UM president stresses importance of higher education to students


COLUMBIA - **UM System President Tim Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin will present the importance of higher education to middle school students as part of the Show Me Value Tour Monday.**

Wolfe started the Show Me Value Tour three years ago to focus on communicating the value of higher education.

"Years ago there was this growing sentiment that a college degree really wasn't worth the time or investment for students," UM Systems Strategic Communications Manager Kelly Weimann said.

The goal of the tour is to counteract that sentiment.

"President Wolfe's ultimate objective in the Show Me Value tour is to really let students know that the greatest investment they can make for themselves is higher education," Weimann said.

The tour kicks off with a meeting between Wolfe, Loftin and community leaders at 7 a.m. at Southern Boone County Public Library in Ashland. Wolfe will present to students at Lange Middle School in Columbia at 8:30 a.m. Loftin will present to students at Southern Boone Middle School in Ashland at 8:15 a.m.
UM campuses release reports detailing sexual harassment, assault

By Megan Favignano

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Each University of Missouri campus released the results of its Title IX survey Monday, detailing how often sexual harassment and assault occur and how comfortable students are reporting incidents.

Title IX is a federal law that bars sexual discrimination on college campuses.

Missouri University of Science and Technology spokesman Andrew Careaga said the survey results showed students trust the university to take the appropriate action on sexual misconduct reports. Education efforts, he said, will continue to be a focus for the campus.

This survey “promotes the need for us to raise awareness to our students on the resources we have available,” Careaga said.

The surveys at Missouri S&T, the University of Missouri Kansas City and the University of Missouri St. Louis asked students whether they agreed that a person sexually assaulted when he or she is drunk is partially responsible for the assault. Each campus survey showed women disagreed with the statement more often than men.

A high percent of students surveyed — more than half at each campus — were confident their university would take reports of sexual misconduct seriously and would provide appropriate resources to victims.

Of the Missouri S&T students surveyed, 13.7 percent said they experienced non-consensual sexual contact or sex during their time at the university compared to 10.4 percent at UMSL and 7.2 percent at UMKC. Another 14.9 percent of the Missouri S&T students surveyed said they experienced attempted non-consensual sexual contact or sex, compared to 8.6 percent at UMSL and 8.2 percent at UMKC.

MU’s survey report showed 19.8 percent of seniors surveyed experienced unwanted sexual contact — ranging from kissing or touching to nonconsensual sex — while at the university. That figure excludes attempted unwanted sexual contact or sex. However, as the survey notes,
attempted acts are part of the legal definition of rape and sexual assault. When attempted acts are included, the percent of students increases by about two percentage points.

MU’s percent of students refers only to the percent of undergraduate seniors surveyed while the other three campuses’ percentage refers to the percent of all students surveyed. MU’s survey was designed, conducted and interpreted through a national Association of American Universities survey. Its survey differed from the other campuses in how incidents were counted and how it analyzed the results.

The university’s consultant, the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, designed the survey for UMKC, Missouri S&T and UMSL.

MU Assistant Vice Provost and Title IX Administrator Ellen Eardley said the university’s results are not surprising. “The AAU results I think show that sexual assaults and sexual misconduct … is unfortunately all too common on university campuses across the country.”

MU’s Title IX policies received national attention last year after an ESPN “Outside the Lines” story raised questions about whether officials mishandled the alleged rape of student athlete Sasha Menu Courey, who committed suicide in June 2011.

These campus Title IX reports come after 18 months of significant changes to policies and resources related to sex discrimination and mental health issues on UM campuses.

UM System President Tim Wolfe made all university employees mandatory reporters in April 2014, requiring them to report sexual misconduct involving students to a Title IX coordinator.

Careaga said outreach will continue to be important on college campuses. “It gives us the opportunity to see what’s working and what needs to be worked on.”
MU Releases Results of AAU's Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct

Nearly 31 percent of University of Missouri female undergraduate students reported being victims of nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation. This ranges from unwanted kissing to assault.

This was one of the many findings that were released Monday by the Association of American Universities and the University of Missouri. The results were from the Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct the AAU conducted last April.

The survey asked students questions about sexual assault and misconduct, the perceived risk of assault on campus, how students thought campus officials would support them and bystander intervention rates, as well as reports of sexual harassment, intimate partner violence and stalking.

The University of Missouri was one of 27 universities across the country that participated in the survey. While more than 150,000 students participated in the national survey, only about 5,000 students – both undergraduate and graduate – participated at MU.

Ellen Eardley, the MU Title IX administrator, said the survey validates what college campuses across the United States already know – that sexual assault, stalking, domestic violence and interpersonal violence happen on their campuses, including MU.

“The survey is an opportunity for us to take a closer look at what the climate actually is here and helps us as we think about moving forward to improve our prevention education measures on campus,” Eardley said.

Eardley also said Provost Garnett Stokes has created a new task force to address the concerns raised by the MU report and the AAU national report.
“We're going to take a harder look at our survey results, as well as the AAU survey results,” Eardley said. “And think about ways we can improve our education, prevention efforts. We think we should have focus groups and talk to our community and really bring these numbers to life and think about the meaningful ways in which we can better engage our community.”

She said the task force will include both undergraduate and graduate students, staff and faculty, as well as the coordinator of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center. Eardley added they are working on finalizing members of the task force at the moment.

This task force will work to monitor the climate on campus and develop metrics that can be used to monitor progress made at MU.

RESULTS

The report began by addressing how students felt they would be supported by their fellow students and campus officials. On most issues, nearly or more than 50 percent of students responded favorably, but when it came to campus officials taking “action to address factors that may have led to sexual assault or sexual misconduct on campus” only nearly 42 percent of students thought this was likely.

Eardley said she believes this is because the Title IX office has only been on campus for a little more than a year. She said she believes the longer the office is there, the more students will begin to understand what it does and how it is trying to help them.

Bystander intervention rates were another issue addressed in the report, and Eardley says the results reflect that MU still has work to do in the way of education and prevention. She advocated for focus groups and peer educators to be utilized.

“Peer education is where it’s at,” Eardley said. “Students want to learn from each other.”

Another of the issues that Eardley brought up was the number of sexual harassment reports in the survey results – 52 percent of students reported being victims of sexual harassment and more than 82 percent said it had happened to them within the last year.

Eardley said the University needs to take a hard look at these numbers because sexual harassment and sexual violence are all “intertwined.”

“If we have a climate where sexual harassment occurs and is accepted, then that is going to create a climate where sexual violence is acceptable as well,” Eardley said.

The most common description of the harasser was a student, but graduate students more often identified their harasser as a faculty member who was their teacher or advisor and their co-worker, boss or supervisor.
Eardley said she is already doing outreach with new faculty members, Department chairs and new graduate students to let them know what behaviors are not appropriate on MU’s campus and making sure they know their rights.

The sample size of transgender, genderqueer, non-conforming, questioning or not listed (TGQN) students in the survey was too small to allow estimates that are statistically reliable, but the MU report did address the experiences of this demographic.

The MU report revealed that TGQN students generally feel less safe on campus, less supported by campus officials, less likely to report an assault and more likely to experience sex-based discrimination and violence.

Eardley said it is not just the TGQN students experiencing these things at higher rates, but also students who are non-heterosexual and disabled students.

She said she is working with the LGBTQ Center on campus to ensure the Title IX office is meeting the needs of every student community.

MU Associate Law Professor challenges gun ban


A University of Missouri associate law professor has filed a lawsuit against the university’s ban of guns on campus.

According to the court documents, Royce de R. Barondes, an Associate Professor at Mizzou's Law School, believes the ban of guns on campus "make law-abiders more vulnerable to attack by law-breakers."

The documents go on to say the ban "unlawfully and unconstitutionally violates Plaintiff’s individual rights to keep and carry a firearm for self-defense."
The lawsuit was filed in the Cole County Circuit Clerk and names the Curators of the University of Missouri as well as system President Timothy Wolfe.

In the lawsuit, Barondes and his attorney, Jennifer Bukowsky, address the MU Alert system and includes dates on which it was used in August as well as when it notified users about the officer involved shooting death in the Hitt Street parking garage in April 2015.

They also detailed information about the murder of MU Assistant Professor Jeong Im in a parking garage in 2005.

Barondes believes prohibiting him from utilizing his CCW to defend himself while on Curator-controlled property violates his individual rights to bear arms under the Missouri Constitution.

MU Spokesman Christian Basi told KRCG 13 the University has no comment because the litigation is pending.

![Image of abc17news.com](http://www.abc17news.com/news/attorney-for-mu-professor-speaks-about-lawsuit-on-university-gun-ban/35425658)

**Attorney for MU professor speaks about lawsuit on University gun ban**


COLUMBIA, Mo. - **A University of Missouri law professor is suing the the University, saying banning guns on campus violates state law.**

Law professor Royce De Barondes has named the MU Board of Curators and MU President Tim Wolfe in the lawsuit.

His attorney, Jennifer Bukowsky, said an amendment to the state constitution passed last November protects his right to conceal and carry.

"We just recently amended it with Amendment 5 last year where it explicitly states those rights are unalienable and subject to strict scrutiny," Bukowsky said.

The lawsuit was filed Saturday and the University has 30 days to respond.
"We're hoping that Attorney General Chris Koster will intervene on our behalf, on behalf of the professor in protecting his rights," Bukowsky said.

She said this is the first case of this type she has ever had, but said it's an important one.

"I think there's a very interesting illustration recently here in Columbia of the need for individuals to be able to decide how to protect themselves and that would be the case of Mark Adair," Bukowsky said.

Mark Adair was shot and killed by police in the Hitt Street Parking Garage on campus back in April after pointing a gun at officers.

Police were searching for Adair after he attacked three different women in other locations earlier that same day.

"What was not reported at the time, which I found out from a source and later confirmed through a sunshine request, is that the woman in her car in the parking lot at Moser's grocery store who was attacked, she was able to get away by pulling out her handgun out of her purse," Bukowsky said. "And had she not done that, she might not have been able to live to report his whereabouts to authorities. They may not have been able to track him down in time to save those girls in the parking garage at the University."

Bukowsky said this is where she believes a person should have a choice.

"The women in the University garage, if they did have a weapon on them, which we don't know, but if they did, they would be in violation of the University's rules and if they were employees of the University like my client, they'd have to only carry those weapons while being in fear of losing their jobs," she said.

ABC 17 News reached out the University for comment, but calls had not been returned as of Tuesday night.
MU professor sues over campus gun ban; colleges in Ozarks have similar policy


SPRINGFIELD Mo., - A University of Missouri associate law professor is suing the university system over a regulations that bans guns on campus. In his petition, Royce Barondes contends the board of curators' policy violates his constitutional rights by prohibiting him from carrying a gun on campus for self-defense.

The lawsuit cites several crimes or threats--some involving guns--that have occurred on Mizzou's campus or on curator controlled property.

"I think it was a well-intentioned rule meant for the safety of individuals on campus. The problem is that the bad guys don't care about the rule," explained Jennifer Bukowsky, the attorney representing Barondes.

Mizzou's gun policy is similar to public colleges in the Ozarks. At Ozarks Technical College no one except for police officers can carry a weapon onto campus and that includes people who have conceal and carry permits.

At Missouri State University, guns are banned on campus and dorms, but they can be kept in locked cars if they're not visible. Students and staff at MSU can also request special consideration to carry on campus from the school's director of safety and transportation.

"There can be an exemption through my office depending on what that exemption. Sometimes we have people using them for classes things like that. Of course, we have ROTC on campus that use those occasionally and that type of thing," said Tom Johnson.

The lawsuit names the University of Missouri Board of Curators and system President Tim Wolfe. A university representative said the university just received the lawsuit and will review it.
Nixon proposes 6 percent funding increase, tuition freeze for higher education

By Rudi Keller

Tuesday, September 22, 2015 at 2:00 pm

State colleges and universities would receive a major funding boost and students would get relief from annual tuition increases under a budget proposal made Monday by Gov. Jay Nixon.

Flanked by nearly two dozen presidents and chancellors from public higher education institutions, Nixon said his proposed $55.7 million increase in funding would restore all the state support cut as a result of the steep recession that was devastating revenue as he took office in 2009.

In return, Nixon said, the higher education executives will ask their governing boards to freeze tuition in the 2016-17 school year. If approved by the boards, it would be the fourth tuition freeze Nixon has negotiated in exchange for increasing state funding or protecting schools from deep cuts.

“The less debt students take on while they are in school, the more they can spend when they graduate, buying a car, starting a business and pursuing their dreams,” Nixon said.

The funding represents a 6 percent increase for higher education, for a record total of $985 million, Nixon said. The schools have agreed to dedicate $9 million to new and expanded programs in science, technology, engineering and math education.

The money will be distributed using a performance funding model in place for several years. Each school earns a portion of its increase by meeting a goal and the maximum funding for meeting all five goals, which include graduation and retention rates.

For the University of Missouri, Nixon’s proposed increase would be about $26.5 million on top of the $434.5 million appropriated for the school in the current fiscal year. In fiscal 2010, lawmakers appropriated $475.9 million for the university, reduced by withholdings to $461.5 million in actual support.

“It is going to give us necessary funding to put the labs and the classroom space in place that support the unbelievable student growth that we’ve got,” UM President Tim Wolfe said.
The Board of Curators in February approved a tuition hike averaging 0.8 percent for the current school year. During Nixon’s tenure, tuition was not increased in 2009, 2010 and 2014, and in other years, increases have ranged from 1.7 to 5 percent.

Wolfe said the increase Nixon proposed makes him comfortable asking the curators to freeze tuition in the coming year.

The curators generally finish work on tuition rates in February and lawmakers finish the budget in May. If the spending plan falls short of Nixon’s proposed increase, the schools will be in a tough place deciding whether to keep a tuition freeze in place. Students and their parents make their decisions about schools soon after tuition rates are announced, Wolfe noted.

“It is very, very difficult to go back and change the tuition decisions that have been made because of the time frame associated with that,” he said.

In the coming months, higher education supporters will be competing with proponents of early childhood education and convenience store owners for signatures to put a cigarette tax increase on the November 2016 ballot. The higher education proposal is intended to raise money for scholarship programs.

Nixon said he has not decided which, if any, he will support.

**Higher education funding could increase 6 percent**

For the fourth consecutive time, Gov. Jay Nixon proposed to freeze tuition fees and increase Missouri state funding.

On Sept. 21, Gov. Jay Nixon proposed a tuition freeze for undergraduates at two-and four-year public institutions for the 2016-17 school year.

According to the release, an additional 6 percent will be added to the 2017 fiscal year budget, bringing the state funding for higher education to $985 million. At least 16.5 percent of the additional funding will go toward science, technology, engineering and math programs.

Since elected, Nixon has froze tuition every year. Between the 2008-09 and 2014-15 school years, the release stated that Missouri tuition increased by 7 percent, less than any other state. The national average during this time was 29 percent.
“By bringing people together to invest in students and hold down college costs, we have made Missouri a national leader in college affordability and innovation,” Nixon said in the release. “Because the less debt students take on when they’re in school, the more they can spend when they graduate — buying a car, starting a business and pursuing their dreams.”

Revolting racial slur directed toward USC student government president

By Emily Goldberg September 22, 2015 3:42 pm

Rini Sampath and Jordan Fowler shattered a glass ceiling at the University of Southern California — and in the Pac-12 — this past February when they became the first dual female ticket to be elected undergraduate student government president and vice president, respectively.

The two women are also of minority backgrounds: Sampath is Indian, Fowler is black. All are welcome, it would seem, at USC.

But what occurred just off campus on Saturday night proved that racism is still alive at the school.

On Sunday morning Sampath, a senior majoring in international relations, shared a Facebook post recalling the event:

“Last night, as I was walking back from my friend’s apartment, a student screamed out at me through the window of his fraternity house, ‘You Indian piece of shit!’ before hurling his drink at my friends and me. Once his fraternity brothers realized it was me, they began to apologize. This stung even more.” Sampath wrote in her post.

Sampath, who was born in India, and lived there and in Singapore before moving the United States when she was six, tells USA TODAY College that this was not the first time she’s been confronted with racism. The incident, she says, brought back painful memories of dealing with discrimination during her childhood.
“I know that’s how many other students feel when they’re called names or put down,” she said. “It’s not a single occurrence, it’s been happening to them their entire lives and for us to reinforce that — especially in a collegiate setting where there are so many other pressures, this is not OK.”

USC Dean of Religious Life Varun Soni told the *Washington Post* that the individual’s behavior was “cowardly and hateful.”

**The incident comes only days after a group of young people drove by Payton Head, the student association president at the University of Missouri, and slowed down to scream the n-word at him.**

Sampath, who is acquainted with Head, says these are not isolated incidents.

“I was thinking about (Payton) all week, and it just stunned me that it happened to me as well. But I know there are so many other incidents that have occurred,” she says. “These are the types of dialogues I want to start having on our campus.”

The incident has ignited dialogue about racism within the Greek community at USC. Some comments on Sampath’s status shared other cases of racial profiling and stereotyping on the “The Row” (also known as “Frat Row”).

Sampath declined to identify the suspect or the specific fraternity. She says she wants to focus instead on tangible solution.

In Sampath’s tenure as USG president, and vice president the year prior, she has already taken steps to contend with issues of racism on campus. She has led efforts advocate for a cultural house for black students, as well as for increased resources and staff members at existing cultural resource centers.

Sampath also says she thinks an assistant vice provost “devoted to equity and diversity issues” would be a help.

USG, she notes, plans to hold a forum in the coming weeks to facilitate discussion on the topic.

While she says she appreciates the tremendous support she and Fowler have received, Sampath feels that “don’t live in some post-racial society because we are able to elect members who look different from us. We still need to tackle the institutional barriers and systemic obstacles that keep people like us from achieving personal success or happiness.”
CARL KENNEY: Change hard to find when old issues of race relations arise

CARL KENNEY, 19 hrs ago

Carl Kenney is co-pastor of Bethel Baptist Church and an adjunct professor at the MU School of Journalism. He writes a weekly column for the Missourian.

This is why I didn’t want to come home.

There are too many horrific memories of my days growing up in Columbia. You couldn’t convince me it was a good decision to go back to take care of my sick father. After running, I had to come back.

I felt massive relief after graduating from the Missouri School of Journalism. My heart starting beating slower and breathing became easier after I moved to Durham, North Carolina, to attend graduate school.

Not much has changed since the dean handed me my diploma in 1986. Watching and listening to black students complain about race relations sounds like a CD stuck on replay. The beat has changed, but the lyrics continue to reflect the discontent of students tired of being treated like they don’t belong on campus.

Payton Head, president of the MU student body, shared his story of not belonging on Facebook. He framed conversations regarding race in a way that reminded me of why I ran away. Yes, I ran to free myself from the crippling impact of racism packed within a culture of silence.
Head was harassed by a group of men in the bed of a pickup truck. They shouted the “N word” as he walked down a street. Like a gang looking for something to hunt, they taunted Head in a way that suggested he should go back to where he came from. It’s these types of confrontations that compel black students to consider transferring to a more affirming community.

It wasn’t the first time that Head confronted racism around campus. He told his Facebook friends he considered running away after the previous incident. Rather than finding another place to learn, Head decided to join the Missouri Student Association.

Head decided to stay and fight from within the institution. Will his role as MSA President be enough to overcome the bigotry of those outside the university?

Head's rant extends beyond racism. He’s enlightened beyond the connections he makes with those who fought for a right to enroll at MU.

“Many of you are so privileged that you’ll never know what it feels like to be a hijab-wearing Muslim woman and be called a terrorist or a towel head,” Head wrote on Facebook. “You don’t have to think about being transgender and worrying about finding a restroom where you can go and not be targeted for violence because you don’t fit into the gender binary.”

Head should be celebrated for not running. His message of inclusion is essential beyond the borders of MU. All of us should be challenged to listen to others as they share stories regarding being harmed by the words and actions of malicious people. Hate comes in a myriad of colors and ideologies.

There is more to this story than the university’s lack of sensitivity regarding the emotional needs of students. Yes, it is about the need for more engagement involving diversity training for students, faculty and staff. Much can be done to alleviate the insults thrust at students because of the color of their skin, their sexual orientation or religion. Something has to be done to fix all of that.

But, this is also about the community surrounding the university.
This is about the rage of white boys in a pickup truck. It’s about the indignation they carry when they see a black man succeeding. This is about the fury in the belly of those within a community that grapples to embrace the presence of students who represent a race or culture varied from their own.

This reminds me of why I ran away. I ran because Columbia is a city that has seduced black people into accepting second-class status. I ran because I lacked black role models to inspire me beyond the common assumptions of white people.

I knew the limits placed on me if I stayed.

I left because I was tired of hearing the “N word” and a bunch of others that rotted my psyche and troubled my soul. I became weary after standing in wait for opportunities knowing the fountain of privilege had an invisible sign that read “whites only.” I grew up discerning educated black people don’t stay in Columbia. They run to find places where they can be seen beyond the color of their skin.

I’m back. Nothing has changed. Students are crying for justice and peace while the residents stay glued to their seats.

Can you find authentic change when the people around you are too scared to say 'I can’t take it any more'?

I wonder now, how do you stay in a place when the best option is to run away?
About 200 students gathered Tuesday night at the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center to hear junior and senior black students share their experiences and answer questions about life on and off campus.

Participants were separated into five groups and rotated every 30 minutes to participate in five discussion topics: social justice centers, work and study, living on and off campus, student activities involvement and time management.

The annual meeting, called "Black @ Mizzou," came at a time when race relations at MU have garnered national attention. Payton Head, president of the Missouri Students Association, shared his personal encounter with racism on campus on a Facebook post that went viral two weeks ago, according to previous Missourian reporting. The post has been shared 1,725 times since.

Head was one of the speakers at the discussion. He said maintaining a space for black students to exchange tips and ask questions is extremely important because black students can have a hard time navigating college successfully.

"Look at the black retention rate here at Mizzou," Head said. "Look at the black graduation rate. How many black students graduate on time? How many black students come here and don't graduate?"

Black male students have the lowest graduation rates and retention rates of college students throughout the nation, according to the Mizzou Black Men's Initiative.
Head said a platform like Black @ Mizzou can help black students by providing a place for black and minority students to come together as one.

"Many of us went through failing inner city high school education and it is difficult for them to go through the transition," Head said.

Several students stressed the importance of knowing where the social justice centers and resources are on campus. MU centers highlighted Tuesday night included the Black Culture Center, the Women's Center, the Multicultural Center and the LGBTQ Resource Center.

Kelcea Barnes, an MU junior who self-identifies as queer, spoke at the event about the importance of respect.

"You don't have to agree with everyone or everything on campus," said Barnes, chief of staff for the Missouri Students Association. "But you must be respectful of the differences."

Barnes said the event was not just about diversity, or black versus white, but the university's need to work on inclusiveness.

"Inclusiveness means I walk in and actually feel I belong to the space, while diversity is just having different faces in one space," Barnes said.

A safe space was declared at the beginning of every discussion, where people's different experiences were acknowledged and the discussion leaders made sure people were safe to speak their mind.

"I think it would be revolutionary if a safe space is declared in every MU classroom," Barnes said.

Corie Wilkins, a junior journalism student and one of the speakers, told younger students that it is critical to be connected with upperclassmen.
"It is easy to think you are the only one to go through this, but you really are not alone," Wilkins said. "I didn't go through college on my own."

More than 20 upperclassmen spoke in the five discussion groups and shared tips for surviving the early years at MU. One group discussed the pro and cons of living on and off campus. James Bender, a junior, warned younger students not to consider living off campus if they don't have a car. Students in another group exchanged tips on how to balance social events, grades and sleep.

Head said he remembered that at last year’s event, a student asked him where in Columbia to find someone who knew how to cut black people’s hair.

"For black people, other people don't realize that it's very difficult in Columbia, Missouri, to find someone to cut your hair," Head said. "There's no place that we can go downtown that's a black barbershop."

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**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

**College Boxing Clubs Rise From the Canvas**

**Diverse groups of students are finding a new concentration in the sweet science, even if they don’t want to fight**

By
Rachel Bachman
Sept. 22, 2015 1:10 p.m. ET

*Madison, Wis.*

College boxing, decades removed from the days when fedora-clad fans filled smoky arenas to watch the sport, is making a comeback.

It looks very different from its heyday in the 1930s and ’40s. Most student-run boxing clubs are now coed, and women are taking on leadership positions. The clubs are attracting mixed-martial-arts fans, people who want to learn protective skills, and fitness enthusiasts, including those who don’t actually want to fight.
“The majority of people are there just to exercise,” says Courtney Miller, president of the University of Wisconsin boxing club. “It’s a fun way to get in shape.”

Boxing returned to her campus in 2014 after being discontinued as a varsity sport in 1960, following the death of a Wisconsin boxer after a fight. The Badgers had been a powerhouse, winning eight National Collegiate Athletic Association team titles between 1939 and 1956.

The NCAA stopped sanctioning boxing shortly thereafter, so college boxing now exists through clubs. They typically receive little or no school funding, have volunteer coaches, award no scholarships and are organized by students rather than administrators.

At Wisconsin, club members must spend a semester learning basic skills before they can spar with teammates, as Ms. Miller does. Most of the roughly 65 active members have yet to compete in a fight.

“I want to make sure we have our people ready before I put them out there,” she says. Wisconsin’s boxers work out in a humid room lined with heavy bags—but without a boxing ring—in the school’s swimming center.

Two groups govern college boxing. The National Collegiate Boxing Association, founded in 1976, counts 32 clubs and held its first women’s championships in 2014. The United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association formed in 2012. Its national championships in April drew 149 boxers from 23 teams.

In competitions boxers wear mouth guards, heavily padded gloves and headgear that appears thicker than the leather versions of decades ago. Boxers are matched up by weight and experience, and bouts are three rounds of two minutes each. Referees are certified by USA Boxing, the sport’s governing body, and call for eight-second pauses after a hard punch or punches.

On some campuses, boxing used to be a staple of young manhood. Theodore Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy boxed at Harvard, and Gerald Ford briefly coached boxing at Yale. But only about 18 boxing teams remained in the sport’s final NCAA season in 1960, an NCAA spokesman estimates.

College boxing’s decline in the 1950s followed faculty concerns about safety and the public’s association of it with professional boxing, says Doug Moe, author of the book “Lords of the Ring” on the history of Wisconsin boxing.

Penn State University’s longtime boxing team has seen a surge of interest, with 200 people showing up on the first day of practice this semester—50 more than last fall, club president Taylor Varner says.

“In the past, we’ve had mostly students without any experience whatsoever,” says Ms. Varner, one of two women from Penn State who boxed at the NCBA’s national championships last season.
“In more recent years, people are like, ‘Oh, I’ve been training at a gym two or three years.’ ”

This year, 253 people have signed up for boxing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the most in Coach Josh Sokal’s eight-year tenure. The majority of the students aren’t interested in fighting others, but seek a physical challenge, he says.

“We very much advertise it as the hardest training on campus,” he says. “I think all these kids are real stressed out, and getting it out of their system is one of the draws, too.”

Out of more than 110 core club members last season, only seven actually had bouts, Mr. Sokal says.

“I really like the fact that I’m building a skill,” says Devon Genua, a UNC junior who helps lead twice-a-week noncontact workouts that include nearly two hours of cardio, body-weight exercises and technique drills. “I feel very powerful and very capable when I’m working out like this.”

She hasn’t sparred yet, because she’s also training for her first marathon. “I don’t think it’s wise to get hit in the face and run far at the same time,” she says.

The first practice of the West Virginia University boxing club drew 75 people, up from 50 at the first practice last year, team president Dan Gibson says. Some want to learn self-defense skills.

“They say, ‘I don’t have any interest in fighting, but if I get into a situation like that, I want to know how to dodge a punch and how to throw a punch,’ ” he says.

The highly publicized professional fight between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao in May increased interest in boxing, as did the summer movie “Southpaw” and the coming spinoff of “Rocky” called “Creed,” Mr. Gibson says.

Women make up about 20% of West Virginia’s boxing club. Participation of women varies from school to school, but a few report turnouts nearing 50%.

Overall in the U.S., more than five million people participated in boxing for fitness in 2014, up 7% from 2010, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association. Fewer participated in boxing for competition, 1.3 million, but the group grew faster: 49% from 2010 to 2014.

The boxing club at Iowa State University offers a three-nights-a-week class each semester to introduce students to the basics of the sport. The class has grown from about 60 people three years ago to 90 people this year, says senior Olivia Meyer, club president and two-time NCBA women’s champion at 147 pounds.

Of the people who turn out for the class, “maybe 10 people come in and do mitt drills and spar,” she says. “From those, we see maybe one person who wants to compete, which is understandable. It’s a scary sport. It’s a violent sport.”
Worries about boxing’s potential for concussions—medical experts at Wisconsin expressed concern about the sport’s return—have made some students opt for boxing-style exercise outside of a team. Pugilist-inspired workouts are part of campus recreation centers’ expanded offerings, especially for students seeking intense exercise.

The University of Missouri’s department of recreation services and facilities opened a boxing studio at its recreation center in January. The 200 memberships made available last spring sold out in two weeks, says Diane Dahlmann, executive director of MizzouRec services and facilities. The studio sold 300 memberships this semester.

The University of Oregon opened a remodeled boxing studio in January that is busy with drop-ins and classes, says Chantelle Russell, Oregon’s assistant director of fitness.

The revamped studio “is much more popular and much more used by a diversity of participants,” Ms. Russell says. “Whereas before, it was your much more hard-core people.”

Many college clubs remain focused on competition. The University of Michigan hosted the USIBA championships last spring, with its women’s team finishing first and its men’s team second. The club holds tryouts and takes only students who aim to represent the school in fights.

But club president Yaz El-Baba says students—some of them close friends—often ask him about boxing for fitness and the confidence to walk home alone at night.

“I wish we could accommodate those people, too,” he says.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Texas professor brings human rights ideas to MU

YUAN YUAN, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — By itself, imagination will not change the world, Benjamin Gregg of the University of Texas at Austin said Monday evening. "But you need imagination to envision alternatives of the world as we know it, and the first act of imagination is to imagine that tomorrow could be different from today."
Gregg's talk, "Don't Give Up on Human Rights," was the 2015 Peace Perspectives lecture presented in Neff Hall by the MU Peace Studies Program.

Gregg is a professor of government and the author of several books including "Human Rights as Social Construction" and "The Human Rights State." Both of them have "an argument about imagination," he said.

More than 60 people attended the event.

"I want to learn more about the human rights debate," said Stephanie Hull, an MU graduate student in philosophy. "We discussed professor Gregg's book in my (gender and human rights) class, so I came here hoping to learn about human rights in the non-Western context from him."

Gregg said his books attempt to suggest ways to "engage the gears of justice" in the pursuit of human rights projects.

He distinguished a human rights state from a nation state. The metaphorical term "human rights state" is a complement rather than a replacement of the nation state and refers to the idea of a political movement within a nation state to persuade it to adopt human rights as an aspect of its eternal constitution, Gregg said.

A nation state operates with a logic of exclusion, to exclude "outsiders," and it often exercises "unlimited legal authority" within it, while a human rights state operates with a logic of inclusion, Gregg said. For example, although intervention can stop killing by the use of a strong hand, his book focused on stopping such killing in the first place by popularizing human rights.

Human rights do not come naturally but are created through practice, he said, and such practice doesn't guarantee justice or positive outcomes.

He said the greatest promise of human rights projects is the day-to-day reworking of local political communities to embrace human rights. Progress in the daily work of building up human
rights locally may contribute to "modify the logic of exclusion and make room for the inclusion of people in the right to have rights regardless of their citizenship status and territorial location."

He emphasized the ideal outcome: Each person exists morally, socially and politically only in relation to other persons, and no person enjoys advantages over others.

"Truth can take care of itself, but justice always needs to be protected," Gregg said, adding that the notion of human right states is just one of many human rights projects that help protect justice.

Despite the problems facing human rights projects, people should not be discouraged but move forward, he concluded.

"A human rights state is your state," Gregg said. "Human rights states can one day exist only if you, along with others, create them."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Ellis Library celebrates 100th birthday Wednesday

JULIA TERBROCK, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — After MU's Main Library building was constructed in 1915, philosophy professor Jay William Hudson addressed some 300 people in the reading room on Jan. 6, 1916:

"As it was with Harvard, so has it been with nearly every great university," Hudson is recorded as saying. "Its founding has been inaugurated by the founding of a library, and the growth of the library has almost invariable been the concomitant of the university's development."
One hundred years later, what is now known as Ellis Library remains the heart of the campus, said Jim Cogswell, director of libraries, and June DeWeese, retired head of access services.

A celebration of Ellis Library's 100th birthday and the kickoff to MU Libraries' centennial campaign will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday on Lowry Mall. The party will include giveaways, pizza, ice cream and games.

"Libraries are timeless," said DeWeese, who worked in the MU Libraries for 40 years, from 1974 to 2014. "They are a key on the continuum to the past and to the future, and it's important to investigate what a library, any library, has to offer."

A century ago, as World War I raged, the students on the small but growing campus were, for the most part, scholars working on their own, Cogswell said.

"(Students) went from solitary scholars working on their own work and then going into their own professions after graduation," he said. "These days, it's much more working in teams. Nobody gets anything really accomplished in a major way without collaborating with others as part of a team."

Study habits have changed, but the dynamics of the library remain constant. Reference librarians still help students navigate sources, narrow their research topics and translate the difference between what they need and what they are assigned, DeWeese said.

"Helping somebody find what they need when they need it and see them go off and read or write or think or process what they have is really important," she said.

By the time DeWeese retired, technology had changed the library system dramatically.

"We went from a card catalog and hundreds of wooden drawers to an online environment where the online catalog can be searched in a variety of ways," she said.
Today, the MU Libraries — including Ellis Library and its eight branch libraries — has more than 1 million e-books, 3.9 million print volumes and about 53,400 print and electronic serial subscriptions, according to the MU Libraries website.

In 1972, the library was dedicated to Elmer Ellis, a former MU president and the first UM System president when the system was created in 1963.

With an institution that is always growing, there are challenges. In terms of state funding, both the university and the MU Libraries have had relatively static budgets for years; the last time the library budget had a significant influx of new money was in 2008, Cogswell said.

In November, MU students will vote on a proposal to add a student library fee starting at $5 per credit hour in the 2016-2017 school year.

Over the next six years, the fee will increase by $2 per year until it reaches $15 per credit hour during the 2021-2022 school year. By then, it is estimated to bring in more than $12.9 million, over 66 percent of MU Libraries' current annual budget, according to its website.

"The library is the only academic division on campus that currently doesn't have a dedicated student fee," Cogswell said.

Recently, Ellis Library has extended its hours — another reflection of changing student study habits. Since Sept. 8, Ellis has been open 24 hours a day from Mondays to Fridays. It is open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to midnight. Sunday hours are noon to midnight.

This month, Columbia authors William and Jo Ann Trogdon donated $1.6 million to MU Libraries and the MU School of Health Professions; $1.5 million of this gift will go to Ellis Library to help preserve rare books and special collections.

MU Libraries took a blow in October 2013, when mold was discovered on 600,000 volumes of books and journals in an off-campus storage facility. The last update on the mold-damaged books was in May, and stated that the final shipment of the recovered mold-damaged books
were sent back to a library depository in Columbia from Texas. Almost 21,700 boxes of books were shipped to Texas for the remediation phase of the recovery, according to the library's website.

On Jan. 15, 2016, Ellis Library will be rededicated for the next 100 years. In the spring, during National Library Week, the finale of the centennial celebration will feature exhibits, a student art competition and a visit from David Ferriero, the 10th Archivist of the United States, who will speak about the future of the past, Cogswell said.

"Libraries have been an important part of the history since the academic hall to today," DeWeese said. "I can't imagine having a strong university without a strong and vibrant library."

Hudson, the speaker who helped christen the Main Library in 1916, certainly agreed.

"The best books are yet to be written," he told his early 20th century audience, "and what books these shall be depends to some extent upon the sort of thinkers this University creates thru just such opportunities as this building presents — thinkers to some of whom we shall look to take their rightful places beside the masters who dwell within this House of Books."

Fashion guru Tim Gunn set to come to MU

He’s a fashion expert. A reality TV star. A business executive. He’s coming to MU.

As New York Fashion Week comes to a close, fashion guru Tim Gunn will speak at MU for the Delta Gamma Foundation Lectureship in Values and Ethics on 7 p.m. Sept. 24 in Jesse Auditorium.

The foundation chose Tim Gunn as a speaker because he reflected Delta Gamma’s ethical base.

Senior Taylor Morales is the Delta Gamma MU Chapter Lectureship Foundation in Values and Ethics Liaison and is the director of the Tim Gunn lectureship event. Delta Gamma chooses their speakers while working in conjunction with the Missouri Students Association. Both organizations spent months making sure every part of the lecture will go as planned.
“Tim Gunn was chosen for this Lectureship because we believe that he will give students and community members a personal pep talk that is representative of both Delta Gamma’s and the University of Missouri's values,” Morales said in an email.

Gunn has starred as a mentor on Bravo’s “Tim Gunn’s Guide to Style,” Lifetime’s “Under the Gunn” and Emmy-winning “Project Runway” as well as starring as himself on various shows such as “Gossip Girl” and “Ugly Betty.” Before becoming a reality TV guru, he also worked at Parsons School of Design for 25 years, after which he became the Chief Creative Officer of Liz Claiborne.

Freshman Tyler Parton, a fan of “Project Runway,” said he believes seeing Tim Gunn at the Delta Gamma event could inspire the student body.

“One of my friends told me about him and so I started watching Project Runway and now I think it’s really interesting and also his different outlook on life is really inspirational to people,” Parton said. “Just from watching the show I think he offers a lot of not only advice for fashion, but advice for keeping true to yourself.”

To get in contact with Gunn for the event, Delta Gamma had to reach out to his management to ask if he would be interested in becoming a speaker. Gunn is known for often speaking at events for the Stuttering Foundation for America and the It Gets Better Project.

Delta Gamma hopes to sell out Jesse Hall for this event, Morales said.

“My favorite part of these events is the ability a speaker has to reach a multitude of diverse students and community members with their positive, impactful and uplifting message,” Morales said. “It is truly an honor to spread values to the student body and surrounding community that are representative of the University of Missouri's values of respect, responsibility, discovery and excellence and the values of Delta Gamma.”

Freshman Michaela Flores, an avid fan of “Project Runway,” plans to attend the lecturership. She deems Gunn her “favorite person ever,” and said his speech could show people more about fashion and the reasons it’s important.

“He’s so smart, he dresses amazingly every day, every moment of his life,” Flores said. “I’ve never seen him wear anything that wasn’t amazing and like a million dollars. I like Project Runway because they have the coolest designs. All their designs are not stuff you usually see. Like on runways and fashion shows, they’re always so innovative and new, and all the people are super cool.”

Gunn has given speeches previously on college campuses such as his 2009 Commencement Speech at Corcoran College of Art and Design and his January 2015 speech at Pennsylvania State University’s Web Conference.

“I would recommend people to go to this event because besides being him one of the best fashion advice people ever, he genuinely gives good advice about life,” Flores said. “Like on the
show, when people are sad or crying or miss their family he doesn’t even talk about fashion. He actually has really good life advice. He’s like a counselor with really good style.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Supermoon, lunar eclipse will be visible in Columbia on Sunday

JENNIFER ALDRICH, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — For the first time in 33 years, Sunday’s lunar eclipse will also concur with a “supermoon." The moon is also going to be a harvest moon, the closest full moon to the autumnal equinox, which occurred Wednesday.

A supermoon happens when a full moon or new moon is occurring during its perigee, or when it is closest to the earth.

Angela Speck, director of astronomy and a graduate school faculty fellow at MU, said a supermoon occurs about once a year, and the moon goes through a perigee every 27 days.

During its perigee, the moon appears 14 percent larger and 30 percent brighter than during its apogee, which is when the moon is farthest from earth, according to NASA.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon passes behind the earth into its shadow, known as the umbra. The sun, Earth and moon need to be aligned almost exactly for the eclipse to occur. The term for this is syzygy.

According to NASA, the lunar eclipse will be a total eclipse. There will be total visibility lasting an hour and 12 minutes to the East Pacific, Americas, Europe, Africa and West Asia. The eclipse will be visible beginning at 7:11 p.m. central time, and a shadow will cover the moon at 8:07 p.m. The total eclipse will begin at 9:11 p.m.
The moon will appear “blood red,” Speck said, because, “the earth blocks most of the sunlight, and you have sunlight shining on the moon.”

Speck described the phenomenon as if “you are seeing the light of every sunrise and every sunset in that moment.”

“When you get to the full-on eclipse, some of the light blocked by the earth goes through the atmosphere,” Speck said. “It gets bent through the atmosphere, like a prism. Then red light gets bent, so it’s passing through the atmosphere and it is changing the color of the moon.”

Sunday’s lunar eclipse will end the lunar tetrad, which is the completion of four lunar eclipses. The eclipses occur every six months.

Speck said the blood moon has an interesting place in history: Italian explorer Christopher Columbus would tell indigenous people that he would turn the moon red if they did not help him build his ship as a fear tactic. The moon would turn red, and the indigenous people would oblige Columbus.

“It’s not going to take that much effort to see it,” Speck said. “The last two, you had to get up at horrible times in the morning to see it.”

**Undocumented college students rally against higher tuition bills**

By KAMEEL STANLEY • 20 HOURS AGO

**NO MU MENTION**

Immigration advocates say some colleges and universities in Missouri are discriminating against undocumented students by charging them higher tuition.
Students and organizers rallied Monday outside St. Louis Community College’s downtown office, demanding officials reverse course.

Organizer David Nehrt-Flores, of Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, said technically the schools don’t have to raise tuition, but are doing so because they are worried about state funding.

“We want these universities and colleges to show the leadership of building more access to higher education for these students so that they can continue their education,” Nehrt-Flores said.

But the community college’s general counsel, Mary Nelson, said officials have no choice.

Earlier this year, lawmakers added language to a bill that says undocumented students who live in Missouri must pay the same higher tuition rates as international students. The students used to qualify for in-state tuition if they were classified as DACA students (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

The college isn’t willing to jeopardize its funding by going against what the law says, Nelson said.

“I do understand,” Nelson said Monday as the rally organizers handed over a petition with more than 300 signatures. “The college has taken a very aggressive position to provide scholarships to address that very gap.”

St. Louis Community College student Naomi Carranza, 18, gave a similar batch of petitions to Gov. Jay Nixon’s office earlier this summer, after the bill was first approved.

At the time, the governor’s office said the language in the education bill was not enforceable. Spokesman Scott Holste told St. Louis Public Radio on Monday that the administration’s stance hasn’t changed.

Despite that, schools including the University of Missouri and St. Louis Community College have notified students that their bills would be higher.

Nelson said there are about 56 DACA students who are subject to the higher rates.

Carranza, who is studying nursing, is one of those. She said the higher rates are prohibitive for many students.

Compared to other schools, STLCC is still very affordable, Nelson said.
Tuition for St. Louis area and Missouri students ranges from $100 to $150 a credit hour, according to the college’s website. The rate for international students is $215 a credit hour.

Nehrt-Flores said students will continue to rally, and hope to start a statewide conversation about the issue starts.

If Most Students Aren't Ready for College, Why Are So Many Going?
Sept. 23, 2015  •  Mitchell D. Weiss

Do today’s high school students have what it takes to succeed in college? If you look at the latest numbers from the nonprofit organization that administers the SAT and Advanced Placement testing programs, most don’t.

The College Board recently released a report in which it determined that 58% of SAT test-takers in the class of 2015 were not ready for college-level work or, for that matter, a successful post–high school career for those who choose to forgo continuing their institutional education.

To some who teach at the college level, this probably comes as no surprise, as more and more first- and second-year students appear to be struggling to keep up with the work. The problem, however, shouldn’t be dismissed as exclusively the fault of an educational system that fails to adequately prepare their young charges for what comes after they have been herded through the lower grades.

Rather, what deserves closer examination is the questionable ethics of encouraging students who are clearly not equipped with the skills and resources to succeed in college to apply nonetheless—and accepting them into programs they are unlikely to complete.

What other explanation could there when nearly 70% of all high school graduates end up in college when only 42% are up to the challenge?

Higher education is a volume-driven business. So it’s reasonable to assume that as the number of college-ready applicants declines, those schools that are under pressure may choose to respond by relaxing admission
standards. Yet how would that shift in policy be communicated to the faculty? In a memo that essentially says, “Heads up, folks: We’ve just dropped trou on admissions, so ease up on your curricula.”

It’s a mystery that the college graduation rate is still stuck in the 60% range (when outcomes are measured at the six-year mark) and student-loan payment delinquencies are mounting. Those are some of the issues the Obama administration is now attempting to address.

Two weekends ago, the Department of Education released a mass of information called the College Scorecard that it hopes will help students and families to make more informed decisions about the schools they are considering. The institution-specific information includes outcome (graduation) and loan-repayment rates along with median salary levels for those who received federal aid in the form of grants and loans. Given that more than two-thirds of all college students borrow to fund their education and that the federal government is fronting roughly 90% of that, this latest data dump covers more than half of all attendees at the nation’s public, private and for-profit colleges and universities. This move, however, is not without its critics.

Some say that more emphasis is being placed on earnings than on the personal developmental benefits of attending college. Others worry about income disparities that exist between careers and disparate geographical locations. Still more complain that even if the data covers more than half of all college students, it’s hard to know how that of those not included might have altered the result.

At first, I too was put off by an analysis that seemed to be crassly materialistic. But then I thought about how higher education is sold in this country: not so much as a national ideal, as it is a means for earning 30%, 40% or more than someone with a high school diploma. And since the cost of that education has increased to the point that few students and their families are able to fund that expense through excess household cash flow, borrowing for college has become routine.

As such, it seems only fair for schools to be measured on this economic basis, which brings me back to the issue of college readiness.

I once had a business partner who was fond of saying, “Just because you can doesn’t mean that you should.” College is an expensive proposition, and the average debt that students take on from school will be difficult (if not impossible) to repay without completing a marketable degree from a respected organization.

Note that I say respected, not elite, even though the latest data from the ED highlights the economic advantage of a degree that’s earned from the best of the best. That’s because I believe it’s more what you do with what you have learned than it is where you learned it.

To that point, a little more than a year ago I wrote an article entitled “Who Cares Where You Went to College?” In it, I referenced a survey that was conducted by Gallup and the Lumina Foundation, which found that the percentage of American adults who viewed school choice as a forerunner to success was nearly twice
that of the business leaders who ended up employing their children.

The takeaway is this: If you’re a high school student and you plan on continuing your education, think long and hard on these two questions.

Is the Timing Right?
Do you have a direction in mind, and are you prepared to commit to the work that will be required? By that I mean, are you confident that you have the necessary maturity, aptitude and discipline to finish what you started? If not, consider working for a year or two in between high school and college. More than a few of the young adults I’ve employed and taught needed that extra time to find themselves before becoming successful later on.

Have You Made the Right Choice?
Does the public, private, two-year, four-year or vocational school you’re considering offer the program you need for the career you want—at a price you can afford? Specifically, if the cost of the school that you’ve targeted (and can get into) is likely to result in student-loan payments that will exceed 10% to 15% of your post-graduation income, I urge you to reconsider your decision. I say that because whatever promise your future may hold, it could very well end up diminished by the money worries that will distract you for years to come.

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