Two important issues came to light as part of the ESPN “Outside the Lines” story involving now-deceased University of Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey: MU and the UM System needed to increase resources for sexual assault victims, and the two also were lacking in mental health services.

Fifteen months later, mental health services have not been on the forefront of the public discussion — unlike the slew of Title IX policies and millions of dollars committed to the sex discrimination issue. But university and UM System officials have taken action, with more changes planned.

Menu Courey committed suicide in 2011, one year after she allegedly was raped. She suffered from borderline personality disorder.

During a news conference in January 2014 after Menu Courey’s story came to light, UM System President Tim Wolfe said it was his goal to help “the Sashas of the world” get mental health support, along with any assistance they need.

“What I feel as a parent is, one of our students is dead, and I don’t want to feel that anymore,” Wolfe said at the time.

At the UM Board of Curators meeting in Rolla last week, system administrators said $2.2 million in recurring funds will be used for what the campuses are identifying as “strategic priorities” related to sexual violence prevention and education.

At MU, the priority is to enhance education and prevention by developing an outreach plan for the counseling center. David Wallace, director of the MU Counseling Center, said there is still work to be done, but the center and other campus mental health resources have made great strides during the past year.
In January, Wallace said the center added after-hours mental health support through contracted crisis counselors from the company ProtoCall. A number of major universities use ProtoCall, Wallace said.

“For a long time, we’ve had a daily, on-call service,” he said. Students “can call us or come in if there’s a crisis during any hour we’re open, but what this adds is the rest of the hours.”

ProtoCall has access to numerous university and city resources if the company needs assistance from someone local, such as MU or Columbia police.

MU Counseling Center staff follow up with student callers the morning after using information passed along by the company. If the student is a patient with any of the Student Health Center’s psychiatrists or psychologists, the information also is shared with them.

Wallace said the service is meant for students, but ProtoCall will not reject a call from faculty or staff. Anyone who calls the MU Counseling Center after hours can connect with the crisis counselors.

MU faculty leaders’ request for a one-stop shop for faculty and staff capable of connecting them with any resource — from the Title IX office to the Counseling Center — has come to fruition. Wallace said the Mizzou Cares Crisis Resource Line was created to help employees make the proper connections to help students, faculty or staff.

The center also is working to find more ways to meet students’ needs. Wallace said his team is developing a survey for campus with an outside foundation to better gauge specifically what needs to happen, but the team is starting with a marketing campaign focused on prevention, early intervention and resilience.

“What is it that we can instill in students ... that will help them be able to bounce back from adversity?” Wallace said, defining the idea of the resilience campaign. He said academic, personal, interpersonal, and financial concerns, among others, send some students down into depression or in the other direction to become highly anxious. The campaign seeks to prevent either of the two extremes.

MU plans to improve training programs and hire more staff. MU spokesman Christian Basi said administrators hope to hire a campus social worker, a few more employees in the Counseling Center and more staff for the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU Alert followed protocol with 3 a.m. phone call, police captain says

Sunday, April 19, 2015 | 5:23 p.m. CDT; updated 5:29 p.m. CDT, Sunday, April 19, 2015
BY KATELYN LUNDERS
COLUMBIA — MU sophomore Ruth Serven woke up around 3 a.m. Sunday when she received an automated call from MU Alert regarding an armed robbery.

Serven said she felt sleepy and confused after hearing the vague alert, which said, "Columbia police working armed robbery near campus. Refer to local media. Take precautions. MU Alert will be updated shortly."

"It seemed like after everyone got angry about Hitt Street, they over-corrected and tried to let people know as soon as possible, but the way that they did that with the phone call seemed strange and equally unhelpful," Serven said.

Students, faculty, staff and some students' parents received alerts via email, automated phone calls and text messages about the robbery, which took place on the 1100 block of Hamilton Way, a few blocks from campus.

MU Alert sent out a tweet about the robbery at 1:26 a.m. and updated its feed as suspect information became available. The last update was posted to its website at 4 a.m. Sunday.

MU Police Capt. Brian Weimer said MU followed protocol when it sent out the alerts.

“The phone call is part of the emergency notification system,” Weimer said. “People the other day were upset that they weren’t notified, and we wanted to make sure the campus community knew there was an armed robbery near campus so they could be alert and safe.”

Last week, MU released a statement apologizing for failing to properly activate the MU Alert system in response to an armed and dangerous suspect who was killed by police in the Hitt Street Garage. MU Alert subscribers received an alert from the system around 11:40 p.m. after the suspect, Mark Adair, had already been shot and killed. The Sunday morning MU Alert notified subscribers shortly after the robbery was reported.

The notification process is fluid and will change depending on each incident, Weimer said. MU sends its alerts via email to all MU email addresses and may also notify students, faculty, staff and parents using text messaging or phone calls depending on the incident.
MU email address holders opt in to adding a cellphone number to receive an automated voice mail alert or text message alert and an alternate email address for email notifications to be sent to. They receive notifications based on the contact information they provide in the online Emergency Mass Notification System Registration.

On Twitter, many users who received the alerts seemed displeased:

3:14 am Mu alert text & phone call about armed robbery near campus. 3:16 am Terrified Parents in Chicago, IL calling to make sure I’m alive — Ashley (@ashhes2ashhes) April 19, 2015

Four emails, two texts, and a 3:00 AM phone call re: armed robbery? Looks like @MUalert learned their lesson, and then some. — Aaron Malin (@MalinAaron) April 19, 2015

@MUalert why did my home phone ring at 3am? I’m a parent of a student on campus. Not a nice awakening. — Rusty Rohman (@Spiderman131313) April 19, 2015

@MUalert A text would have been better instead of waking me up at 3am with an automated message! — Shawn/TrulyBlessed81 (@MsCincy) April 19, 2015

@MUalert called at 3am about a robbery, no real info. I went back to bed & had dreams about being robbed. Worse than not being told at all? — Servenitup (@RuthServen) April 19, 2015

@MUalert I’m confused why alert armed robbery OFF campus but not alert 2 sexual assaults by gang of 6 men ON campus. What are the parameters? — Sarah Smith (@motiger1) April 19, 2015

COLUMBIA MISSOURIANS

Police respond to two Sunday morning robberies
Sunday, April 19, 2015 | 2:59 a.m. CDT; updated 9:00 p.m. CDT, Sunday, April 19, 2015
BY CLAIRE BOSTON

COLUMBIA — Police responded to two robberies in Columbia early Sunday morning.
A man entered the Burger King at 3400 Clark Lane, approached the counter, implied he had a weapon and demanded money from the cashier, according to a news release. He ran east from Clark Lane with an undisclosed amount of money. No one was injured in the incident, and the investigation is ongoing. Police responded to the incident around 1:04 a.m. Sunday.

**In an incident reported by MU Alert, Columbia police responded to an armed robbery in the Hitt and Locust streets area near Paquin Towers. The suspects are described as two males. The first suspect is in his late 20s or early 30s and is about 6 feet, 4 inches tall with a heavy build and short black hair. He was wearing a gray zip-up hoodie, a black shirt and jeans and was armed with a black handgun, according to an alert sent at 4 a.m. Sunday.**

The second suspect is about 5 feet, 6 inches tall with a smaller frame. No clothing description was available.

MU Alert sent out an automated phone call warning of the incident around 3 a.m. Sunday. It first sent out a tweet about the robbery at 1:26 a.m. and provided a website update with suspect information around 4 a.m.

In a tweet, MU Alert said it was partnering with the Columbia Police Department and MU Police Department to gather more information.

Columbia police also sent out a news release reporting the robbery at the 1100 block of Hamilton Way. According to the release, officers were dispatched to the scene around 2:26 a.m.

According to the release, two women were walking home when they were approached by a male suspect. The suspect displayed a gun and demanded money. He ran from the scene in an unknown direction with an undisclosed amount of money.

MU Police Department Capt. Brian Weimer said the MU Alert was sent out in reference to the Hamilton Way robbery.

The women were not injured and the investigation is ongoing. The release describes one suspect, a male in his late 20s with a tall and heavy build.
Anyone with information about the robberies is encouraged to contact the Columbia Police Department or CrimeStoppers at 875-8477 to remain anonymous.

Police report two Columbia robberies

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 9:16 am

Updated: 2:32 pm, Sun Apr 19, 2015.

Columbia police responded to two reported robberies overnight.

The Columbia Police Department said officers were called to Burger King, 3400 Clark Lane, at 1:04 a.m. on a report of an armed robbery. A black male implied he had a weapon and demanded money, police said. The robber ran east on Clark Lane with an undisclosed amount of money, police said. No one was injured.

At 2:26 a.m., police responded to an armed robbery in the 1100 block of Hamilton Way, near Paquin Tower. Police said in a news release that two female victims reported being approached by a tall black male in his late 20s with a heavy build. The man demanded money, and the victims turned over an undisclosed amount of money, police said. The robber fled. No one was injured.

University of Missouri police sent out an alert on the robbery at about 3 a.m., and posted information on the MU Alert website about 4 a.m. The alert warned of two black men who committed an armed robbery near campus, one in his late 20s to early 30s with a heavy build and short hair, wearing a gray hoodie, black shirt and jeans and carrying a handgun; and another black man in his 20s, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, with a smaller frame.

The alert didn't give other details of the circumstances of the robbery.
CPD investigating armed robbery near MU campus


COLUMBIA, Mo. - Columbia police are investigating an armed robbery that happened just before 2:30 a.m. Sunday in the 1100 block of Hamilton Way, near the University of Missouri campus.

Police say two women were walking home when they were approached by a black man in his late twenties with a heavy build.

The women told police the man showed a gun and demanded money. The women gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of money and fled the scene.

The victims weren't injured in the robbery and police say the investigation is ongoing.

Two females involved in armed robbery near MU campus

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28473&zone=5&categories=5
COLUMBIA - Two women were involved in an armed robbery early Sunday morning after a male suspect demanded money from them near the MU campus.

The incident occurred around 2:30 a.m. on the 1100 block of Hamilton Way when the two female victims were walking home. A black male suspect approached them and then displayed a gun, demanding for money. The victims gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of money and the suspect then fled the scene in an unknown direction.

The two victims were not injured during the robbery.

The suspect is described as a tall, black male, in his late 20's with a tall and heavy build.

Police Investigating Robbery near MU Campus

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=69458cb7-eee4-43d1-a3e3-d8ddded0e856

University of Missouri-Columbia police investigating sex assault on campus

April 18, 2015 6:43 pm  •  By Tim Barker

University of Missouri-Columbia police are investigating an alleged sex assault after two women said they were groped by a group of men early Saturday morning.

The women said they were walking near Memorial Union around 12:30 a.m., when a group of men tried to kiss and grope them, according to a police news release. The suspects fled the area after seeing a police car.
The University of Missouri Police Department is searching for a group of men accused of sexually assaulting two different groups of female students on the MU campus late Friday into early Saturday.

According to a Clery release issued Saturday morning, two female students told police two men allegedly approached them, grabbed them and tried to kiss them before additional men ran across the street to join. The group of about six men allegedly groped the women before they saw a police car and ran from the scene.

The incident took place at about 12:30 a.m. near Memorial Student Union on Hitt Street. The report was filed at about 1:15 a.m.

University police issued a second Clery release at about 6:30 p.m. Saturday stating a different female student contacted the department to report she and a group of her friends were assaulted by a similar group of men. The woman said the incident happened at about 11:30 p.m. Friday on Rollins Street between the Student Recreation Complex and the MU Student Center.

According to the release, MU police are working with the women and reviewing camera footage to provide descriptions of the alleged assailants to the public.
*This story has been updated with a report from another woman who said she and her friends were also assaulted by individuals similar to those referenced in the initial Clery release.

COLUMBIA — A group of six men groped and attempted to kiss two female MU students on campus early Saturday morning near Memorial Union, according to a Clery release.

The men fled the scene when they saw a police vehicle.

The MU Police Department is working with the women and reviewing camera footage to identify the suspects and release their descriptions to the public.

*After the original Clery release, a woman told MUPD that she and a group of her friends were assaulted at about 11:30 p.m. on Rollins Street between the MU Student Recreation Complex and the MU Student Center by individuals similar to those referenced in the release.

Anyone with information regarding the incidents can call MUPD Detective Sam Easley at 884-3721 or CrimeStoppers at 875-8477.

MU Police looking for six men involved in sex offense
COLUMBIA -- UPDATE: MUPD said Saturday evening that another woman has come forward saying she and a group of friends were assaulted by a group of people similar to those referenced in a Clery release sent out to the University.

The woman said the sexual assaults occurred around 11:30 Friday evening on Rollins Street between the Student Recreation Center and Student Center.

That woman wished to remain anonymous.

MUPD said they do not have any further descriptions of the suspects, but are continuing to work with the victims and are reviewing camera footage.

ORIGINAL STORY:

The University of Missouri Police Department is investigating a sex offense involving six suspects.

According to Captain Brian Weimer, at around 12:30am Saturday, two female victims were allegedly approached, grabbed and kissed by men near Memorial Union on campus. More men apparently ran across the street to join the group. The men allegedly continued to grope the women until they saw a police vehicle and ran from the scene.

Police believe there are six total suspects involved.

Weimer said the police department is working with the victims and reviewing camera footage for suspect descriptions.

UPDATE: third woman says she was sexually assaulted by similar group of men on MU campus

COLUMBIA, Mo. - **Two women were groped by a group of men near the Memorial Union on the University of Missouri campus early Saturday morning, according to MU police.**

It happened just before 12:30 a.m. Saturday.

The two women told police men approached them, grabbed them and tried to kiss them.

They said more men ran across the street and joined the other group. Police said the men groped the women before they saw a police car and ran from the scene.

There were six total suspects involved. MUPD is working with the victims and reviewing surveillance footage to get suspect descriptions out to the public.

After the original clery release on Saturday afternoon, a third woman anonymously told police that she and a group of her friends were assaulted by a group of similar men just about an hour earlier Friday night.

She told police the assault happened on Rollins Street between the Student Recreation Center and the Student Center.

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**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

McCaskill encourages Missouri campuses to band together against sexual assault

Saturday, April 18, 2015 | 7:03 p.m. CDT
BY MARY HILLEREN

COLUMBIA – **Sen. Claire McCaskill encouraged MU students to fight sexual assault on campus by spreading awareness of the confidential reporting process available to victims at an "It's On Us" summit Saturday at Cornell Hall.**

*She said that students' lack of knowledge about how to report sexual violence shocked her.*

"We have power," said McCaskill, D-Missouri. "I’m willing to come and look you in the eye and encourage you to use this power."

McCaskill also highlighted her efforts to pass the Campus Accountability and Safety Act, a bill with bipartisan support that would standardize the way colleges and universities
handle sexual assault reports and accommodate the victims and the accused, according to previous Missourian reporting.

The bill, which was reintroduced in February, would require a biannual campus climate survey, impose penalties for schools that do not comply, and obligate universities to send written notices to victims and alleged perpetrators when an incident is reported. McCaskill said she used feedback from nearly 50 Missouri campuses to add teeth to the bill.

The Missouri Students Association hosted the "It's On Us" conference for student body presidents from other schools across the state. MU is one of approximately 200 schools that have joined the Obama administration's campaign against sexual assault on college campuses.

The effort focuses on changing the attitude of students and encourages people to take their pledge to help raise awareness of sexual assault online.

Kelsey Burns, an education coordinator at the MU Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center, appreciated the senator's symbolic support and her legislative efforts combating sexual violence on campus.

But she also sees a need to support survivors, regardless of whether they choose to report their assailants. And she thinks educating students about what sexual consent looks like is vital to preventing future assaults.

"All of this is very reactive, which is important, but I would like proactive as well," Burns said.

McCaskill talks sexual assault education, prevention at MU summit
Claire McCaskill does not miss an opportunity to return to her alma mater, especially when it’s to discuss an issue the University of Missouri has dealt with publicly and that she personally has taken before the Senate.

Missouri’s Democratic U.S. senator visited MU on Saturday to talk about sexual assaults on college campuses. Her speech and the question-and-answer session that followed were part of a summit led by MU student government.

The summit was organized by the Missouri Student Association and was part of the group’s ongoing “It’s On Us” campaign to educate the community and prevent sexual assaults on campus.

MSA President Payton Head said student leaders from universities across the state were invited to attend, but none was able to make the event except MU and Stephens College. The summit included two breakout sessions: a policy discussion with Ellen Eardley, MU’s new Title IX administrator, and a session with peer educators from the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center to talk about media representation of sexual assault issues. McCaskill’s speech closed the summit.

A number of MU student leaders attended the summit, including members of the university’s Graduate Professional Council and representatives from Greek life.

“Our campus Green Dot bystander prevention program has the saying that, ‘No one has to do everything, but everyone can do something,’ ” Head said. “This was ‘something’ on behalf of MSA. We can start getting to work even more now that we’re more educated.”

McCaskill lauded conference organizers and attendees, but she also thanked administrators for taking steps during the year to tackle the shortcomings identified by an independent counsel’s investigation after the alleged rape of former MU swimmer Sasha Menu Courey.

McCaskill commended leadership in MU athletics and said her most proud moment of the athletic program was the dismissal of former star football player Dorial Green-Beckham. Green-Beckham was dismissed last April because, among other things, he was dealing with allegations that he pushed a woman down a flight of stairs.

Events like that show progress that has been made, McCaskill said. But her biggest messages were about the importance of educating students on how to intervene in situations that could lead to assaults.

“When you get to be my age, and maybe even your age, you think to yourself, ‘Can I make a difference?’ ” McCaskill said. “Don’t miss that opportunity. When you’re in a place that you can make a difference, do it, and you’ll feel good about it the rest of your life.”
She also stressed the importance of education across the student body about the process when a Title IX violation occurs — a main charge for the incoming Title IX administrator. McCaskill said the more information victims have, the more empowered and confident they are to understand their options to move forward against the accused. “This is a momentous time in this country, as people are beginning to understand this has been a dirty little secret in higher education for a long, long time,” McCaskill said.

McCaskill Speaks at MU about Sexual Assault


McCaskill challenges MU students to speak up about sexual assault

COLUMBIA, Mo - Sen. Claire McCaskill returned to the University of Missouri campus on Saturday to discuss the topic of sexual assault. McCaskill spoke on campus last fall about the same issue during her campus listening tour.

During Saturday's event, McCaskill gave the keynote address at the MU "I t's On Us" summit, an event aimed at changing the way campuses discuss and deal with sexual assaults. She spoke candidly about sexual assault on campuses and highlighted her recent legislation designed to combat sexual violence on college campuses.

"People are beginning to understand that this has been a dirty little secret in higher education for a long, long time," McCaskill said.

McCaskill is working on a bill that would streamline the reporting of sexual assault on college campuses. The bill would require colleges and universities to appoint confidential advisers who would help victims navigate through the information and options available to them.

"If victims have that kind of information and support and good information at the very beginning, then they will be empowered and confident to realize fully what their options are," McCaskill said.

The bill would also implement an annual and anonymous survey of campuses about students experiences with sexual violence, among other provisions. If the schools don't follow the requirements in the bill, they would be penalized up to a 1 percent fine of their operating budget.

McCaskill said she hopes student get engaged and make the issue of sexual violence a priority.

"When you are in a place that you can make a difference, do it! And you'll feel good about it the rest of your life," she said.

Revised Jesse Hall to reopen in mid-May

By Ashley Jost

Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 12:00 am

Jesse Hall is on schedule to reopen and for offices to start moving back in mid-May.

Campus facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said contractors soon will turn the building back over to the university, and the about $10 million enhancement project is in its final stages.
The landmark University of Missouri building was decommissioned last summer for a yearlong project. Crews replaced the building’s sprinkler system and its heating and air conditioning system, constructed a new elevator and repaired an existing elevator to bring it up to code, Seville said.

About 600 employees were displaced from Jesse to buildings around campus. Offices will start moving back to Jesse Hall on May 18. The first events planned for the revamped hall are commencement ceremonies May 15-17.

“I think it’s coming along just on schedule,” Seville said about the project. While it will be a few weeks before the entire building is finished, some areas — including Jesse Auditorium — already have been turned back over to the university.

During a tour highlighting updates to Jesse Hall, Jeff Brown, senior director of campus facilities at MU, said the renovations added 404 smoke detectors and 1,440 sprinkler heads to the building.

The building’s new elevator is directly across the hall from the old elevator in the main lobby.

Heiddi Davis, director of planning, design and construction at MU, said staff members were surprised when she mentioned the new elevator during a meeting.

“There was literally a cry of excitement,” Davis said.

The updated systems include panels in many of the building’s rooms that help control the temperature. The upgrades also include a carbon dioxide detector in each room and energy-saving options that shut off lights or systems if no one is in a room for a set amount of time.

The MU-dubbed “Renew Mizzou” project was a $28 million undertaking that included renovations to Swallow and Pickard halls. Of that total price tag, $8.5 million covered the cost for updates to Jesse Hall, with $16.9 million for Swallow Hall renovations and $2.6 million for the relocation of the Museum of Art and Archaeology from Pickard Hall to Mizzou North.

The funding came from savings related to debt refinancing and the university’s deferred maintenance budget.

While administrators prepare for Jesse Hall to reopen, demolition continues a few blocks away on Jones Hall, a long-standing campus residence hall on Kentucky Avenue facing Stadium Boulevard.

Demolition on Jones Hall started a few weeks ago, Seville said, and crews already are nearly halfway done. Once the building is gone — the goal is by the end of April — workers will begin to separate any recyclable materials. The building’s foundation and basement will be removed by the end of May.
The Dobbs Group renovation, including the replacement of Jones, Laws and Lathrop halls, is happening in two phases. Phase one will include the replacement of Jones Hall and addition of a new dining hall by 2017. Phase two will include the demolition of Lathrop and Laws halls to make room for two larger halls.

The first phase of the Dobbs Group renovation is estimated to cost about $68.3 million. Funds for the project are coming from Residential Life revenue bonds, Campus Dining Services reserves and Residential Life reserves.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Construction wraps up at Jesse Hall in time for May commencement ceremonies

Friday, April 17, 2015 | 7:35 p.m. CDT; updated 2:37 p.m. CDT, Saturday, April 18, 2015
BY MEREDITH MCGRATH

COLUMBIA — MU's Jesse Hall, which has been closed for almost nine months to update many of its mechanical systems, will reopen next month.

The auditorium will be ready on May 15 for five weekend commencement ceremonies, and displaced workers will begin moving back into the building on May 18.

The Chancellor’s Office and Office of the Provost will be the first to move immediately after commencement, said Karlan Seville, communications manager for campus operations.

The remaining faculty and staff will move into their offices throughout the summer, with all moves completed before the fall semester begins Aug. 24.

The building was emptied in July to make a number of updates, including a new sprinkler system, fire alarm system, more efficient heating and cooling systems, and a second elevator on the west side of the rotunda to meet requirements in the Americans With Disabilities Act.

“The building as a whole did not have a sprinkler system. That’s what drove this project,” said Jeff Brown, senior director of Campus Facilities. A total of 1,400 sprinkler heads were installed in the ceiling of the building and 404 smoke detectors added, he said.
The physical appearance of Jesse Hall did not change during the $8.5 million project. The construction team matched the wainscoting and tiling to preserve the character of the building, Brown said.

“It will look almost as if nothing happened,” Seville said.

All of the building’s heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems have been consolidated on the fourth floor. Previously, the building had multiple, separate chilled-water units to cool the entire building.

The building is now on a chilled-water loop connected to campus through an underground piping system, Seville said.

“If part of the system goes down on one part of campus, we can pull air conditioning from another part of campus to keep the air conditioning going,” she said.

The systems are on an occupancy sensor for energy conservation. “When everyone leaves, the lights go down, and the airflow goes down to minimum to save as much energy as possible,” Brown said.

The updates to the building kept in line with the university’s sustainability efforts. “We’ve had energy conservation on our campus since 1990,” Seville said. “This is very efficient heating and cooling.”

The project drew funds from Campus Facilities’ deferred maintenance budget and remained on track with the projected cost estimates, she said.

“There’s really not a room that we didn’t touch in some capacity,” Brown said.

The changes were part of a project called "Renew Mizzou," which was rolled out in 2013 to address necessary campus repairs to Jesse, Pickard and Swallow halls. Between December 2013 and July, 600 faculty members were temporarily relocated.

Most of them will return to campus by next fall. The Museum of Art and Archaeology, as well as the Office of the Vice Provost for International Programs and Office of Sponsored Programs, both previously housed in Jesse, will remain at Mizzou North, the former Ellis Fischel Cancer Center on Business Loop 70.
KBIA Radio, previously located on the fourth floor of Jesse Hall, also will not return. For now, it will be housed in Gannett Hall until a permanent home is determined.

Jesse Hall Renovations on Schedule

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b002f80a-fed8-4256-b10f-4f50200ac9b0

Organizations urge University of Missouri to protect Jewish students

April 17, 2015 11:48 am • Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. • Sixteen national organizations are asking the University of Missouri to ensure the safety of Jewish students after anti-Semitic messages were found last week.

The organizations sent a letter to Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin Thursday about graffiti found at the Mark Twain Residence Hall. Several students stated in the letter that they no longer felt safe on campus because of the hate message.

“We are concerned that several days had gone by before you spoke out publicly on the matter, causing some Jewish students to feel marginalized and ignored,” the letter said.
Loftin responded that he took the issue seriously and regretted that he had not responded more quickly. Loftin issued a statement Tuesday calling the graffiti deplorable.

“I regret that my need to delay a statement to facilitate the police investigation called into question my commitment to our Jewish students, who have my full and wholehearted support at all times,” Loftin said.

The Columbia Missourian reports that a swastika, an Illuminati symbol and the word “heil” were found in the residence hall on April 9. After they were cleaned off, a swastika and “You have been warned” were written the next day.

The organizations’ letter questioned why Loftin didn’t respond sooner and said more needed to be done to protect Jewish students.

The organizations urged the chancellor in the letter to publicly acknowledge the graffiti as an act of anti-Semitism and publicly commit to educating university staff and students in identifying anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic hate crimes.

They are also asking for the university to formally adopt the U.S. State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism.

![USA Today](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

U. of Missouri 'failed' students, sent late notification of fatal campus shooting

Game day cheers, chatter and groans filled a popular bar next to the University of Missouri campus Wednesday night as students and locals watched the Chicago Blackhawks in the playoffs.

But it wasn’t quite loud enough to muffle the gunshots that rang out across the street, catching all the revelers by surprise.

Shortly after 11 p.m. Wednesday, local and university police shot and killed a man, tentatively identified as a suspect of armed robbery earlier that day and a registered sex offender, in one of MU’s campus parking garages after the man shot at officers, according to a news release from the university.

But the university didn’t warn students about the nearby pursuit of a man the local police declared “armed and dangerous” earlier that day until dozens had already seen the man’s body on the parking garage floor.
Around 11:39 p.m. Wednesday, students received the first e-mails and texts messages about the incident through the university’s emergency alert system, MU Alert, that read, “During a search for an armed robbery Columbia Police asked MUPD for asst. Suspect engaged PD, was shot & killed.”

One of the students at the bar, junior Garrett Oligschlaeger, says he didn’t know anything was wrong until bar customers outside said they heard gunshots and police cars “swarmed” the area around the campus parking garage across the street. Soon the bar patrons were peering through the windows and across police tape at a body on the garage floor, he says.

“I don’t think anybody had any clue to what had possibly been going on,” Oligschlaeger says. “At first we didn’t know if he was dead or not, because like I said, nothing was being posted.”

About 15 or 20 minutes after the man was shot the university sent out its first alert about the incident, he says.

The university issued an apology Thursday afternoon for its failure to “follow established protocols and procedures in alerting the MU community in a timely manner” and not activating the alert system when local police contacted the university about the suspect’s description and possible location.

A preliminary review of the situation revealed the delay was likely caused while staff members attempted to find out the exact location of the suspect, according to the release.

Most of the time, MU Alert is used to update students about campus closures due to weather or to distribute tornado warnings. However, it has been used previously to warn students about suspects running from police.

In May, campus administrators issued multiple alerts during a three-hour manhunt near campus for a man suspected of multiple break-ins and sexual assaults. The suspect later committed suicide.

For some students, however, the fatal shooting has already done its damage on their perception of campus safety.

Sophomore Emily Russell had just gone to bed in her apartment across the street from the garage when she heard multiple gunshots. Although she’s used to hearing noises from downtown, the gunfire made her jump.

“I was like ‘Oh my gosh, is it the students who are being shot at or is one of my friends hurt,” she says. “All these thoughts were going through my head. I wish MU would have let us know there was a dangerous guy on the loose. Not knowing the context of the situation made it even more stressful for me.”

It was hard to calm down that night, she says, and the effects of the stress of the shooting lingered into the morning.
“I’ve never felt unsafe on campus ever,” she says. “But I don’t know, just going outside my apartment this morning it was different. It’s just a little scary that that can happen so close to where I live and there was no warning about it.”

Oligschlaeger says he felt safe the whole time at the bar Wednesday night, but looking back on it he can only wonder how things could have gone differently.

“But now that I think about it, I probably was very unsafe,” he says. “I had no clue that they were searching for a suspect or what he looked like so if had walked through the front door of the bar I would have had no idea and it would be a completely different scenario.”

University of Missouri officials apologize for lack of warning about manhunt

By Alan Burdziak

Friday, April 17, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri said in a statement Thursday afternoon that its staff “failed to follow established protocols and procedures” in alerting the campus to a nearby manhunt.

University of Missouri Police Department and Columbia Police Department officers at about 11 p.m. Wednesday encountered a man believed to be the target of the manhunt at the Hitt Street parking garage on campus. The encounter ended with the man’s shooting death.

“A preliminary review of the MU response revealed that staff members attempting to confirm the exact location of the suspect is likely what caused the delay,” the university said in the statement released Thursday afternoon.

“In addition, an initial text alert to students, staff and faculty should have been released when the University first received a statement from the Columbia Police Department containing the suspect’s description and potential location,” the statement said.

MUPD Capt. Brian Weimer said Columbia police Deputy Chief Jill Schlude first contacted him at 7:21 p.m. Wednesday about the attempted armed robbery and kidnapping that happened about 5:30 p.m. at Moser’s Discount Foods, 900 N. Keene St. Police were seeking Mark W. Adair, who had recently been paroled from prison on a rape conviction, and Weimer said Schlude told him the department was working on putting out a news release.
Adair was also spotted near Rose Music Hall, 1013 Park Ave., and on Ninth Street on Wednesday evening before his shooting death.

The Columbia Police Department sent out a news release about the kidnapping attempt at 9:40 p.m. Weimer said Thursday that his department did not have a description or photo of Adair until the news release came out.

An alert was not sent to the MU campus community until almost 11:30 p.m., when police sent word via the MU Alert online system that officers had fatally shot a man at the parking garage. The timing of the alert drew complaints from students on the social media site Twitter.

When asked about whether an alert should have gone out when Adair was spotted downtown, MU spokesman Christian Basi said he did not know the specific timelines.

Police said Adair hid inside a woman’s car and tried to make her drive away from the store while he pointed a gun at her. A scuffle ensued, and Adair fled, starting the manhunt that ended with the shooting at the parking garage.

Missouri State Highway Patrol Sgt. Kevin Hunter said Friday the patrol had confirmed Adair’s identity using his fingerprints. An autopsy was completed Thursday, Hunter said, but he declined to release any preliminary results. Hunter also declined to say whether Adair was armed at the time of the shooting but said he would inquire up the chain of command about whether the patrol would release that information.

So far the highway patrol has released few details about the shooting or the encounter at the garage that preceded it, citing an open investigation. The patrol hasn’t disclosed who actually shot Adair or what triggered the shooting. Columbia police have referred questions about the investigation to the patrol.

Basi said officials are reviewing policies and procedures with anyone who works with MU Alert or other emergency notification systems on campus. He said they are also “reviewing exactly what happened” Wednesday “night to make sure we do not have a similar situation ... occurring in the future.”

MU sends information in several ways to students, faculty and staff about potentially hazardous or dangerous events. Campuswide text messages typically disseminate some information and refer people to the MU Alert system, which provides more details online via email, its website and social media. The system alerts subscribers to weather events, potentially dangerous criminal activity and other incidents of importance, usually as they occur.

The university also is required by federal law to disclose when there is an active threat on campus through what is called a Clery Release.

Every situation — whether it is a storm or criminal activity — is evaluated separately when an alert is sent out, Basi said. Wednesday night’s situation was complicated, he said, by reports that Adair was moving quickly between locations.
“It was a very fluid and rapidly changing situation,” Basi said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

DEAR READER: Neighbors heard, not saw, police shoot a suspect at an MU parking garage
Friday, April 17, 2015 | 6:35 p.m. CDT; updated 5:04 p.m. CDT, Sunday, April 19, 2015
BY TOM WARHOVER

Dear Reader,

Carolyn Heger was studying with friends in a second-floor apartment at Tenth and Elm streets Wednesday night when she heard gunshots.

Her first reaction was to hit the floor. Her second reaction, after figuring the shooting was over, was to begin reporting.

MU and Columbia police had shot and killed a man in the parking garage across the street. He was tentatively identified as Mark Adair, who was being sought in connection with parole violation and whom police were searching for in connection with an earlier assault outside Moser’s (nee Patricia’s IGA).

Heger tweeted her first photo at 11:06 p.m. She and fellow Missourian reporter Ethan Colbert had interviewed at least a dozen police and residents and had produced a complete report in time for Thursday’s print edition. (The normal late deadline for sending pages to the press is 12:30 a.m.; that deadline was busted, considerably.)

Not long after Heger rose from the apartment floor carpet, staff photographer Alexey Furman raced to the parking garage. Michael Cali, who also lives across from the garage, also scrambled. They produced some excellent pictures, especially given the limitations of the darkness and police barrier lines.
Some of those interviewed heard the shots. None that the Missourian interviewed saw what happened at the garage.

As I write around noon Friday, the picture doesn’t look overly complicated. Police say Adair had a gun. He was suspected of committing violence earlier in the evening. He was convicted in 1989 for taking a 9-year-old girl from her hotel room and attempting to rape her.

In other words, this was a bad dude.

But we should know exactly what happened in that garage. We don’t know whether Adair shot his pistol at the officers. We don’t know which of two officers fired the fatal shot. We know the MU officer wore a body cam, but we don’t know whether the Columbia officer did. We don’t know whether anyone’s body cam was on. The State Highway Patrol is investigating all that, and a Columbia police deputy chief asked for patience in getting answers.

The Missourian has filed a Sunshine request for any video by the officers (on bodies or dashboards) and any in the MU parking garage. The Columbia and MU police departments both denied the request, citing an ongoing investigation.

Eventually, though, the Missourian has a reasonable expectation of receiving those “tapes.”

However, a bill is wending its way through the General Assembly that would require a court order before making this kind of information public. Anyone who asks would be responsible for court and attorney fees.

As it stands, HB 762 is an improvement on its original, which would have outright banned all police video to the public.

The Missouri Press Association is lobbying for a Senate bill instead. SB 331 would make police videos “investigative records,” which, with some exceptions, makes them available to the public.

A St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorial that ran in the Missourian this week points out that it was a police officer, Stephen Guyer, who helped establish the case law when he sued to get an internal affairs report that had cleared him of wrongdoing in a case. Wednesday night’s shooting is why the bill is a bad idea.
I imagine that what we’ll see when we all get the video of the parking garage shooting — assuming there is video — is a perfectly justified response to a dangerous guy. The power of video is that we can see it and not just be told that officials say it’s OK.

President Ronald Reagan liked to use a Russian proverb. It’s applicable here:

Trust, but verify.

Tom

Loftin responds to anti-Semitic graffiti in MU residence hall

By Roger McKinney

Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 12:00 am

**Bigotry or hatred won’t be tolerated at the University of Missouri, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin wrote in a letter Thursday to 16 national organizations.**

The organizations sent a letter Thursday to Loftin, who replied the same day. The groups on Friday thanked Loftin for his swift response.

The letters relate to anti-Semitic symbols and threats found last week in a stairwell of Mark Twain Residence Hall. The symbols included a swastika, a symbol representing the “Illuminati” and the words “Heil” and “You’ve been warned,” said Chantelle Moghadam, co-founder of new MU organization Students Supporting Israel. The student organization was one of the 16 groups who signed the letter to Loftin.

The first report of graffiti was made the morning of April 9, and more vandalism was found at about 7 p.m. April 10.

The other groups who endorsed the letter were: the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity; the Amcha Initiative; Americans for Peace and Tolerance; Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources; Christians United for Israel on Campus; the Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel; the Iranian American Jewish Federation; the Israeli-American Council; the Middle East Political and
In the letter, the groups said they were aware of Loftin’s strong statement Tuesday condemning the anti-Semitic graffiti, but they were concerned it took several days to speak publicly about it. They said the delay could have caused some Jewish students to feel marginalized and ignored.

“Students were complaining about not hearing anything from the chancellor,” said Tammi Rossman-Benjamin, co-founder of the Amcha Initiative.

In his response, Loftin wrote that he delayed making a statement to ensure his remarks did not compromise the MU Police Department investigation. Loftin said university police requested the delay.

“I can assure you that I take this issue very seriously, and that my priority is identifying and imposing sanctions and pursuing criminal prosecution of the perpetrator or perpetrators,” Loftin wrote.

He listed several anti-hate and anti-bias programs at the university in the letter and said MU “will not tolerate bigotry or hatred of any kind on our campus and will protect all members of the campus community.”

“I regret that my need to delay a statement to facilitate the police investigation called into question my commitment to our Jewish students, who have my full and wholehearted support at all times,” he wrote.

On Friday, the groups thanked Loftin for his prompt and strong reply. In their letter, they said an immediate response still would have been better.

“Once these things are out there, out in the public eye, it’s a public event,” Rossman-Benjamin said. “It’s important to respond immediately. That sends a strong message.”

The second letter from the groups also mentions a strong correlation between anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activism that crosses the line of acceptable criticism. The letter cites a Nov. 14 campus lecture by Saree Makdisi, who the letter says is an advocate of boycotting, divestment and sanctions against Israel. The talk was titled “The Everyday Occupation of Palestine.”

“We wanted to make sure that there was at least an awareness on the part of Chancellor Loftin that these things usually don’t come in a vacuum,” Rossman-Benjamin said of the alleged link.
U. of Missouri Chancellor Is Criticized as Slow to Respond to Anti-Semitic Graffiti

Sixteen national organizations wrote to the chancellor of the University of Missouri at Columbia, R. Bowen Loftin, on Thursday to express their concern about the safety of the institution’s Jewish students after anti-Semitic graffiti appeared on the campus last week.

The Missourian reports the groups also took aim at Mr. Loftin for not responding to the graffiti until several days after its appearance, “causing some Jewish students to feel marginalized and ignored.”

On April 9, a swastika, an Illuminati symbol, and the word “heil” were discovered in a campus stairwell. After employees painted over the graffiti, another swastika and the phrase “You have been warned” replaced it. Five days later, Mr. Loftin said in a statement that the graffiti was “deplorable and unworthy of this institution and its values.”

In his statement responding to the letter on Thursday, Mr. Loftin said he regretted that “my need to delay a statement to facilitate the police investigation called into question my commitment to our Jewish students, who have my full and wholehearted support at all times.”

The groups behind the letter include the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, Americans for Peace and Tolerance, and the Israeli-American Council, among others.

Loftin responds to Mark Twain Graffiti

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=8f34d95d-8a18-4d9f-90b5-62d3b5a03fff
Museum reopens to public after 18 months


COLUMBIA - The Museum of Art and Archaeology reopened its doors to the Columbia community on Sunday.

After 18 months of relocating and reorganizing, the museum was presented to the public with a reception and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The previous location was Pickard Hall on MU's campus, but due to radiation concerns it was moved to Mizzou North. Director Alex Barker said the moving process was quite a challenge.

"It's been a very long journey. And it's a journey a lot farther than the two miles from Pickard Hall to Mizzou North, and for the museum staff this is a culmination of a very long process," Barker said.

But all of the hard work was well worth it according to Barker.

"We're always interested in the public, we're always interested in serving the public and helping educate them about art and antiquity," Barker said.

Barker urges the public to come out and support the museum and all of the art it has to offer.
Museum of Art and Archaeology holds out hope with grand opening

By Amy Wilder

Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 12:00 am

A new chapter opens Sunday in the history of the University of Missouri’s Museum of Art and Archaeology. Founded in 1957 as the Study Collections for Art History and Archaeology, it transitioned to its current title in 1961 and moved to Pickard Hall on the Francis Quadrangle, becoming widely available to the public, in 1976.

The museum transitions yet again with its grand opening at a new, ostensibly temporary, location at Mizzou North, previously the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, 2 miles from the main campus.

The move was partly necessitated by the existence of radiation thought to be the result of experiments by chemistry professor Herman Schlundt in the early 20th century. MU has known of the radiation since the 1970s; none of the artifacts are contaminated.

The change is bittersweet, bringing tenuous hope for the future, and a host of unanswered questions about the nature of that future in its wake.

CLOSE QUARTERS

The museum closed its doors 19 months ago on Sept. 30, 2013. The move came about as part of a $23 million renovation project dubbed Renew Mizzou that also displaced the administration offices of Jesse Hall and the Museum of Anthropology, previously housed in Swallow Hall. The Museum of Anthropology is still in the process of readying its designated space at Mizzou North, and an opening date has not yet been announced.

Museum of Art and Archaeology Director Alex Barker outlined the particular challenges of the new location, on the second floor of Mizzou North. The galleries are in a space that had been used as operating theaters by the cancer hospital.

“Basically these were all small operating rooms with changing rooms and autoclaves in between,” he said. “All of that is ripped out. The reason these walls are so thick, partly, is because there are cases on each side. The location and thickness is also partially determined by the location of mechanicals we couldn’t get rid of. They were pulled out as much as possible and then we build the cases around them.”

A storage room in the back of the space has been left essentially as it was in the hospital: green tiles on the walls, hookups for nitrogen and other gasses or machinery in place. In the center of the space, where an operating table once sat, there is a new sort of examination space, with artifacts carefully spread out on its surface by a scholar blasting punk music.
“We have a little more space for permanent galleries but we lost temporary galleries,” Barker said, adding that parts of the museum’s permanent collection will be moved around to accommodate temporary future exhibitions. To say things are cramped is an understatement.

In the contemporary art gallery, the work has little space to breathe; conflicting works clamor and compete visually. Barker was very much aware of this when he and the museum’s staff curated the gallery.

The configuration may change in the future, but for the opening, he said they decided to “err on the side of abundance.”

“We have other things here that we did not have out” in Pickard, Barker said. “Because we had to do the galleries from scratch, part of the idea was to go back through the collection with a fresh eye and determine what we wanted to display for the opening. This has been a challenge as you can see. … But we also have a lot of old friends that haven’t been out for a while. That’s not the way we’ll have it going forward.”

The ceilings are lower than those of the galleries in Pickard — or of many art galleries. This creates a challenge in hanging and lighting some works, particularly those under glass. In order to reduce glare, some of the works must be hung at an angle.

RETHINKING THINGS THROUGH

In spite of the cramped quarters, the collection has been intelligently arranged and the phrase that comes to mind, looking at the work in the space, is world-class. There are advantages that come with the idiosyncrasies of the location, along with the challenges. The opportunity to rethink presentation is one of these advantages.

Objects in display cases in Pickard were designated by number with a key at the bottom to connect the information cards.

“That meant that if we moved the objects for study or conservation, things got off,” Barker said. “What we’re doing now is using small thumbnail images of the objects to make it easier for folks to match objects with the labels.”

The space itself has a peculiar advantage in that it has a contained HVAC system separate from the rest of the building. It is a sort of pod, surrounded on three sides by a C-shaped hallway, in which and off of which most of the museum’s collections are stored. Barker pointed out a hexagonal device on one wall of the gallery.

It “is a temperature and humidity logger,” he said. “They’re throughout the gallery and collections and are on a wireless network … that talk to one another. Plus we have discrete stand-alone monitors, so there are multiple layers of loggers continually monitoring temperature and humidity. The goal is to try to have diurnal excursions of no more than a couple of percent per day — which is very difficult in Missouri when you have a thunderstorm rolling through: You’ll get a 40 percent humidity swing outside, and trying to control that in the gallery is tough.
“But it’s important, because if you look at some of the works like Saint Jerome over here, it’s a wooden sculpture,” Barker added. “He doesn’t respond well to a rapid change in temperature and humidity. Or the ‘Flight of Egypt’ over here … is oil on panel. The wooden panel expands and contracts, but the paint doesn’t.”

Fluctuations in temperature and humidity and exposure to light are a big reason so much of the collection remains carefully cocooned in the museum’s storage space. There are more than 15,000 objects in the collections, Barker said. Seven-hundred and eighty-five are available for public view in the galleries. And having even that fraction out is critical to the museum’s mission, he said.

“That’s the biggest challenge of the past year and a half, trying to function as a museum when there are no galleries and there are no visitors,” he said. “Certainly, we’re a research and teaching museum but … it impacts so many different parts of what we do. You know that at an intellectual level but you don’t feel the visceral impact until you’re closed for a long time.”

TEACHING TOOLS

Having the work available is critical for professors and students at MU as well. Director of Astronomy Angela Speck has been vocal in her concern and support for the future of the museum. Art Professor Matt Ballou said a direct connection with art objects provides an understanding of human culture and history that cannot be obtained through reproductions in books or slides. He has been taking students to work in the cast gallery since it became accessible several months ago.

“This is one thing I’m extremely passionate about,” Ballou said, “and that is underrepresented, a lot of times. In our attempts to deliver content, in our attempts to make sure that we’re hitting certain ‘learning goals,’ we forget that human beings are largely kinesthetic learners.”

Experiencing the work directly, Ballou added, “you actually get to connect across thousands of years with other human beings — in fact, with human beings who established the very notions around which our modern world, for good or bad, is actually functioning.”

The Western canon of knowledge comes out of the Greco-Roman world. People understand this better when directly engaging with and moving around in the space shared by casts or art objects.

“Every single time I go to the museum, I learn more than I could learn just looking at the books,” Ballou said. “I know that it works, because my students go up there — these are non-art majors — and they start getting invested. They start building a narrative, because human beings are meaning makers.”

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The continuing narrative of the Museum of Art and Archaeology is left hanging, obscured by questions.
When, and indeed whether, the collection and galleries will move back to the main campus is entirely unclear. The original university line that the museum would remain at Mizzou North “for the foreseeable future” was changed semantically by former chancellor Brady Deaton to confirm that the relocation was “temporary” in a response to the Columbia City Council in 2013.

“Eventually we’re hoping to move back to campus, but eventually will certainly be a matter of years,” Barker said. “There’s no place to put us on campus at the moment, and as for creating a new space, even if a decision is made tomorrow, it’s going to be years away. We’re going to be here for a period of years. The goal is to succeed while we’re here, and we want people to want to bring us back to campus because we’re a jewel, because what we’re doing is important and serves the needs of campus and the community.”

How, and whether, this will happen is left to the adage that time will tell.

“Museums are in the business of cheating time, and time doesn’t like that,” Barker said. “So we assume it’s going to get back at us one way or another, whether it’s inherent vice, electronic glitches … you name it. But, we try.”

For now, he is concerned primarily with continuing the mission of the museum and ensuring public engagement with the galleries continues.

“The big question is how people are going to feel about the galleries,” he said. “Like anything else, when you’ve been working on something for a long time, you lose your perspective on it. I’m hoping when people come to the galleries that we’ll get a good sense of how well we’ve hung the works. … There’s no replacement for that response. Especially when you get a group in. We’re looking forward to it, but we’re also waiting on pins and needles to see how people will respond.”

COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE
— COLUMBIA, MISSOURI —

Stitches in Time: Exhibit explores roles of women during World Wars I and II

By Caroline Dohack

Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 12:00 am

So often, we hear war stories in terms of strategy, weaponry and manpower. But an exhibit, World at War — Women at Work, by the State Historical Society of Missouri and the University of Missouri’s Department of Textile and Apparel Management explores the
The exhibit was curated by Jean Parsons, MU associate professor, and Nicole Johnston, manager of the university’s costume collection.

The exhibit is divided into themed groupings. Uniforms from the Women’s Auxiliary Corps and the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, for example, show that there was a need for women to serve their country alongside men.

Meanwhile, work garments — including a simple denim dress and a jumpsuit similar to something Rosie the Riveter was depicted wearing — show the importance of women picking up farming and manufacturing work as men left those jobs to join the war effort.

Likewise, a selection of dresses shows the war’s effects on fashion. Because silk was needed to make parachutes, nice hosiery wasn’t available. Some women switched to rayon hose, Johnston said, but it tended to sag unattractively around the knees and ankles. Other women, Parsons said, chose to forgo hosiery altogether, though they mimicked the look by painting seams up the back of their legs.

Because fabric was rationed, skirt silhouettes became slimmer and shorter than they had been previously. Other styles that would have required extra fabrics, such as pockets or French cuffs, fell out of vogue. Leather-soled shoes were replaced by shoes composed of cloth uppers and wood or cork soles.

An advertisement from a 1917 issue of “The Delineator,” a popular women’s magazine at the time, emphasized that “a simple shirt-waist dress spells efficiency.”

The magazine, which was owned by Butterick Publishing Co., published dress patterns as well as lifestyle articles on topics such as knitting projects to send to men stationed overseas, substituting sugar in cookie recipes, altering an older garment to create a new look and limiting how much one drove to preserve tire rubber. Even the most menial act of conservation, at that time, could be construed as a patriotic effort.

But that isn’t to say there was no room for frivolity.

“Sequins weren’t rationed,” Parsons said, gesturing to a heavily spangled frock.

A selection of wedding dresses offers a look at other realities of the times. One, a pretty lace gown that 19-year-old Betty Cook wore at her 1941 wedding to Leroy Rottman, was made from 14 yards of lace she ordered specially from New York. The parcel was delivered by train, but because the train did not stop in her town, it was tossed out at the closest crossing. In a written account, the bride recalls being alerted that a package had arrived for her. Such occasions were exciting events for everyone.
But other weddings were bittersweet happenings. Often, there was little time between when a man learned of his assignment and when he left, so many nuptials were rushed affairs. In these instances, a woman would wear the best dress she happened to have on hand.

The end of World War II, however, ushered in a new aesthetic. The so-called New Look, popularized by the French fashion designer Christian Dior, was characterized by a narrow shoulder, nipped-in waist and full skirt. It seems fitting that such a comparatively opulent silhouette would mark the end of a long period of deprivation.

Audit finds UMKC business school ran up deficit to boost enrollment

Sunday, April 19, 2015 | 8:20 p.m. CDT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NO MU MENTION

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — The University of Missouri-Kansas City's business school racked up a nearly $11 million operating deficit in its effort to boost enrollment, the latest blow to the school.

An internal audit raised concerns about the Henry W. Bloch School of Management's deficit and called for better internal controls over travel and expense budgets, The Kansas City Star reported.

The report follows an earlier audit requested by Gov. Jay Nixon after an investigation by The Star found faculty members submitted false data as a means to get the Bloch School's entrepreneurship program in the Princeton Review's top rankings. Both audits cover roughly the same time frame, fiscal years 2009-14.

The report by PricewaterhouseCoopers auditing firm shows the Bloch School's operating deficit increased more than 600 percent in the past five years, from $1.5 million in 2009 to $10.6 million in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2014.
UMKC spokeswoman Stacy Downs said the Bloch School has been able to balance its budget each year with help from the university's reserve fund, and the $10.6 million deficit eventually will be repaid from the school's revenue. Total revenue for the school in fiscal 2014 was $19.4 million.

"It's not out of the ordinary for an academic unit to run a deficit on occasion, based on a variety of factors from enrollment shifts to state funding decreases to program investments," Downs told the newspaper by email.

Auditors said the core of the Bloch School's problem was that projected revenue increases didn't keep pace with added expenses, such as new, higher-paid faculty members, aimed at boosting the number of tuition-paying students. Former dean Teng-Kee Tan set a goal of doubling enrollment at the Bloch School during his five years there, but enrollment rose only 21 percent between 2009 and 2014, the audit said. Tan retired last year and wasn't available for comment to the newspaper.

Officials at other area universities, including Kansas State and the University of Kansas School of Business, told the newspaper it isn't their practice to operate on a deficit.

The audit Nixon requested mirrored The Star's findings that Bloch School faculty took shortcuts and submitted false or misleading information to achieve higher rankings. Two faculty members resigned and the school's entrepreneurship program was stripped of four years' worth of rankings.

UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton has apologized for the lapses committed during his watch and vowed that the Bloch School is reforming its practices.

April 20, 2015 by Charles Huckabee

Business School That Chased Rankings Ran Up a Deficit, Audit Finds

NO MU MENTION
The University of Missouri at Kansas City allowed its business school to run up an operating
deficit of nearly $11 million as it pursued a national and global reputation, since tarnished by a
rankings scandal, The Kansas City Star reports.

The link between the deficit and that bid for greater status is the conclusion of a new audit by
PricewaterhouseCoopers that focused on financial issues at the Henry W. Bloch School of Management. The report comes on the heels of an earlier audit requested by Gov. Jay Nixon
after a Kansas City Star investigation reported that faculty members had submitted false data to
get top rankings for the school’s entrepreneurship program.

The new audit shows the Bloch school’s operating shortfall increased from $1.5 million in 2009
to $10.6 million in the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2014. The school’s total revenue in
2014 was $19.4 million.

*The Bloch School has been able to balance its budget each year by dipping into the university’s reserve fund, UMKC spokeswoman Stacy Downs said. The $10.6 million eventually will be repaid from the school’s revenue, she said. Efforts to boost the Bloch School of Management’s reputation cost more than revenues brought in, the auditors say. Now the school has to repay the $10.6 million borrowed from UMKC reserves. In addition to raising concerns about the deficit, the new report calls for better internal controls over travel and expense budgets, among other issues.*

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**Inside Look at Ratings Plan**

April 20, 2015

By

Michael Stratford

**NO MU MENTION**

The U.S. Department of Education has set aside more than $4 million to develop the Obama administration’s college ratings system, newly released federal documents show.
The department has hired a nonprofit research company to analyze data about colleges, test different ratings models and build a website for the ratings. It has so far paid at least $1.8 million for the firm, Research Triangle Institute, to get started on that work. *Inside Higher Ed* obtained a copy of the department’s agreement with Research Triangle Institute (also called RTI International) last week after making a Freedom of Information Act request in January. The agreement, signed Dec. 31, expands an existing contract the department had with the firm for other data-related projects.

Aside from providing the first glimpse at the direct costs associated with the ratings system -- which the administration has previously declined to disclose -- the document is a snapshot of officials’ thinking about the ratings system as of the end of December. The contract shows, for instance, that the department has considered forming a panel to vet the technical integrity of the ratings system, creating a formal process for colleges to challenge their data and allowing colleges to provide a narrative statement next to their ratings.

**Funding the Ratings**

The ratings work comprises just a fraction of RTI International’s overall $81.4 million contract with the department that is aimed at improving various government data collections.

The department’s December amendment to the contract adds more than $4 million worth of college ratings-related tasks, of which the department has provided funding for $1.8 million.

That figure reflects the “bulk of money that has been spent so far on ratings,” a department official, who declined to be named, wrote in an email Friday. Other costs, the official said, include staff time and events hosted by the department to solicit public feedback on the ratings system.

The several million dollars of funding for the college rating system is relatively small in the context of the department’s roughly $70 billion budget. But critics of the administration’s ratings proposal have seized on the funding as means of blocking the department from carrying out the project.

Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, the Republican who chairs the Senate education committee, and other members of Congress have sought to pass legislation prohibiting the department from spending money on rating colleges, which they argue is an inappropriate role for the federal government.

After its request for $10 million to develop the ratings system went nowhere in Congress last year, the Obama administration dropped the request from this year’s budget proposal. Department officials said at the time that they could complete the ratings with existing resources and staff.

The department has previously declined to say how much it has spent -- or plans to spend -- on the ratings system.

Republicans on the Senate appropriations subcommittee overseeing the Education Department’s budget pressed Secretary Arne Duncan on the issue at a hearing last week. They demanded that the department provide the personnel costs associated with
the rating system. Duncan did not provide an answer at the hearing, but a department official said the agency would respond to the request.

**A Range of Possibilities**
The contract outlines some of the features of a college ratings website that officials directed Research Triangle Institute to develop. The site must, for instance, be compatible with smartphones and provide an option for users to share their searches by email and on social media.

The list of website requirements, however, leaves open the possibility that colleges would be rated individually on various metrics or assigned an aggregate rating, or both. The contract also features optional tasks relating to the ratings system that are at the discretion of department officials, such as forming a technical review panel or allowing colleges to challenge the data. It is unclear which of those tasks the department has actually directed the company to complete.

A department official cautioned that the inclusion of an optional provision in the contract “does not necessarily mean that they will all be exercised for the ratings project.”

Federal records that were posted to a government procurement database over the weekend show that Education Department officials modified the December ratings contract as recently as last week. But it was not immediately clear whether that change affected the college ratings provisions of the contract.

The December document does, meanwhile, provide some insight into the range of ratings system ideas that were under serious consideration at the time.

**Data Challenges for Colleges?**
Department officials have contemplated a formal process for colleges to challenge or request corrections to the underlying data in the ratings system.

One optional contract provision, for instance, proposes to give all colleges “the opportunity to verify the cohorts of students and/or data and methodology used to calculate institution-level metrics.”

The quality of data underlying the college ratings system has been among the most contentious issues surrounding the proposal. Opponents of the ratings argue that federal data about colleges’ performance on many metrics are too incomplete to derive meaningful ratings.

In addition, the department has considered, the contract shows, allowing colleges the opportunity to include a narrative statement next to its performance on the ratings system website. Such a feature would allow colleges “to provide context and explain how their unique circumstances may impact the ratings displayed,” the contract says.

Terry Hartle, the senior vice president for government and public affairs at the American Council on Education, said colleges would welcome the opportunity to review and annotate data in the ratings system.
“Institutions will regard that as welcome news,” he said. “This is something that we had asked for because institutions already have the opportunity to challenge department data or calculations in other areas like cohort default rates.”

Still, Hartle said, colleges worry that the department is moving ahead under a “compressed timeline” to get the ratings system done. The contract floats the possibility, for example, of forming a technical review panel in the spring of 2015 to vet the department’s ratings models, but that has not yet happened.

The contract shows that officials were looking to finalize a ratings methodology over the summer with a Sept. 1 public release date for “version 1.0” of the ratings website.

It’s not clear whether the department or the research firm is still following that schedule, but it is consistent with department officials’ public pledge to release ratings by the start of the 2015-16 school year.

“The first version of this will clearly be a beta version,” Hartle said. “They call it version 1.0 here, but it should really be called 0.5 and come with a ‘use at your own risk’ warning, because they haven’t had the external consultation needed.”

Department officials have also considered, according to the contract, ways to deal with an influx of complaints about the ratings system once it is up and running as well as methods for gauging students’ and families’ engagement with the site.