m. CST; updated 10:32 p.m. CST, Friday, November 14, 2014
BY KAROL ILAGAN

Editor's note: The headline of this story was changed to clarify the discussion at Thursday's public meeting.

COLUMBIA — Boone County commissioners, who earlier this year ordered a Christian symbol on a Boone County Courthouse war memorial to be covered, said Thursday the move was the most legally safe decision they could make.

“At this point, we felt this was the best way to manage this risk," Southern District Commissioner Karen Miller said during a public meeting Thursday, adding the decision wasn't made lightly.

That didn't stop more than a dozen people from asking the commission on Thursday to uncover the ichthus — also known as the Jesus fish — on a 1992 memorial commemorating Boone County soldiers who died during Operation Desert Storm. The county covered the ichthus after an inquiry from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a group based in Washington, D.C.

Fred Parry, the publisher of Inside Columbia magazine, said the commissioners should respect the soldiers' families, who he said wanted the covering removed as well.

“In my personal opinion — I'm not a lawyer — I think there may have been an over-interpretation of the Establishment Clause, where it specifically refers to freedom of religion, not freedom from religion," he said.
The First Amendment’s Establishment Clause limits the government from making any law “respecting an establishment of religion.”

Parry also said the public needs clarity about how commissioners made the decision.

Presiding Commissioner Dan Atwill, who served in the Air Force, said no votes were held on the matter. Rather, the decision was a building and grounds management issue, he said.

"We were all informed of it. We knew what was happening. We tacitly agreed," Atwill said.

Northern District Commissioner Janet Thompson was out of town during Thursday's forum on the covering of the ichthus. Atwill proposed another discussion with the public when all three commissioners are present. There are also some pending lawsuits over similar circumstances, Miller said, so waiting until those are resolved would help clarify the legal landscape.

The Supreme Court has issued contradictory rulings in this realm, MU law professor Carl Esbeck said in an interview Friday.

He pointed to the constitutionality of writing "In God We Trust" on money and government buildings. He also said the Supreme Court ruled in a May case, Town of Greece v. Galloway, that government bodies may start meetings with a prayer. The court said that practice did not discriminate against minority faiths and was consistent with tradition, according to SCOTUSblog.

On the other hand, courts have denied governments the ability to erect religious iconography, such as nativity scenes during Christmas or menorahs during Hanukkah — though the courts are less unified on this, Esbeck said.

Lynn Acton, who spoke at Thursday's meeting, said one of her biggest concerns is that an out-of-state group was able to change a memorial “that was so personal to us.”

“I feel that it should be a decision that should be made by the veterans and the veterans’ families, and not by unknown people,” she said. "We don’t know their names ... and yet
we find the commission reacting and covering up a symbol that’s there and has a meaning to a lot of people.”

The Shrinking Academic Workforce

November 14, 2014
by Doug Lederman

NO MU MENTION

The academic workforce is shrinking.

Not by much, mind you: the number of faculty members and administrators at colleges eligible to award federal financial aid declined by a mere 7,500 from 2012 to 2013, according to new Education Department statistics.

But the dip, however small, is the first in many years. And it comes after a period of steady and at times sharp expansion of college staffs, which often accompanied sizable increases in student enrollments.

The percentage drop in the number of employees, which the National Center for Education Statistics puts at 0.19 percent, to 3,969,396 in 2013 from 3,976,803 in 2012, is actually larger than the enrollment decline that the report also documents. Overall enrollments fell by about 300,000 (to 20.85 million from 21.15 million) in 2013, about evenly split between for-profit institutions and public two-year institutions.
But while for-profit colleges shed more than 38,000 jobs alongside their enrollment losses, staffing at two-year institutions remained stable, actually edging up slightly, to 652,492 staff members in 2013 from 649,982 in 2012.

Staffing at public colleges over all grew slightly from 2012 to 2013, edging up to 2,549,850 from 2,534,848, a half-percentage-point increase. The number of administrators and instructors at private nonprofit colleges grew more, by 1.4 percent, to 1,161,424 in 2013 from 1,145,340 in 2012.

While the number of employees overall dipped, the number and proportion of campus staff members on the academic side of the house appears to have risen from 2012 to 2013. Saying for sure is difficult because the definitions used by education statistics center changed from one year to the next, but the number of employees who provide instruction, research and public service rose to 1,580,932 in 2013, up from 1,565,493 in 2012.

The numbers by sector were 519,690 (up from 510,871 in 2012) for public four-year colleges and universities, 372,762 for community colleges (equivalent to 372,698 in 2012), and 385,379 for four-year private colleges (up from 376,916 in 2012). The number of for-profit faculty members dipped by about 4,000, to 104,319.

| Employees at Postsecondary Institutions Eligible for Title IV Aid |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| All               | 2,545,920 | 3,108,301 | 3,710,011 | 3,976,803 | 3,969,396 |
| Public            | 1,783,028 | 2,128,733 | 2,440,511 | 2,534,848 | 2,548,850 |
| Private Nonprofit | 741,471  | 926,068  | 1,061,946 | 1,145,340 | 1,161,424 |
| For-Profit        | 19,916  | 50,782   | 207,554  | 296,615  | 258,122  |

*Source: U.S. Education Department*
Herbicides may kill weeds but will also damage desirable plants

November 16, 2014 12:00 am  •  By Chip Tynan Special to the Post-Dispatch

Q • I have an infestation of Creeping Charlie weed. We sprayed this year, but it has not controlled it at all. It has even invaded my flower beds. Could you advise me what I could use to control it?

A • Assuming that you’re referring to ground ivy (Glechoma hederacea), find an overview of this common weed in this Michigan State Extension publication online here: turf.msu.edu/ground-ivy-control-for-home-lawns.

Specific recommendations for Missouri gardens can be found in the University of Missouri Extension booklet “Turfgrass and Weeds” online at bit.ly/1B9smwU. Read the chapter on “Broadleaf Weeds” to find a listing in Table 6 of products that can be used for their control.

Be mindful that herbicides (weed killers) used for control of broadleaf weeds will also damage any desirable plants you wish to preserve, so be sure to read and follow all label cautions and directions before using these products.