LSU's Kurpius chosen as next dean of Missouri School of Journalism

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 | 10:53 p.m. CDT; updated 11:49 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, April 1, 2015
BY CODY MROCZKA

COLUMBIA — A new dean has been chosen to lead the Missouri School of Journalism.

MU is expected to announce Thursday morning that finalist David Kurpius has been selected for the position, sources confirmed.

Kurpius is associate vice chancellor for enrollment management and a professor in the Manship School of Mass Communications at Louisiana State University.

Since joining LSU's staff in 1997, Kurpius has taught broadcast journalism and public affairs reporting with a focus on local news, according to his university biography.

Before joining the administration, Kurpius served in several positions in television newsrooms around the country since 1982, according to his curriculum vitae, which can be viewed below.

Former LSU Chancellor Michael Martin described Kurpius as an approachable, engaging leader who brings new energy into any environment. Martin was impressed with how Kurpius handled new roles in different departments while staying committed to his students and promoting the entire university.

"He grew up in a college town (Bloomington, Indiana)," Martin said Wednesday night.

"He has a deep passion for universities and the communities they are in."

Lewis Friedland, Kurpius' former professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said MU is getting someone who genuinely cares about journalism and its role in society. Friedland, who advised Kurpius' doctoral dissertation, said he was a diligent reporter when they did field work together in the mid-1990s in the area known as public
or civic journalism, often choosing to do four or five one-and-a-half to two-hour interviews a day.

In September, MU’s Journalism School announced applications were being accepted to succeed Dean Mills. Mills, who has led the school for 25 years, announced his retirement in February 2014.

Kurpius was chosen from among four finalists screened by a search committee under committee chairman and MU School of Law Dean Gary Myers, presented to MU Provost Garnett Stokes and ultimately approved by Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

The other finalists were: Sonya Forte Duhé, director and professor of mass communication at Loyola University, New Orleans; Esther Thorson, professor and associate dean for graduate study at the Missouri School of Journalism; and Thor Wasbotten, director and professor of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University.

Each candidate was brought to campus separately during February for a three-day appearance, in which candidates participated in a Q-and-A with alumni as well as an open forum for students and faculty.

During his open forum on Feb. 18, Kurpius said students were his first priority. He outlined several goals he wished to pursue including increasing diversity, embracing innovation and building on the Missouri School of Journalism’s prominent legacy.

More information will be released Thursday morning.

MU surprises three of five Kemper fellows

By Ashley Jost

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at 4:52 pm
Nicole Monnier’s students gave her a standing ovation after University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin interrupted her class Wednesday to name her as a 2015 William T. Kemper fellow.

The chancellor surprised three of the five winners of the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence Wednesday afternoon. The final two recipients will be announced Thursday and Friday.

“I wouldn’t be here if not for the students,” Monnier, associate teaching professor of Russian, said after pausing a video of a symphony that she was showing her class. Monnier, like the other recipients, fought back tears when presented with the honor — and $10,000.

Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz joined the chancellor to present letters to each of the recipients about options to claim the money.

“Monnier seems to possess an almost innate ability not merely to teach the subject under study but also to educate the student — to help him or her gain interest in the topic and in the culture that suffuses it,” Gennady Barabtarlo, professor of Russian at MU, said in a statement.

Monnier serves on Faculty Council as the chair of the council’s academic affairs committee.

For one recipient, Elisa Glick, the Kemper award was not her only honor this week. Loftin said he presented Glick, MU’s first openly-gay faculty member, with a diversity award Tuesday night for her efforts as a professor to make the university more inclusive.

Glick is currently on medical leave, but was tricked by friends and colleagues into coming to a meeting just to surprise her Wednesday.

“Beyond compassion and time spent nurturing individual students, Glick’s teaching strategy requires personal bravery,” David Read, chair of the MU English Department, said in a statement. “She teaches students to value personal experience as a form of knowledge that they can understand in a historical, social and theoretical context. Sometimes this means putting her own personal experiences on the line.”

The third recipient of the day was associate journalism professor Berkley Hudson. After Loftin and Schatz told Hudson about the award, he quickly thanked them and said, “I have something for you, too.”

Hudson gave out flowers, picked from his garden, to the administrators. Hudson said he brought the flowers to class for his students in honor of the first day of spring, but the timing was fortuitous.

“One of his mentors described him as a hothouse orchid — an apt image for a professor who constantly shows his students how beautiful journalism can be,” associate journalism professor John Fennell said. “His goal is to inspire confidence in students, to get into their minds and souls, where real, lasting learning happens. He wants to place his indelible mark on students who pass
through our corridors so when they leave here they remember what inspired them to be here in the first place: to tell stories that matter and to bring meaning to our world."

The fellowships were established in 1991 with a $500,000 gift from the William T. Kemper Foundation. Kemper was a 1962 MU alumnus who died in 1989. His trust fund is managed by Commerce Bank.

The fourth recipient will be announced at about 11 a.m. Thursday, and the final recipient will be announced at about 10:30 a.m. Friday.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Three MU professors receive Kemper teaching excellence awards

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 | 8:33 p.m. CDT
BY SARAH BELL

COLUMBIA — A YouTube video of the Shostakovich Symphony No. 7 in C major blasted through the speakers in Neff Auditorium on Wednesday afternoon when an unfamiliar group of people entered the room.

Through the dim lighting and the blaring Russian music emerged reporters, cameras, faculty and an award with MU associate teaching professor Nicole Monnier’s name on it.

**Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz surprised Monnier during class and announced that she had been selected as a 2015 William T. Kemper Fellow. They presented her with a $10,000 check.**

Monnier fought back tears and held her hand to her mouth as she was honored.

The chancellor gave Monnier a hug as the students stood and clapped. She was the second recipient of the award on Wednesday.

Loftin and Schatz also awarded the Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence to Elisa Glick, an associate professor of English and women’s and gender studies, and Berkley Hudson, an associate professor of magazine journalism, on Wednesday.
"You’re so lucky," Loftin told Monnier's students. "She’s good, but you know that already."

"I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for the students," Monnier said. "They give me an enormous amount of joy."

MU professor of Russian Gennady Barabtarlo said in a university-prepared biography that Monnier's greatest strength is her ability to focus on students, rather than the teaching process, the subject or herself.

"That is the most effective way of teaching a humanities course," Barabtarlo said. "In my opinion, that’s what the word ‘pedagogy’ really means."

Glick is on medical leave and thought she was coming to campus for a meeting. Instead, she was met with the award and a bouquet of flowers from the English Department. She was the first award winner of the day.

David Read, chairman of the English Department, said in an MU-prepared biography about Glick that her teaching strategy requires personal bravery in addition to compassion. She is one of the first openly gay faculty members at MU, according to the biography.

"She teaches students to value personal experience as a form of knowledge that they can understand in a historical, social and theoretical context," Read said. "Sometimes this means putting her own personal experiences on the line."

Hudson received the honor with a smile and proceeded to hand out small yellow flowers he had picked for his students.

"They need the sweetness from flowers to write good stories," Hudson said.

John Fennell, an MU associate professor of journalism, said in a prepared biography that Hudson is a rare breed. "One of his mentors described him as a hothouse orchid—an apt image for a professor who constantly shows his students how beautiful journalism can be," Fennell said.

The last two awards will be given on Thursday and Friday mornings.
MU Library still recovering from 2013 mold outbreak

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28194&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

COLUMBIA - **Crews were working Wednesday morning to get shelves ready for books returning to the University of Missouri.**

But MU Director of Libraries Jim Cogswell said it could be months before all of the books are back in circulation.

In October 2013 mold was discovered on more than 600,000 printed books and journals that were being stored in a cavern. The books and journals were shipped off to receive special treatment.

Cogswell said there are still 140,000 books in Texas getting treated, but he expects them back within the next month. When they return, he said each book will have to get individually inspected.

Library Depository Manager Brain Cain said the depository staff is working to build shelving to accommodate the books at an off-site location. Cain estimated it will take 8-12 weeks to build the shelves.

He said it could take another month for the books to be added to the catalog and put in circulation. Cain said this final step will require extra staffing and additional funding.

"I am shocked at how well this project has gone. There were a lot of things that needed to fall into place in order for the result we have gotten to actually be accomplished," Cain said.

Cogswell said the library is applying for a one-time grant that would speed up the process.
MU library hopes to charge students fees

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28206&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

COLUMBIA - One public library is charging to charge. MU Ellis library said there are several reasons why charging students library fees would be beneficial; one reason is electrical outlets.

MU Director of Libraries Jim Cogswell said they are trying to meet the needs of students in order to provide better quality resources.

He said he's gotten feedback from students asking for more power outlets; however, they lack the resources.

"We just need to put more outlets and more facilities and more study areas that are wired for electrical and Internet, not only power but also Internet connection. But we just haven't been able to do that because we don't have the funding to do so," Cogswell said.

Cogswell said the fees would be based on how many credit hours students are in, resulting in five dollars per credit.

MU student Kayla Loveless said she doesn't think students should have to pay fees because the university is well-funded.

"Our university is well funded in other areas, so I feel like we should have enough unallocated funds where we could support the library and the new outlets and whatever else they need. So I don't think we should have to charge students even more," Loveless said.

She said with tuition increasing every year, fees shouldn't be implemented.

"I mean as an English major, I use the library all the time. So being charged to be there, I don't know, it just wouldn't feel right," Loveless said.
Cogswell said the fees will also cover more library resources such as new technology, more book collections, and study spaces for students.

He said on the November Missouri Students Association (MSA) ballot there will be a referendum on library fees.

If the vote is yes, the fee will be effective during the summer of May 2016.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Audio: Ferguson prosecutor defends his record, grand jury tactics
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 | 11:05 p.m. CDT
BY KATIE KULL

COLUMBIA — In a speech Tuesday night at MU to an audience of mostly law students, St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch defended his approach to the grand jury that decided not to indict Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson for shooting Michael Brown on Aug. 9.

The full video of the speech was made available Wednesday afternoon by Mizzou News. The audio portion of McCulloch's speech and the Q&A period that followed is embedded in a Soundcloud file (below).

As protesters gathered outside, 140 pre-registered law students heard McCulloch talk about grand juries and the judicial process and answer questions.

The prosecutor defended his job and his track record.

"There's a joke that people say, 'A prosecutor could indict a ham sandwich,' but at some point, the prosecutor has to stand up and prove that ham sandwich committed a crime," McCulloch said.

Students grilled McCulloch about the grand jury process, the presentation of evidence in the Wilson hearings, his past decisions as the St. Louis County prosecutor and how he hopes to rebuild community trust.

Highlights from the Q&A (questions have been edited for length and clarity):
Q. What are you personally doing as the elected council prosecutor to ensure that the citizens and the constituents of St. Louis County do not continue to be met with these discriminatory practices?

"We have tried (for years) to eliminate some of the municipalities', at least some of the municipalities', police departments because they are terrible police departments; They're really lousy.

"We have been trying to upgrade the quality of law enforcement that's out there, even if that means getting rid of the police officers, whether their license is revoked by the state of Missouri or whether we can abolish the entire police department," McCulloch said.

He also said many of the municipalities’ police departments had become "revenue raising machines," so the communities are reluctant to get rid of them, which has been a difficult obstacle.

Q: How is your department working to make the whole prosecution process on all levels ... transparent and accountable for your local community?

McCulloch said he made the mistake of assuming that all citizens knew about the judicial process, which caused a lot of miscommunication and lack of transparency.

"We've worked over the years and talked about the best practices for getting the community more educated," he said. "But honestly, over the last few years we haven't done that."

Q: Given the benefit of hindsight for everything you've seen, heard, done, what would you have done differently?

"It's really hard to say because we will be looking at this and dissecting this and pulling it apart. We look at any major case and say, 'What could we have done to avoid this?' but we're really not at the point where we can say that yet."
"I would not have changed ... starting to present the evidence to the grand jury as investigations were going along. It was just too critical in the public view to make it go on (as long as it normally does).

"I wouldn't change releasing the information. I might have changed the manner (in which) it was done. I would've been more thorough about it because we apparently missed a stack of statements in our rush because I wanted (the information) released as soon as the grand jury made their determination," McCulloch said.

McCulloch lamented that he wanted to get out into the community to explain how the criminal justice system works and to build a stronger sense of community between those in the justice system, especially police officers, and the public.

**Listen to the story:** [https://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/187164/audio-ferguson-prosecutor-defends-his-record-grand-jury-tactics/](https://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/187164/audio-ferguson-prosecutor-defends-his-record-grand-jury-tactics/)

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**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**Drop-in Baby Cafe offers community and clinical help for breast-feeding mothers**

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 | 5:32 p.m. CDT; updated 10:13 p.m. CDT, Wednesday, April 1, 2015

**BY VALERIE HELLINGHAUSEN**

SEDALIA — Before giving birth to her son, Dalton, in January, Ashley Jones took a breast-feeding class at Sedalia’s regional hospital.

Two weeks after Dalton was born, she began having trouble feeding her son. A registered nurse referred her to the Baby Cafe, a drop-in center for mothers — and their partners — for help, consultations and information at each stage of the breast-feeding process.

The Baby Cafe in the Bothwell Regional Health Center is the first of its kind in Missouri. The cafe, and at least 45 others in 12 states, is part of an international organization of drop-in centers founded in the United Kingdom in 2000.

**Unofficially, the Sedalia cafe opened in November; it had a public grand opening on Monday. It was developed after research findings from MU’s**
Healthy Community Initiative indicated that more new mothers needed support after leaving the hospital.

Since openings its doors, the drop-in center’s consultants, peer counselors and health officials have worked with nearly 25 moms like Jones.

"They really helped me," she said. "I was already overwhelmed and sleep-deprived. They gave me confidence, knowledge and the skills that I needed in order to successfully breast-feed."

The Baby Cafe is open two days a week, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays. The Pettis County Breastfeeding Coalition opened the center with financial support from donors such as the Bothwell Foundation and the Walmart Foundation.

Cafe furnishings are designed to provide a comfortable atmosphere for moms and babies, with a chocolate brown leather couch, cafe tables and toys for moms, their partners and children. As the name implies, coffee and snacks are available.

The center also houses a variety of literature and brochures on breast-feeding for visitors to leaf through. Behind a partition, women can receive free help with breast-feeding from lactation consultants and weigh their babies as they grow.

Mary Lou Shane, a certified lactation consultant, and a health center coordinator for the Women, Infants and Children program in Sedalia, believes breast-feeding is more than a choice about the way mothers feed their children.

Shane said she hopes it will be seen as the "cultural norm in infant feeding." It can help prevent diseases such as Type 2 diabetes and other health complications for both mothers and their children, she said.

"Breast-feeding is the ultimate in preventive health care," she said. "Every time a mom does choose to breast-feed, she’s setting a foundation for her future health and the future health of her baby, too."

Peer counselors like Palmira Mitts also volunteer their advice and experience as moms at the center. As the drop-in expands its efforts in the Sedalia community, Mitts said she hopes to see other mothers volunteer and share their experiences.
Since breast-feeding both her 7-month-old daughter and 2-year-old son, Mitts said her choice strengthened the bond she shares with her children.

"It’s kind of like a super power," Mitts said. "I think it’s a miracle that women are able to do that."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Cardboard boating season begins with Dumpster dive
Wednesday, April 1, 2015 | 10:17 p.m. CDT; updated 7:24 a.m. CDT, Thursday, April 2, 2015
BY KYLE BROWN

COLUMBIA — Neal Loyd is not an engineer by trade.

By day, he works as the Department of Agriculture programs and inventory control supervisor at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

But since early March, Loyd has spent many evenings planning out and overseeing the construction of a boat made almost entirely of cardboard. It’s an engineering marvel — as long as it floats, that is.

Loyd’s cardboard boat, which he’s working on with Food Bank food solicitor Don Moore, is one of nearly 70 that will compete in the the fourth annual Float Your Boat fundraiser which starts at 9:30 a.m. on April 25.

The cardboard regatta began in 2012 and is sponsored by the Food Bank and the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, with all proceeds going toward the Food Bank.

Each boat in the race must have at least two people in it, and materials are limited to cardboard, duct tape, acrylic latex caulk, glue and latex paint.

Because not all contestants have access to the cardboard resources that the Food Bank or other corporate sponsors might have, the Food Bank sponsored a Dumpster dive
Wednesday night at Johnston Paint and Decorating so prospective boat-builders could snatch up as much material as they needed or wanted before beginning construction.

Food Bank Special Events Coordinator Ember Davis said the Food Bank donated around 400 pounds of cardboard for the Dumpster dive.

There are rules governing how the materials can be used; one of which restricts how much duct tape dies for the cause. Davis said duct tape seams can only be 4 inches wide.

Loyd scoffed at the rule. "Matter of fact, I could probably use no duct tape at all and probably not have to worry about whether this thing floats or not," he boasted.

"Sounds like a challenge," Davis shot back.

He reassured her that he was completely serious and that the water would get into the front compartments before leaking into the rest of the boat; however, the race would be over too soon for any seepage to matter.

His partner and co-designer, Moore, has confidence in the blueprint as well.

"We don't have to test it," Moore said. "We've done the math."

But there will be no actual testing because of the practical challenges. It’s going to be hard enough to get the boat from the Food Bank’s workshop to Bass Pro Shops Lake on race day, and there’s really no plan for how they’re going to get it out of the water afterward.

Which is to say, it’s no dinghy: The final product will be hewn from at least 500 pounds of cardboard and will hold a seven-person crew. Its dual pontoons stretch about 12 feet in length and will be connected by a series of cardboard beams, which support a platform. As of Wednesday, an estimated 100 man-hours had been poured into building it.

The boat will be transported to the race site on a trailer because it doesn’t fit on a truck bed, and it will be lowered into the lake on a set of wooden planks. Once the race is finished, it will either be dismantled on the spot or hooked up to a winch and towed out of the water.
Once Loyd and Moore finish up the bodywork, the seven Food Bank crew mates who will pilot the ship, Barbara and Eddie Borntrager, Stacey Brown, Melissa Schulte, Charlie Forbis, Tonia Martin and Ashley Jarrett, will join in to paint and decorate.

**Cardboard piracy**

Before the dumpster dive began Wednesday night, Davis took the opportunity to explain the rules of competition and field questions.

Several clarifications were given about what a “structural seat” is, whether construction-grade adhesives were allowed and if string could be used as rigging for a sail.

But as the Q&A went on, cardboard mariners seemed to go off the deep end, asking if pyrotechnics, water guns, paddle wheels or Viking funeral sendoffs for boats were legal. To answer, all but the paddle wheel were illegal.

The concern was understandable since any rule infraction could place a boat in the pirate class, where boats are disqualified from competing for booty but still race in the Pirate Heat.

Awards include cash prizes for the three fastest boats overall, best theme, ugliest boat and people’s choice, which is the boat that collects the most donations.

After all of the rules and questions were explained, participants dug through bins of cardboard and made off with their plunder, eager to build their cardboard canoes, catamarans and clipper ships.

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**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

**Flashlights in hand, children dash in the dark for eggs**

Thursday, April 2, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT
BY VIVIAN FARMER

COLUMBIA — The rain didn’t stop children from looking for the golden egg Wednesday night at Stephens Lake Park.
Clad in rain jackets and toting baskets and flashlights, children and their parents gathered in the Riechmann Indoor Pavilion for the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt. Despite the steady rain, the children, ages 3 to 10, waited their turn to gather some of the 2,300 Easter eggs scattered behind the pavilion at the park.

Hazel Crowe, 4, and her mom, JoVanna Crowe, were among the participants. Hazel carried a stuffed blue dog and enjoyed a chocolate chip cookie before the hunt began. She still had smudges on her face as she scooped up the eggs.

The children were split up into three different age groups: 3 to 5, 6 to 7 and 8 to 10. The start times for the groups were staggered by 15 minutes.

**MU Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department students began organizing the event in mid-February, MU student Alec Shaw said.**

The students teamed up with the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department to organize and run the hunt.

KangJae (Jerry) Lee, assistant teaching professor in MU’s Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, said students are heavily involved in designing the event. He said he wants to make sure students get hands-on experience.

The students feel good after the event because they helped people have a good time, Lee said.

After about 10 minutes, Hazel had snatched up the maximum of 13 eggs. Among them was a shiny golden egg.

"Are we going to get more?" she asked her mom.

Inside the pavilion, Hazel and her mom stood with a swarm of kids around the prize table. Dispersed among the pastel eggs were shiny silver and golden eggs. The children who grabbed one of those got to pick a prize.

Among the prizes were stuffed animals and a football with an MU logo.

Hazel chose a stuffed blue dinosaur.
Crowe said this was their first year at the Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, and they will likely come back next year.

“Getting eggs was my favorite,” but now “the dinosaur is my favorite,” Hazel said.

FROM READERS: Student reflects on volunteering in the Dominican Republic

Thursday, April 2, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY MEGHAN ROSS/MISSOURIAN READER

*Meghan Ross is a MU senior studying health sciences. She traveled to the Dominican Republic for a week-long mission trip in January and plans to continue her mission work this summer in Cape Town, South Africa.*

I really wanted to make a difference in someone else’s life as well as my own, so this service trip to the Dominican Republic was the perfect place for me to achieve this goal.

I enjoyed working with children because the way that they see life is so innocent still. The children in the Dominican Republic were a joy because they were so full of life and energy. They had no idea that they lived in what we would call an "underdeveloped" city without constant electricity, hot water, air conditioning, etc. I thought their culture was so beautiful; they clearly did not need much besides themselves and their family and friends to support and surround them.

Some goals I set for myself in this experience were to keep an extremely open mind in the environment I was placed in, to not complain about some of the things that were different than my circumstances in the U.S., and to really open my eyes to the culture, the scenery and the people.

With the group of volunteers I was with, we all talked about how, during the first day or two, we were all really worried that it would be a bad week, but it faded slowly as we realized our real purpose there.

My other goal was to really open my eyes to the culture, the scenery, and the people of Monte Cristi because I knew that this was a once in a lifetime experience, something that I would tell stories about but no one would truly understand.
I challenged myself to open my eyes to the culture, which to me is more than the houses that they lived in and how their transportation and food restaurants were. To me, it was about how the people related to one another and how they represented the Dominican Republic so well without even talking about the country in itself once.

It was beautiful how interconnected they seemed. They walked around town or rode on their motorcycles and mopeds and spoke to everyone that passed by them. They all sat out on in front of their houses or on their porches talking with friends and family passing the time.

At night, a lot of the younger crowd gathered around a bar and all of their motorcycles were lined up every single night. They drank and danced and socialized with their friends and family, and that really struck a string in me. I see my extended family about three times a year, but these people were so close that they could be living with their extended family or seeing them once a week at the bar or during the day when they walked to work.

I learned about myself as I attended this work site because I got to envision myself as one of the children I was working with. They were all so carefree, and I remember being that way before cellphones and movie theaters and malls and cars got in the way of everything. I noticed that when I am home, I can place more emphasis on spending time with family and friends, not so much as the material things that we have or what we are doing.

In essence, those kids did not have many material things, but they had more of what I did not have, which was richer than anything I could buy. They had relationships and culture, and that is something I wish was more relevant in the U.S. and in my own home.

It’s so easy to get caught up in the big picture in the U.S. and to worry about tomorrow and next week and next year. Sure, we all need to worry a little bit, but the Dominicans were so carefree, and that was such an attractive characteristic to me.

I was very surprised by a lot of my experiences in the Dominican Republic, and I wasn’t disappointed by any of them. I was surprised because I came in with a great mindset, and I reminded myself that this is a completely different culture and environment than I was used to, and it still took me some time to get adjusted to it.
You can really not be completely ready for something like this. It was such an interesting experience, and it was indescribable. Even when I try to explain photos and relationships and videos to people, they don’t fully understand what I went through mentally and emotionally, but I’ve learned that is OK.

Overall, this trip was a very eye-opening one, and I experienced things that I would never have experienced if I weren’t able to attend this trip. I enjoyed the island itself because it was definitely a beautiful one. I loved my volunteer group, we all made such great and genuine relationships with each other throughout the week that I think will last beyond the trip.

Most of all I enjoyed the relationships I was able to make with the students. They brightened my days, and I have a whole new respect for teachers and those that are involved with teaching children of all ages.

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Shakespeare's Pizza to relocate downtown Columbia, Mo., location temporarily

**Hang on to your tiger tails, Mizzou Nation. A big change is coming to Columbia, Mo.**

MacAlester Park LLC plans to raze the downtown location of the beloved Shakespeare’s Pizza and then build a new development on the site. Shakespeare’s will occupy the ground floor of this new building. In the meantime, the pizzeria will relocate its entire operation from 225 South Ninth Street to 220 South Eighth Street.

“We’re excited about it,” manager Kurt Mirtsching said Wednesday.

Mirtsching acknowledges some bittersweet feelings about the change — “I’ve worked in this building all of my adult life,” he said — but believes the new facility will allow for “vastly improved” operations. It will also feature a special dining room for large parties.

Employees are taking extensive photographs and measurements of the downtown location so as to re-create its look and feel in the new space.

Mirtsching said Shakespeare’s would move to its temporary location in late May or early June. The new location is slated to open in August 2016.

More than a few Shakespeare’s fans have wondered whether the news, announced as it was on April 1, is a joke. Mirtsching assured the Post-Dispatch it is not.

Mirtsching said that, after finalizing all of the legal details of the move, “We wanted to get the word out as soon as possible.”
The April Fools’ Day timing was nothing more than a coincidence.

Policies and Conversation

April 2, 2015

By
E. Gordon Gee

NO MU MENTION

The issue of sexual violence on college and university campuses has been a metaphorical bomb dropped on the reputation of American higher education. A bomb that has been ticking and counting down for decades, and has now reached the point of explosion and complete catastrophe. Indeed, no single issue has permeated the higher education landscape to such a scathing -- and well-deserved -- degree. And, through myriad public lawsuits, protests and articles, the culture surrounding the issue of sexual violence on college campuses has been firmly established: change will come through isolation, confrontation and regulation.

I agree that strict policies and zero-tolerance attitudes are critical to changing the culture of sexual violence. Yet I fear this steadfast dedication to zero tolerance has bled into zero tolerance of conversation and constructive dialogue among students on topics of sexual violence.

The tried-and-true commitment to civil discourse -- a pillar of the American higher education system -- is strikingly absent from the issue of sexual violence on college campuses. However, we know that difficult topics require conversation, in addition to policy and procedure. When it comes to an issue as critically important to student safety and well-being as sexual violence, nothing should be off the table. For example, we cannot discuss sexual violence without also addressing alcohol abuse -- the two are bound together. Indeed alcohol abuse plays a role in almost all of the behavior issues afflicting college campuses -- and society -- and we have to have a holistic approach.

We should encourage students, male and female, to tell their stories openly and honestly, without fear of judgment -- whether it is a first-person account from a rape victim or a bystander who has witnessed, or knows of, a violent assault and did nothing
College and university campuses need truly grown-up conversations about sexual violence led by and among our student bodies. Conversations and discussions that are free from this entrenched sense of “Thou shall not.” Instead, we need conversations that feed the higher education essence of “Thou shall think and act.”

How do we, as higher education leaders, create an atmosphere in which people will not be afraid of awkward conversations? I believe we need to focus on three ingredients: awareness, transparency and student leadership.

First, leaders must continue to build awareness of sexual violence issues and policies on our campuses. At West Virginia University, we have joined the It’s on Us campaign, a national conversation starter on campus sexual violence. Through the campaign, West Virginia University is leading comprehensive awareness strategies centered on a commitment to recognizing assault, intervening in situations of assault and creating an environment in which assault is wholly unacceptable.

In tandem with awareness, campus leaders must be transparent about the issue of sexual violence. This is where the conversations can be awkward. Yet transparency is crucial to lessening the intimidation of sexual violence issues. And, through transparent conversations, we will get to a place where students can have awkward discussions without being afraid of conversations on awkward topics. Campus leaders must show students that the most worthwhile things in life are not pleasant all of the time.

Finally, the issue of sexual violence on campus is not a top-down discussion. As I previously stated, change will come through peer-to-peer conversations among students. Leaders must help students have these crucial and awkward discussions. We need to encourage bottom-up conversation but engage in top-down support.

I would be remiss -- and naïve -- to not mention the dual importance of both change and continuity of change. If we are to be laser focused on the challenge of culture change regarding sexual violence, then we must also focus on the challenge of continuity. Universities have survived for millennia because of the fact that there is coherence and continuity in what we do in classrooms and research laboratories. We must apply the same foundational thinking to our culture.

Universities can battle sexual violence by proving that there is another way. Higher education must move from the symbol of being the ivory tower to the symbol of being the helping hand. We have all conceded that this is a very serious moment in the history of higher education. We must, therefore, become the central force for change.

That means colleges and universities need to make a case through example and through speaking out that the state and nation must do the same. We must fight the darker angels from the fringes and recapture that middle ground, which will solidify our path to both change and continuity.

Lastly, I have come to believe that the most important lesson related to leading change may be counterintuitive. Many people argue that change should be made gradually -- that people cannot stand such sudden change, and that rapid change is overly
disruptive. My view is to the contrary. In today’s environment and with such an important issue, incremental change is not enough. When change is this necessary, it should be made quickly and boldly.

I leave you with the old Irish proverb that says, “You will never plow a field by turning it over in your mind.” Good stuff, indeed, and I hope it ignites conversations among readers.

April 2, 2015

A Challenge for Universities: What to Disclose About Researchers’ Financial Backing

By Paul Basken

NO MU MENTION

Douglas Laycock of the University of Virginia has faced demands for his research records from the political left. Deborah L. Swackhamer of the University of Minnesota has gotten them from the political right.

But Mr. Laycock, Ms. Swackhamer, and other faculty researchers who’ve been harassed for details of their finances and scientific activities have one thing in common: They’re not sure what policy makers should do about it.

"It’s tricky," said Mr. Laycock, a law professor, describing the trade-off between ensuring academic freedom and assuring the public that scientists are, in fact, objective. "I haven’t thought that through," said Ms. Swackhamer, a professor of science, technology, and public policy, assessing where best to set the line in disclosing professors' financial backing.

Those researchers are far from alone.

A series of recent demands for research records has drawn in professors nationwide, cutting across both academic disciplines and partisan alliances. Topics of contention include climate change, animal testing, fracking, genetically modified organisms, and more. And agreement on what should be done about those requests is hard to come by.
One of the most publicized examples is a set of letters sent in February to seven universities by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva, Democrat of Arizona. From each of the institutions, Mr. Grijalva demanded financial records and internal communications involving researchers he regarded as hostile to the scientific consensus on global warming.

Shortly after Mr. Grijalva wrote to the universities, three Democratic colleagues in the Senate, led by Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts, reinforced the move with a different approach. They sent letters to 100 fossil-fuel companies and associated groups asking them — rather than the universities — to hand over details of their financial ties to climate-science critics.

It's not just legislators making the requests. U.S. Right to Know, an activist group that campaigns against genetically modified food, sent letters in January to at least four universities, seeking records of correspondence between academic researchers and certain agricultural companies and support groups. And the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals demanded in February that the National Institutes of Health turn over records of animal experiments in university labs.

Where to Draw Lines?

Here's how thoroughly the politics of records demands cross standard ideological labels: They caused the leading Congressional critic of climate science, Sen. James M. Inhofe, Republican of Oklahoma, to favorably invoke the name of Michael E. Mann, one of the most prominent scientists calling for action on global warming. Mr. Inhofe, who once suggested criminal prosecution of Mr. Mann over his scientific work, issued a statement in February quoting Mr. Mann’s criticisms of Mr. Grijalva’s letters and emphasizing his standing as a "noted climate scientist."

Many of the requests seek two broad categories of information — the sources and amounts of researchers' financial support, and internal records and discussions about the scientific work itself.

In the case of finances, universities, especially public institutions, often comply partly or fully. In the case of internal records of scientific discussions, states afford universities and their researchers broad protections, though laws vary across the country, and the exact boundaries of those protections may not be settled without court fights.

Even murkier, several researchers and administrators said, is the question of where to draw the line between academic freedom and public accountability. On that matter there's no consensus.
"We have to have more of a conversation about this," admitted Michael Halpern, who handles issues of academic freedom for the Union of Concerned Scientists, "both within science and within the greater public-interest community."

The responses Representative Grijalva has received from the universities — five public and two private — reflect the uneasy state of affairs. Most institutions gave him records of university pay and government grant support but offered limited details of their scientists' private contracts. As for records of actual scientific work, the universities gave little if anything beyond what is already in the public record, like web links to prepared Congressional testimony.

Several leaders of the seven universities included words of protest about an inquiry that appeared partisan, limited to a handful of scientists who have raised public doubts about climate science. "I would like to express my personal concern about the manner in which you are proceeding," Arizona State University’s president, Michael Crow, told Mr. Grijalva in response to his query about Robert C. Balling Jr., a professor of geographical sciences and urban planning.

**Climate-Change Questions**

Another of the scientists on Mr. Grijalva’s list, Roger A. Pielke Jr., a professor of environmental studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has endorsed much of the scientific consensus on climate change but questions whether the phenomenon can be associated with intensified storms. His university’s response shows that nearly all of Mr. Pielke’s outside support has come from the National Science Foundation.

Others with a record of more aggressively challenging the fundamental science of climate change include David R. Legates, a professor of geography at the University of Delaware, and Judith A. Curry, a professor of earth and atmospheric sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Delaware’s president, Patrick T. Harker, declined to provide details of Mr. Legates’s external financial support, while Georgia Tech’s president, G.P. (Bud) Peterson, noted that Ms. Curry has her own outside company that provides companies with climate-related advice.

In a standard disclosure form included by Mr. Peterson in his response to Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Curry said only that the company provides her with more than $5,000 a year. She also affirmed that her outside activities did not use any university property or resources, and posed no conflict of interest with her academic work. However, a Georgia Tech web address — http://cfan.eas.gatech.edu/ — had been redirecting traffic to Ms. Curry’s company website.
A spokesman for the institute, Matt Nagel, said the web link was a courtesy dating to the company’s 2006 founding at a Georgia Tech incubator and is considered "an incidental use of institute facilities" (the link was disconnected after The Chronicle asked about it). More broadly, Mr. Nagel said, guarding against conflicts of interest is a matter of trusting the faculty member and, to some degree, the peer-review system.

"Like other universities, Georgia Tech depends on the integrity of its faculty to self-disclose conflict of interest," he said.

Andrew K. Benton, president of Pepperdine University, told Mr. Grijalva that the professor of public policy he had asked about, Steven F. Hayward, didn’t appear to have any outside financial support. In an interview, Mr. Benton said most records of scientific work should remain private, but he said policy makers might be justified in establishing a public website listing all financial support received by all university researchers who receive government money.

Ralph J. Cicerone, president of the National Academy of Sciences, expressed a similar sentiment in response to Mr. Grijalva’s inquiries. "Scientists must disclose their sources of financial support to continue to enjoy societal trust and the respect of fellow scientists," Mr. Cicerone said last month in a public statement.

The academy sponsored a commission in 2009 that backed calls for financial disclosures among medical researchers. That concept was codified into federal law by the Physician Payments Sunshine Act of 2010, which requires companies covered by Medicare and other federal health programs to report payments to researchers in a public database.

Fears of hidden biases in science are not confined, however, to medicine, or to climate science. A 2010 study by researchers at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst found that many financial economists who testified publicly to the government on a Wall Street regulatory overhaul did not clearly disclose potential conflicts of interest.

Changing the rules on financial reporting may be a tough sell. Ms. Swackhamer, of the University of Minnesota’s Twin Cities campus, was confronted with records requests in 1998 after she found evidence of an outlawed pesticide, toxaphene, in the Great Lakes. She said she understood that her work might lead some parties to question her outside financing. But she said her university doesn’t require her to report that level of detail. While she’s open to stricter reporting requirements, she’s not enthusiastic.
And Mr. Laycock, who faced records demands from gay-rights activists after he helped the Hobby Lobby chain of arts-and-crafts stores win a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allowed it to avoid helping workers obtain contraceptive drugs, said he too would be wary about a public listing of all of his outside income. "It’s not a terrible thing. I don’t know if it’s a good thing," Mr. Laycock said of the idea.

**Research Exemptions**

Either way, such a listing seems a distant possibility at the moment. The National Science Foundation and most other federal science agencies do not require disclosure of outside income as a condition of grants they award. The NIH does have such a requirement, but it keeps the information internally, giving it out only in response to specific requests.

Researchers have even better protections on the matter of their nonfinancial data. University presidents issued a blanket rejection of Mr. Grijalva’s demand for "all drafts" of any public testimony delivered by the seven researchers, and of any communications associated with such testimony. That across-the-board refusal reflects that many states have research-friendly exemptions in their laws governing public access to records created with taxpayer money.

If anything, support for those exemptions is solidifying. Just last week an Arizona state court affirmed the University of Arizona's right to protect from public disclosure more than 1,700 emails to and from university climate scientists. And in Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker included language in this year’s proposed state budget that would largely exempt University of Wisconsin research records from the state’s open-records law.

There is, however, growing pressure on researchers to release such data on their own. The Obama administration has asked federal science agencies to ensure that journal articles based on work the agencies support be made free online within 12 months. The NSF has gone beyond that by requiring that its scientists, as part of their grant applications, specify a plan for making data generated by their research publicly available.

Mr. Grijalva said he agreed, upon reflection, that his request for the internal deliberations of the scientists "was inappropriate and an overreach." But he said in an interview that he remained frustrated that the universities, especially the private institutions, had provided such little information on financial support of their scientists. He said it had reinforced his determination to find a way to make such disclosures both mandatory and uniform.
Even some of the professors who have faced records demands said they recognized the need for better financial disclosure throughout higher education. One key point they’ve raised in response to Mr. Grijalva’s campaign: Government campaigns for scientific accountability invariably focus on researchers. But they rarely deal with institutional conflicts of interest.

A leading example, cited by Mr. Halpern of the Union of Concerned Scientists, is the lack of investigation into the millions of dollars provided to American universities by the Charles Koch Foundation in return for input on faculties and in curricula.

The key need is for uniform standards, Mr. Halpern said: Hold all types and sizes of universities and their faculties equally accountable, and inform the public while protecting researchers' interest in unhindered scientific inquiry. One idea, he suggested, might be to establish a common set of disclosure rules as part of the accreditation process.

That may be outside the realm of possibility, he acknowledged, but somehow the system needs more clarity. "We’re all looking for answers here," Mr. Halpern said.

Mr. Grijalva said he’d be willing to explore the idea of requiring all researchers to publicly declare their outside income as part of the federally recognized university-accreditation process. The peer-review system, which universities often cite as their assurance of research integrity, doesn’t appear sufficient, the congressman said. Financial disclosure "needs to be part of the right to know," he said. "And people can make their own assessments after that."