Missouri lawmakers seek to ban college aid to undocumented students

By Koran Addo, Alex Stuckey

This time last year, one promising north St. Louis County student was in a position that a lot of hopeful college students dream about. He was a high school senior with good grades, a distinguished athlete on his high school wrestling and football teams.

He got into every four-year college he’d applied to before he realized he couldn’t afford any of them. Now 19, he is enrolled at a community college, hoping to make it to a university one day. His mistake was not realizing soon enough that, unlike his peers, he wasn’t eligible for state and financial aid.

Originally from Pakistan, he came to the U.S. 14 years ago with his parents, when he was 5. He is allowed to stay in the U.S. as an undocumented student under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. The program extends work permits and deportation relief to those brought to the U.S. as children. Although he is in the U.S. legally, he asked not to be named for fear of employment issues.

“I did everything right to go to college,” he said. “I was raised here. I’ve never been back.”

His status as one of an estimated 13,000 such students in the U.S. who are pursuing a college degree puts him on the wrong side of a lopsided battle with Missouri lawmakers. Legislative leaders propose making it more expensive for undocumented students to go to college even as school leaders say they want to offer access to promising students regardless of their immigration status.

With public colleges limited by state and federal law in how much help they can offer to undocumented students, a number of the state’s private institutions have picked up the slack, offering scholarships and other financial help to noncitizens.

Missouri’s fight over undocumented students stretches back to last year when current House Budget Committee Vice Chairman Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, successfully included language in the state’s higher education budget barring public colleges and universities from offering in-state tuition to “unlawfully present” students.

His reasoning: Students who are in the country illegally should not receive better tuition rates than legal residents.

This year, legislators are trying to go further. One measure that recently passed the House is a Fitzpatrick-sponsored bill that would require colleges and universities to charge undocumented students the same tuition charged to international students — generally much higher than in-state tuition rates.

The Missouri Senate also recently passed a measure, sponsored by Sen. Gary Romine, R-Farmington, that would not allow undocumented students to receive the state’s A+ scholarships.

In all, legislators have filed five bills this year that would make it more expensive for undocumented students to enroll in one of Missouri’s public colleges or universities.
If legislators are successful, Missouri would buck a national trend. According to the National Immigration Law Center, at least 20 states, up from 16 last year, allow certain undocumented students to receive in-state tuition.

‘HOW MANY GENIUSES?’
Legislators’ stance on this issue is in direct opposition to a number of Missouri higher education leaders.

University of Missouri-Columbia Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said policymakers should be making it easier, not harder, for students to attend college.

“I’m passionate about this,” Loftin said. “Every human being has great value that can be maximized through education.”

He said the issue reminded him of a recent trip to South Africa when he was driving through a poor township where people were living in extremely dismal conditions.

“I thought to myself, how many geniuses are out there,” he said. “How much ability is being wasted because people don’t have access to education.”

At the moment, public colleges are doing what they can within the law to offer access to undocumented students. In 2013, the University of Missouri-St. Louis began offering out-of-state tuition to undocumented students under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Alan Byrd, dean of enrollment services, said state law prevented schools from offering financial aid to “unlawfully present” students. DACA students, however, are considered to be “lawfully present” with a temporary status.

Of the 17 such students UMSL admitted in 2013, just one enrolled, Byrd said, because the others couldn’t afford to pay the out-of-state tuition rate of nearly $25,000.

Last year, UMSL changed its policy to offer a $9,400 annual tuition to qualifying undocumented students from Missouri high schools. The so-called Metro Rate had been previously set up to offer discounts to students from the St. Louis area, including the Metro East. After the policy change, Byrd said, six additional undocumented students enrolled.

It’s the right policy, according to Faith Sandler, executive director of the nonprofit Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis.

“There is no homeland for these students to go back to,” she said. “From a practical, a moral and an economic standpoint, this is in the best interest of them and the state.”

PRIVATE SUPPORT
A number of Missouri’s private schools including Webster, Fontbonne and St. Louis universities, have also latched on to the idea of undocumented students as a population worth serving.

The schools offer qualifying undocumented students the same merit- and need-based scholarships that other students have access to.

“We would have no difficulty defending our position on this,” added Fontbonne President Mike Pressimone. Cari Wickliffe, director of SLU’s Student Financial Services offices, said the school’s policy was in line with the Jesuit mission.

For Mayra Lopez Castellanos, 26, an undocumented student whose parents brought her to the U.S. from Mexico when she was 8, the push to make college more expensive for people such as she is disheartening.
She works 40 hours a week while also pursuing an accounting degree at Webster.

“I’ve been here for 18 years, this is my home. I love this country like anyone else,” she said. “I consider myself an American. I pay my rent, I pay my utilities and I file my taxes every year.”

Questions and sadness still surround University Village collapse

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28116&zone=5&categories=5

COLUMBIA - It's been a little over a year since University Village Apartments collapsed, and new interviews and documents obtained by KOMU 8 News raise questions about the collapse and the death of firefighter Lt. Bruce Britt. But papers and analysis don't make handling his death any easier for those in the Columbia Fire Department.

"This is an event we will never forget, and obviously we will never forget Lt. Britt. But as a family, we've stuck together, and the healing process has started," said Deputy Chief Jerry Jenkins.

Emergency responders are not allowed to talk about the specific events of the collapse, because of pending legal action, including a wrongful death suit filed by Britt's widow. But experts are weighing in.

A retired Louisiana fire service veteran, with 49 years experience in inspections of fire and structure safety, examined the records of incidents at University Village, which the fire department responded to from 2009-2013 and said poor building maintenance was a likely cause of eventual collapse.

Warren Deemer said. "I would submit that a structural failure occurred causing the walkways to separate from the building due to lack of proper maintenance and inspection of the facility over the years."
A federal report from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) cited miscommunication as a key issue leading to Britt's death. The 911 transcript shows the caller reported a roof collapse, saying they were trapped inside their apartment.

But documents recently obtained by KOMU 8 News indicate first responders did not see structural damage upon arrival.

Deemer said the sway of the walkway could have made the residents feel trapped inside.

"The reports called in to the 911 operations center add substance to the residents feeling the sway and unsteadiness of the walkway along with reports by the callers that this was not the first time they experienced the unsafe conditions of the walkways and building upkeep," Deemer said.

KOMU 8 News contacted dozens of fire consulting agencies across the state and country asking for analysis of the documents, but none wanted to comment. Deemer said this was likely because no one wants to "point any fingers as to the responsibility or liability, due to the tragic loss of the firefighter's life."

Jenkins said, while firefighters are trained to manage unknown emergency situations, there is no way to expect or prepare for the loss of one of your own.

"That morning that the accident happened was something that a lot of us have never experienced in our careers, but the men and women there performed admirably to the circumstances," Jenkins said.

Lt. Jesse Cash, one of the firefighters working with Britt at the scene, said understanding the risk doesn't mean he understands the loss.

"We prepare for different situations, and it's always in the back of your mind," Cash said. "But when it happens this close to home, it really stands out. It really makes it hard to forget about it."

Both Cash and Jenkins said the accident and Bruce are always on their minds.

"We haven't forgotten Bruce," Jenkins said. "You know, me personally, in my fire helmet, I've always kept a picture of my son because that reminds me at a fire scene that I've got to do things that make it safe so I can go see my son when my shift is over. Now I carry Bruce's picture in my helmet as well. Bruce is very near and dear to my heart. So every emergency response I go to and I put that helmet on, it's with me. Bruce is with me. So he's at every call go to."

Cash said, "Just the thought of the whole thing of just how dangerous this job can be in parts. Even when you're doing stuff right like you're supposed to, bad things can still happen."

Here's a timeline of the events from 2006 through Feb. 2015.
MUPD chief announces retirement

COLUMBIA, Mo. - MU Police Chief Jack Watring has announced his retirement effective in June.

Watring's last day in office will be April 1st, and the new interim chief is Major Doug Schwanadt.

Watring worked for the department for 44 years. He also worked with the Missouri State Highway Patrol before he came to work with MUPD in June 1971.

Brian Weimer with MUPD said Watring will be missed, but he has done a lot of work for the department in his tenure.

Weimer said Watring plans to spend more time with his family

MU police chief announces retirement

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm

After 44 years with the University of Missouri Police Department, Chief Jack Watring is retiring.

Watring, who is just shy of 70, said his retirement is coming at the right time for him personally and for the department.
We became a department in 1954, and I hate to say this, but we were the stepchildren of police work at the time,” Watring said. “I think we have brought the department around to where it’s very professional and recognized for that.”

Watring came to MU after two years with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and he never left. He spent decades with the department before he was promoted to chief in 2003. He announced his retirement internally about a month ago, but kept the announcement low key.

His official last day is in June, but unofficially, Watring is leaving April 1 and using leftover vacation time for the next few months.

“Universities are a really good place to work — always have been,” Watring said, reflecting on what kept him around MU for more than four decades. “There were always ups and downs, but by and large most of the time was good, on the upswing.”

Watring said the department is in good shape and praised the work of Vice Chancellor Gary Ward. Ward is “new, but very supportive of the department and safety on campus,” Watring said.

“That’s the whole reason we’re here, to make sure students, faculty and staff — but especially students — are safe on campus,” he said.

Watring said his focus on campus safety and the department’s relationship with the campus as a whole is the legacy he hopes to leave behind. Developing that relationship between MU police and everyone else was his main charge when then Vice Chancellor Jackie Jones promoted him to chief about 12 years ago.

Department spokesman Brian Weimer, who has been with the department for 22 years, said Watring’s legacy is creating a sense of professionalism within the department, making MU police a force that is looked up to by both university and municipal law enforcement agencies.

“He was the perfect person to step into the job when he did,” Weimer said. “The department came off of a lot of change with moving facilities, accreditation, stuff like that. We needed someone to come anchor in all of the changes.”

As chief, Watring created a sense of tradition and leadership and a family-like value for everyone in the 55-person department, Weimer said. He even sends handwritten birthday cards because “that’s just the kind of person he is.”

Being around his unit was among the list of things Watring said he will miss the most.

Watring can often be spotted at events around campus, ranging from curator meetings to student demonstrations, rarely donning a uniform. He said the police chief, no matter who it is, should be out around campus, building relationships, letting people know the department is available to foster community policing.
Watring said he and his wife have a second home at the Lake of the Ozarks that he plans to visit more frequently in retirement. He also plans to spend more time bass fishing with the Ozark Mountain Anglers club.

Maj. Doug Schwandt was appointed interim chief as of March 1 and will work with Watring until the chief’s departure.

St. Louis County prosecutor to speak about grand juries, Ferguson

By Alan Burdziak

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The prosecutor who received national attention during the recent tumult in Ferguson is scheduled to speak at the University of Missouri School of Law next Tuesday about the grand jury process and the fatal August shooting of an unarmed black man by a police officer.

St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch will speak at 5:30 p.m. at Hulston Hall, with a question-and-answer session afterward. His appearance is the first event organized by the newly created student chapter of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

McCulloch was thrust into the national spotlight last summer during a grand jury investigation into then-Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson. Wilson, who is white, shot and killed Michael Brown, 18, who was black, on Aug. 9. The grand jury declined to charge Wilson in November and a subsequent federal investigation cleared him of civil rights violations. McCulloch was criticized for how he conducted the grand jury in Wilson’s case. Instead of asking for a specific charge and only presenting a fraction of the evidence and witnesses, McCulloch gave the jury several options on charges and presented all the evidence in the case and dozens of witnesses.

Brown’s death sparked protests nationwide, riots in north St. Louis County and a national outcry about police interaction with minorities.

Ryan Nely, one of the founders of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys student chapter, said the event is a way to continue the dialogue on campus about Ferguson and race. The School of Law and other university departments have held several forums on the subject.
“We’re just trying to approach it as this is a very unique perspective,” Nely said. “It’s an opportunity that not many people in Missouri or elsewhere are going to get.”

Nely said the group is aware of the controversy that surrounds Ferguson and McCulloch, and work is being done to avoid any possible issues. Nely said he knows student leaders who have strong feelings about McCulloch and wants to ensure their concerns are heard and any protests are done peacefully.

MU spokesman Nathan Hurst deferred questions to Nely because McCulloch’s appearance is a student event, but said the university will address any issues that arise.

“We’re not necessarily expecting any problems to come out of it,” Hurst said.

Protesters interrupted McCulloch’s speech last month at a St. Louis University School of Law symposium on policing after the events in Ferguson.

St. Louis County prosecutor to speak at Columbia law school

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The St. Louis County prosecutor is set to speak next week at a Columbia law school about the grand jury process and the fatal shooting of an unarmed 18-year-old by a Ferguson police officer.

The Columbia Daily Tribune reports Bob McCulloch is scheduled to speak next Tuesday at the University of Missouri School of Law. The student chapter of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys organized his appearance.

A founder of the group's student chapter says the event is a way to continue discussions about the events in Ferguson and race.

The August death of Michael Brown, who was black, prompted months of protests in the region. A grand jury declined to indict now-former officer Darren Wilson, who is white, in the shooting.
St. Louis County prosecutor to speak at MU law school

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McCulloch to speak at Mizzou about grand jury process

St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch is scheduled to speak next week at the University of Missouri School of Law about the grand jury process and the Michael Brown shooting.

McCulloch's appearance is the first event to be organized by the new student chapter of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Columbia Daily Tribune reports. McCulloch
is scheduled to speak at 5:30 p.m. at Hulston Hall, with a period for questions and answers following.

McCulloch spoke in February at the Saint Louis University School of Law. Protesters interrupted his remarks at the event, which was his first public appearance since the grand jury’s decision not to indict former Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the Brown shooting.

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**BPA cuts fertility in fish 3 generations later**

The offspring of fish exposed to Bisphenol A (BPA) have decreased fertility and increased embryo mortality three generations later. A new study suggests that exposed humans and their children could be affected in the same way.

BPA is a chemical that is used in a variety of consumer products, including water bottles, dental composites, and resins used to line metal food and beverage containers. Aquatic environments such as rivers and streams often become reservoirs for these endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

*“BPA has been proven to mimic the function of natural hormones in animals and humans, says Ramji Bhandari, an assistant research professor of biological sciences at the University of Missouri and a visiting scientist with the US Geological Survey.*

Reproductive abnormalities

“Fish and aquatic organisms often have the greatest exposure to such chemicals during critical periods in their development or even throughout entire life cycles. This study shows that even though endocrine disruptors may not affect the life of the exposed fish, it may negatively affect future generations.”

For the study, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, researchers exposed medaka, or Japanese rice fish, to chemicals that included BPA for one week during embryonic development.

They then studied their offspring through as many as four generations. Subsequent generations were never exposed to the chemicals. No apparent reproductive abnormalities appeared in the
first two generations of fish, but future generations showed a reduced rate of fertilization and increased embryo mortality.

“The shorter generations of the medaka fish make it an ideal candidate for this type of study, and we can generally translate the findings from fish to humans as well,” Bhandari says.

“Findings showed a 30 percent decrease in the fertilization rate of fish two generations after exposure and a 20 percent reduction after three generations. If those trends continued, the potential for declines in overall population numbers might be expected in generations far removed from the initial exposure.”

“This study examined concentrations of BPA and other chemicals that are not expected to be found in most environmental situations,” says Don Tillitt, an adjunct professor of biological sciences and a research toxicologist with the USGS.

“However, concern remains about the possibility of passing on adverse reproductive effects to future generations at lower levels.”

Frederick vom Saal, professor of biological sciences, contributed to the study.

Sex assault, drinking push colleges to moment of reckoning

CONCORD, New Hampshire — On college campuses nationwide, the intertwined problems of sexual assault and alcohol are under intense scrutiny as students increasingly speak up and the federal government cracks down. Pushed to a collective moment of reckoning, colleges and universities are trying a slew of solutions focused on education, environment and enforcement.

At the University of Virginia, a social network will connect female freshmen with older mentors. Brown University hopes to make it easier for women to report sexual assault.
In New Hampshire, Dartmouth College has banned hard liquor and plans to take the unusual step of completely overhauling its housing system.

At Dartmouth, where a committee spent nine months researching high-risk drinking, sexual assault and a general lack of community on campus, no one solution stood out.

"I was hopeful that they would find some campus that had really unlocked the secret, but what they found is that every campus is suffering from these issues and struggling with these issues," Dartmouth President Philip Hanlon said.

Even as administrators implement changes, new incidents have cropped up. A Penn State fraternity is accused of posting photos of nude women, some apparently unconscious, on a private Facebook page. The University of Wisconsin-Madison terminated a fraternity chapter last week after an investigation found it engaged in hazing that included excessive underage drinking and sexualized conduct.

At the University of Virginia, social activities at fraternities were suspended after the November publication of a Rolling Stone article describing a gang-rape at a fraternity. Though much of the article was later discredited, the school lifted the suspension only after Greek organizations agreed to new rules banning kegs, requiring security workers and ensuring at least three fraternity members are sober.

The university also is considering new courses on safety and a research institute on violence, and a group of administrators, faculty members, students and others will make recommendations next month on changing the university's culture with regard to alcohol and sexual assault.

In Rhode Island, where Brown University students recently protested the handling of a female student's drugging and sexual assault allegations, a task force on sexual assault is expected to release its final report this month. The university has begun implementing some recommendations made in December, including handling complaints more quickly and reducing the "traumatic nature" of the process.

Dartmouth last year overhauled its policies to include harsher sanctions for sexual assault and it is developing a four-year, mandatory sexual violence prevention program. On the fraternity front, it plans to require all student organizations, including fraternities and sororities, to undergo annual reviews to ensure they are being inclusive and diversifying their membership.
But going further, Dartmouth is literally changing how students live. Starting with the
class of 2019, each incoming student will be assigned to one of six "house communities"
—a cluster of residence halls that will serve as a home base for social and academic
programs. Each community will have a professor in residence and dedicated space for
academic and social interaction.

In recommending the house system, Hanlon's committee faulted the school for failing to
invest in residential life over the years and creating a void that was largely filled by the Greek system.

Dartmouth joins a small but growing number of U.S. colleges and universities that have
embraced the "residential college" model, which typically involves small, faculty-led
communities that include students from various years and backgrounds. The concept
goes back centuries in England, but only about 30 U.S. schools have at least one
residential college, the vast majority of them created for reasons unrelated to the challenges that led to Dartmouth's decision.

Rice University in Texas, which started its residential college system in 1957, randomly
assigns every student to one of 11 colleges. Mixing freshmen in with upperclassmen helps transfer traditions and standards of behavior, and having separate governing systems for each college makes them "incubators of problem-solving," said John Hutchinson, dean of undergraduates.

For example, when the university wanted to tackle alcohol abuse several years ago, he said, it gathered together residential college leaders, who then strongly recommended a ban on hard alcohol.

Dartmouth's plans are largely an experiment. No one has specifically studied whether residential colleges make for safer campuses, and like Dartmouth, a handful of schools with residential college systems are under investigation by the Department of Education for how they handle sexual assault and harassment.

But administrators and students say that such systems can help schools deal with problems better.

Tennessee's Vanderbilt University, where two former football players were recently convicted of raping an unconscious student in June 2013, opened 10 residential colleges for freshmen in 2008 and two more for older students last fall.
Cynthia Cyrus, provost for learning and residential affairs, said that there have been fewer reports of "extreme behaviors" from the two new colleges compared with traditional housing, and that students living in the freshmen houses and the new colleges more often have what she calls "the difficult conversations" about rape, religion and other issues.

Sophomore Vivek Shah is a resident adviser in Vanderbilt's Moore College, where two dormitories are connected by a central area that includes classrooms, conference rooms, and space for eating and studying. Thanks to his fellow residents, he has enjoyed women's soccer games, theater performances and concerts he otherwise would have skipped.

"Living with students not only of both genders but different grade levels and different experiences has really shown me that there is more to campus than just what I do," he said.

At Dartmouth, nearly 90 percent of students live on campus, but many switch rooms multiple times a year and treat their residence halls like hotels, returning only to sleep and do laundry.

In contrast, Rice senior Ravi Sheth says he felt at home before he even enrolled when he visited one of the residential colleges as a high school student. That sense of community was a main factor in his decision to attend the university, he said.

"It gives students a lot of control," he said, "over the environment in which they live."

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**CBC Radio**

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, “Quirks and Quarks” Radio Program

**Plants Can Tell Who Is Bugging Them**

Arabidopsis is a well-studied model plant in the cabbage family. From previous studies, it was known that the plant reacts chemically as a defence against herbivorous insects that are attacking it.

But scientists, including Dr. Heidi Appel from the Division of Plant Sciences at the University of Missouri, wanted to find out exactly how sensitive Arabidopsis was to different species of insect. In an experiment, they subjected the plant to two different species of caterpillar, and two different species of aphid.

Analysis of genes expressed by the plant during the attacks showed that Arabidopsis responded differently to the two types of insect. The different type of attack - the chewing of the caterpillar versus the sucking of the aphid - provided signature clues to the plant as to who was attacking.

April: Briefly in the News

March 25, 2015  BY Taylor Wanbaugh

Top Residency

The University of Missouri School of Medicine was named one of the nation’s best residency training programs for family physicians by Doximity, a professional network for physicians. MU’s residency program was ranked third in the Midwest after a survey that included more than 50,000 peer nominations from board-certified U.S. physicians and evaluations of 3,691 residency training programs across 20 specialties.
Three local students present research posters at state Capitol

Some of the state’s most remarkable students recently gathered for the University of Missouri System’s annual Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol in Jefferson City. Three area students were among the participants who presented research posters. They are (from left): Katelyn Waidmann, of O’Fallon, and Wade Dismukes and Emily McMichael, both of St. Charles.

Some of the state’s most remarkable students recently gathered for the University of Missouri System’s annual Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol in Jefferson City, according to a press release.

Three area students were among the participants who presented research posters.

Wade Dismukes, of St. Charles, a senior majoring in biological sciences and mathematics at the University of Missouri-Columbia presented "Darwin's Peaches: Grape-phylloxera Galls Interrogated by RNA-Seq" under the direction of Dr. Chris Pires, associate professor of biological sciences. Dismukes is the son of Sumner Dismukes, of Byrnes Mill.

Emily McMichael, of St. Charles, a senior majoring in biology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City presented "The Effect of Artificial Sugars as Carbon Sources on Pathogenic Fungi" under the direction of Dr. Theodore White, dean of the School of Biological Sciences. McMichael is the daughter of Russell and Geneva McMichael, of St. Charles.

Katelyn Waidmann, of O'Fallon, a senior majoring in elementary education at the University of Missouri-Columbia presented "Fostering Student Growth in Writing by Acknowledging the Discrepancies Among Gender, Socioeconomic Status and Ethnicity" under the direction of Dr. Erica Lembke, associate professor of special education. Waidmann is the daughter of William and Anne Waidmann, of O'Fallon.

In total, 59 students from the university’s four campuses discussed their work with senators, representatives and other visitors. Each student was selected in a competitive process and recommended by his or her campus, including 30 from the MU campus; 10 from UMKC; 16 from Missouri S&T; and three from UMSL. The students shared their research from a variety of disciplines including criminology, biology, education, engineering, and political science.
“Research has been fundamental to the University of Missouri since it became a land-grant university more than 150 years ago,” Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research and Economic Development Hank Foley said. “Research exposes students to the wonders and possibilities of research and innovation and helps develop them as future scientists and entrepreneurs whose discoveries could result in new businesses and jobs, and improve the quality of life for Missourians.”

With research core to its mission, the UM System accounts for 96.9 percent of all research conducted by public universities in Missouri.

“No other public higher education institution in the state provides undergraduate students with the breadth and depth of research opportunities as the UM System,” Vice President for University Relations Steve Knorr said. “Giving our students an opportunity to showcase their work at the state Capitol with their own hometown legislators spreads the value message for higher education on a greater level.”

11 Questions with Beth Chancellor, chief information security officer, University of Missouri System

Protecting Against the Invisible

Beth Chancellor, chief information security officer, University of Missouri System

You’re the CISO for the entire UM System. How do you ensure information assets and technologies are adequately protected across the various campuses? The field of information technology is not short on standards. The same applies to information security. We use standards and best practices to establish university-wide information security policies and procedures. We have a distributed approach to information security. Each of the university’s four campuses has an information security officer and security analysts who contribute to policy and program development. They also select and deploy a number of security technologies designed to manage security risks. Additionally, IT staff working in a number of technology areas are responsible for the security of the systems and applications they manage. Security staff and technical staff work together to meet that common goal.

How would you describe your job? Your day-to-day activities? My daily activities are filled with meetings and staying in touch with the security staff to understand what’s happening on campus and throughout the world. If a new threat comes out, and they do on a regular basis, we put on our “responder” hat and work to understand and mitigate the threat. I also spend as much
time as possible reading and engaging in online webinars to keep up with the fast pace of IT and information security fields.

**What sorts of attacks are most common? What are the most common risks?** The number of security risks that we deal with continually grows and morphs. We prevent thousands of attempts to gain access to our networks each day. However, the most common successful attacks are phishing attacks. Our security, network and email teams spend a great deal of time working to prevent phishing attempts from getting into our email systems and to mitigate the impact of successful phishing messages.

**CISOs are usually responsible for information-related compliance. If this is an aspect of your job, how do you do so when working with thousands of students and staff on your network who may or may not be aware of the policies and may or may not care? What is your policy of action for those breaking the rules?** The foundation of our “information” security program is our data classification system that categorized different types of data and sets security requirements for each category. University employees depend on their local IT staff to help them with IT issues including information security. Therefore, we spend most of our time educating IT staff and allowing those individuals to assist the users they support.

**What would you say are some of the most significant emerging risks in information security at this time? What steps has MU taken to protect against those risks?** I think it’s hard to say what the most significant emerging risk is because significant is in the eye of the beholder. Certainly, corporate hacking has become and will continue to be a problem. Hackers tend to go where the money is. Intellectual property theft is becoming more of a concern and can and almost certainly will impact higher education, especially research institutions.

From an end-user perspective, viruses and insecure apps on mobile phones are going to pose significant problems in the future just like outdated operating systems and applications do currently.

**What would you say are the top trends in your industry right now?** The proliferation of mobile devices and how they can be potentially exploited is of high concern in the industry. It’s important to note that it’s the combination of behavior and technology that creates security issues, and there is a lot that we do to educate our users regarding how to protect themselves and MU.

**On a scale of one to 10, how big of an issue is hacking to the UM System and MU in particular?** Hacking from the sense of someone outside gaining access to our systems or our networks is a big concern and something our security and technical staff guard against each and every day. It’s sort of the reverse of running a prison. Prisons try to keep people in, and information security tries to keep the bad guys out. It’s a crazy environment when threats are everywhere and are also (mostly) invisible.
J-schools have good reason to be ashamed of themselves

By CRAIG LADWIG

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm

“All of us learn to write in the second grade. Most of us go on to greater things.”

— Robert Montgomery Knight, former Indiana University basketball coach

I spoke at an Indiana university recently on the topic of journalism. Afterward, talking with students, I was surprised that although they hoped to work in newsrooms of one sort or another, they were not journalism majors. Rather, they were enrolled in something called a “professional writers program.”

Journalism, it turns out, is no longer scholastically fashionable. Registrars might have figured out that nobody wants to take out $80,000 in student loans to be unemployed in a profession that the public ranks near the bottom.

The situation, to borrow from Mark Twain, is this: “A thunderstorm made Beranger a poet, a mother’s kiss made Benjamin West a painter and a salary of $15 a week makes us a journalist.”

It hasn’t always been so. Post-modern journalism burgeoned 40 years ago when Robert Redford stepped into the role of a dead-end bureau reporter at The Washington Post. Newsrooms soon filled with the hypereducated young, salaries rising to sufferable levels. But the utility of journalism schools has always been suspect in all of that.

Newsrooms at their zenith were not staffed with handsome, erudite graduates. Far from it; there you would find the compensating introvert, the aimlessly curious and the totally unremarkable, all backed up by alcoholics with photographic memories plus an occasional nephew of the publisher to sign the checks. And yes, when I first hired on at The (Old) Kansas City Star, there were spittoons at some desks on the famed South Wall and half-pint whiskey bottles in the bottom drawers.

Too effete for that, some journalism schools today are reinventing themselves accordingly, broadening their customer base into more respectable professions, trying to move up a notch or two on the Pew Ranking of Public Esteem.
Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism changed its name to Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, and Integrated Marketing Communications.

And the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, the mecca for baby boomers seeking to change the world, has cut enrollment back to “historical norms.” No faculty will be affected, the school assures us, the world apparently having been changed enough.

It serves no purpose to dwell on the hypocrisy of journalism schools embarrassed to be associated with journalism. It is important to say, though, that since the halcyon days of Watergate those schools have been sending innocents to sociopolitical slaughter armed with nothing more than late-night dormitory opinions.

That, and not the Internet, has been the ruin of us. For there is no market for adolescent opinion. There is a demand, however, for the skills of prescience. And those skills, difficult to teach and tedious to master, are embedded in the century-old “Journalist’s Creed” by Walter Williams of the University of Missouri, perhaps the last real journalism school left. Here is his concluding paragraph:

“I believe that the journalism which succeeds the best — and best deserves success — fears God and honors man; is stoutly independent; unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power; constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of the privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance, and as far as law, an honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of and for today’s world.”

Heavy stuff. Yet, for today’s struggling journalism schools, restoring those principles — and the practical skills required to further them — might be more effective, and cheaper in the long run, than hiring a marketing firm.

My first job was with an outstate Missouri daily of 4,000 presumed readers, the defunct Fulton Daily Sun-Gazette. A yellowed copy of Williams’ creed was posted on its bulletin board. My editor was a Mizzou grad, and upon receiving certain assignments he would walk across the newsroom with purposeful steps to strike out the pertinent sentence in the creed.

I didn’t stay long enough to find out what the editor did after that particular copy had been fully expunged. Now, though, I can see the damage that the wide abandonment of Williams’ ideals has done to journalism generally.

The repair, if it is attempted at all, will take more than a rebranding.

Craig Ladwig, editor of The Indiana Policy Review, is a 50-year veteran of newsrooms. A former editorial writer and columnist for The Kansas City Star and an associate editor with Knight-Ridder News, he has written on journalism reform for the Wall Street Journal and Editor & Publisher. His father, the late Tom Ladwig, was a longtime Tribune columnist.
NCAA releases documents in USC-McNair case, many with negative tone

Members of the NCAA infractions committee that handed USC some of the most severe penalties in college sports history compared the evidence in the scandal to the Oklahoma City bombing, mocked the university's response to the matter and derided the hiring of Lane Kiffin.

The responses are among almost 500 pages of previously sealed emails, interview transcripts and other documents the NCAA filed in court Tuesday in former USC running backs coach Todd McNair's long-standing defamation lawsuit against the organization.

“McNair should have all inferences negatively inferred against him,” Roscoe Howard, a former U.S. attorney and nonvoting member of the committee, wrote in a March 2010 email. “Credibility determinations are for this committee and this committee alone. As with all tribunals or fact finders, we need not say why we disbelieve him, we need only let the public, or whomever, know that we disbelieve him.”

For years, the NCAA fought to seal the documents, claiming that doing so would hinder future investigations by the organization. But California's 2nd District Court of Appeal rejected the attempt in a sharply worded opinion in February by a three-justice panel.

The Los Angeles Times and New York Times had previously asked the court to not seal the documents.

Per the court's order, the NCAA chose what documents to publicly refile. About 200 pages that had been sealed were left out of Tuesday's filing. The omissions include some of the committee's most inflammatory emails that Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Frederick Shaller wrote in 2012 “tend to show ill will or hatred.”

One of those emails, from infractions committee liaison Shep Cooper, excerpted in court documents but not included in Tuesday's filing, called McNair “a lying, morally bankrupt criminal … and a hypocrite of the highest order.”

The documents filed by the NCAA, though, opened a window into the contentious proceedings that unfolded during an investigation that took more than four years, USC's hearing before the NCAA's Committee on Infractions and USC and McNair's infractions appeals hearings.

USC was sanctioned in June 2010 for “lack of institutional control” for violations that centered on former football star Reggie Bush and his family, and former basketball star O.J. Mayo.
The NCAA determined McNair, who worked at USC under former coach Pete Carroll from 2004 to 2009, “knew or should have known” that Bush had dealings with two sports marketers from the San Diego area, Lloyd Lake and Michael Michaels.

The NCAA also determined McNair had engaged in unethical conduct and sanctioned him with a “show-cause” order, barring him from contact with recruits for one year while working for USC or any other NCAA-member institution. The order makes a coach essentially unemployable.

One of McNair's attorneys said in a statement after that ruling that the infractions committee “mischaracterized and manipulated key testimony.” McNair was not retained by Kiffin when his contract expired in 2010. The NCAA denied McNair's appeal in April 2011 and McNair sued the NCAA for unspecified damages two months later, citing irreparable damage to his career.

He has not worked as a college or pro coach since he was not retained by USC.

Another nonvoting member of the 10-person infractions committee, Rodney Uphoff, lambasted USC in an undated memo distributed to the group. That included an extended passage touting the strength of the committee's evidence in comparison to that used in the trial of Terry Nichols, convicted of participating in the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

“**But there is no question that the evidence in this case is much stronger than against Nichols in the OKC case,”** wrote Uphoff, a University of Missouri professor who was appointed to represent Nichols.

In the same memo, Uphoff also criticized USC's hiring of Kiffin as head coach in 2010 as evidence the school didn't take the Bush scandal seriously.

Uphoff made reference to Paul Dee, a longtime University of Miami athletic director who was then chairman of the NCAA's infractions committee for USC's case.

“Paul Dee was brought in at Miami to clean up a program with serious problems. USC has responded to its problems by bringing in Lane Kiffin,” Uphoff wrote. “They need a wake-up call that doing things the wrong way will have serious consequences.”

A year after the NCAA handed down sanctions against USC in 2010 — when Dee famously said “high-profile players demand high-profile compliance” — Miami came under investigation for infractions involving multiple players and booster Nevin Shapiro, many of which occurred during Dee's tenure.

Howard took a similar position in a March 2010 email to the infractions committee.

“Lack of institutional control … (and do we add the hiring of Lane Kiffin?), is a very easy call for me,” Howard wrote.

The same month, infractions committee member Eleanor Myers expressed uneasiness about the group's deliberations via email.
“I am concerned about confidentiality because I do not know California open records law and because several of us use our institutional email accounts at public institutions,” she wrote.

In the same email thread, infractions committee member Britton Banowsky seemed befuddled by the case against McNair.

“It is challenging for me to make the finding when there is no allegation that he personally was involved in any rules violations, or even had specific knowledge of any,” Banowsky wrote.

Myers replied she wasn't comfortable with accusing McNair of lying to the infractions committee.

“As Britton says, on this record it is hard to find that he was ‘involved' in anything,” she wrote.

Days earlier, Howard had sent a 41/2-page email to the group assailing USC, calling the university's approach to the case “troubling” and “insulting.”

Uphoff, as well, wanted to make an example of Bush.

“But … it is inconceivable to me that an innocent person in Bush's situation with all that he has at stake, wouldn't come forward with the documents to prove his innocence,” Uphoff wrote. “Accordingly, we should hold him accountable. … Given the limited powers of the NCAA enforcement staff we emasculate them if we allow ex-athletes to refuse to cooperate and suffer no adverse inference from a failure to supply information under these circumstances.”

Uphoff also argued against upholding “too high of a burden of proof” and defended the “inconsistencies re dates and details about events that spanned over 15 months” by marketer Lake.

The NCAA and Todd McNair's attorney didn't return requests for comment. A USC spokesperson said the university hadn't seen the documents.

Plenty of publicly available material filled Tuesday's filing, including 10 pages of the Division I manual, numerous news articles about the case and an NCAA news release from April 2011 announcing the penalties against McNair had been upheld.

All had been previously sealed.

A case management conference in McNair's defamation lawsuit, filed in 2011, is scheduled for next month.
Getting Hacked

While Santa stuffed stockings last Christmas Eve, zombies invaded Columbia.

In hacker slang, a “zombie” is a compromised computer, one that can be remotely controlled to mindlessly attack. In this case, a network of infected computers were commanded to flood the City of Columbia’s website. They obeyed orders perfectly, making the site inaccessible for all of Christmas Day and the day after. Visitors were greeted with a message saying the website was taking too long to respond and that users should check their Internet connection. Of course, Internet connection wasn’t the problem. The city was under cyberattack, the first the city had ever faced.

It’s been attacked 17 times since.

All 17 have been Distributed Denial of Services attacks, a popular form of cybercrime that floods a website’s servers. If you imagine 10,000 people trying to fit through the front door of City Hall at the same time, you can begin to understand how a DDOS attack works. The website is inundated beyond capacity by requests from malware-infected computers, blocking all legitimate traffic until the attack subsides. It’s uncomplicated and more or less impossible to stop. Because the attacker doesn’t gain access to the system, a DDOS isn’t a hack. It is, however, a cybercrime — and a serious one at that.

Cybercrime is now a security issue for every person with a computer and every business that’s online, but cybercrime against businesses in mid-Missouri can be difficult to gauge. In 2011, the Missouri Sherriff’s Association was attacked, along with 76 other law enforcement agencies, in protest to Anonymous members being arrested. This attack, and the December attack on the city, was high profile enough to notice, but that isn’t always the case.

“Columbia’s website is very visible, and that attack would be known quickly,” says David Nivens, CEO of Midwest Computech in Columbia. “A law firm or doctor’s office may choose to not make an attack public, a lot of people get hacked and never know it.”

The threats are continually evolving, and computer security experts have to be both proactive and reactive to stay on the cutting edge. This kind of crime is hard to stop, but local experts have some tips to take the safety of your company’s online presence to the next level.

The façade of safety
Hacking becomes more widespread as cybercrime becomes larger scale and more sophisticated. In a scam unveiled in mid-February, cybercriminals stole more than $1 billion from European and U.S. banks through careful infiltration of employee computers. In January, hackers attacked Sony Pictures to protest The Interview, a film depicting the assassination of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un; in turn, North Korea’s Internet went out a few days later. Other hacking stories abound.

Computer hacking emerged in popular culture in the mid-’80s, propagated by successful hacking movies such as WarGames, in which Matthew Broderick plays an unwitting hacker who nearly sets off World War III. Magazines, notably the still active 2600, and online forums began giving hackers a place to call home — and to swap stories, techniques and secrets.

Nivens says the new information threats have caused massive changes in the 21st century.

“Fifteen years ago, security was pretty static,” Nivens says. “You usually just put up a firewall and then said that was it. Now the bad guys are always one step ahead of everyone else, coming up with new ways to penetrate your network or make you give up information. It’s really a reactive industry.”

**Nivens sees three possible motivations for hackers: profit, pleasure and protest. A for-profit hack would be like the one that victimized banks in February; a pleasure hack would be like HackMizzou, a 24-hour pro-gra- mming competition held on the University of Missouri campus.**

The attack on Columbia’s city website was a protest: The attacker, through a YouTube video posted on the website Counter Current News, said he wanted to punish the city for a 2011 SWAT raid in which two dogs were shot, one fatally. The YouTube video has since been deleted.

DDOS attacks are popular among the “hacktivists.” In 2011, the hacking collective Anonymous petitioned the U.S. government to legalize DDOS as a legitimate form of protest, saying it was the same as occupying physical space. A DDOS attack is easy, once you have access to a sizable botnet, and you can even download software that teaches you how to do it for free.

Still, complicated attacks involve more layered infiltration. Attackers will often gain access to a company’s system through phishing emails (also known as spam), observe their target and look for weaknesses to attack. Nivens’ company hopes to make those weaknesses as small as possible.

Midwest Computech hosts a Web-based cloud system, using multiple layers to protect customer information. Nivens is quick to distinguish it from the “consumer-level” clouds such as Dropbox and Apple’s iCloud, which was breached last September. Access to Midwest Computech’s secure cloud is encrypted, and having all of the information in one place provides fewer points of entry for potential attackers. The cloud also allows work to be secured from different devices. Having mobile access is important for a modern business, but it also opens up more possibilities for infiltration; more devices on a network mean more devices that could be compromised.
“There’s some façade that if it’s on your network, then you’re safe,” Nivens says. “Life isn’t lived on a desktop anymore. The number of devices that can connect to your data is exponential.”

**Picking up the pieces**

The DDOS attack on the city website attracted attention from local media, to the apparent delight of the attacker, who fielded a few questions from a *Columbia Daily Tribune* reporter on Twitter. The attacker was less happy with local news station KOMU 8. after the station posted a Web story, quoting the city’s erroneous statement that the attacker was affiliated with anonymous, KOMU’s website went down. It was

More zombies.

Matt Garrett, director of audience development at KOMU 8, was flummoxed. “Quite frankly, we were dumbfounded as to why we were being attacked,” he says. “We were reporting, factually, something that the City of Columbia told us.”

This elicited a grin from the man seated next to Garrett, KOMU 8 network administrator Jason Kennedy. “We’re still paying for that one,” he says. Three hours after KOMU was able to get the site back up, the attacker crashed it again. The site’s hosting provider refused to allow the site back up again until they had a mitigation system in place, the only real defense against a DDOS attack.

KOMU now uses CloudFlare, a mitigation service that masks a site’s IP address, which makes it more difficult to target. The CloudFlare package with this capability costs $200 a month. This can be frustrating to spend, especially for defense against such a basic attack.

“These attacks aren’t a challenge,” Kennedy says. “This is the same software that I use to stress test our servers. It’s rudimentary. It’s easy.”

Garrett says the DDOS attacks were more than an inconvenience; they were financially damaging. a nonfunctional website is bad for any business, particularly one that relies on Web traffic and Internet ad revenue.

Although they were sleepless holidays at KOMU 8, both Kennedy and Garrett agree there wasn’t much more to be done. They didn’t communicate with the attacker at all, and they didn’t alter their original story to meet the attacker’s requests. To do so, they say, would have only provided an incentive to other potential cybercriminals.

These were the first attacks that Kennedy dealt with in 22 years at KOMU 8. For him, they reaffirmed his suspicions about living in the online age.

“If you’re online, you’re not safe,” he says. “People think I’m paranoid, but it’s true.”
Garrett, now smiling, adds, “That’s mostly because he goes around wearing a hat made of tin foil.”

**The risk of the cyber age**

If anybody should be at the cutting edge of cybersecurity, it’s John Shier, senior security expert at Sophos, an international computer security company. Shier has an ear for explaining the complex industry in down-to-earth terms: He refers to cybercriminals as “crooks” and takes time to explain terms such as spear-phishing and snowshoe spam. He blogs on Naked Security, Sophos’ cybernews site for the average consumer. Recent topics include a hitchhiking robot and a how-to guide for spotting phishy emails.

Shier knows what a difficult game of chess he’s playing and how well crafted cyberattacks can be. “To do security right is really hard,” he says. “You need to have all of your ducks in a row.”

Shier says phishing emails are the biggest security threat businesses have to deal with. Employees should know how to spot a bad link or a suspicious email and report the potential attack as soon as possible.

Malevolent hackers often cast a wide net in hopes of entangling just enough people to gain access and begin analyzing a target. Even when a company is targeted prior to an attack, it’s usually the employees who unwittingly grant an attacker access to the system. After that, the crooks just take what’s available, meaning every business has different security concerns.

“When you break into a jewelry store, you’re not looking to steal one specific Rolex,” Shier says. “You just want to grab as much as you can and get out.”

Sophos tries its hardest to stay at the criminals’ pace. Shier says their emerging threats team is made of top IT professionals who examine weaknesses and continually bolster Sophos products. Shier says it’s important for businesses to stay up to date on their software in an effort to be, at the very least, a moving target that’s difficult to hit.

Still, he knows the realities of the industry. “At the end of the day, they’re going to get in, so it’s about how much the crooks can take,” Shier says.

After KOMU 8 was attacked, Kennedy and Garrett say they moved quickly to pick up the pieces and soberly brace for the next attack. Cybercrime is continually evolving, and the threats to businesses are always changing.

“There is no such thing as ‘ahead of the game,’” Kennedy says. “You can read periodicals, you can stay up to date and keep your stuff patched, but they’re always going to be one step ahead. They’re the ones taking it apart, finding things they can exploit, and you won’t even know until it happens.”
NO MENTION

The speed and forcefulness with which David Boren, president of the University of Oklahoma, moved to punish members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon after they were caught singing a racist song this month earned the praise of many on campus and across the country, including President Obama. The following week, Boren drew similar praise for announcing that he would soon hire a vice president to oversee diversity and inclusion efforts on campus.

But the announcement also left some students with a lingering question: Why did it take Boren, who has been president of Oklahoma for two decades, so long to create a position that already exists in some form at hundreds of other colleges?

“We’re really excited that this is happening,” said BerThaddaeus Bailey, director of diversity for Oklahoma's Student Government Association. “We do wish that it would have happened yesterday, or the day before yesterday, or the day before that. You do have to ask, ‘When would the role have been announced had this situation not happened?’"

Oklahoma is one of only four institutions in the Big 12 Conference that does not have a chief diversity officer. The others are Baylor University and Texas Christian University -- two private, religious institutions that enroll half the number of students as Oklahoma -- and Iowa State University, which is in the midst of a months-long search for a chief diversity officer.

It’s a discrepancy that has not gone unnoticed by minority students on Oklahoma’s campus, particularly those who founded the student activist group Unheard. The organization received national attention this month after it aggressively publicized the leaked S.A.E. video and led student demonstrations on campus, but its members have advocated for institutional changes at Oklahoma for months.

Unheard, which began pushing for the creation of a chief diversity officer position in January and met with Boren about the idea, describes a campus that, while not often outwardly hostile, has "a tremendous lack of black cultural exposure," leaving black
students feeling isolated from what the university calls the Sooner Experience.

Black students are taught mostly by white faculty, the group says, and attend campus concerts that mostly feature white artists. The majority of players on the football and basketball teams are black, but they are cheered on by a sea of white fans -- including, apparently, students who can later be found singing about how those same players are more likely to be lynched than to join their fraternity. Black men make up 61 percent of Oklahoma's basketball and football teams, but only 2.7 percent of the university's student population.

"Desegregated, but not integrated," is how George Henderson, a professor emeritus of human relations at Oklahoma, has often described it; students of all races may be sharing a campus, but they're rarely interacting in a meaningful, equitable way. That's not to say that the university hasn't come a long way from when he first arrived there as a professor in the late 1960s. Before accepting the job at Oklahoma, Henderson was told by colleague to steer clear of this "small redneck school in a backwater state." The university had desegregated just 20 years earlier, the result of a historic Supreme Court case that was a precursor to Brown v. Board of Education.

Divorcing itself from that segregated past -- a history shared by many colleges but one that is especially pronounced at a flagship institution of a state whose entire southeastern corner is still called Little Dixie -- hasn't always been easy or swift.

For 70 years, a chemistry building on campus was named after one of Oklahoma’s founding faculty members, Edwin DeBarr -- a grand dragon in the Ku Klux Klan. DeBarr would go on to join the Klan’s “supreme advisory board” and become its national chaplain. Prolonged efforts in the 1980s finally persuaded the Board of Trustees to rename the building.

Today, about 5 percent of Oklahoma’s students are black. It's a low number, but not worse than most institutions in states with small black populations -- less than 8 percent of Oklahoma's population is black. What concerns some current and former university employees is how the number has remained largely stagnant for a decade, following large gains made in the 1990s and early 2000s.

They partly blame the lull on the university’s decision to consolidate the varying student services that once catered to specific student groups -- including African-American students, American Indian and Alaska Native students, and students with disabilities -- into a Center for Student Life.

In the early 2000s, a unit once called minority recruitment services became a new entity called diversity enrichment programs. A university spokesman said the change was made as part of an effort to increase the “breadth and scope” of minority recruitment services (the number of Hispanic students has doubled since then, and there has also been an increase in Asian students). The division's sparse webpage includes several dead links informing students that they have “taken a wrong turn.”

In 2013, the University of Oklahoma announced it was hiring a director of diversity research initiatives, to the excitement of some on campus, who interpreted the position
as being a diversity or minority recruitment officer. By the time the position was filled, however, the title had been changed to director of broader impacts and research.

The position was never supposed to act as a diversity officer or as a director of minority recruitment, said Kelvin Droegemeier, vice president of research at Oklahoma. Instead, it was created to help "accomplish diversity and inclusion goals" specifically related to faculty and university research. The name change, Droegemeier said, was meant to portray that while diversity was still part of the job description, the job was actually broader than that. "It doesn’t take the focus off diversity," he said. "It just puts focus on other things, in addition to diversity."

Oklahoma has also struggled with the recruitment of minority faculty. None of the university’s 35 deans are black, and 33 are white. Only 4 of its 396 full professors are black, and 304 are white. Out of 1,531 full-time faculty members, 32 are black and 1,023 are white.

Corbin Wallace, Boren’s press secretary, said the university hopes the new chief diversity officer can help address many of the disparities listed above. “The vice president for the university community position will have oversight over all diversity programs within the university, including admissions,” Wallace said. “The vice president will also be kept completely informed by the Office of Student Affairs of all activities aimed at making campus life more inclusive. The vice president will also work with the president and with the deans to broaden the pool of applicants for faculty and staff positions.”

If the university needed evidence showing the effect that hiring a chief diversity officer can have on minority recruitment, it needed to look no farther than its in-state rival, Oklahoma State University. By most measures, Oklahoma State has trailed behind the University of Oklahoma in diversity efforts. But after hiring a chief diversity officer in 2006, O.S.U. saw black enrollment increase by 46 percent. The number of black students at Oklahoma State still remains quite low, however -- about 4.5 percent of students identify as black or African-American.

Chief diversity officers aren't a cure-all. In 2010, students at the University of California at San Diego created a similar firestorm to that at Oklahoma when they held a racist party called the Compton Cookout. Invites to the event promised that watermelon and malt liquor would be served. At the time, just 2 percent of the university's population was black, though nearly 7 percent of the state's population is black. All this, despite the university having a chief diversity officer.

While not a panacea, a chief diversity officer does help make sure diversity issues have a consistent presence in administrative decisions, not just in committee meetings or at student demonstrations after a racist incident happens, said Benjamin Reese, president of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education and the vice president of institutional equity at Duke University.

"In addition to everyone having diversity as their responsibility, it’s critical to have a senior-level experienced administrator who works full time with the president and other senior leaders to develop and execute a strategic path to enhancing diversity and inclusion," Reese said. "You need someone with that experience."
The university declined to explain why exactly it had not created such a position until now. During a press conference the day after the S.A.E. video appeared online, however, Boren discussed how the incident had served as a wake-up call of sorts. When he began his presidency 20 years ago, Boren recalled, he was greeted by a Native American student staging a hunger strike on the steps of his new office. The strike was in protest of the university’s tepid response to fraternity members recently desecrating a tepee during a vigil.

When Boren walked around campus in those early years, he said, he still sometimes heard students casually making offensive “comments about gender preference or race,” prompting him to tell his staff that the university needed “to get to work to create a community where that doesn’t happen.”

As time went on, Boren heard less and less of those comments, he said, leaving him with the assumption that such blatant racism was no longer occurring at the University of Oklahoma. The racist song -- and the ease and glee with which its lyrics tumbled from the mouths of Oklahoma students -- has challenged that belief, he said.

Boren is not shocked to see incidents like this still happen in the United States, he said, but he thought such behavior on his particular campus was “unthinkable.”

“I truly felt that all the efforts we made under the last many years so changed what was acceptable,” Boren said. “That at Oklahoma, it had become unacceptable to be intolerant or to be a bigot, to be racist, to be prejudiced about someone’s religion or anything else. I thought we were beyond all that. I thought that was something from several decades ago. It’s like dashing cold water on your face.”

Bailey, the student government diversity director, said that many white students and administrators seem to have trouble fully seeing the “plague that is systemic racism and discrimination” on college campuses until an incident such as the S.A.E. video occurs.

“Whatever it takes to wake you up is what it’s going to take,” he said. “And that’s what it took.”

No Expectation of Privacy
WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration briefly considered but ultimately decided against expanding a new student privacy bill beyond K-12 education, according to sources with knowledge of the drafting process. The resulting draft is a “missed opportunity” for the White House to address privacy in higher education, legal scholars say.

The Student Digital Privacy and Parental Rights Act of 2015, which will be introduced later this week by U.S. House Representatives Luke Messer and Jared S. Polis, seeks to limit how educational technology companies can use data they collect from students using their products. It builds on a proposal released by the White House in January, which in turn resembles a student privacy law passed in California last year.

The bill was supposed to be filed on Monday, but by the end of the day, lawmakers were “still working through some of the technical nuances of the bill,” a spokeswoman for Messer said in an email. Those involved in drafting the bill -- a joint effort between the White House and the two representatives -- were reportedly asking for outside input as recently as this past weekend, suggesting a difficult balancing act between concerns raised by privacy advocates and pressure from the private sector.

A recent draft of the bill attempts to strike a compromise, according to The New York Times. It would prevent companies from using educational data for marketing purposes, but allow data to be disclosed for student “employment opportunities.” While the bill would allow students and their parents to request to see and correct data -- and let schools request that those records be deleted -- it would also enable companies to change their privacy policies after schools sign a contract to use their services.

And as the name suggest, the bill has nothing to do with higher education. Although the White House made initial contact with at least one higher education organization earlier this year to discuss privacy issues, conversations about whether or not to expand the bill’s scope did not move past that stage.

The decision did not come as a surprise to legal scholars who have followed the administration’s recent privacy initiatives. When Obama in January outlined new privacy proposals, he focused on two groups: individual consumers and students under the age of 18. In his State of the Union address the following month, he called on Congress to “protect our children’s information.” Last year’s student data privacy pledge, which has drawn support from more than 100 education and technology companies and an endorsement from the White House, was also aimed at K-12 students.

Still, Elana J. Zeide, a privacy research fellow at New York University’s Information Law Institute, called the administration’s decision not to make a broader statement on privacy “myopic.”

“At least on the most basic level, federal privacy law recognizes that higher education students should have privacy rights as well,” Zeide said. “Even if they’re not as vulnerable, higher education students can still suffer the harm that drives privacy...
concerns in the K-12 space.”

Zeide acknowledged that the bill “reflects most of the privacy conversation, which has really focused on children and the K-12 space.” Apart from the frequent malicious attacks that target colleges and universities, most of the major student privacy concerns that have surfaced in the past year have been related to students under the age of 18. Collapses of companies such as ConnectEDU and inBloom have triggered debates about data stewardship, for example, while Google’s practice of scanning student email for ad keywords raised questions about the terms of service that come with the ed-tech products schools use.

Yet those incidents also had higher education implications. ConnectEDU offered both college and career planning services, and Google provides email for many colleges and universities.

Limiting the privacy bill to K-12 education may also be a matter of “political expediency,” Zeide said, as politicians may be more willing to pass protections for minors than for legal adults, then extend those protections, if necessary. “Sometimes it sets the pace for protections that then bleed into -- or are seen as appropriate for adults to have also,” she said.

But not including higher education in the privacy bill could promote a “chilling effect” at colleges and universities, potentially limiting emotional expression and political activism, Zeide and other legal scholars pointed out. Recent research suggests this year’s freshman class is spending more time on social media and less on face-to-face socializing, meaning more information about their life in college is being collected and stored.

“The process of learning and the pursuit of truth in research requires privacy,” higher education consultant Tracy B. Mitrano, former director of I.T. policy at Cornell University, said. “Surveillance, whether it’s governmental or commercial, chills that process.”

Mitrano, who also blogs for Inside Higher Ed, said it would be a “mistake” not to extend the protections in the bill to students at colleges and universities. “It’s not about age,” Mitrano said. “It’s about the missions of higher education.”

Even if higher education were included in the bill, chances are privacy advocates still would not be satisfied. After a draft of the bill was circulated earlier this week, privacy groups were quick to criticize what they saw as loopholes in the legislation -- such as the ability to change privacy policies after the fact.

Asked how she would improve the bill, Mitrano pointed to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. “I believe that FERPA already covers the issues raised in this privacy bill, mainly gathering of data by ed-tech companies and using it for their commercial purposes,” Mitrano said. “Rather than have this bill, I would amend FERPA to make it crystal clear... and then add technology security regulations, damages and a private right of action.”
The bill may grant the right to view and correct records, but that provision requires students and parents to take an active role in protecting the information. Zeide suggested more proactive regulations.

“One thing that would have to be in the bill is it provides protection without respect to students' and parents’ consent.” Zeide said. “Even if parents and students can make informed and meaningful choices -- which they have a difficult time doing in general -- it’s important that there are baseline rules and baseline protections.”

Mitchell L. Stevens, director of digital research and planning at Stanford University, said one policy that attempts to regulate both K-12 and postsecondary education would be a "bad idea."

"For adult learners, privacy is the wrong place to start," Stevens, associate professor of sociology, said. "I think privacy is the word we use to voice anxiety about the purposes of data when we don't know what other language to invoke."

Stevens last year helped organize the Asilomar Convention for Learning Research in Higher Education, a gathering of faculty members and researchers to discuss appropriate use of data in higher education. The goal of the convention was to find new ethical guidelines for the glut of data produced at colleges and universities.

On Tuesday, Stevens also challenged the idea that students above the age of 18 should by default have full control of the data they produce.

"If you think about any empirical trace of instruction -- K-12 or postsecondary -- they're really joint products," Stevens said. "The learner plays a role, the institution plays a role and the particular instructor plays a role. I think it's fairly simplistic to default to the presumption that the data that are generated through that venture are primarily owned by one party."