MU Police Chief addresses false crime impressions in area


COLUMBIA, MO -- Before students leave campus for the summer, the University of Missouri Police Department's Chief of Police sent students and staff a letter Wednesday concerning recent crimes giving a false impression that crime is rising in the area.

Chief Douglas Schwandt says crime on the university’s campus has not risen significantly over the past 20 years, despite an increase in the student population of more than 13,000.

In a letter to students and staff, Schwandt says the recent increase in the number of emergency alerts from the police department reflects an expansion of technology which allows the department to communicate more quickly and thoroughly with the community.

Students told us they were pleased with the letter because there was miscommunication about some incidents, such as the bomb threat and shooting April 21st.

Senior MU student, Avery Merrell says "They do alert us about...I think that was the only issue is that they didn't alert us about that, but they seem to do a good job of alerting us about other things and um keeping us you know aware of where things are happening and like trying to remind us to be safe and I think they do a good job..."

Chief Schwandt says, during recent crimes, no one from the MU community was seriously harmed with the exception of one police officer, who's still recovering.

Schwandt says all of the crimes were solved quickly.
Here is Chief Schwandt’s letter to the university:

Dear students, staff and faculty,

As you leave campus for the summer, I want to make sure you are aware of some important facts.

- Recent emergency alerts have given the false impression that crime is rising in Columbia and on MU’s campus. Actually, crime in Columbia and on MU’s campus has not risen significantly over the past 20 years despite an increase in MU’s student population of more than 13,000 students.

- The recent increase in the number of emergency alerts from MUPD is not indicative of an increase in crime or emergency situations; rather the increase in alerts is due to an expansion of technology that allows us to communicate more quickly and thoroughly as we have been asked to do by our community.

- Getting information to our campus community in a timely way has increased our ability to identify and/or arrest offenders. During recent crimes, no one from the MU community was seriously harmed, except for the police officer who is recovering, and all of these crimes were solved quickly. We think those facts are attributable to early alerts.

- MUPD has continued to incorporate, refine and develop strategies over the years to help maintain our campus safety. Some of those steps, strategies and community policing efforts include:
  - Increasing our University Police officer positions by 8 percent this past year;
  - Assigning supplemental patrol officers in an overtime capacity to our core campus during evening and late-night hours.

The new mandate to report sexual assaults is having the desired effect of prompting more individuals to come forward to report allegations of sexual assault. However, this does not necessarily mean that such offenses are increasing on the MU campus.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer break. Please know that the University of Missouri Police Department remains committed and professional in the policing efforts of our campus. We will be working all summer to assure continuing safety on MU’s campus and we look forward to seeing you in the fall. For additional information, please visit: http://mupolice.missouri.edu/RecentEvents.pdf
Universities plan to use Capitol 'sexting' scandal as a teaching moment

By Kevin McDermott

JEFFERSON CITY • When students at the University of Missouri-Columbia prepare to begin their legislative internships, the school preps them in more than just the legislative process.

“We train them not just in our job expectations, but we talk a lot about appropriate behavior,” says Anne-Marie Foley, director of MU’s Office of Service-Learning. “We constantly discuss the fact that going to parties, drinking alcohol, building personal relationships (with the legislators) is not what this experience is about.”

Administrators at MU and other universities around the state say they aren’t planning to stop sending students to the state Capitol because of this week’s “sexting” scandal involving Missouri House Speaker John Diehl and Katie Graham, 19, a legislative intern from Missouri Southern State University at Joplin.

But some say the incident will be a topic of discussion as they prepare their students to go to Jefferson City next spring. And in some cases it could lead to more specific policies about fraternization.

“It’s definitely going to be a talking point in terms of orientation,” said Robynn Kuhlmann, an assistant professor of governmental studies at the University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg, who works with the school’s legislative interns.

“In politics, when there’s a little bit of a shock to the system, that’s when discourse emerges about this type of behavior,” she said. “The situation (is) going to be discussed.”

Abigail Manwell, internship coordinator at Westminster College in Fulton, agreed that, if nothing else, the episode will serve as a teachable moment for the roughly five new interns it sends each year.

“It will make us more mindful when we talk to students at the beginning, to make sure they know what their resources are if they feel they’re in an uncomfortable situation,” Manwell said. “It’s important for students to know they can talk with anyone on the staff. This is a good opportunity for us to reinforce that.”

MU sends 70 to 80 interns to Jefferson City annually, and already has had a close monitoring system in place that includes a university staff member in the Capitol, said Foley. She said the pitfalls of “unprofessional” behavior by interns with legislators is something the school’s program has long stressed.

“We encourage them very strongly to keep regular business hours,” she said. “When they’re done with work, we encourage them to come home.”

Kuhlmann, of UCM, acknowledged that an outright ban on intern socialization with legislators might be tricky to implement, because “they are young adults.” But she added: “It’s quite possible that because of this shock to the system, we might be developing something along those lines.”

Missouri Southern, which first brought attention to the issue when it suddenly and without explanation pulled its four legislative interns out of the Capitol this spring, hasn’t publicly commented on whether it will continue
in the program next year. The university dean over the program didn’t return a message seeking comment Thursday.

MU graduation numbers up from last year


COLUMBIA, Mo. - Hundreds of students will graduate this weekend from the University of Missouri, and officials told ABC 17 News Thursday the number of graduates is up by 200 students from last year.

MU Registrar and Assistant Registrar Brenda Selman and Paula Thies talked about the graduation process on ABC 17 News at 9 a.m.

The process takes quite a bit of planning, and both said they are working on planning next year's spring graduation.

The December graduation has already been planned.

The registrars talked about increasing the number of graduates each year by making sure each student has taken all of the correct classes prior to walking across the stage.

MFA pledges $750,000 to fund MU professorship

By Alicia Stice  Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Jill Findeis, director of the University of Missouri’s Division of Applied Social Sciences, had a clear message when she took the stage Thursday morning.
“Great faculty members are great mentors,” Findeis said. “This gift will further our goal of mentoring the next generation of students.”

At the event, the university announced that MFA Oil and MFA Inc. had jointly pledged $750,000 to the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, or CAFNR, to fund an MFA professorship in agribusiness. The gift, spread out over four years, will fund the salary and research for a person chosen to fill the professorship.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said it is difficult to attract and maintain faculty in “a highly competitive market.”

“A really good, productive faculty member in agribusiness is hard to find, and if you have them, which we have, they’re easy to lose,” Loftin said. “An endowed professorship like this is a tool, a key tool in attracting and retaining the best faculty.”

The search for a faculty member has not started, but it will include candidates from within the University of Missouri as well as people outside of MU.

This gift will “benefit the agriculture communities of Mid-Missouri, which really is the agriculture community of the nation,” Loftin said to the crowd. “We’re the center of agriculture in our country.”

MFA Inc. is a regional farm supply and marketing cooperative with about 45,000 active farmers and ranchers in Missouri and adjacent states. MFA Oil operates Break Time convenience stores in Missouri and Arkansas, Jiffy Lube franchises in Central Missouri and Big O Tires franchises in Missouri and Arkansas.

MFA Oil President and CEO Mark Fenner, speaking at the event, said he and several other members of the company’s leadership team are MU graduates. Supporting agriculture business education dovetails with the company’s mission to serve its members, he said.

“CAFNR has a national reputation as a leader in agribusiness,” Fenner said. “Although many schools have some ag classes, they’re not nearly as comprehensive as what you’ll find at Mizzou.”
MU receives gift for the College of Ag, Food, and Natural Resources

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri got another large gift Thursday benefiting the College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources.

MFA Incorporated and MFA Oil pledged $750,000 to the school.

The gift is meant to support agriculture research and education at MU by establishing an endowing professorship in Agribusiness.

University officials said such donations directly benefit the students.

"An endowed professorship like this is a tool. It's a key tool in attracting and retaining the very best faculty, which is just what our students deserve," said Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.

MFA executives said the donation is also meant to show their appreciation for the college, and is a way to celebrate their historic relationship with it.

MU College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources receives large gift

The University of Missouri will partner with MFA Oil and MFA Incorporated to create a professorship in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.
The $750,000 gift over four years will help to hire and keep an agri-business professor and will also fund agricultural research.

“CAFNR has a national reputation as a leader in agri-business,” MFA Oil President and CEO Mark Fenner said. “Although many schools have some (agriculture) classes, they’re not nearly as comprehensive as what you will find at Mizzou.”

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said one of the biggest challenges in creating the best academic programs are recruiting and keeping the most skilled faculty members. He said this partnership will help that cause.

“Our faculty, our students and our staff here make this university what it is,” Loftin said. “Not the buildings, not the land, but the people here.”

The entities have pledged $750,000 toward the professorship, but that total could grow. If the amount of future gifts from the MFA entities reach $1.1 million, then the professorship will be converted to an endowed chair in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.

The college’s Division of Applied Social Sciences Director Jill Findeis said the university is in a prime position to help solve some of the world’s biggest problems.

“MU is in the right place at the right time for leading the world in providing fuel and food for a growing population,” Findeis said. “The MFA gift will leave a legacy and have long-lasting and significant impact.”

The search to fill the professorship will begin soon, and it is expected to be filled within two to three years.

Strauss: Pinkel big man on campus at MU

By Joe Strauss
A convergence of events impossible to envision several years ago occurred Thursday evening at the Edward Jones Building in Des Peres.

Accompanied by an athletics director two weeks into his term, Gary Pinkel arrived as the highest-paid football coach within the eastern division of the Southeastern Conference. Pinkel’s newly-minted $4.02 million salary for 2015 represents his fifth raise in seven years. His enhanced take reflects consecutive division titles that even the most ardent Tiger fanatics would have thought impossible when Mizzou defected from the Big 12 for the nation’s pre-eminent football conference three years ago.

Thursday’s event was part meet-and-greet for new athletics director Mack Rhoades, part pep rally for a program that has surged under its well-compensated coach.
Pinkel, 63, arrived at arguably the apex of his 14-year tenure in Columbia. Deemed road kill after a 5-7 record that included a 2-6 league record in 2013, the Tigers are 23-5 overall and 14-4 in conference play the past two seasons. Of course, two league losses occurred in the SEC Championship against Auburn and Alabama, both of whom emerged to play for a national title. Rhoades is Pinkel’s boss; but make no mistake, Coach P. is big man on campus.

Pinkel negotiated his most recent raise with former boss Mike Alden. Part of the negotiations included an enhanced financial pool for his assistants. The structure is independent of Pinkel’s deal and has yet to be announced but, according to Pinkel, raises staff salaries to the conference’s top half.

“I just want to be paid in the top half of the league and treated fairly,” Pinkel said of his own deal. "That's all I wanted. And with respect.”

Reminded that his salary exceeds Georgia’s Mark Richt by only $20,000, Pinkel stopped short of calling the distinction important to him. He did, however, recall a conversation with university movers and shakers when Mizzou contemplated making the leap to the SEC’s predatory waters.

“If you’re not going to make the commitment ... if you’re not going all the way, they’re going to crush you,” Pinkel said.

Some may argue Pinkel’s new contract is further testimony to excess within a football-mad conference’s out-of-control arms race. And those folks may well be correct. But the sport defines the SEC and, let’s be honest here, it now defines Mizzou. Pinkel once inherited a program that had no entree into the St. Louis recruiting theatre. This month linebacker and Affton product Markus Golden landed with the Arizona Cardinals via the second round of the NFL draft. Jeremy Maclin and Sheldon Richardson preceded Golden. Continuing the churn, Mizzou recently landed prized East St. Louis recruit Terry Beckner, who projects as a four-year starter at defensive tackle if he can overcome eligibility issues.

“When we got here there were schools that wouldn’t let us in the building,” Pinkel recalled of the icy reception he and his staff received in St. Louis upon his arrival in 2001.

"They didn't want to see anybody from Missouri," Pinkel elaborated. "They didn't know me at all. They didn't want to talk to anyone from Missouri. There was a lot of work to do and that probably was an understatement."

Mizzou has since overcome a legacy of football ineptitude complicated by longstanding suspicions of the environment in Columbia. Those walls have come down with cornerbacks coach/St. Louis recruiting coordinator Cornell Ford responsible for much of the heavy lifting.

Pinkel spoke proudly Thursday of completed renovations to Memorial Stadium’s east side. The coach and Rhoades are now tackling a new home for the football program adjacent to the south end zone. Pinkel has referred to it as a future Taj Mahal and said Thursday he plans visits to several signature programs outside the SEC to help sculpt his plans.

Asked for a timeline, Pinkel remains fuzzy. But he related an anecdote when a fan recently offered encouragement for his vision to be realized in four, five or six years. “I don’t want to wait four, five or six years,” Pinkel replied. "There's a process to go through. We all know the importance of it because we understand the importance of Mizzou football financially and the impact it has on the whole athletic department.”

There is some room for compromise. Rhoades, whose upgrade of facilities at the downtown University of Houston helped make him an obvious candidate for the MU gig, acknowledged harboring reservations about the football program sequestering itself from the rest of the athletics department. Pinkel later conceded sharing a dining hall and academic support facility sound like good ideas. However, the larger point remains: Pinkel has raised his program to a place where it is no longer satisfied with hand-me-downs or next best.
Rhoades related Pinkel’s sentiment about the much-discussed facility that represents part of the coach’s legacy: “You get one shot at doing something like this. So you do it right.”

"I think it's very important we're with all the other students in that," Pinkel acknowledged regarding mixed dining and academic settings. "We don't want all the football players just stuck in a building. That's not very positive to me. The rest of it, you want to have your place. You have choices. It's going to cost money to do it the right way, but that's the next step for us. We need to build something special."

These are the thoughts of a man with no fear of his shadow. Mizzou football no longer needs to suffer from an inferiority complex. The Tigers have lost to only South Carolina and Georgia within their division the last two years with Pinkel becoming the winningest coach in program history. One day the school will name something for Pinkel. For now, he gets to name his price.

“I want us to be in the top half” of conference coaching salaries, reiterated Pinkel, once the lowest-paid head football coach among the conference's 13 public institutions. “That’s where I want us to be.”

The big(ger) money resides in the SEC’s western division, where Alabama's Nick Saban, Auburn's Gus Malzahn and LSU's Les Miles have made trips to the national championship game a rite of January. Texas A&M's Kevin Sumlin is scheduled to earn more than $5 million next season. Richt and South Carolina's Steve Spurrier rank narrowly behind Pinkel in the east.

"Early on, who would have expected to play in two conference title games?" Rhoades asked rhetorically. "From that perspective, we needed to show Coach Pinkel the value. We certainly appreciate what he's done for the University of Missouri and the state of Missouri."

Proud of continuity within his program, Pinkel reminded he has lost only six coaches during his 14 years in CoMo, and all have left for more responsibility or more pay.

If Mizzou entered the SEC on somewhat uncertain footing, it now confidently walks the landscape. The university has a new chancellor and the athletics department has Rhoades as its new director. Questions about direction are natural. However, as Pinkel moved from his media rounds to glad-handing members of the Tiger Club’s St. Louis chapter, he left the unmistakable impression of a man who knows exactly where he’s headed.

Pinkel and Rhoades on contracts, end-zone expansions, etc.

Coach Gary Pinkel and new Athletic Director Mack Rhoades were in St. Louis on Thursday night for a Pigskin Preview event with the St. Louis Tiger Club.

Pinkel just earned a raise -- put in place on April 24, Mike Alden's last day in office -- that pushed him up to $4.02 million a year through the 2021 season.
The 63-year-old coach now ranks sixth among his SEC peers in yearly pay and tops in the SEC East, inching slightly above the $4 million Georgia's Mark Richt and South Carolina's Steve Spurrier make.

"All I asked the university is I just want to be paid in the top half of the league and treated fairly," Pinkel said. "That’s all I wanted. And with respect. That’s basically all I wanted for myself and my staff. We’re fortunate we came up with something, and we’re just going to keep trying to make ourselves better."

The new deal also includes an agreement that bumps the Tigers' assistant coach pay pool into the top half of the league, Pinkel said.

Pinkel's nine assistants split $3.2 million under the new contract he signed in March 2014, which ranked 10th among SEC staffs according to USA Today's figures. Georgia, the sixth ranked staff last year according to USA Today, made $3.33 million total.

"We’re moving our coordinators up," Pinkel said. "Are we there? We’re not there yet, but we’re moving up. If you take our total dollars, we’re in the top half. We’re moving them up, getting them up there and that’s something, there’s no question about it, that’s a process where we want to get better. We did some of that when we were in the Big 12. We started getting in the top half and moved on. There’s no question about it, that’s hugely important.

"Getting a guy like Barry Odom, he had a lot of different opportunities. He’s a Mizzou guy, I have a very good relationship with him and he’s doing a tremendous job, which is no surprise. Understand, keeping guys like that, and having good contracts for coordinators, are still things we’re working on to get better.”

It was a nice welcome present for Rhoades, who was kept appraised of the situation before he officially started at Missouri on April 27.

"Coach Pinkel, that’s something we absolutely needed to take care of with the success he’s had," Rhoades said. "And really, early on, who would have expected to play in two conference title games? From that perspective, we needed to show Coach Pinkel the value. We certainly appreciate what he’s done for the University of Missouri and the state of Missouri. In the other categories, we need to continue to push and look at the assistant coaching pool and the facilities."

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**The South End-Zone Facility**

Pinkel said he's had the chance to have three heart-to-hearts with Rhoades since the athletic director took over, and his pet project -- the south end-zone facility at Faurot Field for which Pinkel has been stumping since the fall -- came up each time.

Still, Pinkel said he and Rhoades need to have deeper, ongoing conversations to get the ball rolling.
Conversations about things like, say, when it will be done.

"Somebody off the street came up to me and said, ‘Coach, I hear you want a new facility,” Pinkel said. "In four, five or six years, that’s going to be nice to get.’ I said, ‘I don’t want to wait four, five or six years.’ There’s a process to go through. We all know the importance of it, because we also understand the importance of Mizzou football financially and the impact it has on the whole athletic department. Without question. Everybody understands that and we have to invest in what produces the most. That’s my job to get that done."

Pinkel wants new coaches’ offices, weight room and locker room. Rhoades wants to make it so that the football program does not quarantine itself from the rest of the athletic department.

"Like anything else, there’s pluses and minuses," Rhoades said. "Right now, everybody’s in the MATC. That’s overcrowded. Part of the student-athlete experience is having all your student-athletes together. The question is, if we move football to an end-zone facility, can we still accomplish it? I think that’s good for our football student-athletes. I think if you talk to them, they would tell you that. I would tell you that Coach Pinkel would say that. Absolutely. Then how do we do that and make it a great experience for the rest of our student-athletes? We’ll measure and weigh all of that. They’re all connected to one another. We’ll find the best win-win solution for everybody."

The coach said he can get on board with that. But he also thinks football needs its space.

"Our football offices, weight room, training room, I’m not sharing that with anybody," Pinkel said. "I think it’s important food service and academics, I think it’s very important we’re with all the other students in that. We don’t want all the football players just stuck in a building. That’s not very positive to me. The rest of it, you want to have that’s your place. You have choices. It’s going to cost money to do it the right way, but that’s the next step for us. We need to build something special."

Rhoades said he'd like to have a real clear idea on how to proceed on the project in about three months. Pinkel said the school is currently researching the top three or four end-zone facilities in the nation from outside the SEC for ideas.

It's a fledgling project. But it's also a priority.

"We want to build a great facility. He wants the same things I do," Pinkel said. "We’ve just had some little discussions on it. It’s certainly a priority. We’ll probably get together next week and start talking in a little more detail on the whole thing and as the weeks go on and he settles down. He’s really very impressive. I knew about him from Bob Stull, who he worked for. I knew about him before Mike even left, that there’s a guy out there who is a really good leader and a guy that’s very well respected. It’s neat to have him. Big shoes to fill."
Recruiting St. Louis

Cornerbacks coach Cornell Ford, the Tigers' lead recruiter in St. Louis, was in attendance as well.

Pinkel couldn't say enough about the job Ford has done in St. Louis over the past 14 years.

"Cornell Ford’s done a remarkable job. If you just put the numbers since he’s been here, the players we’ve gotten from St. Louis," Pinkel said. "Let me tell you something, when I first got here, there were two coaches that would not let me in. They didn’t want to see anybody from Missouri. They didn’t know me at all. They didn’t want to talk to anyone from Missouri. There was a lot of work to do, and that probably was an understatement. Cornell Ford has done a remarkable job. Very pleased and happy for him, happy for us he’s been with us so long. You have Andy Hill on the other side of the state.

"What’s happened to us is as we’ve been winning over the last eight years, we’ve had more people coming in recruiting. Still, I feel when you look at Markus Golden -- had some tough times with junior college, couldn’t wait to come to Missouri and, oh by the way, he’s got his degree. First one in the history of his family -- everybody knows how important that is to me. You talk to any parent I ever go into their home, I tell them ‘It’s my responsibility your son graduates.’ It’s just not about playing football and winning. It’s the responsibility for graduating. That’s a huge emphasis for our program."

Ford, in a question-and-answer session with the crowd, was asked if he thought he'd get St. Louis University High product Raymond Wingo back on defense after his switch to wideout in spring ball.

Ford said he'd like to. But he thinks it's unlikely.

Other things from Pinkel and Rhoades' time addressing the crowd...

- Rhoades said he already knows who his new deputy athletic director is and the announcement should come in the next week. He told the crowd he would have told them tonight "if the media wasn't here. The media's ruining it for you."
- :-(
- Rhoades, in talking about facilities improvements, called the Hearnes Center a challenge because it's "antiquated" but also "special." So they've got to figure out what to do with it. He said replacing it would be about $55 million. He said, at first glance, Missouri is looking at about $150 million in facilities improvements in the near future.
- Rhoades reiterated that he is interested in getting the KU rivalry started again and said he'd work with Jayhawks AD Sheahon Zenger on getting it going: "We should be playing them in every sport. We really should be."
- Rhoades said he knows what the SEC Network payout will be this year and told the crowd, but also said it was off the record for media. It had two commas in it.
Rhoades did say the SEC Network is doing 24-hour, school-specific programming blocks over the summer, and Missouri's day is July 10. So set those DVRs.

Pinkel, in talking up Missouri's NFL Draft performance this year, said the Tigers had more players taken in the first two rounds (4) than the Big 12 (3). So that means he's counting Dorial Green-Beckham as a Missouri draft pick. For what it's worth, the program's sports information department is not.

Pinkel said the receiving corps is young -- I know...news at 11, right? -- but that won't be an excuse come August. He also floated the idea of two-tight end sets with Sean Culkin and Jason Reese.

Pinkel said the receiving corps is young -- I know...news at 11, right? -- but that won't be an excuse come August. He also floated the idea of two-tight end sets with Sean Culkin and Jason Reese.

Pinkel seems very optimistic about the defense. He called the back seven perhaps "the best athletic group since we've been here," and invoked Don James in saying "Coach James always said if you leave spring worried about your defense, you'll have a bad summer. I'm having a good summer."

Pinkel said freshmen will start reporting by June 8, which is the start of Missouri's first summer-school session. He said the staff will figure out the graduation risks over the next 3-4 weeks -- there are usually 3-5, he said -- and see what they can do to help them:

"We're never surprised."

Pinkel said Morgan Steward's hip injury is a strange case and the running back has been getting treatment at the University of Michigan. At the beginning of the spring, Pinkel said he hoped to get Steward back 100 percent by June 1. He says Steward -- who hurt the hip last August 9 -- is rehabilitating and "it'd be certainly nice if he could come around." He likened Steward's road back to Henry Josey.

Lastly, someone asked if he'd let prize quarterback recruit Drew Lock play basketball: "I loveKim Anderson...but no."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Dean Mills: A lifetime in journalism, a legacy as School of Journalism dean

Friday, May 15, 2015 | 6:00 a.m. CDT; updated 7:11 a.m. CDT, Friday, May 15, 2015
BY MOLLY DUFFY

COLUMBIA — In 2004, Dean Mills and Roger Gafke waited in the library of an office building in Las Vegas.

In a few minutes, they would walk the 50 feet to the Reynolds Foundation boardroom, where Mills, long-time dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, had only minutes to sell the dream he’d fostered for more than a decade.

He longed to build a center that would reinforce the principle of the First Amendment — a right given to citizens, not just journalists. Too often, the dean saw journalists claiming the First Amendment for themselves.
Mills believed that for democracy to thrive, both needed to work together. He envisioned a center that could explore the impact of new media technologies and act as a hub to propel journalism forward.

**Fundraising highlights**

More than $200 million in gifts and grants has been raised since Dean Mills began his tenure in 1989.

**Journalism endowment growth**

- 1989 endowment total: $17 million
- 2014 endowment total: $121.8 million (plus additional $28.5 million in pledged commitments)
- Major gift commitments included in total productivity
- More than $77 million came from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation for the creation and ongoing operations of the Reynolds Journalism Institute. This includes the largest single gift in MU’s history ($31 million in 2004) and the largest gift to create an endowment at the University ($30.1 million in 2012).
- Eight chairs have been endowed:
  (*Gift matched by the state of Missouri, **Annual endowment earnings matched by the state of Missouri)
  - Lee Hills Chair in Free-Press Studies* (1995), $1.1 million
  - Knight Chair in Journalism* (1997), $1.5 million
  - Maxine Wilson Gregory Chair in Journalism Research** (1997), $1.1 million
  - Houston Harte Chair in Journalism** (1998), $1.1 million
  - Curtis B. Hurley Chair in Public Affairs Reporting** (1998), $1.225 million
  - Missouri Chair in Community Newspaper Management** (2000), $1.1 million
  - Society of American Business Editors and Writers Endowed Missouri Chair in Business and Financial Journalism** (2000), $1.1 million
  - Donald W. Reynolds Endowed Chair in Business Journalism (2008), $2 million

**Other commitments:**

- More than $25 million in new endowed student scholarships and fellowships
- More than $14 million in unrestricted Funds for Excellence, supporting areas of greatest need for the School of Journalism
- $10 million pledge from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation (2014) to create 50 endowed faculty fellowships
- $6.7 million from Jonathan Murray, BJ ’77 (2013), to create and fully endow the Jonathan Murray Center for Documentary Journalism
- More than $3 million in gifts and grants for the construction of Lee Hills Hall, dedicated in 1995. This includes a $500,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation and private gifts to match both the Kresge grant and a $2 million challenge grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which was received before Mills’ tenure.
• $3.7 million in grants from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (2005 and 2009) to support the operations of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, headquartered at the Missouri School of Journalism
• More than $3.2 million in new endowments to support the operations of the Columbia Missourian
• $2.28 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation (2005) to support the operations of the Committee of Concerned Journalists, headquartered at the Missouri School of Journalism
• More than $700,000 to create the Angus and Betty McDougall Center for Photojournalism Studies

He had pitched the idea to colleagues when he was the coordinator of graduate study in communications at California State University, Fullerton, but the concept didn't find financial support. After he became dean at Missouri, he found faculty enthusiastic about the idea.

Now Mills finally had the chance to pitch his dream to the board of the Reynolds Foundation, a group that could write a $31 million check and create the journalism institute.

Securing the gift
In 1991 Gafke, then vice chancellor of development for MU and now emeritus journalism professor, had helped coordinate the foundation’s funding of the Reynolds Alumni Center with a $9 million gift — the largest donation in MU’s history at the time.

The gift was one of the last that Donald W. Reynolds, a 1927 MU graduate, was personally involved with before he died in 1993. Reynolds had been a journalism graduate, and Mills thought the foundation might someday give to the Missouri School of Journalism.

In Las Vegas that day, Mills was tense. The foundation had been encouraging but offered no guarantee. Summoned by a staff member, Mills and Gafke left the waiting room and walked down the hall to find some 15 people seated around a long, oval table.

A program officer waited to cut off the presentation if it ran too long. Mills would get a two-minute warning, just as he once did on the high school debate team.

The clock started. Mills began.

One minute in, the PowerPoint presentation crashed.

Mills was so focused he didn’t even notice. Gafke was "the cool one," Mills said, who called out to stop him. But the glitch helped ease the tension — the board made a few jokes, and Mills laughed.

He started again, and when his time was up, he and Gafke walked back to the waiting room while the board deliberated.
Less than 10 minutes later, the board gave them an answer. The foundation’s gift became the largest in MU history and led to the creation of the Reynolds Journalism Institute. Seeing that dream come true, Mills said, was one of his most gratifying moments as dean.

Mills is presiding over his last graduation ceremony on Saturday.

During his 26-year tenure as dean, Mills transformed the School of Journalism. He helped raise more than $200 million — seven times more money than all of the journalism deans before him combined.

In addition to the Reynolds Journalism Institute, those donations allowed for eight endowed chairs, the creation of Lee Hills Hall at Eighth and Elm streets and a number of faculty fellowships and student scholarships.

The money Mills secured helped the world’s first school of journalism maintain its status through a tumultuous era for the news industry. Under his leadership, the school has forged educational and journalistic partnerships around the world, nurtured a loyal alumni network, and diversified faculty and staff.

Thousands of journalists, strategic communicators and educators belong to the "Mizzou Mafia," a loose collection of alumni with footholds in the industry and beyond. As much as anything, those alumni and the work they do is Mills’ legacy.

But don’t expect him to brag. Even as he prepares to retire, Mills maintains a deep aversion to talking about himself or calling attention to his accomplishments — or even using the word "legacy." Those are the values he learned growing up as a Quaker in Iowa.

Iowa born and bred
Dean Mills grew up on a farm in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, the youngest of four boys. His father, Chester Mills, liked to pick apart what Quakers call "unthinkable transgressions." And while Chester would occasionally boast about his own double play on the makeshift baseball diamond behind their farm’s field, his four sons were raised to believe bragging and lying were close cousins — a brag could easily become a lie.

Chester's wife, Leora, never made it past the sixth grade, but no one intimidated her. A person’s stature didn’t matter; she embraced everyone. Chester would say Leora never met a stranger.

She had a beautiful, full laugh — a laugh she passed down to her youngest son — and she lived more effusively than her quieter husband. Chester had known at 13 that his place was on the family farm. He and Leora assumed that one of their sons would take it over some day.

It was fairly obvious that Dean would not be that son. He was a terrible farmer, and the list of his agricultural inadequacies grew as the years passed.
He overturned an entire load of hay while driving the tractor. He ran the harrow into a fence. For weeks, most of the hens’ eggs were inexplicably broken, so his father decided to investigate. He watched the 8-year-old crawl into the hen house, collect the eggs and then jump from the window — landing with a graceless thud.

Dean was never interested in farming. He fell in love with writing early, and by the time he was 10, he knew he wanted to be a journalist. He had heard they got to write and go places, and that was all he wanted.

When all of the Henry County eighth-graders submitted essays about soil conservation, Dean’s was nearly disqualified because one of the judges doubted the authenticity — she was particularly disturbed that he had used the word "lugubrious."

He knew the word because he liked to spend time reading a dictionary to learn new words. It was his bragging loophole: Using a broad vocabulary allowed him to show off without technically boasting.

The school superintendent told the judge that he knew Dean and assured her those were his words. He won the contest.

**High school pals**
In high school, he joined the debate team, sang in the choir, acted in school plays and musicals, and edited the school newspaper, the Maroon Echoes. He had a crush on Sue Cornick, but thought she was too pretty and popular for him.

They eventually went on a few dates ("She probably regarded them more as friendly outings," Dean recalls, "but I regarded them as dates."), and he convinced her to accept the features editor position at the paper before he graduated and left for the University of Iowa.

When Sue decided to transfer to the University of Iowa after her sophomore year at Drake University in Des Moines, she phoned Dean — he was the only person she knew in Iowa City. He answered, told her that he was writing an editorial on deadline and hung up on her.

Sue decided that was that and didn’t try to call again. A week later, she and the other girls in her rooming house were uptown for dinner, and Dean saw her on the street.

"Where have you been?" He called over. "I’ve been looking for you everywhere!"

Dean and Sue dated all through college. They would go to independent movies together, and sometimes Dean would read the Russian author Alexander Pushkin aloud to her in Russian (she didn’t understand any of it but still blushes and says she "thought that was pretty neat.")

His mother would supply him with canned chili, and he’d turn it into something wonderful. "He was a stone soup kind of guy," Sue remembered. Dean said he once
asked her to make him a fried-egg sandwich, and she was baffled. "Oh," he thought. "She really doesn't cook."

He was always busy. Editing the student paper, The Daily Iowan, consumed him. He spent the fall of 1964 studying at a historically black college in Talladega, Alabama. He wasn't a campus protester, Sue said, but he had deep convictions about equality.

As a white student, he was a minority on campus in Talladega, and that changed the way he thought. The experience stayed with him.

"What he's like now, he was then always doing things like that," Sue said. "I'm not telling you he always knew precisely where he was going, but he knew he was going somewhere."

Dean and Sue graduated together in 1965 and married the next day. Neither wanted a traditional Iowa wedding. Sue thought a fancy dress was a waste of money. She ended up wearing something pink, a color she scoffs at and has always hated.

One of Dean’s friends sang and another read poetry. Sue’s very pregnant best friend was her matron of honor. A Unitarian minister performed a Navajo ceremony, which celebrates individuality within a marriage.

**Loves a challenge**

All deans are dictators, said Don Ranly, who began teaching at the Journalism School in 1974 and retired as the head of the magazine sequence in 2004. If you’re lucky, you’ll have a benevolent dictator — and that’s how he described Dean Mills.

"There’s no question that if he wanted something he got it," Ranly said. "And that was almost always, in my mind, the right thing for the school."

Mills loves a challenge. He said he’s served as dean for so long — longer than any Journalism School dean except founder Walter Williams — because the school never stopped presenting new challenges that "made it interesting all over again" for him.

"The man is an incredible visionary," said Brian Brooks, who joined the faculty in 1974 and served as editor of the Columbia Missourian and associate dean of undergraduate studies.

"He’s done a lot of tremendous things," Brooks said. "I have a real fondness for him and what he’s done here. Nobody in that position ever goes without criticism — there are people who didn’t always like his style."

Some faculty members perceive a lack of full transparency. Daryl Moen, who also joined the faculty in 1974 and served as former managing editor of the Missourian and director of the news-editorial sequence, said Mills was open when he came to MU and conferred with a number of faculty before acting. Over the years, that group has gotten smaller, he said, and Mills no longer consults faculty before moving forward with an idea.
"I don’t always know what he’s thinking because he’s already four or five steps ahead of me," said Lynda Kraxberger, who joined the faculty in 1993 and is now the associate dean for undergraduate studies. "That makes it interesting and challenging, but it also means that we’ve been in very good hands for the last 25 years."

Journalism faculty have also noted that Mills can come off as unapproachable — his personality can be read as standoffish. He does his work quietly, and in doing so sometimes can cause rifts. When he fired Rhonda Fallon as the Journalism School’s fiscal officer after 21 years, she sued. They settled out of court.

Fallon said she believes office politics precipitated her firing. As the situation grew more toxic, she expected Mills to advocate on her behalf, she said, but he never did.

"Dean was a nice person — he was nice to your face — and he was charming, but you never felt like he had the best interest of staff in his view," she said. "For faculty who created loyalty to him, he never reciprocated that. And if he did, there was a point where he didn’t."

Mills declined to comment, saying he doesn’t publicly discuss personnel issues.

"He’s not a hail-fellow-well-met, he’s not a back slapper, he’s not out showing the flag," Moen said. In the same way that Mills doesn’t brag about himself, he doesn’t brag about the Journalism School, either — many fault him for not publicizing the school’s accomplishments more often and more publicly.

But the sheer amount of time Mills has spent as dean speaks to the level of his success. College deans typically last seven or eight years, and Mills’ long tenure has allowed him to intimately shape the direction of the school. Although he isn’t often seen roaming the halls of the school, products of his labor are impossible to miss.

**Industry history**

When he finished his master’s degree at the University of Michigan in 1967, Mills fielded job offers from The Wall Street Journal’s Chicago office, the Toledo Blade and The Baltimore Evening Sun.

Mills had heard about The Sun’s Moscow bureau, and he’d always dreamed of becoming a foreign correspondent. So he and Sue moved into a tiny garden apartment in Baltimore.

Mills didn’t realize that The Baltimore Evening Sun and The Baltimore Sun weren’t the same newspaper until one of his first days at work. He ran into a colleague who asked why he had chosen The Evening Sun, and Mills told him about his interest in the Moscow bureau. He looked at Mills like he’d lost his mind. The colleague explained that The Evening Sun didn’t even have a Washington bureau — and no one was sent abroad.

The two newspapers were owned by the same company but acted as fierce competitors. Mills had moved to Baltimore for the wrong paper.
He was embarrassed and disappointed, but two years later, The Baltimore Sun was looking for a reporter to send to Moscow. Mills, who is fluent in Russian, was hired. He was 27 and had never been abroad.

Mills, his wife and their 18-month-old son Jason moved to Moscow in 1969. It was the Brezhnev era, and the Soviet Union was under an authoritarian Communist regime.

Religious and political dissidents were beginning to contact the West through journalists. Mills began meeting people in the dead of night on isolated street corners. Many had been sent to labor camps, and often they were returned after speaking to him, Mills said. The experience was exciting, and he was too young to recognize the danger.

When Sue became pregnant with their second son, Jesse, she scoffed at the idea of flying to Finland to give birth, even though that was the common practice of Western mothers living in the Soviet Union. Babies are born every day in the country, she thought.

Shortly before the due date in August, Mills called the best hospital, only to learn that it had closed for the month. Their next choice had closed for renovations. So when the baby started coming, an ambulance took them to a hospital completely devoid of Westerners.

Men weren’t allowed inside, so they would stand outside the recovery room windows and throw pebbles to get the new mothers’ attention. Mills talked nurses into letting him inside to see Sue and the baby — and to write a story about the experience for The Sun.

Mills stayed in the Soviet Union for three years — one year longer than the typical stint — then moved to Washington, D.C., to work for The Sun until 1975. In 1976, he decided he wanted to shift into academia, but first he needed to earn a doctorate.

**Academic route**
Mills worked on a doctoral degree at the University of Illinois for three years, until California State University, Fullerton, offered him a teaching position.

He finished the degree in 1981 while teaching in California. After two years in Fullerton, he applied to become the dean of the Journalism School at MU, but was passed over for James Atwater. Pennsylvania State University then asked him to direct its journalism program, and the family moved east.

Just after he arrived in State College, undergraduate Alecia Swasy gave him a tour of the Daily Collegian, Penn State’s student newspaper. Swasy’s father had recently died, so Mills became a mentor and a surrogate father for her, guiding her through her year as editor of the Collegian. He continued to coach her through the pressures of her reporting and editing jobs at The Wall Street Journal and The St. Petersburg Times. Thirty-one years later, his is still one of the first numbers she dials with news.

"He looks like he was a former Marine, but nothing could be further from the truth," she said. "He’s got a heart of gold." Swasy earned a doctoral degree from the MU School of Journalism in December and now teaches at the University of Illinois.
Ultimately, Mills became dean of the School of Journalism at Penn State in 1985. He said he worked to extricate the journalism program from the College of Liberal Arts and make it a free-standing college.

Longing for the sun again, Mills moved back to Fullerton in 1986 as the coordinator of graduate study in communications.

In 1989, MU was again looking for a dean. Learning that he was no longer at Pennsylvania State, the School of Journalism came calling.

His son Jason was finishing his degree at Washington University in St. Louis and moving to Philadelphia to do a Ph.D. M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Jesse was starting his freshman year at the University of California-Los Angeles. Dean and Sue Mills decided to move to Missouri.

**Becoming dean**
Edmund Lambeth, an inside candidate, and Mills were the top candidates for the dean's job at MU.

"It ripped this school apart," said Steve Weinberg, the director of Investigative Reporters and Editors from 1983 to 1990 and author of "A Journalism of Humanity," the history of the school that Mills commissioned for the school's centennial in 2008.

Some faculty were convinced Lambeth, once the director of the University of Kentucky School of Journalism, and then associate dean for journalism graduate studies and research at MU, should have been hired. Others argued that the school needed new blood. Still others felt that, regardless of the outcome, the provost, Lois DeFleur, had made the hire without sufficient faculty input.

Ultimately, Mills was hired. When he became dean in June of 1989, the Missouri School of Journalism was still considered an old boys club. One of the first things he set about doing was diversifying the staff. During his first two years, he insisted on aggressively recruiting women and minorities.

Betty Winfield was among the first wave of female tenure-track scholars Mills hired in 1990. That year, the chancellor, Haskell Monroe, invited the new hires to a dinner. Winfield, Mills and a few other new professors were all seated together.

In welcoming everyone, Monroe congratulated the new hires on their successes. Then, in an effort to acknowledge their spouses, he asked, “Would their sweethearts please rise?”

Wives of the professors at other tables stood up. Those at Winfield’s table froze — many of them were women. They looked at each other, then at Mills, and did their best not to laugh. Winfield said she remembers Mills staring at his shoes and doing all he could to keep a straight face.
"When he got here, I think it’s fair to say the school was not the happiest place," Brooks said. "There had been a lot of problems with male-dominated faculty marginalizing women faculty."

Winfield recalled being on a search committee for a new faculty hire sometime during the mid-1990s. After they made a decision, a male faculty member stood up, feigning shock.

"Oh my God," he yelled excitedly. "We’re finally hiring a man!" The whole room roared with laughter.

Mills focused on appointing women with doctoral degrees to tenure-track positions. Among them was Esther Thorson, whom Mills hired as the associate dean for the graduate program in 1993.

Thorson set about fixing the criteria for journalistic academic research and opening the school to more faculty with doctoral degrees. Thorson said she always felt lifted by Mills; he never tried to tame her ambitions for the graduate program.

**Missouri method**
The core of the Missouri School of Journalism has always been its "learn-by-doing" mantra — and that fueled its funding as much as it did the curriculum. In the early 1990s, it was safe to assume the industry would give philanthropically to journalism schools on a regular basis.

When rapid technological advances scrambled newsrooms a few years later, the Journalism School struggled, too. By 1995, just six years into Mills’ appointment as dean, the school needed to keep the curriculum relevant and develop new sources of funding to do so.

As the business model for journalism buckled, so did the school’s funding. The school’s news outlets — TV station KOMU/NBC, radio station KBIA/91.3 FM and the Columbia Missourian newspaper — were coping with the same issues as news business nationally.

"We had our face doused with reality every day," Mills said.

A number of classes were exploring new technology, but there wasn’t much communication among them, Kraxberger said, which created redundancy in content. After an audit of the content, the Journalism School began offering a course of study in convergence — the first addition since introducing TV and radio in the 1970s.

Mills was also interested in widening the school’s international scope, both through study-abroad programs for students and through traveling opportunities for faculty. In 1994, he delegated those ambitions to an international office within the Journalism School. The Global Programs office today oversees study abroad programs around the world, including in Brussels, Buenos Aires, London and Barcelona. Fritz Cropp, who has run the office since 2001, said nearly one in three journalism undergraduates now studies abroad.
Looking forward
Last year, Mills was invited back to Las Vegas. As the Reynolds Foundation prepares to close, its leadership was interested in giving a few of Donald W. Reynolds’ artifacts to a museum in the Reynolds Journalism Institute at MU.

Mills was told that the foundation wanted his opinion about the choice of pieces. He thought it was odd to fly to Las Vegas just to look at a few mementos, but he obliged.

The foundation had a surprise for him. The foundation had decided to give the school its residual funds — $10 million. It was up to Mills to decide how to use them.

As dean, Mills said he’s been particularly concerned about faculty salaries. Although starting salaries are competitive, long-time journalism professors at MU, on average, are paid less than professors at other public universities. That’s cost the school key faculty members, who have been lured to other schools by bigger paychecks.

Mills asked the Reynolds Foundation if the school could use the $10 million to endow 50 faculty fellowships for associate and full professors — and to allow the funds to be used, in $200,000 chunks, to match any $200,000 gift by another donor. The foundation said yes.

With the gift, the Reynolds Foundation will surpass the $100 million mark in donations to MU. If the $10 million works as he thinks it will, Mills said, the gift will ultimately endow 50 faculty positions at $400,000 each. Once the Reynolds Foundation releases all of those funds in 2021, it will cease to exist.

Retirement plans
When Mills originally announced his retirement in February 2014, effective August that year, he planned to stay on campus to work as part-time director of the Reynolds Journalism Institute. But after spending a year longer as dean than he originally planned, he says now that he’ll "make a clean break of it."

At 72, he said he’s ready for a traditional retirement and time with his family. His older son, Jason, is now an associate professor and runs a research lab at Washington University. Jesse has just taken a job with the UCLA medical school to direct a men’s health program.

Mills still loves a challenge, and cooking is one of them. Sometimes his wife will walk into the kitchen, and he’ll have strudel dough rolled across their white tile island. He’s boiled bagels, made brioche, boned chickens — Sue Mills said she thinks he wants to make everything that would scare most casual cooks away.

During one of her last visits, Swasy noticed a book on the coffee table in the Mills’ living room. Swasy realized it was Laura Ingalls Wilder’s "Little House in the Big Woods," but the title was in Swedish. Mills was reading the book for fun.

In retirement, Mills said he also plans to finally read "War and Peace" in Russian and to revisit some of Pushkin’s original works. To him, there’s no better pleasure than reading
a truly good work in its original form. Pushkin is like that, he said; too much is lost in the English translation. Maybe he'll read more Pushkin to Sue, or his grandkids. After a career filled with challenges, Mills will likely find a new one. That's the fun part.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Student adjusting to life after sledding accident

May 15, 2015 • By JACK HOWLAND

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — On a cold day in mid-February, Kathleen Oglesby was tearing down a hill on a lime-green sled with her younger sister, Olivia.

It was late afternoon, and a thin layer of ice coated the slope in a residential neighborhood off Crestwood Lane, the Columbia Missourian (http://bit.ly/1H90jjU) reported.

All of a sudden, the sled accelerated, whipped the two girls around and slammed into a tree.

Oglesby, 21, remembers lying motionless on the ground. Her sister took one look at her and called their mother, who dialed 911.

Later that afternoon, after a series of tests, the doctors would explain to Oglesby that her condition pointed to a crack in her spine. The nerve was not severed — a sign she could walk again one day — but she had broken five ribs, shattered several vertebrae and fractured her wrist, collarbone and shoulder blade.

That night, she fell asleep in her hospital bed in a drugged daze, unaware of her surroundings, which was just as well. The next day was the beginning of an uphill battle.

"Whenever I had a quiet moment to myself, I kept thinking about all the things I may never get to do again," she said. "That was the hardest part."

In the 2 1/2 months since the accident, the University of Missouri junior has been living in her parents' Columbia home as she re-teaches herself how to master the daily routines she once took for granted. It's a slow, sometimes frustrating process, with highs and lows, good days and bad.

She remembers that the first few weeks at home were an enormous adjustment. She swapped bedrooms with her sister so she could live on the main floor, though the doors are barely wide enough for her new silver-blue wheelchair. Simple tasks such as using the bathroom, taking a shower and putting on clothes suddenly required assistance.
Getting dressed, she said, continues to be the most tiresome part of the morning. It's harder to pull up a pair of jeans when you can't wiggle into them.

She usually gets them halfway up before they slip back down to her ankles. Shoes and socks aren't much easier. She has to heave her feet onto the bed to slip them on.

Twice-a-week physical and occupational therapy sessions have given her tricks to make life easier — using her upper body to propel herself into the passenger-side seat of a car, for instance — but little irritations remain at the end of the day.

She said it's difficult to accept that most things take more time.

"The other day it was rainy, and we came home, and my clothes were really wet because we had been outside," she said. "All I wanted to do was take a hot shower and change my clothes, but I couldn't."

Oglesby discovered early that it's best to fill her days with distractions. A member of her extended family always seems to be around the house — her grandmother loves to play cards, and her cousin has a knack for covering pop songs on the guitar.

She's also become used to unannounced visits from Alpha Phi sorority sisters who take her out for ice cream or lunch, to the mall or a movie.

Her favorite part of the week, she said, is when she can escape for a few hours to see her friends from K-Life, a national Christian organization with local chapters. Immersing herself in her religion has been the most helpful tool to recovery, she said. Faith has changed her outlook.

"Being around my K-Life friends has reminded me that God will be there, and he has a plan for everything," she said. "He's not going to give me something I can't handle."

She met her boyfriend, Kory McDonald, in K-life when they were students at Rock Bridge High School. Both have grown in their beliefs since the accident, she said.

McDonald was supposed to be on the sledding hill that day with Oglesby, but he arrived late to see flashing lights and an audience of bystanders. He said he spent the next few days in private torment, watching his girlfriend in a plastic neck brace drift in and out of consciousness.

Those initial thoughts, he said, were soon replaced with the knowledge that the optimistic girl he loves is still around. As Oglesby's self-appointed "taxi driver," he has been with her almost every day and has watched her slowly return to her old cheerful self.

"That's what's made me most proud — she's still having fun with life and not letting this get her down," he said. "It's been an incredible experience, and I think faith has really helped both of us get through it."

On a recent Saturday, the two waited outside Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church where a benefit event for Oglesby was wrapping up. Inside, the quiet sanctuary had been transformed into a bustling marketplace as at least 20 vendors shouted the prices of baked goods, clothing, jewelry and more.

Ashley Adams, a friend of the Oglesby family who organized the benefit, said the $11,500 in proceeds will go toward modifications to their home.

As people started to empty out around 2 p.m., Oglesby and McDonald offered outstretched hands and polite conversation by the front double doors. Some of the exiting visitors were old friends who traded jokes with them; others were strangers and friends of friends inspired by Oglesby's story.
Nearly everyone who approached her made some sort of comment about her broad smile. She kept repeating that she has a lot to be happy about these days. Mild sensations have started returning to her legs in small waves, she's enrolled in an online course for the summer and hopes to return to campus in the fall.

Doctors have told her there's no way of knowing at this point whether she will regain use of her lower body in five years or 20, but Oglesby's trying her best not to worry about it.

In front of the congregation at Our Lady of Lourdes, which she has attended all her life, she rolled back and forth in her wheelchair with newfound control.

She said she was in a good place. The future is out of her hands, and she's been able to see that more and more every day.

"There's a light at the end of the tunnel," she said. "I can't see it yet, but I know it's coming."

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Information from: Columbia Missourian, http://www.columbiamissourian.com

MU Political Expert says Diehl Scandal Casts All Politicians in a Bad Light

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=d44f4305-c338-4d01-ac82-655602cd3781
Fares Akremi is a graduating senior at MU. He has worked with the MU Department of Residential Life for three years as a peer advisor and as a student coordinator with the Freshman Interest Groups Program. He will be attending University of California—Berkeley School of Law in the fall.

On May 7, I attended my final class as an undergraduate at the University of Missouri. Like hundreds of thousands before me, I found the experience to be a bittersweet one. And like any stable, well-adjusted college student, I decided that in order to process my emotions I should go to Chipotle and partake in some caloric therapy. While I was sitting in that salsa and guacamole-filled pleasure den we all know and love, some truths dawned on me.

I realized that a lot has changed in four years. I came to the University of Missouri a scared, unsure, and altogether unconfident young man. I had been homeschooled, and the ACT was the first standardized test I had ever taken; a huge part of me wasn't certain that I was even smart enough to attend the University. I am both gay and Muslim, and I had no idea if either of these things would be accepted at Mizzou.

But during my freshman year living in McDavid Hall, I was amazed to not only find a “tolerant” community, but also a celebratory one. Those leading the celebration were my student staff members, Erin, Sally, Tim, Ben, Sarah, and Garrett, and I quickly decided that that was work worth doing.

I also realized that I didn’t have any idea what I was getting myself into when I signed up for that work. Three years later, I’ve dedicated thousands of hours to hard work, meeting deadlines, and learning difficult lessons. And it’s through these experiences that I’ve gained many of the most important relationships in my life, like those with my best friends, Tori and Ethan, and with my boyfriend, Ryan. It was through these lessons that that scared, unsure 18-year-old who walked into McDavid in August 2011 turned into the human I am today.

I realized that for all of our internal (and external) belly-aching, Mizzou’s Department of Residential Life is a rare and exceptional organization. It’s a community where employees and “customers” (i.e. residents) are treated with the utmost respect and not only tolerated but actually celebrated for their diversity and unique experiences. It’s a place where community members can be confident that their work is making a difference in the lives of others — and making a difference in their own lives. And,
perhaps most importantly, it’s a community where compassionate leadership is taught and shared to those who hold the keys to our future.

I realized that Residential Life’s mission is truly one of changing lives. Students from all over the world arrive here their freshman year and have no idea what’s happening. It’s Residential Life that connects these students with resources and organizations on our campus that enable them to succeed and grow as students and as humans.

I am absolutely a testament to that power. Coming from a rural community with few familiar faces at Mizzou, my staff members connected me to opportunities I never would have found on my own.

Perhaps the most difficult realization, though, was that all of this is about to become a chapter in the history of my life. This was when I nearly started Oprah-style ugly crying in Chipotle. But it’s an incredibly important realization to make. I’ve gotten what I need from the University of Missouri, and from the Department of Residential Life. Now it’s the next generation’s turn. We make leaders here. And not just any leaders – knowledgeable, caring, compassionate ones.

Few 21-year-olds can say that they’ve spent three incredible years doing work that they loved, but I can, thanks to Residential Life.

In short, I went to Chipotle and realized how incredibly lucky I have been to call Mizzou my home.

**Lawyer: Amtrak engineer doesn't remember fatal derailment**

*Thursday, May 14, 2015 | 9:22 a.m. CDT; updated 7:06 p.m. CDT, Thursday, May 14, 2015*

**BY GEOFF MULVIHILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

PHILADELPHIA — The engineer at the controls of the speeding Amtrak train that lurched off the tracks in Philadelphia, killing at least seven people, has no recollection of the crash, his attorney said.

Lawyer Robert Goggin told ABC News that the engineer, Brandon Bostian, 32, of New York, suffered a concussion in Tuesday night's wreck and had 15 staples in his head.
Federal investigators have determined that the train was barreling through the city at 106 mph before it ran off the rails along a sharp curve where the speed limit drops to just 50 mph. But they don't know why it was going so fast.

"He remembers coming into curve. He remembers attempting to reduce speed and thereafter he was knocked out," Goggin said. He said Bostian does not recall using the emergency brake, which investigators said was applied moments before the crash.

**Bostian graduated from MU in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, said Ashley Burden, director of communications for the Trulaske College of Business. His emphasis area was management.**

The lawyer said the last thing the engineer remembered was coming to, looking for his bag, retrieving his cellphone and calling 911 for help. He said the engineer's cellphone was off and stored in his bag before the accident, as required.

"As a result of his concussion, he has absolutely no recollection whatsoever of the events," Goggin said. He said he believes the engineer's memory will probably return once the head injury subsides.

Goggin said that his client "cooperated fully" with police and immediately consented to a blood test. He said he had not been drinking or doing drugs. Police had said on Wednesday that the engineer had refused to give a statement to law enforcement.

Robert Sumwalt of the National Transportation Safety Board said on Wednesday that federal accident investigators want to talk to him but will give him a day or two to recover from the shock of the accident.

Goggin said his client was distraught when he learned of the devastation.

Sumwalt said a data recorder and a video camera in the train's front end could yield clues to what happened. Amtrak inspected the stretch of track on Tuesday, just hours before the accident, and found no defects, according to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Sumwalt said the engineer applied the emergency brakes moments before the crash but slowed the train to only 102 mph by the time the locomotive's black box stopped recording data. The speed limit just before the bend is 80 mph, he said.

Mayor Michael Nutter said the engineer was clearly "reckless and irresponsible."

"Part of the focus has to be, what was the engineer doing?" Nutter said. "Why are you traveling at that rate of speed?"

More than 200 people aboard the Washington-to-New York train were injured in the wreck, which happened in a decayed industrial neighborhood not far from the Delaware River just before 9:30 p.m.
Passengers crawled out the windows of the torn and toppled rail cars in the darkness and emerged dazed and bloody. Many of the victims had broken ribs and other fractures. At least 10 people remained hospitalized in critical condition on Wednesday.

It was the nation's deadliest train accident in nearly six years. There was no Amtrak service between Philadelphia and New York again on Thursday.

Despite pressure from Congress and safety regulators, Amtrak had not installed along that section of track Positive Train Control, a technology that uses GPS, wireless radio and computers to prevent trains from going over the speed limit. Most of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, the line on which the crash occurred, is equipped with Positive Train Control.

"Based on what we know right now, we feel that had such a system been installed in this section of track, this accident would not have occurred," Sumwalt said.

The notoriously tight curve is not far from the site of one of the deadliest train wrecks in U.S. history: the 1943 derailment of the Congressional Limited, bound from Washington to New York. Seventy-nine people were killed.

The dead in Tuesday's crash included an Associated Press employee, a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, a Wells Fargo executive, a college administrator and the CEO of an educational startup.

Nutter said some people were unaccounted for but cautioned that some passengers listed on the Amtrak manifest might not have boarded the train, while others might not have checked in with authorities.

"We will not cease our efforts until we go through every vehicle," the mayor said.

Amtrak carries 11.6 million passengers a year along its busy Northeast Corridor, which runs between Washington and Boston.
Amtrak CEO: Railroad takes 'full responsibility' for crash

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — As federal investigators try to find out why an Amtrak train that crashed in Philadelphia sped up in the last minute before it derailed, Amtrak's top official said the railroad takes full responsibility for the deadly wreck.

Joseph Boardman, Amtrak president and CEO, said in a letter on Amtrak's official blog Thursday that it is cooperating fully in an investigation into the accident that killed eight people and injured more than 200 this week.

"With truly heavy hearts, we mourn those who died. Their loss leaves holes in the lives of their families and communities," Boardman wrote. "Amtrak takes full responsibility and deeply apologizes for our role in this tragic event."

He said the railroad's goal is "to fully understand what happened and how we can prevent a similar tragedy from occurring in the future."

Meanwhile, the National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday that in the last minute or so before the derailment, the Washington-to-New York train sped up from 70 mph until it reached more than 100 mph at a sharp bend where the maximum speed is supposed to be 50 mph.

Board member Robert Sumwalt said it's unclear whether the speed was increased manually by engineer Brandon Bostian.

So far, investigators have found no problems with the track, the signals or the locomotive, and the train was running on time, Sumwalt said.

Bostian refused to talk to police on Wednesday, authorities said. But on Thursday, Sumwalt said that Bostian had agreed to be interviewed by the NTSB in the next few days.

Separately, the Philadelphia district attorney's office said it is investigating and will decide whether to bring charges.

Bostian's lawyer, Robert Goggin, told ABC News that his client suffered a concussion in the wreck, needed 15 staples in his head and has "absolutely no recollection whatsoever" of the crash. Goggin also said Bostian had not been using his cellphone, drinking or using drugs.

"He remembers coming into the curve. He remembers attempting to reduce speed and thereafter he was knocked out," said Goggin. He said Bostian's cellphone was off and stored in his bag before the accident, as required. Goggin said his client "cooperated fully" with police and told them "everything that he knew," immediately consenting to a blood test and surrendering his cellphone.

As the death toll climbed on Thursday with the discovery of what was believed to be the last body in one of the mangled railcars, Mayor Michael Nutter again appeared to cast blame on Bostian, questioning why the train was going so fast.

"I don't think that any commonsense, rational person would think that it was OK to travel at that level of speed knowing that there was a pretty significant restriction on how fast you could go through that turn," Nutter said.

Bostian graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a bachelor's in business administration and management in 2006, the university said. He became an Amtrak engineer in 2010.
four years after landing a job as a conductor, according to his LinkedIn profile. He lives in New York City.

"I have nothing but good things to say about Brandon," said Will Gust, who belonged to the Acacia fraternity with Bostian in college. "He is a very conscientious person, one of the most upstanding individuals that I know, just a really good quality person."

Stefanie McGee, a friend of Bostian's, is now city clerk in his hometown of Bartlett, Tennessee, a suburb of Memphis. She said he always wanted to be an engineer or a conductor.

"He would go on vacation and bring back subway maps," she recalled Thursday. "He would go places with his family and he would talk about the trains instead of the places."

Officials believe they have now accounted for all 243 passengers and crew members who were thought to have been aboard, Nutter said. Forty-three remained hospitalized Thursday, according to the mayor. Temple University Hospital said it had six patients in critical condition, all of whom were expected to pull through.

The first funeral of the eight people killed in the crash was to be held on Friday morning. Services for U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman Justin Zemser, 20, who was traveling home to New York City, will take place on Long Island.

Amtrak, meanwhile, said limited train service between Philadelphia and New York should resume on Monday, with full service by Tuesday. Amtrak carries 11.6 million passengers a year along the Northeast Corridor, which runs between Washington and Boston.

Sam Montague, who was instrumental in much of KC's history, still has stories to tell

BY MARY SANCHEZ
MAY 15, 2015

Sam Montague gingerly handles the yellowed newspaper article from a stack of clippings and begins reading aloud.

"'Sam Montague Has Patriotic Idea,'" he says, starting with the headline, before beginning moving on to the story itself, an effort to spur patriotism and civic awareness.

As he continues deeper into the text, recognition pops.

"Sam Montague, that's me!" he says, smiling.

Montague is 101 "and a half," says his daughter Lisa Montague, who helps care for him in her Overland Park town house.
When a father lives that long, the half-years become vitally important to count. Dementia has taken some of his ability to recall the events of his life, but it's a long list and deserves recognition.

Sam Montague is a name you probably do not know — but you should. In the 1960s, The Star's political cartoonist used to regularly sketch Montague because he was instrumental in much news of the day.

Like when he was the campaign director when Kansas City finally passed the earnings tax. He worked on the bond issues that funded the international airport and what became Truman Medical Center. He helped draw the People-to-People program into the private sector, away from the government (after being encouraged to do so by Joyce C. Hall, whom he worked for through the Hallmark Foundation).

He also helped promote the passage of the public accommodations ordinance that desegregated the city's hotels and restaurants. The work, he later wrote, was the one campaign "that has given me the greatest feeling of achievement."

And when organizers of the 1961 rededication of the Liberty Memorial needed to mend a historic rift between former Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight Eisenhower to gain their participation in the ceremonies, they called on Montague. He got the job done. Montague convinced Truman to accept a visit from Eisenhower at the Truman Library in Independence as a military gesture of a soldier to his senior officer.

Passionately bullish on promoting Kansas City, he convinced city officials to fund - and later he led - what was then called the Kansas City Tourism Commission. He was the one who proposed that Kansas City be dubbed the City of Fountains.

He helped found the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. And in the late 1960s, he threatened to quit if the organization didn't allow women reporters. Two reporters were being shown the door, The Kansas City Call's Lucile Bluford and Helen Gott, later Helen Gray, The Star's longtime religion editor.

Even Montague's arrival in Missouri is interesting history.

Montague was among seven students famously expelled from Louisiana State University in 1934 by Sen. Huey Long. They had angered the fiery Long by refusing to agree that the student newspaper could be censored.

**The University of Missouri's journalism school offered to take them in, and it was from there that Montague graduated. It was the beginning of his short career as a photojournalist and his longer one in public relations, as a fundraiser, a generalist with savvy people skills.**

Because he was enrolled in the ROTC during college, he is among a special category of World War II veterans still living, those who were soldiers before the war began.

He was stationed 30 months in the Panama Canal Zone. As a safety pilot, Montague was the extra person who would be able to take over a plane, navigate for other pilots and take surveillance photos.
Among his pre-Kansas City experiences is the period in the late 1940s and early '50s, when he was in Mexico City, first helping to contain the spread of foot-and-mouth disease among livestock and later as the press attache for the U.S. Embassy. It is why his memorabilia includes photo albums with his early works: portraits of famed painter Diego Rivera and several Mexican presidents.

Some of those memories are easier for him to comment on. For reasons of the mind and aging, his fluent Spanish is at times stronger than his English. But Margie, his wife of nearly 70 years, fills in many of the details, vividly recalling their years together and the events surrounding the births of the couple’s four children.

"A lot of changes have happened in a period of time that you don't know will go by so fast," she said.

Her husband confuses their connection at times, once commenting to his daughter when he thought his wife couldn't hear, "She really likes me!"

Among his memorabilia are stacks of framed proclamations, one from nearly every state. They are remnants of Montague's effort to get Patriots Day widely recognized.

Now, his daughter is searching for a final footprint on Kansas City for her father, a place he has called home for more than five decades. He was a passionate cheerleader for reviving downtown, but his health began to fail before efforts really took off.

He has never seen the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts or the Power & Light District.

"If my dad was going to do something as a community service at this time, it would probably be for veterans," she said. "But he can't reach out and do it himself."

So she is.

Lisa Montague is a staunch advocate for her father’s health care. Daily, it seems, she finds a way to manage the idiosyncrasies of the bureaucracy in the Department of Veterans Affairs. She’s concerned, as her father is, for veterans who do not have family members to help them through the complicated paperwork.

In 1982, he convinced President Ronald Reagan to make a formal announcement honoring veterans, a halftime radio address played at college football games. The effort sparked because Montague was upset at how Vietnam veterans were disrespected.

Because her father still enjoys reading, Lisa Montague often writes with a marker on an erasable board to communicate with him. To help him understand why a columnist was visiting, she wrote:

"You are an old soldier.
You are a pre-WWII veteran.
There are only about 300 like you alive in the U.S.
You're special!"
The 300 is a bit of a guess. No one knows for sure. But Montague is among the oldest veterans receiving home care by the V.A. in Leavenworth.

Montague's patriotism began early. He was born on Memorial Day, 1912, although it was then called Decoration Day.

He learned patriotism and civic action young, a fact he writes of in a biography his daughter pressed him to pen when he was 90.

"We learned what our duties and responsibilities were as citizens so we would protect and preserve, and pass along our rights, and liberties as guaranteed by the Constitution," he wrote. "While still a tot, I can recall being taught to place my right hand over my heart when the American flag passed by, and how to recite the Pledge of Allegiance."

In the final pages, he wrote of his own legacy, which he then saw as not completely fulfilled.

"My efforts to help make the world a better place resulted in small improvements in the general scheme of things. The Jewish ideal, 'To help another person is to repair the world,' seems to have been my guiding principle. I wish I had been able to do more!"

May 15, 2015

Colleges Strive to Meet Demand for a More Hands-On Education

By Maddy Berner

NO MU MENTION

Kendall A. Trammell has the kind of résumé employers would notice. The University of Georgia senior has worked at the college newspaper, completed an internship in Washington, and is now studying in Spain.

Real-world opportunities like those are invaluable, she said. "That’s what sets you apart from other people."

Soon, all undergraduates at Georgia will be required to pursue similar academic paths. The university announced last month that, as early as the fall of 2016, every incoming
freshman will be required to participate in a hands-on learning experience in order to graduate. A growing number of large institutions are embracing experiential learning to enhance their students' education. In his executive budget, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York dictated that the City and State Universities of New York should develop some kind of experiential-learning plan by June 1, 2016. Georgia is one of the largest public universities to make such opportunities compulsory for all students.

Experiential learning is a broader term for what George D. Kuh, an emeritus professor at Indiana University at Bloomington and director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment, has called "high-impact practices." He cites such experiences as study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, and senior capstone projects — all of which require students to apply their classroom learning to the world outside. Research shows that such experiences greatly improve students’ learning and progress through college, according to the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Yet there are obstacles. Hiring an experiential-learning coordinator is hard for public colleges to justify in a time of shrinking budgets.

Then there is the argument that, despite the hype, experiential learning isn’t achieving its promised results. Though educators argue it can encourage students’ personal growth and improve their career trajectories, recent studies have cast doubts on those claims. The tension on both sides of the experiential-learning debate reflects larger concerns about the goals of a college degree.

**High Student Demand**

With more students enrolling in experiential-learning programs, the University of Georgia decided to expand its effort, said Linda P. Bachman, who this month became director of university experiential learning there. Now Georgia wants to widen the opportunity to every one of its 26,000 undergraduates, saying it will enhance students’ learning and position them for success after graduation.

As students and parents increasingly question the value of college degrees, said Ms. Bachman, it’s important that universities show students what they can do, not just tell them.

One selling point of an experiential education is that it teaches students job skills. But such opportunities can also introduce students to complex situations that leave them with something less tangible, like a shift in perspective.
It happened to Ms. Trammell. While helping homeless people during a service-learning trip, Ms. Trammell said she began to understand the difference between using "homeless" as a temporary descriptor and using the more permanent noun, "the homeless," which can be dehumanizing.

"It changes your perception about how you address people," said Ms. Trammell. "It’s made me a little more aware of the words that I use."

Employers, too, support the increased emphasis on high-impact practices. In a study released in January by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, 91 percent of employers surveyed said a job candidate’s ability to think critically and solve complex problems — skills often gained from experiential-learning projects — is more important than his or her undergraduate major. But in the same survey they said today’s students were not particularly prepared for the real world.

The concept of hands-on learning is not new. Institutions are now making experiential learning central to the educational process rather than an optional add-on, said Debra Humphreys, the association’s vice president for policy and public engagement.

The shift can be attributed to several factors, she said. The economic downturn has caused institutions to examine more closely how well they’re preparing students for the work force. Students and parents are concerned that graduates won’t make a successful transition from college into early adulthood.

**Getting the Faculty on Board**

The University of Washington in 2004 created its Center for Experiential Learning (now called the Center for Experiential Learning and Diversity). Thirty-two staff members serve the Seattle campus of nearly 30,000 undergraduates.

One important element of Washington’s program involves making sure professors are both excited about it and rewarded for supporting it — maybe with a positive mark on a tenure evaluation, said Janice DeCosmo, director of the center.

Experiential learning at Washington is not mandatory for every student. Despite that, Ms. DeCosmo said, she thinks her colleagues are reaching plenty of students. About 88 percent of Washington students participate in at least one high-impact practice in their four years.

"It’s not just checking a box," she said. "We want students to be eagerly following their curiosity and really applying themselves to these types of experiences."
Clark University does not make it a requirement either, said Nancy A. Budwig, associate provost and dean of research at the Massachusetts institution. Clark emphasizes preparation before and reflection after the experience. Such a focus, she said, helps ensure that students don’t think of the opportunities as simple assignments but as rich experiences woven into their education.

"It’s the chance for students to engage," said Ms. Budwig, "the chance for students to be mentored and have powerful relationships with others."

Although college officials involved in experiential learning tout its positive influence on work-force preparation, research suggests that linkage might not be so clear cut.

A study by Greg C. Wolniak, director of New York University's Center for Research on Higher Education Outcomes, found little evidence linking high-impact practices to a student’s early-career outcomes. Mr. Wolniak and a colleague reported that institution type and major have a more sizable effect.

"It’s not that these experiences aren’t doing very good things for the students who engage in them," he said. "It’s that those things aren’t translating to what we’re finding in the early stages of careers post college." Job satisfaction and higher earnings, Mr. Wolniak said, don’t necessarily result from experiential learning.

Because of the foggy connection, he advised using caution when associating high-impact practices with career outcomes. The finding suggests that institutions might benefit from focusing on resources known to help students get jobs, like career services, Mr. Wolniak added.

Securing resources, Ms. Humphreys said, is one of the more difficult challenges of developing an experiential-learning program. Ms. DeCosmo acknowledged that finding financing to support the effort at Washington was a struggle.

At Georgia, Ms. Bachman said she and her colleagues are taking a strategic approach. The experiential-learning requirement comes at no added cost to either the institution or the students, but Ms. Bachman acknowledged there might be some fund raising and redirection of resources to cover unanticipated expenses.

Another obstacle to experiential learning is wariness by conservative educators who support the traditional way of doing things.

"There is skepticism about anything that de-centers the traditional power dynamic of the professor as the person who knows things," said Ms. Humphreys.
Despite those challenges, students and administrators who spoke to The Chronicle for this article expressed support for experiential learning and a hope that more institutions will follow suit. Ms. Trammell, the Georgia student, thought it should be made mandatory elsewhere as well.

"People don’t always see the benefits that can come with experiential learning," she said. "Sometimes you have to put things in people’s faces."

Fight Over Campus Banking

May 15, 2015

By Michael Stratford

NO MU MENTION

The Obama administration is preparing to take on banks and other financial firms with new rules that would ban certain fees they can charge college students as well as restrictions on how they market products on campuses.

The U.S. Department of Education is expected, as soon as today, to unveil draft regulations on debit cards and other financial products offered on campuses. Consumer advocates have long sought the rules, which have drawn the ire of the financial services industry.

The draft regulations will target two categories of financial products, according to two people who are familiar with the proposal.

First, the department is seeking to place the most stringent restrictions on debit cards and prepaid cards that colleges use to directly disburse federal grants and loans to students. For those accounts, the department would prohibit point-of-service fees, overdraft or insufficient funds charges, and ATM withdrawal fees.

A second category includes checking accounts or other financial products that are offered on campus or marketed to students under an agreement with the college. For example, some banks offer debit cards that are co-branded with the logo or mascot of a
college. Those types of products would be prohibited from charging account access fees or in-network ATM withdrawal fees.

The draft regulations, according to those familiar with the proposal, also include new restrictions on how either type of account is marketed to students as well as disclosure requirements.

The department has been working on writing the rules since negotiations over the regulations broke down last spring. The White House’s Office of Management and Budget signed off on the department’s proposal earlier this week after meeting with industry lobbyists and consumer advocates.

Even before the draft regulations are formally proposed, though, the Education Department has been the subject of a furious, multimillion-dollar lobbying effort by financial firms -- eclipsed in recent years perhaps only by the Obama administration’s regulatory wars with the for-profit college industry.

Since the department first said in 2012 that it planned to regulate campus debit cards, Higher One, one of the biggest players in the industry, has spent more than $1.2 million lobbying department officials and members of Congress, federal records show.

But after the Education Department said last year that it was eyeing a more sweeping regulation that included banking products beyond the direct aid disbursement products that companies like Higher One offer, it attracted the attention of the financial services industry.

Banking industry lobbyists argue the department is stepping far outside its regulatory powers in going after campus financial products that may or may not involve federal aid dollars.

“None of the provisions of the Higher Education Act the department relies on provide it authority to regulate bank products,” said Dave Pommerehn, vice president and senior counsel at the Consumer Bankers Association. “The statute does not address, let alone prohibit, fees charged by banks and credit unions for ordinary banking services provided to students.”

A bipartisan group of lawmakers on Capitol Hill have echoed the financial industry’s concerns, calling on the Education Department to either abandon its efforts or narrow the scope.

Aside from decrying those possible fee restrictions, financial firms have also pushed back against the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s efforts to get them to publicly disclose the arrangements they have with colleges to market products.

The Education Department’s draft rules would require that the agreements between colleges and financial firms be publicly disclosed, according to people familiar with the proposal. Congress in 2009 required the arrangements between colleges and credit card companies to be made public, but that law doesn’t apply to debit cards and other financial products used by college students.
The regulations have long been sought by consumer and student advocates, who have criticized the arrangements between colleges and financial institutions as well as aggressive marketing of products to students on their campuses.

Beth Huang is the coordinator of Student Labor Action Project, a joint campaign of Jobs With Justice and the United States Student Association. She said the groups brought students affected by overdraft and other fees to Washington to meet with Education Department officials and congressional staff.

“We’re excited about the prospect of eliminating some of the worst predatory practices that financial institutions have on campuses across the country,” she said. “We want to make sure federal financial aid is actually going to students rather than padding the profits of financial institutions.”

Chris Lindstrom, the higher education director of U.S. PIRG, who was a negotiator on the department’s rule-making panel last year, said she hoped the department would publish a rule that is as strong as its draft proposals from last spring.

“We want strong, fair rules that are just as fair for students on campus as they are off campus,” she said. “This is the Department of Education’s chance to knock it out of the park when it comes to protecting students.”