MU police investigating anti-Semitic vandalism in residence hall

By Ashley Jost

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 10:12 am

University of Missouri police are investigating anti-Semitic symbols and threats written in a stairwell of Mark Twain Residence Hall twice last week.

Police are classifying the acts as tampering, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

“They vandalism consisted of language and symbols targeting cultural and religious minorities. The vandalism has been removed,” a notice posted in the residence hall said.

Basi said the first report was made early Thursday morning, and the notice said more vandalism was found just before 7 p.m. Friday.

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said the writing was done in ash from the end of a cigarette or a cigar. The writing was on the ceiling above part of the northwest stairwell in the residence hall.

Weimer said no one has been identified as a suspect, and police will not address specifics about what was written or whether there are cameras in the dormitory. The case is a priority for investigators because of the “concern to people’s safety,” Weimer said.

Chantelle Moghadam, co-founder of Students Supporting Israel, a new student organization at MU, said in a news release that the symbols included a swastika, a symbol representing the “Illuminati,” and the words “Heil” and “You’ve been warned.”

“Our group wants to continue to bring awareness to campus about the fact that anti-Semitism still exists here,” Moghadam said. “It’s hard to know the intent of graffiti like this. It’s not just used in terms of Jews anymore, but other minorities, too. ... This goes to show that maybe we’re not as progressive and inclusive as we think we are as a campus.”

Basi said Student Affairs staff met with Mark Twain residents to talk about safety and to remind them that “the symbols and language used are not tolerated on campus.”
Students found responsible could face sanctions ranging from a verbal reprimand to expulsion depending on how a conduct board rules, Basi said.

A report has also been filed with the MU Equity Office.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Police investigate anti-Semitic messages found in MU residence hall
Tuesday, April 14, 2015 | 6:35 p.m. CDT; updated 12:02 a.m. CDT, Wednesday, April 15, 2015
BY ALYSSA SALELA

COLUMBIA — The chancellor of MU on Tuesday called last week's outbreak of anti-Semitic messages in a campus residence hall "deplorable and unworthy of this institution and its values."

Jewish organizations at MU have been pressing the university to speak out publicly against the swastikas, threats and other graffiti found Thursday and Friday in Mark Twain Residence Hall. It has since been removed.

"I remind you that a core value of our university is respect, and these incidents negatively impact our campus climate," Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a prepared statement.

He said bias reports have been filed with the MU Equity Office, and individuals found responsible would be disciplined and could face criminal charges. He also said MU Student Affairs staff have met with residents to assure their safety. An investigation by MU police is also underway.

MU junior Chantelle Moghadam, co-founder of Students Supporting Israel, said her group has been urging the university since the weekend to release a statement about the incident and how the behavior is unacceptable.

"We know they are taking steps to investigate this incident," Moghadam said. "It is important though that they show their concern and make the public aware of what happened."
Swastikas and other disturbing symbols — a triangle with an eye and the word "Heil" — were first discovered Thursday in a stairwell of the residence hall, said MU Police Department Officer Scott Richardson.

On Friday, after the symbols were removed, another swastika and the words, "You have been warned," were found in the stairwell. Richardson said the markings appeared to be from a charred object, such as a cigarette butt.

Moghadam said she has seen other instances of racism against minorities in her time at the university. She said this incident is alarming because it happened two days in a row.

"We know it is not someone just drunk and messing around because it happened on two consecutive days," she said. "The threatening language, and that it seems to be directed at someone in particular, constituted this as a credible threat."

Moghadam said it is possible the threats may have been directed at the Jewish student group or its co-founder, Jared Kaufman, who lives in Mark Twain. The group has been visible recently, promoting a Monday night event where Israeli soldiers came to campus to talk about their role in the Israeli Defense Forces.

"We had security at the event so that everyone felt safe and no one would try anything," Moghadam said. "Thankfully the event happened without incident."

MU police met with Mark Twain residents Sunday to talk about hate crimes, said Kaitlin Eifert, a freshman who lives in Mark Twain. Police told the group the incident was being taken seriously.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said if those responsible are MU students, they will be sent to the MU Office of Student Conduct. They could receive a range of punishments, from a verbal reprimand to expulsion.

Rabbi Avraham Lapine, director Chabad of MU and Mid-Missouri director, said he was saddened that the incident occurred during Passover and a week before Holocaust Remembrance Day, which begins at sunset Wednesday and ends Thursday night.

He insisted the organization would not be intimidated by anti-Semitic behavior.
"We will in fact intensify our activities on campus aimed at increasing knowledge and pride in our Jewish heritage," Lapine said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Department of Residential Life posts notices
BY AMBER GARRETT

April 14, 2015 | 9:50 p.m. CDT

The MU Department of Residential Life posted notices around Mark Twain Residence Hall following two instances of anti-Semitic vandalism that happened Thursday and Friday.

"These incidents are distressing and undermine the safe and inclusive living-learning atmosphere Residential Life strives to create and support for students," according to the notice. "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."

MU investigating racial slurs and graffiti in residence hall

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28402&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

COLUMBIA - The MU Police Department is investigating two different instances of graffiti and racial slurs in the Mark Twain residence hall.
On Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10, graffiti containing swastikas and threatening language was found on the ground floor of a stairwell.

A student group, Students Supporting Israel, said in a press release the first incident included a swastika, the Illuminati symbol and the word "heil," all drawn in ash. A day after MU department of residential life student staff members removed the graffiti, a second incident was reported and included a swastika and the words, "You've been warned." Student staff members painted over the graffiti shortly after and notified the MU police department.

Jared Kaufman, a resident in Mark Twain residence hall and president of Students Supporting Israel (SSI) said he was very hurt by the vandalism.

"I felt threatened," Kaufman said. "The biggest thing that I need to see happen is the University releasing a statement condemning the incident. As of now the university has said nothing about it. The chancellor has said nothing, the department of residential life has said nothing."

Kaufman said the chancellor's office should send an email condemning the incident and clearly stating that swastika is not acceptable.

"Even though we don't know the motive and why somebody did it it was perceived negatively, obviously, and I think by not releasing a statement, the chancellor is missing a huge educational opportunity to show the students of the University of Missouri how to create a safe environment for all students."

MU spokesperson Christian Basi said if the individuals responsible for vandalism are caught, they will be held accountable.

"If they are students they will go through the office of student conduct," Basi said. "And they can reach anything from verbal reprimand all the way up to expulsion. The individuals could also face criminal charges."

Basi said student affairs staff met with residents in Mark Twain to assure them there was an investigation taking place and to share what students could do to help protect themselves.

MUPD is not releasing photos of the graffiti pending its investigation.

Loftin: Anti-Semitic messages 'deplorable,' MU investigating incidents
Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin issued a statement Tuesday to address anti-Semitic messages discovered in the Mark Twain residence hall April 9 and 10.

Student staff alerted the MU Police Department and submitted a bias report shortly after they discovered the writing in a stairwell, Department of Residential Life Director Frankie Minor told The Maneater on Monday.

MUPD is examining video footage in the surrounding area and interviewing potential suspects as part of its investigation, said Capt. Scott Richardson, as spokesman for the department.

In his statement, Loftin condemned the incidents and said the university will discipline the perpetrator based on the “M” Book, MU’s official rules and regulations governing students. Below is the statement from Loftin made available to The Maneater by MU spokesman Christian Basi in an email:

“Senior administrators have been made aware of two reports made to University of Missouri Police concerning anti-semitic graffiti found on the walls in a residential hall. Currently, MU police officers are investigating the incidents.

I want to make it clear that this behavior is deplorable and unworthy of this institution and its values. I remind you that a core value of our university is Respect and these incidents negatively impact our campus climate and an environment where all students can express their views in a safe and inclusive environment.

MU Student Affairs staff have met with residents to assure them that university staff and MUPD are taking precautions to assure their safety. Informational flyers have been posted in the residence hall to alert residents and to inform them how to report information concerning the incidents.

Bias reports have been filed with the MU Equity Office and individuals found responsible for this act will be disciplined according to university policy and could face criminal charges.”

Members of the MU Jewish community have voiced concerns over students and residents’ safety. MU Hillel and Jewish Student Organization members attended floor meetings in Mark Twain to provide residents with resources and support, Hillel Director Jeanne Snodgrass said in an email.

“We are also here for any students, Jewish or non-Jewish, with questions or who are interested in engaging in further dialogue,” she said. “We condemn any vandalism or messages of hate, regardless of who they are targeted to, and we are particularly concerned that this vandalism appears to have anti-Semitic connotations.”
The MU Chabad is holding Shabbat services and meal for all students on Friday, said Rabbi Avraham Lapine, director of the Chabad. He offered the following statement to The Maneater on Tuesday:

“I was saddened to hear that anti-Semitic graffiti, including Swastikas, were discovered on April 9 in the Mark Twain residence hall.

It is particularly disconcerting that this reprehensible incident occurred as we celebrated the Passover Holiday in a joyous and inclusive manner, and just a week before Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day.

We are glad to hear that the University police have launching a full investigation and we hope for a quick apprehension of the culprit.

When we are faced with this type of darkness, there can only be one response: increasing the light. We will not be bullied or intimidated. On the contrary, we will in fact intensify our activities on campus aimed at increasing knowledge and pride in our Jewish heritage.

We invite all students to join us at Chabad for Shabbat Services and meal this Friday night in a proud statement of our identity. Looking forward to greeting you all.”

MU study: Computer feedback can help with gambling problems

Watch story: [http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28401&zone=5&categories=5](http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28401&zone=5&categories=5)

COLUMBIA - An MU researcher is hoping personalized computer feedback can help limit problem gambling behavior in college-aged adults.

Dr. Matt Martens, a professor of counseling psychology, studied 333 college-aged adults for the new study released Tuesday.
He said college-aged adults are more at risk for harmful gambling practices than the general adult population. Martens split the study participants into three groups: one received general information about problem gambling, one received no information and the third was given individualized feedback based on their answers.

"What we found is that at the three month follow up, those that received the personal feedback reported fewer dollars wagered gambling and fewer gambling problems than those that just completed the assessments," Martens said.

While Martens said he doesn't think this replaces traditional one-on-one counseling, computer-based programs could benefit younger problem gamblers.

"The primary benefit is that it's faster, and it's less expensive," Martens said. "It's easier to disseminate because you don't need to have the one-on-one time. You don't have to ask someone to come in for an hour or a couple of hours with an individual, but it's delivered in five or ten minutes."

Participants were asked about how often they gambled, how much money was wagered and lost and the types of gambling. Gambling games included slot machines and games of skill such as golf or bowling, and participants also reported how often they bought lottery tickets, played cards for money or wagered money on sports games. He said most of the participants were buying lottery tickets, which he didn't find surprising.

"In Missouri, I believe you only have to be 18 to play the lottery," Martens said. "So it's easier than, say, going to a casino where you have to be 21 or other forms of gambling. It probably varies depending on the region."

According to a press release from the university, more than 1.6 million college-aged adults meet the criteria for problem gambling. KOMU 8 News contacted dozens of addiction counselors and treatment centers in Columbia and the university's student wellness center, but none of them said they specifically dealt with gambling. Martens said gambling counseling is not as common or well-established as other addiction treatments for drug or alcohol abuse.

Martens said he suspects the computer counseling technology would be useful for other adults as well, based on similar studies of other addictive behaviors. He said the next step for his study is moving the assessments from computers to smart phones.

**Kurpius plans to increase diversity, student innovation in J-school**
David Kurpius was watching Louisiana State University play in the NCAA March Madness tournament Thursday, March 19 when he got an email from Provost Garnett Stokes asking to talk about the dean position at the Missouri School of Journalism.

LSU lost to North Carolina State University 66-65 in the first round, but after a long weekend of waiting, Stokes offered Kurpius the position over the phone Monday, March 23, evening.

Kurpius, currently associate vice chancellor for enrollment management at LSU, will take office at MU as the new dean July 1. He said he plans to keep MU’s position as the No. 1 journalism school in the country, as named by the Radio Television Digital News Association in December 2014.

“If you stay where you are, you’re falling behind, so we need to keep climbing and keep moving and pushing forward, and we need to be interesting,” Kurpius said.

MU has faculty, resources and opportunities that are not found at every journalism school, Kurpius said.

“It’s an honor to be selected to serve as dean, and I see opportunities to help the school move forward and work with some really great people, including students, to make it an even better place,” he said.

Kurpius said one of his highest priorities as dean is diversifying the student and faculty bodies in the journalism school, and that he sees diversity as an ongoing conversation and set of experiences across a broad spectrum. He said he saw the potential to increase diversity within LSU’s Manship School of Mass Communication, and he worked to build relationships and helped students see opportunities for themselves.

“When I came to LSU, I was excited when I had a single student of color in my class,” Kurpius said. “Today, the Association of Black Communicators is one of the strongest student organizations (on LSU’s campus). I’ve seen lots of students of color in my classes, around campus and around the school, and it’s fun to see and exciting to interact with them.”

Kurpius said he sees diversity as including not only race and ethnicity, but also religion, sexual orientation, gender, political affiliation and economic status. He believes that improving diversity is essential for students of all backgrounds.

“It’s important not just for minority students who are coming in, but for non-minority students who are coming in or already there to have that more diverse and worldly atmosphere in which to learn and understand each other and have important conversations and discussions,” he said.

Kurpius said he wants to focus on innovation and entrepreneurship in the journalism school by creating opportunities for students to experiment in new areas of media.

He said he’s started conversations with multiple people around the country, including Richard Gingras, the head of news and social projects at Google, about how they see news content. He
said he hopes to bring people to MU and send groups out to examine the ways media organizations are innovating to create the culture of being on the cutting edge and to start discussions.

“That’s what’s going to help us alter the curriculum in ways that we find necessary, to think about new ways to engage and encourage students and to build relationships with organizations where students can get internships,” he said. “We may get people who want to take a break from the industry and come work with us.”

Kurpius is also focusing on new programs, such as the documentary journalism department opening this fall. Stacey Woelfel, an associate professor and director of the Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism, said that he hopes to apply the Missouri Method approach to teaching the documentary process through multiple projects in the field and a “massive” senior project.

Woelfel said Kurpius has already shown a strong interest in the program and is committed to making it “world-class.”

“I’m excited to sit down with him once he arrives on campus, go over our mission in detail with him and work out a multi-year plan to grow and build the program to be another gem in Missouri’s crown of journalism education achievements,” Woelfel said in an email. “Since we have similar professional backgrounds, we already speak the same ‘language,’ so there’s a rapport already in place that should ease us into a very comfortable working relationship immediately.”

Dean Mills, the outgoing dean, said Kurpius has a combination of professional experience and good academic credentials, both of which are important to lead the school. He said he hopes to see the school continue to innovate and be “at the top of its game” in the future, crediting the real-world opportunities for students as the reason for its success.

“Even if the faculty didn’t want to learn new things in order to teach the students, they have to because they’re operating a television station, or a newspaper, or magazine or student ad agencies,” Mills said. “The Missouri Method makes us learn new things even if we wouldn’t want to. It’s as if we have no choice but to innovate.”

Students are important to Kurpius, and even in an administrative position, he plans to connect with students and find ways to be involved with them, he said. When he was announced as dean, many former students contacted him to tell him how he had pushed them in class and impacted them.

“It was really heartwarming and I love that connection, that long-term connection to students and mentoring them through careers and helping them succeed,” he said. “It’s humbling to hear some of the stories, and it’s exciting that I’ve played a small role in their lives and their development.”
Kurpius visited campus Feb. 17 for an open forum with students and faculty. During the forum, he said he is not an expert in strategic communication, but strategic communication chairwoman Margaret Duffy said she believes Kurpius is committed to the department.

“He’s well aware that we (account for) half the undergraduates of the J-school, and he clearly recognizes that we should be getting more resources,” she said. “I’m very confident that we’ll be able to work very effectively with him.”

Duffy said her goals for the department are to continue to stay at the forefront of strategic communication and address diversity of both students and faculty. She said Kurpius should focus initially on understanding similarities and differences among the school’s departments.

“We are the first and best school of journalism in the world, and we need to make sure that we’re getting resources and allocating resources appropriately so that we can continue to be the best and continue to improve over time,” Duffy said.

Kurpius said he looks forward to arriving on campus and building relationships with faculty and students.

“It’s a great university with a fantastic school of journalism and wonderful people, and I can’t wait to get there and become part of that culture and do good work,” he said. “I’m just very excited.”

Alden prepares for life after Mizzou athletics

April 14, 2015

By Dave Matter

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Mike Alden recently completed a rite of passage for an outgoing athletics director at a major university: He traded in his courtesy car. For 17 years he’s driven a Chevy Silverado pickup truck, one of the many perks of running an athletics department that operates on an eight-figure budget.

The next phase in Alden’s career became reality for the first time in more than 17 years when he bought a car for himself: a Toyota Prius.

“I love my Prius,” he said Tuesday. “Fifteen point two miles to a gallon taking that truck back to Linn, Missouri, and 47.4 miles a gallon with my new Prius.”

Alden is easing into his new life as a soon-to-be college professor, and as Mack Rhoades prepares to take over as Missouri’s AD later this month, Alden took time Tuesday to reflect on his past, present and future. Alden sat down with reporters for an exit interview of sorts, opening the floor for more than an hour to cover a wide range of topics.
This fall, Alden will join the faculty at MU’s College of Education, a position he insisted is real and not a temporary cover for another job in college athletics. He’s taken calls about other jobs, but the answer’s the same.

“I will never be an AD again,” he said. “I don’t have an interest in working at the conference level and don’t see myself in that area. Are there other areas that could come up that I don’t even know about? Sure, that could be. But, for me, I’m really looking forward to being on the academic side of things.”

That came as no surprise to longtime executive assistant Sandy Matthew, who was shocked by the timing of Alden’s announcement in January but not his ultimate plan.

“We see him teaching every single day,” she said.

Rhoades, the AD at the University of Houston the past six years, officially takes over at Mizzou on April 27, at which time Alden will join the MU faculty, though he’ll collect his AD salary through Aug. 31.

As he discussed challenges that the next generation of ADs face in today’s world of college sports, Alden sounded at times disillusioned by what the industry has become. He talked about the commercialization of college athletics, the dramatic rise in coaches’ salaries and increased focus on national, legal issues, all of which, he said, leave ADs disconnected from the athletes and coaches on their own campus.

“It’s not like I want to hang out in the dining hall all day long,” he said, “but it’s kind of nice once in a while to stop and see your kids.”

Over time, Alden became a major player in the AD world, which at times, he acknowledged Tuesday, held him back from addressing issues under his own nose at Mizzou. Last year, when ESPN told the story of former MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who alleged she was raped by MU football players before her 2011 suicide, Alden waited several days before addressing the situation with reporters while he attended a conference in Florida for the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. He admitted Tuesday that was a mistake.

“In retrospect, for me I wish I would have been able (to) just get on a plane and get on home,” he said.

Alden also noted his mishandling of Missouri’s basketball program during the turbulent Ricky Clemons saga, which ultimately led to NCAA sanctions and the program’s unraveling.

“For me I could have been out front more than I was,” he said.

While Missouri’s football program has enjoyed steady success under Alden, the men’s basketball team has had five coaches on his watch. The program’s been consistently volatile since Norm Stewart stepped down after the 1998-99 season. Alden isn’t sure why but described the situation as “extremely frustrating.”

“I’ve spent a lot of days, a lot of minutes, a lot of nights trying to figure, how can we make sure that we get a consistency with what we’re doing in men’s basketball?” he said. “It’s tough to do, but it can happen and will happen at Mizzou.”

After a 9-23 season under first-year coach Kim Anderson that saw home attendance dip to its lowest level since 1978-79, Alden believes Anderson deserves time to turn around the program under his new AD.

“That’s been our process and our M.O. for all of our coaches since I’ve been at Mizzou,” Alden said.

“From a leadership standpoint,” he added, “how are you going to make sure that you not only invest but you have to allow those things to flourish a little bit? I would hope that would be the case. It’s worked well for us
in football. It’s worked well for us in wrestling. It’s really worked for us, I believe, in women’s basketball. … At least there are models at Mizzou and around the country where it works.

“Mack and Kim and their team are going to be able to do it. But it’s going to take — I don’t want to say time as in decades — but it’s going to take time and a lot of focus in some critical areas.”

With Missouri’s baseball program rejuvenated this spring — the Tigers are ranked in the top 15 of national polls — Alden expressed confidence in longtime coach Tim Jamieson, whose contract expires this summer. Jamieson’s future, though, will be Rhoades’ decision.

“It’s a good opportunity for them to get together,” Alden said, “see the successes we’re having in baseball, which we are right now, knowing what our history has been and allow those guys to put a plan together going forward.”

Mike Alden Sitdown: Part 1

By David Morrison

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 12:30 pm

*Outgoing Missouri Athletic Director Mike Alden sat down with the media for his final group interview in his current position before new Athletic Director Mack Rhoades takes over April 27.*

Here’s part 1 of 3 of the Tuesday morning session:

**How have you helped out Mack Rhoades in the transition?**

"Well, Mack and I communicate -- I wouldn't say daily -- but at least every other day. Whether that's over the phone, just texting each other back and forth or in person. Those conversations have gone great. He and I have known each other for quite some time. We have a high level of respect for each other. It's given us an opportunity for us to bounce around some ideas, for me to also answer some questions that he might have since he's coming up on things. And for him to start to build relationships beyond what's going on, let's just say, within the athletic program. As an example, Mack, myself and Doug Gillin -- who has left us now to go to (become AD at) Appalachian State, we all went to the Final Four together. We went to dinner with Ross Bjork, who's an AD at Ole Miss (who worked under Alden at Missouri), and Kim Anderson. That's kind of an example. With Mack, whether we're talking on the phone, texting or trying to do some things in person, it's been an ongoing deal. And I think it's going pretty well. You'd have to ask Mack how it's going. But I think it's going really well."
Have you discussed priorities for the department with Rhoades?

"Certainly, Mack is really talented and has an agenda, I know, he's going to be delivering at a high level. But at the same time, during the transition process at the beginning of that, what I tried to lay out was -- in my opinion -- here are the eight to 10 things that you're at least going to need to be familiar with. As an example, you guys heard me talk about the Nike contract. We wanted to make sure that thing was something he was going to have to know that was probably a priority for you. You want to get that finalized. Possible renegotiation of your multimedia right agreement. That would be something you'd want to be thinking about. The softball stadium, the funding for that and how that's coming into place. We talked about a few of those things from my opinion standpoint. Whatever Mack does with that and however he implements that -- if any of it -- that's up to him. I just tried to lay out some of the top things that I anticipated he might want to be looking at."

When Rhoades asks for advice, what are the main topics he's asking about?

"It could be something like, if we're taking a look at our multimedia rights agreement, what's a window that we'd have an opportunity to take a look at that? It may be as specific as that. Or it could be just, 'What's the name of your courtesy car dealer? What's his name? What's his address? I might want to send him a thank-you note.' Or it could just be 'Tell me where your office is going to be on campus so I can come by and see it.' It's a variety of things, some that have been specific. But it's just really a conversation."

Has moving away from being AD hit you yet?

"It hasn't hit me completely yet. Have I been able to process it? Yes. We've been processing it as we've gone through. I think (my wife) Rockie and I, Jake, our son who is at Purdue -- I communicate with him every day. As a family, we've kind of been able to move in that direction. We still feel really good about where we're at. Probably better today than we did before, just because you kind of get closer to that. But each time and junction we go through is just another step in that process, emotionally, that you kind of have to go through for me. This is a me thing. I'm pretty passionate about what I do. As an example of that, last night we had about 40 student-athletes over to our home, Rockie and I, which is not unusual for us. We have student-athletes at our house. I know when they were leaving the house last night, that's emotional for me because I'm not going to be doing that in that context. I'll be doing that with students, probably. But not with our student-athletes. Each one of those steps, my point is, that we become stronger and stronger of where we're that. Feeling really good about that as we go along. But there are junctures along the way that still make you kind of step back a little bit, that are a little bit emotional. It's getting closer. The official day, when Mack will start, is April 27. So technically April 26 is that last day you have that signature authority."

How does Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin's out-front approach with athletics affect the AD job?

"First of all, I think that's a real positive. I told Mack this. I really enjoy working with Dr. Loftin. I do personally. Because of his interest, engagement, visibility and understanding. With Mack,
that will be a great benefit to him. He has someone that -- as we say in our business -- 'he gets it.'
Dr. Loftin gets it in our business. He understands the priorities of where it ranks within an
institution and he can help you navigate through a variety of things with a real level head. So,
with Mack, one thing I've always been impressed with with Dr. Loftin, there's been nothing at all
that we've ever discussed or any kind of issue that's come up that Dr. Loftin hasn't been
completely steady on all of that. That's a great resource to have as a CEO. I think with Dr. Loftin,
with Mack, it's going to be a big asset for him. He understands it. He gets it. He's engaged and
he's very balanced in his approach.

Did Loftin's style of leadership call for an adjustment after working with Brady Deaton?

"I think you always do. There's always going to be. I'm very close with Brady -- personally and
professionally -- and his wife, Anne. We spent a lot of time together when he was the provost
and as the chancellor. When you transition, when you change, it's different. You have to be able
to not only adapt to that, but you have to appreciate that for what it is. It's no different than how
the athletic program is going to transition from me being in this role to Mack. We're different
people. There was an adjustment period, but certainly -- to me -- it was all very positive."

Have you seen any misperceptions about you in the media portrayal of you since you
announced you're stepping down?

"When some of the stuff I was seeing was, 'Boy I wish he would have been more open about
who he was personally,' I heard that. That's one of the examples. I was talking to Rockie about
that saying, 'That's kind of interesting. I always thought I was really open.' But I think, in reality,
I understood what some folks were saying. 'We wish we would have known a little bit more
about your background. We wish you would have been a little bit more open on that.' That
would've been one of the things, I think. Probably another could have been on maybe some
issues, to me, saying, 'Kind of wish Mike had been more out front on some of those issues
instead of maybe holding back a little bit.' I saw that and that resonated with me a little bit. As
you look back on that, you think maybe that's right. And I wish I would have been. There were a
couple of those things. Maybe being able to open up about myself a little bit more. I heard that
and I thought, 'Boy, I didn't realize that.' And the other one is in some critical issues, maybe it
would have been better to have been a little more outfront than I was."

Like what issues?

"Oh, it could have been a variety of things. I certainly think that, relative to here I was in Marco
Island, Fla., when we have a pretty significant issue going on here on campus (the Sasha Menu
Courey ESPN story in Jan. 2014) and -- while I'm aware of everything that's going on -- that
would have been, in retrospect, better. (Strategic communications director Chad Moller) and I
have talked about that. For me, I wish I would have been able to get on a plane get home and
handle those things rather than continuing to do your presidency and things you were supposed
to do there. That's a miss. That's an example of one of those. And there are others as well. Many
years ago, dealing with the Ricky Clemons situation, there were a lot of things around that that -
- for me -- I probably could have been out there a little more, a little more out front than I was.
You're always there and doing the things you've got to do. Those are two examples."
How was handling those scandal-type times emotionally for you?

"This is a me thing, so I can't speak for other athletic directors. Those types of issues are very emotional. You're trying to make sure that you have a steady hand from a leadership standpoint, you're trying to overcommunicate and be sensitive to those types of issues and how you're dealing with those. There's a lot of internal stuff you go through, a lot of sleepless nights you go through when you're trying to balance those types of issues. It's emotional, it's taxing on you. But I think each one of those you go through, it's hard to bat 1.000. What you want to be able to do is, when you go through those things and have a foul ball instead of hitting a single or hitting it the way you needed it to, you have to learn from that. How do you correct your swing? What are the things you need to do? That, for me, as emotional as those were, that was always the driving force for me. How do you correct that swing after maybe hitting a foul ball. They're very emotional, very difficult, very taxing."

What was the toughest one to deal with?

"It'd be hard for me to rank them. It really would be. You're talking about the death of a student-athlete (Aaron O'Neal), the death of another student-athlete (Menu Courey), a legend stepping away (Norm Stewart), it'd be hard to rank those. Those are all challenging."

How do you think your MU tenure will be remembered?

"There's always going to be issues you wish you would have handled differently. That's that self-assessment. From a leadership standpoint, the evolution, the constant learning and improvement. That is such a huge deal that you have to be able to do. As you look back, there are a variety of things you wish you would have handled, with a different set of experiences you may have done differently. So it'd be hard for me to say 'these are the ones.' On the flip side of that, some of the things I would suggest I would look at as being pretty successful is I think we've become much more relevant on the national scene, not only in college athletics but in higher education, because of some of the things athletics have done. Nationally, I don't believe we were relevant -- I mean this. I don't want to say we were irrelevant -- but I don't think we were as relevant 17 years ago on the national scene. I don't think the brand of Mizzou, the tiger logo, the University of Mizz-urr-uhh -- or 'Mizzurr-ee' -- was something that was really overly relevant on the national scene. Over the course of that time, when you see people constantly talking about the University of Missouri, constantly looking at Mizzou, looking at us and how important our AAU ranking is, how important it is for the expansion of our international programs and how athletics, I think, has played a part of that, to me that's one of those things I'm very proud of our students and program for doing that. I think the academic reputation we have right now as a program is outstanding because of our kids and program and great faculty. Those are the kind of things beyond can they win, can they build other facilities. All that's kind of part of it to me. How much more relevant are we on the national stage? I would suggest a lot more relevant. And how have we done as far as protecting the academic integrity of this institution and harnessing its strengths? I think our kids have done an amazing job of that."

How stressful was the Big 12 turmoil before the switch to the SEC?
"We were really nervous. Those were those sleepless nights. We can talk about all these different junctures, all those critical components and things that have gone on. That, in itself, was amazingly stressful. Not just for Mike Alden. For Tiger Nation, for all of us. Here we were, we've got this soundbite that came out of Norman, Okla., about ‘wallflowers.’ And when that came out, everybody's going, 'Wait a minute. That's not what was just said a couple of days ago.' When that happened, you had a whole bunch of people that were really nervous. All this thing we've done to try and build a relevant brand, what was going to happen? Where were we going to be? Was the Big 12 going to continue to exist? Were we going to go here? What about over here? Especially when they were talking about those five schools, it was about 60 to 75 days -- maybe 90 days -- of unbelievable stress. So many moving parts, different things going on. But as you look back on that, I look at Brady Deaton. His leadership on that was amazing. Steve Owens, who was involved in that, Phil Hoskins, who was our interim general counsel at the time. A lot of other people. It was amazing just to see their leadership on that. It just kind of pulled everything together. At the end of all of it, I think it turned out pretty good. Just pretty nervous there for 90 days."

When people look back on your tenure, do you think the SEC move will be the first thing they highlight?

"It may be one. I don't know. I'd give that to other people to make that judgment. But I think that move -- because of what I believe it's going to do for our institution 20 years down the road -- is almost immeasurable. I think it's been a huge opportunity and how we capitalize on it as an institution 20 years from now is going to say, 'Wow, they really took advantage of it,' because we know the opportunities that exist with that. I think it's something that I'm very proud to have been associated with that. I think it's been great for Mizzou, great for our university and great for the SEC."

Where did your 'Mizz-urr-uhh' pronunciation come from?

"So Mary Ann Knipmeyer, that is my grandmother's maiden name. My grandmother, a family of eight kids, grew up in Lafayette County, which is Higginsville, Mizz-urr-uhh. If you're from Higginsville growing up on Lipper Avenue all those years ago, they pronounced it 'Mizz-urr-uhh.' When I was a little kid, my whole upbringing -- I grew up with a lot of different people. A lot of people had custody of me when I was coming up -- but when I was doing that, my grandmother, who would be with us at certain junctures always pronounced Missouri 'Mizz-urr-uhh.' So I'd be walking around, I was just a little kid: 'Mizz-urr-uhh.' Everybody would say, 'No, it's Mizz-urr-ee.' And I would say, 'No, because my grandmother would say it was Mizz-urr-uhh.' It was just kind of ingrained in us. My father said it that way. I get a lot of grief out of that. That's where it came from: Mary Anne Knipmeyer, me growing up and her juncture with my life. That's what I say when I'm speaking: 'Whether you say Mizz-urr-uhh or Mizz-urr-ee, everybody says Mizzou.' At least we got that right."

How has the basketball program gotten to where it is right now?

"I constantly look at that and assess that. As we look back, Coach Stewart had so much success. Then with that transition, when Quin (Snyder) came in, there was an immediate bump on that
from recruiting, attendance, as far as success was concerned. Then that started to decline. When Mike (Anderson) came in, we had stability and then -- not immediate -- but a growth on that. That was good. When Frank (Haith) came in, there was an immediate (bump), then sort of a decline. My hope is that as Kim is coming in, taking it from where it's at as he builds that, there is going to be a more sustained success. Why has that happened? I don't know. If I could put my finger on it and knew why it was, certainly we wouldn't have wanted that to happen. We would have wanted to have that sustained success. It's probably a combination of whether it's recruiting philosophy, investment philosophy, who knows, at some points maybe an injury or whatever it might be. It could be a whole combination of things. Nothing that I've been able to specifically identify. As I look at it with Kim right now, I certainly know that he's a Missouri guy that's committed to this institution. Knowing that he has great values. It's my hope and my belief that he'll get this thing stabilized with some consistent things."

Should Anderson get a fair amount of time to do that?

"I think so. I believe so. That's been our process and m.o. for all of our coaches, since I've been at Mizzou. You want to understand that you're investing in something. That immediate gratification piece, that's harder now. It's not at Mizzou. It's anywhere. That immediate gratification, cause-and-effect, return on investment is different today than it was x amount of years ago. There's always been pressure to win, pressure to perform, speed that people want to do it, it's just today it's almost like at hyper-speed. From a leadership standpoint, how are you going to make sure that you continue to invest, but you've got to be able to allow those things to flourish a little bit. I would hope that that's going to be the case. It's worked well for us in football, wrestling, working well for us in women's basketball -- I think what you're seeing is the tip of the iceberg with Robin (Pingeton) -- but that's taken her four or five years to get where we are right now. It's worked really well with softball, working really well for us in swimming and diving and on and on. At least there are models at Mizzou -- and around the country -- where that works. That's a long answer because I'm really passionate about that. I think it's going to be really important that we do that. Know that there's going to continue to be more pain as you go through, then kind of come out of that."

Is it frustrating basketball hasn't had more stability?

"Yes. This is a me thing. I'm so passionate about our kids and wanting us to win. Wanting our fans to feel really good, wanting our fans to turn out. You want to have consistency. When you have a legacy at Mizzou in the sport of basketball like we do -- which is pretty high-level performance -- you want to make sure you're part of the team that made sure not only that you maintained that but grow on that. To see it (be inconsistent), that's extremely frustrating. It's been frustrating."

Could you have handled the program differently?

"Always things you could have done along the way that could have changed things. I believe that. There's no question. I think you have to believe that. There's a multitude of things. The one thing, the challenging part, the term 'consistency' is what is lacking in men's basketball. There has not been consistency. When Quin got that to the Elite 8, you're kind of going on that
trajectory, what did we do to capitalize on that? What did we do to try to make sure we were capitalizing on that moment? And we didn't for, I don't know, there could be a whole bunch of reasons. So all of a sudden Mike comes in and he gets that stability, has a different style, which is fine. We have some success, get to an Elite 8 and his tenure, we wish would have been longer, but he decides to go to Arkansas. So then Frank comes in and, boom, he takes it, national coach of the year, 30 and whatever we were. How are we capitalizing on that? We didn't. As we were grabbing and trying to fill holes in recruiting and whatever things we were doing, it didn't allow us for that sustained part. I have spent a lot of days, minutes and nights on trying to figure how can we make sure we get a consistency with what we're going in men's basketball? It's tough to be able to do, but it can happen and will happen at Mizzou. I think Mack, Kim, their team are going to be able to do it. But I think it's going to take -- I don't want to say time being some decades, here -- but it's going to take some time and a lot of focus on some critical areas."

With Frank Haith specifically, how much did the Miami investigation hamper his efforts? And should you have reacted differently to it?

"Absolutely. When you're sitting there and you have that investigation going on at Miami -- from a recruiting standpoint and a lot of areas -- there's always questions. What's going to happen in this particular place? How's that going to impact me as a prospective student-athlete, prospective parent, whatever that may be. That was a lot of work. I was involved quite a bit with that: meeting with kids, parents and our staff. Going back, we certainly did our due diligence. We were excited when we brought Frank here. He did some good things while he was at Mizzou. We, our staff, I think did a really good job as far as coordinating, communicating and handling whatever ancillary role we would have had in that investigation. I think we handled it as best we could and did our due diligence."

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Missouri’s Mike Alden reflects on tenure as athletic director

BY TOD PALMER

04/14/2015 1:45 PM

COLUMBIA - Outgoing Missouri athletic director Mike Alden knows that his time is running short.
Alden, who announced Jan. 29 that he would retire, turned in his courtesy
car, a sleek Chevy Silverado crew cab, and bought a Prius, which at least
gets much better gas mileage on trips to the family farm in Williamsburg,
Mo.

That erased all doubt, he said. The end is nigh.

Alden, 56, packed up his office two weeks ago — so the carpet could be shampooed and
the grout in the bathroom scrubbed before his successor, Mack Rhoades, takes over
April 27 — and moved into a temporary space in the MU School of Business.

Eventually, Alden will transition to an office in the MU School of Education, where he
will teach leadership courses as part of the Positive Coaching Program.

He met with a scrum of media Tuesday as something of an exit interview, recapping
nearly 17 seasons at the helm of the Tigers’ athletic department.

Alden doesn’t want to be responsible for defining his own legacy, but several hallmarks
of success are clear.

He took over an athletic department with a $13.7 million budget.

Alden said that Missouri’s 2016 fiscal-year budget is projected to be around $95 million
and that the department should eclipse a $100 million operating budget by 2017, a spike
of nearly 730 percent in less than two decades.

Across campus, there are concrete examples of Alden’s impact, including multiple
expansions of Memorial Stadium, Mizzou Arena and the Mizzou Athletic Training
Center — projects that were built on his watch.

Alden, who entertained 40 student-athletes at his house for dinner Monday night, said
it’s relationships with Missouri’s student-athletes and the athletic department staff that
he’ll miss most.
He also said that fostering those relationships is becoming more challenging for athletic directors nationwide as the commercial, legal and national issues swirling around college athletics demand more time.

Alden is “very proud to be associated” with the Tigers’ move to the Southeastern Conference, a decision the student-athletes have embraced and that puts the athletic department on relatively sure footing for decades to come, he said.

That, along with hiring Gary Pinkel to resurrect Missouri’s football program, are easily Alden’s biggest professional successes.

Both also have helped spur MU to greater national prominence, which also has a positive impact on the wider university and its higher-education aspirations.

But Alden didn’t shy away from questions about some of the more rocky times during his tenure, admitting that he wished he had handled former Tigers swimmer Sasha Menu Courey’s and former basketball player Ricky Clemons’ situations differently.

Alden was in Florida in his role as the National Association of College Directors of Athletics president when ESPN’s report thrust the alleged rape and eventual suicide of Menu Courey into the spotlight last January.

He regrets not hopping on a flight and getting out in front of that story, which led to an investigation that was critical of the university’s handling of Menu Courey’s situation and the campus’ handling of sexual-assault allegations in general.

Alden said he tried to learn from each situation and make the athletic department better in the long run. Alden also said he wished he had been more open about his personal life and background during his tenure at MU.

“It’s hard to bat 1.000,” Alden said.

Athletically, the only black mark on Alden’s resume is the struggle of the men’s basketball team, which did reach the Elite Eight under Quin Snyder and Mike Anderson — two of his four basketball hires — but never achieved a level of consistency needed to become an elite program.
Alden continued to profess faith in Kim Anderson, who recently completed his first season as the Tigers’ coach and hopes he will get a fair amount of time to right the ship.

Alden said he speaks with Rhoades almost every day in preparation for the transition. Alden listed Missouri’s apparel contract with Nike, various multimedia rights agreements, the new softball stadium and the proposed south end-zone complex at Memorial Stadium as key items on the agenda.

But Alden said he would never become an athletic director at another school and had no interest in a conference-level job.

Alden said he won’t dictate priorities to Rhoades, but he is keeping him informed about the big decisions on the horizon and his staff busily prepares binders — at Alden’s behest — in an attempt to proactively address questions that might arise.

He said he’s optimistic that his departure will further thaw relationships with Missouri’s former Big 12 brethren, including Kansas.

Alden worries that if MU and KU refuse to play for 20 years, an entire generation will miss out on the passion and intensity of the rivalry, risking irrelevancy.

Alden hopes things will change now that the old guard, which transitioned Missouri into the SEC, will be gone.

**Deaton Institute’s first conference discusses international issues, solutions**

*From a former MU chancellor to first-year undergraduates, people of all ages came together in the Reynolds Journalism Institute on Monday to discuss problems with and solutions to world hunger issues.*
The conference was the first one hosted by the Brady and Anne Deaton Institute for University Leadership in International Development. Chancellor Emeritus Brady Deaton, executive director of the institute, kicked off the inaugural conference with the theme “From Poverty to Promise.”

According to the institute’s website, the goal of the conference was to examine ways to analyze critical problems like food security, global health and economic growth.

The conference was split up into a morning session, from 9 a.m. to noon, and an afternoon session that ended at 5 p.m.

Four guest speakers discussed a range of issues during the morning session. Graduate students Bruno Miranda and Maria Rodriguez-Alcala, who study agricultural economics and rural sociology, respectively, started off the series of discussions with a presentation on how low-income farmers in Brazil impact the coffee market.

One of their main points is how to eliminate the disconnect between corporations and the farmers.

“If you don’t understand the locals, you’ll never find long term solutions,” Miranda said.

The second presentation was given by Anne Cafer, a graduate student studying rural sociology, who talked about smallholders, which are small locally owned farms. Smallholders play a role in Ethiopia’s agricultural industry.

She said it is difficult to convince Ethiopian farmers to try new methods of growing food. This is because they only grow enough to feed their families and they don’t want to risk starvation.

Since Ethiopian farmers use outdated techniques, 3.2 million Ethiopians are in need of emergency food assistance, Cafer said. However, she said, they are making some progress to update existing methods. The government is investing in a new crop called teff, which Cafer said could help improve the hunger issue in the country.

“Problems (will be) solved through innovation in soil sciences,” she said.

Michael Maw, a doctoral student studying plant sciences, gave the final morning presentation. He talked about improving the drought tolerance of “common beans” in Colombia.

The common bean is a staple to Colombians diet and is the main protein source for more than 4 million citizens, Maw said. He said it has many properties that make it similar to a soybean.

A big problem for farmers, however, is that the crop seasons for common beans do not match natural seasons. As a result, Maw said, there are shorter periods during which the crop can grow.

He said researchers are working on improving low fertility, toxicity, pest resistance, heat and drought tolerance, and undesirable color in order to make common beans easier to grow and more desirable to eat.
Between the morning and afternoon sessions, guests could walk around the Palmer Room in RJI to look at posters of graduate students’ research.

“It was an opportunity for graduate students and even undergraduates to showcase the research that they’re doing on campus that relates to global health and poverty and specifically on an international basis,” said Kara Riggs, a graduate student studying plant sciences. “This gave all students an opportunity to share their research on a poster.”

Deaton opened the first afternoon panel, which discussed smallholders, risk, and individual decision-making in developing nations.

According to the institute’s website, the panel consisted of: Corinne Valdivia, associate professor for agricultural economics; Tom Johnson, professor of agriculture and applied economics; Max Summers, MU Extension’s transition team leader; Jere Gilles, director of graduate studies for rural sociology; and Simone Dietrich, associate professor of political science. Deaton said he had seen all of these speakers present their research in the past.

Graduate student Claire Donze, who helped organized the conference, said she learned about smallholders and their effect on the human environment and technology.

“For example you could have all the technology in the world available to you, but if the (people involved) are not willing (to get these technologies,) the technology isn’t relevant,” she said. “(It’s about) human environmental context when trying to implement solutions like this.”

The second panel discussed the international impact of ebola.

According to the website, the panel was made up of Lise Saffran, director of the master of health program; Chris Fulcher, assistant research professor of rural sociology; Amy Dunaway, associate director of the Health Communication Research Center; Ioana Staiculescu, research specialist at the Center for Health Policy; and Linda Jo Turner, program director at the Missouri 4-H.

Deaton said it was logical to discuss how different fields had been affected by the ebola outbreak and how to help economies in affected countries recover. Some of the different disciplines they explored were public health, rural sociology and health communications.

Riggs said that public health is an interdisciplinary field in its core.

“You need so many different disciplines working together to provide global public health,” she said.

Peterson said Saffran had done the most work researching the topic and spearheaded bringing the panel together.

“The focus throughout all of that (panel) was to bring together people who were working on these issues in diverse ways across disciplines,” she said.
After the panel, Deaton closed the event by talking about the future of the institution.

“This is just the beginning of an ongoing dialogue,” he said.

Deaton Institute spokeswoman Lacy Peterson said Deaton had intentionally chosen the panelists from different disciplines to create a “complete picture on those issues.”

Deaton said he was pleased with the outcome of the conference.

“We were excited by the turnout and it really exceeded our expectations,” he said. “It was a great response from the community which I think shows their interest and commitment to being involved and bringing the best of what we do as a university to bear on some of the most severe problems in the world.”

MU student charged with assault after fight with roommate

By THE TRIBUNE’S STAFF

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A University of Missouri student was arrested Monday night and charged with second-degree assault after a fistfight with her roommate.

MU police arrested sophomore Kendall E. Lewis, 19, at about 9:15 p.m. Monday after she allegedly got into a fight with her roommate. The roommates allegedly threw punches and pulled each other’s hair after a dispute started between Lewis and her roommate about the roommate using Lewis’ belongings and not taking out the trash, MU police spokesman Brian Weimer said.

Lewis’ roommate was bleeding from her nose and lip, Weimer said. Lewis allegedly was the primary aggressor during the fight, but punches were thrown by each of the women, he said.

By the time police arrived, the two women had been separated by staff at Center Hall, 402 Kentucky Blvd.

Lewis was taken to the Boone County Jail on a $4,500 bond but posted bail and was released Monday night.
MU Museum of Art and Archaeology prepares to reopen after 18 months of moving, renovation

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY CODY MROCZKA

COLUMBIA — A single bead from a clay necklace was the only loss during the 18-month move and renovation of the Museum of Art and Archaeology.

And anyway, the number of beads may have been miscounted, said Alex Barker, the museum director who supervised the methodical transfer of roughly 16,000 pieces of art to what is now called Mizzou North.

**On Sunday, seven galleries reconfigured from a wing of operating rooms on the second floor of the old Ellis Fischel Cancer Hospital will open to the public.**

**In all, 785 paintings, artifacts, sculptures, jewelry and other cultural symbols, representing a span from antiquity to modern times, will be unveiled for a grand opening at 2 p.m.**

After that, the museum at 115 Business Loop 70 W. will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from noon to 4 p.m. on weekends.

Although the daunting process of packing up and moving from Pickard Hall on Francis Quadrangle to the former cancer hospital about two miles north was completed in early 2014, remodeling the hospital floor proved an equal challenge.

After the old operating rooms were gutted and the medical equipment removed, Barker and his staff had to carefully plan each gallery within the constraints of sections that could not be removed. They worked with an MU architect, Campus Facilities staff and outside contractors to install drain lines, support beams and weight distribution.

"You can't just drop a couple tons of marble in any room," Barker said.
Consultants from the arts community helped analyze the space and plan the displays. From the color of the wall to the angle each piece hangs, every decision was made carefully to ensure optimum visual delivery, Barker said.

That’s why larger paintings may hang at a slight reverse angle on the wall from the top hooks as opposed to being mounted flat. For example, *Athena Scorning the Advances of Hephaestus* by Paris Bordone, ca. 1555-1560, and *Madonna and Child* by Altobello Melone, ca. 1520, are hung with this technique.

"Every space has its own advantages and disadvantages," Barker said. "Some works are visible here in ways they weren't before."

The staff also installed a wireless network of temperature and humidity gauges, along with light sensors and time switches, designed to preserve and properly illuminate the delicate pieces in the collection.

The galleries will still flow in a relatively chronological order, Barker said, or reverse order, depending on which entrance the viewer uses. If a viewer begins in the ancient period, the next stop would be Byzantine, followed by Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque, leading into the 18th and 19th centuries and finishing up with contemporary and modern art.

As they browse the collection, visitors will see a rare double-spouted vessel from the third century BCE; a 17th-century portrait of an Italian gentleman; and a self-portrait from 1923 by the Romanian artist Victor Brauner; as well as a collection of casts of major works; pieces from early periods in Chinese history, Oceania and ancient Americas.

**Contamination concerns**

Pickard Hall, built in 1892 and originally used as a chemistry building, was renovated in 1976 for the Department of Art History and Archaeology, as well as the companion Museum of Art and Archaeology.

In the 1900s, Herman Schlundt, an early researcher in radioactive materials, used laboratories in the building for his experiments. When the building was later remodeled, it was named after John Pickard, a professor of Greek, and then it became home to archaeology scholars.
In the 1970s, an inspection of the hall revealed radiation in Pickard’s walls, attic and beneath the floorboards. The levels were deemed safe at the time, but after new guidelines went into effect, MU officials asked for more time to clear out the building and continue testing for radiation.

In 2013, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission told the university it wanted the building evacuated and fully tested so it could be removed from sites it needed to monitor.

The museum staff surveyed 16,000 objects and found none of them to be radioactive, the bigger concern was possible contamination in the building. Over the winter of 2014-2015, MU resettled the faculty temporarily in other buildings, and a decision was made to relocate the museum to Mizzou North.

**Pros and cons**
The announcement to move the museum was met with initial opposition by faculty and members of the community, but there seemed to be no alternative. MU hired two art movers, Terry Dowd Inc. in Chicago and U.S. Art Inc. in St. Louis, to move the museum's inventory by December 2014.

Since then, no timetable has been established for a return to campus, though Barker said it could happen eventually. In the short run, there's simply no place on campus with the necessary space.

“The main drawback is that it's probably less convenient for a lot of students, and serving students is central to what we do,” he said.

The new location does offer advantages the campus doesn’t — space for school buses to drop off students, quick access to Interstate 70 and a parking lot, though not all of it is free or designated museum parking.

Ultimately, the effect of location on museum attendance will need to be studied. Although the museum has been essentially closed for 18 months, it did open the ground floor early last year to display the model cast gallery of ancient Greek and Roman figures.

**Building bridges**
During the closure, Rachel Navarro and Cathy Callaway, assistant museum educators, have done their best to bring the museum to the community. Navarro said she took artifacts into elementary schools and invited a Western Civilization class from Hickman High School to look at the casts.

"It connects students to the past," Navarro said of the museum’s role to children. "It makes the world seem a little smaller and a lot more inviting."

Navarro said she hopes the Mizzou North location will foster new relationships with schools closer to the area while not severing the relationships that began on campus.

Jeffrey Wilcox, who has been with the museum for almost 40 years, has been helping the staff with setup and installation. It’s something he did exclusively earlier in his career, before becoming the registrar and curator of collections, but he still appreciates the care it takes to prepare works of art for public display.

"This has all been boxed up for almost two years," Wilcox said. "It's so good to finally see this stuff again."

Barker said the final payoff for him and his staff will be seeing visitors in the new galleries. Some members of the docent corps haven't even been allowed access yet, he said.

"We are a professional, public museum, and it's really difficult to be closed for a long time," Barker said. "A lot of the payoff is seeing people in the galleries and seeing how people respond to them."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Local gardeners learn to confidently cultivate mushrooms

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY SAMANTHA KUMMERER/MISSOURIAN

COLUMBIA — Mid-Missouri food lovers could be adding a new crop to their gardens this year.
The Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture hosted a mushroom cultivation workshop Sunday that demonstrated how farmers and hobbyists can take on fungi.

**Gregory Ormsby Mori, education and outreach coordinator for the MU Center for Agroforestry, led the lecture and said he hoped to instill growers with a sense of confidence.**

Mori said his goal was to demystify the mushroom and show local residents how easy the species is to grow and the basic techniques involved.

The workshop is one of several the Center for Agroforestry has hosted throughout Columbia to serve the increasing popularity of mushroom cultivation.

"We are really looking to research and promote different practices that can lead to opportunities for Missouri farmers and landowners," Mori said.

Attendees hands-on experience with three different techniques for cultivating mushrooms—a totem, log and straw bed.

The totem technique is used to cultivate oyster mushrooms. By stacking logs on top of one another with a layer of sawdust spawn in between, the totem creates the ideal environment for oyster mushrooms to grow.

To grow shiitake mushrooms, gardeners were advised to create holes in logs of oak or sugar maple. The technique then involves putting the mushroom spawn into the holes and sealing them with wax.

The lesser known wine cap mushroom can be grown by simply sprinkling sawdust spawn into straw or wood chips. All three types of mushrooms were chosen for their easy identification and growth.

While many of those who attended Sunday's event were interested in growing mushrooms as a hobby, Mori said growing the species has multiple benefits for both the land and farmers.
"When it comes to mushroom growing in a forest farming setting, it can be an opportunity for landowners and small farmers to have additional income, as well as an enjoyable activity for the hobbyist as well," Mori said.

For the past decade, the center has researched mushrooms and set up demonstrations at sites. Mori said the center also plans on experimenting with more uncommon species of mushrooms.

"If you look out there, you see increasing and increasing popularity and recognition that fungi do have a lot of potential to help us in many ways, not just in food, in medicines, but in environmental dimensions in terms of their roles in a lot of ecological processes," Mori said. "So I think you are going to be hearing more about mushrooms."

Bad Apples or the Barrel?

April 15, 2015

By Jake New

NO MU MENTION

The scene that greeted employees of the Treetop Resort in late January looked like a tornado had passed through. Doors hung off their hinges, holes pocked the walls, debris and pieces of ceiling covered the hallway. But this wasn't the work of a freak winter storm.

Members of a University of Michigan fraternity who stayed in the hotel that week had caused the estimated $430,000 in damage. They broke furniture, urinated on the carpet and damaged 45 rooms in all. Soon word came that two other Michigan fraternities had caused $20,000 in damage to another resort nearby.
As the university and the fraternities’ national offices mulled possible punishments, alumni, members and other supporters of the fraternities were quick to offer up a now-familiar defense: don’t punish everyone for the actions of a “few bad apples.” It’s a common argument, but it’s also one that often ignores the entirety of the aphorism it is based on.

“A few bad apples spoil the bunch,” the full saying goes. Or, in its less generous form: one bad apple spoils the entire barrel. In the past academic year, at least 80 fraternity chapters were suspended or investigated over allegations of racism, sexism, hazing, alcohol abuse and sexual assault. More than 30 fraternities were suspended in just the last month, The Huffington Post found. Some student affairs experts are starting to wonder if the barrel has rotted through.

The issue of whether Greek misdeeds are perpetrated by a few bad apples or are more widespread is important. Relatively few colleges have actively tried to eliminate Greek systems. The norm -- suspension for serious infractions but welcoming back the house a few years later -- is based on the assumption that the system is a net positive and not more likely than other housing to cause problems.

“It would be helpful if fraternities at both the national and individual college campus level could define how many apples it takes to spoil the barrel,” said John Foubert, a professor of higher education and student affairs at Oklahoma State University and founder of the sexual assault prevention program One in Four. “I think there are probably some universities where you have fraternities and sororities not engaging in these egregious behaviors, but there’s enough that are that you have to ask, ‘When is this going to reach a tipping point?’ At some organizations, it sounds like it already has.”

In November, Johns Hopkins University suspended all fraternity activity after a 16-year-old girl reported being raped at a fraternity party. A month earlier, Emory University also suspended Greek activities after a sexual assault at a fraternity there. That same month, San Diego State University suspended all fraternity activity after several fraternity members interrupted a Take Back the Night march -- in which survivors and advocates raise awareness about sexual violence -- by yelling obscenities, waving sex toys and throwing eggs at marchers.

In March, the Pennsylvania State University chapter of Kappa Delta Rho was suspended over allegations that the fraternity's members posted nude photographs of sleeping or passed-out women on a private Facebook page. The page, originally called “Covert Business Transactions,” had 144 active members, including both current students and alumni of the fraternity. Only one of them reported the page to police.

While the majority of fraternity members do not commit sexual assault, they are three times as likely as nonmembers, according to a 2007 study authored by Foubert, which was later backed up by two subsequent studies.

A recent review by United Educators, a risk management and insurance firm, of 305 sexual assault reports on college campuses from 2011 to 2014 found that about 13 percent of the gang rapes reported in the study were committed by fraternity members, and 24 percent of repeat offenders of sexual assault were reported as fraternity
members. Fraternity members account for about 9 percent of the total student population.

Another study published in the *NASPA Journal* in 2009 found that 86 percent of fraternity house residents engaged in binge drinking, compared to 45 percent of nonfraternity men. Fraternity members were twice as likely as nonfraternity men to fall behind in academic work, engage in unplanned sex or be injured due to drinking. Fraternity members were more likely to have unprotected sex, damage property and drive while under the influence of alcohol.

Since 2005, at least 70 students have died in fraternity-related incidents, most of them connected to hazing and alcohol.

“It’s not just a stereotype,” said George Koob, the director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. “There’s pretty good evidence that fraternity individuals are drinking more, particularly in the heavy range of binge drinking. They have more problems associated with drinking.”

It’s difficult to say how much negative behavior at fraternities goes unpunished or unreported, meaning it’s also difficult to say if the 80 or so incidents culled from media reports in the last year are representative of fraternities on the whole.

Pete Smithhisler, president of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, argues that it is not. “One of the important aspects of the fraternity experience is accountability with living with our values, and so when there is inconsistency with that, there needs to be swift action,” Smithhisler said. “That’s what we’ve been seeing lately with these incidents. We have 6,000 chapters on 800 campuses nationwide, so for the majority of students, the experience is really a positive one. It’s an experience that has long-lasting benefits to their careers, their emotional well-being, their sense of self.”

According to the NIC, fraternities raised $20 million for philanthropic efforts last year and members worked 3.8 million hours of community service. According to a survey conducted by Gallup and Purdue University, fraternity and sorority members are more likely than peers who were not in a Greek organization to thrive in their career and personal well-being after college. Nearly 44 percent of fraternity and sorority members who work full time are engaged in the workplace, compared with 38 percent of all other college graduates.

And networking opportunities and high-profile alumni abound. Nearly 40 percent of the current U.S. senators were in a fraternity or sorority, as was about a quarter of Congress. Half of the top 10 *Fortune* 500 CEOs were in fraternities, and nearly half of all U.S. presidents have been fraternity alumni.

But Matthew Hughey, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut who studies the role of race in fraternities, said that because of a lack of diversity within fraternities, the system only affords these opportunities to a select few, helping perpetuate inequality. He said the fraternity system is less a few bad apples and more of an rotten orchard founded specifically on principles of exclusion. Little research has been completed on the subject, but based on his own study, Hughey
estimated that about 4 percent of members of majority-white fraternities are minorities.

In March, the University of Oklahoma chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon was caught on video singing a racist song. What was originally described as an isolated incident was later revealed to have been taught to the chapter by other members during a leadership cruise sponsored by the SAE national office.

The song -- with its call to not allow black men to join the fraternity, its use of racial slurs and its references to lynching -- may have been fraternity racism at its most potent, but racist and racially themed fraternity parties make the news every Halloween and Christmas.

“These organizations are not only exclusionary, but unequal, and they’re quite happy with that,” Hughey said. “White fraternities get marked as the elite ones. They’re known for their parties, the great networking opportunities. Fraternities that have a great deal of status, like SAE or Kappa Alpha, often project a certain image, and a lot of the time that imagery is the old South and the Confederacy. It’s a legacy of white suppression, seclusion and racialized violence.”

April 15, 2015

NIH Budget Boosters Get a Push From the Right

By Paul Basken

NO MU MENTION

About 100 university scientists and their advocates gathered here on Tuesday as part of an annual ritual to convince lawmakers of the value of federal spending on medical research.

And this year, with the sales job perhaps as tough as any, they got some extra inside help.

Along with the usual chorus on the political left, a few of Capitol Hill’s most conservative voices also have begun pressing for increased federal spending on
biomedical research raising at least a glimmer of hope that a decade of declines in budgetary support might finally be nearing an end.

The advocates include Rep. Kevin Yoder of Kansas, Rep. Matt Salmon of Arizona, and the former House majority leader Eric Cantor of Virginia, all Republicans with voting records rated as 85 percent or higher by the American Conservative Union. Mr. Yoder, whose district includes the University of Kansas’ medical campus at Kansas City, is one of the most enthusiastic and outspoken. He suggested recently that the $30-billion budget of the National Institutes of Health be doubled to $60 billion — something not even the NIH’s director, Francis S. Collins, has been willing to broach.

It’s a matter, Mr. Yoder said in an interview on Tuesday, of "a reprioritization of what our most critical investments should be for the future."

Mr. Salmon, of Arizona, has advocated a $40-billion NIH budget.

Mr. Cantor, who moved to an investment bank after losing a re-election bid, recently proposed to The Huffington Post that his former colleagues accept greater spending on biomedical research to get increases at the Pentagon. The head of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, which organized the annual lobby day on Tuesday, said the support was welcome even if he could not be too confident about what it might ultimately mean.

"I would love to take it very seriously," said Joseph R. Haywood, who is assistant vice president for regulatory affairs at Michigan State University and is now serving as president of Faseb, a lobby group representing about 120,000 medical researchers worldwide.

The federation regularly urges its member scientists to invite lawmakers to visit their labs. Legislative visitors often get caught up in the excitement of the research, said Mr. Haywood, who is also a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at Michigan State. "It’s what we see all the time," he said.

But that often doesn’t translate into votes when it comes time for lawmakers to make tough budgetary decisions back in Washington, Mr. Haywood said. Then, he said, "all the other realities that they have to deal with come into play."

In that regard, the firm commitment by a conservative such as Mr. Yoder is unique. The Kansas Republican was student-body president at the University of Kansas, where he studied English and political science. His Congressional district includes or is near the medical center in Kansas City, the flagship in Lawrence, and the Edwards campus in Overland Park.
As such, Mr. Yoder has a strong appreciation of the economic importance of the university system to its region, said Timothy C. Caboni, vice chancellor for public affairs at the University of Kansas.

And the university, for its part, has worked hard to maintain and build that relationship, Mr. Caboni said. Its key strategies include being sure to respond quickly to any queries that might come from a Congressional office, and to characterize the value of the university in ways that fit each lawmaker’s particular priorities. For Mr. Yoder, Mr. Caboni said, that clearly means an emphasis on economics.

The idea is to "have the conversation on their terms, not on our terms," Mr. Caboni said.

Mr. Yoder, in turn, hopes to spread his belief in the economic value of the NIH to his philosophical allies in Congress. "I’m making the case on conservative terms for why this is and should be a conservative issue, and hopefully we can rally some support around that," he said.

He acknowledged, however, that it would be a tough sell, given the limitation of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and the automatic cuts it introduced under a process known as sequestration. President Obama, in the budget he proposed back in February for the 2016 fiscal year, suggested an NIH budget of $31.3 billion, an increase of about $1 billion over the agency’s current level. So far, the Republican leaders of both the House and the Senate have shown limited, if any, interest in matching such numbers.

"It’s going to take many voices to move in unison to try to create some momentum behind this," Mr. Yoder said. But, he admitted, "we are probably farther away from building consensus around this than I’d like to be."

The NIH and other federal science agencies have enjoyed Republican support in the past, though often it can be traced to lawmakers with a specific interest. Along with Mr. Yoder’s affiliation with the University of Kansas, both Mr. Salmon and Mr. Cantor hail from states with major medical research universities. Another prominent conservative backer of federal spending on science, Rep. Randy Hultgren of Illinois, has the Department of Energy’s Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in his home district.

"It could theoretically be harder for a member of Congress that doesn’t see the research firsthand and doesn’t see the impact as clearly," Mr. Yoder conceded.