Nixon releases $21.5M for Missouri veterans homes, shelters

By SUMMER BALLENTINE

Watch the story on KTVI (FOX) St. Louis: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=daa97dcd-50d3-40f0-9584-81b649529ad1

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon on Tuesday released about $21.5 million he previously withheld for state veterans homes, domestic violence shelters and other programs following a national settlement with credit rating agency Standard & Poor's.

The release comes amid repeated lawmaker criticism of the Democratic governor for keeping money from those programs, he says because of lagging state revenue.

Nixon made the announcement on the additional funding less than an hour after Attorney General Chris Koster and Secretary of State Jason Kander announced that Missouri would receive $21.5 million from a legal settlement with Standard & Poor's.

The settlement, which included the U.S. Justice Department and 18 other states, concerned allegations that Standard & Poor's knowingly inflated ratings of risky mortgage investments that helped trigger that 2008 financial crisis.

Nixon said in a written statement that he "appreciates the hard work" by Koster and Kander, "which will help provide needed funding for a number of key priorities, including programs for seniors, veterans and local law enforcement."

The state expects to receive the money from the settlement by March 6.

The funding released Tuesday by Nixon is a part of the roughly $700 million that had remained on hold since the 2015 fiscal year began last July.

About $8 million of that would go to the state's seven veteran homes, $4.7 million to the University of Missouri School of Medicine's campus in Springfield, $3.5 million to the Missouri Technology Corp. to aid start-up high-tech businesses and $1.5 million to grants for local cybercrimes task forces aimed at reducing Internet sex crimes.

Among other things, about $500,000 would go to domestic violence shelters for services to victims of sexual assault.
But the money comes six months late for many of the programs that will get a portion of it, Republican Sen. Kurt Schaefer of Columbia said on the Senate floor Tuesday.

Schaefer, a lead budget writer and one of the most vocal critics of Nixon's withholds of state money, told lawmakers that Nixon hasn't asked for money to continue some of the programs next fiscal year.

That could create confusion amid agencies unsure of what to expect financially in the future, Schaefer said.

"Where it goes from here, I don't know," he said. "But it's a good first step."

Nixon releases $21.5 million after settlement announcement

By Rudi Keller

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 11:33 am

JEFFERSON CITY — A large legal settlement announced Tuesday triggered the release of $21.5 million of restricted state spending, including almost half the money set aside for a medical education partnership between the University of Missouri and a Springfield hospital.

Gov. Jay Nixon released the money after Secretary of State Jason Kander and Attorney General Chris Koster announced that McGraw Hill Financial had agreed to pay $21.5 million to the state to settle claims of securities fraud and deceptive business practices against its subsidiary, Standard & Poors Financial Services LLC.

“I appreciate the hard work of Attorney General Koster and Secretary of State Kander in representing Missouri, which will help provide needed funding for a number of key priorities, including programs for seniors, veterans and local law enforcement,” Nixon said in a news release.

Nixon’s decision brought criticism from lawmakers who have been pushing him to release withheld spending items.

“I think it is a good example of if you make enough noise, you can get some attention,” said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who has argued the treasury has plenty of money.
The decision Tuesday provides $4.7 million of $10 million being withheld from the medical education program between the MU College of Medicine and CoxHealth in Springfield. Schaefer said the money will create a dilemma for the school because Nixon did not recommend continued funding for the program in the coming budget year.

Many of the programs funded with the released money will have the same issues, Schaefer said. “It is an ongoing program,” Schaefer said. “You’ve got to know it is there next year. It is a good first step. But can they actually do anything with it when they have made adjustments for this year and aren’t going to have money for next year?”

Other items being released include:

- $8 million to fund services at Missouri veterans’ homes
- $1.5 million to fund cybercrimes task forces
- $500,000 to fund services for victims of domestic violence
- $400,000 for Area Agencies on Aging

Koster and Kander filed suit in February 2013, charging Standard & Poors with four counts of securities fraud and one count of consumer fraud, a news release about the settlement issued jointly by their offices said. The lawsuit charged that the rating agency allowed its analysis to be influenced by its desire to earn lucrative fees from its investment bank clients, to the detriment of investors and other market participants.

Bad ratings were blamed in part for the 2008 financial crisis that triggered a deep recession.

“The consequences of S&P’s irresponsible decisions can still be felt beyond Wall Street,” Kander said in the news release.

Koster and Kander filed their lawsuit in parallel with suits filed by the U.S. Department of Justice and 19 other states and the District of Columbia, the news released said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Nixon releases $21.5M for Missouri veterans homes, shelters

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | 6:00 p.m. CST

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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University Health System to Build 10 Bed Facility in Joint Venture

Watch Story:
http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1e540a0d-3af2-4cb9-b846-d27478008506

MU Health part of hospital joint venture

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

Monday, February 2, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The joint venture formed in December by University of Missouri Health Care and Nueterra has submitted a letter of intent to build a 10-bed, $40 million surgical hospital in south Columbia.
The proposed 51,300-square-foot hospital, off Ponderosa Street at the northwest corner of Highway 63 and Discovery Parkway, would be a new campus for the Fulton Medical Center. MU Health and Nueterra teamed up in December as Fulton Medical Center LLC to purchase Callaway Community Hospital in Fulton.

Ryan Hobart, spokesman for the Department of Health and Senior Services, said a letter of intent gives advance notice of the project and that an application for a Certificate of Need may be filed 30 days after submitting the letter.

The Certificate of Need process was established in 1980 to contain health care costs, improve quality of care and increase access to health and medical care. The nine-member Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee decides whether to issue a certificate to allow a project to proceed.

The review process aims to “prevent unnecessary duplications” of health care services and to “evaluate competing interests” of other health care providers. The proposed surgical hospital would be five miles from Boone Hospital Center on a 58-acre tract currently owned by P1316 LLC of Columbia.

Officials with BJC HealthCare, which leases the 397-bed Boone Hospital Center from Boone County, declined to comment on the intent to build a new hospital. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, BJC has opposed projects that propose to offer only specific services and especially those with a focus on surgeries.

The Letter of Intent describes the project as a single-story building. The building will be all new construction, and all equipment will be newly acquired. The hospital is anticipated to have 10 beds and two operating rooms. There will be no long-term beds.

Nueterra and MU Health, which operates 361-bed University Hospital, together formed Fulton Medical Center LLC and in December purchased 37-bed Callaway Community Hospital.

Mary Jenkins, MU Health spokeswoman, said MU Health is a minority owner in the Fulton Medical Center venture. Nueterra, which operates Callaway Community Hospital, owns a stake of about 65 percent and MU Health owns the rest. She referred other questions to Nueterra.

Nueterra is the nation’s largest private-sector organization specializing in joint ventures with health systems, hospitals and physicians, Jenkins said.

Amy Leiker, Nueterra vice president of global marketing, said Nueterra didn’t have information on employment numbers, details of the Certificate of Need or the specific surgical and other medical services that would be provided at the new hospital.
The University of Missouri School of Journalism has named four finalists in its search for a new dean, including one internal candidate.

Esther Thorson, the school's associate dean for graduate study, is one of two women vying to replace Dean Mills, who is retiring after 25 years as dean. The other is Sonya Forte Duhé, director of the School of Mass Communication at Loyola University in New Orleans. Duhé earned her doctorate from Mizzou.

The other finalists are David Kurpius, a professor at the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University; and Thor Wasbotten, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University.

Each candidate will meet with journalism school students, faculty and staff during campus visits over the next several weeks.
The finalists will participate in on-campus interviews.

Dates, times and locations of the forums will be announced at a later date.

The four finalists are:

- Sonya Forte Duhé, director of the Loyola University in New Orleans School of Mass Communications, will be on campus from Feb. 11 to 14.

Duhé completed her undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University and has a master’s degree from Northwestern University and a doctorate in journalism from MU. Her industry experience includes time as an instructor, editor and anchor at KOMU in Columbia from 1990 to 1993, and several stints as a television anchor in Baton Rouge.

- David Kurpius, LSU professor in the School of Mass Communication and associate vice chancellor for enrollment management, will be on campus Feb. 15 to 18.

Kurpius has a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University-Bloomington and earned his master’s and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also has a background in broadcast journalism, spending time as a producer, editor and news director at an NBC affiliate in Macon, Ga.

- Esther Thorson, professor and associate dean for graduate studies at the MU School of Journalism, is the only in-house finalist. Her interviews and forum will take place Feb. 22 to 24.

Thorson has a bachelor’s from Macalester College and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Thorson is also the research director at the MU Reynolds Journalism Institute.

She has been with MU since 1993 and held an array of professor positions at different universities before that, primarily in psychology.

- Thor Wasbotten, director of the Kent State University School of Journalism and Mass Communication, will be on campus Feb. 25 to 28.

Wasbotten has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern California and a master’s from the University of Oregon. He spent several years as a news director, editor and station manager of several stations in Boise, Idaho, as well as managing director and partner of Blue Heron Research Partners, a New York company “that produced due diligence for investment companies from a business journalism approach,” according to his curriculum vitae.

Current dean, Mills, announced his retirement Feb. 6, 2014, after 25 years at the helm of the journalism school. His retirement was effective Aug. 31.
Retirement is more of a loose term for Mills, who took a part-time job as the director of the Reynolds Fellows program at the Reynolds Journalism Institute, located next door to the School of Journalism.

Rift opens over destruction of moldy books

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The destruction of almost 190,000 books, journals and documents has created a rift between a University of Missouri faculty committee and the school’s director of libraries.

Committee members contend Jim Cogswell, director of libraries, did not inform them of the destruction of about 188,000 books, despite assurances they would be updated as efforts to save the books and documents continue. Cogswell admits communication should have been better but maintains he acted correctly.

Cogswell said the “devastating” mold outbreak that affected 629,000 books, journals and federal documents in off-campus, underground storage has taken up a year’s worth of time and will cost about $1 million for cleanup, including a $400,000 grant the library received in July.

So far, almost $850,000 has been spent — most of it from the library’s self-insurance reserve fund — to clean up 441,000 items affected by the mold, according to a chronology of events written by Cogswell at the request of an ad hoc Faculty Council committee.

About 188,000 items were destroyed. That number includes 108,000 federal documents to be replaced with the help of the $400,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation. The arrangement gives MU’s library leaders access to replacement copies of federal documents, many of which already have been sent to the Columbia campus.

The duplicates and documents were destroyed starting Feb. 10, one month before a Faculty Council meeting at which Cogswell presented an update on the mold outbreak. At the meeting, Cogswell assured faculty members they would be involved in remediation and making decisions, “including the determination of any disposal of volumes,” according to a letter sent by members of the committee to Faculty Council Chairman Craig Roberts.
The letter is from December, a month after the committee learned duplicate journals, books and documents already were destroyed, committee member and Professor Noah Heringman said. The committee concludes Cogswell’s omission about the books being destroyed is an “egregious violation” of trust.

“I apologize if the communication along the way wasn’t as” good “as it should have been,” Cogswell said Monday afternoon. “We should have done better in saying that the only books that were going to be destroyed were duplicates. But I make no apologies for the outcome.”

A follow-up letter from the committee to the Faculty Council chair said the chronology of events laid out by Cogswell did not ease members’ concerns.

“For this reason, we have lost confidence in Director Cogswell’s judgment and we urge Faculty Council either to request an immediate point-by-point accounting of this matter or to consider proposing a vote of no confidence in the Director of Libraries,” said the letter, dated Feb. 1.

Cogswell said he understands the committee is concerned about the communication issues, but he also has received positive comments about salvaging volumes that were not duplicates.

“We were ultimately able to treat 70-plus percent of all of the items,” Cogswell said. “This is the best possible outcome. I don’t see how anyone can fault us for only destroying duplicates.”

The cost for remediation is about $2 per book, accounting for most of the expenses so far. Belfor, a St. Louis-based property restoration company, is cleaning up the books. MU has leased the former Rust & Martin design showroom at the Midway exit to store the affected books. The books will be sent to one of Belfor’s Texas sites for cleanup before being brought back to the former showroom for storage.

Our ancient ‘small brain’ can adapt to robot arms

Posted by Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri on February 3, 2015
In order to grasp an object, our brains have to use specialized areas to process visual cues. Then, other areas of the brain work with these signals to control our hands to reach for and manipulate the object.

A new study suggests that the cerebellum, a region of the brain that has changed very little over time, may play a critical role. The findings could lead to advancements in assistive technologies for people with disabilities.

“We live in a world of advanced technology in which a button can move a crane or open a door,” says Scott Frey, professor of psychological sciences and director of the Brain Imaging Center at the University of Missouri.

“For those with disabilities, assistive technologies, such as robotic arms or sensors inserted in the brain, make it possible to accomplish actions like grasping with the press of a button or directly through brain activity; however, little is known about how the human brain adapts to these technologies.

“We found that the brain didn’t necessarily evolve to control modern robotic arms, but rather the cerebellum, an ancient portion of our brain that has remained relatively unchanged, plays a vital role in helping us reach and grasp with these tools—often with only minimal training.”

Buttons and a robotic arm

In the study, participants completed a series of ordinary reaching and grasping tasks involving colored wooden blocks. Regions of the brain were monitored by functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI).

Then, in a training session, participants were introduced to a robotic arm that performed the same reaching and grasping tasks when they pressed specific buttons. Participants were told that the next day’s tasks would involve their controlling the robot remotely by video feed from within an MRI scanner.

“We found evidence that the brain is very flexible and can be rapidly conditioned to associate new consequences with a variety of movements,” Frey says. “Pressing a button is a very simple act that does not naturally result in grasping.

“Nevertheless, after subjects learned that pressing one button would result in grasping objects with a robotic arm, this same movement resulted in a dramatically different pattern of brain activity than pressing an identical button known by them to have no effect on the robot’s behavior.

Focus on the cerebellum

“Localized activity within the cauliflower-shaped cerebellum, or ‘small brain’ sitting toward the back of the head, increased dramatically. These findings suggest that we might look to the cerebellum when seeking potential targets for brain-controlled interfaces.”
For many years the cerebellum, an ancient structure that contains more neurons than the rest of the brain combined, was believed to control very basic motor and balance functions, Frey says. Results from this study provide further evidence of the cerebellum’s role in higher cognitive functions.

The study appears in the Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience.

The Army Research Laboratory’s Army Research Office and the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Neurological Disease contributed funding to the work. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of either funding agency.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

FROM READERS: MU project seeks volunteers to promote respect for minority groups

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | 4:44 p.m. CST
BY CHUKA NESTOR EMEZUE/MISSOURIAN READER

Chuka Nestor Emezue is an MPH & MPA graduate student at MU and the secretary of the MU Graduate Student Association.

I am calling on true heroes to become a part of the Mizzou Passion Project, set to run through Feb. 14.

The Mizzou Passion Project is a multimedia intervention program created to promote the tenets of racial justice, support for members of the LGBTQ community, and the Mizzou values of Respect, Tolerance and Solidarity amongst the University of Missouri Student Body.

In a bid to dismantle systemic racism and encourage diversity within the University community, the proposed Mizzou Passion Project intends to utilize professional photographs (lively and funny headshots) and other creative forms of visual art to convey a powerful message of tolerance, kindness and equality.
The project would especially celebrate interracial couples and friends, as well as gender nonconforming relationships amongst the Mizzou LGBTQ community, as a crucial focal point for equality, solidarity and compassion. For that reason, we are calling on volunteer couples, friends and buddies to put words to action in supporting this project by modeling for a cause.

Are you in an interracial relationship and interested in organizing to challenge racism? Or a member of the LGBTQ community willing to lend your voice to providing a safe environment and support network for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and their straight allies? Then pledge to spread this message of love and coexistence using candid and genuine moments of compassion and friendship captured in vivid pixels.

In addition to your invaluable impact on the Mizzou community, volunteers will gain experience with our Ambassador Program, get featured on the project website, life-size banners and print materials, and make new friends during this push toward social change.

To sign up, send a good old-fashioned email to themizzoupassionproject@yahoo.com or call (573) 999-2594. There are no requirements for qualification, just smile for the camera!

Transfer student seeks diversity, identity at MU

A record number of students are enrolled for spring semester 2015.

Students enroll at MU for many reasons, but Claire Lott said she transferred to MU in search of diversity, identity and spiritual growth.

Lott had completed five semesters at Missouri Baptist University, but decided to transfer to MU to complete an interdisciplinary degree in social work and Chinese.
“I lacked a lot of community (at Missouri Baptist),” she said. “There wasn’t a lot of diversity there, or community. But here there are so many things going on on this campus.”

Lott said her identity is more complicated than others. Adopted from China at the age of 8, Lott was raised in St. Louis by Caucasian parents. She remembers some Chinese from her childhood but spoke English at home. Her family attended an Asian church, but they usually went to the English service.

Lott knew a few members of MU’s Asian Christian Fellowship and Asian American Association before she arrived in Columbia and has attended several groups and clubs in her first two weeks on campus. Overall, she said she has been encouraged by the people she has met at MU.

“I didn’t expect that everyone would be so nice,” she said with a laugh. “People are so willing to give me directions when I get lost.”

MU reported a record number of students enrolled in the 2015 spring semester. Three thousand, five hundred and eighty-eight students are enrolled in the university; this number includes graduate students, students re-enrolling from the fall semester and transfer students.

“We’ve been seeing a general increase in overall enrollment for the fall semesters,” said Christian Basi, associate director of the MU News Bureau. “So it stands to reason that the spring enrollment also would increase.”

Interestingly, while MU’s overall enrollment has been hitting record highs, the number of transfer students and Missouri high school graduates are in an overall decline. An increasing percentage of first-time students are coming from out of state, Admissions Director Chuck May said.

“Data for Missouri shows the number of high school graduates is continuing to decline and is not projected to trend back upward until after the year 2020,” he said. “The percentage of out-of-state students is increasing. Overall, total enrollment for the university will also increase as retention rates increase, as they did this year.”

After receiving her degree from MU, Lott said, she hopes to become a social worker and help families who want to adopt from China. She sees her time in Columbia as another part of discovering who she is and who she wants to be.

“My identity is Chinese, but coming to America has made that more complicated,” Lott said. “I guess I’m just trying to figure things out, same as anyone else at Mizzou.”
MU’s Black History Month events aim to celebrate, challenge

Black History Month events are sponsored by schools and departments within the university while others are the result of partnerships with student and community organizations.

Deep within the State Historical Society archives rest several original songs written by civil rights activist John Handcox.

Handcox was a tenant farmer and union advocate born in Kansas. During the Great Depression, he traveled across the Midwest, including Missouri, organizing sharecropper unions in an effort to protect sharecroppers against infringement from plantation owners.

Handcox found that songs were the best way to tell his story, and his compositions are popular folk songs still sung today, said Michael Honey, professor of humanities and American history at the University of Washington-Tacoma.

Honey is making it his duty to bring Handcox’s voice back to Missouri in an event for Black History Month this February.

Honey’s presentation, A Sharecropper’s Troubadour, will include songs, photographs and a lecture. He strives to preserve the oral tradition that was so important in Handcox’s work.

“It’s important to learn about people like him who were everyday folk and put up a good fight to try to change terrible conditions,” Honey said. “He always said, ‘Anything I can do to make this a better world, I plan to do it.’ His music was that. His music was about trying to create a better world.”

American, not just Black, history

Darnesha Tabor, assistant student coordinator at the Multicultural Center, said she sees Black History Month as a time to celebrate the lesser-known figures in African American history, like Handcox.

Tabor said she thinks it’s important to remember that black history isn’t just a month-long celebration, and plays a prominent role in all history.

“I hate how it’s separated (into) black history and American history, like black people aren’t a part of America,” she said. “It should be American history because I’m an African-American.”
Stephanie Hernandez Rivera, coordinator of the MCC, said Black History Month celebrations provide an opportunity for reflection and direction within (all) communities.

“Even if it’s a history that you don’t claim as your own specifically, it is one that is a part of our U.S. history and global history, so it’s important to know where we’ve been in order to set up where we’re going to go next,” she said.

Students should acknowledge and attend the events hosted on campus year-round, Hernandez Rivera added.

“Education doesn’t stop when February ends,” she said. “It can continue if people are motivated to learn about history; history that maybe they don’t understand.”

Missouri Students Association President Payton Head said he hopes students will take the chance to discuss histories they may not understand.

The “Am I Still Black If…?” discussion sponsored by the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center stands out to Head. It will discuss the existing stereotypes within the black community and challenge how they affect identity, he said.

“Black people are more than just black,” Head said. “We come from small towns, we come from big towns, we’re gay, we’re straight, we’re everything just like any other person. I hope that people get a chance to truly reflect on that.”

Head asks of MU education: “What are we giving (students) now that they can take out into the future and into the community outside of Mizzou?”

**A slow start**

Before 1950, when the first black students were finally allowed to enroll at MU, the university saw the “separate but equal” education doctrine challenged on several occasions.

In 1936, Lloyd Lionel Gaines became the first African American to apply to the University of Missouri School of Law. However, he was denied admission.

Gaines filed suit against the university in 1938. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in his favor, holding to separate but equal education, and required Missouri to admit him or set up a separate law school for African American students.

The latter was selected. A former cosmetology school in St. Louis was converted into the Lincoln University School of Law. In March of 1939, Gaines disappeared one night in Chicago when he left the fraternity house where he was staying to buy stamps.

The same year, Lucile Bluford, an African American journalist, applied to graduate school. She was denied the ability to register because she was black.
She sued the university, and the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in her favor in 1941. However, the Missouri School of Journalism closed its graduate program due to low student and faculty numbers during World War II.

**MU’s Black legacy**

The Legion of Black Collegians was established in 1968 to give African-American students a voice in student government. Only 19 years after accepting the first black students did MU hire its first African American professor, Arvarh Strickland.

Part of Strickland’s legacy was the establishment of one of the country’s first Black Studies minor programs. Today, the department has branched into its own department including both major and minor programs.

Some faculty from the Black Studies Department are members of the Black History Month Committee, the group responsible for organizing the Black History Month events throughout February.

The committee, chaired by black studies professor Wilma King, works throughout the year to draft a diverse calendar of events that celebrate black culture and achievements. The committee includes faculty, staff and student members from departments and organizations across campus and isn’t directly related to the black studies department.

Some events are sponsored by schools and departments within the university while others are the result of partnerships with student and community organizations.

‘*We Are Somebody*’

A large component of the committee’s job is to develop a theme that fits with MU.

This year’s theme, “*We Are Somebody: Reclaiming Human and Civil Rights,*” was inspired by a 1973 film titled Wattstax. The documentary recounts the story of a group of African-American artists who came together to remember the Watts Riots in Los Angeles.

Stephanie Shonekan, associate professor of ethnomusicology and black studies who is serving her fourth year on the committee, said the theme comes from a popular mantra of the riots: “I am somebody.”

“It was a way of reasserting our value,” she said. “(It’s) the idea that black identity is valuable and as equal as anybody else.”

The MU theme also serves as a reminder that the month doesn’t focus exclusively on African American history, committee member Niki Stanley said.
“The national theme (A Century of Black Life, History and Culture) is very U.S.-centered, and we customized ours because there are many people on campus who study issues that are international issues or issues in other areas of the African diaspora,” she said.

Shonekan said the committee wanted it to be a little more expansive.

“We always try … to acknowledge the experience of being black not only in the United States, but everywhere in the world,” Shonekan said.

The Black History Month Committee started with a core of events and called out to local businesses and organizations for suggestions. Students were able to apply for funding to support new ideas.

“It’s a chance to express how far we’ve come and how far we have yet to go,” Shonekan said.

A relevant history

For Tabor, honoring civil rights activists like Marcus Garvey and Handcox feels particularly relevant today.

“A lot of stuff went down in 2014,” she said. “That is very disappointing, to say the least.”

The junior loosely compared her experiences to the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

“I can never compare what those people went through (to now but) it’s definitely heartbreaking to be a black person in America and see these sorts of things kind of happening still,” Tabor said.

Shonekan said she hopes students will come together for positive discussion.

“Every film, every lecture, every piece that’s on that calendar is … an opportunity to evaluate not only the society around us, but also our place in that society and to really think about what needs to be done,” she said.

She highlighted the facilitated discussions hosted throughout the month as a positive space to address contemporary issues.

“(After) the tragedies that happened in 2014, I think that this idea is particularly important for the community to think about these issues of race and identity,” Shonekan said.

Head agreed that open discussion is a vital step in making the MU campus a more welcoming place but that for success, diversity is key.

“That’s ultimately what’s going to be what makes Mizzou an inclusive campus, is everybody reaching across the aisle, stepping out of your own comfort zone to learn something about somebody else,” he said.
Envious Facebook users may experience depression, MU Study says

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=27436&zone=5&categories=5

COLUMBIA - A daily habit for hundreds of millions of people could be dangerous to their health.

A new study from the University of Missouri found Facebook use can lead to symptoms of depression if the site causes feelings of envy in users.

"If you use Facebook mainly to observe, or we use the term surveillance, other people rather than to interact or enjoy, users will often have feelings of envy, and those feelings of envy can then lead to depression," Strategic Communications chair and MU School of Journalism Margaret Duffy said.

The envious feelings can result from seeing peers getting new jobs, having children, getting engaged or married, or even taking a vacation.

Duffy said college students were the main target for the study because of the emotional changes students go through during their first years away from home.

"We specifically focused on this age range because it is such a transitional period," Duffy said.

While research focused on college-aged students, Duffy said she believes the research could also apply to all ages of Facebook users.

As social media has continued to grow, researchers say more and more users began to use the social media tool for the wrong reason.

"Based on our study, as well as what others have previously found, using Facebook can exert positive effects on well-being. But when it triggers envy among users, that's a different story," researcher Edson Tandoc stated in a news release.
While this study has concluded, Duffy said she is interested in considering other factors for another study of similar nature.

"We would be very interested to look at generational differences and cross-cultural differences. Is this the same in Europe as it is in the United States, or in China?" Duffy said.

Duffy said the best way to combat the issue is to speak out.

"The best use of a social network is to be social and interact, so if we see ourselves doing it or our friend doing it, I think maybe it's time for a friendly word or thought to do something differently," Duffy.

KOMU 8 asked Facebook users to share their opinions on this study on our page.

"Those folks who have to compare themselves to their friends, trying to keep score, do not just do it on social media but everywhere else they go. They just happen to (mis)use the venue," Facebook user Sharon Preston said.

Other users said this is not an issue in their personal lives, and they enjoy using the network to connect with people from their past.

"It never bothers me. I'm happy for any accomplishments for my friends and family," Facebook followers Larry and Vinnie Evans said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Columbia forum on plastic bag restrictions draws mixed comments

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | 11:12 p.m. CST; updated 6:33 a.m. CST, Wednesday, February 4, 2015
BY ALLEN FENNEWALD

COLUMBIA — Public opinion was mixed on the proposed single-use plastic bag restrictions for grocery and convenience stores and pharmacies at a public forum Tuesday evening at the Daniel Boone City Building.

Supporters of the ordinance were encouraged by the potential positive environmental impact of restrictions on the bags, but others protested what they saw as governmental overreach and called for the measure to be put to a public vote.
A breakdown of the proposed ordinance can be found here.

The forum began with introductions from Environment and Energy Commission chairman Lawrence Lile. The commission presented a report to the City Council Jan. 20 recommending implementation of the ordinance to reduce litter in Columbia and nearby waterways, such as Hinkson Creek.

Lile said Columbia annually spends $15,000 chasing down the plastic bags that escape the city landfill. The city has also experienced issues with the bags clogging waste-sorting equipment.

Commission member Jan Dye said that single-use plastic bags are the world's No. 1 consumer item and that 57 million of them are used per year in Columbia.

Dye said the plastic bags have clogged drainage systems and have adverse affects on wildlife, especially fish and birds who ingest the plastics after they break down into small fragments. Eating those fish and birds can then introduce the fragments into the human food system.

Missouri River Relief assistant program manager Melanie Cheney said bags that don't get stuck in the drainage system make their way from city streets to the rivers and the ocean. The sun begins to break down the bags, allowing toxins to enter drinking water drawn from waterways like the Missouri River.

Cheney said plastic bags are the third-most collected litter by volume by Missouri River Relief after plastic bottles and plastic foam.

Commission member Ken Midkiff said during public comments that plastic bags were the most prevalent form of litter by quantity in the part of Hinkson Creek between Stadium Boulevard and Flat Branch.

**MU biology professor Frederick vom Saal said the fragments of broken-down plastic bags absorb toxins from the water, which are absorbed by the fat cells of fish. Those toxins can contribute to dementia and other health problems in people who eat those fish.**
After the forum, Lile addressed one commenter's concern that the ordinance could increase the methane production at the city's landfill due to increased paper bag usage. Instead, Lile said, Columbia has a landfill system that turns methane into energy.

Sierra Club representative Carolyn Amparan supported the proposed ordinance. She said people need to be nudged to make environmentally friendly choices, which is a role perfectly suited to publicly elected legislatures.

Some who offered public opinion were in favor of this nudge, but others said they felt that individuals should be able to make their own decisions about recycling.

Endangering a Trust

February 4, 2015

By Colleen Flaherty

NO MU MENTION

Should all professors be required to report student accounts of sexual assault to college officials? A growing number of institutions are saying yes, adopting policies requiring all faculty members and other professional employees -- not just those obligated by law to do so -- to report sexual misconduct to designated administrators, who may then initiate investigations and alert authorities. Facing calls for greater transparency about sexual violence statistics and accountability to victims, colleges and universities view such one-size-fits-all policies as a way to streamline and simplify reporting processes and assure that illegal abuse comes to light.

But while faculty members overwhelmingly support their institutions’ transparency and accountability goals, many feel that mandatory reporting will hurt the cause more than help it. They worry that fewer students will come forward if doing so means a report -- likely including personally identifiable information -- will be filed with the institution, with or without victims’ permission. And for those students who do come forward, faculty members worry about awkwardly having to explain their reporting obligation. So professors in many cases resent the choice with which they are faced: complying with
students’ wishes about privacy or with their institutions’ reporting requirements.

“If a student comes to us and, because of the level of distress, begins pouring out their experience, it’s not the time -- or it seems really insensitive to say -- ‘Stop, wait a minute, I’m a mandated reporter,’” said Catherine MacGillivray, associate professor and director of the women’s and gender studies program at the University of Northern Iowa, where a new disclosure obligation is in place. “And what if the student says, ‘Oh, my God, that’s terrible -- I’m not ready to report this’?”

**Before They’re Ready?**

MacGillivray said on-campus advocates of the new mandated-reporter policy for all employees say that if students are ready to talk to anyone about sexual assault, they’re ready to report it. But in her experience, she said, getting students to feel comfortable with the idea of making a report is typically part of a longer process in which they control the flow of information. “Do we respect the students’ wishes and thereby jeopardize ourselves?” she asked. "We shouldn’t have to make that kind of choice."

Harry Brod, a professor of sociology at Northern Iowa who also objects to the new reporting policy, said he and colleagues are “concerned about this inhibiting conversations and creating a climate in which it’s less likely to be discussed and therefore less safe -- even if the intention is pro-safety and anti-sexual assault and all of that.”

Under Northern Iowa’s reporting policy, adopted this academic year, “All university employees who are aware of or witness discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct or retaliation are required to promptly report to the Title IX [of the Education Amendments of 1972] officer or a Title IX deputy coordinator.” It’s the first time all employees have been told they’re obligated to report student accounts of sexual assault.

Most faculty members say they wouldn’t hesitate to report imminent threats to students. Where they’re hesitant is when a student describes an event that already happened, but which the student isn’t sure he or she wants to report yet for any number of reasons. Such experiences might come to light in composition courses, in which students are asked to write on a personal topic, or courses that are focused on gender issues or sex. Brod, who has taught a class called Just Sex: The Ethics of Intimacy, for example, said, "If reportable information doesn't come up in that class, it's a failure -- these things are going to come up in conversation. So under a policy like ours, how do you conduct classroom discussions on these topics?"

Accounts also sometimes come up in one-on-one conversations between a student and a trusted professor, even in courses that have nothing to do with sex. Professors generally say they hope students will report misconduct, but many feel that it should be up to the victim to decide when and how a formal complaint is made. Sometimes that might mean seeking counseling or talking to a faculty member over a period of weeks or months -- not immediately, as many colleges now expect from mandatory reporters.

**'Bridging' Reporting Requirements**

Brett Sokolow, president and chief executive of the NCHERM Group, a risk management firm that advises colleges and universities on issues including sexual assault, also is
executive director of the Association of Title IX Administrators, or ATIXA. He said policies such as Northern Iowa’s are becoming more popular as colleges and universities attempt to “bridge” various laws and regulations related to reporting sexual violence and discrimination. The two major provisions involving students are the Clery Act, which promotes campus safety through transparency about crime statistics and reporting procedures, and Title IX, which prohibits gender-based discrimination -- including sexual assault -- on campuses or in programs receiving federal funds. These institutional-level policies are distinct from current, controversial legislative efforts in some states, including Virginia, to require faculty members and other employees of public colleges or universities to report alleged sexual assaults to local law enforcement or face misdemeanor charges.

Under the Clery Act, “campus security authorities” are required to report sexual assault and more than a dozen other crimes. Those authorities include campus police and safety officials, but also other employees who have “significant responsibility” for students and activities, such as housing, discipline and judicial proceedings. Under Title IX, “responsible employees” with authority to take action to redress sexual violence, or who have been deemed mandated reporters by their institutions, or who students reasonably could believe have authority or responsibility over such matters, are required to report discrimination.

“The question for colleges is if X percent of employees are covered by some status, do we want to tell some groups, ‘Yes, you’re a reporter under Clery,’ and tell some groups, ‘Yes, for Title IX,’ or something else?” Sokolow said. “If everybody’s a mandated reporter, it simplifies who’s who, and it simplifies the training.”

An all-employee mandatory reporting policy template from ATIXA explains it like this: “The language of the [Clery Act] would allow the college to exclude some faculty some of the time and many professional staff from the obligation to report. Such an approach, however, risks creating confusion for faculty and staff, takes a minimalist approach to the ethical obligation to inform our community about serious crimes and makes the institution more vulnerable to enforcement action.”

The same with Title IX, the template says: “As with other laws, the definition of ‘responsible employee’ under Title IX would allow the college to treat only some faculty and staff as mandated reporters but with the same possibility of confusion and risk of institutional exposure.”

Despite the language about risk and exposure, Sokolow said these new policies are about more than shielding institutions from high-profile lawsuits alleging they’ve dropped the ball on sexual assault.

“That may be the motivation for some institutions, perhaps, but for most institutions, we want to know about what’s happening so we can address it,” he said, estimating that “many dozens” have moved to this kind of policy. “There are so many resources on college campuses that we can direct victims to, to give a quality response.”

Making Students Aware
Some institutions, including the University of Maine, have taken steps to make students aware of their new policies and additional, nonfaculty resources for help. The Orono
campus this year asked faculty members and teaching assistants to include language in their syllabuses explaining that they are all now mandated reporters, under a University of Maine System-wide policy.

“The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students,” reads part of the proposed text. “Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report [Maine's emphasis] this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault and Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.”

The text describes what kinds of behaviors are reportable crimes -- sexual assault, harassment, stalking and relationship abuse, for example -- and says that the university "can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening.

Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise -- for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.” Including such language in syllabuses might solve the problem of faculty members having to explain their status to students in distress. But some professors still find it -- along with the new policy -- problematic. Sandra Caron, professor of family relations and human sexuality at Maine, said she put the wording in her syllabus because she wanted students to be able to make an “informed choice” about coming forward. But, she added via e-mail, “My concern is that although the intent is to help make this a safer campus and to be sure we are being responsive to a victim's needs, some students may feel they cannot talk about an incident for fear of losing control.” She said there's “also a concern that this will have a chilling effect on the classroom in terms of class discussions or the things a student might write about, as well as the things a student might come to see their professor about.”

Robert Milardo, a professor of family relations at Maine, is working with various faculty groups on campus and within the Faculty Senate to communicate concerns about the new policy to administrators. He said he and colleagues view the mandated reporter policy as “basically one-sided, in that it serves the needs of the institution, the University of Maine, to report and investigate allegations of sexual assault and related issues, but it doesn’t deal effectively with student advocacy.” Students should have a “confidential source they can go to -- and that includes faculty -- to discuss things that are of concern to them,” he said.

Dan Demeritt, a university system spokesman, said that because faculty members work directly with students, the board of trustees “set the expectation that our faculty be university mandatory reporters to optimally create a culture of student safety, care and development.” Professional staff are mandated reporters, as well.

Faculty members also worry about what details they'll have to include in their reports. At Maine, for example, faculty members need to disclose “all relevant details about the alleged sexual discrimination shared by the student that the university will need to determine what happened -- including the names of those involved, any witnesses and any other relevant facts, including the date, time and specific location of the alleged incident.”

**Concerns About Privacy**

Maine’s policy says that professors should try to explain their reporting obligations before students share their experiences. If a student wants to maintain confidentiality -
- that is, if he or she doesn't want a report to be filed -- faculty members should direct the student to an on-campus counseling center or an off-campus rape crisis center. Once a disclosure is made, faculty members are required to report all details, even if the student objects. A professor can inform the university of a student’s preference for confidentiality, but the university doesn’t promise to honor it -- only to weigh the preference that no action be taken against the institution’s "obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for students."

Northern Iowa’s stance is similar; the university says it will make “every reasonable effort” to maintain privacy, but that it can’t guarantee it. MacGillivray said some of her concerns about the mandatory reporting policy could be alleviated by finding a middle ground, such as not having to give the victim’s name. That way, she said, the campus could be put on notice and comply with its legal, statistical reporting obligations without sacrificing anonymity.

Lindsay Cunningham, a university spokeswoman, said whether or not a complainant needs to be identified “depends on the circumstances. If someone wants to pursue charges, they need to be identified. If they want to remain anonymous, it makes it harder for us to provide resources and options.”

The American Association of University Professors published a report on campus sexual assault in 2013 saying that faculty members, in its view, are not mandated reporters due in part to the chilling effect that status might have on communication with students. AAUP’s also concerned that such policies could limit the academic freedom of faculty members who teach women’s studies or courses dealing with sex -- such as Brod's Just Sex -- in which reports of misconduct might be more likely to arise. Nevertheless, Anita Levy, AAUP’s associate secretary, said she continues to hear from faculty members across the country whose institutions are ignoring their concerns and making them mandated reporters.

“What seems to be happening is that institutions are really going overboard to make sure they’ve dotted all their i’s and crossed all their t’s,” Levy said, in response to widespread criticism of and legal action against universities alleged to have failed to protect students against assault. “Our position hasn’t changed -- we still recommend that faculty members be made mandated reporters only if they’re serving in some kind of legally mandated reporter role, such as a study-abroad advisor or something like that.”

'Substitute Parents’?
Levy said faculty members are often the “nearest and dearest,” or “substitute parents” to students on campus, and that any policy forcing victims to come forward before they're ready could strain that important relationship, or violate a trust. But Sokolow said that characterization might be overstated.

“There are some faculty members who want to be that soft landing and some faculty members who want nothing to do with it,” hence the case for “uniform rules,” he said. For those professors who worry about betraying students’ trust, he added, “I don’t know why faculty members wouldn’t just be able to say to a victim who comes forward to them, ‘Let’s speak hypothetically -- say you’re not making a formal report, what would you do? What resources would there be for you?’”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Director of Ethical Journalism Network talks Charlie Hebdo, ethics
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | 7:49 p.m. CST; updated 6:32 a.m. CST, Wednesday, February 4, 2015
BY TIMOSHANAE V. WELLMAKER

COLUMBIA — Aidan White is director of the Ethical Journalism Network in London, which promotes ethics, good governance and independent regulation of media content. Formed in 2011, it assembles media owners, editors and staff to strengthen the craft of journalism.

White was invited to the MU School of Journalism on Tuesday to participate in a forum about the responsibilities of journalists, a discussion prompted by the Charlie Hebdo shootings.

Before the forum, he was interviewed by the Missourian.

*In your own words, what is your job?*
To work with editors, owners and journalists to strengthen the quality of journalism, and to do that by promoting cooperation between media, journalist groups and media support groups around the world.

*What has been one of the hardest ethical decisions you've had to make as a journalist?*
When I was a young reporter, I did a story about drug taking at a local discotheque. We ran the story, and the day after the story ran, I was called in by the story’s editor who introduced me to the local police.

He wanted to have information about who I talked to to get the story, and I didn’t think that was really right. The editor asked me to hand over my notebook. I handed over my notebook, and I regretted it ever since.

*Why did you regret it?*
Because the relationship between a journalist and their source is precious and should not be given up. I felt that the police were fishing, and I allowed them to use my work for their own purposes.

I regret very much that I didn’t fight harder. But it was a lesson I learned, and so, therefore, the question of the protection of sources has always been a cardinal principle which I think above all has to be protected in journalism.

**How and when did you discover the Charlie Hebdo controversy?**

It's actually very interesting. I was at my computer at seven in the morning when the story began to break, and I watched it right from the beginning unfolding on the Internet.

I realized as this story was unfolding that this was going to be a terribly dangerous moment. So I wrote an article, which was an early call for journalists not to rush to judgment about the case, taking their time to report the information and about the need to report what was going on in context.

**What were your feelings toward it at the time?**

I was horrified by it. I was particularly horrified because for 30 years I've been concerned about the safety and security of journalists. And this was the biggest single targeted assassination of journalists in Europe that I have ever known. It was so horrifying that it revealed to me how important the issue of security and safety of journalists still is.


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**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

Cartoonist Khalil Bendib talks about Hebdo shootings, Muslims in France

Tuesday, February 3, 2015 | 8:11 p.m. CST; updated 6:29 a.m. CST, Wednesday, February 4, 2015

BY KATIE KULL
COLUMBIA — Khalil Bendib is a freelance political cartoonist in Berkeley, California. As an Algerian and a Muslim who grew up in France, he found himself the subject of intense media curiosity after the Jan. 7 Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris.

Since the attack, he has written about his struggle to resolve "the thorny question of freedom of expression versus responsibility" that arose after editors of the satirical French publication were killed by Islamic terrorists.

A cartoon on a recent Charlie Hebdo cover had featured a cartoon of Muhammad, whose depiction runs counter to Islamic teachings.

A commentary written by Bendib, and published by the Columbia Missourian on Jan. 13, went to the heart of the controversy.

"Was Charlie Hebdo, the satirical publication whose staffers were murdered by Islamic extremists in Paris, always the fairest and most responsible newspaper in the world? Of course not." Bendib opined. "But does anyone — ever — deserve to be harassed, hounded or murdered for expressing an opinion, however egregious it may be perceived by some?"

The tension he identified prompted the MU School of Journalism to invite Bendib to speak at a symposium Tuesday about the Charlie Hebdo incident and its aftermath. But first, he stopped at the Missourian to answer some questions.

How did you become a political cartoonist?
To be a political cartoonist, you need three things. First, you need to be an artist from Day 1. It needs to come from very deep. It's a desire to draw.

No. 2 is humor. You have to love to laugh and to make people laugh, otherwise you can't be a cartoonist. You have to know how to create a joke that, boom, will make somebody laugh.

And third — and just as important — you have to be obsessed with politics. Some people think, "Oh, I don't like politics." What people don't realize is that politics likes them.
You're made to think that you can be exempt from thinking politically, but you will lose if you do that. The system around you is political, and if you are not aware of that, you lose.

**How does that political fascination apply to you?**
I happened to fall into that before I was even born, in my mother's belly. Politics almost killed me before I was even born.

One of my flashbacks is to the very beginning of my life. I just barely escaped from Algeria as a fetus. My mother and father were within 10 minutes of being wiped out because of (the Algerian war for independence), and they managed to escape. That's why I was born in Paris and not Algeria. Because we had to escape. So with that, I could never ignore the impact of politics. It was in my blood.

**How did the Charlie Hebdo massacre affect you?**
I was devastated because the first thing I heard was that two of my favorite cartoonists were among the victims — Cabu (Jean Cabut) and Wolinski (Georges Wolinski). I was incredulous at first. I was unaware that they had worked at Charlie Hebdo. I thought, "Why them?"