Chancellor Loftin speaks on MU Alert criticism

Watch story: [http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28569&zone=5&categories=5](http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28569&zone=5&categories=5)

COLUMBIA - Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin spoke Friday about the MU Alert System for the first time since a bomb threat at the MU Student Center Tuesday night.

"Our police followed the protocol that we established quite some time ago," Loftin said. "Because they were able to contain the area [we did not send out an MU Alert]. Had we had a more general threat with that location, we would have put out an MU Alert immediately."

The chancellor said part of the problem was with social media, as students spread the information quickly before the University had the chance to determine what was true and what was not.

"We understand that social media allows for this word to get out almost instantaneously and the issue then is simply, is this the correct word?" Loftin said. "If people just see something happening and tweet about it, you don't know if it's going to contain the right data."

The MU Alert system has been under much scrutiny over the past two weeks. On Tuesday, university officials decided not to let students know of an apparent bomb threat on campus. However, the school decided to call and inform students and professors of an armed robbery that took place in downtown Columbia early Sunday morning. This came a week after MU did not tell students about an incident that ended with police shooting the suspect in a campus parking garage until more than 30 minutes after the shooting.

Loftin admitted there were problems with the MU Alert system during the shooting incident.

"We did not do things properly with the shooting issue," Loftin said. "It was a matter really of a very fast time line and we didn't follow our proper protocols, and we've already acknowledged that mistake."
However, Loftin believes the university did follow protocol with not reporting the bomb threat this week to students.

"We did follow protocol, we did do things the way we decided to do it," Loftin said. "But we always learn every time we do an event like this where we have to respond to a crisis and we sit down afterwards and ask ourselves "what went wrong? What went right? And how can we improve our process?"

Chancellor Loftin also said the university is considering changes to the MU Alert system.

"Changes are being looked at right now," Loftin said. "We already got specific things in mind."

Loftin did not say when the new changes would be implemented to MU Alert.

Cathy Scroggs, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, says students should still feel safe on campus.

"All of our students matter and their safety is our utmost of utmost importance to us," Scroggs said. "It's a priority. It's the priority. We're doing everything to make sure they're safe and to make sure the campus is safe for them."

Scroggs, who was in a meeting with students during the time of the bomb threat, said no one she was with seemed scared when everything was happening.

"They just proceeded with their business and it was kind of interesting," she said.

MU makes no alert system changes


COLUMBIA, MO -- Some MU students and members of the Columbia community continue to be upset over the University’s alert system after several recent emergency situations including a bomb threat this week.
University officials are not changing their emergency system because they say it is not broken.

Anytime the University of Missouri has an emergency situation like a winter storm or a crisis event, school leaders have a meeting to review how they handled the situation. After this week’s bomb threat, University Police and school administrators decided they did not need to make any changes, improvements or decision-making corrections with their electronic alert system.

MU spokesman Christian Basi said, “The MU Alert System, which consists of many different tools, is not a public information source. It is there specifically to assist our emergency responders in the event of a major crisis event and to communicate with specific, targeted populations. We do not view it as a news source for the general public.”

The MU Alert System uses beacons that emit warnings with lights and sounds, desktop notifications on University computers, text messages, website, Twitter and Facebook notifications and automated phone calls. The type of communication depends on the situation.

Basi said, “When a call comes in, a decision is made as soon as possible whether it’s at the dispatch unit or as the officer arrives on the scene as to whether or not this is a situation that requires us to communicate to a broader audience.”

University officials said their emergency alert system will not change because they believe it communicates properly and results in no injuries.

Police continue to search for the caller of Monday night’s bomb threat on the Mizzou campus.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

DEAR READER: Vague alerts almost as bad as no alert at all

Friday, April 24, 2015 | 1:59 p.m. CDT; updated 9:36 p.m. CDT, Friday, April 24, 2015
BY TOM WARHOVER

Dear Reader,

The big university in town hasn’t had an easy time explaining the whats, whens and hows of its system for alerting people of danger.

It didn’t alert its constituency when it should have. It shouldn’t have alerted the university community when it did. Or that’s what the many people who have taken to Twitter and Facebook have said.

Things are pretty confused. The MU Alert system is a way to communicate potential threats (tornadoes, idiots with guns, etc.) through email, text,
phone and social media. But as a colleague reported his spouse saying when awakened with a 3 a.m. MU Alert phone call, “I don’t know what I’m supposed to do.”

I have a suggestion. Call an editor.

We editors have a lot of practice in deciding what to say and where to say it when news breaks. These conversations happen all the time between a reporter and an editor.

So let’s see how it might play out with one of this week’s events, a report of shots fired Tuesday evening.

*MU Alert* (at 10:15 p.m. on Twitter, email and text): "CPD (Columbia Police Department) is checking a report of shots fired near campus. Take precautions! @MUAlert will be updated shortly. Do not call MUPD unless emergency."

*Editor*: What’s your purpose here? “Shots fired” is a pretty common occurrence, but I get that there’s a possibility something serious is going on. Think of your audience: Is there some way a person can use this information in an actionable way? What precautions? Duck and cover? Run for the hills?

“Near campus” doesn’t really help: The campus is 1,262 acres — almost 2 square miles. Can we be more specific? An address would be ideal, a direction (northeast corner, whatever) would be passable.

Oh, and: You might want to put the exclamation point back in the drawer. It’s shouting. You don’t want to shout. Makes people nervous.

*MU Alert* at 10:18 p.m.: "Shooting reported near Tenth and Walnut downtown."

*Editor*: Well, you fixed one problem. Now, we have a specific intersection. It’s four blocks from the closest point on campus. Folks working late over at the Bond Life Sciences Building a mile away can probably relax.

Still, you’ve potentially introduced a serious error. A shooting implies someone got shot. That’s not the same thing as shots fired. Most shots fired reports don’t end in people wounded.

In other words, you’re created the heat (fear) without light (information).
MU Alert at 10:32 p.m.: "ALL CLEAR – The alert/emergency situation has been resolved. Refer to http://mualert.missouri.edu/ for further information."

Editor: Good to know. But what event are you referring to? Don’t assume everyone knows.

There were alerts about two things happening: the shots fired and a bomb threat.

Police cleared the MU Student Center and the Memorial Union after a bomb threat. MU Alert took to the Twitterverse but did not send emails, text alerts or automated phone calls.

One of the things MU Alert did right was to explain why, again through Twitter: “No text was sent because threat was isolated. Bldgs evacuated. MUPD there to provide safety. Because localized & stable, no text.”

The MU Chancellor’s Office followed up with a release on Thursday that further explained the rationale. The full array of alerts gets used only when a threat "has not been contained or localized." No alert because no dangerous person was roaming the campus.

The release also said the MU Alert system "is not a source for campus news. It is a system of several tools used to alert the campus community, or certain populations of the campus community, to events that could have an immediate impact on their safety."

I can’t imagine how it’s not a news source. It doesn’t matter whether Paul Revere was on horseback or had today’s digital tools.

His cry of a British attack certainly spread the news.

Administration reviewing use of MU Alert after bomb threat, armed robberies

In the past two weeks, a series of emergencies on and near campus have drawn scrutiny and criticism of MU’s emergency mass notification system. The university used MU Alert differently for situations including an armed robbery, a bomb threat and a report of shots fired.
MU Alert sends messages regarding campus emergencies “that could affect the health and safety of students and employees” to students via their university email addresses, according to the MU Alert website. Students can opt in through MyZou to receive the same messages on their cellphone via text or voicemail, or on a private email address.

The MU Police Department and marketing and communications staff make rapid decisions on how to communicate information in emergency situations, MU spokesman Christian Basi said.

“The goal of the system is to make sure we are communicating information to affected populations in an effort to keep the campus safe,” Basi said.

MUPD declined to comment for this report.

Inconsistent notifications

Around 11:30 p.m. on April 15 MU sent out an alert informing students that the Columbia Police Department had asked MUPD for assistance in a search for an armed robbery. The suspect had already been shot and killed in Hitt Street Parking Garage.

The university drew criticism for not using the MU Alert system until after the situation had been resolved.

According to a post on the MU Alert website April 16 MU officials were “reviewing the emergency notification process.”

Shortly after 3 a.m. April 19 MU sent out mass notifications to students alerting them of an armed robbery near campus, later tweeting the same information. All students received messages on their university email addresses, and students who had provided phone numbers on MyZou received calls, voicemails and text messages.

Basi said the calling feature has been available for “quite some time.”

“We use that very judiciously to inform the campus of an immediate concern that we might have and to make sure that they are able to take actions and keep them safe,” he said.

An unclear protocol

On April 21 MU Alert tweeted at 7:26 p.m. that there was a bomb threat in the MU Student Center. The Student Center and Memorial Student Union were both evacuated.

No mass alerts were sent to students. MU Alert continued to provide updates on Twitter until the Student Center was reopened two hours later.

Basi said a mass alert was not sent because it would not have targeted the people in the specific affected buildings. Instead, emergency beacons in the two buildings were used, desktop
notifications were put on building computers and staff swept the building to evacuate everyone inside.

“We don’t want to send out those text messages unnecessarily, especially when … the vast majority of people they would have reached ... are in a safe environment and were not affected by that event,” Basi said. “We know we got a lot of criticism about it, but it was the best way to communicate with the occupants of the building — through the beacon system and having staff go through the building.”

At 10:12 p.m., MU Alert sent notifications to students and tweeted that police were investigating a claim that shots had been fired near campus.

Basi said the notification was sent by MUPD as a situation that required immediate notification.

At 10:35 p.m., the Columbia Police Department tweeted that there was no indication shots had been fired.

*Police and university collaboration*

CPD Public Information Officer Latisha Stroer said the Columbia police notifies MUPD of emergency situations when they are close to campus or could potentially affect campus.

She said the Columbia police sometimes ask MU and MUPD to put out an alert so that information on certain crimes will be more visible to students.

“Really, the ultimate decision on whether to put an alert out is the university’s,” she said. “We can give them all the information, but they’re the ones who make the decision on when to put the alert out.”

Stroer said CPD hopes to work with MUPD on the wording of alerts, specifically the difference between “shots fired” and a shooting, a misrepresentation that caused confusion April 21.

“We just want accurate information when something is going to go out,” she said. “We don’t mind the alerts at all, as long as it represents what’s actually happening.”

Basi said he and MUPD are not aware of any connection between the recent events.

“Throughout the last several days, not one faculty, staff or student member has been injured,” he said. “Everyone has been safe. We feel that that is through the hard work of the police department and the officers of the police department. We also feel that the notification system has played a role in that.”
COLUMBIA, Mo. • A University of Missouri graduate has donated $1 million to the journalism school for research and education about LGBT issues.

The pledge comes from Timothy Blair, who wants the money to go toward better understanding how news coverage can reinforce or break down stereotypes about people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, the Columbia Daily Tribune reported Saturday.

"It became apparent that the passion I have about LGBT rights, and being a gay man myself, I wanted to put my money where my mouth is," said Blair, who is a graduate of MU's journalism school.

At an announcement Friday, Blair recalled the silence surrounding HIV and AIDs in the 1980s, even as people cared for their children, friends and neighbors.

"When you think about what journalists did, when everybody else wasn't talking about it, journalists were taking pictures of it," he said. "They were giving names to those faces, and that's where I think we began to see people living among us who had long lived in the shadows."

The endowment will be available to faculty and students interested in media coverage of LGBT issues as well as for curriculum content on LGBT topics, MU School of Journalism Dean Dean Mills said.

Blair is a native of Joplin who started his career in journalism at age 15, working as a copy boy at The Joplin Globe. He graduated from MU in 1973 and earned a master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis before working in marketing and public relations for several St. Louis companies, the newspaper reported. He founded BlairPR Inc. in Los Angeles in 1993.
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MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in a news release that Blair's donation will help advance MU's journalism school.

"It is of the utmost importance that our journalists be well-informed on a wide range of topics so that they can more accurately report on all important social issues," Loftin said.
Talking to his nephew helped Timothy Blair finalize a decision he’d been mulling for years. “I was talking to him about what it’s like to be gay at his age, and of course he thought that was a really dumb question,” Blair said. “But I thought it was an important one because that’s where I really saw things for myself.”

On Friday afternoon at the University of Missouri Student Center, Blair stood before a small crowd and talked about his decision to pledge an estate gift of $1 million to the university. Blair’s gift will fund research and education on the relationship between journalism and the advancement of human rights for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

For years, Blair considered various options for making a donation. He explored the idea of donating to research on the relationship between journalism and religion, for example. Blair eventually decided to put his money toward better understanding how news coverage can reinforce or break down stereotypes of the LGBT community after that fateful conversation with his nephew.

“It became apparent that the passion I have about LGBT rights, and being a gay man myself … I wanted to put my money where my mouth is,” he said.

At the announcement Friday, Blair, a graduate of MU’s journalism school, recalled how HIV and AIDS were controversial topics in the 1980s. He mentioned the silence surrounding the disease, even as people cared for their children, friends and neighbors.

“When you think about what journalists did, when everybody else wasn’t talking about it, journalists were taking pictures of it,” he said. “They were giving names to those faces, and that’s where I think we began to see … people living among us who had long lived in the shadows.”
The endowment will be available to faculty and students interested in media coverage of LGBT issues as well as for curriculum content on LGBT topics, MU School of Journalism Dean Dean Mills said.

“LGBT civil rights has been among the most significant social topics of the past several decades,” Mills said. “And it’s important that our future journalists are educated to cover those issues with the same tradition of accuracy and fact finding that has been a hallmark of the School of Journalism.”

Blair is a native of Joplin who started his career in journalism at age 15, working as a copy boy at the Joplin Globe. He graduated from MU in 1973 and earned a master’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis before working in marketing and public relations for several St. Louis companies. He founded BlairPR Inc. in Los Angeles in 1993.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: MU announces $1 million gift for LGBT coverage

Friday, April 24, 2015 | 2:59 p.m. CDT; updated 3:27 p.m. CDT, Friday, April 24, 2015

BY JACK FLEMMING, KYLE BROWN

This article was updated to include new quotes.

COLUMBIA — MU alumnus Timothy Blair will make a $1 million donation to the Missouri School of Journalism, MU announced Friday afternoon.

The donation will create the Timothy D. Blair Fund for LGBT coverage in journalism. MU spokesman Nathan Hurst said the gift is one of the first of its kind.

"In a broad view, what I’m really interested in is the nexus between journalism and democracy and how it related to civil rights and human rights for people who have been underserved and underadvantaged." Blair said. "I think that's a huge story."
The fund is an estate gift and is part of Blair's will, so the money will not be made available to MU until after Blair dies, Hurst said.

Rita Reed, adviser for the MU student chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, said one thing that is important for young journalists to understand is correct language use when talking about LGBT people. For example, she said journalists need to know which pronoun to use when addressing a transgender person, a topic that the national chapter recently wrote about in an open letter to the media.

Overall, fairness and balance are vital for LGBT coverage, Reed said. Reed said when she was younger, if a gay person killed another gay person, the news would report it as a "homosexual murder," but if a heterosexual person killed another heterosexual person, it wouldn't be called a "heterosexual murder."

"Semantics is important in how you frame things," Reed said. "The journalist is framing the story for people, so it's important to make sure they're fair and balanced and unbiased."

Blair said he was inspired to make the donation in part after talking with his nephew, who is gay. Blair said he hopes the donation will help student journalists learn how to cover important social issues.

"There's a huge story to talk about (here), but right now we're looking at it with blinders because it's happening to us now," Blair said. "Ten years from now, we're going to look back and see things in a much different way, I believe. And that's worth talking about."

Hurst said how the fund will be used is in the hands of the dean of the Journalism School, but Blair hopes it will go toward attracting faculty, supporting research, creating internships, fellowships and workshops, and developing curricula focused on issues in LGBT coverage.

Blair said that because the LGBT movement has advanced so quickly in recent years, he hopes future researchers will be able to study how journalists covered it.

"I think it will take some time to look back and see, 'Who were the players in journalism? How did all this happen?'" Blair said. "It didn't just happen as the
movement went along — it had to happen as a result of news coverage in some strategic manner, and I think that's worth an academic perspective."

Although he lives in Bel Air, California, Blair grew up in Joplin, Missouri, and graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in 1973, Hurst said.

Blair's family has a long tradition at MU, Hurst said. His grandfather was on the MU Board of Curators, and Blair has brothers, nieces and nephews who have attended the university.

While his donation is a separate fund, Hurst said Blair is hopeful that his gift will inspire others to make similar donations.

MU alum donates $1 million for journalism education on LGBTQ issues

Watch story: [http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28571&zone=5&categories=5](http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=28571&zone=5&categories=5)

COLUMBIA - An MU alum donated a $1 million estate gift to support journalism education and research in regards to the advancement of the LGBTQ community.

Timothy Blair, an alumnus of the MU School of Journalism, gave the donation to his alma mater in order to help educate students on an issue that's been extremely important to him.

"Examining journalism as a force of social change in our democracy is an essential academic pursuit," Blair said. "I don't think there's anybody that can do it better than the Missouri School of Journalism. They can tell that story and I think there's a story to tell."

The donation, which is the first of its kind, will help to make journalists more aware of issues in regards to covering the LGBTQ community.
"This donation is going to give students the tools to actively cover our community and I think it's really important that people see the real-life stories that we have to tell," said Struby Struble, Coordinator of MU's LGBTQ Resource Center. "Journalism is able to give those real examples and tell those true stories and by having the tools and the language to tell the stories accurately, journalists could really help break down the stereotypes of the LGBT community."

According to a press release from MU, Blair's gift will create the Timothy D. Blair Fund for LGBTQ Coverage in Journalism. The fund will support the faculty and students of the MU School of Journalism in the pursuit of understanding the media's role in shaping perceptions about gender stereotypes, HIV/AIDS as a force of rapid social change, the advancement of LGBT civil rights within the context of same sex marriage, and the integration and acceptance of gay people and families into the fabric of American life.

April also marks Pride Month at MU, a time where the LGBTQ community brings up issues regarding the community and ways in which the university does a good job promoting LGBTQ issues. While this donation did not have to do with April being Pride Month, Struble said this donation is still important for the goals of this month.

"Because of pride month we've seen a lot of journalists covering our community and we've seen some of the wholes where they aren't getting that training quite yet," Struble said. "I think having a targeted-specific training and is going to make all this coverage that much better."

MU receives $1 million for journalism education on LGBT issues


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri has received a $1 million gift to support journalism education and research into LGBT issues.

An MU Journalism School alumnus Timothy Blair gave the gift to advance education on the role media have played in reinforcing stereotypes and shaping new understandings of LGBT people in America.

Blair's gift will create the Timothy D. Blair Fund for LGBT Coverage in Journalism.
The university is still planning how the fund will be implemented, but possibilities include supporting research and travel for media coverage of LGBT issues, creating fellowships, internships and other workshops, and developing courses on the topic.

Alum donates $1 million for LGBT journalism education, research

MU announced a $1 million gift to the School of Journalism on Friday to support the education and research of how journalists cover LGBT issues.

The donation comes from alumnus Timothy Blair, who graduated from MU with a Bachelor of Journalism in 1973. He is the seventh member of his family to obtain a journalism degree and a seventh generation MU graduate.

During an announcement event at 1:15 p.m. in the MU Student Center, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and Blair called the estate gift, which will be used to create the Timothy D. Blair Fund for LGBT Coverage in Journalism, "the first of its kind" in U.S. higher education. The fund will be made available upon Blair’s death.

"What I'm really interested in is where the nexus between journalism and democracy (is) and how it relates to civil rights and human rights for people who are underserved and disadvantaged," Blair said at the event. "I think that's a huge story, and that's why I made the gift, and that's where I want it to go."

Blair said in a news release that journalism can have an immeasurable impact on the public attitude toward disadvantaged groups.

"The views of most Americans toward the LGBT community, and same-sex marriage in particular, have reversed course dramatically," he said. "What changed the hearts and minds of most Americans? My bet is it lies in the role of journalism as an integral part of American democracy."

Although it took Blair three years to plan the donation, he said it was clear from the beginning that the gift would be related to LGBT issues.

"When we began to talk, it became very apparent that the passion I have for LGBT rights being a gay man myself — that's where I felt that I should put my money where my mouth is," he said at the event. "That's what drove me to where I am today."

Blair’s donation is the fifth gift to MU announced this semester. Loftin praised Blair for his generosity and commitment to the School of Journalism.
"It's a great day for Mizzou," Loftin said. "This is a topic that is very central to the future of Missouri. It addresses a part of the media that few have gone before. This gift will further advance the MU School of Journalism."

Blair called the School of Journalism "uniquely suited" to tell the story to the LGBT community.

"What I see journalism doing is doing a different job in terms of covering (the LGBT community)," he said. "We wouldn't know about gay people had it not been for AIDS. The government wasn't talking about it. Those stories were told by journalists. So where do we go from here? I'm not really sure. But I know there's a story to be told."

**New technology could help parents detect autism in their children**

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Doctors are detecting autism better than they ever have.

Still, there's room to grow - and one technology could soon make it even easier.

Dr. Judith Miles at the University of Missouri says advanced 3-D imaging of the face could help detect autism in children.

Watch the video to find out more about this technology.

COLUMBIA, Mo. • In his last day in office, Missouri athletics director Mike Alden rewarded the most successful coach he's hired. Football coach Gary Pinkel, heading into his 15th season at Mizzou, agreed to a new contract through 2021 that will push his salary over the $4 million threshold, the school announced Friday.

Pinkel's guaranteed salary will increase from $3,200,000 to $4,020,000 under the new deal, effective Friday. Pinkel's previous contract, which he agreed to last March, expired after the 2020 season.

Pinkel, voted SEC coach of the year last season after guiding the Tigers to a second straight SEC East Division title, is Missouri's career wins leader with a record of 113-66 since 2001.

"With the tremendous academic and competitive successes of our football program, including winning the last two SEC East championships, Gary is well-deserving of this extension,” Alden said in a prepared statement. “His impact on our students, athletic department and University are immeasurable and he represents what is great about Mizzou. I know the Tigers are in great hands for a long time to come."

On Monday, Pinkel will start working for a new boss when Mack Rhoades officially replaces Alden as head of the athletics department.

“I want to thank Chancellor (R. Bowen) Loftin and Mike Alden for their continuing commitment and belief in what we are doing at Mizzou,” said Pinkel, who turns 63 on Monday. “We’ve shared some pretty amazing success together over the years, and as competitors we all know there’s more to be done. I’ve never been more excited to be here and to pursue excellence with such a great leadership team, and such an amazing and dedicated coaching staff. We’re excited to partner with Mack Rhoades going forward and continue to build a program that Mizzou fans will be proud of."

Pinkel’s new contract guarantees him $820,000 more per year. His base salary remains $350,000, though his four guaranteed payments for apparel, his TV show, his radio show and booster club appearances each increase from $642,500 to $842,500 annually, with each payment increasing by $25,000 per year. Also, Pinkel’s annual payment for his summer camps increases from $280,000 to $300,000.

Under the new contract, however, Pinkel's performance incentives max out at $725,000 per year, down from $1,825,000 under the previous deal. Bonuses for winning division and conference titles, appearing in bowl games and winning individual coaching honors all decrease under the new contract. Under his previous deal,
Pinkel earned an extra $450,000 for winning the national championship. That incentive is now down to $250,000. He previously earned $200,000 if Missouri wins the SEC championship but now makes $50,000.

“The success of our football program has helped elevate the university’s national profile and Gary’s teams have provided some incredibly proud moments for all Missourians,” Loftin said in a prepared statement. “His commitment to excellence is exemplified not only in his on-field success, but in the academic achievements of his student-athletes and the high character young men who graduate from MU. This commitment to Gary is well-earned.”

“Coach Pinkel has established himself as one of the premier football coaches in America and he has certainly created a championship culture and tradition at Mizzou,” Rhoades said. “I’m excited to get to work with Gary and help him and his staff continue their incredible run of success.”

It’s been a lucrative offseason for SEC head coaches, several of whom have received new contracts. Pinkel is the 10th SEC football coach in the 14-team league to join the $4 million club and now ranks sixth in guaranteed salary in the conference.

Here are the SEC head coaches’ salaries, according to published reports:

Nick Saban, Alabama, $7.1 million
Kevin Sumlin, Texas A&M, $5 million
Les Miles, Louisiana State, $4.3 million
Hugh Freeze, Ole Miss, $4.3 million
Gus Malzahn, Auburn, $4.1 million
Gary Pinkel, Missouri, $4.02 million
Mark Richt Georgia, $4 million
Steve Spurrier, South Carolina, $4 million
Bret Bielema, Arkansas, $4 million
Dan Mullen Mississippi State, $4 million
Butch Jones, Tennessee, $3.6 million
Jim McElwain, Florida, $3.5 million
Mark Stoops, Kentucky, $3.25 million
Derek Mason, Vanderbilt, not available
Mizzou raises Gary Pinkel’s salary to over $4 million, extends his contract through 2021

BY TOD PALMER

04/24/2015 6:16 PM

Two straight Southeastern Conference division titles netted Missouri football coach Gary Pinkel another raise Friday when the school announced a contract extension through 2021.

**Pinkel, who has won more games than any other Tigers football coach with a 113-66 record, will make $4.02 million per year, an increase from $3.2 million in annual guaranteed compensation that was approved by the MU Board of Curators.**

With the raise, Pinkel becomes the 10th of the 14 SEC football coaches to hit the $4 million mark. According to media reports, he trails Alabama’s Nick Saban ($7.16 million), Texas A&M’s Kevin Sumlin ($5 million), LSU’s Les Miles ($4.37 million) and Mississippi’s Hugh Freeze ($4.3 million). Pinkel is close to South Carolina’s Steve Spurrier, who made $4.016 million in 2014 and ahead of Georgia’s Mark Richt, Arkansas’ Bret Bielema and Mississippi State’s Dan Mullen, who recently received raises to $4 million.

Only 11 football coaches nationally made $4 million in 2014, according to USA Today.

“I want to thank Chancellor (R. Bowen) Loftin and (athletic director) Mike Alden for their continuing commitment and belief in what we are doing at Mizzou,” Pinkel said in a release. “We’ve shared some pretty amazing success together over the years, and as competitors we all know there’s more to be done.”
As part of the amended contract, Pinkel will be eligible for a maximum of $725,000 in incentives, which is down from $1.825 million under the old agreement.

Pinkel resurrected the Missouri football program since taking over in 2001. The Tigers have won five division crowns since 2007, including a share of three Big 12 North titles before joining the SEC in 2012.

Missouri has played in the SEC Championship Game each of the last two seasons as Eastern Division champion, going 14-2 in conference play during the regular season.

Pinkel, who coached 10 years at Toledo before his arrival in Columbia, ranks 25th in career victories in the NCAA’s Football Championship Subdivision and ranks fourth among active coaches with an overall record of 186-103-3.

“The success of our football program has helped elevate the university’s national profile and Gary’s teams have provided some incredibly proud moments for all Missourians,” Loftin said in a release. “His commitment to excellence is exemplified not only in his on-field success, but in the academic achievements of his student-athletes and the high character young men who graduate from MU. This commitment to Gary is well-earned.”

Pinkel received a contract extension through 2020 last spring after Missouri’s first SEC East title. The Tigers’ five division crowns since 2007 is tied for most in the nation.

Pinkel, who was chosen SEC coach of the year by his peers last season, is 7-4 in bowl games, including three straight wins.

Missouri won the 2014 Cotton Bowl and 2015 Citrus Bowl, going 23-5 in the last two seasons, and has produced six first-round NFL Draft picks since 2009, which is the fourth most in the country.

The Tigers also are the only SEC team to earn top-10 marks in the NCAA’s Academic Progress Rate the last two seasons.

“With the tremendous academic and competitive successes of our football program, including winning the last two SEC East championships, Gary is well-deserving of this extension,” said Alden, whose last day as athletic director is Sunday. “His impact on our
students, athletic department and university are immeasurable and he represents what is great about Mizzou. I know the Tigers are in great hands for a long time to come.”

Alden’s successor, Mack Rhoades, takes over Monday. He was hired in early March after Alden announced his retirement Jan. 29.

“Coach Pinkel has established himself as one of the premier football coaches in America and he has certainly created a championship culture and tradition at Mizzou,” Rhoades said in a release. “I’m excited to get to work with Gary and help him and his staff continue their incredible run of success.”

Missouri’s 76 wins since 2007 are tied for the fifth most among schools from the Power 5 conferences.

“I’ve never been more excited to be here and to pursue excellence with such a great leadership team and such an amazing and dedicated coaching staff,” Pinkel said. “We’re excited to partner with Mack Rhoades going forward and continue to build a program that Mizzou fans will be proud of,” he said.

**Pinkel gets extension, raise to $4.02 million**

By Joe Walljasper

Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 12:00 am

**Missouri’s Gary Pinkel is getting a raise that places him in the top half of the Southeastern Conference’s list of highest-paid football coaches.**

On Friday, MU announced that the university has approved a contract extension through 2021 that will increase Pinkel’s guaranteed annual salary to $4.02 million, up from $3.2 million in his previous contract.

Pinkel, who will turn 63 on Monday, has a 113-66 record in 14 seasons at Missouri and is coming off consecutive Southeastern Conference Eastern Division titles.
“We’ve shared some pretty amazing success together over the years, and as competitors we all know there’s more to be done,” Pinkel said in a news release. “I’ve never been more excited to be here.”

According to figures compiled by AL.com, Pinkel now ranks sixth in salary among SEC coaches, trailing Alabama’s Nick Saban ($6.9 million), Texas A&M’s Kevin Sumlin ($5 million), LSU’s Les Miles ($4.3 million), Mississippi’s Hugh Freeze ($4.2 million) and Auburn’s Gus Malzahn ($4.1 million).

Four other SEC coaches — Georgia’s Mark Richt, South Carolina’s Steve Spurrier, Mississippi State’s Dan Mullen and Arkansas’ Bret Bielema — make $4 million.

Pinkel’s new contract is structured with more guaranteed money and less incentives than the previous four versions. The maximum incentive income has been decreased from $1.825 million to $725,000.

He no longer has incentives based on wins-per-season or attendance. His incentives are now tied to his team’s academic and social success, winning the SEC East and SEC titles, qualifying for postseason games and earning conference and national coach-of-the-year honors.

His base salary of $350,000 remains the same, but he will receive $200,000 more annually in each the following categories: apparel, radio, TV and booster appearances. He will get $20,000 more to run his camp.

If Pinkel is fired, he would be owed $350,000 per year for every year remaining on the contract. If he chooses to leave before the contract expires for any reason other than retirement, he would owe the university a total of $500,000.

“With the tremendous academic and competitive successes of our football program, including winning the last two SEC East championships, Gary is well-deserving of this extension,” said Athletic Director Mike Alden, whose final day business day on the job was Friday. “His impact on our students, athletic department and university are immeasurable and he represents what is great about Mizzou. I know the Tigers are in great hands for a long time to come.”

This is Pinkel’s fourth contract revision at Missouri. The previous one was signed in March 2014 and ran through 2020.

“Coach Pinkel has established himself as one of the premier football coaches in America and he has certainly created a championship culture and tradition at Mizzou,” incoming Athletic Director Mack Rhoades said. “I’m excited to get to work with Gary and help him and his staff continue their incredible run of success.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATE: Gary Pinkel receives contract extension, raise
Friday, April 24, 2015 | 8:32 p.m. CDT; updated 10:10 p.m. CDT, Friday, April 24, 2015
BY MICHAEL MANDELL

COLUMBIA — His birthday isn't until Monday, but the presents are already coming Gary Pinkel's way.

On Friday, MU extended Pinkel's contract through 2021 and increased his annual salary to $4.02 million, the school announced in a news release.

The base of Pinkel's guaranteed contract accounts for $350,000 of his new salary. He'll also get $842,500 each from apparel, radio, television and booster deals, as well as $300,000 from football camps to make up the $4.02 million.

Last March, Pinkel extended his contract through 2020 and received a salary increase from $2.8 million to $3.2 million. That extension came months after the Tigers won a Southeastern Conference East division title and January bowl game, feats the Tigers repeated in the fall.

Friday was also Mike Alden's final business day as Missouri's athletics director. Shortly after Larry Smith was fired on Nov. 19, 2000, Alden made Pinkel the 31st coach in Missouri football history.

Thanking the only football coach he ever had to hire with a new contract was the perfect parting gift.

"Gary is well-deserving of this extension," Alden said in the news release. "His impact on our students, athletic department and University are immeasurable, and he represents what is great about Mizzou."

New athletics director Mack Rhoades takes over on Monday. Rhoades, who left the same position at Houston for Missouri in March, was also previously an athletics director at Akron, where Pinkel was born.
"Coach Pinkel has established himself as one of the premier football coaches in America, and he has certainly created a championship culture and tradition at Mizzou," Rhoades said in the release. "I'm excited to get to work with Gary and help him and his staff continue their incredible run of success."

Pinkel won't have the opportunity to receive as much in bonuses as before; his incentive for winning the national championship dropped from $450,000 to $250,000, and his maximum performance incentives — the most he can hypothetically earn if all incentives are met — dropped from $1,825,000 to $725,000. Missouri would owe Pinkel an annual $350,000 if it were to fire him.

Instead of focusing on bonuses and incentives, Pinkel's new contract offers more guaranteed money. If Pinkel fulfills the entire contract, he'll still be Missouri's coach on Sept. 1, 2021 — the 20th anniversary of his first game with the Tigers.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

Mike Alden ready to step down from Mizzou A.D. post

BY TOD PALMER

04/25/2015 10:35 PM

COLUMBIA - **More than his wife, Rockie, or executive assistant, Sandy Matthew, or his Tiger-logo lapel pin, Missouri athletic director Mike Alden’s most constant companion over the last 17 years has been an ever-growing three-ring binder.**

Meticulous hardly does justice to Alden’s nature, and the binder serves as a repository for the minutiae of his job, collecting his thoughts poured out on paper and neatly archived.
“He’s got every page, and the holes have to line up just so,” Matthew said. “He has his to-do list for the week. He keeps it written down, and whenever it’s done he checks it off. ... We go through it and, once everything is checked off it goes into the binder.”

Senior staff members in the Tigers’ athletic department are intimately familiar with Alden’s stream of to-do lists. Each one — from the first he jotted down weeks after being introduced as MU’s 15th athletic director on July 16, 1998 — is catalogued in that binder.

“It’s kind of thick binder now, but I’ve got it all organized, and I’ve always kept it like that,” said Alden, who turns 57 on May 15.

Every few weeks, Alden has flipped through that binder in an attempt to make sure no stone’s been unturned, no project neglected and no obligation unfulfilled.

Alden, and his binder, will officially retire Sunday as Missouri’s athletic director, ending the second-longest tenure in school history. Former Houston athletic director Mack Rhoades takes over the post Monday.

So what will become of the binder?

“I’m going to keep it,” Alden said. “From a memorabilia standpoint, I’ll keep it in my office at home and maybe be able to reference back on it — ‘What was I doing 10 years ago this week?’ or something. It’s like a journal, and it allows me to go back and reflect on some of the things I was doing.”

Seven years before becoming the Tigers’ athletic director, Alden brought Rockie, whom he met and was engaged to while serving as an assistant athletic director at Arizona State, to the family farm to introduce her to his dad, Bill, and stepmom, Linda.

Visiting Columbia, he parked in front of the Kappa Alpha Theta house on Kentucky Avenue and told her: “One of these days, Rockie, I’m going to be the athletic director at Mizzou. That’s my dream job.”

It was 1991.
Nearly a quarter-century later, Alden’s tenure at Missouri will be remembered as a prosperous one by most measures.

He inherited a $13.7 million budget, which now is projected to top $95 million during the next fiscal year.

Alden spent 6,129 days in office and was athletic director for nearly 130 victories in football, including four appearances in conference championship games with five division titles and seven bowl wins.

There also have been nearly 350 men’s basketball victories and two Elite Eight appearances, four conference titles in wrestling and nearly 225 dual victories, nearly 550 baseball wins and nearly 670 softball wins, including three appearances in the Women’s College World Series, along with nearly 340 win in volleyball and nearly 200 women’s soccer victories.

Alden was instrumental in building Mizzou Arena, which opened in 2004, and oversaw significant upgrades to the facilities for football, baseball, golf, tennis, gymnastics, swimming and diving, as well as plans for a new softball stadium.

Alden’s final major act as athletic director was signing football coach Gary Pinkel to an extension through 2021 on Friday that pushes his annual guaranteed compensation above $4 million.

He’ll be in fan mode on his final day as No. 15 Missouri softball hosts No. 3 LSU for the middle game of a three-game set at University Field.

“My last official act as the AD will be cheering on the Tigers in softball on Sunday,” said Alden, who also served as associate athletic director at New Mexico and was Southwest Texas State’s athletic director from 1996 to 1998.

Alden — whose son, Jake, is a student at Purdue — said publicly that he never wants to be athletic director anywhere else and has no interest in a conference-level administrative position.
Instead, he’ll teach in the College of Education as an instructor in MU’s Positive Coaching Program and spend his days mowing a 100-acre swath of the family’s 440-acre farm outside Williamsburg, Mo.

Alden readily acknowledges there were missteps along the way.

Freshman linebacker Aaron O’Neal’s death in 2005 and former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey’s suicide in 2011 were tragic low points of Alden’s tenure. He also said he wished he handled the Ricky Clemons fiasco and the controversy surrounding the alleged sexual assault and Menu Courey’s death better, and been more out front in those times of crisis.

“There’s a lot of sleepless nights you go through as you’re trying to balance those types of issues,” he said. “It’s emotional. It’s taxing on you. Each one of those you go through, it’s hard to bat 1.000. … There’s always going to be issues you wish you would have handled differently.”

Alden, who hired four basketball coaches during his time in Columbia, also wishes he’d found the right formula for sustained men’s basketball success.

“To see it (so inconsistent), that’s extremely frustrating,” he said.

But Alden has no interest in trying to define his legacy, which includes Missouri’s move to the Southeastern Conference from the Big 12 three years ago, preferring to leave that job to others.

“It’s definitely become quite a bit more real that I’m retiring in the last couple days,” said Alden, who endured a lot of short-timer jokes at the Collegiate Sports Summit in Santa Monica, Calif. “Those guys weren’t shy about reminding you that you only have a couple more days to go.

“It’s been interesting, and I’m feeling much more comfortable now that I know that end is coming, but it really hit me in the face the last couple days. … As it comes to a close, I’m excited. I’m anxious a little bit, but I’m excited.”

Alden cleared the personal belongings from his office roughly a month ago.
“He set that date, because he wanted us to be able to shampoo the carpets, clean the grout on the restroom floor and just get the office ready for Mack,” Matthew said. “If he came for a visit, he would have a place to stay and would be able to get situated in his office.”

Alden has a temporary office in the Trulaske College of Business as he waits to join the faculty in the College of Education.

“We’re going to miss him around here,” said senior football player Evan Boehm, a Lee’s Summit West graduate and co-president of MU’s Student Advisory Council. “It’s going to be awesome to still have him around. I definitely asked him to send me his office number so I can still come and visit him and stuff.”

Ever-prepared, Alden led a series of meetings with the athletics staff in recent weeks, which he titled “Passing the Baton,” according to Matthew.

During those meetings, Alden directed staff to create binders — of course, he did — with all the information he thinks Rhoades might need as he takes the reins.

“He’s basically held our hand through the transition, which is pretty special,” Matthew said. “I don’t know if that happens everywhere across the country, but I think it should. It’s given us a sense of confidence and made it a little bit easier.”

It will come as no shock to those who know him best that Alden’s first day as a retired athletic director is already mapped out. Alden will work out at the rec center Monday morning.

“Then I think Rockie and I will probably run out to our farm, which is in Callaway County,” Alden said. “I’ve got a little work I want to do out there.”

That evening Alden will attend MU’s Spring Roar Awards banquet.

“I’ll see Mack there,” Alden said, “but I won’t be at the office. I won’t go into Mizzou Arena or any of that.”

No binder needed.
A look back at Mike Alden's tenure

By Joe Walljasper
Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 12:00 am

On his last official day as Missouri’s athletic director, here is a look back at some of the key moments in Mike Alden’s 17-year run, as he helped rebuild a sagging football program, dealt with numerous controversies in the basketball program and guided the athletic department through a period of explosive growth that included a change of conferences.

July 16, 1998: Missouri announces the hiring of 40-year-old Mike Alden as the successor to Athletic Director Joe Castiglione.

Alden, who spent the previous two years as the AD at Southwest Texas State, was identified as a candidate by the consultant hired by MU, Chuck Neinas, and interviewed for the job with MU Chancellor Richard Wallace at Gasper’s Truck Stop in Kingdom City. His salary is $150,000, and he inherits an athletic budget that was $13.7 million the previous year. At his introductory press conference, Alden says, “This job, for Mike Alden, is a destination job.”

April 1, 1999: Norm Stewart steps down as basketball coach after 32 seasons, finishing with a 634-333 record at MU. Speculation is immediate that Alden, who has a frosty relationship with Stewart, forced the coach out, but both men say that is not the case. Stewart leaves after making the last of his 15 NCAA Tournament appearances. Finding someone to replicate his consistent success proves to be Alden’s unattainable quest.

April 7, 1999: Quin Snyder, a 32-year-old protégé of Duke’s Mike Krzyzewski, is introduced as Missouri’s basketball coach. Alden also interviews Kim Anderson, Larry Drew, John Calipari and Bill Self — and the decision to bypass Self, in particular, comes back to haunt him. Although Snyder has initial success at Missouri, including four trips to the NCAA Tournament in his first four seasons, his tenure and his relationship with Alden eventually deteriorates.

Nov. 30, 2000: In the shrewdest personnel decision of his tenure, Alden picks Gary Pinkel to replace the fired Larry Smith as Missouri’s football coach. Pinkel isn’t exactly an unknown — he went 73-37-3 in 10 years at Toledo — but he isn’t the big name some fans want. The Tigers posted losing records in 13 of the 15 seasons before Pinkel. They go on to post winning records in 10 of 14 seasons under Pinkel.

July 12, 2001: Missouri Gov. Bob Holden signs a bill, which had passed through the state House of Representatives with one vote to spare, that authorizes the state to provide $35 million for the
construction of a new basketball arena at MU. That money supplements a $25 million donation from Bill Laurie — at the time the largest gift ever to the university — to make possible what is now known as Mizzou Arena, the most significant facility project of Alden’s tenure. The arena opens in 2004.

**July 4, 2003:** Missouri point guard Ricky Clemons signs out of his halfway house to attend a “study session” but instead goes to an Independence Day party at University of Missouri President Elson Floyd’s home. While there, he takes a spin on an all-terrain vehicle and crashes it, suffering broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Six months earlier, Clemons was arrested for felony assault of his girlfriend, but he was allowed by Snyder and Alden to keep playing after serving a one-game suspension. After pleading not guilty in February, Clemons pleads guilty to misdemeanor assault and false imprisonment after the season ends. Attending the party at Floyd’s is a probation violation, and he is sent to jail after he gets out of the hospital. Alden revokes Clemons’ scholarship against Floyd’s wishes.

In jail, Clemons speaks on the phone frequently with Floyd’s wife, Carmento, and Amy Stewart, the wife of Alden’s assistant athletic director Ed Stewart. Clemons tells the women that MU basketball coaches gave him and other players money and gifts. The women openly root for the downfall of Alden and Snyder, with Amy Stewart’s famously saying, “Them crackers shaking,” referring to basketball coaches and athletic administrators nervous about what Clemons might tell NCAA investigators.

The Clemons affair is not just an embarrassment for Alden, the wedge it drives between him and Floyd almost costs him his job three years later. It is the first of a handful of cases where Alden is haunted by his decisions to allow athletes accused of assaulting women to continue playing.

**July 12, 2005:** Freshman linebacker Aaron O’Neal dies after a voluntary workout on Faurot Field. Alden and 11 other MU employees are named in family’s wrongful death suit.

**March 26, 2006:** Alden mishandles the inevitable decision to fire Snyder, whose program cratered after being placed on NCAA probation. That eventually leads to one of the most bizarre days in Missouri athletic history.

Alden’s relationship with Snyder had deteriorated to the point that the coach no longer spoke to the AD, so Alden sent radio commentator Gary Link to meet with Snyder on Feb. 9, two days after a dreadful loss at Baylor. There were conflicting reports about what was supposed to be communicated and what was heard, but Snyder promptly resigned.

Alden was ridiculed for sending an announcer to do his dirty work. MU Chancellor Brady Deaton conducted a quick internal investigation clearing Alden of wrongdoing, but Floyd and some curators were unsatisfied and commissioned a more detailed independent investigation, putting Alden’s job in jeopardy even as he searched for Snyder’s replacement.

On the day Alden planned to announce the hiring of Mike Anderson at Mizzou Arena, the press conference was put on hold while the curators met and reportedly considered whether to fire
Alden. Reporters who gathered in the hallway at University Hall didn’t know if they were covering a wedding or a funeral. After a few hours behind closed doors, it was revealed that Alden had survived the power struggle with Floyd and was allowed to introduce his new coach. “I have the utmost confidence in Mike Alden,” Anderson says. “I guess, in one sense, I’m a Mike Alden guy.”

**Nov. 24, 2007:** The impact of Alden’s decision to hire Pinkel becomes most apparent in 2007, when the Tigers become one of the nation’s best stories by winning the biggest game in school history. On a chilly night at packed Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, the Tigers beat undefeated Kansas 36-28 and ascended to the nation’s No. 1 ranking for the first time since 1960. Although they lose to Oklahoma a week later in the Big 12 Championship Game, costing themselves a shot at the national title, they begin a new golden era of Missouri football.

**June 11, 2010:** The preceding December, soon after Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany announced his conference would consider adding members, Alden went public with his dissatisfaction with the dysfunction of the Texas-centric Big 12. For months, speculation was rife that Missouri would defect, and MU officials refused to take the loyalty oath demanded by desperate Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe.

But then the Big Ten announced that it would be adding only Nebraska, leaving Alden and MU officials at the altar. The next day, Colorado leaves for what would become the Pac-12. That left the Big 12’s biggest boys, particularly Texas, to decide whether the league would live or die. When Texas decides to stay — its Longhorn Network wouldn’t fly in the Pac-12 — Missouri is thrilled to still have a home in a major conference. But the Big 12’s era of good feelings wouldn’t last.

**April 4, 2011:** After Mike Anderson got the basketball program back on track with three straight NCAA Tournament appearances, including an Elite Eight run in 2009, he leaves for Arkansas, and Alden’s choice for a replacement, Frank Haith, is met with indignation. Haith had been on the hot seat at Miami, and his seat soon warms up at Missouri, when he is linked to a massive NCAA investigation of the Hurricanes. Haith redeems himself by leading the Tigers to a 30-5 season and earning national coach-of-the-year honors, but a first-round NCAA Tournament loss to 15th-seeded Norfolk State is a sign of bad things to come.

**Sept. 2, 2011:** After Texas A&M decides to leave the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference, the Big 12’s future again is in doubt. On the eve of football season, Oklahoma President David Boren tells reporters, “I don’t think OU is going to be a wallflower” in conference realignment, saying the school would decide within three weeks whether it would go or stay. That comment sets off alarm bells for Alden and Deaton, who huddle atop Memorial Stadium’s press box to discuss MU’s options before the Tigers’ season opener. Alden and Deaton later say it was this day and that comment that convinced them it was time to find a new conference.

**Nov. 6, 2011:** Having jumped through all the procedural hoops, including approval from the Board of Curators, Missouri is officially accepted as the 14th member of the SEC with a ceremony attended by Commissioner Mike Slive. It is a move that makes Alden a villain in Big 12 country. Neinas, at that point the interim Big 12 commissioner, calls the move a mistake.
Kansas officials vow to never schedule the Tigers in any sport, ending a rivalry that dated to the Civil War. But at home, the decision is popular, a testament to the job Alden did portraying the Big 12 as a dysfunctional league.

**Nov. 16, 2011:** Pinkel is arrested for driving while intoxicated. Alden suspends the coach for that week’s game against Texas Tech and comes down hard on him financially. Counting lost bonuses, the arrest costs Pinkel approximately $300,000. “This absolutely goes against everything we stand for and everything that he teaches his players,” Alden says.

**March 10, 2012:** Missouri’s final basketball season in the Big 12 is highlighted by two classic games against Kansas. In both cases, the home team wins with thrilling late rallies, and in both cases, the visitors’ fans are convinced that the referees stole the game. A decisive third meeting on a neutral site is not to be, as Kansas loses to Baylor in the semifinals at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. In the league’s worst nightmare, Missouri then beats Baylor to win the tournament on its way out the door. The Missouri wrestling and baseball teams pull the same trick.

**July 1, 2012:** A $30 million gift from the anonymous donors of the Kansas City Sports Trust jump-starts a $200 million facility improvement plan that coincides with Missouri’s entrance to the SEC. Among the Memorial Stadium enhancements are new suites on the east side and a south end zone expansion that will move the football offices and locker rooms into the stadium. “Mizzou is an institution that’s serious, completely serious, about stepping up in a big way,” Alden says.

**Nov. 29, 2012:** Missouri says senior basketball player Mike Dixon will transfer. The mystery of why Dixon was not suiting up for the Tigers is solved when media reports surface that he has twice been investigated — although never arrested — for sexual assaults. The details of an alleged 2010 rape of an athletic department tutor are particularly troubling, as a nurse who examined her determined that an assault had taken place. The tutor reportedly told athletic department officials and Mike Anderson about it, but Dixon was allowed to keep playing until the second assault allegation two years later. Alden declines to explain his reasoning, citing privacy laws.

**Feb. 19, 2013:** Haith receives a notice of allegations from the NCAA for his role in violations at Miami. It actually is a cause for minor celebration, as he is not accused of unethical conduct. A month earlier, CBSSports.com reported that Haith would be hit with a show-cause penalty that almost certainly would have caused Alden to fire him. But then the NCAA admitted that it broke its own rules while investigating the case and that it would throw out all the tainted evidence. Haith ultimately is forced to sit out the first five games of the 2013-14 season.

**May 2, 2013:** ESPN and SEC announce a 20-year agreement for the SEC Network. Although the annual value of that network to the league’s schools is still not known, it is presumed to provide revenue that would far exceed what Missouri would receive in the Big 12, in addition to increased exposure. “The two most valuable brands in all of college athletics are the SEC, No. 1 … and ESPN is No. 2,” Alden says. “You put those two together, that’s a pretty significant deal.”
Nov. 30, 2013: One year after a dismal debut football season in the SEC, Missouri clinches the Eastern Division title with a 28-21 victory over Johnny Manziel and Texas A&M on Faurot Field. Henry Josey, whose comeback from a seemingly career-ending knee injury inspired his teammates, scores the winning touchdown on a 57-yard run late in the fourth quarter. The Tigers again miss out on a shot at the national championship with a loss to Auburn in the SEC Championship Game, but they rebound to beat Oklahoma State in the Cotton Bowl and remove all doubt that they could compete in the SEC.

Jan. 24, 2014: ESPN runs a piece on “Outside the Lines” critical of Missouri’s handling of former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey, who committed suicide in June 2011. Included is information that MU didn’t investigate Menu Courey’s claim that she was raped by a football player in 2010. Title IX stipulates that once a school knows — or reasonably should know — about a rape allegation, it must investigate, even if the alleged victim is dead.

Alden doesn’t speak publicly on the matter for six days, and instead the athletic department releases two statements refuting some of ESPN’s claims and questioning why Menu Courey’s parents didn’t ask for an investigation. As the public-relations crisis grows, UM system President Tim Wolfe steps in, strikes a more apologetic tone and announces an independent investigation into the university’s Title IX compliance practices. Seven months later, after another ESPN piece on Missouri’s handling of alleged assaults by former football player Derrick Washington, Alden admits that at the time of those incidents he was not aware of Title IX requirements.

April 11, 2014: Star wide receiver Dorial Green-Beckham is dismissed after being investigated — but not arrested — for bursting into an apartment where he wasn’t wanted and pushing a woman down a set of stairs. Green-Beckham had also had two run-ins with the police related to marijuana, but his dismissal seems to be a sign of the athletic department showing less tolerance for athletes accused of assaulting women.

April 28, 2014: In the continuation of a trend, Alden’s relationship with his basketball coach sours. When Alden declines Haith’s request for a contract extension, the coach decides to leave and take a lower-profile job at Tulsa. For his replacement, Alden bridges the gap to the Stewart era by hiring Kim Anderson, who starred at MU in the 1970s and served as an assistant coach under Stewart. Anderson is fresh off winning the Division II national title at the University of Central Missouri. “The fact that he’s a Missouri Tiger at heart is important,” Alden says.

Jan. 29, 2015: In a surprise move, Alden announces he will retire as athletic director after 17 years and take a job teaching in MU’s College of Education. At age 56, he calls it the perfect time. On his watch, the $13.7 million budget he inherited has grown to $85 million, Missouri athletes have consistently been among their conference’s leaders in the Academic Progress Rate and although there were no national titles in any sport, the overall competitiveness of the teams has increased. “If you truly want to try to be selfless, be that servant-leader and really believe that in your core, then you want to take that baton and hand it to someone else,” Alden says.

That someone turns out to be former Houston AD Mack Rhoades, who starts making his own history on Monday.
Tuition hikes have gotten to be as annual as spring, which is when colleges announce how much more students must pay to attend their institutions in the fall.

Well, it’s that time of the year again, and Missouri institutions are starting to lay out their lineup of tuition increases.

The Kansas Board of Regents schools’ tuition hike proposals historically come out in May or early June, but in Missouri, the numbers are in for regional schools such as the University of Central Missouri, Missouri Southern, Missouri Western and Northwest Missouri State.

For several years now, Missouri schools have boasted that they are among the top in the nation when it comes to keeping tuition increases low. State law limits public schools’ tuition increases to the inflation rate. The Consumer Price Index in 2014 was less than 1 percent.

The UM System, which has schools in Kansas City, Columbia, Rolla and St. Louis, has raised tuition and required fees the past five years by 2.4 percent annually, compared with 5.4 percent by comparable institutions in surrounding states.

*Tuition at the University of Missouri and the University of Missouri-Kansas City are among the highest for public schools in the state: $276.20 per credit hour this coming fall at MU, and $272.30 at UMKC.*
Missouri Western, at $196 per credit hour for the 2015-2016 academic year, boasts the second-lowest tuition among the regional Missouri schools. Last year, the university in St. Joseph proposed a small tuition boost but raised it when the governor withheld appropriated funding. When the governor later released that funding, Missouri Western refunded more than $3 a credit hour to its students.

Missouri Southern in Joplin is lowest, at $177.03 per credit hour.

At the other schools, tuition per credit hour is $205 at Missouri State in Springfield; $244.05 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg; and $282 at Northwest Missouri State in Maryville.

Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau has yet to set tuition for the fall. Tuition there last year was at $197.55 per credit hour.

The financial data and technology company SmartAsset two years ago began ranking best-value schools. Four of the state’s regional schools are in Missouri’s top 10 this year — Northwest Missouri State, Missouri Southern, Southeast Missouri and Missouri State.

The best values are Rockhurst University; William Woods University in Fulton; Truman State in Kirksville; Westminster College in Fulton; and College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout.

Also ranked amid that best-values list is Washington University in St. Louis.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Students converge at MU for National History Day contest
Saturday, April 25, 2015 | 7:39 p.m. CDT; updated 8:01 p.m. CDT, Saturday, April 25, 2015
BY ANNALIESE NURNBERG

COLUMBIA — Two 12-year-old documentarians stood beaming at the front of a classroom Saturday at MU’s Strickland Hall as they shared their film for the final judging of the National History Day state contest.
Benjamin Koelkebeck and Grant Goltra, from South Middle School in Joplin, were two of 577 middle and high school students who gathered at MU for the competition.

Maggie Mayhan, state coordinator for National History Day in Missouri, said the idea of the competition is to give students "agency over their own work and to get them excited about doing a more real-world project."

Students at the competition choose any topic in history and relate it to a different theme every year, Mayhan said. This year's theme was "Leadership and Legacy."

"We have projects on everything from Lucile Bluford to Walt Disney to the founder of the Girl Scouts," Mayhan said. "People are exploring this in a variety of different ways." Students used a variety of mediums to present their research. Students wrote papers, performed plays, presented museum-style exhibits and created websites in addition to filming short documentaries.

Koelkebeck and Goltra spent months researching Roy Stryker, the head of the Farm Security Administration's photo unit during the Great Depression. The pair used photographs, interviews and other primary sources in their documentary, which earned first place in the documentary category for the junior group.

Students in grades six through eight were in the junior group; high schoolers made up the senior group.

"It's a great feeling," Goltra said. "We've worked really hard and earned what we have." Goltra also attributed the win to his lucky LeBron James socks.

The first- and second-place winners from each category will represent Missouri as delegates at the national competition this June at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Second-place winners from the junior group performance category included Nathan Burnett, Garrett Young, Eric Myers, Whitney Bixler and Mackenzie Myers of Risco, Missouri. They'll attend the national competition for the second year in a row.
During their first trip to nationals, the group saw Holocaust survivor Elly Gross speak at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. They decided to base this year's project on her experiences.

The team talked with Gross over the phone to learn details from her life that they incorporated into their play. When they finished, they sent Gross a video.

"She was proud of our performance," Young said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Cardboard boats fight to stay afloat in support of Food Bank

Saturday, April 25, 2015 | 10:55 p.m. CDT; updated 3:13 p.m. CDT, Sunday, April 26, 2015
BY DANIELLE ZOELLNER

COLUMBIA — Forecasted promises of thunderstorms didn't put a damper on the festivities Saturday at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri's annual Float Your Boat fundraiser.

Hundreds gathered in the parking lot next to Bass Pro Shops Lake to watch more than 70 cardboard boats compete in races across the lake. The boats also jostled for prizes including best in show, given to the most impressive vessel, and the Titanic awards, given to boats that sink.

"This is a much bigger turnout than what was expected," said Michael Yetman, a digital media specialist with the Food Bank.

Participants could only use cardboard to build their boats, and teams held their creations together with combinations of duct tape and glue. Three judges checked each of the boats before clearing them fit to race.

The boats came in all shapes and sizes. The Tigers Credit Union team built theirs to resemble the flying house from the Pixar movie "Up," complete with flowers and balloons. Other vessels featured Disney princesses and superheroes like Thor.
The event was co-sponsored by the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, and its group went with a Mark Twain theme for a cardboard version of a steamboat. Employees dressed up as Huckleberry Finn, Tom Sawyer and Twain to row across the lake.

Dusty Walter, the college's director of natural resources and management, was most proud of the cardboard paddles his team used in place of the plastic or composite oars other teams used.

The CAFNR team raced against the Food Bank's S.S. Hope It Floats in the long-course event. The race was close, and the Hope It Floats cut off CAFNR's steamboat at the end and won. "Winning is all about the grins on the audiences faces during the races, not actually finishing first," Walter had said before the race.

The short course event for kids ages 8-14, in which teams rowed across half of the lake, ended abruptly when the rain started and caused a 20-minute postponement. Competitors huddled under tarps and tried to protect their boats as much as they could.

The Cub Scouts Pack 60 sparked a lot of attention with the longest boat in the competition, which was capable of holding eight Cub Scouts ages 9-10 and their ship captain and troop leader Shawn Downey.

They used 16-layer single-ply cardboard, 12 gallons of Elmer's Glue, 14 rolls of duct tape and plenty of paint to construct their ship. A wolf face adorned the bow, giving the ship the name "Water Wolf."

"The boys have really gone above and beyond to make this happen," Downey said.

The group worked on the boat for the past nine weeks to prepare for the big race, as well as practicing rowing on canoes. The boys wanted to be entered in the adult division, hoping to upset older competitors.

The Cub Scouts quickly overtook "The Princess Bride"-themed boat "The Pirate Ship Revenge" in their first race just before a second round of rain started. "The Pirate Ship Revenge" was unable to make it to the finish line and sank in the middle of the lake.
The event raised more than $21,500 with 50 boats racing last year, and Yetman said he expects the Food Bank to raise much more this year with the increased turnout.

Swastikas, Hate and Confusion

April 27, 2015

A student disciplinary process at George Washington University might not seem like hot news in India, but this weekend it was receiving attention in *The Times of India, The Hindustan Times* and elsewhere.

The case is being interpreted by some law professors as a move by the university to effectively ban the swastika from the university's campus. And the reason the case is attracting interest in India is that a student who posted a swastika on a fraternity bulletin board was Jewish -- and the symbol he posted was not a Nazi one, but something he had picked up on a trip to India to learn more about religions there, including some that used the swastika as a holy symbol for centuries before the Nazis adopted it.

As shown in the illustration above, the Nazi swastika was typically black on white, surrounded by red, on a 45-degree angle. Those of Eastern religions typically feature horizontal and vertical lines, sometimes with dots added and different color arrangements.

The dispute at George Washington comes as a number of colleges have in the last year responded to swastikas on campuses -- sometimes with Jewish students or organizations as the apparent target. *A freshman at the University of Missouri at Columbia was arrested last week for a swastika graffiti and anti-Semitic vandalism.* Numerous other campuses have reported swastika incidents in the current academic year. Among them: Emory University, the University of California at Davis and Northwestern University.

In those and many other cases, the swastikas were (regardless of what one thinks of hate speech regulations) acts of vandalism, sometimes at Jewish organizations, and so were clearly violations of university rules and/or local laws simply because people don't have the legal right to deface property that is not their own. That was also the case with a series of swastikas at GW this year (before the case of the student who picked up a swastika in India).

Some Jewish organizations have criticized some colleges and universities for not responding strongly enough (in the view of these groups) to swastika vandalism. Nineteen organizations
wrote to GW President Stephen Knapp, saying he had not done enough, in March, after the first round of swastikas on campus this year.

Then came the student who returned from India. He put the swastika on the bulletin board of his fraternity (Zeta Beta Tau, a historically Jewish fraternity), and another student saw it and reported the swastika to the university before getting an explanation. As officials investigated, the student (whose name hasn't been revealed) came forward and said that he had been hoping to have a conversation about the symbol and did not intend to offend anyone. He stressed that this was an Indian swastika, not a Nazi one. The student has told people that while in India, he became fascinated by the idea that a symbol that was not one of hate could become so defined by hate, and that he wanted to explore this issue.

The student has been suspended and banned from campus and a hearing was held last week over his actions. He could face expulsion.

Knapp issued a statement after the ZBT swastika incident that two GW law professors say raises serious legal issues for the university.

"A member of Zeta Beta Tau has now admitted posting the swastika, which he says he acquired while traveling in India over spring break. While the student claims his act was not an expression of hatred, the university is referring the matter to the [police] for review by its hate crimes unit," Knapp said. "Since its adoption nearly a century ago as the symbol of the Nazi Party, the swastika has acquired an intrinsically anti-Semitic meaning, and therefore the act of posting it in a university residence hall is utterly unacceptable. Our entire community should be aware of the swastika’s association with genocide perpetrated against the Jewish people and should be concerned about the extremely harmful effects that displaying this symbol has on individuals and on the climate of our entire university community."

John Banzhaf, a law professor at GW who is backing the student but does not represent him, said that many people should be concerned by Knapp making it university policy that the student's intent is irrelevant. Banzhaf said he believed that many swastikas are illegal and a violation of university rules either because they constitute vandalism or are attempts to intimidate Jewish students. But that wasn't the case here.

Under the interpretation outlined by Knapp, Banzhaf said, a student from India with a swastika in his room would be violating the university's rules and could fear suspension or expulsion. Banzhaf also said it was important not to judge actions by their potential to offend, if the meaning was being misconstrued. As an example, he said that if a student or professor used the word "niggardly" and someone thought that person was using the racial slur, the person could be charged with a hateful act -- without ever having had that intent -- under Knapp's philosophy.

Jonathan Turley, another GW law professor, has written a blog post questioning whether the student who posted the swastika could be seen as having committed a hate crime when he committed no crime, since posting something on a bulletin board is legal.
The Hindu American Foundation is also calling on GW to withdraw the president's statement and to stop seeking to punish the student who posted a swastika from India.

"Contrary to the hateful and violent meaning the swastika has come to take on for many since its misappropriation by the Nazis, the original swastika is an ancient and holy symbol. It is still commonly used at the entrance of Hindu homes, in temples, and on invitations to special occasions such as weddings and other rites of passage. The four limbs of the Hindu swastika have diverse symbolic meanings: the four Vedas (Hindu holy texts); the four stages of life; the four goals of life; the four Yugas (eras); the four seasons; and the four directions. As such, the symbol cannot be dismissed as one of 'intrinsically anti-Semitic meaning,'" said a letter from the foundation to GW.

The letter added: "Furthermore, we are highly concerned with your attempt to expel the student who posted the symbol without any attempt to understand the context of his actions. The consequences of the university’s expulsion could very well be a de facto ban on the use of the swastika in any context on campus. As such, Hindu, Buddhist, Jain or Native American students who sought to use the symbol in a religious manner would be unable to do so without facing the risk of punishment. Such consequences violate both federal and D.C. law and call into question your commitment to religious diversity on campus."

A spokesperson for George Washington said via email that the university did not comment on individual cases. But she said it was not true that GW had banned any symbol. "The university has not banned nor is it attempting to ban religious symbols," she said. "Student organizations and individual students are free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They are free to support causes by orderly means that do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the institution."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Science Sleuth aims to make learning fun for Columbia kids
Sunday, April 26, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT

BY KATIE AKIN

COLUMBIA — A tornado made of fog, iPad-controlled robots and a battery made of Gatorade and copper were just a few of the exhibits lining the hallways of the MU Agriculture building Saturday afternoon.

Shy toddlers, hyperactive elementary schoolchildren and contemplative middle school students zigzagged through the halls and brought the building to life as they explored “Science Sleuth,” a celebration of science education for Columbia kids.
The MU College of Education and Columbia Public Schools hosted the event for the third year.

The event, directed by Deanna Lankford and Mike Szydlowski, gave kids the opportunities to make their own silly putty, experiment with gravity in a game of Jenga with giant blocks, and learn about electricity with noisy, colorful circuits.

Lankford, an outreach specialist for the College of Education’s ReSTEM Institute, estimated 500 to 900 children came out to the event Saturday.

Lankford said the goal is to put science on the “front burner” for children.

“We want to provide them with something interesting, and then once they are interested they will think, ‘Well I can do that!’” she said.

Alec Best, a kindergartener at New Haven Elementary, joined the fun after a busy Saturday morning of soccer and baseball games. He worked diligently on a cylindrical tower he made with giant wooden blocks, brow furrowed and tongue protruding slightly.

“I’m building it so I can knock it down!” he said excitedly.

Building enthusiasm is the point, Lankford said.

“We want people to leave here with one message: Science is fun!” Lankford said.