MU officials and state legislators gather for the ceremonial groundbreaking for the renovation of Lafferre Hall Monday morning. Two sections of MU’s main engineering building, built in 1935 and 1944, will be renovated using $38.5 million in state funds, which were approved for use on the project in October. The project is scheduled to be completed in December 2016.

BY KATIE AKIN

COLUMBIA — The tarnished floors, chipped wooden trim and leaking ceilings that typify the aging parts of Lafferre Hall at the southwest corner of MU’s Francis Quadrangle will be only a small part of what will be replaced in a $38.5 million renovation scheduled to begin Tuesday.

The long-awaited renovation was celebrated Monday by MU officials, state legislators and Tom Lafferre, a 1956 MU graduate and the building's
namesake. State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who helped push MU’s request for funding through the Capitol, attended.

After a tour of the building in October, Gov. Jay Nixon authorized the state to issue $38.5 million in bonds to renovate sections of Lafferre that were built in 1935 and 1944. According to previous Missourian reporting, MU Campus Facilities thinks 91 percent of the space in these two sections needs improvement.

The renovation will provide student conference rooms, space for labs and student competition teams and a coffee shop that will be run by Campus Dining Services. The improvements also will bring all of Lafferre Hall into compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

The new building will have the same footprint but more usable space, College of Engineering Interim Dean Bob Schwartz said.

"This will serve engineering students in a building that often becomes a home away from home because of engineering’s challenging curriculum and their engagement nearly around the clock in many extracurricular activities that help round out their skills sets and prepare them for their careers," Schwartz said.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said improving Lafferre is MU’s highest renovation priority. He said he was "appalled" at the building’s condition when he first visited it shortly after his arrival on campus.

"There was no way to really live in that place, I thought, effectively, without endangering yourself in some way," Loftin said.

When the governor toured Lafferre in October, he witnessed trash cans and other containers collecting water under leaking pipes, and his guide showed him a section of ceiling that had fallen. Crews tomorrow will begin removing asbestos from Lafferre.

Lauren Wertz, an MU senior industrial and manufacturing systems engineering major, said Lafferre serves as a home for engineering students to make things happen "on a large scale."

As president of MU’s Formula SAE team, which creates smaller, Formula 1 style racing cars, Wertz said she spent an average of 40 hours outside class per week inside
engineering buildings. The renovation of Lafferre will create new space and provide new resources for competition teams to work, she said.

"The renovation will create an environment that serves students and will enhance the overall experience of engineering students," Wertz said.

Demolition of the two sections of Lafferre that are scheduled for renovation will begin May 18. The work is scheduled to be completed by December 2016.

Monday groundbreaking marks start of Lafferre Hall renovation

By Roger McKinney Monday, April 13, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Bob Schwartz, interim dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Missouri, said educating students for engineering jobs is a challenge.
“It’s far more challenging in cramped and deteriorating space,” Schwartz said. Renovations that started Monday will help alleviate that challenge.

A ceremony Monday marked the start of renovations of Lafferre Hall, the main building for the College of Engineering at MU.

Gov. Jay Nixon on Oct. 16 toured Lafferre and approved the state’s issuance of $38.5 million in bond proceeds for renovations of the 1935 and 1944 sections of the building.

The state Board of Public Buildings in February approved the sale of bonds to finance the project.

The project includes replacing the roof and windows and repairing masonry. Laboratory areas will be renovated, creating an additional 20,000 square feet for research space, according to school officials. Students will get a coffee shop out of the project, too.

The project will address more than $15 million in deferred maintenance.

Schwartz said when the first sections of Lafferre Hall were constructed in 1892 and 1893, the university was training engineers to work with new innovations, including production and distribution of electricity, telephones and combustion engines. Additions were built in 1922, 1935, 1944, 1958, 1995 and 2009.

Schwartz said this round of renovations will make the entire building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in his first visit to Lafferre, he immediately got lost. Then he found some of the areas that were deteriorating.

“I was appalled at the condition,” Loftin said. “This was by far the highest priority of the university for renovation needs.” He said fixing Lafferre has been a high priority for about 20 years.

“This thing has to happen,” Loftin said.

Work is expected to be complete by December 2016.

University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe said the university needs to continue meeting the needs of employers, and demand for jobs in science, technology, engineering and math are growing. He thanked state legislators and Nixon for their work in getting approval for the project.

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, was enthusiastic about the start of the project.

“We’re finally here,” he said. “We’ve been working this thing forever.”
Demolition on the areas to be renovated will begin in May. All offices have been moved, and only two labs remain on the second floor. Some labs have been relocated to Mizzou North, the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center location on Business Loop 70. An entire academic department has been moved to the second floor of Engineering Building North, the former student health building.

The engineering building was renamed for Nell and Tom Lafferre after they bequeathed their estate to the university in 2004. Tom Lafferre is a 1956 MU mechanical engineering graduate. Tom Lafferre said no one will be disappointed with the outcome when the renovation is complete.

KOMU-TV (NBC) – Columbia, Mo.

Groundbreaking ceremony launches repairs to Lafferre Hall

Posted: Apr 13, 2015 9:13 AM by Melody Myers and Hanna Yates, KOMU 8 Reporters
Updated: Apr 13, 2015 3:01 PM

Watch the story: [http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28374&zone=2,5&categories=2,5](http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28374&zone=2,5&categories=2,5)

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri's College of Engineering is receiving renovations to its main building.

University of Missouri and state officials kicked off the start of repairs to Lafferre Hall through a groundbreaking ceremony held early Monday.

The 1935 and 1944 additions to Lafferre Hall will be demolished and reconstructed beginning in May.

Bob Schwartz, dean of the College of Engineering, said it was time for renovation.
"From a leaky roof to having to cover equipment on an almost daily basis when it rains to protect it, it's been in need of renovation for a while and we're happy that the state has funded the project through the bonding initiative," Schwartz said.

The decision to renovate Lafferre Hall was approved by Gov. Jay Nixon after his tour of the building in October.

Nixon approved the state's issuance of $38.5 million for repairs.

The renovations will provide MU engineering students with new community study rooms, study labs and a new coffee shop run by campus dining services.

Building namesake Thomas Lafferre said he is happy with the project and looks forward to the future of Lafferre Hall.

"It's been a wonderful journey. I do not regret for one moment the money I've spent and it's just money well spent and I'm just so happy that we're finally gonna see the rest of the building," Lafferre said.

The project is scheduled to be completed in December, 2016.

MU breaks ground on Lafferre Hall renovations

Watch story: http://s3.amazonaws.com/TVEyesMediaCenter/UserContent/60688/4744986.8222/KRCG_04-13-2015_17.05.28.mp4

COLUMBIA, MO -- The University of Missouri broke ground Monday morning on renovations to their largest engineering building on campus – Lafferre Hall.

In October of last year, Governor Jay Nixon toured Lafferre Hall and approved $38.5 million dollars for renovations and repairs to parts of the building.
The new building will feature more lab space for students and research, conference rooms, and space for competition teams. The renovations and improvements will also make the building ADA accessible.

The 1935 and 1944 portions of the building will be demolished starting in mid-May after finals.

Senator Kurt Schaefer, who pushed for the state funding for the repairs and renovations, said this was only a drop in the bucket of what higher education in Missouri needs. He went on and said he was happy with the money going to Lafferre Hall.

“I am proud that the $38.5 million that the state is able to contribute to this project is going to advanced the purpose of this land grant university and make [to] sure our students have the ability in the 21st century to be top-notch engineers.”

M-U Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said he was extremely unhappy with the condition parts of Lafferre Hall are currently in. He said Lafferre was on the top of his list of buildings on campus that needed repairs.

“I wondered through a section of the building and I was appalled at the condition. Plastic covered equipment and desks because every time it rained the water came pouring down.”

The project is slated to be finished in December 2016.

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Major reconstruction is set to begin on the engineering building on the University of Missouri campus.

Part of Lafferre Hall was built in 1944 and the other in 1935.

The part built in 1935 will be the main area of renovation, and crews will begin demolition within the next month.

MU administrators said leaky roofs are just the beginning of the building's structural issues.
Lawmakers and MU officials broke ground Monday for the latest project to renovate the building.

"It's 2009 addition led to a whole new change in the way of teaching, interdisciplinary, and things of that sort. This is going to continue to aid and let that happen some more," said Tom Lafferre, the building's namesake.

Lafferre Hall is a conglomeration of buildings constructed throughout the last 120 years.

The 1935 and 1944 additions will be torn down to make way for a lab and study spaces, as well as conference rooms.

MU administrators call the upcoming renovation "student-centric."

"They will have their own state-of-the-art study areas. We will have quite a bit of state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment. Basically, it brings this part of the building into the 21st century and hopefully for another 50 or 60 years we will have another viable building," said Marty Walker with the College of Engineering.

Back in October, Governor Nixon toured the building and approved $38.5 million for the project.

The bond money comes from a bill passed by the state legislature, with the intent to renovate and repair public higher education buildings such as Lafferre Hall.

"We're in here constantly, so it's a great feeling knowing the place that you truly love is getting some tender loving care and being brought back to the state that you would like it," said engineering student Lauren Wertz.

The process has already begun. All offices have been moved out of the area, and much of the lab and office equipment is in storage. Demolition of these two buildings begins in May.

**MU officials investigate anti-semitic writing in residence hall**

An investigation is underway after the staff at Mark Twain residence hall discovered anti-Semitic graffiti in the building April 9.

Images of a swastika, a triangle with an eye on top and the word “heil” were smeared on a wall in the building’s northwest stairwell with what appeared to be charcoal, said Capt. Scott Richardson, a spokesman for MU Police.
Residential Life Director Frankie Minor said community advisors discovered the images at approximately 1 p.m. April 9 and notified MUPD and submitted a bias report, per the department’s standard protocol. The staff cleaned the writing from the wall, but found more anti-Semitic messages in the same area at approximately 6:40 p.m. the next day, Minor said.

Mark Twain Hall Coordinator Adam Callahan and the building’s CA’s are not speaking to the media at this time to focus on the well-being of the residents, Minor said. He said ResLife will cooperate with MUPD to provide them with as much information as possible.

MUPD will review video footage of the surrounding areas and interview potential suspects, Richardson said. He said if the suspect is caught, prosecutors may charge them with an “enhanced charge,” due to the crime’s discriminatory nature.

Minor said sanctions from the MU Office of Student Conduct have not yet been defined, as officials cannot prejudge the situation before the investigation is complete. However, he said the sanctions will be serious given the threatening nature of the incident.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said any student who is investigated by Student Conduct can receive sanctions ranging from a verbal warning to expulsion from the university.

Minor said a statement was posted on every floor of the building after the first incident.

“The use of discriminatory language is inconsistent with the University Value of Respect and creates an environment that is unwelcoming to our students, faculty and staff,” the statement read.

Minor said this incident is offensive to MU’s institutional values.

“If you look at our mission statement, it’s providing a safe and inclusive community for everybody,” Minor said. “We’re working very hard to make sure that everybody feels safe and included in their community.”

Floor meetings were held April 12 to discuss the incidents. The purpose of these meetings was not only to inform residents of the vandalism, but to also encourage those involved to turn themselves in, Minor said. Callahan, MUPD officers, student staff members and members of Hillel attended the meetings to express their concerns and offered resources to residents.

Another notification was posted Monday to inform students of the additional vandalism.

Minor said he hopes the meetings and statements will help the perpetrator realize the impact of their actions, and come forward on their own. He said few secrets are kept in residence halls and he is optimistic someone will come forward soon with information.

“I would hate to think that we have somebody who understands the meaning and impact of some of the words they’ve chosen to use or symbols, and chose to do that anyway,” he said. “I’d like to think that maybe they just did that out of ignorance or misunderstanding.”
Director of the MU Hillel Jeanne Snodgrass, however, said the person’s intent does not matter in such a situation.

“People do stupid things sometimes, but that’s also not an excuse for not being responsible for the things that you do,” she said. “The reality is that certain symbols, certain terminology have very real effects on the people that see them, whether or not that’s the intent.”

Junior Chantelle Moghadam, co-founder and president of the Students Supporting Israel at the University of Missouri, said university administrators should work toward creating a more inclusive environment for minority members of campus.

“It doesn’t make people feel safe to go to school here, and that isn’t something that we should have to worry about,” Moghadam said. “You shouldn’t have to watch your back when you’re walking to class and you shouldn’t have to think about whether you’re going to be safe while you’re at school.”

Junior Thalia Sass, president of the Jewish Student Organization, said she understands from experience what it’s like to be concerned for her safety.

“It becomes harder to show my Jewish identity,” she said. “I’m so proud to be a Jewish student on this campus. I’m so proud to flaunt my Jewish identity but when incidents like this happen, it’s scary. This person doesn’t know me but they hate me just because of the single aspect that I’m Jewish.”

ResLife encourages individuals with information to contact MUPD at 573-882-7201 or Callahan at 573-882-0642. Students can also report information anonymously through Silent Witness.

Why engineers want to control how nanotube forests grow

Engineers grow carbon nanotube “forests” in high-temperature furnaces, but the forces involved are unpredictable and mostly left to chance.

A new study suggests there’s a way to predict how the structures, which are much smaller than the width of a human hair, form. Knowing this could make it possible to use them in a wide range of products—from baseball bats to body armor.
Forests of carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are held together by an adhesive force known as the van der Waals force. They’re categorized based on their rigidity or how they are aligned.

For example, if CNTs are dense and well aligned, the material tends to be more rigid and can be useful for electrical and mechanical applications. If CNTs are disorganized, they tend to be softer and have entirely different sets of properties.

“Scientists are still learning how carbon nanotube arrays form,” says Matt Maschmann, assistant professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Missouri. “As they grow in relatively dense populations, mechanical forces combine them into vertically oriented assemblies known as forests or arrays.

“The complex structures they form help dictate the properties the CNT forests possess. We’re working to identify the mechanisms behind how those forests form, how to control their formation, and thus dictate future uses for CNTs.”

Custom-made ‘forests’

Currently, most models that examine CNT forests analyze what happens when you compress them or test their thermal or conductivity properties after they’ve formed. However, these models do not take into account the process by which that particular forest was created and struggle to capture realistic CNT forest structure.

Experiments conducted in Maschmann’s lab will help scientists understand the process and ultimately help control it, allowing engineers to create nanotube forests with desired mechanical, thermal, and electrical properties. He uses modeling to map how nanotubes grow into particular types of forests before attempting to test their resulting properties.

“The advantage of this approach is that we can map how different synthesis parameters, such as temperature and catalyst particle size, influence how nanotubes form while simultaneously testing the resulting CNT forests for how they will behave in one comprehensive simulation,” Maschmann says.

“I am very encouraged that the model successfully predicts how they are formed and their mechanical behaviors. Knowing how nanotubes are organized and behave will help engineers better integrate CNTs in practical, everyday applications.”

The study will be published in the upcoming edition of the journal Carbon.
The $74 Million Stock Award That Jarden’s Board Values at Zero

Jarden Corp.’s Executive Chairman Martin Franklin is poised to become one of the highest-paid U.S. executives for 2014 thanks to a $74 million performance award that the consumer-brands company granted him last year and recorded as having no value.

The grant includes 1.8 million restricted shares that are deemed “improbable” to vest in full because the underlying performance criteria -- annual net sales of $10.5 billion and adjusted earnings-per-share of $4 by Dec. 31, 2018 -- are unlikely to be achieved, the board’s compensation committee wrote in a March 30 preliminary proxy filing.

The shares, worth $73.9 million on the day they were granted, are listed with Franklin’s other equity awards in the summary compensation table with no value. In a footnote, Jarden cites a Financial Accounting Standards Board rule that advises companies to value performance-based equity grants based on the probability that the targets will be met.

“This grant-approach appears to allow a company to skirt the summary compensation table disclosure,” Ron Bottano, a vice president at compensation consultant Farient Advisors LLC, said in an e-mail. “It does not strike me as best practice.”

Jarden, based in Boca Raton, Florida, declined to comment on specific questions about its treatment of the grant.

The company, which owns a collection of brands including Yankee Candle, Rawlings baseball gear and Bicycle playing cards, granted Franklin a similar award in 2010 that it also deemed improbable to vest due to its performance criteria, according to filings. It vested in full when the target was met in 2013.

‘Aspirational Targets’

The award was paid out last year and allowed Franklin to take home 2.25 million shares valued at $120 million as of Monday’s close in New York.

The company recorded a $33.6 million expense for the 2010 grant, which also included shares for Vice Chairman Ian Ashken and Chief Executive Officer James Lillie, in its 2012 annual report. That’s because the likelihood of achieving the performance goals “was deemed probable” in the fourth quarter of that year, according to a footnote in Jarden’s April 15, 2013 proxy filing.

The grant never appeared in any summary compensation tables with a value larger than zero.

“Jarden has consistently set long-term aspirational targets to drive performance,” the company said in an e-mailed statement. “The compensation that Mr. Franklin, Mr. Ashken and Mr. Lillie received in 2014 reflects the achievement of this long-term goal.”
‘Relatively Uncommon’

Jarden posted revenue of $8.29 billion and adjusted earnings-per-share of $2.70 last year, according to a regulatory filing. For the new grant to vest in full, the company must meet the revenue and EPS goals detailed in the preliminary proxy.

Achieving those goals was considered “improbable” for reporting purposes, according to the March 30 preliminary proxy filing, enabling the company to assign no fair value to the 1.8 million shares in the summary compensation table.

“This is relatively uncommon,” Ken Shaw, a professor of accounting at the University of Missouri’s Robert J. Trulaske Sr. College of Business, said by phone. “I would think that a CEO or CFO, all else equal, prefers targets that may be challenging but achievable.”

Per-share earnings excluding some items are projected to be $4.14 in fiscal year 2018, according to the average estimate of four analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

‘Very Reasonable’

The company’s history of buying well-known consumer brands and quickly improving their profitability makes the revenue and earnings targets seem “very reasonable,” Stephanie Wissink, senior analyst at Piper Jaffray & Co. in Minneapolis, said in a telephone interview.

“The interest rate favorability allows them to stretch up into bigger acquisitions,” Wissink said. “They’re actually probably pacing ahead of 2018.”

Jarden is on track to meet both targets even without making any additional deals, Charles Strauzer, senior managing director at White Plains, New York-based CJS Securities Inc., said by phone. CJS has received banking fees from Jarden.

“If this kind of growth rate continues, you could easily get there,” Strauzer, who owns shares in the company, said. “If they can find an acquisition or two along the way, you could see that accelerate.”

The $73.9 million grant would put Franklin’s total reported pay for 2014 at about $96 million, according to the proxy.

Yankee Candle

Between 2010 and 2014, Jarden’s annual revenue grew by 37 percent, or $2.26 billion, as the company spent more than $3.39 billion of its cash on at least one dozen acquisitions including Rexair Holdings Inc., which makes Rainbow vacuum cleaners, and Yankee Candle Investments LLC.
The company has struggled in the past to persuade investors about its executive pay practices. More than 40 percent of voting shareholders have rejected its executive compensation program in two out of its three most recent Say-on-Pay votes held at annual meetings.

Approval rates below 70 percent are generally considered “problematic” and should prompt directors to talk with shareholders to understand their concerns with the company’s pay program, said Ann Yerger, executive director at the Council of Institutional Investors.

An Arc of Outrage

Despite the clamor, the real conversation about campus sexual assault has hardly begun

By Sara Lipka

April 13, 2015

NO MU MENTION

Slowly at first and then in a rush came stories of women who were raped in college. They were violated by men they knew and forsaken by institutions they counted on: two traumas. It was a plague, an epidemic, an outrage.

The conversation, now several years in, has been punctuated by the refrain "one in five." That's how many women are said to be sexually assaulted in college, a shocking rate. Campuses look like perilous places, bastions of rape culture where men take advantage of their classmates and get away with it.

Victims face "a frustrating search for justice," the Center for Public Integrity detailed in a 2010 report, to great effect. A year later the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights — having pledged stricter enforcement of the gender-equity law Title IX — issued a now notorious "Dear Colleague" letter, exhorting colleges to investigate and resolve students' reports of sexual misconduct and protect them along the way.

Students have taken up Title IX as a weapon. In 2013, some of them filed a federal complaint against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for failing to respond appropriately to rape allegations, creating a hostile climate for victims. Before long, every month brought new complaints, against Dartmouth, Occidental, and Swarthmore Colleges, the Universities of California at Berkeley and Southern California. Citing Title IX or the campus-crime-reporting law known as the Clery Act, students helped one another file, documenting how they were brushed off, discouraged, or subjected to a cruel, ineffective process.

They banded together. "We are here to put a face to our national movement," Annie E. Clark, a recent graduate who had joined the complaint against Chapel Hill, said at a news conference that spring. "We have reached a critical mass where we can no longer be ignored."
Now, four years after the Dear Colleague letter and two years after the crush of complaints, the issue of campus sexual assault has sustained a fever pitch. Longtime leaders can't recall another issue that so consumed colleges. The attention has prompted two White House campaigns, two documentaries, numerous conferences, constant protests, heightened scrutiny, and countless headlines, among them a Time cover with a pennant lettered in collegiate type: RAPE. The number of colleges under federal investigation now tops 100.

The conversation has grown fiercer, but not necessarily more productive. A backlash arose, from men who felt falsely accused. When Rolling Stone dropped a bomb in November about a brutal gang rape at the University of Virginia, it fit what people had come to believe about campus life. But as the account fell apart in subsequent weeks, broader questions emerged. More testimonies conveyed not only the anguish of victims, but the agony of students who recalled consensual encounters but were expelled, they said, in a rush to judgment.

The statistics defining the problem became a source of debate. The "one in five" researcher called that finding, from two campuses, not nationally representative, and its definition of "sexual assault" turned out to include offenses some people might not have put in that category, like "forced kissing" and rubbing up against someone over clothes. Reliable evidence was hard to find. "Researchers have been unable to determine the precise incidence of sexual assault on American campuses," a report by the National Institute of Justice had concluded several years earlier, because results depend on "how the questions are worded and the context of the survey." The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics found a rate of six in 1,000, although underreporting, widely recognized as a problem, seemed substantial there.

Outrage kept building, but law professors warned that it didn't justify any shortcuts. At Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania, they raised serious concerns about due-process violations for accused students. Victim advocates, for their part, have cited research showing that false reports are exceedingly rare. It is a counterargument charged with the question, Are you calling these women liars?

As more students have come forward on one side and pushed back on the other, administrators have delved into new cases and reconsidered older ones. Swarthmore, which found one young man responsible for sexual misconduct and expelled him, revoked that decision.

Colleges have acknowledged deficiencies in how they handle reports and made efforts to improve. Just about every campus has a task force. Some presidents say they've spent half their time on the issue — and serious money, limiting their ability to add another mental-health counselor, for example, or hold down a tuition increase. Chancellors can rattle off the percentages of students and faculty members who have completed new training programs.

Talk and action are in high supply, but they're more reflexive than reflective. Professors have claimed they were denied tenure or driven out for supporting victims. Others have been admonished for appearing to defy the movement. Student activists demand "safe spaces" where no one will challenge them.

The conversation about campus sexual assault is dominated by two poles: One declares it a crisis, the other dismisses it as a panic. In fact, it has become both. And as long as candor and nuance remain elusive, so will progress.

Certainly the problem of sexual assault isn't new to campuses, and it may have been worse in the past.
In 1957, two researchers examined the "exploitative advantage" in male-female relationships in a university setting and found that 56 percent of women "reported themselves offended at least once during the academic year at some level of erotic intimacy." Most kept the offenses to themselves because of the stigma. It was the harsh good girl/bad girl era: The good girl wouldn't get in such trouble, the thinking went, and the bad girl probably deserved it.

A few decades later, in the late 80s and early 90s, as culture wars and debates over political correctness raged, students mobilized to break the silence. Take Back the Night marches became a fixture on campuses, as did women's centers, and the movement made "date rape" a household term. Outrage flared then, too, and students scrawled "castration lists" of alleged perpetrators on bathroom walls.

Defiance came from Katie Roiphe, a young Harvard graduate whose 1993 book The Morning After: Sex, Fear and Feminism on Campus questioned the validity of the statistics, argued that the definition of rape was ideologically diluted, and dismissed the cause as "a mood." Critics slammed her take as smug and misleading, but people were already focusing on a different problem: sexual harassment. Anita Hill's allegations about Clarence Thomas had prompted employee lawsuits against colleges. And for campus antirape activists, urgency wasn't running as high as it had, says Jennifer Baumgardner, executive director at the City University of New York's Feminist Press, who was a student at the time. "The Clintons got into office," she says. "It felt like we won."

Alexandra Brodsky, a founder of Know Your IX, a network of campus sexual-assault survivors and advocates, in 2013 petitioned the Education Department to hold colleges accountable for responding to sexual violence. (Lance Rosenfield for The Chronicle)

In the years that followed, today's college women were born. They grew up able to take many aspects of gender equality for granted, and they arrived on campus with a sense of empowerment, even entitlement. But out at parties or bars and in private spaces, they didn't feel fully safe. That the movement against sexual assault started at elite colleges probably wasn't a coincidence, says Estelle B. Freedman, a history professor at Stanford University who has studied shifting definitions of rape. "You have some of the women who feel most entitled to have equal education and sexual respect."

Although date rape had been labeled a problem, victims faced persistent stereotypes. If a young woman knew the guy, and they had hooked up before, could it really be so bad? Yes, students insisted, using the newer term "acquaintance rape." Activists identified themselves as "survivors" and quickly built strong networks online, turning their individual experiences into a national force.

While the movement a generation ago was angry, Ms. Baumgardner says, this one is savvy, its sights set on policy. Organizers have access to high-level political appointees, and the promise of enforcement has brought more students forward. In the summer of 2013, they rallied outside the Education Department in college T-shirts — Carleton, George Washington, Maryland, Tufts. Alexandra Brodsky, a recent graduate of Yale, appealed directly to Arne Duncan: "We need you to have our backs." The following year, as the White House prepared its campaign "Not Alone," President Obama answered her: "I've got your back."

The traction was not just political, but public, lining up with general scrutiny of higher education. "People are really asking serious questions about the operation of the institution," says Christopher Loss, associate professor of public policy and higher education at Vanderbilt University. "What is actually going on in the black box?"
That matches a broader social trend. The deference people formerly accorded to government, religion, and the press has fallen away in a grand erosion of public trust.

Doubt has become reflexive, says Jonathan Veitch, president of Occidental College. "The default mode is to be suspicious of those charged with the responsibility of institutions." At best they're incompetent, but probably they're malfeasant. Clearly colleges, including his own, have made mistakes, says Mr. Veitch. But "we have really no incentive but to protect our students and to get it right, because our reputation depends on their success and their health and their well being."

But what does getting it "right" mean? With acquaintance rape, the criminal-justice system pursues a small share of allegations. The process intimidates some victims, who may simply not want to face, in the dorm or in class, the student they've accused. It's up to the college, then, to separate them, determine what happened, and impose sanctions. The assumption that higher education can do that vexes its leaders.

"It's unrealistic to think that where you have only circumstantial evidence, and no witnesses, that colleges are going to be able to say with absolute clarity in every case that they know what took place," says Mr. Veitch. "Those are the kinds of things that I think are hard to reckon with."

If not colleges, what or who will resolve this injustice? Students are turning to their institutions with simultaneously soaring expectations and deep doubts. "That is sort of the dilemma of modern life," says Mr. Loss. People want more but trust less.

Annie E. Clark and Andrea Pino show the tattoos that symbolize their commitment to the fight against campus sexual assault. After filing a federal complaint against the U. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, they helped form a network to teach college women how Title IX can protect them. (Thomas Patterson, The New York Times)

But what exactly do students want? If a college's charge is to prevent and respond to sexual assault, how they should do that remains unsettled.

What families expected from colleges used to be clear: to maintain the role of in loco parentis. In the mid-20th century, that meant rules like single-sex dorms and curfews. Women's liberation and legal rulings that students couldn't be punished for participating in civil-rights demonstrations abolished that authority, but administrators have hardly taken a laissez-faire approach. Wrongful-death lawsuits have held colleges responsible for students' drinking, hazing, and mental health.

While there are no more chaperones, expectations for moral guidance and institutional control have emerged in "affirmative consent" standards in students' sexual encounters. The old norm was "no means no," but on a growing number of campuses, it's now "no unless yes." Colleges are interceding in students' private lives to set stricter rules than exist in the wider world, and some students are clamoring for it.

Students are turning to their institutions with simultaneously soaring expectations and deep doubts.

Gloria Steinem and Michael Kimmel, acting as ambassadors for feminism, hailed affirmative consent as liberating, writing in The New York Times that "the enormous gray area between 'yes' and 'no'" was "defined residually as 'yes,'" but no longer. (For good measure, they quoted the final lines of James Joyce's Ulysses to show how erotically lyrical affirmative consent can be.) "It is bound to raise howls of
protest from opponents of women's equality," the two wrote, suggesting that those were the only grounds for dissent.

But the standard has drawn wider skepticism. "To exempt women from the responsibility of stating their own sexual wishes without prompting," writes the critic Zoë Heller in The New York Review of Books, "comes dangerously close to infantilizing women."

Sex researchers seem to regard affirmative consent as ideal but unrealistic, out of sync with how people communicate sexually. A couple of preposterous smartphone apps have hardly helped. Good2Go, offering multiple-choice questions about interest in sex and level of intoxication, was quickly off the market. We-Consent, which records and encrypts video statements of consent available only to authorities, has yet to be approved.

A group of Occidental College students and alumni, represented by their lawyer, Gloria Allred (center), filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education in 2013, accusing the college of failing to protect women from sexual assault. (Nick Ut, AP Images)

The rules of consent regarding alcohol have also been interpreted as paternalistic. In a heterosexual encounter, "if both people are drunk, and they both seem enthusiastic, it's considered the man's responsibility to be sure that she's not too drunk," says Charlene L. Muehlenhard, a psychology professor at the University of Kansas who studies sexual consent. That rests on the problematic assumption, she says, that sex is something men do to women.

The message to look out for oneself or limit drinking can come off as blaming the victim. Don't tell me not to get raped, students say, tell him not to rape. And if he does, don't soft-pedal the violation as "nonconsensual sexual intercourse." Call it what it is, and expel him.

"Rape is rape" is a common sign at campus protests. "The underlying message," says Ms. Muehlenhard, "is it's simple, and you would always easily be able to tell."

When it comes to sex, college women expect both freedom and safety, and why shouldn't they? But tensions arise between erotic agency and vulnerability, Michelle Goldberg writes for The Nation. "The politics of liberation are an uneasy fit with the politics of protection."

That's a subtle balance to strike, or even discuss. And it's hard to negotiate in a tinderbox.

An audit of the policies and climate surrounding sexual misconduct at Occidental found "fear of ostracism and retaliation by either the administration or the activist community." It called for people to rebuild relationships and "find a way to share common goals." They're still working on that, says Mr. Veitch, the president. "Colleges and universities ought to be the places in which one can have difficult discussions," he says. "Instead we've succumbed to the same kind of polarized atmosphere that we see on the national stage."

On some campuses, officials have been too defensive to support a productive discussion. But activists pushing change have also impeded meaningful conversation. In a world where victims of sexual assault were once callously dismissed, some now seem to see nuance as defeat. "If you are wounded, everything you do is brave and beyond reproach," the critic Jessa Crispin writes in the Boston Review. A question can be an affront. How students communicate that is stark: They are made to feel not uncomfortable, but "unsafe."
When activists at Brown University realized that one speaker at a debate there was likely to criticize the concept of "rape culture," they met with administrators and planned an alternative talk, Judith Shulevitz wrote in The New York Times last month. The speaker was a psychiatrist who studies sexual victimization. (Additionally, a "safe space" provided coloring books, Play-Doh, and a video of puppies.)

Laura Kipnis, a cultural critic and professor at Northwestern University, recently wrote an essay in The Chronicle Review that questioned the wisdom of banning relationships between students and faculty, challenging "the climate of sanctimony about student vulnerability." Students marched, delivered a petition to administrators, and issued a statement. "We can only hope that the Northwestern community will meet Kipnis's toxic ideas with resounding opprobrium, because they have no place here." Two students have lodged complaints against Ms. Kipnis, in part for alleged inaccuracies in her essay, with the university's Title IX coordinator.

Discussion is strained even in law schools, Jeannie C. Suk, a professor at Harvard, wrote in The New Yorker. Students have expressed such distress — one asked a professor not to use the word "violate" in class (as in "Does this conduct violate the law?") — that some of her colleagues who teach criminal procedure are omitting rape law.

The endgame of such rules for engagement, including trigger warnings, puzzles Ms. Baumgardner, the activist and executive director of the Feminist Press. "Is it to have a bunch of things that we're not able to talk about?" That's what we started with, she says. Instead, the goal should be "to connect and not hurt each other, but have these conversations."

That seems crucial to the project of defining consensual sex. "What are the lines we're going to draw?" asks Ms. Freedman, the Stanford historian. In her book Redefining Rape: Sexual Violence in the Era of Suffrage and Segregation, she traces how sexual behavior that was once tolerated is newly seen as unacceptable.

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Sex researchers tend to regard consent as a continuum, ranging from enthusiastic, to not especially excited but willing, to verbally coerced, to threatened and forced. With alcohol, people can be intoxicated, impaired, or incapacitated. The task is to figure out where acts become nonconsensual. "Are we going to call all of them rape, or are we going to call some of them misunderstanding?" Ms. Freedman asks. In the abstract and in individual cases, that is an excruciating question.

The work of answering it has hardly started. Responding to the White House's second campaign against sexual assault, "It's on Us," students have posted videos online. "It's on all of us to promote a culture of respect," says a woman at the State University of New York at New Paltz. "To not give our friends a pass," says a man at Boston College. Such bystander intervention means students are reckoning with questions of responsibility and limits. The goal of those programs is to identify a predator or opportunist hovering around a target and foil him.

But there's much more to sort out. Sexual assault may no longer be considered a women's issue, but the men who speak up are typically gay victims, plaintiffs who say they were falsely accused, or men's-rights advocates. A broader array of male voices, several observers say, could shake up the monolithic groups of victim and perpetrator and help people think this through.

To better understand coercive behavior, Ms. Baumgardner wants to hear from confused, contrite young men: "I did this, and I really did not realize the extent to which I hurt this person, and I've had the opportunity to learn from it," she imagines one might say. "I don't think we as a society provide much
space for that at all." Nor is there room for straight male victims, she says. Speaking on campuses, she sometimes hears from men who were coerced into sex by women, with no chance to say no. A student at Stanford recently shared that experience in the campus newspaper. The story is not as simple as men always initiating and automatically consenting to sex.

Shayna Han, a senior at Union College and a member of its Committee on Consent Education, works on "Consent Panties," an exhibit designed to show solidarity against sexual assault. (Mark Abramson for The Chronicle)

This cultural moment presents serious challenges. Hard-core pornography is easier to find than an open discussion of sexuality. The local high school likely offers abstinence-only sex education, but the local cinema has probably shown Fifty Shades of Grey.

Stepping in is not higher education's responsibility, but it's an opportunity, says Rebecca Plante, an associate professor of sociology at Ithaca College who studies gender and sexuality. Attention to sexual assault has created an opening for a profound exploration of sexual ethics, she says. "That's something colleges could really lay claim to."

She sees glimmers of it. Peer sex educators are helpful, but they're still largely focused on health, and the programs are small. The community of sex speakers has been getting more calls from colleges, but many of them are compliance- or public-relations-oriented, says Andrew P. Smiler, a psychologist who studies masculinity. Do you have a consent shtick? Good. No, we don't need the contraceptives part.

Bringing together hundreds or thousands of young people who will socialize, drink, and experiment calls for more than a 90-minute skit. Students roam campuses unprepared, insecure, trying to prove themselves. They are essentially crying out for real conversation about sex.

One thing colleges already know how to do is organize conferences, and on sexual assault they have, at Virginia, Dartmouth, and Berkeley. A deep, sustained effort will require more time, and information. Many surveys are underway to gauge the campus sexual climate. More research is vital.

That's if colleges are going to deal with this issue, not just get past it. As understanding of prevention, for example, evolves, colleges have to move with it, says Carol L. Folt, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "With respect to training, it's almost impossible to say you couldn't do more." At Amherst College, another early flash point, the sense of crisis is no longer as strong, says Carolyn A. (Biddy) Martin, the president. But people there are still devoted to the cause.

In retrospect, this period may look like a late-stage battle for gender equality, or a hypersexualized society catching up with itself. Mr. Veitch, of Occidental, sees it as a paradigm shift. "It will create a more respectful sexual culture," he says. "I'm actually optimistic."

For now the discussion feels like a frenzy. But social issues don't come to a head tidily. Legal, political, and cultural change are painful. Students and colleges still have to sit down for the long, arduous work of defining and promoting sexual respect. They haven't even gotten to the tough part.