COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: Campus police monitoring MU Black Culture Center after it was threatened on Yik Yak

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 | 5:03 p.m. CST; updated 9:06 p.m. CST, Tuesday, December 2, 2014

BY KENDALL FOLEY

This story has been updated to include comments from the Office of the Chancellor.

COLUMBIA — Campus police are more closely monitoring the MU Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center after an anonymous threat to the center was posted on the app Yik Yak on Tuesday afternoon.

"Let’s burn down the black culture center & give them a taste of their own medicine," the post read. The Yik Yak app does not include time stamps.

The MU Police Department was notified of the threat and has been in contact with the director of the Black Culture Center, Capt. Brian Weimer said. The department was keeping a watch on the situation Tuesday afternoon but didn't have immediate plans of action.

There are no current plans to find the identity of the poster, he said.

Representatives from the Black Culture Center and the MU4MikeBrown movement declined to comment on the situation. Several hundred people participated in a rally led by MU4MikeBrown around noon Tuesday in the MU Student Center.

On Tuesday evening, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin wrote a statement in response to the post and other "racist, threatening and disturbing comments posted on anonymous social media sites," which were likely written by MU students, he said.

"These statements have a chilling effect on discussion that is intended to improve our campus climate and ensure freedom of expression for all students in a safe and inclusive environment," he said in a message on his office's website Tuesday evening.

This isn't the first time threats have been posted in Columbia on the social media app, which allows anonymous users to submit posts visible to other users in a 1.5-mile radius.
September, Rock Bridge High School was put on a modified lockdown after a user posted a shooting threat, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Administrators hear criticism at MU forum on race, Ferguson

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 1:00 pm Comments (15)

University of Missouri administrators faced withering criticism at an open forum Monday to discuss how the school deals with race issues.

MU hosted the forum for students, faculty and staff to discuss recent events in Ferguson, but the conversation focused on campus race issues. The two-hour forum in Jesse Wrench Auditorium at Memorial Union went over its allotted time by more than 20 minutes. More than 150 people attended the event.

Some of the speakers said the forum and university leaders’ comments about the unrest happening a little more than 100 miles away in Ferguson were too little, too late.

“We’ve been carrying something in our spirits that makes it harder to even exist on a campus in the state that this happened in,” said Carl Kenney, part-time journalism professor.

Kenney noted that the forum was taking place two weeks before the end of the semester. Michael Brown was shot and killed by a Ferguson police officer Aug. 9, before the fall semester began at MU. Last week, a grand jury decided not to indict Darren Wilson, the officer who shot Brown to death. The notice of Monday’s forum went out to campus after the grand jury decision was made public.

Before announcing the forum, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin sent out an email to students, faculty and staff expressing “support for all members of our community who may be directly or indirectly affected by the ongoing events in Ferguson.”

Kenney challenged administrators not to wait so long to listen to students or make a public statement. This time, “we waited too long,” he said.
When Earnest Perry, an associate professor in the MU School of Journalism who moderated the forum, tried to engage students to start coming to the microphones for discussion, he posed a few questions: Where do we go from here on the conversation about race? Are you still angry?

Several students said they are exhausted but not necessarily angry.

“I’m tired that my school was literally rooted in the oppression against me,” MU student Naomi Daugherty said, referring to MU’s ties to slave owning families in its early days.

One student demanded that administrators listen to the students speaking and find a way to meet their needs.

“My name is Kayla Jackson Williams. I pay $22,000 a year for you to listen to me,” she said, addressing Loftin after pointing out that he was looking at his phone while she spoke. On Twitter, a student who was sitting behind Loftin noted the chancellor was taking notes on his iPad during the forum.

Loftin said it wasn’t his intent to respond to students or speak — he wanted to listen.

“I shed tears for the students who spoke from their hearts,” he said in an email.

The chancellor said he monitored social media after the grand jury announcement to see what students were saying. This listening session was a starting point, but he hopes to have “other events” before the semester closes Dec. 19. There were no details about dates of future discussions.

“My goal is to communicate with the entire campus before the semester ends and have time over the semester break to work with a number of leaders to create action plans,” he said in the email.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: MU students walk out of class in protest of Michael Brown's death, racial inequality

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 | 2:32 p.m. CST; updated 7:06 a.m. CST, Wednesday, December 3, 2014

BY MISSOURIAN STAFF

COLUMBIA — The chants were repeated often. The hundreds protesting the circumstances of Michael Brown’s death and the subsequent decision by a grand jury to not indict Police Officer Darren Wilson wanted to get across a clear message.
"Black lives matter!" they screamed.

**Students participating in the demonstration and others observing the event packed the MU Student Center to listen to other students and a few faculty and administration members speak about Brown and racial inequality.**

**Representatives from Legion of Black Collegians, MU4MikeBrown and MU NACCP, among other groups, organized the event.**

Many of the students had staged a "Hands Up Walkout," in which they left their classes at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday and walked to the student center with their hands raised. Walkouts also took place across the country this week.

Sophomore Shelbey Parnell led more than 30 students down Hitt Street. She said she was in front only because she was the first to walk out of her class. As Parnell guided the group to the student center, she yelled, "Show me what democracy looks like!" The group replied, "This is what democracy looks like!"

The demonstration at the student center lasted more than an hour and a half. It included 4 1/2 minutes of silence to represent the 4 1/2 hours Brown lay dead in the street after Wilson shot him.

The students participated in chants, read the names of people of color who were killed in acts of violence, lay on the ground in a "die-in," held hands in solidarity and painted their hands red. Many students spoke about the Brown situation and examples of racial injustice.

Senior Naomi Daugherty, the student leader for MU4MikeBrown, gave a "white privilege checklist," citing instance after instance in which she and others feel that whites have advantages over minority races in America.

"If you aren't afraid to bring children into this world because they might be killed for being black, you have white privilege," she said.

Donell Young, senior coordinator of the Office of Student Affairs, also spoke. "When I'm asked about my emotions regarding the case, my emotions are everywhere," Young said. "I am happy. I am tired. I'm not afraid to say that I'm angry. We have the right to get angry. It's how we channel the anger and how we direct the anger that matters."
Young said he was excited that the outrage after Brown's death has opened doors for discussions about race relations in America.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs spoke about how, as a woman, she had to go through times when she didn't feel as if she was being taken seriously. But she added, "Not to the degree that many of you do."

Scroggs talked about her experience attending the campus forum on Ferguson Monday night and said that one of her biggest takeaways was hearing students say they were "tired" of protesting.

"I wish I could tell you that we're going to do something to help you not be tired," Scroggs said. "But I suspect that all of us that have known any type of oppression, we're gonna have to work, and work, and work and work."

MU students walk out of class to highlight problems in race relations

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 4:54 pm Comments (13)

The University of Missouri students organizing events and demonstrations focused on the death of Michael Brown and the events that followed in Ferguson say they're tired.

They’re tired, they said at a Tuesday demonstration, of being the only black students willing to lead. As the movement appears to pick up momentum, the student leaders of the MU 4 Mike Brown effort are hoping for more involvement.

Naomi Daugherty was one of several speakers Tuesday afternoon to encourage other students to be part of MU 4 Mike Brown, as well as other black student organizations.

Students, staff members, faculty and a few administrators gathered in the MU Student Center on Tuesday after walking out of their classes at 11:45 a.m. The demonstration at the student center opened with chants like “no justice, no peace,” while many held signs.
“I am glad that people are learning the value of black lives,” Daugherty said at the beginning of the program after 4 ½ minutes of silence to mark the hours Brown’s body lay in the street after he was killed. The officer who killed Brown, Darren Wilson, was not indicted by a grand jury, though a federal investigation is still in progress.

Donell Young, assistant director of Student Life at MU, was among the speakers. He told the students who gathered that this is a “pivotal point in history” where it could be possible to make some of the change the students said they hoped for. He urged them to become lawyers, lawmakers, teachers and police officers to help start that change.

Young also brought up the issue of black-on-black crime.

“We need to show people that we believe black lives matter,” he said.

Several speakers brought up white privilege, saying that to be a “white ally” to the cause, they need to “check their privilege at the door.”

Cathy Scroggs, vice chancellor of student affairs, empathized with students. As a female, she said she understands being a target of gender discrimination, while recognizing the difference between gender and race bias.

“My name is Cathy Scroggs. I am the vice chancellor for student affairs and I have white privilege,” she said after some students encouraged whites to speak.

“We have got to change the institution, change the community, the state, the county and ultimately change the world,” Scroggs said. “I want to be part of that change. I want to stand with you.”

After the speakers, hundreds of students dipped their hands in red paint and put a handprint on a sign that read “black lives matter.”

Students "Walk Out" in support of Michael Brown
COLUMBIA - University of Missouri students walked out of class at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday, in support of Michael Brown.

Students walked from class with their hands up to MU’s student center, where they began a peaceful demonstration.

Students chanted "black lives matter" and "no justice, no peace". Students also laid on the ground for four-and-a-half minutes in silence to remember Michael Brown.

The demonstration was student-lead, and one student involved talked about how the plan for the demonstration started.

"Initially we had planned a march and rally after the indictment announcement, but that happened during the break. So we decided to have a demonstration," Legion of Black Collegians political chair Jennifer Pagan said. "We basically wanted to demand justice for all black bodies like we did in our previous die-in which we had a month or two ago. It was the same kind of idea behind it, making people aware that we're here on this campus and that we matter.

Pagan thinks these demonstrations are important to bring to the community's attention.

"A lot of the time people think it's an isolated issue, but it definitely stretches to all communities," Pagan said.

After the initial demonstration, speakers and officials from the university spoke about their experiences and recited poems to educate listeners on police brutality.

One student who participated in the demonstration said being an African American male makes the issue important to him.

"It affects me personally. College is one of the times in your life where you have a chance to be vocal about issues and want to make change. So while we're still forming our idea of ourselves, this is the time to make changes for the things you believe in," student Brandon Pascal said. "I have a very heavy heart for all of the incidents that happened to African American men with the police brutality and racial profiling. It's something that means a lot to me."

Students asked faculty members to speak at the demonstration and Vice Chancellor for student affairs Cathy Scroggs wanted to make sure all students know they matter.

"All lives matter. I wanted to remind our students that we're all in this together. Certainly we need to make some changes here, but we all want to be apart of this change," Scroggs said.
Students implore administration be proactive, not reactive

The “Ferguson Listening Session” on Monday highlighted an urgency to discuss solutions to racial issues on campus.

By Crystal Duan

People hesitated to speak even after associate professor and event moderator Earnest Perry left the microphone open during a “Ferguson Listening Session” on Monday evening in Jesse Wrench Auditorium.

The room was filled with students, administrators and faculty responding to an email that Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin sent out expressing “support for all members of our community who may be directly or indirectly affected by the ongoing events in Ferguson.”

Both before and after the grand jury’s Nov. 24 decision to not indict officer Darren Wilson for the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, students had held vigils and marches that the administration had not directly addressed.

Now, they were listening. Media had been asked to not record or photograph the event so people could speak freely and openly, but people still hesitated before speaking.

“We may not have many answers today,” Perry said. “We may not have any answers today. But this conversation is not the end. It is a beginning of a series of conversations.”

He decided to pose two leading questions.

“Where do we go from here?” he asked the crowd. “How do we begin to have a meaningful conversation, not just a polarized back and forth?”

His second question pertained to observations from social media.

“Are you all still angry?” he asked.

Voicing weariness

The students who responded during the discussion said they weren’t just angry. Many, who asked that their names be withheld, said they were tired.

Curtis Taylor Jr., president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, said much of MU hadn’t come out to listen to them.

“We can barely fit a group of 100 (in this room) on a campus of 35,000,” he said.
Senior Naomi Daugherty, an organizer of MU4MikeBrown, said progressive solutions needed to come now, when administrative concern should have come sooner.

Daugherty implored allies to educate themselves, "instead of asking marginalized groups to continuously tell (them) about the uncomfortable oppression they live every day."

But the administration also needed to step up and pay more attention, she said, addressing Loftin.

“We’ve been tweeting at you about this since August,” she said. “Why is this discussion happening only now?”

Taylor had a similar point.

“I’m going to ask the administration: are you angry?” he said.

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Jim Spain was the only administrator who directly responded.

Spain said he had met with the Four Front Minority Student Leaders Council, who implored him to create a required “diversity education” course at the university.

The proposal had gone to Faculty Council, who reviewed the idea of having a diversity requirement but wanted to make it more complex, thereby not formally passing it at this time.

However, Spain said, the possibility of a mandatory course will continue to be discussed.

“We don’t get it right every day here,” he said. “I know that. But we’re trying to make efforts here.”

Spain also pointed to the university’s current optional Multicultural Certificate, which 800 students are voluntarily completing.

But students like senior Ashley Bland said these efforts were not large enough.

“We’re not necessarily trying to change policy,” she said. “We’re trying to change thought. We need to acknowledge the divide.”

Speaking directly to the administration, Bland asked that faculty acknowledge these issues before they happened, that they “stop being reactive and start being proactive.”

“You need to be there for your students, not just in the classroom,” she said.

**Discussing solutions**

Bland urged the administration to give more attention to important resources for black students.
She suggested giving the National Pan-Hellenic Council equal attention, equal funding for the Legion of Black Collegians and pushing for more culturally relevant courses as general education requirements.

Daugherty provided solutions in a similar vein. She said while also being more committed to disciplinary action in response to bias reports, the administration should also mandate that all instructors go through an inner group dialogue training course.

This sensitivity training, Daugherty said, was something that all faculty should do to actively prevent any racial disregard in the classroom.

Taylor also emphasized the importance of making sure the journalism school was teaching its students to tell stories the right way, and not sensationalizing aspects of Ferguson like he said the current media was doing.

“There was more peaceful stuff going on (in Ferguson) than violence,” he said.

Sean McLafferty, a spring 2014 MU graduate and Ferguson resident, asked the audience to make change that was tangible off campus as well.

“The city of Ferguson is offering a scholarship to hire more black officers in the police department,” he said. “We need to have more critical discussion, and try to bridge the divide in our communities.”

Post-doctoral fellow Kristopher Ebarb said that a common misconception that the majority held about minorities was that racism is hate.

“But the kind of racism that brought down Mike Brown and so many others was fear,” he said. “It’s a baseless fear that we need to deny and reject. But racism is about seemingly innocuous biases. Whites become defensive because it feels like they’re being accused of hate that they don’t recognize in themselves. We need to make a distinction.”

Freshmen Kaylah Stewart and Kristen Harris, who are from Ferguson, said the discussion was a start, but still not enough.

“Considering half of the room was faculty, we definitely needed more people,” Harris said after the event.

Stewart said she believed the talk had opened a few eyes, but the indifferent majority had not cared to share their voices.

“It’s an issue of knowledgeable versus unknowledgeable,” Stewart said. “We’re a minority (in race), but we’re still not a minority (in number). There’s enough of us for you to know, for you to know our culture. It’s not like we’re one in a million. You see us around.”
Loftin vows to continue racial discussions amid criticism

“I characterized this as a listening session. It was not my intent to respond or speak. I will continue listening and gathering input. We will craft responses as appropriate as we go forward,” he said in a statement.

By Covey Eonyak Son

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin hosted a “Ferguson Listening Session” on Monday to hear from MU community members about the ongoing events in Ferguson, Missouri and concerns many students have about racial issues on campus.

Loftin and his administration were criticized by students at the forum for not responding sooner and were urged to “stop being reactive and start being proactive.”

Loftin did not speak during the forum, but provided the following statement via email Tuesday afternoon in response to the criticism:

“It was a powerful 2.5 hours. I shed tears for the students who spoke from their hearts.

I characterized this as a listening session. It was not my intent to respond or speak. I will continue listening and gathering input. We will craft responses as appropriate as we go forward.

As to importance, I am aware of many forums, panels, speeches and gatherings that occurred on campus after Ferguson. I followed as best I could those activities.

After the Monday night announcement, I spent hours on social media "listening" to what our students were saying. I felt that it was important to provide an initial forum on the first day students were back to give them an opportunity to gather and to tell me and others on campus what their feelings were. As you observed, we did not talk about Ferguson or the grand jury decision very much. It was much more about them, the campus climate and ideas about how we can get better. That was my hope for this meeting and other events that will occur over the next few weeks.

My goal is to communicate with the entire campus before the semester ends and have time over the semester break to work with a number of leaders to create action plans.”
MU4MikeBrown demonstration draws hundreds

The event began at noon and lasted for about an hour and a half.

Hundreds of students showed up as MU4MikeBrown held a demonstration in the Student Center on Tuesday. The demonstration started at noon and lasted about an hour and a half.

The demonstration, protesting a grand jury’s decision not to indict Darren Wilson, the former Ferguson, Missouri, police officer who fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown in August, began with a group performing some of the call-and-response chants that have become a part of many of the movements surrounding the Brown shooting. Demonstrators chanted phrases such as “No justice, no peace, no racist police” and “Black lives matter.”

Protesters held up signs expressing frustration with the justice system and law enforcement, showing phrases such as “Indict the System” and “End Racism.”

The leaders of the protest finished the chanting after about 15 minutes and then asked the crowd to participate in a ‘die-in’ for four and a half minutes to represent the four and a half hours Michael Brown lay in the street after police officer Darren Wilson shot him.

Following the die-in, senior Naomi Daugherty began a series of speeches by presenting her version of Peggy McIntosh’s “White Privilege Checklist,” which Daugherty altered to apply directly to MU. She titled it, “Unpacking the Invisible Mizzou Backpack,” modeling it after McIntosh’s title “Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.”

Daugherty listed privileges such as the ability to attend Mizzou for its entire 175 years, which was denied to black students until the 1950s, being surrounded by people of one’s race in classes, being treated with respect by one’s professor without receiving surprise at one’s intelligence and having MU’s Homecoming Court, administrators and professors reflect one’s race.

Following Daugherty, a series of speakers discussed how African-Americans are forced to navigate a system that is opposed to treating them fairly. In between speakers, the organizers of the demonstration read the names of African-Americans killed by police within the last several years who were unarmed, such as Eric Garner and Oscar Grant.

Senior LeChae Mottley, Legion of Black Collegians President and an organizer of the event, shared afterward what the demonstration and the larger movement mean to her.
“We’re literally fighting for our lives,” Mottley said. “We’re literally fighting so that people understand that black lives matter, just like all the other lives in the U.S., and the world, matter, which our justice system and police enforcement haven’t proven to agree with. Really, what we’re doing is standing up for our beliefs. We’re standing up for people to value our lives and to realize that we are people that deserve to live, essentially.”

One of the speakers at the event was Student Life Assistant Director Donell Young, who oversees the Office of Student Conduct, Multicultural Center and the Gaines-Oldham Black Cultural Center.

He discussed in his speech how he fears for his sons, his emotions regarding the case and his anger toward the results, but also his excitement of the potential change that could occur.

“I’m very emotional. I want to cry, because I’m so happy,” Young said. “I’ve been here over 10 years, and we’ve had issues or incidents on campus where students do get motivated or organized to address and explain to administrators how they feel, and I think they’ve done it in a productive way. I’m so happy for the opportunity because the students are passionate. I’m sad that we don’t have more men being supportive, but I’m happy with the leadership and the direction we’re going. I think if we channel this energy, something very great and positive can come out of this.”

Young also said how this issue ties into his role on campus.

“As a black male, it’s something very close and dear to my heart,” Young said. “I’m supportive of our students. As students are affected, it doesn’t matter what side you’re on, as a person in student life my job is to support our students emotionally to help them be successful. My job is to help students, so that’s part of what I do.”

Young said he hopes to see concrete change as a result of the protests and discussions that have been occurring on MU’s campus.

“I would like to see a plan,” Young said. “People are upset and frustrated, and we need to identify issues. Once you identify the issues, then you can figure out what the solution to that issue is.”

Young said he wants students to be excited about the potential positives that could result from the movement.

“Be excited about this pivotal time in history,” Young said. “Use the energy to strategize a plan to effect change; don’t be a bystander, be a part of it. We need to understand that this issue is bigger than our individual selves and we need to lay down a foundation for the next generation. We may not see the fruits of our labor, but it’s important for people that follow behind us to have Mizzou be a better place than what it is now.”

Senior Curtis Taylor Jr. said he attended the demonstration because it represents much to him.
“I think it means a wake-up call,” Taylor said. “I’m a firm believer that subtle racism is just as bad as blatant racism, and so to allow students who have been seen as invisible for so long to finally become visible, whether that be to administrators, professional staff, to faculty, or to other students … if we can bring that reality to light and understand that this is the life that we live every day; if you can only see it for a glimpse, then we did our job.”

Taylor said he wants students to do one thing as they continue with the movement.

“Wage peace,” Taylor said.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs also spoke at the event and addressed the issue of being invisible.

“I have white privilege,” Scroggs said in her speech. “I know this. I recognize this. I am also a woman, and I’m old. And so, as a woman, I know what it’s like sometimes to be treated as if I was invisible.”

Scroggs said in her speech that MU is aware it needs to address racial problems on its campus and she is actively looking for solutions.

Junior Byron Norman, who is on LBC’s Political Committee, shared with the crowd how he was disappointed in a recent meeting with Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, which only 25 black men attended.

In his speech, he talked about the discrimination African-Americans face solely based on their skin color.

“Education and voting is not going to solve everything, because all of us here are educated and we’re in school and we’re trying to do something positive with our life,” Norman said. “But as soon as we go home to wherever we’re from, Chicago, St. Louis, Texas, Atlanta, we have a bulls-eye on our back. Nobody knows what kind of education we have, they just know what they see in the media, (which is) that we’re bad people. And we’re not bad people.”

Norman then asked more members of the community to get involved and make their voices heard.

“We have to change the system in which we’re in, and how do you do that?” Norman asked. “You can be a senator, you can be a governor, you can be a mayor; those are people who can affect change. You can be a police officer; those are people who can affect change. Even if you’re studying journalism, the media is the most powerful thing, so everyone has a part they can do.”

Norman ended his speech expressing his disapproval of current race relations in the U.S.

“Everyone should be safe walking down the street: Whether you’re at home, at the store, we shouldn’t be followed; we shouldn’t have to deal with this every single day,” Norman said. “This
is 2014. The shackles have been off for hundreds of years, but we’re still in some type of slavery? Come on.”

Daugherty brought the event to a close with her own call to action.

“This is a collective,” Daugherty said. “We need all of you. It can’t continuously be five of us organizing. I am tired. We are tired. I need all of you to go home and email MU4MikeBrown and say, ‘I want to organize.’ You need to take this movement and put it in your heart because this is ours.”

MU could hire second female provost in university history

Three of the four candidates for the position are women.

MU has been searching for a provost since Brian Foster retired on Jan. 1, and there are four candidates for the position: Michele Wheatly, John Wiencek, Nancy Brickhouse and Garnett Stokes. If one of the three female candidates is hired, she would become the second female provost in university history.

Lois DeFleur, provost from 1986 to 1990, was the university’s only female provost since the position was created in 1966. Lori Franz also served as interim provost from 2004 to 2005.

Six of the 12 schools in the Southeastern Conference currently have a female provost: the universities of Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee, Texas A&M University and Vanderbilt University. Four other schools have a male provost, and two — MU and the University of Alabama — currently have male interim provosts.

Men outnumber women in other areas of MU’s administration. According to the MU Council of Deans website, only two of the university’s 13 deans are women.

One of the two female deans, Judith Miller, held a variety of administrative positions at Marquette University in Milwaukee before becoming dean of the Sinclair School of Nursing in 2008. She said she sees being a woman as an advantage in the academic field.

“Diversity is very important in this era in academics, and it’s absolutely recognized that diversity, in this case gender diversity, brings different perspectives to the table,” Miller said. “I have never felt held back in any way.”
Miller said she believes a female provost would bring unique leadership skills to the university, including team building, inclusivity and sensitivity.

“I think women are interested in learning about others and varied perspectives, and have a decision-making model that depends on input of experience from others,” she said. “Women can be persuasive and make solid decisions while being empathetic at the same time. They have a sense of flexibility about organizations and management.”

Vice Chancellor for Finance Rhonda Gibler said when she was hired as MU’s budget director, she was surprised to hear that she was MU’s first female budget director.

“It hadn’t crossed my mind that it mattered one way or another,” she said. “I think my gender hasn’t really mattered (in my career), compared to the content of my work, my interest and working with other people on the team.”

Gibler said she believes experience and background is more important than gender in the new provost.

“I got to meet each of the candidates and I felt that each of them has really good background experience to bring to the position,” she said. “I will certainly embrace whoever gets the role. As another woman, I don’t mind rooting for them, but I want the most qualified candidate to get the job.”

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Cathy Scroggs started her career as a residence hall coordinator at Stephens College before becoming the director of Greek Life at MU. She said she doesn’t believe being a woman affected her rise to administration at MU.

“The provost is an academic leader that helps us shape and provide the academic programs for undergraduates and graduates,” she said. “I don’t know that gender is going to matter in terms of a person’s ability to provide leadership in that area. As a woman, it’s always exciting to see another woman have an opportunity to serve in a leadership role like this, especially a really critical leadership role.”

Scroggs said a strong academic leader in the position will help move the university forward and offer a role model for people across campus.

“If the new provost is a female, then I think young women can look at that person and say, ‘I can do that someday,’” she said. “The first time I had a woman who was a professor in a science class I was taking … I thought, ‘Wow, this may be something I could do. There’s somebody that looks like me.’”

Miller, Gibler and Scroggs all said they have seen an increase of women in administrative positions during their careers.
“I think the number of women in administration has increased because diversity is recognized as a very positive attribute to have,” Miller said. “Diversity brings varied perspectives, worldviews, thoughts and ideas.”

Director of MU Equity Noel English said she believes diversity is essential to hiring the best possible candidate for university positions.

“Diversity is not only about the numbers, but it is in part about the numbers,” she said in an email. “Diverse hiring brings new ideas and allows us to consider our decision from multiple perspectives. Sometimes a white male is the best person to lead a diverse organization, and sometimes not.”

**UM System hospitals increase patients, revenue after Affordable Care Act**

Eight million Americans signed up for insurance during the first open enrollment period.

By Jennifer Prohov

Open enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace, established by the Affordable Care Act, has begun for a second year, right on the tails of the 2014 midterm elections.

The Republican Party, which cruised to victory in Missouri and in U.S. Congress, has made repealing the Affordable Care Act one of its top priorities.

In the last enrollment period, the marketplace signed up eight million people for insurance coverage across the country, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website.

As of July, Missouri has seen 33,299 fewer people enroll in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program since the start of the first open enrollment period in Oct. 2013.

**These changes have affected Missouri hospitals, such as the University of Missouri Health System. System spokesperson Mary Jenkins said patient admissions and revenue have increased steadily since 2011.**

Jenkins said she has observed that the hospital is experiencing changes in its insurance operations as well.
“We’ve found that our negotiations with insurers have not become easier or harder since the ACA was implemented, but the focus and topics of our discussions have changed and expanded,” Jenkins said.

Julie Brookhart, Kansas City Regional Office of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services spokeswoman, said she does not know how the recent turnover of party control in Congress will affect the law.

“As far as any predictions of how these numbers could change given the newly elected Republican Congress, we do not speculate on what Congress will or will not pass into law,” Brookhart said. “(CMS) implements, through programs, what is passed into law, and until the law changes, we will continue to implement the current ACA law as it stands today.”

According to the Department of Health and Human Services website, 3,034 people in Columbia enrolled in the Marketplace during the first open enrollment period. Enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace for the 2015 coverage period will end Feb. 15, 2015.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

SEC fines Missouri for recent field rush
Tuesday, December 2, 2014 | 3:09 p.m. CST; updated 4:39 p.m. CST, Tuesday, December 2, 2014

BY SETH BOSTER

COLUMBIA — A recent celebration on Faurot Field has come with a price.

The Southeastern Conference on Monday announced that it has fined the University of Missouri $25,000 for the field-rushing that occurred after the Tigers beat Arkansas 21-14 and secured a place in Saturday's conference championship game against Alabama.

The university violated the SEC's "access to competition area" policy for a second time. The first instance happened following last year's football win over Texas A&M to close out the regular season. After that game's field-rushing, the league fined Missouri $5,000.

A $50,000 fine will be incurred for any future violation of the policy, which states that fans are prohibited from storming the playing area of any sporting event involving an SEC team.
"For the safety of participants and spectators alike, at no time before, during or after a contest shall spectators be permitted to enter the competition area," SEC spokesman Chuck Dunlap wrote in a press release. "It is the responsibility of each member institution to implement procedures to ensure compliance with this policy."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Veteran newscaster Bob Priddy retires after 40 years on the Capitol beat

Wednesday, December 3, 2014 | 6:00 a.m. CST

BY CLAIRE BOSTON

JEFFERSON CITY — Even outside the recording booth, Bob Priddy's voice is smooth and deep, perfect for radio.

He also talks quickly. It's a side effect of needing to cover three or four stories in a minute-long broadcast.

When he's recording a segment for the Missourinet news network, he lowers his voice and adopts the up-and-down cadence of a seasoned broadcaster. More than 40 years of radio will do that to you.

Radio is precise work. Each broadcast must be pruned to 59 or 60 seconds. Priddy aims to be in that range without any tweaking.

“I think this one ought to be pretty good,” he says, pulling up a freshly recorded 2 p.m. broadcast.

Priddy opens Adobe Audition, his editing software. The audio comes in at 1:00.3. He complains about being 3/10ths of a second over, scrolls through the audio and finds half a second of dead air to delete. 59.799. Perfect.

Priddy joined Missourinet in 1974 when it was a radio start-up with a mission to distribute statewide news to small-town radio stations. On Monday, he retired as Missourinet's news director after spending 40 years covering the legislature, crusading for open government and becoming an authority on state history.
Missourinet’s managing editor, Mike Lear, assumed many of Priddy’s responsibilities this week, and the network will hire a reporter to take over the state Senate coverage Priddy did for 25 years. Priddy’s colleagues say they’ll miss his presence at the press table when the legislative session begins in January.

“Bob is very much so the professor of the newsroom,” said Lear, who joined Missourinet in 2011. “He’s been a great friend and a very supportive individual. There’s no ego there when it comes to dealing with his staff.”

Before his retirement, Priddy owned the 11 a.m., noon, 1 and 2 p.m. broadcasts, which he recorded in a batch around 10:30. Sometimes he took over the later afternoon segments if his coworkers were on assignment.

Gone were the days of waking up before dawn to record the 6 a.m. news. Priddy did that for years, before handing the work off to Lear earlier this year. But even during his last days, he put in long nights.

On election night last month, Priddy and Lear left the newsroom around midnight. Legislative sessions can stretch even longer. An average workday lasted 11 or 12 hours. Sixteen wasn’t unheard of.

At 73, Priddy says he can’t handle late nights as he did when he was younger, but he is still passionate about his work.

“You get to go places and see things and talk to people the average citizens never get to be involved with,” he said. “It’s part of what keeps people going for so long.”

**Back to basics**

Priddy keeps a copy of the Journalist’s Creed, written by the Missouri School of Journalism’s founding dean, above his desk:

"*I believe that clear thinking, clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.*

"*I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.*"
When he graduated from MU in 1963, he had a 2.2 GPA — up from the 2.1 he had when he started at the School of Journalism. Long nights working at radio stations and struggles with French dragged down his GPA, he said, but learning about interesting people in his classes inspired an interest in Missouri history.

"College history was taught so much differently and more interestingly than high school history," Priddy said. "When I got to the University of Missouri, I got to learn about the fascinating people of history and what they were doing. I think that's what really turned me around as far as my orientation toward history and my interest in it."

Although he grew up in Illinois, Priddy’s knowledge of Missouri history is encyclopedic. It became a three-volume book series called "Across Our Wide Missouri" that he wrote between 1982 and 1994.

He’s also written books on the Thomas Hart Benton mural in the Missouri House Lounge and other art in the Capitol. He’s a State Historical Society of Missouri trustee and a regular lecturer around the state.

As an undergrad, Priddy remembers fretting that his low GPA would keep him from attending the School of Journalism. In 2002, the Journalism School awarded him an Honor Medal, its highest recognition of distinguished contributions to the profession.

**Good old days**

A lot has changed in radio since Missourinet launched four decades ago. Priddy never sliced bits of audiotape with a razor blade to put together a broadcast, but editing on a computer still seems like a sea change.

It used to be easy to walk into just about any state official’s office and snag an interview. These days, Priddy said, media handlers manage the schedules of many politicians.

But he tries not to hold onto a nostalgic view of journalism.

“I don’t believe in the good old days,” Priddy said. “Today is a good old day.”

He’s also seen the changes in the Capitol press corps. Two wire services, two papers each in St. Louis and Kansas City and several papers from smaller towns used to make up the Statehouse press pool. The corps is leaner now.
He says that today's stories are shorter and more direct than they used to be, although journalists still bury hard news under layers of flowery prose in the name of storytelling. He also laments that too many reporters try to become part of the stories they cover.

If there were good old days for Priddy, they were decades ago, when radio had dramas on the air and commanding broadcasters like Edward R. Murrow.

“Radio used to create images between the ears,” Priddy said. “The pictures up there were much better than anything you’d see on TV. Sometimes I think we’ve lost that imaginative capability.”

**Evolving newsrooms**

Priddy still remembers his first Missourinet broadcast — Jan. 2, 1975, at 5:55 a.m. Missourinet had rented office space in a former funeral home on McCarty Street in Jefferson City and broadcast down the hall from a room that once held caskets. The embalming room became the kitchen.

As Missourinet grew, the staff moved across the street to the attic and second floor of an old house. Thanks to a massive skylight, the newsroom could reach 110 degrees in the summer.

In those days, most reporters didn’t know what to make of the new radio network.

“It was a pretty competitive press corps, but it was all print-oriented,” Priddy said of those early days at the Capitol. “Some of those folks didn’t think the new radio thing was going to make it or would last very long, but I never had any doubts about it.”

Before Missourinet, Priddy had tried a stint in graduate school — its emphasis on theory couldn't hold his attention — and worked at Jefferson City’s KLIK radio station.

Learfield Communications, which operates Missourinet, was founded in 1973 by former KLIK employees Derry Brownfield and Clyde Lear. At KLIK, Priddy was Lear’s boss. Although Priddy eventually worked for his boss, Lear said he’s always looked up to Priddy.

“I just enjoyed being around him,” said Clyde Lear, who is not related to Mike Lear. “He wasn’t a bit selfish. He let me cover some of the really big stories that went on. He’s a couple years older than I am, maybe three, and I really look up to him.”
Clyde Lear had a radio network that focused on agriculture and originally broadcast to just nine affiliates around the state. He tapped Priddy to direct Missourinet, a government-focused network to complement the farm coverage, and Missourinet now broadcasts to more than 60 affiliates.

Priddy said he didn’t envision a 40-year career with the company when he joined up, but he’s enjoyed seeing the company grow.

“I never really gave it thought,” he said. “It was where I was going to work and it was what I loved to do. I’ve just been able to do it now for 40 years. I’ve been fortunate to work for a company that created its own bigger market and its own greater opportunities.”

Clyde Lear credits Priddy for building rapport with politicians, who respected him for being unafraid of asking tough questions. One of them, Sen. Claire McCaskill, says she was scared of Priddy as a freshman legislator in the statehouse, but she also knew he had a knack for identifying important stories.

McCaskill said she was honored when Priddy first approached her for an interview.

“It was a moment that I realized I had accomplished things that were meaningful, because Bob Priddy wanted to talk to me,” she told the crowd at a dinner in October she organized in his honor.

Priddy said he has been “puzzled by all this attention” on the cusp of his retirement — McCaskill’s dinner, the media interest, his colleague’s comments. But on another level, he recognizes the contributions he’s been able to make over the years.

“I’d have to be honest with you,” he said. "It has given me a certain amount of ego satisfaction in the recognition I’ve gotten for writing books and doing speeches and being involved in an international organization and some other things that have happened.

“So financially and personally, there hasn’t been a reason to leave.”

Opening doors
Over the years, Priddy built a reputation as a champion of open government. Early in his career, he was thrown out of a Lincoln University board of curators meeting for refusing
to turn off his tape recorder. He once left a Senate committee meeting under similar circumstances.

Early in his career, he attended a Radio-Television News Association convention and listened to a panel discussion about cameras and microphones in courtrooms.

In the 1970s, few court systems allowed them, but Priddy remembers hearing about a Mississippi judge who permitted the technology in his courtroom. Priddy thought judges in Missouri should do the same.

He and other journalists formed the Missouri Freedom of Information Coalition and sought permission from the state Supreme Court, but the request was denied without comment.

By 1995, the Supreme Court had introduced a rule that allowed cameras and microphones in courtrooms. Priddy said it was easier to persuade a new generation of judges who had been raised on radio and TV.

By the late 1990s, Missourinet had decided to live stream legislative sessions over the Internet. At that point, legislators were receptive and the Senate installed a new public-address system to pick up floor debate with higher sound quality. The Supreme Court eventually agreed to stream its oral arguments as well.

Priddy was also instrumental in setting up a centralized reporting system for election returns. After seeing different wire services report wildly disparate vote counts and precinct numbers during one election, Priddy went to then-Secretary of State Roy Blunt with a proposal to consolidate the results.

“The state has no idea the service he has performed, the people he has challenged and the check he has been on political power run amok in this state,” McCaskill said.

**Looking ahead**
Priddy doesn’t have any firm plans for retirement. He says he wants to get used to sleeping in and enjoying free time with Nancy, his wife of 47 years.

She has been retired from the Department of Natural Resources since 2006, and they have put together a few travel plans — a Florida trip, a week in Arizona, time in Colorado to see their grandchildren — but nothing extensive.
He’s hoping for time to write. A coffee table book he co-authored, "The Art of the Missouri Capitol: History in Canvas, Bronze, and Stone," became a 1,000-page manuscript about the construction of the Capitol. He thinks there might be a more manageable 400-page book in there, and he has other ideas as well.

“I’m discovering other stuff to write about as I go along here,” Priddy said. “I keep running across interesting people whose stories I want to tell.”

His colleagues don’t expect him to be completely absent. They want him to accept emeritus status, coming in to cover only what he wants to cover. After all, they say, no one does state government better.

“He has talked to and been a part of Missouri government for forever,” Clyde Lear said. “He probably has the best understanding of recent history in Missouri than anyone else today. If you think about that institutional knowledge, that in itself makes him a tremendous resource for historians and politicians.”

Priddy says he’ll miss reporting, even if he won’t mind more manageable days. He’ll miss getting to witness state history and ask the questions his audience would want him to ask their legislators. He’ll miss watching the democratic process unfold.

“I can’t think of anything I’d rather have done with my life than what I’ve done,” he said. “That’s probably one of the things that kept me going every day — the opportunity to be where things happen.”

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**  
**Acacia Claus raises money, collects toys for children at Shriners Hospital in St. Louis**  
Tuesday, December 2, 2014 | 5:50 p.m. CST; updated 6:37 p.m. CST, Tuesday, December 2, 2014  
**BY HANNAH BALDWIN**

COLUMBIA — **Acacia fraternity member Rob Adams rubbed his hands together for warmth as he handed out candy canes, trying to kindle students' interest Monday in donating to Acacia Claus at Speakers Circle at MU.**
A table decorated with unlit Christmas lights and silver tinsel stood off to one side, surrounded by Adams' fraternity brothers. They drank hot chocolate with marshmallows out of plastic foam cups. A jar of cookies, tubes of red and green icing, jars of sprinkles, and a box of candy canes sat on the table with a cash box.

**This is the 10th year of Acacia Claus, the fraternity's annual philanthropic effort. Last year, the group raised an estimated $2,500 for Shriners Hospital for Children in St. Louis. Members estimated that the fraternity has raised $20,000 since the fundraiser started.**

Acacia Claus will continue until Friday. The fraternity members will be in Speakers Circle from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day until then. Toys and cash donations will go to Shriners Hospital for Children in St. Louis.

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**AAU’s Sexual-Assault Survey Will Serve Students and Policy Makers**

**NO MU MENTION**

Last month the Association of American Universities, of which I am president, announced that it would conduct a “sexual assault climate survey” across a number of our public and private research universities. Our primary goal is to provide universities with the information they need to craft empirically informed policies and practices for protecting students from sexual assault and promoting campus safety. We also hope that collecting data from across our universities will inform public policy and all other efforts to better understand this important and complex issue.

As Chronicle readers are aware, this important effort has been criticized by a number of researchers not involved in the project. While we take their comments seriously, we sharply disagree with their conclusions. Following is a point-by-point response that I hope will lay to rest some of the concerns and misconceptions they and others may have about the survey.

1. The AAU wants universities to participate in a survey sight-unseen and not available for scientific examination. It will be available in advance only to universities that pay for it.
The AAU’s process for developing and implementing a valid and reliable survey has been transparent to its members. The AAU informed its members in June—and the public in November—that the survey would follow guidance provided by the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault, and that it would be based on a survey instrument developed by Victoria Banyard, of the University of New Hampshire, among others, that was included in the task force’s report. All were informed that scientists at Rutgers University were carrying out a pilot survey with a modified version of her instrument.

This process is typical of how survey research is funded. A general idea of the survey, as well as the project staff members and their experience, is presented to potential funders—in this case, our universities. The funders decide whether the survey is worth funding or not. The survey design is not “secret”; it is under development. Each participating university will see the AAU survey in draft form when it goes to the survey’s institutional review board (IRB) and when it goes through each university’s own IRB process.

Once the survey development is complete, it will be made public.

2. The results will not be shared and available for comparative analysis. Each university will know something about what is happening on its campus, but nothing about others except on a nationally averaged basis.

As noted above, the goal of this survey is to provide the information that universities need to craft the best policies and practices for protecting students and promoting campus safety. We also hope that our collective data will inform public policy and aid other researchers. Therefore, the overall results of this survey will be shared with the public for comparative analysis, and the AAU is working on a plan for sharing the data with researchers when it is completed. We will also encourage our universities to make their own data public, but that decision will be up to each institution.

3. The AAU survey content cannot be modified for individual campuses. Therefore, the survey may not meet the needs of campus student-affairs officials.

Most of the questions will be the same for every participating institution to allow for analysis across the breadth of our campuses. However, there will be questions that universities can tailor to their specific prevention interventions, the names of their programs, and other specifics.

In addition, we are exploring the possibility that universities could add a link at the end of the survey to a home-based survey, allowing participants to add questions to meet specific compliance needs and allow for individual customization.

4. The pressure put on AAU member institutions to sign commitments quickly, totaling as much as $5-million, is disturbing and based on a desire to supersede a potential mandated federal survey.

This overall cost figure is considerably exaggerated. The $85,000-per-institution cost is based on 40 institutions participating in the survey, not 60. If more were to participate, the per-institution figure could decline. Still, the truth is that these surveys are expensive because of their complexity and the large number of students whom the AAU and our universities want to reach.
As for the timing, this survey will be administered in the spring of 2015. The AAU is indeed deeply concerned about the potential for a single government-run survey for every institution nationwide, from small colleges and community colleges to public and private research universities. The differences among those institutions are immense: Some have tens of thousands of students, some just hundreds; some are almost entirely residential, some entirely commuter; some are entirely full time, some mostly part time. Clearly the same survey for all of those institutions would not make sense. We believe it is important to develop a valid survey that is useful for our institutions and their students, as well as for policy makers, the public, and other researchers.

5. Accuracy of data regarding sexual violence is very sensitive to how it is measured. Sound collaborative scientific efforts involve advisory boards of highly qualified scientists. Only two members of the AAU advisory committee appear to have any experience in survey assessment on sexual assault.

Yes, the accuracy of survey data is sensitive to how it is measured, and this is especially true of sexual-violence survey data. That is why our survey team is made up of researchers, practitioners, and other professionals with deep and direct experience, whether academic or practical, in survey research, sexual assault, gender issues, student affairs, or other related matters.

Our survey firm, Westat, has deep expertise on research surveys in general, and on sexual-assault surveys in particular. For example, Dr. Bonnie Fisher, a nationally recognized expert on sexual assault, will help shape the content and analysis of the survey. Dr. Sandy Martin, a senior researcher and research administrator at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, leads the AAU survey’s design team, which will build on the extensive body of existing work by sexual-violence researchers and survey researchers.

I hope this helps set the record straight on a crucial and timely research effort that aims to help the entire higher-education community better protect the students on our campuses.

Hunter R. Rawlings III is president of the Association of American Universities and a former president of Cornell University and the University of Iowa.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

PROTECTING THE PARTY: With focus on sexual assault, students look out for one another while drinking just as much

By Robin Wilson December 3, 2014
REPORTING FROM SCHENECTADY, N.Y.

NO MU MENTION
It was a typical Saturday night at the house on Park Street where the Union College men’s hockey team goes after games to unwind and party. Sébastien Gingras, a 6-foot-1 defenseman, noticed a classmate hovering around a young woman who looked unsteady.

Mr. Gingras watched them. “She was a freshman, and this was a guy from outside the team who had the reputation of trying to get girls when they were drunk,” he says. After a while, “the guy was sitting next to her on a couch, trying to get her to leave.” So Mr. Gingras, a junior, asked one of his teammates to call the guy over to distract him while Mr. Gingras checked the young woman’s ID and walked her back to her dorm.

Hanging out, drinking, and hooking up are for many students just a part of life in college. They’re also a common backdrop for sexual assault. As many as four in five campus assaults involve drinking, studies have found. Plenty of those cases hinge on whether a woman was drunk or incapacitated, and therefore unable to give consent. Messages about preventing sexual assault now come at students from many directions: campus and federal officials, the news media, their peers. And what students are hearing has started to influence their behavior. They’re paying more attention, and they’re looking out for one another.

That’s precisely what President Obama’s new campaign, “It’s On Us,” is asking them to do: “to intervene if we see someone in a risky situation.” Union College, with 2,250 undergraduates, enlisted its popular hockey team, which won last year’s Division I national championship, to sign the campaign’s pledge and encourage others to take seriously the goal of protecting students.

People here think it’s working. “We’re hearing from more students concerned about what they are seeing or hearing,” says Amanda E. Tommell-Sandy, assistant director of the counseling center. “We are seeing more students sharing that they have intervened.”

Deciding when a friend is having fun and when it’s time to step in can be tricky. Students here and elsewhere are fumbling a bit in new roles—ordering a man talking with a tipsy woman to leave a party, or seeing a drunk couple together and calling campus security. “No college has all of the right solutions yet,” says Shayna Han, a
senior at Union who helped start the college’s Committee on Consent Education and Awareness this year.

The idea on many campuses is that intervention, not drinking less, is the solution. None of the students The Chronicle spoke with talked about scaling back their own drinking to avoid becoming too aggressive or vulnerable. Administrators responsible for sexual-assault prevention feel that they can’t say much about alcohol, even though it is a common element in many incidents. If they counsel students to limit consumption, they fear, young women who drink and are assaulted will be blamed, and will blame themselves, perhaps not reporting the attacks.

By monitoring their friends—a practice many colleges now promote—students can watch for both threatening conduct and vulnerability to predators and opportunists. That way, students let one another drink to excess while lowering the risk of assault.

“I am the mom of my group,” explains Brianna, a sophomore here who asked that her last name not be used. “Last year I literally pulled my friend away from a guy because they were both too intoxicated.” Her friend appreciated her judgment, Brianna says. “She knew I was completely sober, so she trusted me.”

Wrenching stories of sexual assault have rocked many campuses in the past couple of years, sparking protests and scrutiny. Many alleged victims have filed federal complaints about the way their colleges handled their reports. While Union hasn’t had a case go public—the college received five formal reports of sexual assault in 2013—the topic has provoked a lot of discussion.

“I knew we had an opportunity with our hockey team,” says Jim McLaughlin, the athletic director. The team attended a half-day workshop in September on bystander intervention. Next in line are the women’s hockey team and the men’s and women’s basketball and swim teams.

“We are tough, bold women, and we would have the confidence to step into a bad situation,” says Christine Valente, captain of the women’s hockey team.

Athletes aren’t the only ones getting involved. Ms. Han and a few classmates formed their group to talk frankly about sexual consent. In November, members wrote slogans
on men’s and women’s underwear and hung them outside the student center. “Ask before unwrapping” said a pair of panties. “I like butts,” someone wrote in pink marker on a men’s pair. “But … I ask before I touch.”

Organizers are holding workshops with sports teams, fraternities, and sororities. But they don’t preach or try to give students all the answers. On a recent Thursday evening, the men’s lacrosse team packed into a dorm’s common area, where the group’s presenters, all women, tried to draw the athletes out. What does consent mean? How does sexual assault affect men? How do stereotypes of masculinity play into the problem?

“You should have consent before you go out and party and get drunk, instead of waking up the next day and regretting it,” one player said. “As a team, I want to win a national championship,” offered another. “I don’t want another player going out and touching a woman who doesn’t want to be touched and undermining our success.” Every time someone spoke up, the women tossed out packets of Sweet Tarts or Reese’s Pieces.

After such presentations, students sometimes approach members of the consent group, says Ms. Han, to say they’ve been applying its lessons. “I was having sex,” a student might report, “and I asked for consent!”

Women at Union say they do two things to keep themselves and their friends safe from sexual assault. They never walk alone after dark, and they go to parties in groups. Some also bring their own alcohol—keeping their drinks covered and close at hand. Campus safety officers taught three self-defense classes this fall, and the Theta Delta Chi fraternity offered to buy women a new kind of nail polish that is supposed to change colors to detect the presence of common date-rape drugs.

Relatively few sexual assaults on college campuses, however, involve strangers, weapons, overwhelming physical force, or date-rape drugs, experts say. The most common substance consumed by victims is alcohol.

“There is this notion of the predator out there, and those people definitely exist,” says Steve Leavitt, dean of students at Union. “But we haven’t seen them in any of our
judicial cases.” A more common scenario, he says, involves students drinking, and something going wrong.

Like many colleges, Union has tried to control the flow of alcohol. Under new rules this year, fraternity parties must serve bottled water. The familiar red Solo cups are banned—all beer must be distributed in cans—and Union limits the number of cans at each party. It is more difficult to slip something into a can than a cup, and the lack of cups restricts drinking games.

Still, students can load up on alcohol before parties. Heavy drinking is common here, just as it is on many campuses. What has changed, students say, is how closely they watch out for their drunken friends.

At Sigma Chi, one of Union’s biggest fraternities, students party in the basement, with a big American flag painted on the wall and a beat-up wooden stage for the DJ. Brothers step in if a woman complains of aggressive behavior, says Ben Nadareski, the chapter’s president.

This year a female student accused a classmate looking to join Sigma Chi of offensive conduct after a night of partying (Mr. Nadareski declined to offer specifics). She reported the incident to her resident assistant, and the college disciplined the student. Because of privacy law, Union didn’t tell Sigma Chi about the violation, but the fraternity rejected the student as a brother, saying it didn’t want someone like that among its 90 members.

For the most part, women here say they feel safe at frat houses. Meghan, a senior who asked that her last name not be used, remembers being at a party last year without her closest friends. “I got really, really drunk,” she says.

A fraternity brother took her up to his bedroom, Meghan says, propped her up on her side in his bed, and locked the door so no one could bother her. “I woke up with a cup of water next to the bed,” she says, “and a text saying: ‘I’m in the chapter room downstairs. When you wake up, come and get me.’”

Meghan was grateful, she says. “I have a lot of somebodies around to help me.”
So when do friends step in for one another? The new emphasis on bystander intervention may be making some students a little overzealous. Elizabeth Murad, a junior at Union, says one of her friends was drinking heavily at a party one night and made out with a guy they didn’t know well. “After a while I asked her, ‘Are you OK?’” says Ms. Murad. The friend said yes but added that she didn’t want things to go any further.

As Ms. Murad called her over to a group of girlfriends, a male classmate who had witnessed the interaction yelled at the young man. “He said the guy shouldn’t even be talking to her when she’s drunk,” says Ms. Murad. “It’s good he was looking out for her, but she can do what she wants. He was being out of line about it, and he got kicked out.”

One student was worried when his roommate brought a woman back to their dorm room after both had been drinking. “He wondered if he could be seen as part of the problem if he ignored it,” says Marcus S. Hotaling, director of counseling. So he called campus safety. Officers knocked on the door, and both students responded that they were there willingly.

The culture of looking out for one another means making judgments for your classmates, or at least asking. Mr. Gingras, the hockey player, is an RA in what he calls the biggest party dorm. This fall he saw a couple stumbling down the hall. He pulled the young woman aside and asked, “Are you feeling comfortable?”

She said she wasn’t sure if she wanted to go into a room with the man. “If you put yourself in there,” Mr. Gingras says he told her, “you have to have a clear understanding with him.” She went into the room, he says, came out, and explained to the RA that she’d told the guy she didn’t want to sleep with him yet.

While students watch for signs of trouble, some men are monitoring their own behavior. They want to avoid situations they’ve heard about in which men think sex is consensual, but their partners say otherwise. In some cases, the women have had enough to drink that they don’t remember what happened. It’s not worth the risk that your partner is not in control of her actions, one hockey player said at a team dinner last month. “A drunk girl holds your life in her hands.”
All the discussion of sexual assault here has heightened awareness while also stoking fear. “It’s made everyone a lot more paranoid,” one student says, “avoiding the gray area at all costs.”

Women notice how sensitive some men have become about appearing inappropriate or aggressive. While that may mean less spontaneity, young women feel more protected—even when they want to party hard.

“This weekend a kid was trying to dance with me,” says Meghan, the senior who was safely tucked in at the frat house. “He asked only once, and I decided not to.” Still, with lessons about consent and respect in his head, his conscience seems to have weighed on him.

The next day he sent her 30 text messages. All of them said, “I’m sorry.”

The 20 Colleges With the Lowest Student Loan Debt

Christine DiGangi

**NO MU MENTION**

Student loan debt is growing. That fact has been the core of many higher education conversations in the past few years, as it should. It affects a lot of people. For people who earned bachelor’s degrees in the 2012-2013 academic year, 69% at public and private nonprofit colleges graduated with debt, with the average debt load at $28,400.

Education debt relies on several factors, but one of the choices that most impacts the amount of debt you graduate with is where you decide to go to school. Some schools produce graduates with notably high debt loads, but loan balances alone don’t reflect a school’s quality or value. Those high-debt schools may turn out a lot of graduates who go into high-earning fields, or they may attract student demographics that typically borrow more. There’s a lot to consider when deciding the value of a college, and debt among graduates should be part of the equation.

The Project on Student Debt (an initiative from The Institute for College Access & Success aka TICAS) published a helpful report in this area: Student Debt and the Class of 2013. It analyzed data voluntarily reported by more than 1,000 public and private nonprofit colleges and universities in the U.S., which can be searched using the online database at college-insight.org.
TICAS makes it clear that this report doesn’t provide a comprehensive view of education debt in the U.S., because it counts only the undergraduate debt of bachelor’s degree earners, and not all colleges and universities report their numbers. It doesn’t include the debt of borrowers who don’t earn degrees, which makes up a lot of defaulted student debt, or graduate students, which accounts for a high volume of outstanding student loan dollars. For-profit colleges, which often produce graduates with heavy debt burdens, are practically not represented in this report, as few voluntarily report debt data. Still, the report represents 83% of all bachelor’s degree recipients in the 2012-2013 academic year. Here are the schools included in the report whose undergraduates had the lowest average loan balances upon graduation.

20. CUNY Brooklyn College (public)
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Average debt among 2013 graduates: $11,200
Graduates with debt: 46%

19. Maranatha Baptist Bible College (private nonprofit)
Watertown, Wis.
Average debt: $11,034
Graduates with debt: 67%

18. The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (public)
Odessa, Texas
Average debt: $10,972
Graduates with debt: 46%

17. California State University-Bakersfield (public)
Bakersfield, Calif.
Average debt: $10,871
Graduates with debt: 87%

16. California State University-Dominguez Hills (public)
Carson, Calif.
Average debt: $10,662
Graduates with debt: 52%

15. Howard University (private nonprofit)
Washington, D.C.
Average debt: $10,455
Graduates with debt: 77%

14. Hampton University (private nonprofit)
Hampton, Va.
Average debt: $9,878
Graduates with debt: 79%

13. Fort Valley State University (public)
Fort Valley, Ga.
Average debt: $9,301
Graduates with debt: 90%

12. CUNY Lehman College (public)
Bronx, N.Y.
Average debt: $8,525
Graduates with debt: 25%
11. Mercy College of Ohio (private nonprofit)
Toledo, Ohio
Average debt: $7,975
Graduates with debt: 70%

10. Campbellsville University (private nonprofit)
Campbellsville, Ky.
Average debt: $7,860
Graduates with debt: 44%

9. Keystone College (private nonprofit)
La Plume, Pa.
Average debt: $7,801
Graduates with debt: 81%

8. National University (private nonprofit)
San Diego, Calif.
Average debt: $7,462
Graduates with debt: 73%

7. Berea College (private nonprofit)
Berea, Ky.
Average debt: $6,652
Graduates with debt: 67%

6. College of the Ozarks (private nonprofit)
Point Lookout, Mo.
Average debt: $6,424
Graduates with debt: 13%

5. CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College (public)
New York, N.Y.
Average debt: $5,979
Graduates with debt: 20%

4. Princeton University (private nonprofit)
Princeton, N.J.
Average debt: $5,552
Graduates with debt: 24%

3. California State University-Sacramento (public)
Sacramento, Calif.
Average debt: $4,551
Graduates with debt: 42%

2. East-West University (private nonprofit)
Chicago, Ill.
Average debt: $4,100
Graduates with debt: 70%

1. CUNY York College (public)
Jamaica, N.Y.
Average debt: $2,271
Graduates with debt: 10%
Student loans can be beneficial to your credit if you pay them on time and as agreed. However, if you find it difficult to make your payments, it’s important to contact the loan servicer to try to work out a payment arrangement. Defaulting on your loans can damage your credit and make it challenging to get other forms of credit down the road, rent an apartment, or get access to other consumer services. You can see how your student loans are affecting your credit by pulling your free credit scores on Credit.com, and you can see how your credit can affect your lifetime cost of debt by using this calculator.