Mizzou News

Daily Clips Packet

May 18, 2015
Police chief says crime not increasing on MU campus

By Alan Burdziak

Friday, May 15, 2015 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri Police Department interim Chief Doug Schwandt this week issued a statement to students, faculty and staff about recent crime on and near campus and to address concerns about safety at MU.

In the Wednesday email, which was a condensed version of a four-page letter posted on the department’s website last week, Schwandt said the perception that crime is increasing at the university and in the city is false and provided statistics from MUPD and the Columbia Police Department from the past few years.

“Crime in Columbia and on MU’s campus has not risen significantly over the past 20 years,” Schwandt wrote. “Actual crime statistics as shown on the following charts indicate that since 1995, Columbia’s violent crime index has remained relatively stable despite an increase in MU’s student population of more than 13,000 students.”

Schwandt also mentioned the recent use of the MU Alert system, which has been criticized for inconsistent warnings and, in one case, too many late-night notifications.

“The recent increase in the number of emergency alerts from MUPD are not indicative of an increase in crime or emergency situations, but are due to an expansion of community policing and communication within our campus community,” he wrote.

Statistics Schwandt provided show there have been four total violent crimes reported to his department through May 6 this year, 21 in 2014, 12 in 2013 and 16 in 2012. Columbia police statistics in the four-page document show a decrease in violent crime in the city from 476 incidents in 2012 to 416 in 2013 and 410 in 2014.

MU police Capt. Brian Weimer said the email was sent out a few days after the longer version was posted online to make sure more people saw the chief’s message.

“We were still getting questions, so to make sure it got out to all people possible, that was another reason we put out the letter,” Weimer said.
Christian Basi, an MU spokesman, said there have been no changes to the alert system since a meeting in late April after a bomb threat at the MU Student Center and Memorial Union.

School officials will continue to meet after each incident to evaluate the system, Basi said.

Weimer said once an alert is sent, people in the area are urged to check the alert system’s website and to take precautions.

Alerts typically are sent via text message, email and via social media, but Weimer said phone calls also are an option.

“We can’t give you specifics at the time” on how to increase security, “but we can say, ‘Hey there’s an incident that has occurred. Be alert of what’s going on,’ ” Weimer said.

Schwandt in the letter also mentioned several steps the department has taken to increase its visibility and to enhance security, including adding a couple of officers to its budget, focusing patrols on areas near the sites of crimes, installing emergency alert beacons in buildings, expanding several programs and assigning officers to supplemental patrols during the evening and late at night.

Thousands graduate from mid-Missouri colleges

COLUMBIA Mo. - Parents and students packed the streets around some mid-Missouri schools Saturday for graduation weekend.

More than 6,000 people will receive diplomas from the University of Missouri this weekend.

MU said more than 4,000 earned an undergraduate degree, 1,000 earned masters degrees and 300 earned doctorate degrees.

350 people from 32 states also earned a degree from Mizzou online.

Commencement speakers included Attorney General Chris Koster at the College of Agriculture and State Supreme Court Justice Mary Russell at the Law School.
Hundreds of students also began packing up after graduation at Lincoln University.

The Jefferson City School also gave out honorary degrees.

Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer, actor Cedric the Entertainer and 104 year old Alice Bingham, the oldest living alumni of the school, all received degrees.

MU Celebrates Graduation


Medical School honors 101 graduates

By Alicia Stice

Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 12:00 am

As the graduates of the University of Missouri School of Medicine filed across the stage at Jesse Auditorium, they picked up a piece of paper that represented a momentous accomplishment and the promise of exciting — and maybe a little bit terrifying — newness.

The Saturday ceremony marked a new stage for the 101 graduating medical students. As the new doctors depart for residency programs across the state and country, they face navigating a complex health care system and taking on the weight of a job that can literally mean life or death.
For Robby Jones, who spoke to his fellow graduates during the ceremony, how they choose to interpret the challenges they will inevitably face can make all the difference.

Jones talked about one patient who had provided him with an unexpected lesson. Every night, as Jones tucked the patient into bed, Jones always asked how his day had been, to which the man responded, “Pretty good, so far.”

Although the response likely indicated cynicism — even though the patient was only minutes from falling asleep, he suspected something could still happen to make his day worse — Jones chose to believe something else.

“We get to choose how we interpret the world around us, because there’s also the possibility, however small, that” the patient “could mean just the opposite, that things have been pretty good, but who knows, they might get even better in his last five minutes of awareness,” he said. “That’s the interpretation I chose to believe because it’s meaningful to me. Because starting over in a new city at a new job scares me, and because it’s the perfect nightly reminder of something I often forget: That things might actually turn out really, really good.”

MU School of Medicine class of 1996 graduate Mark Beard also spoke to the class of new doctors. Respect, genuineness and empathy should guide the graduates as they begin their medical careers, he told the crowd. Respect, in particular, can be the deciding factor in whether a person heeds a doctor’s advice, he said.

“You will be given opportunities to demonstrate respect toward patients who do not follow a lifestyle or exemplify life habits you condone,” he said. “You will most definitely have times of frustration with the health system you work with, which will require you to demonstrate respect for it, both with patients and colleagues. It is within these times that our respect can be so crucial to the success or failure of an encounter.”

The School of Medicine’s 2015 class had a 99 percent residency program match rate, with many of the 101 graduates staying in Missouri for specialty training. Of the 45 staying in-state, 30 will be at MU Health Care.

The top choices of specialty for this year’s class were internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, psychiatry, emergency medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU's education, engineering graduates celebrate with selfies, high fives

Sunday, May 17, 2015 | 6:25 p.m. CDT; updated 9:49 p.m. CDT, Sunday, May 17, 2015
BY SARAH BELL

"Z-O-U," the crowd shouted back.

"After a week of ‘Rock Chalk,’ its good to be home," she replied. The audience cheered and applauded.

Gautt, a special education professor emerita at the University of Kansas and a class of ’65 MU grad, gave the address at MU’s College of Education commencement on Sunday morning at Mizzou Arena. In addition to the education graduation, students from the School of Law, the College of Engineering, the College of Arts and Sciences and commissioned ROTC officers received diplomas on Sunday.

Elizabeth Steimel, who was also celebrating her 30th birthday, was among the more than 300 College of Education graduates in attendance.

“We are very proud of her,” her mother, Kathy Sapp said. “She has worked hard for this. It took her a long time to get here.”

Before attending MU, Steimel took courses at Moberly Area Community College and Columbia College. Steimel begins her teaching career in Mexico, Missouri, this fall.

President of the College of Education Student Council Samantha Kanago greeted the students with a request: “Raise your hand if you ever rode a bus to school.”

Kanago then proceeded to take the graduating class on a school bus tour of her elementary, middle school and high school memories. She also dispensed advice on how to be a good teacher.

As Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin conferred degrees, he jokingly begged the students to take pity on his hand. Students played along — the chancellor received hugs, high-fives, fist bumps and even took selfies with the graduates.

Daniel Clay, the dean of the College of Education, closed the ceremony with encouraging words for the future teachers: "When you feel like you want to quit on that one student, remember that if you don’t give up, the potential for that student is limitless."
He proceeded to pull out a selfie stick and asked the students to take a funny picture with him.

“Now the faculty is jealous,” Clay said.

**MU awards 402 engineering diplomas**

Peter Oppliger, a chemical engineering graduate, stood in line before walking into Mizzou Arena Sunday afternoon. He looked like every other soon-to-be MU graduate, but only from the ankles up.

Oppliger donned a fuzzy pair of Truman the Tiger feet in addition to the usual black gown and graduation cap. He laughed with friends about his unusual choice of footwear.

MU’s College of Engineering awarded 402 diplomas Sunday afternoon at Mizzou Arena.

The interim dean of the College of Engineering, Robert Schwartz, thanked families and friends for supporting the graduates and introduced the commencement speaker, Kelly King, an MU alumnus and regional president of AT&T.

King advised the students to "be comfortable with getting uncomfortable" as they step out into the world. "Fail fast and fail often," he said. "That will accelerate the learning process."

He also talked about the rapid technological changes taking place in the industry. "You will compete with everyone," he said. The best gift MU has given you is not a specific skill set, but the ability to learn how to learn, he said.

In addition to the speeches, the students also played a slideshow of photographs from the past few years, and a handful of graduates presented awards to their favorite professors.

Heather Williams, a chemical engineering graduate, presented an award to continuing education director Mary Myers, also known as "M-squared," for her continued support and sense of humor.

Williams recounted a joke Myers is known for telling: What is the difference between an introverted and an extroverted engineer?

"An extroverted engineer stares at your shoes when talking," Williams said.
The crowd chuckled and applauded as Myers took the stage to accept her award.

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU graduates celebrate success, look to the future

Saturday, May 16, 2015 | 10:07 p.m. CDT; updated 11:12 p.m. CDT, Saturday, May 16, 2015
BY SARAH BELL, SOPHIA ZHENG

COLUMBIA — In broadcast-style, master of ceremonies Katie Moeller invited Matt Ingram up to the microphone. "Four years we’ve been going nonstop. It might be hard to believe, but this is a chance to stop. Look around. You are so cool, Class of 2015," Ingram said.

Journalism students Moeller and Ingram were among the 5,574 students to receive degrees during MU's spring commencement ceremonies. The university held 17 graduation events, which began Friday and will conclude Sunday.

The School of Journalism awarded 473 students with degrees Saturday afternoon at Mizzou Arena. The group included six doctoral and 44 master's students.
As the graduates walked in to the arena, family members and friends stood and cheered names in unison. Among them were Alex Brownfield and Nikita Brownell, both of whom attended to support their friend Marissa Weiher, who studied photojournalism.

“I've known her since we were babies in diapers, and I'll probably know her until we are in adult diapers,” Brownell said.

The three met in or just before kindergarten in Slater, Missouri, Brownfield and Brownell said.

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Brian Smith gave the commencement address and offered 10 pieces of advice he wished someone had given him in 1981 at his graduation.

Smith challenged the graduates to talk to strangers, tell stories and treat every assignment as a dream job. "When people properly do journalism, it isn't a job," he said.

“The journey will get steeper, but the view gets better with every step,” Smith said. “Don't rush to the top. Take it all in."

As he concluded his list, Smith quoted his favorite anchorman: Ron Burgundy. "Stay classy, Columbia,” he said.

Dean Mills, dean of the School of Journalism, conferred the degrees for the last time — he will retire this summer after 26 years in the position.

“Finally, here it is," he said. "By the power vested in me by the Board of Curators of the University of Missouri and the University of Missouri — two degrees for the price of one — congratulations and best of luck."

**Doctoral students hooded**

An hour earlier, more than 300 doctoral faculty and their candidates milled around the second floor of Jesse Hall in anticipation of the hooding ceremony Saturday afternoon. Dozens of the heavily robed attendees fanned themselves with yellow papers or graduation caps.

The group slowly made its way into the auditorium while Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" played over the loudspeakers. Leona Rubin, the associate vice president for academic affairs and graduate education at the University of Missouri System, welcomed families and friends.
Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin took the podium and said graduate school was one of the best times of his life. He reminded the soon-to-be doctorates holders that earning a Ph.D. carries with it increased responsibility.

"We'll be judged because of you," Loftin said.

Among the graduates was Eun Ju Lee, who earned a doctorate in learning, teaching and curriculum with an emphasis in science education. Lee spent the past five years researching how to best teach science to children with disabilities.

Lee plans to return to her home country of South Korea soon. Teaching children with disabilities is not very common there, she said.

**Graduating with honors**

Earlier in the morning, families and friends darted through the crowded Mizzou Arena frantically searching for the best spot to watch their honor graduate cross the stage.

Graduates of the MU Honors College are required to achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher and complete 20 or more hours of honors credit, according to the Honors College website.

One family high in the bleachers took up nearly two full rows and came from Kansas City and Wisconsin to support their graduate, Hilary Mueller.

Mueller is the youngest of three in her family and the first to graduate from college. She is a psychology and communications double major with a minor in social justice.

"We are so proud," said Hilary Mueller's father, Kevin Mueller. “I can't talk about it without tearing up."

Hilary Mueller plans to attend MU's School of Social Work this fall. “She's following in her mother's footsteps,” her father said. Her mother, who died in 2008, also received a master of social work, Kevin Mueller said.

W. Dudley McCarter, president of the MU Alumni Association, took the podium for the commencement greetings and welcomed the newest group of MU alumni. He also took a moment to recognize the parents of the graduates.

"You probably thanked them, but you probably didn't thank them enough," McCarter said.
He asked the graduating students to stand, look for their family members and thank them with a round of applause.

McCarter encouraged the students to write notes to faculty members who have influenced them and to keep in touch with the lifelong friends they’ve made in college.

"Make plans with your friends now to come back for homecoming this year, next year and every year," McCarter said.

As he closed the commencement greetings, he reminded the audience of the beauty the university holds.

"I know you’ve walked past Jesse Hall at night, and you’ve seen the dome shine so bright," he said. “This university shines bright.”

Sunday’s graduations include:

- **ROTC Commissioning of Officers**: 9:30 in front of Crowder Hall (rain location is Conservation Auditorium)
- **College of Education**: 10 a.m. at Mizzou Arena
- **School of Law**: 12:30 p.m. at Jesse Auditorium
- **College of Engineering**: 1:30 p.m. at Mizzou Arena
- **College of Arts & Science**: 5:30 p.m. at Mizzou Arena

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COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU business school grads challenged to seek 'real joy' in life

Friday, May 15, 2015 | 9:55 p.m. CDT; updated 9:50 p.m. CDT, Sunday, May 17, 2015
BY SARAH BELL

COLUMBIA — J. Andrew Miller challenged the new graduates of the Trulaske College of Business to seek one thing when they leave MU.

“Joy. Make this your life goal,” Miller, an MU alumnus and partner at Ernst & Young, said during his commencement address. "I don’t mean the joy we feel when Mizzou beats South Carolina. I mean real joy. My greatest joy is serving my community and making this world a better place."

Business students who graduated during a ceremony at Hearnes Center on Friday afternoon joined the more than 5,000 students who will receive degrees at commencement ceremonies this weekend. The business school had a total of 616 graduates, including master's students.

Around 1:30 p.m., families and friends shuffled through the hallways of the arena to take their seats. As the students filed in half an hour later, audience members whistled, cried, held up signs and took photos.

One mother in the crowd was especially proud of her son, Tyrone Davis. He is the first university graduate on her side of the family.

“I don’t know what he wants to do with his future, but he probably does. That’s kind of how he is,” said Kin Peebles.

This summer, Davis will go back home to St. Louis to intern for Dillard’s, Peebles said.

Cameron Perkins, who died on Jan. 25, was posthumously honored with the master's degree he’d been pursuing.

His sister, Taylor Perkins, accepted the diploma on his behalf. The audience stood and applauded for the family.
As his address ended, Miller riled up the group with his closing words:

“Go out and be leaders, go find joy, go achieve your dreams, and, of course, go Tigers. M-I-Z!”

The crowd responded with a resounding “Z-O-U.”

**Robbery suspect tied to fraternity house invasion**

By Alan Burdzia

Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 12:00 am

A 20-year-old man arrested on suspicion of a strong-arm robbery on the University of Missouri campus was charged Friday for a home invasion robbery at an MU fraternity May 5.

MU police arrested Treshaun D. Butner on May 6 at his home in the 100 block of Redwood Road, and he was subsequently charged with second-degree robbery and possession of a controlled substance. Investigators also linked him to a March 25 burglary.

Butner was charged with armed criminal action and first-degree robbery Friday for allegedly breaking into the Phi Delta Theta frat house, 101 East Burnam Road, with one or two other men and assaulting and robbing two fraternity members.

The two fraternity brothers were in their room during the early morning hours of May 5 when the suspects entered, according to a probable cause statement; two of the men allegedly brandished handguns. The men ordered the fraternity brothers to the floor and demanded money, the statement said.

The intruders allegedly pistol-whipped one of the victims and forced him to open a safe at gunpoint, according to the statement. Once the fraternity brother unlocked the safe, one of the intruders allegedly rifled through it; another of the three men reportedly flipped a couch in the
room before leaving. The intruders then stole an iPhone 5S from the room and hit both victims in their heads with a gun, according to the statement.

Another member of the fraternity told police he saw two men running out of a door on the house’s north side. The witness reportedly described one of the men as being more than 6 feet tall, with a thin build and wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, dark jeans and red running shoes.

After arresting Butner, police searched his house and reportedly found a 9 mm pistol with a stainless steel slide and black frame as well as bright orange and red Nike athletic shoes. Police said Butner confessed to unrelated crimes during an interview after he was arrested for the strong-arm robbery.

Boone County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Stephanie Morrell said she could not comment on specifics of the case, citing ethical standards.

Butner allegedly told police he was at the fraternity house the night of May 4 with two other men attending a party. Morrell would not say whether she had received case files from police on the other two suspects.

“I can tell you that the case is still under investigation,” she said.

Derek Roe, a public defender who is representing Butner in the burglary and the strong-arm robbery case, did not return a call seeking comment.

Butner reportedly told police that when he got to the frat house, he went to the DJ booth as one of his friends went upstairs and another one went to the back of the house, where the assault occurred. About 20 minutes later, he said his two friends wanted to leave the party, so he left with them and got a ride home, according to the statement. The next day, Butner told police, his friend told him he was in a fight and committed a robbery at the house, the statement said.

A fraternity member told police there was no party at the house that night and said everyone was studying when the home invasion happened. The president of the fraternity told the Tribune the same thing one day after the incident.

In the strong-arm robbery, Butner is accused of knocking a woman to the ground at about 7:40 p.m. May 5 next to the sand volleyball courts near Hawthorn Hall on MU’s campus and taking her ID case, which had a debit card and about $20 inside. Police said they found a Xanax pill on Butner when they arrested him.

On March 25, Butner allegedly was part of a group that broke into a home in the 7600 block of North Sharidan Boulevard and stole an Xbox 360, video games and other related items. According to a probable cause statement, Butner admitted to opening a window at the residence and going inside, but he said a friend stole the items and sold them.

Butner is being held at the Boone County Jail on a $150,000 cash-only bond.
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Man arrested in connection with May 5 robbery at MU fraternity
Friday, May 15, 2015 | 6:37 p.m. CDT; updated 6:52 p.m. CDT, Friday, May 15, 2015
BY KATELYN LUNDERS

COLUMBIA — Treshaun Butner, 20, was arrested Friday in connection with the May 5 home invasion robbery at Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

He is the same man who was arrested in connection with a strong-arm robbery that occurred later that day near the sand volleyball courts on MU’s campus, MU Police Department spokesman Brian Weimer said. Butner has been in the custody of the Boone County Jail since May 6, according to a news release from the Columbia Police Department.

During an interview, Butner implicated himself and two other suspects in the robbery at the fraternity at 101 E. Burnam Road, Columbia Police Department spokeswoman Latisha Stroer said.

The robbery occurred at around 1 a.m. May 5 at the fraternity, when two to three men with handguns entered the residence and forced entry into a bedroom occupied by two people, according to previous Missourian reporting. The two people were assaulted, and the men ransacked the room before running away, police reported.

The other two suspects in the case have not been arrested and therefore can’t be identified at this time, Stroer said.

Butner was arrested on suspicion of first-degree robbery and armed criminal action with a $100,000 cash-only bond, according to the release.
Common ground -- MU, city vow better communication about housing demand.

By Caitlin Campbell

Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 12:00 am

The Columbia City Council’s recent denial of a proposed 850-bed student housing project near Stadium Boulevard and Old 63 has rekindled a long-running debate about where student housing should go and how much is too much.

That discussion has for years divided residents, investors and city staff.

Mayor Bob McDavid said he has been in contact with higher-ups and students at the University of Missouri to keep tabs on how much additional student housing the city will need and where it should be located. He said those conversations pushed him to vote against the construction of a proposed 850-bed housing project because the city needs to be “smarter” about dealing with growth in the student population.

McDavid said the city had “not been paying attention” to what was going on at the university regarding enrollment and the increasing need for student housing, and he is championing an effort to improve communication between the two entities.

“I view it as my responsibility to be the liaison with the University of Missouri,” McDavid said. “We do have influence over where students live and influence over the price of student housing. Now is the time to improve all of that.”

Gary Ward, the university’s chief operating officer, said MU and the city have had an “outstanding” relationship for decades, but the city has never had a good understanding of the university’s expectations and projections when it comes to the number of students it is bringing in. Through his discussions with McDavid, he said, MU is working to improve that communication so the city can set better goals for handling the growing student body.

Ward said the two entities are looking at a process in which the university can update the city on its progress in recruiting students and fulfilling the goals laid out in its master plan.

“The city and university are joined at the hip,” Ward said. “We have to know what each other’s goals and desires are to be successful. It just makes sense.”

McDavid said the university is an integral part of the city and that campus growth means economic growth. He said there has always been significant collaboration between the two when it comes to police and fire department services and public works projects such as street maintenance, but the city seldom consults senior-level university officials about housing.
“Their senior staff are not in our planning groups,” McDavid said. “You see faculty members across city boards, but no input from that higher level.”

If the student population in Columbia continues to grow, questions remain about how the city will disperse the newcomers in off-campus housing. McDavid said the university’s projections of supply and demand indicate growth the city cannot ignore.

“The community needs to understand that change always occurs,” he said, “and we need to be more engaged.”

**University-projected supply and demand**

The supply for student housing can be broken into two groups for analysis: university-owned residence hall and Greek Life housing capacity; and off-campus housing capacity. According to its master plan, the university projects 38,000 students will be enrolled on campus by 2019. University projections for on-campus and Greek housing indicate sufficient capacity in 2019 to meet just less than 29 percent of that demand.

On campus, the University of Missouri has been aggressively updating and constructing dormitory and apartment housing for mostly freshman students. Ward said the university now houses about 6,600 students on campus and 340 students in apartments off campus. Students are housed in apartments rented by the university to make up for decreased supply of on-campus housing as the school finishes up residence hall renovation projects.

Several dormitories have recently been the targets of renovation or complete reconstruction, such as single-gender Johnston Hall, multi-gender Wolpers Hall near Rollins Street and Jones Hall near Stadium Boulevard, which is being demolished as part of the Dobbs Replacement Project. The project’s first phase, scheduled to be completed in 2017, includes the demolition of Jones Hall and construction of two new residence halls and a dining facility.

Construction on the university’s new Gateway Hall near the intersection of Hospital Drive and Virginia Avenue, which will house an additional 330 students, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015, according to the university’s master plan.

Ward said the university has a goal of 7,500 on-campus beds for students by 2019. After that, he said, MU is “done for the time being,” with no plans for additional construction beyond the master plan. He said the number will reach 7,200 beds when construction is completed on all of the housing projects underway. Then it plans to renovate Manor House apartments either into residence hall-style housing or apartments.

“The goal is to house 100 percent of our freshmen, plus 1,000 extra beds,” Ward said. “The question is going to be: Where will the other 30,500 sleep?”
Attracted by growing enrollment, private developers have added thousands of student beds to the city’s borders in the past few years.

One wave of development brought The Reserve, Copper Beach and Campus Lodge, and another brought Aspen Heights, Midtown by Brookside, The Domain and The Den. Some of the largest of those projects include: the Den apartment complex off Grindstone Plaza Drive with 552 beds; Midtown by Brookside off Walnut Street with 224 beds; the Domain, near Interstate 70, added about 650 beds; and Aspen Heights added nearly 950 beds.

Developments in progress by Opus Development Co., American Campus Communities and Collegiate Housing Partners will further expand housing options for students close to campus. The bed counts for those projects include: the Opus development on Locust Street between Seventh and Eighth streets will add more than 250 beds; the American Campus Communities development at Providence Road and Turner Avenue will add 718 beds; and a Collegiate Housing Partners development on Conley Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets will add 351 beds.

Ward said the university does no market studies to determine whether the supply of student housing off-campus is enough to meet the demand. He said he believes current demand has been met, but students have had concerns about the cost of the housing on the market.

He said off-campus housing developers need to consider the needs of not just the University of Missouri, but also Stephens College and Columbia College. Ward said the market will meet the demand and is doing so by developing a ring of student housing around campus.

Almost every student housing complex project that has appeared before the Columbia City Council has met strong opposition from residents concerned that the supply of student housing will outpace the demand.

National trends indicate the number of graduating high school students has been steadily decreasing during the past few years, and opponents of additional student housing often cite those numbers as reason to stop development in the city. Many schools are committed to increasing enrollment by targeting out-of-state students, but because that pool is decreasing, not every school can be successful.

Ward said he believes the university has shown it will be one of the successful players.

MU has continued to increase its enrollment over the past decade at a rate unseen in the past. According to university institutional research, enrollment shot up nearly 30 percent between 2003 and 2013 from about 26,800 to about 34,500 students.

Campus Facilities Communications Manager Karlan Seville said figures for the 2014-2015 school year show enrollment on campus is 35,441 and growing — an increase of about 1,000 students on campus over the past two years.
According to data compiled by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, the trend of increased enrollment at four-year public institutions across the nation is similar to what MU has experienced. Data released this month indicate spring 2015 enrollments increased slightly among four-year public universities by 0.1 percent. Fall 2014 saw an increase of 2.2 percent, and spring 2014 saw a small increase of 0.7 percent.

In other words, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center’s data indicate that, despite declining overall post-secondary enrollment, students are increasingly selecting large, public schools such as MU for their college education.

“This is a subject not unique to the University of Missouri,” Ward said. “You’ve got university populations going up at Division I institutions, and towns along with colleges are trying to figure out the answer to this off-campus housing question. It’s being grappled with across the nation right now.”

Although Missouri’s high school population peaked in 2012, Ward said, the university was aware of the trend and, in response, strategically recruited students from around the globe, focusing particularly on Dallas and Chicago. He said the university has been nothing but successful, racking up record-breaking enrollment numbers semester after semester.

Ward said the university has met its projections despite the decreased pool of students because of its efforts outside Missouri and because a higher percentage of high school seniors are entering college and are staying in college longer.

“The big question the city will need to address now is where it wants to put the student housing that the market will inevitably demand,” Ward said. “The university has its own opinion on where that housing needs to be constructed, where students can be engaged.”

Ward said students seem to prefer living in the downtown area and in a ring around campus where they can get to school quickly and easily. He said if the city has a different idea about where students should live, it needs to consider how to provide a product that the consumers — the students — want.

“If they can’t be engaged, they’re not going to come here,” Ward said. “Most students want to be part of the university. They don’t want to live way out and do a lot of commuting.”

The Missouri Students Association has done numerous surveys and studies of the student body to determine what kind of housing young students want. Syed Ejaz, campus and community relations chairman with the Missouri Student Association Senate, said finding affordable housing is at the forefront of students’ minds.

Ejaz said students want two things when it comes to housing: affordability and a quick commute to campus.

He said students seem to have little preference as to how they live so long as it is “comfortable, affordable and close.”
“One of the big issues we’ve been grappling with, though, is that students do not believe there is enough affordable student housing in the city,” Ejaz said.

Ejaz said the city will need more beds to accommodate a larger student body, but it must ensure those beds are in a good location. He said students need to maintain good communication with the city to make that happen.

“We need to continue to ensure students will be part of the conversation if we want to see that,” he said.

The rising costs of college athletics — and the widening gap between the rich and the rest

When NCAA Division I student-athletes begin a new school year in August, at least some will receive extra spending money.

But "cost of attendance" — a stipend beyond the normal full-ride scholarship — likely will create a wider gap between schools from major conferences awash in television-contract revenue and those at the mid-major level.

Missouri State, already struggling to keep up in the financial arms race of Division I athletics, is in the latter category. Recruiting against regional schools with athletic budgets several times its $15.1 million size will be challenging.

Consider that the University of Missouri’s athletic budget in the 2014 NCAA Report was $70.2 million. The University of Arkansas' $92 million.

"The rich will get richer and the rich make the rules," Missouri State baseball coach Keith Guttin said.

The stipend was passed at the NCAA convention last January as a new-look membership structure gave "Power Five" conference schools weighted voting authority. The total is figured by each school's admissions office as cost, per school year, beyond a full-ride scholarship.

For schools in the major conferences (Big 12, Big Ten, Southeastern, Atlantic Coast and Pac 12) that will not be an issue. Everyone on scholarship, from the star quarterback on the football team to the backup point guard on the women's basketball team will be in line for extra spending money.
At most schools like Missouri State, in the "mid-major" level, only a few athletes will be receiving the extra financial benefits — at least to start out.

Missouri State president Clif Smart said that the 13 men's basketball players and 15 women's basketball players on scholarship will receive $4,006 (Missouri State's cost of attendance) to be spread throughout the school year.

The total of $112,168 will come from an increase to the athletics budget, from the university's 2015-16 budget. According to the 2014 NCAA financial report, Missouri State's athletic budget received $8.9 million in direct institutional support.

**Buying Outsiders**

May 18, 2015

By Kellie Woodhouse

**NO MU MENTION**

Public universities are using non-need-based aid to recruit out-of-state students, at the expense of low-income and in-state students.

That's the thesis of a report released today by New America.

Public colleges that provide substantial amounts of what they call merit aid to students tend to enroll more nonresident students -- and have experienced a greater decline in resident students over the past 15 years -- than their peers that don't use that strategy, the report found. They also tend to enroll fewer students with Pell Grants and charge low-income students a higher average net price than colleges that provide little merit aid.

Out-of-state enrollment at the University of South Carolina, for example, has more than doubled since 2000, and is now at 45 percent. South Carolina's enrollment manager has said the university increased its nonresident enrollment due to financial necessity, as state funding has dropped by 50 percent since the recession. The State, a Columbia, S.C., newspaper, reported that about 60 percent of out-of-state students receive non-
need-based aid.

Part of the reason is that state appropriations have declined dramatically, and some states are experiencing a decline in the number of high school graduates they see each year. Others are so sparsely populated, they have little choice but to go after out-of-state students in an effort to maintain enrollment.

Yet a primary driver is the one the report terms a less necessary one: colleges are competing with one another, and often out-of-state students help boost test scores and overall revenue and thus increase a college's ranking and stature.

“Public higher education has changed. There was a point in time where schools were fairly low priced, serving primarily in-state students. What financial aid they gave out was primarily need-based aid,” said Steve Burd, the primary author of the report and an analyst with New America.

Now, four-year colleges spend less than half of the $9 billion in undergraduate institutional grants they award each year on need-based aid, the report found. “There’s this general question about the mission of public higher education, and whether schools are abandoning that mission,” Burd continued.

Eighteen percent of public four-year colleges provide at least 20 percent of their students some amount of non-need-based aid, and 48 percent provide at least 10 percent of their students with merit aid.

The aid, more and more, Burd says, is being used to recruit out-of-state students, but it also goes toward keeping well-performing in-state applicants in their home states. There are generally two ways public institutions can offer merit aid to out-of-state students, says Nate Johnson, a Tallahassee, Fla.-based higher education analyst who specializes in enrollment management.

Out-of-state tuition is usually much higher than in-state tuition, and has been rising more rapidly than in-state tuition. For example, at the University of Virginia, the University of Michigan and the University of North Carolina, nonresident tuition was more than triple the cost of resident tuition in 2013.

Because out-of-state tuition is usually higher than the cost of providing an education, colleges can offer just enough merit aid to entice an applicant to enroll. In many cases, the student will still pay more than the cost of education, and that additional money can go toward subsidizing in-state students.

Officials at Michigan, where out-of-state enrollment is 43 percent, an all-time high, have adopted a strategy of using revenue from out-of-state tuition increases to subsidize need-based aid for in-state students.

Yet such a strategy can mean less economic and racial diversity.

“It’s sort of unfortunate that such students consist only of upper-middle-class students whose families can afford it,” Johnson said.
The other strategy colleges use is more damaging to in-state students: colleges will offer out-of-state students large chunks of merit aid in order to increase their ranking profile, leaving less money for needy students.

“What I worry about is where the discounts are going way below the cost of instruction, to students who don’t need that discount to attend college,” Johnson said. He added that such a practice equates to needlessly shifting students from one state to another just to enhance an institution's ranking.

“Even if you disagree with the rules the way they are, it’s hard to unilaterally disarm,” Johnson said. “If you’re the only institution that’s not willing to do this, then the others who are willing to are going to eat your lunch.”

The New America report says such practices are not isolated to flagship campuses, but are increasingly common at state regional colleges, the report contends. Forty percent of the 277 regional colleges reviewed for the report provided at least 10 percent of their students non-need-based aid. Chasing out-of-state students has become so prevalent, the report says, that an enrollment manager for the University of Kentucky, where 22 percent of students receive non-need-based aid, was prompted to ask, “How do we stop this cycle and change things?”

Some states have limits on the percentage of out-of-state students public colleges can enroll. At University of North Carolina campuses, no more than 18 percent of students can hail from outside the state. Other caps are less restrictive, like the Colorado Legislature’s 45 percent cap on out-of-state freshmen at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Yet some state universities have seen pushback as their out-of-state enrollment increases. The University of California system intentionally increased its enrollment of out-of-state students -- from 6 percent in 2009 to 20 percent last fall -- in order to grow revenue, but UC President Janet Napolitano last fall said she’d consider a limit after outcries from lawmakers and potential students, who claimed the system was enrolling too many out-of-staters.

“Somebody who’s not in a system, who doesn’t have to play that game, needs to create incentives and set rules that put everybody on a level playing field where they will succeed and benefit when they serve low-income and in-state students,” Johnson said. “The burden to fix this problem really falls to states and federal governments, rather than individual institutions.”
Research shows half the nation's unemployed are young adults

COLUMBIA - Graduation season is in full swing mid-Missouri, but some young adults are noticing that it is difficult to find a job.

New research shows that unemployment is still an issue for teens and young adults.

Data from the Pew Research Center reveals that more than half of the nation's unemployed are between the ages of 16 to 34.

However, that age demographic only makes up a third of the nation's labor force.

Below are the unemployment rates by age group as of April 2015, as found by the Pew Research Center:

- Ages 16-19: 15.6 percent
- Ages 20-24: 8.9 percent
- Ages 25-34: 5.4 percent
- Ages 34-44: 4.1 percent
- Ages 45-49: 3.5 percent
- Ages 50-54: 3.9 percent
- Ages 55-64: 3.8 percent
- Ages 65-69: 3.7 percent
- Ages 70-74: 3.9 percent
- Ages 75+: 3.6 percent
REDI structure poses dilemma for Skala

By Alicia Stice

Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 12:00 am

Something seems a little off to Third Ward City Councilman Karl Skala.

For months now, Skala has pondered the role of Regional Economic Development Inc., or REDI — the quasi-public organization charged with attracting businesses to the area, helping those that are here and nurturing local startups.

His conclusion: The structure of the organization should shift, though he is not yet sure exactly what changes he wants to see.

The proposed city legislation likely to come out of Skala’s inquires promises a conversation about the different views surrounding the politics of economic development and the city’s role in that process.

“I find no reason whatsoever to change the system that we currently have,” Fifth Ward City Councilwoman Laura Nauser said. “I mean, REDI has been a good regional partner that encompasses many communities and entities ... and I don’t see, you know, that it needs to have more government control or involvement.”

The primary issue is how separate, if at all, REDI’s private and public interests should be.

**REDI receives much of its funding from the city of Columbia, Boone County and the University of Missouri, but it also pulls in money from members of the private sector who pay membership fees.** REDI staff members are city employees, with the REDI president also serving as the city’s economic development director.

“As an elected official, I am a conduit for my constituents to the city,” Skala said, adding that he felt the city deserved more oversight of REDI’s budget, which includes city-funded administrative positions. “Those taxpayer funds should be accountable to the folks through the city council.”

For companies looking at Columbia as a potential home for their business, REDI’s private-public partnership means the chance to network with developers, banks and landowners at
the same time that they work through public incentive packages and work with the city on topics such as land use.

But when the work takes a political turn, things can get a bit more muddled.

In November, the REDI board of directors penned a letter opposing a proposed development fee hike. The board’s letter carefully pointed out that its political stance was that of the private-sector board members and not the city staff at REDI. The board later voted to nix future political endorsements altogether, but for Skala, who supported the ballot measure, the letter’s sting lingered. And though that particular event acted as a catalyst for his current examination of REDI, he said other past actions have caused him concern.

As the city’s representation on the REDI board has stayed the same, even as the size of the board has ballooned in size, Skala said some of the organization’s actions have been out of step.

He still bristles at the secrecy of the deal surrounding the recruitment of IBM’s Columbia distribution service center, known at the time only as Project Tiger.

Skala said he wished the council could have had more information about the deal with IBM, even if it came during a closed-door meeting, before it was asked to vote on purchasing a building for the company to lease.

“I understand the code names, I get all that,” he said. “But to do what REDI did in 2010 to lure IBM was wrong.”

Columbia Mayor Bob McDavid stands squarely opposed to any changes to REDI’s structure that would bring it under more city control.

“It’s been a remarkably successful collaboration by any metric,” he said. “Why you’d want to leave that collaboration is not really clear to me.”

Skala said he is working on the specifics of the changes he would like to see but said he hopes for a city council discussion about what models for economic development work in other cities and how they might be adapted here.

Buffett's Berkshire adds to favorites IBM, Wells Fargo
Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc on Friday said it has boosted its holdings in some of the billionaire's favorite companies, including Wells Fargo & Co and International Business Machines Corp.

The changes were disclosed in a regulatory filing detailing Berkshire's U.S.-listed stock portfolio as of March 31.

Berkshire also boosted its share stake in U.S. Bancorp, another large holding, while other portfolio managers adjusted their stakes in several companies.

No new stocks were added to the portfolio, which shrunk to $107.1 billion from $109.4 billion in December. Berkshire bought $1.62 billion and sold $1.11 billion of equities overall.

Buffett has long praised his "Big Four" stock holdings Wells Fargo, IBM, Coca-Cola Co and American Express Co, which comprise roughly 58 percent of Berkshire's equity investments.

Buffett has stuck with them despite recent adversity including IBM's stagnant stock price, concern over Coca-Cola's sugary products and executive pay structure, and a February court ruling that American Express violated antitrust law.

"Too many fund managers are more interested in seeing stocks to which they have committed perform well" in the short term, said Andy Kern, a University of Missouri professor who teaches a class on Buffett's investment strategies. "Berkshire has such a long time horizon that it can afford to watch the stock price go down so it can buy more."

Friday's regulatory filing does not disclose who makes which investment at Berkshire. Smaller investments are often made by portfolio managers Todd Combs and Ted Weschler, who may succeed Buffett as chief investment officers after he departs.

In the first quarter, Berkshire raised its stake in Wells Fargo by about 2 percent to 470.3 million shares, and in IBM by roughly 3 percent to 79.6 million shares. The U.S. Bancorp stake grew about 5 percent to 83.8 million shares.

Other holdings that grew include Deere & Co, Liberty Global Plc, Phillips 66, Precision Castparts Corp and Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.


Berkshire also owns more than 80 businesses, including the Burlington Northern railroad, Dairy Queen ice cream and Geico car insurance.

Buffett, 84, this month celebrated his 50th anniversary running his Omaha, Nebraska-based company, whose market value is fifth-highest among publicly-traded U.S. companies.
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May 18, 2015

The Challenge of the First-Generation Student

**Colleges amp up efforts to retain them, but hurdles remain**

By Katherine Mangan

**NO MU MENTION**

Tae-Hyun Sakong would love to be able to tell his parents why he decided to major in neuroscience, and what it was like to help his biology professor probe a genetic risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease.

The Trinity University undergraduate also wishes he could tell them about the anxiety and depression that overwhelm him when he compares himself with classmates who attended elite prep schools and spend spring breaks in Cancun. But his parents, who never went to college, speak little English, and he speaks his native Korean at a grade-school level.

"I would kill to be able to explain to them what I do," he says.

Michael Soto, an associate professor of English at Trinity, understands. A first-generation college student himself, he grew up in Brownsville, Tex., on the border with Mexico. His parents couldn’t understand why he decided to pursue a doctorate in English after graduating from Stanford.

Check out the rest of our special report on efforts to help this growing group of students succeed.

"It was probably four years into graduate school that my mom finally stopped asking me when I was going to go to law school," he says.

The support Mr. Soto received as an undergraduate prompted him to become a champion for first-generation students, who now represent about 15 percent of Trinity’s undergraduate population.
Mr. Sakong, 22, says that if it weren’t for professors like Mr. Soto and James Roberts, his biology professor and adviser, he would have dropped out long ago.

As colleges seek to diversify their student bodies and patch up their leaky pipelines for disadvantaged students, many are expanding efforts to connect students who are the first in their families to attend college with supportive classmates, advisers, and professors. Some colleges have formal, longstanding programs in place, while others offer scholarships or informal support groups. But despite the fact that a growing number of first-generation college students are arriving on their doorsteps, many other colleges are doing little to meet their needs, either because they have trouble identifying such students or because their budgets are strained.

The challenges these students face are daunting. First-generation students tend to work longer hours at their jobs, are less likely to live on campus, and are more likely to have parents who would struggle to complete financial-aid forms. They’re also more likely to arrive academically unprepared for the rigors of college and to require remediation before they can start earning college credit.

Many feel the tug of family responsibilities, rushing home after class to take care of younger siblings or missing classes to care for an ailing grandparent.

The disparity in household income is striking: Median family income at two- and four-year institutions for freshmen whose parents didn’t attend college was $37,565 last year, compared with $99,635 for those whose parents did. The New York Times calculated those figures using data from the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Having lived so close to the margins, "first-generation students tend to be risk-averse," says Thomas G. Mortenson, a senior scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education. "Many of them continue being breadwinners for their families when they go off to college."

Clearly, these students need extra support to stay enrolled, and colleges have a strong interest in identifying their most vulnerable groups to keep them from dropping out. But identifying first-generation students isn’t as easy as it sounds.

Colleges usually have to rely on self-reporting, since the Census Bureau no longer tracks parents’ education attainment. The Common Application, like many colleges’ own applications, asks students about the highest level of education their parents achieved. More than 28 percent of the 800,000 students who used the Common Application last year reported that they were first-generation students. They represent a diverse swath of society. At the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where about one in five undergraduates is a first-generation student, about 90 percent are white, many from small towns and farms.

Then there’s the whole issue of whom to include. Some colleges use the first-generation designation when neither of the student’s parents attended college. Others define it more narrowly to mean that neither parent graduated from college, or from a four-year college in the United States. That definition,
used for eligibility in some federal-aid programs, would consider the daughter of two community-college graduates a first-generation college student.

However you define them, first-generation students represent a significant share of the prospective students that colleges, eager to trumpet their track records in diversifying their enrollments, are trying to recruit.

Of students who entered four-year colleges as freshmen last year, more than 45 percent reported that their fathers had no college degree of any kind, and 42 percent said their mothers lacked degrees, a survey found. About a quarter of their parents had no postsecondary education, according to the survey by UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute.

The Council of Independent Colleges concluded in a report released earlier this year that small and midsize colleges, with their small classes, involved faculty members, and extracurricular activities, do the best job retaining low-income and first-generation students. The students are more likely to finish their bachelor’s degrees in four years at a smaller private college than they are in six years at a public nondoctoral university, the researchers found.

Despite the higher sticker prices at small private colleges, first-generation students who attend them pay on average only $1,000 more per year than do similar students at public research universities, mostly because of more generous scholarships, the report found.

Smith College is a case in point. Seventeen percent of its undergraduate students have parents who didn’t graduate from college, and it is among the institutions that offer generous perks to qualified first-generation students. Last month, at a campus event for newly accepted students, faculty and staff members who were themselves the first in their families to attend college wore T-shirts proclaiming their first-generation status.

Among them was the college’s president, Kathleen McCartney.

"I want them to know that I was once a first-generation college student and that they should set their aspirations as high as they want to," she says. While first-generation students tend to feel pressure to emerge from college with a clear career path, "I want them to know that if they want to major in philosophy, they should major in philosophy," she says. She tells students that employers value strong liberal-arts backgrounds.

When elite institutions like Smith, Amherst College, or Harvard University enroll significant numbers of first-generation students, their stories are often
splashed across the news. But regional state universities and community colleges have been identifying and supporting these students for decades, through federal TRIO programs, a collection of outreach and student-services efforts geared toward low-income students.

"We have seen this trend of elite colleges and universities that are well endowed actively and aggressively recruiting low-income, first-generation students," says James T. Minor, deputy assistant secretary for higher-education programs at the U.S. Department of Education.

"They tend to be high-achieving students, and we think that’s wonderful," he adds. "But that, unfortunately, is not the majority of students from that demographic." He believes the overwhelming majority of first-generation students attend community colleges and open-access four-year public colleges, many of which, he says, have benefited from 50 years of TRIO-funded programs.

Some examples include a "talent search" program that allows colleges to offer intensive preparation for students at underserved schools and the McNair Scholars Program, which encourages first-generation and other underrepresented college students like Trinity’s Mr. Sakong to pursue doctoral study.

California State University-Dominguez Hills is a largely minority campus in Los Angeles’s South Bay where more than 60 percent of freshmen are the first in their immediate families to attend college. The university offers a TRIO-funded support program for first-generation and low-income students that includes academic coaching, tutoring, peer mentoring, financial-literacy training, and graduate-school preparation.

"Everyone always asks, Is the student ready for college? But we also ask, Is the university ready for the student?" says William Franklin, interim vice president of enrollment management and student affairs. He was a first-generation student himself who graduated from the University of Southern California after being recruited by USC and a TRIO program called Upward Bound.

"We need to ensure that we work closely with parents," he said, "and that first-generation students know how to navigate this place when they may not have a
A number of public universities have designated scholarships for first-generation students, but many are deterred by the extra cost of intensive advising and financial support the students typically require.

"The budget pressures that all higher education is under have four-year state institutions, particularly flagships, looking more carefully at the revenue potential of those they enroll," says Mr. Mortenson of the Pell Institute. According to that metric, foreign and out-of-state students who pay full freight are the most valuable, while, he says, "the lowest priority are the lowest-income students who require an institutional discount."

Those students, though, make up a sizable chunk of the total prospective student population, and many colleges have concluded that they’re worth investing in.

To help students who are most likely to fall through the cracks, a nonprofit group called the College Advising Corps this year placed about 450 recent college graduates of its 23 partner colleges into more than 500 underserved high schools in 14 states. The new graduates serve as full-time college advisers, supplementing the work of professional college advisers who, on average, are responsible for 450 students (and up to 1,000 or more in states like California), according to Nicole Hurd, founder and chief executive of the advising group.

About 70 percent of the corps’ young advisers are from underrepresented minority groups, and more than half have parents who never graduated from college.

An analysis of the program by Stanford University found that high-school seniors who met with an adviser were 30 percent more likely to apply to college, 24 percent more likely to be accepted by at least one, and 26 percent more likely to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or Fafsa.
And despite their disadvantaged economic status, three quarters of the students who enrolled in college persisted through the second year — about the same as the national average.

A spokesman for the advising group said it doesn’t yet have comparative graduation rates, but it hopes to start tracking them soon.

One of those advisers, Erica R. Elder, returned to her high school in Bassett, Va., to provide the kind of boost that helped get her into the University of Virginia.

The challenges she has faced as an adviser remind her of her own struggles while applying to college.

She has encountered students who didn’t see college as a realistic option, and who were ready to give up with any minor setback in the admissions process. Parents who were ashamed about their meager earnings and ignorance about college wouldn’t look her in the eye during financial-aid nights.

But when acceptances started rolling in for students she has advised, she would arrive at school at 8 a.m. to find two or three students ready to greet her. "When they come bursting into my office," she says, "it’s the best feeling in the world."