Missouri lawmaker wants school tests made in-state

By SUMMER BALLENTINE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Republican lawmaker said Tuesday he plans to introduce a bill that requires Missouri universities to create standardized tests for school children in the state, a move intended to make sure educators don't teach contested Common Core standards.

State Rep. David Wood's legislation would escalate the fight over school benchmarks adopted by Missouri and 42 other states. Common Core aims to create consistent, high achievement goals for students across state lines, but it has become a magnet for conservative critics who say states should have more say over what students learn.

Missouri lawmakers last session reached a compromise and passed a bill to review the standards. Work groups now are picking apart Common Core and comparing its targets with those from other states.

The work groups have until October 2015 to recommend keeping Common Core or adopting new standards. The State Board of Education has a final say.

Wood said his legislation would prevent teachers from continuing to teach Common Core regardless of what the board adopts.

He said he wants the tests in place for online use by 2017 or 2018.
"It doesn't matter what we change the standards to, because teachers will teach to what the test would be," the Versailles Republican said.

Wood also said the legislation would keep money in state and support local universities instead of national testing organizations.

Missouri currently partners with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which is aligned with Common Core, for testing.

He's spoken with members of the University of Missouri-Columbia's Assessment Resource Center, who have shown interest in the project.

College of Education Dean Dan Clay said the center has completed standardized tests for other states in the past and has the capacity to pull off an assessment of this size.

"I would think that educators around the state would have more confidence in a test developed and validated at a university," Clay said, "As opposed to a commercially produced test that may lead to concerns about how it's constructed and validated."

But some caution the legislation comes too early.

Rep. Judy Morgan, a Democrat from Kansas City, said it might be better to wait until the work groups make their recommendations. She said standards could dramatically change or they might be substantially similar to what's already in place.

"It might be just a little bit too early since the work groups have almost another year" of work to do, Morgan said.

More food banks serve hungry college students
By Katie Lobosco  @KatieLobosco  November 25, 2014: 11:54 AM ET
They may be studying at high-priced institutions, but a growing number of U.S. college students rely on food pantries for their next meal.

At least 100 have opened on college campuses across the country in the past six years. By one estimate there were only four in 2008, though no one kept track back then.

Tony Duong, 21, is a senior at the University of California Santa Barbara pursuing a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology.

Good grades won him grants that cover his $12,000 tuition, and loans usually pick up additional costs like student fees, books, health care, rent and food.

But sometimes it's not enough.

"I don't know if I'd be able to stay in school without the food pantry," Duong said.

The UCSB pantry opened in 2011 after the university surveyed students and found that nearly half skip meals to save money at least a few times a month, and 23% skip meals every week.

It's now open three days a week and serves about 2,000 students annually.

The pantries are widespread and can be found mostly at public universities and community colleges. They serve students at big names like Michigan State University, the University of Missouri and Syracuse, as well as Long Island's Stony Brook University and North Carolina's Durham Technical Community College. Most are funded through donations and serve anyone with a school ID card.

The pantries attract undergrads like Duong who are struggling with the rising cost of tuition and get little financial help from their parents.

Others are parents themselves seeking a degree for the first time while supporting a family. Many people flocked to community colleges to earn new credentials when the economy took a turn in 2008.

"Nowadays there's a lot of competition," said Lisa Flores, a student at Durham Tech with two daughters. She has 25 years of experience in customer service, but without a degree she was working several part-time, minimum-wage jobs to make ends meet. "So here I am in my late 40s going to community college so that I'm qualified for a better job" she said.
Some students who use campus food pantries returned to school after they couldn't find work.

Benjamin Frankel, 31, has an associate's degree in nuclear medicine technology, but couldn't find a job for nearly a year.

So Frankel, already saddled with student debt, enrolled at Stony Brook and plans to get his bachelor's and then his master's so he can be a physician assistant.

Benjamin Frankel doesn't have to skip meals, thanks to Stony Brook's food pantry for students. Despite working a part-time job on campus and getting help from food stamps, Frankel and his wife can only afford about $200 worth of groceries a month -- which lasts them about three weeks. The food pantry fills in the gap.

"It's the difference between eating three meals a day for a week and eating one meal a day for a couple weeks," he said.

That's a big deal for Frankel and other students. But food pantries provide an emergency service that doesn't tackle the underlying problems, like rising tuition and housing costs, said Casey McGloin, a co-founder of Stony Brook's food pantry.

"Maybe the growing number of college food pantries will bolster large-scale reforms," McGloin said.

Note: this story also ran on KMIZ-TV (ABC) – Columbia, Mo.

Link to Video: More Food Banks Serve Hungry College Students

MU students gather for Ferguson announcement

By ASHLEY JOST

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 12:00 pm Comments (1)
With many of their peers on Thanksgiving break, about 30 students and other members of the University of Missouri community gathered at Speakers Circle for the announcement of the Ferguson grand jury decision.

Students hovered over smartphones as St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch announced that a grand jury decided not to indict Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson for the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in August.

Many in the diverse crowd of students embraced each other after the announcement. Some cried. Two knelt on the ground while crying and prayed.

“We’re not trying to change policy anymore — we’re trying to change people’s thoughts, which is a whole lot harder because a lot of it is rooted in thoughts and prejudices,” MU student Naomi Daugherty told the crowd after they participated in a 4½-minute moment of silence in honor of the hours Michael Brown’s body was left on a Ferguson street.

“Charge everybody to go to your communities, go to your family Thanksgiving. Correct this problematic language,” Daugherty urged those present.

Law student Grace Shemwell said several students from the MU School of Law were in Ferguson to provide legal assistance in response to a call to action from the Midwest Black Law Students Association.

Ferguson-area activists encouraged those students to register if they were attending and check in at a centralized location in St. Louis where they would receive assignments to a legal team focused on observing, jail support, criminal representation, human/civil rights observing and rapid-response litigation.

The number of students who participated from the law school is uncertain.

After the moment of silence in Columbia, students marched from Speakers Circle to City Hall.

Shortly before the grand jury announcement, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin distributed a statement by campus email expressing support for those “who may be directly or indirectly” affected by events in Ferguson.

“At Mizzou, our diversity is our strength,” Loftin said in the statement. “The perspectives of our diverse community enrich our dialogue on difficult issues. It is our responsibility to provide an environment where everyone can learn and where we can address the complexity of the social issues that have affected our community in the past and will shape how we face the future.”

The chancellor thanked student groups for sponsoring events.
“It is my hope that these activities, and others that are yet to be scheduled, will continue the open dialogue that can bring us closer together as a community,” he said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Protesters in Columbia seek justice, find solidarity during Tuesday march
Tuesday, November 25, 2014 | 9:12 p.m. CST; updated 5:42 a.m. CST, Wednesday, November 26, 2014
BY KATHERINE KNOTT, ANNIE REES, TAYLOR LOWER

COLUMBIA — It was cold enough to see the breath of the marchers chanting "Hands up, don't shoot!" as they walked in twos and threes from Second Missionary Baptist Church to the Boone County Courthouse on Tuesday night. A drummer punctuated the chant. Some marchers held hands.

On Tuesday night, more than 150 people gathered at the courthouse amphitheater, raising their voices to protest Monday night's announcement that the St. Louis County grand jury had decided not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. There were no police at the event.

Columbia's rally joined protests happening in more than 115 cities across the United States.

Tuesday night's march was organized by the Columbia Chapter of the NAACP and included speakers from the African American Clergy Coalition of Mid Missouri, Columbia Faith Voices, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Grass Roots Organizing.

Regina Jeff was there with her four children, ages 8, 7, 6 and 3. She wanted to show her children what a peaceful protest looks like, in light of the mass violence that wracked Ferguson on Monday night and early Tuesday.

"They feel like there is no other way," she said about the rioters in St. Louis. "I want to show my children that there is another way."

The Rev. Clyde Ruffin, pastor of Second Baptist, opened the rally by recognizing "the courageous young people," mostly MU students, who
marched in Columbia on Monday night. "Thank you for keeping it peaceful," he said to applause from the crowd.

But also, he said, "we must acknowledge those who are here, for whom this is not their first march."

Jessie Adolph wore an "I AM A MAN" sign in reference to the Memphis Sanitation Worker Strike of 1968. Adolph has three sons: a 14-year-old and 9-year-old twins. Adolph said he came out to the march to be part of change. "I dream for an America where my sons are safe," he said. In particular, he said, he was moved to see different generations represented at the march.

"It's a continuation of the past, teaching the future, and the future teaching the past," he said. "Plus, as an educator, I like to see dialogue between the civil rights and hip-hop generations."

MU sophomore Allison Pierce had been looking for a way to channel the sadness she felt when she heard Monday's announcement. "Last night ... I was crying, and I was upset, and I didn't know what to do. But I wanted to do something."

Pierce learned about Tuesday's march on Facebook, and she invited her friend Jacqueline LeBlanc to join her. Pierce said she recognizes her privilege as a white person in society and wanted to do something with it.

Courtney Black is an archaeologist in Jefferson City but lives in Columbia. "I can't sit idly by and watch something so terrible go down and not speak out against it," Black said. "If I can't stand up for those who don't have a voice, what good am I?"

Aaron Johnson, an organizer with GRO, expressed dissatisfaction with the way the media have covered events in Ferguson. "I have had conversations with people who are organizing in Ferguson," Johnson said. "They've sent examples of a lot of the positive work they're doing, but all that's being focused on are the negative things."

Johnson said the disproportionate focus on violent demonstrations only serves to spread fear, instead of highlighting groups who are finding unity.
Johnson finds this disheartening. "It doesn't matter who you are or what you accomplish, you're seen as an object to be feared," he said.

Myah McCrary believes the intent of many protesters in Ferguson has been misconstrued.

"I do not agree with violence," McCrary said. But, she said, "there's a misperception about what people are fighting for. It's not just for Mike Brown. It's also for everyone else who has been denied."

She felt heartened about Columbia's evening protest.

"Tonight was peaceful," she said. She hopes thoughtful and constructive gatherings can get the attention of leaders on the local, state and national level.

Robin Acree, one of the march's marshals and a member of GRO, led the march and helped get chants going.

"We all care a lot about racial justice," she said. "We really care about the future of Ferguson and communities across America."

Acree has led a lot of marches but said Tuesday night's felt different. "I feel a lot of energy."

Larry Edwards came to the march because of his past experience with police brutality in St. Louis. He said he was impressed by the diversity of the people who came out to the march.

"It's not just about the black community," he said.

The Rev. Molly Housh Gordon, minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church, underscored that statement in her remarks.

"Systems of racism hurt all of us," she said to general shouts. "Systems of oppression rob us all of our humanity."
The Columbia chapter of the NAACP and other organizations (MU NAACP affiliates) marched from Second Missionary Baptist Church to the Boone County Courthouse amphitheater.

Link to Story: NAACP Marches in Columbia to Protest Ferguson Decision

Cleanup begins after night of violence 'much worse' than August

UPDATED at 12:50 p.m. with new statement from governor

FERGUSON • As cleanup got underway, the tally of damage mounted Tuesday morning in the wake of the grand jury decision not to indict Darren Wilson.

St. Louis County Police Sgt. Brian Schellman said at least 61 people were arrested. Charges ranged from burglary to trespassing to receiving stolen property.

As of 8:30 a.m., area hospitals reported a total of 23 injuries including three admissions and two gunshot victims.

At least 17 businesses in and around Ferguson were damaged or destroyed by fire. There also was looting and broken windows.

Gov. Jay Nixon decried the violence in Ferguson and said there will be more Missouri National Guard troops supporting local police Tuesday night. Details will be released later.
"The violence we saw in areas of Ferguson last night is unacceptable," Nixon said Tuesday afternoon. "That is why today I am meeting with leaders from the Guard and law enforcement to ensure the protection of lives and property."

Deundrake Lewis, 54, of St. Charles, was thankful his restaurant — Drake's Place on South Florissant Road — wasn't damaged Monday night but upset that more hadn't been done to protect businesses, especially since a state of emergency had been declared.

"That's what I thought the National Guard was here for — to protect residents and businesses, but it didn't happen," said Lewis, who was helping others clean up Tuesday morning.

He was nervous about what might happen Tuesday night.

"I'm praying that after last night they know what to do tonight and know the areas they really need to protect," he said.

Hundreds of people showed up to help clean up the damage along South Florissant.

Among them were four students from the University of Missouri-Columbia home on Thanksgiving break. They came with brooms and trash bags.

"We felt obligated to, it's our community," said Mikale Elliott, 19, of Florissant. "Despite the protesters and the bad ones, we have to help put it together regardless of what happened last night."

Her friend, Shelbey Parnell, 19, of St. John, imagined St. Louis as a phoenix that will rise again.

"It all starts here," she said.

Maria Flores, 66, of St. Peters, was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support Tuesday morning after her restaurant — El Palenque — was damaged overnight by bricks thrown through the windows.

Volunteers boarded up the windows early Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, friends were calling, people were sweeping up outside and nuns from the School Sisters of Notre Dame dropped by to tell Flores that the order would send her family $1,000 to help. The family attends Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, which is served by the order.

"This is the Ferguson community," Flores said. "When something happens, everyone is there helping each other."

Bart Bouchein, 44, of West County, saw a photo on Twitter of people cleaning and was inspired to come help. He got in a car and drove to Ferguson, not sure what he could do.

When he arrived and saw everyone helping, he got choked up.
"For every one looter there are a thousand people willing to help," he said.

BELMAR "HEARTBROKEN" ABOUT DAMAGE
St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar, speaking at a press conference at 1:30 a.m., said he was grateful nobody was killed but disappointed at the amount of damage in the Ferguson area.

“What I've seen tonight is probably much worse than the worst night we ever had in August, and that's truly unfortunate,” he said.

He said that there was basically “nothing left” along West Florissant Avenue between Solway Avenue and Chambers Road. “Frankly, I'm heartbroken about that,” he said.

Missouri Highway Patrol Capt. Ron Johnson said, “We talked about peaceful protest, and that did not happen tonight. We definitely have done something here that's going to impact our community for a long time... That's not how we create change.”

Belmar said officers used tear gas near West Florissant and Chambers. A highway patrol lieutenant was hit by a glass bottle. Two St. Louis County police cars were torched, he said.

Belmar said as far as he knew, police did not fire shots, but there was plenty of gunfire in the area. He said he personally heard at least 150 shots.

He said he and Johnson drove around earlier and “got lit up,” and he was surprised they were not hit. Commanding officers were hesitant to leave officers at road blockades because of so much gunfire in those particular areas, he said.

They reported one shooting in the 9100 block of Halls Ferry Road and a report of one near the McDonald's on West Florissant. The shooting limited the ability of firefighters to safely douse fires at burning businesses.

"Change is created through our voice, not the destruction of our community,” said Johnson.

Belmar said he didn't think the late-in-the-day timing of the announcement was a factor in the violence. He said he didn't get any advance notice of what the jury's decision would be and that he didn't expect it because it would be inappropriate under the grand jury system.

“I don't think we were underprepared,” he said.

He and Johnson spent many hours meeting with protesters and clergy in recent weeks, he said. “"We not only were engaged, we did everything we could to prevent this."

He said he expected more Missouri National Guard troops in the near future and changes in “operation procedures.”
About 1 a.m., Nixon issued a press release saying he ordered more guardsmen to Ferguson. "The Guard is providing security at the Ferguson Police Department, which will allow additional law enforcement officers to protect the public," the statement said.

He reiterated his intention in the afternoon statement.

Shortly after 2 a.m., at least five busloads of National Guard troops pulled up along South Florissant in the old town area of Ferguson.

The damage toll in the Ferguson area also included:

- At least a dozen cars were on fire at an Auto By Credit dealership in Dellwood.
- Just north of the dealership, a Conoco service station-convenience store was destroyed by fire.
- The Walgreens at North Florissant Road and Hereford Avenue was looted and burned.
- Little Caesars pizza on North Florissant was burned.
- An antiques and collectibles store, Hidden Treasures, attached to Little Caesars was destroyed by fire.
- On South Florissant, Boost Mobile and Ferguson Optical Inc. reported windows broken and Beauty World was looted.
- Sam’s Meat Market and Beauty Town on West Florissant were reported burned.
- Ferguson Market and O’Reilly Auto Parts on West Florissant were looted.
- Toys R Us north of Ferguson near Interstate 270 was looted.
- A Phillips 66 convenience store at Chambers and Atwater Avenue was trashed and looted.
- A fire broke out in a business building just south of the McDonald’s on West Florissant.
- Windows were smashed at the McDonald’s and other businesses nearby.
- St. Louis Fish Chicken and Grill was burned.
- People broke into Public Storage on West Florissant. Fire gutted the office building attached to the storage facility. Fashions R Boutique, Advance Auto Parts, AutoZone and TitleMax also were burned.
- Several businesses north of the Ferguson police station had front windows broken out.
- Cathy’s Kitchen had a window smashed.
• Red’s Barbecue was damaged by fire.

• There was a fire at the Family Dollar store on Halls Ferry Road just south of Interstate 270.

• Fire hit a building on West Florissant that houses a cell phone business and #HealStL, a community outreach program set up by St. Louis Alderman Antonio French.

• Windows were broken at Queen's Royal Touch Salon and Spa at Chambers and West Florissant.

Michele Munz of the Post-Dispatch contributed to this report.
Editor’s note: An earlier version of this report included an inaccurate spelling of El Palenque restaurant.

Cold as ice: Ferguson, Mo., county prosecutor has deep ties to police

‘There’s a perception that he just never will prosecute a police officer,’ a veteran civil rights attorney said of Bob McCulloch, who once dreamed of being a cop.

BY RICH SCHAPIRO
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Tuesday, November 25, 2014, 9:50 PM

Bob McCulloch grew up the son of a cop, in a family full of cops, dreaming that someday he would become a cop himself.

“I couldn’t become a policeman, so being county prosecutor is the next best thing,” McCulloch once told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

He’s been the St. Louis County prosecutor since 1991 and his deep ties with police have rankled area residents for years.

Long before he drew scrutiny in the Michael Brown investigation, McCulloch had come under fire for his handling of other police shootings.

“Whether truly justified or not, there’s a perception that he just never will prosecute a police officer,” said Steven Ryals, a veteran civil rights attorney who lived in Ferguson for 45 years.

That perception has only grown stronger amid his handling of the Brown case. Experts described McCulloch’s approach as baffling.
Rather than presenting to the grand jury only the evidence that supports the state’s case — as is typical — he allowed Officer Darren Wilson to defend himself and offered conflicting witness testimony.

“I don’t understand why it was necessary for him to take that unusual step — giving the grand jury what he referred to as ‘all the evidence,’” said Ben Trachtenberg, associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Law. “Perhaps it was because the wrong guy had the case.”

McCulloch’s path to becoming the top lawman in St. Louis county was shaped by tragedy.

Twenty-five days shy of his 13th birthday, McCulloch’s father was shot and killed in a gun battle with a kidnapper in 1964.

If it weren’t for a cruel twist of fate, McCulloch would have likely followed in the family tradition. Besides his father, his brother, nephew and cousin all served on the St. Louis police force. But in his senior year of high school, McCulloch lost his right leg to cancer.

No longer able to become a cop, he made it his mission to land a job as a prosecutor.

McCulloch’s reputation as an unabashed defender of the police took root in 2001, 10 years after the Democrat took office.

That year, a pair of undercover cops shot and killed two men inside a car in a Jack in the Box parking lot in a hail of 21 bullets. A federal probe, while ruling the shootings were justified, found that the men were unarmed and their car had not moved forward when the officers opened fire.

McCulloch declined to prosecute the cops. He further inflamed tensions by referring to the suspects Earl Murray and Ronald Beasley as “bums.”

“Mr. McCulloch has run the office of the prosecuting attorney with an iron glove and has made it quite clear that men in blue will be protected at all costs,” Randall Cahill, who represented the victims, told the Daily News.

Several legal experts were left scratching their heads after McCulloch’s bizarre press conference Monday night.

First, there were questions over the timing. In a city that has already been wracked by violence, why make the announcement at night?

Then there was his demeanor. McCulloch, before revealing that a grand jury refused to indict Wilson, launched into a nearly 10-minute-long rant against the media. When he finally did address the Brown case, experts said, his presentation sounded more suited to a defense lawyer than a prosecutor. “I thought it was smug. I thought it was condescending,” Cahill said.

New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito agreed, describing McCulloch as “extremely cold” and “very detached.”

“I just felt there was a lack of empathy in the way it was being presented, and I find that disgusting,” she added in a tweet.

The decision to announce the grand jury decision at night was McCulloch’s alone, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon said.

McCulloch spokesman Ed Magee defended the move.
“We coordinated with law enforcement, gave schools time to get the children home and in a safe location, gave businesses time to make a decision regarding the safety of their employees,” he said.

KRCG-TV (CBS) – Columbia, Mo.

Professor Ben Trachtenberg said the federal government is still investigating 2 things. First, the Department of Justice is investigating the Ferguson Police Department for possible discriminatory police actions.

*Link to Story:* [MU Law professor describes Ferguson options](#)

**Grand jury charges are easy, except against police**

*Marisol Bello, Greg Toppo and Peter Eisler, USA TODAY* 6:48 p.m. CST November 25, 2014

New York state judge Sol Wachtler once famously remarked it's so easy to get a grand jury to indict, they'd indict a ham sandwich if that's what the prosecutor wanted.

Except when it comes to police officers.

A grand jury proved that Monday when it declined to charge a white Ferguson, Mo., police officer in the shooting death of an unarmed black youth. The decision led to a wave of demonstrations and anger nationwide. In the St. Louis suburb, the protests turned violent when buildings were set on fire and more than a dozen people were hurt and 61 arrested.
So how did this jury of 12 men and women come to decide that Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson, 28, didn't commit a crime when he shot and killed 18-year-old Michael Brown?

To understand that, you have to turn to the 24 volumes of evidence with almost 5,000 pages of testimony from 60 witnesses that the jury heard from over the course of three months. That, and you have to understand human nature.

"People do not want to believe officers do bad things," Randolph McLaughlin, a law professor at Pace University in New York and a trial lawyer who has handled wrongful death cases against police, said. "Society gives them the benefit of the doubt ... It's very difficult to indict a police officer."

Then there was the evidence itself. The jury heard more than 70 hours of testimony that included often contradictory eyewitness statements, clinical autopsy reports, police radio reports, scores of photographs and diagrams of the crime scene and complicated forensic evidence about gun residue and bullet trajectory.

Wilson's testimony was among the most riveting. In almost 100 pages of testimony, Wilson gave a vivid and detailed narrative of how Brown punched him, went after his gun, ran away and then ran back at him in full charge.

Several witnesses corroborated Wilson's account that Brown had charged him. Others said Brown was standing still with his hands out in front of him, as if motioning him to stop. At least one witness said Brown was stepping back with his hands out at the time he was shot.

Dorian Johnson, a friend of Brown who was with him during the altercation, directly contradicted Wilson when he testified that the officer was the aggressor when he grabbed Brown by the shirt at his car. He says Wilson and Brown were arguing, but that his friend never went for the gun. He says Brown ran away after Wilson shot him, and never charged toward him.

Witnesses also disagreed about what occurred at the start of the altercation when Brown was next to the police car. Some saw his arms moving in and out and thought he was struggling to break free of Wilson's grasp. Others saw the same motion and concluded he was throwing punches at the officer.

Some of the evidence included highly technical discussions about the difference between gun powder soot vs. residue and the distinctions between entry and exit wounds.
Put together, all the evidence served to overwhelm, and even confuse, the grand jury, some legal experts said. They question why St. Louis Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch chose to do it that way.

**Ben Trachtenberg, a University of Missouri law professor, stopped short of saying that McCulloch laid out an overwhelming amount of evidence in order to keep the grand jury from charging Wilson.**

"I'm not prepared to say it's improper, but it's certainly unusual," he said. "It certainly looks like he put on a much greater amount of evidence than we're used to."

Normally, Trachtenberg said, a grand jury sees and hears much less evidence before being asked to vote on indicting a suspect.

"In many cases, the grand jury can see evidence in a few minutes and take a vote," he said.

That's because prosecutors simply need to establish probable cause, he said. They don't have to try the entire case.

On the other hand, prosecutors bringing what they consider a weak case before a grand jury might also present more evidence because that could save them from losing in court.

"Nobody wants to get an indictment that you just barely get, because you get smacked around in the real trial," he said.

Trachtenberg also noted that the grand jury saw evidence that helped to bolster Wilson's version of events, not secure an indictment.

Joel Shults, a retired police chief of Adams State University in Colorado, who is now a consultant and trainer, defended the prosecutor's decision to provide the grand jury all of the evidence. If McCulloch hadn't presented exhaustive evidence, critics would have accused him of withholding information that could have affected the case.

"It was not a terribly unusual kind of investigation or kind of hearing," he said.

Police officers can use deadly force when they or someone else face a threat of death or serious physical injury.

Western Connecticut State University law professor Terrence Dwyer says from what he has seen of the testimony, Wilson was justified.

"A lot of people are hung up on the fact that (Brown) was unarmed, but that doesn't factor into the criteria," Dwyer, a retired New York state police veteran, said.
Wilson told the grand jury Brown punched him repeatedly and he feared another blow would kill him or knock him out.

"That's pretty significant," he said. "You're a cop and somebody's tugging at your gun and it's pretty scary. That's a deadly weapon – if they get that it can be used against you or someone else. You're taught to protect that weapon."

Pace law professor McLaughlin isn't so sure. He suggests Wilson had an alternative course of action after Brown ran 8 to 10 feet from the police vehicle, said.

"He had already called for backup, but the officer made the decision to get out of his car and give chase," he said.

McLaughlin says such a high profile case should have gone to trial in an open court so everyone can see the evidence as it's presented. "They wanted to do it in secret and I don't trust any process done in secret," he said.

The grand jury process also presents a conflict of interest for prosecutors, who have to work day in and day out with police to make their cases stick. Prosecutors may not present their strongest case against an officer as a result, he said. The prosecutor rarely interrupted Wilson during his grand jury testimony, McLaughlin noted.

"At a trial, the prosecutor would go after the officer," McLaughlin said. "He would poke holes in his testimony. Here, the prosecutor basically just let him tell his story.

"So a grand juror puts himself in the shoes of the officer and thinks, 'What would I have done,' " he said.

It doesn't add up for Brown's family either.

"We saw how completely how unfair this process was," Brown family lawyer Benjamin Crump said Tuesday. "We object as publicly and loudly as we can on behalf of Michael Brown Jr.'s family that this process is broken. The process should be indicted."

Crump said Wilson's testimony doesn't fit his injuries and other physical evidence. He accused McCulloch of defending Wilson rather than prosecuting him — of failing to put his "best case" before the grand jury.

"Why change the rules when it is our children (of color) dead on the ground?" Crump said.

Contributing: Meghan Hoyer, Paul Overberg and John Bacon
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Journalists contemplate media influence in perceptions of Ferguson

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 | 5:55 p.m. CST; updated 5:41 a.m. CST, Wednesday, November 26, 2014

BY TORI HEPPERMANN

COLUMBIA – St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch criticized the media's constant need for news during his announcement of the grand jury's decision in the Ferguson case on Monday night.

"The most significant challenge encountered in this investigation has been the 24-hour news cycle and its insatiable appetite for something — for anything — to talk about, following closely behind with the non-stop rumors on social media," McCulloch said.

That statement prompted some response among social media users and journalists. Maureen Johnson, an author of fiction novels for young adults, tweeted: "Social media isn't the problem. Shooting children is the problem."

Matt Pearce is a national reporter for the Los Angeles Times and a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism. "Remember, the prosecutor's office told me last week that the grand jurors were NOT barred from consuming Ferguson media," he tweeted.

Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel of the Committee of Concerned Journalists and the Pew Research Center's Projects for Excellence in Journalism, wrote "The Elements of Journalism." It outlined the guiding principles of responsible reporting that contributes to democracy.

One of those principles states that journalism should "keep the news comprehensive and proportional. "Inflating events for sensation, neglecting others, stereotyping or being disproportionately negative makes for a less reliable map," the Pew Center's website states.

In Ferguson, the media have shined a spotlight on the violence and rioting of protesters.
"In order to keep journalism comprehensive and proportional during times like this, the media has to show all sides of the story," MU journalism professor Earnest Perry said.

"Of course, the media is going to highlight the sensation and violence. It has always done that because it is part of the story, but it can’t just show looting, burning buildings and protesters running down the street," Perry said. "It has to show the peaceful protesters and people sitting down and trying to figure things out as well. The media has to show the story in its entirety."

Perry’s research interests focus on African-American press history and media management.

"Media would definitely be a challenge for prosecuting attorneys and the grand jury in a time like this," Perry said. "The media constantly challenges law enforcement, prosecutors, et cetera, but both the protesters and the media are just practicing their First Amendment rights."

Lee Wilkins, a former faculty member at the Missouri School of Journalism who is now chair of the Department of Communications at Wayne State University in Detroit, thinks the media are making it more difficult for people to calm down.

"The 24-hour news cycle allows nothing new to be reported," Wilkins said. "With Ferguson, it is more difficult. There are not a lot of people that journalists can talk to during times like this so the media keeps reporting the same thing. It’s hard for journalists to develop new stories when there is limited new information."

Wilkins said that the media are taking the easy way out by focusing solely on Ferguson.

"There are other stories, both internationally and nationally, that could have been covered as well during this time," Wilkins said. "Those stories are not given justice because the media chooses to focus on Ferguson 24/7."
This semester, the University of Missouri had its highest enrollment to date, topping off at just under 35,000. With MU growing its recruiting efforts outside Missouri, it’s no wonder both out-of-state and international students are contributing record numbers to that total.

More than 10,800 out-of-state students made up 28 percent of total MU enrollment last year, up from just 4,425 students in 2003. That’s a 144 percent increase in a little more than a decade. The most out-of-state students come from Illinois, Texas, Kansas, California, Minnesota and Colorado.

International students are also a growing segment of the MU student body. From 2003 to 2013, international students grew from 5.2 percent of total enrollment to 6.8 percent, a nearly 31 percent increase to more than 2,000 students.

The turning point

Ten years ago, MU saw a population growth trend emerging that would slow growth of in-state student admissions.

“We knew the number of high school graduates throughout the Midwest would begin to decline starting in 2011 and wanted to get ahead of the negative downturn,” says MU Director of Admissions Chuck May.

The school started putting significant effort into out-of-state recruiting. The strategy: brand awareness.

“Everything was intentional and targeted,” he says, “from state-specific mailings and attendance at college fairs to counselor events.”
First, the school put full-time admissions representatives in Chicago and Dallas and another who split time between Minneapolis and Denver. These recruiters built relationships with prospective students, parents and guidance counselors, just as their counterparts did back home.

This year, MU is taking the effort even farther, to California, where the student population there is growing so fast it’s gotten harder for them to get into their state’s large public universities. The campaign is starting with direct mail and email and will be followed by recruiting trips to Los Angeles and San Diego.

More recently, about three years ago, MU recognized the trend toward higher international enrollment and created the Office of International Admissions, which is charged with strategically recruiting and evaluating applicants from outside the United States.

“Essentially, we took the Mizzou message global,” says Director of International Admissions John Wilkerson.

In 2010, MU proactively recruited international students in only one country: South Korea. In 2014, the university recruited in 59 countries, on every inhabited continent.

A global reach

One draw for international students is reputation. Rankings are important to many international students, Wilkerson says, and MU’s strong performance in that area has made a difference. He points to the university’s top 100 placement in the influential U.S. News & World Report rankings, for example.

The school’s status as a strong research university is also a key factor in boosting enrollment. In 2011 MU ranked 69th out of the top 150 research universities in the United States in terms of research funding.

Recruiting, processing and supporting a fast-growing international student body puts pressure on MU staffing and systems.

“We face similar challenges currently being experienced by the entire campus due to enrollment increases,” says David Currey, assistant director of the International Center and director of International Student & Scholar Services at MU.
That means they’re looking for ways to improve efficiency and make better use of technology. Staffing levels also have to adapt to needs, at least enough to keep up with recordkeeping and reporting compliance obligations under federal law, he says.

So what’s drawing these students to MU? A lot of factors go into any prospective college student’s decision: academic reputation, location, financial aid, hire rates for graduates, size, rankings. Financial aid and scholarships specifically for nonresidents of Missouri can also entice prospective students and make the move more appealing. The Mark Twain Nonresident Scholarship, for example, offers funding to students in the top 50 percent of their high school graduating class, with a composite ACT score of 27 or higher. Depending on ACT and SAT scores, students can receive between $2,000 and $10,000 per school year.

The Mizzou Heritage Scholarship is another attractive offering, targeting non-Missouri residents with a parent or stepparent who graduated from MU. To qualify, students must be in the top 25 percent of their graduating class with a composite ACT score of 27 or higher and a combined SAT score of 1210 or higher. The scholarship offers full waiver of nonresident tuition, about $14,000 per semester. There’s also a Global Heritage Scholarship for non-U.S. residents with an MU alum parent.

The International Merit Scholarship also aims to draw international students by offering $4,000 per year based on test scores and other criteria.

For freshman political science major Casey Edwards from San Diego, MU’s competitive scholarships and Midwestern location were big decision-makers — and so was Thai food. Columbia’s diverse downtown restaurants — including Bangkok Gardens, Chim’s Thai Kitchen and Thip Thai — helped make it a little easier to move nearly 1,700 miles from home.

“I found Columbia to be a very good-size town,” Edwards says. “It wasn’t so big that I would easily get lost, and it was big enough so I wouldn’t feel like I was in the middle of nowhere. Also, the promise of good Thai food definitely drew me in since I was afraid I would only get to enjoy it when I went home for vacations.”

Besides the draw of a welcoming town to call home and good financial aid, Edwards also cites the positive, friendly atmosphere experienced on a visit in 2013.

The student-friendly community is one important factor in a recent increase in the number of out-of-state and international students attending MU, says Columbia Chamber of Commerce President Matt McCormick. Columbia offers a vibrant collection
of restaurants and shops in The District, ample housing near campus and the ability to get around town and campus without a car.

Graduate student Dina van der Zalm agrees that Columbia’s size is ideal for students. The Greenville, S.C., native did her undergraduate studies at New York University in New York City and came to MU for a double master’s degree in social work and public health. MU originally hit her radar because it offers a lucrative and well-known fellowship for returning Peace Corps volunteers, and though the not-too-big, not-too-small size of the city was appealing, that funding became her deciding factor.

“I turned down seven other schools, including some top programs, because I could not really afford the cost of living in Chicago, Boston or New York without a fellowship as generous as the one at Mizzou,” she says.

For accounting graduate student Liuan Yang, the decision to attend MU had two major influences: the school’s stature and his mom. Yang’s mother spent time at MU as a visiting scholar and loved the experience. She recommended the school to her son, who was also impressed with the school’s rankings.

“The accounting program has an outstanding reputation nationwide,” he says. “That strengthened my decision to come to Mizzou.”

Originally from Chongqing in southwest China, Yang now serves as president of the Missouri International Student Council.

In fall 2014, MU had 2,417 international students enrolled, compared to 2,236 the previous year — an 8 percent increase in one year. Total out-of-state enrollment, including international students, went from 9,915 in fall 2013 to 10,855 this year. That represents nearly 9.5 percent growth in out-of-state enrollment in just one year.

The biggest change has been in undergraduate programs, where international enrollment has more than doubled in five years, Currey says.

Within MU, the schools with the highest increases from 2013 to 2014 were the College of Engineering, which added 58 students to total 697; the College of Arts and Science, which added 43 to total 746; and the Graduate School, which added 30 to hit 123.

MU isn’t the only school seeing this trend. Between 2003 and 2013, international student enrollment in the U.S. increased by 40 percent, according to USAcademy, an organization that helps international students seeking higher education in the United States.
A shift in global economic demographics is among several key factors contributing to the growth in international enrollment, Wilkerson says.

Business community sees benefits

The Columbia business community has a lot to gain when out-of-state enrollment is up, McCormick says. For one thing, it boosts awareness about Columbia as a great place to live and work. As prospective students visit and enrolled students spend four or more years here, local businesses get more exposure to a diverse market.

A diverse, growing and engaged student body helps make Columbia attractive to new and expanding businesses, and it’s a big factor when the Chamber of Commerce works with businesses interested in Columbia as a home base.

“We talk about the influx of students and the amount graduating every year, not just at MU but also Columbia College, Stephens, William Woods and the other schools we have here,” McCormick says. “It makes it easier to sell.”

The flow of students into and out of higher education in Columbia also represents a built-in workforce, which is attractive to companies looking to hire, especially because many students end up staying in Columbia after they graduate or returning at some point down the road.

That means there are more students available for internships and part-time jobs and more post-graduates interested in finding work or starting their own businesses. McCormick says the life sciences and technology fields especially benefit from a highly educated workforce passionate about their community, as evidenced by the MU Life Sciences Incubator and the Downtown Incubator, which foster and support startups.

One local industry that sees especially strong benefits from increased out-of-state enrollment is travel and tourism. As locals are well aware, football games, family weekends, graduation and other events bring such an influx of visitors that it’s hard to find a hotel room or a table at a restaurant.

“Whether students are from another country or another state, they’re bringing their families and friends to visit,” McCormick says. “They’re staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants and shopping in our stores.”

Currey says MU’s international program sees the local business community as a valued partner in the effort to make international students feel welcomed.
“Their support and partnership are essential in our efforts to smooth the transitions students must go through to be successful at Mizzou,” he says.

Although a growing student body presents any college town with challenges around housing and infrastructure, it also gives Columbia character and spirit, McCormick says.

“That’s what helps keep the city alive and the passion alive in the community,” he says.

And though in-state students are accustomed to the widely varied and unpredictable Missouri weather, at least one California transplant still has some adjusting to do.

“I’m getting adjusted to very hot one day and rainy the next, and I’m very nervous for the snow,” Edwards says. “But the incredibly different weather wasn’t enough to deter me from choosing another school.”

Friends remember Frank Mitchell's personality, trauma care work at memorial

By ASHLEY JOST

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 10:45 am

Friends and family told stories of a lifetime of accomplishments Monday morning at a memorial service for Frank Mitchell.

Mitchell was a pioneer in trauma care at the University of Missouri. He died Nov. 14 at age 84 after years of battling lung cancer.

“I think he would have thought it was too much,” former Boone County Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper said of the service for Mitchell. “He was never one to draw attention to himself. He was one of those men that allowed his actions to speak more than words. I think he’d be very pleased and be very honored. He would think we did too much.”

Stamper was one of several friends who helped organize the service, which included a showing of air ambulance staff from MU Health Care as well as other emergency medical crew members. One
of Mitchell’s accomplishments was starting the university’s ambulance and medical helicopter services.

Mitchell spent 40 years of his career at MU, working as the chairman of University Physicians—a group of School of Medicine faculty who practice with MU Health hospitals and clinics—a professor of surgery and the director of the hospital trauma center, where he gained much of his reputation.

Friends and colleagues told stories about Mitchell at the Memorial Funeral Home, 1217 Business Loop 70 W., most of which involved a hint of mischief.

Hal Williamson, MU vice chancellor for health systems, recalled Mitchell noticing an area that should have had a ramp to help create a smoother gurney ride for patients being brought into the hospital. Mitchell made the request, but it wasn’t met with his standard of haste.

“So, he went across the street to ACE Hardware, bought concrete mix and poured the ramp himself,” Williamson said, adding that it was “to the shock of the hospital’s engineer.” Shortly after, the ramp was rebuilt to meet standards, but Mitchell liked to note when telling the story that it got done— and done fast, Williamson said.

Mitchell’s wife, Lynn, and two of his three sons attended the service, along with several of his grandchildren. Lynn Mitchell was presented with a Missouri flag by members of the Missouri EMS Funeral Response Team Honor Guard.

At the end of the service, paramedics turned on their radios while air communication rang a final tone in Mitchell’s honor.

“May God rest his soul,” the communication officer said over the speaker.
The president of Eckerd College, in Florida, is catching heat from students after he wrote in an email that they should drink less alcohol as a way of preventing sexual assault, the *Tampa Bay Times* reports.

Donald R. Eastman III wrote on Sunday that students could help mitigate sexual assault on the campus in two ways:

1. *By limiting your own consumption of alcohol, and encouraging your friends to do the same.*
   Socrates included wine at his Symposium, but he did not get drunk.

2. *You can be thoughtful about the dramatic and often negative psychological effects that sexual activity without commitment can have.*
   Virtue in the area of sexuality is its own reward, and has been held in high esteem in Western culture for millennia because those who are virtuous are happier as well as healthier. No one’s culture or character or understanding is improved by casual sex, and the physical and psychological risks to both genders are profound.

Students interviewed by the *Times* criticized the president’s remarks as out of touch. “Instead of teaching people that it’s wrong to have casual sex and drink alcohol,” said Marlene Heyning, a sophomore, “how about teaching them that having sex with someone who says ‘no’ is not OK?”

Mr. Eastman told the newspaper he was not placing blame on rape survivors. “I was trying to say that we would have a healthier and less dangerous campus if people drank less and took their sexual relations more seriously,” he said.