The University of Missouri Health Care system will discontinue a type of clinical privilege that allowed a Planned Parenthood doctor to perform medication abortions at a Columbia, Mo., clinic.

The move, effective Dec. 1, would end the availability of abortions at the clinic. Planned Parenthood officials expressed outrage at the decision.

“This is a continuation of the orchestrated attempt to restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Missouri and to the critical services Planned Parenthood has provided for nearly 100 years,” Laura McQuade, CEO of the Planned Parenthood affiliate for mid-Missouri and Kansas, said in a news release.

Under state statute, a doctor can perform or induce an abortion only if the doctor has clinical privileges at a hospital, which offers obstetrical or gynecological care located within 30 miles of the location where the abortion is being performed.

Planned Parenthood wouldn’t comment on whether the university’s decision meant the Columbia clinic will end abortions in December or if the organization could take other actions to keep the medical procedure available.

The Columbia clinic had resumed medication abortions last month after a physician got certain clinical privileges, known as “refer and follow,” at the Mizzou hospital. The clinic had stopped the procedure in 2012 after its physician left.

In a news release, the university said it decided to discontinue the category of “refer and follow” privilege, which takes effect in December.

The university described this type of privilege as “outdated and unnecessary,” adding that only two physicians in its system had this privilege.

The university had launched a review of the clinical privileges after inquiries from legislators and the public, Mizzou said. From there, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin asked faculty and staff to review and make recommendations to the privileges in place.
The move comes on the heels of the university’s decision last week to also cut long-standing ties with multiple affiliates of Planned Parenthood where students could also gain clinical hours.

These decisions come after intense scrutiny into Planned Parenthood by state lawmakers. Legislators launched investigations into Planned Parenthood after videos surfaced alleging the medical provider was selling fetal body parts. Planned Parenthood has vehemently denied those allegations. A separate investigation was launched when Planned Parenthood in Columbia said it was resuming abortion procedures.

Sam Lee, president of anti-abortion group Campaign Life Missouri, was happy to hear of the news Thursday evening.

“I’m very pleasantly surprised that the university has decided to sever ties with an abortion doctor,” he said. Now he hopes that without the clinical privileges, the state will revoke the facility’s license to perform abortions.

In medication abortions, pills are typically used to end a pregnancy up to nine weeks of pregnancy.

St. Louis’ Planned Parenthood is the only facility in the state to perform surgical abortions.

Decision ends Planned Parenthood doctor' clinical privileges

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The ability of a Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic to offer medication-induced abortions after November is in question after a University of Missouri Hospital's governing committee decision.

Questions arose after the university announced Thursday night that the committee had decided to discontinue a type of limited clinical privilege effective Dec. 1. The so-called "refer and follow" privileges that were dropped were what had been granted to a doctor responsible for abortions in Columbia.

State law requires doctors to have hospital privileges to perform or induce abortions.

The university described the privilege as "outdated and unnecessary."

But Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri said in a written statement that the decision "puts politics above patients." The Columbia clinic resumed offering abortions last month after stopping for three years when a doctor left.
MU ends privileges granted to abortion doctor in review prompted by 'Sanctity of Life' committee

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 6:58 pm

After almost two months of intense political pressure from abortion foes including state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, the University of Missouri decided it will discontinue the type of hospital privileges that allowed the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic to be licensed in July to resume abortions.

The decision was made by the executive committee of the medical staff of University of Missouri Health Care after Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin promised state lawmakers he would initiate a review. Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri revealed the decision in an angry news release Thursday evening.

The release, a statement from President and CEO Laura McQuade, accused the university of “abusing public trust by denying the community access to the health care they deserve, despite their core mission to advance patient-centered care and promote the health and well-being of all Missourians.”

Loftin promised the review to a committee headed by Schaefer, R-Columbia, and a candidate for attorney general. In a fundraising letter sent to supporters last week, Schaefer condemned “an alarming role by University of Missouri in keeping” the Columbia clinic open and promised to maintain pressure until the privileges were revoked.

"We are outraged MU Health Care caved to the political pressure from Senator Kurt Schaefer's 'Sanctity of Life' Committee and has eliminated refer and follow privileges for physicians," McQuade said in the news release.

MU Health Care issued its own release late Thursday. The committee voted Monday to discontinue the privileges effective Dec. 1. Because of state licensing rules, that could become the date that Planned Parenthood stops providing abortion services in Columbia. Medication-induced abortions resumed about the beginning of August.

If the privileges end on that date, the Department of Health and Senior Services should revoke the license, Schaefer said.
Steve Whitt, chief medical officer of MU Health Care, said committee members did not discuss the Planned Parenthood Columbia clinic, but understood the political atmosphere surrounding the meeting, he said.

“They are well aware of the political grief we are probably going to get about it because of the timing,” Whitt said. “The timing is bad but we are not going to do this anymore.”

Abortion opponents will hail the decision, Schaefer said Thursday.

“I think the committee was very upset that the university was engaged in the abortion business and if this is the first step in getting them out of it then it is a very positive one,” he said.

Only one other doctor also held those privileges, Whitt said. The classification was outdated and did nothing to further the mission of the university, he said.

The executive committee submitted changes to the privileging process and standards to eligible voting medical staff for comment, the university news release said. After those changes are final, the privileges of all non-employee physicians will be reviewed.

“It is time to just get better and get rid of crummy doctors, get rid of doctors who are not going to take us into the future,” Whitt said.

Letters sent to both doctors invited them to apply for different types of clinical privileges, Whitt said. There was no promise the privileges would be granted, he said. Loftin personally holds final authority for granting or denying privileges.

Loftin directed the committee to review privileges but did not direct the outcome, Whitt said.

Dr. Colleen McNicholas was granted “refer and follow” privileges in December, paving the way for Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri to apply for renewal of the license to offer abortions in Columbia. The privileges were limited, allowing only that McNicholas could refer a patient with complications to MU Health Care and follow the progress of the case.

Loftin wrote to Missouri Catholic Conference Executive Director Mike Hoey on Sept. 2 that the university cannot deny privileges to McNicholas under federal law. Loftin also said the university was not violating state law by granting the privileges.

Under state law, a doctor performing abortions must have clinical privileges at a hospital within the community where the clinic is located. The clinic is licensed under ambulatory surgical center laws and the privileges requirement applies to all types of walk-in surgery clinics.

The Department of Health and Senior Services licenses ambulatory surgical centers. The department renewed the Columbia clinic’s license only for the purpose of allowing medication-induced abortions because McNicholas did not have privileges allowing her to perform surgery.
The local clinic had stopped providing abortions in 2012 after the doctor who provided them moved.

The license was granted at the same time a national controversy erupted over videos produced by an anti-abortion group targeting Planned Parenthood’s participation in research using fetal tissue. Abortion foes claim the videos are proof Planned Parenthood is profiting illegally from the sale of tissue from aborted fetuses. Planned Parenthood has done forensic investigations of the videos and claimed the videos were edited to inflame public opinion against the organization.

Martha Stevens of Columbia, a Democratic candidate for the 46th District Missouri House seat, condemned “extremists in the Missouri Legislature” for the increasing difficulty to obtain an abortion in the state. Until the Columbia clinic resumed offering the service, a Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis was the only abortion provider.

“Now, today, in order to placate these ideological special interests and play political games with women’s healthcare, these same legislative extremists have succeeded in their efforts to bully our University, the largest healthcare provider in our community, for purely political purposes,” Stevens said in a news release.

MU ends "refer and follow" privileges at Planned Parenthood

Watch story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=ee8b252f-4db0-4ec0-9f1b-e75f9adf8f6f

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri responded Thursday to the University of Missouri Health System apparently ending "refer and follow" privileges. (Read the full news releases at the end of this story.)

An executive committee at MU Health voted unanimously to end the privileges effective December 1.

Last month, a Senate panel brought into question if the MU doctor had privileges at a hospital within 15 miles of the Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia.

The review of MU Healthcare policies and privileges was prompted by questions by lawmakers and the public to MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin.
As part of the review, MU Health is proposing changes to its privileging process that will include an additional review of the contributions applicants will make to MU Health's "missions of providing patient and family-centered care, high-quality professional education, and research."

Missouri law states the doctor must have admitting privileges and if the doctor performs an abortion without those admitting privileges and is not within 30 miles of the hospital, it is a Class A misdemeanor.

Planned Parenthood said, "We are outraged that MU Health Care caved to the political pressure from Senator Kurt Schaefer’s “Sanctity of Life” Committee and has eliminated refer and follow privileges for physicians. This is a continuation of the orchestrated attempt to restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Missouri and to the critical services Planned Parenthood has provided for nearly 100 years."

The organization went on to say, "We condemn MU Health Care for abusing public trust by denying the community access to the health care they deserve, despite their core mission to advance patient-centered care and promote the health and well-being of all Missourians."

This is the full news release from MU Health Care:

“After a review of University of Missouri Health Care policies and procedures, the executive committee of the medical staff of MU Health Care voted unanimously to discontinue “refer and follow” as a category of privileges at MU Health Care facilities. The change will be effective Dec. 1, 2015.

The review of MU Health Care policies and privileges was prompted by inquiries from various members of the legislature and public to MU’s chancellor. Chancellor Loftin then asked the medical staff, many of whom are also faculty, to review these policies and make recommendations.

“Of the 800 members of MU Health Care’s medical staff, two medical providers had refer and follow privileges,” said Steve Whitt, chief medical officer of MU Health Care and a member of the executive committee. “Refer and follow privileges only allow physicians to access their own patients’ information. This level of access to patient information is already permitted by any referring provider, including those not on MU Health Care’s medical staff; therefore, the designation of refer and follow privileges was outdated and unnecessary.”

As part of its review, MU Health Care is also proposing changes to its privileging process that will include additional review of the contributions applicants will make to MU Health Care’s multiple missions of providing exemplary patient and family-centered care, high-quality professional education and research.

As part of the decision-making process, the proposed changes have been forwarded to MU Health Care’s eligible voting medical staff members for comment. At the conclusion of the comment period, the executive committee will consider all information, including suggestions and comments from these members of the medical staff, prior to voting on these revisions.
The proposed changes to the Credentials Procedure Manual are intended to help officials confirm that providers who are not MU employees meet the qualifications for privileges while also contributing to the three missions of MU Health Care and the University of Missouri.” End of statement

This is the news release/statement from Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri President and CEO Laura McQuade:

“We are outraged that MU Health Care caved to the political pressure from Senator Kurt Schaefer’s “Sanctity of Life” Committee and has eliminated refer and follow privileges for physicians. This is a continuation of the orchestrated attempt to restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Missouri and to the critical services Planned Parenthood has provided for nearly 100 years.

We condemn MU Health Care for abusing public trust by denying the community access to the health care they deserve, despite their core mission to advance patient-centered care and promote the health and well-being of all Missourians.

The MU Health Care system’s claim that refer and follow privileges are “outdated and unnecessary” is simply not true. These privileges are increasingly used in hospitals across the country to allow physicians who seldom or never need to admit patients to a hospital the ability to maintain staff privileges. Referring physicians can then follow their patients’ progress if ever needed, but the attending physician at the hospital provides the necessary patient care.

MU Health Care’s decision puts politics above patients and is also a violation of longstanding federal law that prohibits discrimination in the extension of staff or other hospital privileges based on opposition to abortion.

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri is proud to support women and families making their own health care decisions, and will take any and all legal action necessary to ensure that the full range of high quality reproductive health care services, including abortion, remain legal, available, and accessible in our state.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Only doctor performing abortions in Columbia to lose privileges at University Hospital

ELISE SCHMELZER, 10 hrs ago
COLUMBIA — **MU Health Care announced Thursday that the sole doctor who provides abortion services in Columbia will lose her hospital privileges by the end of the year. Without the privileges, the doctor will not be able to legally perform abortions in Columbia.**

**Inquiries from state representatives and the public prompted Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin to ask MU Health Care to review the policies it uses to grant privileges, according to a news release from MU Health Care. The executive committee of the medical staff unanimously voted Monday to discontinue the privileges beginning Dec. 1, MU Health Care spokeswoman Teresa Snow said in an email Thursday night.**

University Hospital granted "refer and follow privileges" to Colleen McNicholas, an obstetrician-gynecologist, in December 2014, and the St. Louis doctor started performing medical abortions at the Columbia Planned Parenthood location Aug. 3, according to previous Missourian reporting.

Missouri law requires that doctors performing abortions have clinical privileges at a hospital no more than 30 miles from the clinic where the abortions are performed. Refer and follow privileges allow physicians to refer patients to hospitals and follow their progress but do not allow them to treat or prescribe medicine.

Two of the 800 medical providers on the Health Care System's staff had refer and follow privileges, Steve Whitt, chief medical officer of MU Health Care, said in a news release. Both doctors will automatically lose their privileges on Dec. 1, though they will be permitted to apply for other clinical privileges with the system, Snow said.

Refer and follow privileges are “outdated and unnecessary” because they don’t grant any more access than is already permitted to any referring provider not on MU Health Care’s staff, Whitt said.
Planned Parenthood representatives said in a news release Thursday night that the decision put “politics above patients” and that MU Health Care “caved” to political pressure from the Missouri Senate.

The Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life, led by Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, was formed in July in response to videos that claimed to show Planned Parenthood staff selling aborted tissue. The committee has been investigating the health care provider’s operations in the state since.

"This is a continuation of the orchestrated attempt to restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Missouri and to the critical services Planned Parenthood has provided for nearly 100 years," Laura McQuade, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, said in the release.

McQuade also said the decision violates federal law that prohibits hospitals from making employment decisions based on a doctors' willingness or unwillingness to perform abortions.

The Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic is the only abortion provider in mid-Missouri, according to previous Missourian reporting. The state's only other provider is in St. Louis.

MU Health Care continues to review its privileging process and plans to propose more changes, according to the release.

**The Missouri Times**

Mizzou drops Planned Parenthood privileges

Sept. 24, 2015
COLUMBIA, Mo. – The Kansas City Star’s Barb Shelley reported on Twitter that the University of Missouri has eliminated refer and follow privileges for physicians.

“We are outraged that MU Health Care caved to the political pressure from Senator Kurt Schaefer’s ‘Sanctity of Life’ Committee and has eliminated refer and follow privileges for physicians,” Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri President and CEO Laura McQuade released in a statement to Shelley. “This is a continuation of the orchestrated attempt to restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Missouri and to the critical services Planned Parenthood has provided for nearly 100 years.”

First written by the Missouri Times, Sanctity of Life Committee members were quick to respond. Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer said he “made good on pledge to ‘Get MU out of the abortion business’” and called it a “major victory.”

Schaefer confirmed that the University of Missouri notified him that the physician privileges were withdrawn, which made it possible for the Columbia Planned Parenthood to be licensed.

“From day one when we learned of this scandal, I vowed that we would ‘get MU out of the abortion business,’” Schaefer said. “Thanks to the persistence of our investigation and the public pressure applied by many defenders of life, we achieved that outcome and many unborn lives will hopefully be saved as a result.

“Through the course of our investigation, startling facts came to light, our committee dug deeper, and the public made their voices heard,” Schaefer noted. “This joyous outcome is proof positive that these committee investigations matter and the result will have eternal significance.”

Senator Schaefer stressed that though the University-related issues have now been addressed, the Committee on the Sanctity of Life’s investigation will continue and that many unanswered questions relating to Planned Parenthood facilities in St. Louis and Columbia remain.

This story will continue to be updated.

MU Health Care unanimously votes to discontinue ‘refer and follow’

The “refer and follow” privileges of two medical providers were described as “outdated and unnecessary.”
The executive committee of the medical staff of MU Health Care voted unanimously to discontinue “refer and follow” as part of the MU Health Care facilities, according to a Sept. 24 MU News Bureau release. This decision comes after a review by the MU Health Care medical staff of their policies and procedures.

“Refer and follow privileges only allow physicians to access their own patients’ information,” said Steve Whitt, chief medical officer of MU Health Care and a member of the executive committee, in the release. “This level of access to patient information is already permitted by any referring provider, including those not on MU Health Care’s medical staff; therefore, the designation of refer and follow privileges was outdated and unnecessary.”

Planned Parenthood of Kansas and mid-Missouri released a statement on Sept. 24, roughly one hour before the MU News Bureau’s, arguing the value of these privileges.

“These privileges are increasingly used in hospitals across the country to allow physicians who seldom or never need to admit patients to a hospital the ability to maintain staff privileges,” said Sheila Kostas, PPKM vice president of public affairs and communications, in the release. “Referring physicians can then follow their patients’ progress if ever needed, but the attending physician at the hospital provides the necessary patient care.”

Out of MU Health Care’s 800 medical providers, only two had refer and follow privileges of MU Health Care’s medical staff.

Several members of the Missouri legislature prompted the review of MU Health Care’s policies and privileges, including Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia. Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin asked the medical staff to review and make revisions to these policies, the release stated.

“This is a continuation of the orchestrated attempt to restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Missouri and to the critical services Planned Parenthood has provided for nearly 100 years,” Kostas said in the release.

MU Health Care is also proposing an additional review of contributing applicants that looks at how MU Health Care’s missions of “providing exemplary patient and family-centered care, high-quality professional education and research” are fulfilled.

These changes have been forwarded to MU Health Care’s eligible voting medical staff members for comment. After the comment period, the executive committee will consider the suggestions prior to voting.
MU announces its discontinuing privileges granted to abortion doctor

SUBMITTED ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

By Jennifer Brinker | jbrinker@archstl.org | twitter: @jenniferbrinker

The University of Missouri has announced it will discontinue a category of doctor privileges it granted last year to a doctor who provides medication-induced abortions at Planned Parenthood in Columbia.

The executive committee of the medical staff of MU Health Care voted unanimously to discontinue "refer and follow" privileges at MU Health care facilities, effective Dec. 1. Dr. Colleen McNicholas, who has performed medication-induced abortions at Planned Parenthood in Columbia since July, is one of two medical providers who have been granted "refer and follow" privileges.

A statement from the university noted that the review of its policies and privileges was prompted by inquiries from members of legislature and the public to MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. Loftin asked medical staff to the review the policies and make recommendations.

With "refer and follow" privileges, McNicholas is only allowed to refer patients to MU Health Care facilities and view their medical records. She is not allowed to admit patients to MU Health facilities or perform abortions or any other procedures there.

"Of the 800 members of MU Health Care's medical staff, two medical providers had refer and follow privileges," said Steve Whitt, chief medical officer of MU Health Care and a member of the executive committee. "Refer and follow privileges only allow physicians to access their own patients' information. This level of access to patient information is already permitted by any referring provider, including those not on MU Health Care's medical staff; therefore, the designation of refer and follow privileges was outdated and unnecessary."

Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who leads a senate committee investigating Planned Parenthood's practices in Missouri, also announced the news on his Facebook page, adding that "many unborn lives will hopefully be saved as a result."

"Through the course of our investigation, startling facts came to light, our committee dug deeper, and the public made their voices heard," Schaefer noted. "This joyous outcome is proof positive that these committee investigations matter and the result will have eternal significance."
Senator Schaefer also said that the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life will continue its investigation, as questions still remain relating to Planned Parenthood facilities in St. Louis and Columbia.

Deacon Sam Lee, a pro-life lobbyist with Campaign Life Missouri, applauded the news, and said he hopes "this means the end of abortions being performed at the Columbia Planned Parenthood. Much credit needs to go to the Catholic faithful, Mizzou alumni and others who urged the university to get out of the abortion business.

The Missouri Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, noted that more than 1,000 people to date responded to the MCC's plea to contact MU chancellor Loftin and the university's board of curators to urge them to get out of the abortion business. The MCC said it was the biggest response the conference has received on an issue in a long time.

As part of its review, MU Health Care is also proposing changes to its privileging process that will include additional review of the contributions applicants will make to MU Health Care's multiple missions of providing patient and family-centered care, education and research.

The proposed changes to the Credentials Procedure Manual are intended to help officials confirm that providers who are not MU employees meet the qualifications for privileges, while also contributing to the three missions of MU Health Care and the University of Missouri, the university said.

**Racism rally held on MU campus**


COLUMBIA, Mo. — Over 150 demonstrators, in a diverse group, gathered at University of Missouri, protesting racism.

Students on campus said a student group held a "Racism Lives Here" rally at 1 p.m. Thursday afternoon at Speakers Circle and then traveled into Jesse Hall.

Mizzou Senior, Shakoul Bailey joined in the protest and said, "Basically it was trying to get rid of discrimination on campus...trying to get people to listen and hear that there is still racism on campus and people need to understand that people are being targeted."

Chants could be heard outside of Jesse Hall, saying "racism lives here".
A student at the rally confirms the protest occurred because of the way students of color on campus feel they are being treated.

Mizzou Senior, Kyler Garron and said she joined in the rally while she was walking from class.

Garron said, "I feel like Mizzou comes across and they try to promote equality and make everyone feel like they are equally important, but there's always an underlying, kinda tension, between everyone because even though you know, up front they're saying they're dealing with these issues and trying to promote everyone being equal, the actions don't really match the wording."

The movement also took off on social media, with many posting to Twitter using the hashtag #LoftinCantExplain.

Lola Ayedun said she joined in the rally on her way to class.

She said she found out about the rally on Twitter.

KRCG 13 is reached out to campus officials in an attempt to get reaction, and received this statement:

The Chancellor has been made aware of the student group that came into Jesse Hall earlier today to express their opinions. He is out of town on official university business. Otherwise, he would have been happy to talk with the students and to listen to their concerns as he will continue to do when he returns to campus. He is committed to a culture of respect for every member of the MU family. The Chancellor and other administrators have been listening to these students' concerns and have held and will continue to hold forums during which discussions are held among students, staff and faculty concerning how to improve Mizzou's culture so that every member of our diverse family is comfortable here and is offered every opportunity to excel.

Responses to these students' concerns, as well as details of other initiatives aimed at improving the campus climate can be found at http://transparency.missouri.edu.

Wolfe, Loftin launch third 'Show Me Value' tour

By Megan Favignano

Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm
More than 200 eighth-graders eagerly waved their hands Wednesday as University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe answered their questions — most of which focused on the cost of college.

Talking to middle school students is important, Wolfe said, because so many of them already have heard about the cost of a college education and student debt. Wolfe said he does not want kids to skip college because they think it’s out of reach financially.

“All of the conversations that middle schoolers are having with their parents is that college is not affordable,” Wolfe said. “We don’t want kids opting out now from a college education.”

Wolfe and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin kicked off the third year of the “Show Me Value” tour Wednesday in Boone County. Wolfe visited Lange Middle School in Columbia for his presentation, and Loftin visited Southern Boone Middle School.

The tours, which started in March 2013, involve Wolfe speaking to middle school students about the value of a college education and what they need to do to get into college. Since the tours began, Wolfe has visited 21 communities in the state.

Lange Middle School students asked Wolfe about college costs, how they can get scholarships, what sort of jobs they can get with a college degree and how to choose the right college for their studies.

Wolfe said the UM System tries to help students who work hard in school attend college. He cautioned that high schoolers who wait until their senior year to begin working toward college scholarships often are too late. He told the middle school students the work they do now will help them get into college.

Bernard Solomon, principal at Lange Middle School, agreed that middle school students are the right age to begin thinking about college.

Middle school educators prepare students for the challenges they will face in college, Solomon said. Wolfe “coming here to help our students understand they can do something starting today that will impact their lives in the future is … a very positive thing.”

About 80 percent of UM System students receive some form of financial aid, Wolfe told the middle-schoolers Wednesday. College students typically pay about half the “sticker price” of tuition, Wolfe said.

While a college degree can lead to a higher-paying job, Wolfe said, a college education has other benefits: Students have a chance to discover their strengths, think creatively and work collaboratively.

Wolfe said not attending college has worse consequences than student loan debt. He said statistics show that people with a college degree live longer, healthier lives.
Solomon said it is important to let students know what options they have after high school.

“Many of them don’t have a clear understanding of what life may look like beyond high school,” Solomon said.

At the end of Wednesday’s presentation, Wolfe asked the students to text or tweet to him one thing they will start doing to work toward academic success. Wolfe said the messages show the positive effect the tour has on the students.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Five MU projects gain grants through Coulter Program Awards

YUAN YUAN, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU gained five new grants at the fourth annual Coulter Program Awards on Thursday, totaling to about $500,000 to help commercialize medical research projects.

The Wallace H. Coulter Foundation gives the annual awards to researchers whose projects demonstrate great scientific potential and meet a well-defined health care need, according to an MU news release. This year's grants will go to teams at the MU College of Engineering and the MU School of Medicine faculty.

"A lot of great research just ends up being nice publications," Jinglu Tan said Thursday morning at the award ceremony at the Reynolds Alumni Center. "We recognized the need to close the gap, and we provide the funding so that the researchers can take one step further."

The Coulter Translational Partnership Program creates project teams consisting of at least one clinician from the School of Medicine and one engineer from the College of Engineering, said Tan, the principal investigator of MU Coulter Translational Partnership Program, the James C. Dowell professor and the chair of the Department of Bioengineering.
"Many of these discoveries hold great potential to improve the lives of people throughout the world," said Cynthia Helphingstine, MU’s Coulter Program director. "However, these research projects often require a bit of additional investment to demonstrate the technical visibility in their potential to help patients and the society."

One of the five awarded projects, "Panacea’s Cloud: Augmented reality system for mass casualty disaster triage and coordination," was presented at the awards ceremony.

The idea behind Panacea Glass, a mobile cloud framework, is to use Google Glass to "open up new possibilities for mobile health care communication," according to the project's publication, "Panacea's Glass: Mobile Cloud Framework for Communication in Mass Casualty Disaster Triage."

With Panacea Glass, rescue workers would be able to communicate even without power or Internet connections, said Prasad Calyam, the co-principal investigator of the grant and an assistant professor at the MU Department of Computer Science and IT.

A dozen of the previous Coulter's grants have been licensed, Tan said, and the five new projects today are looking for funding opportunities.

The Boone County Fire Protection District will test the Panacea Glass cloud in disaster simulations, Calyam said. The project will be presented and launched in January at the Consumer Electronics Show.

Survey shows 11% of college students report non-consensual sexual contact

Nearly 70 percent of students said Wash U would take a sexual assault complaint seriously.

Farrah Fazal, KSDK
10:56 p.m. CDT September 21, 2015

The 2015 Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct surveyed 27 universities across the country including the University of Missouri at Columbia, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and Washington University in St. Louis.

"It's nauseating, its heartbreaking, its horrifying and to know they are going through this breaks my heart," said Jessica Kennedy, Washington University's Title 9 Director.

The university hired her last year to get the word out about reporting rapes and sexual assaults on campus. More than 11% of students nationally reported that they experienced some form of non-consensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation while attending a university.

Washington University's number was close to the average at 10.9 percent, 37 percent of gay, transgender or gender queer students say they experienced some form of nonconsensual sexual contact involving physical force or incapacitation while attending the university.

Seventy percent of all Washington University students said they felt the university would take their complaint of sexual misconduct seriously.

"Our graduate student population is well aware of our resources and we're going to focus. Also, our LGBTQUIA is suffering at a much higher percentage and that is incredibly disheartening and that's where we need to focus our efforts. That is a community that suffers more backlash, they don't talk about it as much," said Kennedy.

She said more students are reporting rape. And she expects that number to be even hire after a more extensive outreach effort. We asked SIUE and Saint Louis university for their numbers and reaction. We're waiting to hear back from them.

The full report can be found here.

Professor sues Mizzou over gun policy

KSDK Staff, KSDK 9:04 a.m. CDT September 22, 2015
COLUMBIA, Mo. -- A University of Missouri law professor is suing the school over its gun policy.

Mizzou prohibits all workers from possessing or discharging a firearm anywhere on campus.

In his lawsuit, Professor Royce Barondes says the current policy infringes on the constitution. He says the Mizzou campus is not free of crime, and therefore should not be above the law.

"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 rules," said Barondes' lawyer, Jennifer Bukowsky.

Professor Barondes also cites a recently-passed statewide amendment that broadened gun rights.

A University of Missouri system representative says the school just received the lawsuit and will review it.

Bee Tongues Are Getting Shorter as Temperatures Warm

In Colorado, alpine bumblebee tongues are shrinking in response to shifting wildflower populations

Climate change is already wreaking havoc on wildlife in a number of ways, from destroying habitats to throwing off circadian schedules. Mutualism—win-win ecological partnerships honed over evolutionary timescales—is a lesser-known ecological relationship that is also vulnerable to the effects of a rapidly changing planet.

Bees and flowers are prime examples of mutualism. Some bee tongues are perfectly evolved to tap into the nectar and pollen of certain flowers with elongated, tubular petals. By specializing in those plants, the longer-tongued bees reduce competition with generalist insects that can't access those sweet resources, and they ensure that their plant species of choice get in on the pollination action.
Climate change, however, has thrown that mutualistic relationship out of whack in at least one population of bees and flowers. As certain flowers in Colorado have become scarcer due to warming temperatures, the tongues of the alpine bumblebees that historically fed on them have become shorter.

Like many of their pollen-gathering relatives, alpine bumblebees are on the decline. To find out what’s going on, a team of American and Canadian researchers headed to Colorado, where they focused on the plight of two species: *Bombus balteatus* and *Bombus sylvicola*.

The researchers examined bumblebee specimens collected on three mountains from 1966 to 1980 and also gathered a fresh set, which they collected in the same places from 2012 to 2014. Suspecting that the relationship between bees and their favorite flowers might be involved, they performed the meticulous task of measuring all the historic and recently caught bees’ tongues.

As the team reports today in *Science*, both of the species’ tongues have declined in length over time, shrinking on average 0.61 percent each year. Cumulatively, the team found a nearly 25-percent decrease in tongue length between the bees collected decades ago and those living in the same region today.

The scientists also found that the bees are visiting more species of flowers—including ones with shorter petal tubes—than they were in the past, and that they are covering greater ground while foraging.

These findings naturally led to a second question: What is causing the tongues to shrink? The bees’ overall body size did not change significantly over the years, the researchers found, which means it’s just the tongues that have been affected.

Next they turned to the flowers. Looking at contemporary and historic botanical data, the scientists confirmed that the number of flowers with short petal tubes did not increase in abundance, indicating that the bees weren’t simply ignoring their historically preferred flowers for a more readily available food source.

The team set up sampling plots along different mountain gradients to estimate flower productivity and compare it to past values. They found that in response to warmer temperatures, flowers—particularly ones with deep petal tubes—have been moving up the mountains and becoming scarcer at lower elevations. Because surface area decreases as mountains taper off toward their peaks, this altitude-climbing effect has ultimately resulted in an estimated loss of millions of flowers.

As the authors report, even with some flower gains near the summits, bumblebee food resources on Pennsylvania Mountain, for example, have fallen by 60 percent since the 1970s.
The findings paint a telling picture: hotter summers caused bumblebees’ choice flower species to disappear, forcing them to evolve shorter tongues to tap into the remaining food sources. Then, competition with generalist species, more time and energy needed to collect enough pollen and a forced reliance on suboptimal resources all likely contributed to the bees’ overall decline.

Still, if bumblebees can manage to shift their foraging strategies as rapidly as they did their tongue length, then they might ultimately be able to cope with the ecological shakeup that’s now underway. As the authors write, for now, at least, “evolution is helping wild bees keep pace with climate change.”

As climate change kills off some of their favorite flowers, several bumblebee species in the Rocky Mountains have responded to those losses by evolving shorter tongues.

There has long been evidence that two long-tongued alpine bumblebee species - which feed upon flowers with deep corolla tubes - were seeing their numbers drop. But with evidence lacking to explain the decline, Nicole Miller-Struthman, of SUNY College at Old Westbury, New York, and her colleagues decided to take a look at the tongues of the two species, Bombus balteatus and B. sylvicola.

Comparing specimens of the bumblebees from three mountain peaks in Colorado from 1966 through 1980 and from 2012 to 2014, the researchers found that "a significant shortening" had occurred in the bees' tongues.

Armed with field data on the bees and their host plants as well as bee specimens, they went looking for the cause of this change. The ruled out decreasing body size, competition from invaders, or co-evolution with flowers in the area before concluding that climate change was to blame.

They found warmer summers reduced numbers of the deep flowers these species preferred, forcing them to become "generalists" that forage on what was left in the wild, including many shallower flowers.
"Our analyses suggest that reduced flower density at the landscape scale is driving this shift in tongue length," the authors wrote in the study, published Thursday in the journal Science.

The impact of climate change is the latest setback for bees of all sorts, whose populations have suffered in the past decade due to habitat loss as well as increased pesticide use.

Starting in 2006, the rates of dead bees almost tripled due to a condition called colony collapse disorder or CCD. A nationwide survey in May found that beekeepers across the United States lost more than 40 percent of their honeybee colonies between April 2014 and April 2015.

Scientists have long struggled to identify the cause or causes of the bee die-off, which threatens the nation's $2.75 million of managed colonies and could one day impact the nation's food supply since bees are crucial to pollination. The economic value of bee pollination services ranges from $10 billion to $15 billion.

Some of the deaths have been blamed on the varroa mite, a lethal parasite that can easily spread between colonies. Others have singled out a class of pesticide called neonicotinoids, or "neonics," that have been shown to disrupt a honeybee's ability to seek out flowers. One study found that bumblebees in fields treated with the pesticide didn't grow, while those in pesticide-free fields did grow.

Another study linking climate change to declines of bumblebees in Europe and North America warned a warmer world could drive some species to extinction.

But the latest study concluded that the changes weren't necessarily all bad for the bumblebees.

While these shorter-tongue insects probably won't be able to depend on the same half-dozen flowers as in the past, the researchers suggest they may be to feed on other varieties.

"Although populations of long-tongued bees are undergoing widespread decline, shifts in foraging strategies may allow alpine bumblebees to cope with environmental change," the authors wrote. "We see broader bumblebee foraging niches, immigration by short-tongued bumblebees, and shorter tongue length within resident bee populations as floral resources have dwindled. In remote mountain habitats - largely isolated from habitat destruction, toxins, and pathogens - evolution is helping wild bees keep pace with climate change."

More broadly, the authors said these bees could help shed light on how climate change disrupts the mutually beneficial relationship between insects - as well as long-tongued critters like bats and hummingbirds - and their hosts.
"Changes that disrupt such matching can alter plant species recruitment and the trajectory of co-evolution," they wrote.

Bees' tongues are shrinking, and now scientists know why
What scientists still don't know: How will this affect the global bee population?
By Olivia Lowenberg, Staff SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Why are bee populations declining?

The question has haunted scientists, farmers, and gardeners for years, and has prompted city-dwelling Millennials from New York to Portland to don bee suits and become urban beekeepers.

Researchers have now found one more piece of the puzzle: Bumble bee tongues are shrinking.

Why? Not for any of the obvious reasons. "It was not a result of decreasing body size, competition from invaders, or co-evolution with flowers in the area," explains SUNY biologist Nicole E. Miller-Struttmann and her colleagues, who examined data reaching from 1960 to 2014, in a press release.
"Instead, it is a result of warming summers, which reduced numbers of the deep flowers these species preferred, forcing the insects to be general foragers capable of feeding across remaining flowers, including many shallow flowers."

The key? Overspecialization. The longer the tongue, the deeper the flower that the bees drink from and pollinate. As summers warm, shorter-tongued bees that can sip from a variety of flowers are doing better than bees that require flowers with deep tubes, explained the researchers in an article appearing in the latest issue of Science, so the bumble bees' tongues are shrinking and the populations of their short-tongued cousins are growing.

Those increasing temperatures – 2014 was the hottest year on record, and 2015 is on track to top it – are wreaking havoc on the flower populations, say the scientists. Summer temperatures just 3 degrees C (5 degrees F) above average can inhibit flower growth, they found. Between 1960 and 1985, only four summers got hot enough to cause problems for flowers. Since 1985, fully half of the summers are too hot for abundant flowering.

The warmer temperatures also mean that the once-barren summits are now more flower-friendly, but that’s not enough to make up for the losses, say researchers.

"Declines in flowering [affect] the majority of the mountain landscape; in these extensive habitats, millions of flowers were lost. Thus, even with gains of a few thousand flowers on the summit, total food resources for alpine bumble bees on Pennsylvania Mountain have fallen by 60% since the 1970s," they write.
As flower populations shrink, bumble bees are forced to broaden their diet and, at the same time, compete with shorter-tongued bees that are have started encroaching on their turf.

The researchers are concerned about what this decline could signal for larger trends across bee populations and flower ecosystems. Long-tongued bees evolved in symbiosis with the deep-tubed flowers that used to fill their landscapes. Now that their population is declining, their mountain homes are reshuffling the ecological deck.

These problems are not exclusive to bumble bees in the mountains of Colorado, where Dr. Miller-Struttmann and her colleagues focused their work.

Between May 2014 and April 2015, managed honey bee populations in the US dropped by more than 40 percent, on top of a 35 percent decline the previous year, reported The Christian Science Monitor.

Declining honey bee populations would affect up to 75 percent of domestic produce, Greenpeace reports, with apples, strawberries, tomatoes, and almonds among the hardest-hit crops.

Colony collapse disorder, in which queens and young populations are mysteriously left behind by disappearing worker bees, is believed to be a negative outcome of pesticide use. Fortunately, colony collapse appears to be on the decline. In 2008,
about 60 percent of the hives lost over the winter were attributed to CCD, but the 2014-2015 winter saw no new reports of collapse.

For now, evolution is helping Colorado's wild bumble bees keep pace with climate change, say the authors of the new Science paper. Is that enough?

"They have adapted to diminished resource levels, a major impact of climate change," writes senior author Candace Galen in an email to the Monitor.

"However, climate change isn’t 'one dimensional.' As high altitudes warm, there may be other threats to the alpine bumble bee species that we typically associate with warmer conditions: pathogens, parasites moving up as subalpine bumble bees move in," she adds. "I am an optimist, so I see the glass as half full. But we have to stop tipping it over (so to speak)!!"
Global warming, evolution reshaping bodies of bumblebees, study says

WASHINGTON – Global warming and evolution are reshaping the bodies of some American bumblebees, a new study finds.

The tongues of two Rocky Mountains species of bumblebees are about one-quarter shorter than they were 40 years ago, evolving that way because climate change altered the buffet of wildflowers they normally feed from, according to a study published Thursday in the journal Science.

In one of these species, the tongue had been half the size of the bee's body — the equivalent of a human tongue going down to the waist. But because the flowers where the long tongue is required have dwindled, the bees didn't need that much tongue. Keeping long tongues requires bees use more energy, so the bees evolved a shorter tongue that allows them to sample a wider variety of flowers, said study lead author Nicole Miller-Struttmann at the State University of New York, Old Westbury.

**While biologists have tracked how global warming has altered the developmental, migration, timing and other behavior in plants and animals, what makes this study unusual is the physical changes in the bees, said study co-author Candace Galen at the University of Missouri.**

"It speaks to the magnitude of the change of the climate that it's affecting the evolution of the organisms," Galen said. "It's a beautiful demonstration of adaptive evolution."

Sydney Cameron at the University of Illinois wasn't part of the study, but praised it as well conducted and significant for the ecosystem of mountain flowers.

The team of biologists studied the bees on three isolated mountaintops in the Rockies, where they had been the most dominant species around. Not so much anymore, Miller-Struttmann said. The longer tongued of the two bees, the golden belted bumblebee, shrank from 50 percent of all the bees to 20 percent, she said.

Because these were so isolated and so high — more than 10,000 feet — pesticides and pathogens, often blamed for bee declines, weren't a problem, the scientists said. Something else had to be an issue. They compared the bees to those of 40 years ago or more and found the tongues dramatically shorter.

They also found that the temperature in the area had warmed by about 3.6 degrees since the 1960s and the type and amount of flowers had changed.

At first, the scientists figured the flowers were evolving with the bees, as often happens over long time periods in nature, but Miller-Struttmann said that's not the case.
"The silver lining is that (the bees) are evolving very quickly," Miller-Struttmann said. "The story may not be as rosy for the flowers."

Galen worries that without long-tongued bees, some flowers will falter. Also, she said shorter tongue bees often "cheat" and bite a hole in the flower's side, which doesn't help the plant spread its seeds.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Negative spiritual views can harm health, MU researchers say

THOMAS FRIESTAD, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — As the old adage goes, it may well be that mind takes precedence over matter, according to a new, peer-reviewed MU study published in the Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health.

Researchers found that people who blame karma or a higher power for their physical ailments experience more pain than those who don't.

Brick Johnstone, a neuropsychologist and professor of health psychology in the MU School of Health Professions, and a team of colleagues discovered that such individuals also suffer from worse physical and mental health than people with firm positive spiritual beliefs.

"There were statistically significant associations between negative spirituality and participant health," Johnstone said. "It's hard to quantify 'how large' the impact (the negative spirituality) had, but the association was beyond what you would expect based on chance."

Johnstone and his team conducted the study with a group of 200 participants. Some participants were healthy, while others had health conditions, such as cancer or traumatic brain injury. Johnstone said the group was comprised primarily of Christians.
After dividing the group based on who reported "feeling abandoned or punished by a higher power" and those who did not, the researchers asked questions about their physical and emotional health.

The subjects with negative beliefs reported significantly worse pain and worse health across the board, while the ones with positive beliefs had better mental health.

Subjects who reported worse pain and health also reported that they did not frequently practice their religion or did not often experience positive spirituality.

Johnstone said the scientific explanation behind this relationship has roots in psychoneuroimmunology, the study of the link between human psychological processes and nervous and immune systems.

"Psychoneuroimmunology suggests that positive and negative thoughts affect neurological functions, which affect immunological response," Johnstone said. "So, positive thoughts can lead to the release of stress-reducing chemicals, which lead to better health. Conversely, negative thoughts increase stress-related hormones, which worsen health."

Researchers suggested in the study that the most effective solution in combating these ailments is targeted intervention designed to reduce negative spiritual beliefs while promoting positive ones in their place.

Study co-authors from MU included:

- Daniel Cohen with the Department of Religious Studies,
- Dong Pil Yoon with the School of Social Work,
- Laura Schopp with the Department of Health Psychology,
- James Campbell with the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Angela Jones from St. John’s Hospital in Springfield and Guy McCormack from Samuel Merritt College in San Francisco also contributed to the study.
Campbell said he had worked with Johnstone on several earlier studies. Campbell's work collecting data for this study took place a year or more ago, and he said the study had been in the works for a long time before publication.

He said he took great interest in the study because of its potential to clarify the relationship between health and medicine — his area of expertise — and religion and spirituality.

"I wanted to see what the impact might be on an individual's health and illness," Campbell said. "We weren't really expecting the negative aspects of religion and spirituality to have that sort of impact on the health and disease, or people's perceptions of health."

Hawley secures major donation while Schaefer bids for support from abortion foes

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Republican attorney general candidate Josh Hawley’s young campaign more than tripled its reported fundraising this week when major GOP donors based in Joplin gave him $500,000 for the race against state Sen. Kurt Schaefer.

The donations from David Humphreys, Ethelmae Humphreys and Sarah Atkins of Tamko Building Products are the largest reported by Hawley since he entered the race on July 24. Schaefer received a $500,000 donation from his mother in July 2014 and $250,000 from wealthy conservative activist Rex Sinquefield in October.

Because he has only been in the race two months, Hawley has not made a full report on all fundraising activities to the Missouri Ethics Commission. The next reports are due Oct. 15 for the three month period that ends Wednesday.

Donations of more than $5,000 must be reported within 48 hours of receipt. Hawley has reported $626,200 in large donations since entering the race. Schaefer has reported $32,000 in donations larger than $5,000 since June 30, the cut-off date for the second-quarter report.
Hawley’s main campaign consultant, James Harris, referred questions to Hawley, who did not respond to messages seeking comment. Schaefer declined to comment on the influx of cash to his rival. The contest pits two Columbia residents against each other — Schaefer has been in the Senate since 2009, while Hawley has been an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri since 2011.

David Humphreys, who donated $125,000 to Hawley, is president and CEO of Tamko, and Ethelmae Humphreys, who gave $250,000, is chairman of the board. Atkins, who gave $125,000, is a Virginia-based consultant for Tamko. Hawley’s largest donation previously was $100,000 from Peter Thiel, a co-founder of PayPal.

The Humphreys together have given $3.3 million to Republican candidates and causes since the beginning of 2010. Atkins has donated $265,000 in that same period. The donations are all from personal funds; no donations directly from Tamko are included in the Missouri Ethics Commission database.

David Humphreys did not respond to a request for an interview.

Politicians usually push to secure as many donations as possible when a reporting deadline approaches. In an appeal sent to supporters last week, Schaefer touted his role as chairman of the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life. He told supporters he would be the “first pro-life Attorney General since 1993,” and that the committee had turned up “potential violations of state law” by Planned Parenthood and “an alarming role by University of Missouri.”

“I’ve been called out directly by the liberal editor of the Kansas City Star and other pro-abortion activists to relent and to give up the fight against these taxpayer-enabled abortion activities,” Schaefer wrote.

In August, after the committee hearings began, a column in the Star called Schaefer “the scariest person in the Missouri government” and “a politician with the talent and ambition to acquire power and a willingness to misuse it.”

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Tim Gunn speaks on ethics, Project Runway and facing fears

JANIE BOOTH, 8 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Speaking about maintaining values and ethics in an intense fashion industry Thursday night, Tim Gunn told a full crowd at Jesse Auditorium a story about taking the high road with Vogue editor Anna Wintour.
Gunn, who has written four books, spoke of a time when Wintour demanded he retract an embarrassing story he had written about her. Gunn said he refused because his story was the truth. He then sent Wintour an expensive bouquet of white flowers — white because of the color's peaceful symbolism.

Gunn spoke as part of the Delta Gamma Foundation Lectureship in Values and Ethics.

At the start of the evening, Gunn walked onto the stage of Jesse Auditorium to a roar of applause from the packed house of about 1,800. Throughout the night, Gunn spoke with humor about how his experiences in the fashion industry have taught him valuable life lessons.

**Throwing up on the first day**

Gunn opened with a story about his fears as a first-time teacher at the Parsons School of Design. On the first morning, he got out of his car and promptly threw up. Once he entered his classroom, he could not stand up straight because his knees were shaking so hard. After suffering through the first week of classes and telling his boss he should be dismissed, she told him, “I trust that this will either kill you or cure you, and I’m counting on the latter.”

It cured him. Gunn would go on to be an educator for 29 years. As an educator, he said he realized that it was his responsibility to educate the young minds that would be the future of this world.

Upon realizing this responsibility, Gunn said he made an unpopular decision in the industry at the time. He decided to bring in People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to talk to the students, so they could be informed on the other side of the fur dilemma.

In those days, PETA members were looked at as radical extremists, but Gunn saw the point they were trying to make. He wanted the students to decide whether or not they wanted to use fur in their work. They chose to become fur-free.

**'Project Runway' jokes**

When Gunn asked the audience about the latest season of “Project Runway,” they cheered. Gunn responded by telling them he hated it.
The judges, Heidi Klum, Nina Garcia and Zac Posen, enabled a low quality of work that he thought was unacceptable. In one instance, Klum told him that she would wear a contestant’s ball gown that Gunn described as a “hideous monstrosity of a dress,” he said.

He said he doubted at first whether she would actually wear a dress like that, but that the doubts disappeared when he saw her dress at the 2015 Emmy Awards.

**Lectureship promotes MU's values**

The Delta Gamma Lectureship was created as a benefit for the community to learn about leadership and mentorship, said Landon Jones, MSA/GPC speakers committee co-chairman. Jones said that every year the event focuses on values and ethics, and the speaker highlights MU’s key values: respect, responsibility, excellence and discovery.

“Tim Gunn was chosen because of his insight into leadership and mentorship and how that plays into MU’s four values,” Jones said.

Past speakers at the Delta Gamma Lectureship have included Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Smart, Lisa Ling and Frank Abagnale.