The University of Missouri’s online program makes its own money, and it can make its own tuition discounts.

So hoping to boost enrollment, Mizzou Online on Friday announced it will give a 10 percent tuition discount to Missouri students enrolled in a degree program fully online.

The discount beginning this fall semester will save qualified students about $82.86 per class. The typical online student enrolls in two three-credit-hour courses a semester. Without the discount, online courses cost the same as classes taken on campus — $276.20 a credit hour for undergraduates.

Mizzou Online, started in 2011, operates on tuition dollars from its online students and includes a portion of the tuition dollars coming from on-campus students who fill out their semester of courses with one or two online classes.

Not counting salaries of MU-paid faculty who also teach online and maybe the costs of the building that houses the electronic guts of the online program, “our operating money does not come from the state,” said Stacy Snow, spokeswoman for Mizzou Online.

The new program primarily targets community college graduates who want to pursue a four-year bachelor’s degree while balancing work and family.

To be eligible, students must be residents of Missouri and graduates of a Missouri public community college. A student also must be working toward a degree from MU’s undergraduate distance programs.
MU’s online tuition discount program supports an institutional goal to boost enrollment and a Missouri Department of Higher Education goal to increase to 60 percent the portion of Missouri citizens who have some postsecondary degree or certificate by 2020.

“We have an obligation to work on increasing enrollment, and accessibility is standard operating procedure,” Snow said.

MU has 15,400 students a year taking online courses. About 3,400 of them are online-only students.

“Providing Missourians with access to high-quality and well-respected degrees is at the core of our land grant mission,” Jim Spain, MU vice provost for undergraduate studies and e-learning, said in a statement Friday.

“This tuition award makes our online bachelor’s programs even more accessible to students across our state.”

University of Missouri discounts some online tuition costs

OLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri says it will give a 10 percent tuition discount to Missouri students enrolled in a full degree program online.

The university announced Friday that the discount will begin this fall. The typical online student takes two three-credit-hour courses a semester. Without the discount, online courses cost the same as classes on campus — $276.20 a credit hour for undergraduates.
The Kansas City Star reports the new program targets community college graduates pursuing a four-year bachelor's degree while working or raising a family.

Eligible students must be Missouri residents and graduates of a Missouri public community college. They also must be working toward a degree from the university's undergraduate distance programs.

The university says about 3,400 of the 15,400 students taking online courses are online-only students.

Mizzou offers online tuition reduction to community college transfers

July 31, 2015 11:26 am  •  By Koran Addo

Community College graduates in Missouri looking to pursue a four-year degree online are now eligible for a 10 percent tuition reduction from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Mizzou Online Community College Tuition Award is available to anyone who has graduated from a Missouri community college and who has been accepted into one of Mizzou's undergraduate distance programs.

The tuition reduction applies toward a maximum of 150 cumulative credit hours.

Mizzou offers nine online undergraduate degree options, including:

• Early Childhood Education in a Mobile Society

• Educational Studies

• General Studies

• Health Sciences

• Hospitality Management

• Interdisciplinary Studies

• Nursing, RN-to-BSN

• Radiography
University of Missouri to give discount to community college graduates

Watch the KTVI-TV (St. Louis) story:
http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=0bc1dd10-7adc-473b-8d0f-e42cf479088a

Mizzou discounts some online tuition costs
Program targets community college graduates with families

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The University of Missouri says it will give a 10 percent tuition discount to Missouri students enrolled in a full degree program online.

The university announced Friday that the discount will begin this fall. The typical online student takes two three-credit-hour courses a semester. Without the discount, online courses cost the same as classes on campus - $276.20 a credit hour for undergraduates.
The Kansas City Star reports the new program targets community college graduates pursuing a four-year bachelor’s degree while working or raising a family.

Eligible students must be Missouri residents and graduates of a Missouri public community college. They also must be working toward a degree from the university’s undergraduate distance programs.

The university says about 3,400 of the 15,400 students taking online courses are online-only students.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mizzou Online extends discount to community college grads

ANDREW KESSEL, Aug 1, 2015

COLUMBIA — Mizzou Online just got cheaper for community college graduates.

Mizzou Online announced Friday through a news release that Missouri residents who graduate from one of the state's public community colleges are eligible for a 10 percent tuition discount toward an online bachelor's degree. In order to be eligible, students must be accepted to one of the nine undergraduate distance programs offered through Mizzou Online. The discount, effective immediately, will apply to a maximum of 150 credit hours.

Class fees for Mizzou Online are the same as for classes offered on campus, which cost $276.20 per credit hour. With the discount, a typical three-credit class would cost $745.74, saving the students $82.86.

“Missouri community college graduates are among the best-prepared students enrolling in our four-year institutions for completion of the bachelor’s degree and beyond,” said Ron Chesbrough in the release. Chesbrough is chair of the Missouri Community College Association Presidents/Chancellors Council and president of St. Charles Community College. “We are
pleased to count the University of Missouri among our four-year partners, and we welcome this announcement of a tuition award for these highly sought after students.”

This is the second time this summer that Mizzou Online has offered a tuition reduction. In June, Provost Garnett Stokes announced a 10 percent tuition discount for active-duty military personnel, veterans and their dependents.

This discount is focused on individuals who want to pursue a four-year degree while also balancing work and family, according to the release.

“Providing Missourians with access to high-quality and well-respected degrees is at the core of our land-grant mission,” Jim Spain, MU vice provost for undergraduate studies and e-Learning, said in the release. “This tuition award makes our online bachelor’s programs even more accessible to students across our state.”

In the 2013-14 academic year, Mizzou Online had 14,115 students, 3,227 of whom were online-only, according to enrollment data from MU.

Faculty, staff and students react to recent graduate school policy change

By Megan Favignano

Friday, July 31, 2015 at 2:00 pm

A recent change to the amount of tuition waiver offered to University of Missouri graduate assistants has some faculty worried about the future of their programs.

Starting next summer, graduate students awarded a 10-hour appointment, or half a stipend, will receive half a tuition waiver, MU Associate Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies Leona Rubin
said. Students with a full stipend, or a 20-hour appointment, will continue to receive a full tuition waiver.

Currently, full tuition waivers are given to all students who are graduate assistants. The MU Faculty Council discussed the policy change at its regular meeting Thursday, and faculty members such as Art Jago, a business school professor and Faculty Council member, shared how they think the change will affect their programs.

“I’ve used the word cripple to describe what this is going to do to our MBA program,” Jago said.

The business school is among three programs on campus that together make up half of MU’s 10-hour appointments; journalism and music are the other two. Just more than 600 students have 10-hour appointments, and about 2,100 have 20-hour appointments.

When a student receives a graduate assistant position, MU pays for the student’s tuition waiver and the academic program pays for the student’s stipend. If the number of 10-hour assistant positions stays the same, this policy change could save the university $3.5 million to $4 million in five years, Rubin said in a June interview. The university, she said, cannot afford to pay for tuition discounts the way it has as programs continue to grow.

Some programs, Rubin said, could offer more 20-hour appointments if their budgets allow — which would mean a full stipend. And, some 10-hour positions could switch to a fellowship or scholarship rather than an assistantship.

At Thursday’s meeting, multiple faculty members also expressed concerns that, in some programs, bumping students up from a 10-hour appointment to a 20-hour appointment could make it difficult for those students to focus on their studies. Graduate assistants working 10 hours instead of 20 doesn’t necessarily mean they have more time for course work, Graduate Professional Council President Hallie Thompson said.

“From a student perspective, trying to live on that $6,000,” from a 10-hour appointment, “there are one of two things you can do,” said Thompson, who has a 20-hour appointment. “They have to either get a job or go get student loans. Getting student loans when you are on a stipend seems a little bit silly because you’re being paid for a job you’re doing, going to school and you’re still reliant upon loans.”

The Graduate Professional Council — the MU student government organization for graduate, professional, postdoctoral and postbaccalaureate students — wants to hold a forum in September regarding the policy change. The forum would be an opportunity for students to learn more about the policy and offer their insights on the change. Thompson said graduate students have not been consulted.

“The best way to figure out what future graduate students will do, how they feel and how this will affect them is by talking to people who are currently in their shoes,” Thompson said, “or maybe talking to undergraduate juniors and seniors.”
Jago said faculty opinion also was not sought in a formal way before the decision to change policy was made. The Faculty Council’s academic affairs committee will continue to seek input from faculty regarding the change.

Undocumented students in Missouri want to reverse suddenly higher tuition

By MARSHALL GRIFFIN · JUL 30, 2015

More than a dozen college students whose parents illegally entered the United States years ago are asking Gov. Jay Nixon for help with suddenly higher tuition rates.

Lawmakers added language to the preamble of a budget bill stating that students who are "unlawfully in the United States" don't qualify for in-state tuition rates and cannot receive scholarships.

Naomi Carranza and her family are originally from Monterrey, Mexico, but she finished high school in St. Louis.

"I've applied to several universities, including (Southeast Missouri State Univ. and Univ. of Central Missouri), but it would be very difficult for me to continue without any scholarships or in-state tuition," Carranza said. "I've now been accepted to St. Louis Community College, where I will be attending in the fall; however, I'm still being charged international (tuition) rates, so my dream of going to college will probably be cut short."

Carranza and the other students had qualified for in-state tuition rates because they're classified as DACA students or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. But some universities in Missouri say the added preamble language in the higher education budget bill prevents them from charging in-state tuition rates.
The group of students, along with a few supporters, delivered petitions to Nixon’s office in the Missouri Capitol Thursday, asking him to formally declare that language to be invalid. It reads:

"...no funds shall be expended at public institutions of higher education that offer a tuition rate to any student with an unlawful immigration status in the United States that is less than the tuition rate charged to international students, and further provided that no scholarship funds shall be expended on behalf of students with an unlawful immigration status in the United States."

When asked by St. Louis Public Radio for a response, press secretary Scott Holste provided a brief written statement:

"The Governor has been quite clear – in order to change the law, you have to pass legislation. The language in the enacting clause of House Bill 3 – or in the enacting clause of any other bill – is not legally binding nor is it enforceable. DACA students have worked hard, played by the rules, and been given a status by the federal government. Denying them the opportunity to receive an affordable college education is not fair, nor is it consistent with current state law."

Earlier this month, Nixon vetoed Senate Bill 224, which would have limited reimbursements from the state’s A+ scholarship program to only U.S. citizens and non-citizen permanent residents.

Follow Marshall Griffin on Twitter: @MarshallGReport
University study claims marriage reduces heavy alcohol consumption

COLUMBIA - University of Missouri researchers believe they have found a link between marriage and lower alcohol consumption.

MU researchers have been using data collected by Arizona State University for more than thirty years to help explain something called the 'marriage effect,' where young adults who drink heavily before marriage see a drastic decrease in alcohol consumption over time.

Matthew Lee, a postdoctoral fellow at the MU Department of Psychological Sciences, said he and other researchers at MU have been working with ASU researchers to determine this relation between marriage and heavy consumption of alcohol over different age groups.

By studying more than a thousand participants, researchers came up with a hypothesis known as the 'role incompatibility theory,' which posits that binge drinking and marriage leads to a mismatch of lifestyles and spurs change.

"One way to resolve the incompatibility is to change the behavior," Lee said. "So, based on that we made the prediction that the more severe problem drinkers will have drinking patterns particularly incompatible with the demands of marriage, so they will have to reduce their drinking in an especially high degree in order to adapt to that role."
KOMU 8 News asked married mid-Missourians about their thoughts on the study, and most of them said they saw a similar pattern in their own life.

"As a college student, I would binge drink maybe two to three times a week," said Ryan Knowles, a Columbia resident. "And then when I was married before I had kids, I would go out maybe two to three nights a week, but probably wouldn't drink quite as much."

Lee said there are a number of factors that were considered in the study, accounting for a 'maturing out' of binge drinking that comes with age. However, Lee said the effect of marriage on heavy drinkers was the primary focus of this study.

Lee said young adults who did report being heavy drinkers typically did not see much of a decrease in their drinking habits.

Lee said even though there is still plenty of research that needs to be done, this study represents an important step forward in understanding the broad factors linked to substance abuse disorders and may one day help clinical efforts to help people with severe drinking problems.

Watch the story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=29889&zone=2,5&categories=2,5

Incoming MU medical school students don white coats for first time

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, August 1, 2015 at 12:00 am

Hirsch Srivastava has dreamt of becoming a doctor since he was a child. Growing up, Srivastava was a caregiver to his older sister, who is physically and mentally disabled. That experience made him first consider medical school.
He donned his white doctor’s coat for the first time Friday. **The entire incoming class of first-year medical students at the University of Missouri’s School of Medicine received their short, white coats during a ceremony at Jesse Hall.**

“It’s surreal,” Srivastava said. “It’s like a childhood dream come true. Honestly, I never thought I would reach this position.”

Srivastava said he had poor grades as an undergraduate and did not like the environment of his pre-med program at Washington University in St. Louis. For some time, he doubted he would be able to overcome his personal struggles.

“I just wanted to get away from real life and party and live the college life,” Srivastava said. “That’s really not what a real pre-med life is about. It’s about dedication, service and commitment to your academics.”

The white coats symbolized the responsibilities and commitment of the medical profession, said Linda Headrick, senior associate dean for education at the school of medicine.

“This is a really important step in their lives,” Headrick said. “It’s a combination of years and years and years of hard work. It’s also a commitment to life as a professional” doctor.

MU has held an annual white coat ceremony since 1997. Headrick said most medical schools around the country conduct similar ceremonies to celebrate the commitment the students undertake in starting medical school.

Before the ceremony, incoming first-year medical student Britt Hultgren said he felt excited and nervous. “I’m eager to take the stage and put on the coat and all of the responsibilities it entails,” he said.

After graduating from Truman State University in 2008 with a philosophy degree, Hultgren spent several years working overseas in the Middle East, Africa and South America. For the past four years, he has worked at the St. Francis House homeless shelter in Columbia.

“I work with a lot of underserved people, primarily with mental illness,” Hultgren said. “I volunteered at MedZou” Community Health Clinic, “and working with that population has really given me the desire to learn more.”

Friday’s ceremony included speeches by a senior medical school student and a faculty member. MU School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine led students in reciting a modified version of the Declaration of Geneva, also known as the physician’s oath.

Students will recite the profession of values once again when they graduate from medical school. Delafontaine said it’s important the values in the oath be part of the students’ identities while they train to become doctors.
MU received 2,003 applications for the class of 2019 and selected 104 of those students, who start classes Monday. Last year’s incoming class also had 104 students. It’s an increase from 2012 and 2013, which both had classes of 96 new students.

The medical school’s class size will increase again to 128 in 2017 when the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center opens. The university held a groundbreaking ceremony July 9 for the $42.5 million expansion project that includes the new medical school building at MU and a Springfield clinical campus.

After Friday’s ceremony, students celebrated at a reception with their families. Ekta Srivastava, Hirsch Srivastava’s older sister, said she felt overjoyed when she saw her brother wear his white coat for the first time. Hirsch Srivastava said having his family — especially Ekta — attend the ceremony made the day more special.

Volunteers give free dental care at the University of Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The Missouri Dental Association gave more than $1 million in free dental care to people in need over the weekend.

**Dentists and hygienists volunteered their time to give free cleanings, tooth extractions and even oral surgeries at the Hearnes Center on the University of Missouri campus.**

Organizers said they saw more than 800 patients Saturday and more than 1,700 people total.

"You go in to get cleanings, they check to see if you've got anything, and when they tell you oh I see three fillings, four fillings, what do you want to do?" Amanda Moeller, one of the patients who received free dental care said. "Yo don't have the money to pay for all of that. So this is great to know what you need done, and be able to come and get it done all in one day and get it taken care of."

The group will offer a free clinic again next year in Independence, Missouri.
Undergraduate students present research at MU forum

By Megan Favignano

Friday, July 31, 2015 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri chemistry and biological sciences senior Anthony Onuzuruike said he never pictured himself doing research.

“When I got into the lab, they started me off on some really easy things,” Onuzuruike said. “Then afterward, when I started getting my own project, I was like, ‘This is really cool. I get to impact research.’ ”

Onuzuruike participated in a project that studied how levels of the hormone leptin in a mother and a child’s diet affect the child’s bone strength. The group used mice to study how different leptin levels and low- and high-fat diets affected the mice’s bones.

He presented his research at a forum Thursday in MU’s Bond Life Sciences Center where more than 120 undergraduate students presented their work. All students, regardless of how long they had been in school, were eligible to present their work in poster format.

Onuzuruike said he has an interest in diabetes because it runs in his family and started wondering how the disease affects bones, which led him to this current research project. Onuzuruike wants to attend MU’s medical school and become a family doctor one day. After his experience in the lab, he sees research being part of his future as well.

Carlie Barham, MU biological sciences sophomore, spent a month of her summer sitting along the Bristlecone Ridge of Pennsylvania Mountain in Colorado studying bees. The research project she worked on through MU’s Life Sciences Program examined the flight speed of two bee species to learn how the bees are adapting to decreasing resources.

“This is such an important topic today,” Barham said. “They’re the ones that keep all of these flowers alive.”

Understanding how bees are evolving in response to changes in their environment is important, Barham said. How pollinators adapt has an effect on the environment, she said, and maybe more knowledge can reverse the trend of bee population decline.
The forum included MU students and about 50 visiting students. Andrew Woods, Columbia College computer science senior, contributed to a research study that explored why people crave alcohol.

Woods’ contribution was creating an algorithm that predicted when someone was drinking alcohol. The algorithm used changes in vital signs, provided from sensors worn by study participants, to determine if the participant was consuming alcohol. Surveys were sent to participants in an attempt to understand why they crave alcohol.

Knowing why people choose to drink, Woods said, could help alcoholics stop drinking.

August 3, 2015

Do Fraternities Have a Place on the Modern Campus?

They began in an era when college was the domain of well-off white men. Now calls for reform may be greater than ever.

By Beth McMurtrie

NO MU MENTION

Throughout their history, fraternities have taken many forms. They began as early-American literary societies, evolved into clubby training grounds for corporate leaders, and entered the 21st century hung over from the legacy of Animal House. They have always reflected the best and worst behaviors of college life, turning out student-government presidents and binge-drinkers alike.

But today people are asking whether fraternities have fallen out of step with the times. A string of ugly incidents has reinforced the image of entitled white men egging each other on to behave badly: chanting racist songs, sharing pictures of incapacitated women, hazing their pledges. At their worst, fraternity houses have been the sites of sexual assaults and accidental deaths.

So how did we get here? And is there a place for fraternities on the modern campus?

In some ways, they appear a relic of a bygone era, in which college was largely the purview of white, well-off men. It's no surprise, critics say, that these homogenous, secretive groups with vaguely defined membership criteria regularly get themselves into trouble. The first widely publicized Greek hazing death dates back to the 1870s, and reports of misogynistic, racist, and homophobic acts — often fueled by drinking — have dogged fraternities ever since.
Fraternities also have a lot to recommend them. Greek students tend to be more active on campus than their classmates, and, supporters say, well-managed chapters foster leadership, facilitate service, and provide healthy camaraderie. A disproportionate number of elected officials and heads of major companies have gone through the fraternity system. And most members shun the extreme behaviors that get dozens of chapters in trouble each year.

The pressure for further reform may be greater today than any time since the 1990s, when a cascade of lawsuits led to the first modern restructuring of the system. Victim advocates and frustrated college administrators, along with a steady stream of negative news, have been raising questions about what fraternities value and who is overseeing them. In one month alone this spring, 30 chapters were suspended for offensive or dangerous acts.

Change, however, comes slowly, and even those who agree it is needed cannot agree on what should happen or how. Few anticipate the demise of fraternities. While fewer than 400,000 college undergraduate men, about 11 percent of full-time students, are members, the Greek system as a whole is a national force. In addition to having alumni on Wall Street and Capitol Hill, fraternities and sororities own and manage $3 billion in student housing and, according to a Bloomberg investigation, several hundred million dollars more in annual revenue and foundation assets.

- This article is part of a special report on fraternities. Part 2, "The Mystery of a Pledge’s Death Exposes Fraternities’ Fatal Flaws," will be featured on Tuesday.

Yet the 74 organizations that make up the North-American Interfraternity Conference are showing signs of division, with reform-minded ones frustrated by those who talk of problems in terms of a few bad apples. The interfraternity conference recently organized three task forces on hazing, sexual assault, and alcohol, which promise a surgical examination of fraternity culture, in which all treatments are being considered.

"We’ve really got to address the issues and not circle the wagons," says Walter M. Kimbrough, president of Dillard University and chair of the interfraternity conference’s commission on hazing. "I don’t want to hear about all the good we’ve done. That’s not an acceptable response anymore."

Colleges, too, are demanding more from fraternities. They are driven, in part, by a more diverse student body that is more likely to reject fraternities’ traditionalist characteristics, experts say. Administrators are quicker now to suspend a chapter, and sometimes their entire Greek system, when reports of problematic behavior surface.

The changes underway suggest that both colleges and national organizations are considering a more active role in overseeing chapters, from who is recruited to how students spend their time once they are there.

But there are enormous challenges to making that increased oversight a reality. Money and time are sticking points in any conversation about reform, and colleges and fraternities each think the other is falling short.
For every one college staff person devoted to Greek life there are 750 students, according to estimates by Mark Koepsell, executive director of the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors. By comparison, the ratio of residence-hall advisers and staff members to students is about one to 20. Greek advisers are also some of the youngest and lowest-paid administrators on campus. Universities depend on interfraternity councils, composed of students, to govern chapters and their members.

Meanwhile, national fraternal organizations are thinly staffed, relying on a cadre of volunteers, often quite young, to keep tabs on their student members. Local alumni advisers have sometimes caused headaches for their national group by defending chapters that have violated fraternity or campus policies. National organizations also hold local chapters at arm’s length. While they issue the charter and set rules and policies, the chapters are legally independent from the main organizations. Chapters also risk losing national insurance coverage if someone is hurt because of a policy violation, such as hazing or underage drinking.

Tension between fraternities and colleges has slowed reform efforts. Fraternity alumni sometimes threaten to withhold donations if they are unhappy with how chapters are treated, and college administrators complain that fraternity headquarters can be unresponsive to their concerns. National fraternities say they are singled out for criticism even though problems like binge drinking and sexual abuse exist on other parts of campus, too. And they've criticized campuswide suspensions of Greek activity while one chapter is being investigated as heavy handed.

The biggest question looming over fraternities may be this: Can you substantively improve a system that was poorly structured to start with, one in which the adults live far away from the students they supervise and 20-year-olds are in charge of daily operations? Add to that the sprawl of the fraternal system: 6,100 chapters, with an average of 45 students each, on 800 campuses. It’s easy to see how a single chapter can spin out of control with little warning.

"It’s a bad business model," says Bradley Cohen, former president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, one of the country’s largest fraternities. "Every four years you have a completely different set of employees, including your CEO and president."

Skeptics also question how much you can tinker with the social structure of organizations rooted in traditionalism and group loyalty. Several studies have suggested that fraternity life limits students’ exposure to people from diverse backgrounds.

"They come out in ways being more traditional, less challenged than when they started," says Alan D. DeSantis, who spent hundreds of hours talking to fraternity and sorority members for his 2007 book, Inside Greek U.

Yet college administrators caution against trying to do away with fraternities altogether, arguing that banning them could create a far worse alternative. "It’s in everybody’s best interest to have strong, viable national fraternities and sororities," says Mr. Kimbrough. "Students will still have the right to associate. They will create unsanctioned, underground groups, and that’s going to be a nightmare for everyone."

Some people may say that fraternities are facing an identity crisis, but that underplays how resilient and adaptive they have always been. They’ve existed since the time of the American Revolution, appeared in
modern form in the early 1880s, survived the Civil War, and rode the waves of social upheaval in the 1960s and '70s. They thrived in the 1980s, nearly collapsed under the weight of lawsuits in the 1990s, and returned, corporatized and professionalized, in the 2000s.

From their beginnings, fraternities have often operated in opposition to the colleges with which they were affiliated. Secretive and exclusionary, the groups have bothered faculty members and administrators since their earliest days. But at a time when college life was far more austere, offering little in the way of culture and social events, the first fraternities provided a welcome outlet for students, notes Nicholas L. Syrett, author of The Company He Keeps: A History of White College Fraternities.

The 20th-century fraternity has gone through many changes. In the 1950s and early '60s, their conservative values and traditions meshed well with the mood on college campuses, although as Mr. Syrett notes, they were also the source of a steady stream of racist and sexist behavior. In the tumultuous 1970s, their traditionalist views stood in increasingly stark contrast to the political shifts on campus.

Then came Animal House. The 1978 movie touched off a renaissance of sorts, fueled by more relaxed attitudes toward drinking and sex. When the drinking age was raised to 21, in 1984, off-campus fraternity parties became a staple of college life, and the Greek experience changed profoundly. A landmark study conducted in the early 1990s found that 86 percent of fraternity members engaged in binge drinking.

"Kegs, party balls, beer trucks with a dozen taps along the sides, kegerators, 55-gallon drums filled with a mixture of liquor and Kool-Aid, ad infinitum. ‘Tradition’ became a common theme for parties, ranging from ‘tiger breakfasts’ to ‘heaven and hell,’ with variations."

That reminiscence comes not from a nostalgic fraternity brother, but from the Fraternal Information & Programming Group, a risk-management organization formed in 1987 by national Greek leaders who watched what was happening inside fraternity houses with growing alarm. An increase in fires, serious injuries, and sexual assaults led, inevitably, to lawsuits. Phi Kappa Sigma, for one, estimated that it handled 41 claims from 1990 to 2000, paying out $3.5 million, including more than $1 million for a house fire at the University of California at Berkeley that led to three deaths. Insurance companies began dropping fraternities, and insurance costs rose rapidly.

Fraternities’ relationship with colleges, never easy, became more fraught. "What you had was a divorce," says Peter F. Lake, a professor at Stetson University College of Law who specializes in higher-education law and policy. "And alcohol broke up the marriage."

Whether because of internal disorganization, crackdowns by colleges, or their tainted public image, fraternities began losing their appeal in the late 1990s. By one estimate, 50,000 fewer students were members at the end of the decade than at the beginning.

"Fraternities were hemorrhaging from all angles in terms of academics, recruitment, risk management, housing infrastructure, alumni involvement, institutional support, public relations, etc.," Beta Theta Pi writes on its website. "To suggest the whole fraternal community was in a state of disrepair would be a gross understatement. Disarray was more like it, and Beta Theta Pi, in many respects, was no
exception."

It was also one of several fraternities that tried to turn the tide by creating programming and policies that emphasized academics and character building. National groups like the interfraternity conference adopted or updated policies that explicitly banned hazing and stressed high academic standards and leadership development. Many fraternities required students to follow the guidelines outlined by the national risk-management group.

Sigma Phi Epsilon banned pledging and created the Balanced Man Program, to provide a structured plan for personal development. Phi Delta Theta declared it would become alcohol-free. Pi Kappa Sigma went substance-free. And Beta Theta Pi started Men of Principle, which, among other things, banned hazing and alcohol in recruitment.

Today, more than 15 years after fraternities and their national affiliates began rewriting their rule books, there are signs of progress. Hazing, now illegal in 44 states, is far less of a problem than it used to be, and raucous open-keg parties are also largely a thing of the past, according to college administrators and fraternity officials. Many fraternities require members to take workshops about alcohol and sexual assault, training that has ramped up significantly in recent years. Five fraternities within the interfraternity conference have banned pledging. National leaders now talk about being in the business of men’s development, in which fraternities are living-learning communities.

All of these efforts have put fraternities on the leading edge of fighting risky behaviors, says Peter Smithhisler, president of the North-American Interfraternity Conference.

But frat-house culture is resilient. "The expectation for being Greek is so distorted that it’s affecting decisions and it’s affecting the culture of memberships, of chapters, and maybe even college campuses," says Brian C. Warren Jr., chief executive of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Researchers continue to ask whether fraternities breed troublemakers, even as they produce students engaged in campus life.

"The studies are consistent about certain things: alcohol use and abuse, sexual violence and hazing," says Steve Veldkamp, executive director of the Center for the Study of the College Fraternity and assistant dean of students at Indiana University at Bloomington. "They’re not only found in fraternities and sororities, but absolutely found there to a higher degree."

A commonly cited study from 2007 found that men in fraternities were three times more likely than other college men to commit rape. A more-recent study, of campus sexual-assault claims from 2011 to 2013, found a different issue. About one-quarter of repeat offenders were fraternity members, even though they make up only 9 percent of students.

"The biggest problem in Greek life is not that everyone in Greek life is a potential perpetrator, but that we create a culture in which perpetrators feel comfortable in our organizations," says Matthew Leibowitz, a fraternity alumnus and executive director of Consent Is So Frat, an educational group focused on sexual assault prevention.
One of the largest studies of the impact of fraternity and sorority membership, which examined surveys of 100,000 students from 400 institutions, concluded that Greek life may have less influence on behavior than previously thought. But that’s largely because Greek organizations draw students who already drank more heavily and were more socially engaged than their peers in high school. In other words, fraternities may not produce socially active, hard-partying members so much as attract them.

Mr. DeSantis, author of Inside Greek U. and a communications professor at the University of Kentucky, says defending the Greek system has become harder as the years go by. He formed lasting friendships with his fraternity brothers, he says, and has long believed in the positive value of Greek life. But he has had to reckon with the negative forces within it, including a tendency toward anti-intellectualism and gender stereotyping. "These groups aren’t just conservative," he says. "They’re hyperconservative."

Fraternities that shun the frat-boy image, he says, are typically the outliers. And he doesn’t buy the argument that fraternities prepare future leaders. "Look at the group you’re drawing from," he says. "These kids were born on third base."

This past year he got involved in the development of a living-learning community on campus with a diverse group of students: wealthy and poor, rural and urban, Muslim and Christian. Weekly group discussion on complex topics, like relations between Israel and Palestine, were guided by him and another professor. By the end of the year, the students had not only formed tight bonds, he says, they changed each other’s lives.

"I see that and I think that’s the idea," says Mr. DeSantis.

As Mr. DeSantis’s experience suggests, college life may be eclipsing fraternities. "If you go back 50 years, fraternities and sororities provided much more developmental experience than most campuses provided," says Mr. Koepsell, of the Greek advisers association. "Campuses took that model and implemented it. Probably most people would argue that residential life is better than most fraternities and sororities today."

Sororities may have a better case to make than fraternities about the quality of the residential life they offer. Their chapters are alcohol free and often have a full-time, live-in director. Unlike with fraternities, several studies have shown that sorority members often have higher grades than their non-Greek peers. Fraternities and colleges today operate in parallel, each trying to shore up the Greek system in its own way. The result is a patchwork of strategies, offering some clues but no big answers, as to how to improve the fraternity experience.

Some fraternities are trying to develop the kind of living-learning community that Mr. DeSantis experienced. They are revising recruitment procedures, adding educational and service opportunities, and, in some cases, hiring house directors.

Over the past eight years, Delta Upsilon has closed 25 percent of its chapters for poor performance, including weak academics and risky behavior, then opened about an equal number of new ones under the close supervision of the national organization, says its president, Justin Kirk. The goal, he says, has been to recruit better-quality members and provide a stronger educational experience.

"You can either be about better experience or be about growing," he says of the differences he’s noticed among the national fraternities. "Where you spend your money says what you prioritize."
Colleges have also taken distinct approaches to Greek life: push away or pull close. Under the advice of their lawyers, some institutions have decided they’d rather keep the Greek system at a distance.

Other colleges have bucked that trend. At Lehigh University, where 40 percent of students are Greek, all fraternities and sororities must be accredited by the college, using measures including evidence of intellectual development and good facilities management. "I’m more comfortable knowing we’ve done all that we’ve done, rather than keeping fraternities at arm’s length and keeping our fingers crossed," says John W. Smeaton, vice provost for student affairs.

The University of Maryland runs an eight-person Greek-life office, one of the largest in the country. Headed by Matthew L. Supple, who has worked in Greek life for more than 20 years, the department requires Greek chapters to participate in leadership and educational programming. The university owns 21 of 34 Greek houses and requires a live-in house director for any chapter with more than 15 members.

While problems still regularly occur, says Mr. Supple, strong relationships with the Greek community have helped Maryland respond quickly and cultivate self-policing.

Still, he’s aware of how slippery the university’s hold is on Greek life. His office’s website lists seven chapters that have had their recognition removed and their national charters suspended but continue operating underground.

Some institutions are reworking the financial equation by developing Greek villages, in which the college owns the land and sometimes the buildings and uses the income to finance further support of Greek life. At the University of South Carolina, each of the 20 houses in the Greek Village has a live-in director. Students are billed for room and board, which supports this infrastructure. Their fees also go toward maintenance, a perennial problem with off-campus fraternity houses everywhere.

But most colleges do not have large budgets set aside for Greek life. Mr. Koepsell says it’s a matter of economics. Dorm fees build in the cost of staffing and programming. "In fraternity and sorority life, where is the income coming in to support that level of staffing?" he asks. "They’re independent living structures outside of the community."

Meanwhile, national fraternities are trying to come up with ideas that could be applied everywhere, through their commissions on hazing, sexual assault, and alcohol. Those reports are due in March.

Commission heads say the problems they are trying to tackle are not confined to fraternity houses, making it tricky to devise solutions.

Edward H. Hammond is president emeritus of Fort Hays State University and chair of the alcohol commission. His group expects to turn in draft recommendations this summer. On the table is the possibility of making every fraternity alcohol-free. It’s an idea that makes sense to Mr. Hammond. "The vast majority of undergraduates in our fraternity houses are not of legal age," he says. "The campuses, basically, their housing is alcohol-free. So it would be a consistent message."

Alcohol-free chapters have students with higher grades, fewer problematic behaviors, and lower insurance costs, he says. But for the idea to work, everyone would have to move in the same direction. "If some are not doing it, it’s going to be a lot harder to pull off."
Among the campuses Mr. Hammond’s commission studied was Colorado State University, whose Greek system went dry following the alcohol-poisoning death of a female student at a fraternity house in 2004. Banning alcohol in housing worked, says Jody Donovan, assistant vice president for student affairs, because it was part of a broader, student-supported effort to limit access to alcohol. "Nobody pointed fingers at one another, which is really significant," she says.

In other areas, students may be the drivers of change. Some Greek student activists took their national leaders to task this spring after members of the Fraternal Government Relations Coalition suggested that colleges should hold off on sexual-assault investigations until cases worked their way through the legal system. The national leaders seemed more concerned about the treatment of alleged perpetrators than the care of assault victims, students said.

"We’re doing all of this work to educate our students, but that leaves the older generation out of the conversation," says Julia K. Dixon, a sorority alumna who works with Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment, a nonprofit group. "Right now what we’re seeing is grass-roots groups trying to change culture within Greek life."

Another glimpse of the future may be found in historically white fraternities in the West and parts of the South. There, in states like California, Texas, and Florida, chapters are more ethnically and racially diverse than those in Indiana or Mississippi, says Christianne I. Medrano, associate director for fraternity and sorority life at Florida International University.

Her university is majority Latino, she notes, and so are the fraternity and sorority chapters. Her colleagues at historically white Greek organizations are "very much pushing for diversity," says Ms. Medrano, who is former head of the National Multicultural Greek Council. "But you’re combating 400 years of embedded history in this country. You can make change, but it will be gradual change that will take a long time."

The Chronicle of Higher Education

August 3, 2015

4 Ways That Campus and Local Police Work Together (and Some Ways They Don’t)

By Meg Bernhard and Sarah Brown

NO MENTION

The security roles of campus police forces and municipal law enforcement inevitably intersect, and in many situations the two groups collaborate effectively. But the fatal
shooting last month of a 43-year-old man by a University of Cincinnati police officer who was conducting an off-campus traffic stop has highlighted some of the complexities of that relationship, as well as the often-murky boundaries that define their respective authorities.

To alleviate confusion, most municipal and campus law-enforcement agencies have signed agreements, known as memoranda of understanding, that vary in scope but usually spell out general protocols for taking on cases and leading investigations. One benefit of the agreements is that they require all parties to come to the same table and have a thoughtful conversation, says Steven J. Healy, managing partner of Margolis Healy, a consulting firm on college security.

But those agreements are not, and should not be, the only instances in which they collaborate, police officials say. Effective work requires case-by-case coordination and constant communication.

The Chronicle spoke with several law-enforcement officials and experts about how campus police forces do and don’t collaborate with their local counterparts. Here is a sampling.

**Facilities and Resources**
Campus police departments are, for the most part, smaller than the local agencies in the cities where colleges are located. Even when colleges have their own sworn officers, they may not have the resources to handle serious offenses, like homicides.

That’s where local forces can help, says Dolores Stafford, head of the National Association of Clery Compliance Officers and Professionals and a former police chief at George Washington University. ("Clery" refers to the Clery Act, a federal law that, among other things, requires colleges to notify people on the campus of emergencies and security threats, and to produce annual security reports.) Local and campus officers can share resources like crime labs, she says, especially because "a campus agency might not have a crime-scene technician."

Other forces share lines of communication. Occidental College, a liberal-arts institution of about 2,100 students in Los Angeles, does not have its own sworn police force, relying instead on a campus-safety department, which usually handles medical emergencies and patrol duties.

If the department ever needs help from the Los Angeles Police Department, it can contact the force on a shared radio frequency, says Jim Tranquada, a spokesman for Occidental.
Who Takes the Lead?

It’s often unclear who should take the lead in an investigation. What if a crime committed on a college campus continues into the jurisdiction of local police forces? That’s when a memorandum of understanding can be helpful, police officials and campus representatives say.

The University of Oregon’s police force is drafting such a memorandum with the Eugene Police Department. Kelly McIver, a spokesman for the university police force, says that, for the most part, his colleagues do off-campus work only when the campus's interests intersect with those of the city. They’ll call in the Eugene officers if a more serious crime needs investigating.

Jurisdictional questions also come into play when a college officer, patrolling off campus, stops a driver or makes an arrest, as in the Cincinnati case. But given that many students live off-campus, a college’s officers may on occasion have geographic responsibility beyond campus boundaries, says Kathy R. Zoner, chief of police at Cornell University.

Data Sharing

Sharing crime data can reveal trends and lead to a more efficient allocation of resources between a campus and a local law-enforcement agency, says Joe Vossen, associate risk-management counsel at United Educators, an insurance and risk-management firm that works with colleges.

Data sharing has taken on special importance when it comes to sexual-assault cases because someone who commits a rape on a campus might have perpetrated prior sexual offenses off-campus, Ms. Zoner says.

Collaboration on statistics also helps colleges when they are trying to ensure compliance with the Clery Act. A college is required under the law to compile crime statistics from its campus as well as from public areas adjacent to college property and certain off-campus facilities.

One obstacle to such data collection is that the local police are not bound by the same federal requirements, like the Clery Act and the gender-equity law known as Title IX, that colleges are, says William Taylor, president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies and chief of police at San Jacinto College, in Texas. As a result, municipal law-enforcement agencies aren’t required to respond to colleges’ requests for data.
Working to Curb Sexual Assault

Colleges and law-enforcement agencies face escalating pressure to define their relationship more explicitly and to collaborate in cases of sexual violence. Some colleges have signed separate memoranda of understanding with the local police regarding sexual assault.

While some observers contend that the local police are better equipped to run investigations of such serious crimes, Mr. Taylor says colleges, too, have a role to play, in part because their officers often have more experience dealing with the nuances of sexual assault on a campus. And given that college police departments tend to have smaller caseloads, they can sometimes put more time and effort into an investigation than a major city’s police department can, he says.

But some colleges, particularly those without sworn officers, might require help from the local police to collect evidence and conduct witness interviews in trying to resolve sexual-assault cases.

The bottom line, says Cornell’s Ms. Zoner, is that cooperation is essential in combating the chronic underreporting of the incidents and increasing trust in the investigative process.

… but They Don’t Always Collaborate

Still, coordination between municipal and campus police forces can be tricky, especially without a signed agreement in place. Ms. Stafford, the former George Washington police chief, remembers confusion between her officers and those employed by the District of Columbia, whose department has not signed an agreement with the university despite repeated requests.

In Boston, with more than 30 colleges and universities, the city’s police department does not have any memoranda of understanding with colleges. It deals with crimes on a case-by-case basis, says Officer Rachel McGuire, a spokeswoman for the department.

Metropolitan police departments have a lot on their plates, so they’re often less willing to take time to craft multiple formal agreements, Ms. Zoner says.

"Picture an investigative team that has different colleges who all want it different ways," she says. "Ideally we’d all try to be on the same page, but there might be valid reasons why it is that way."
Sometimes the evolution of two organisms occurs in tandem. In today's Academic Minute, the University of Missouri's Chris Pires describes this type of evolution -- commonly called co-evolution. Pires is an associate professor in the division of biological sciences at Missouri. A transcript of this podcast can be found here.

Listen to the story: https://www.insidehighered.com/audio/2015/08/03/evolving-together