The Bible teaches us in the Book of James that “faith without works is dead.” Let me share with you for just a moment the good works that are ongoing in the Missouri Senate Committee on the Sanctity of Life, which I chair, and the difference that your courageous voices are making.

To date, our committee has learned of irregularities in the licensing of the Columbia Planned Parenthood abortion facilities, an alarming role by the University of Missouri in keeping that facility open and a disturbing lack of accountability in the disposal of baby parts at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood facilities.

These findings all point to potential violations of state law, which is why our investigation continues as we are committed to finding the facts, seeking justice and taking any and all necessary actions in the upcoming legislative session.

Many supporters of innocent life recently converged on our state Capitol for two key events: first, to make their voices heard in public testimony before the Committee on the Sanctity of the Life, and also to attend and participate in a “Stand Up For Life” rally, at which I was honored to speak. Every voice raised in support of life was heard and is making a difference — as are the many prayers of support, calls and letters my colleagues and I have received urging us to “keep up the fight.”

And what a difference we are making! As a result of our efforts, MU has canceled 10 of 11 known contracts with Planned Parenthood. This is encouraging, but hard work remains. Medical privileges granted by the taxpayer-funded university to an abortion doctor were and are keeping the Columbia abortion facility in business. It is time for the university to do the right thing and get out of the abortion business!
I have 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. But I and my pro-life colleagues will not waver, and I ask you to stand with us.

In addition to the battles we face in the Missouri Senate, I’m also fighting to become Missouri’s next attorney general — and its first pro-life attorney general since 1993. I’m the only Republican candidate in this race who is making a difference in the battle with Planned Parenthood today and am the only GOP candidate without ties to the university, which is enabling Planned Parenthood to keep its doors open.

I have real experience prosecuting wrongdoers in our state, I have won the tough cases, and I will be ready on Day One.

I covet your prayers and your support as we stand and dedicate our actions and our voices to those who lack a voice.

State Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, is a candidate for Missouri attorney general.

EDITORIAL: MU's disgraceful bow to political pressure will hurt women

MU’s shameful decision to revoke a doctor’s hospital referral privileges in response to political pressure harms women and is a blow to academic independence.

The university announced Thursday it was eliminating a category of physician privilege called “refer and follow,” which essentially enables doctors to refer patients to the University of Missouri Health Care hospital and access the patient’s records.
Only two doctors hold the low-level status. One is Colleen McNicholas, who requested and obtained refer and follow privileges so that Planned Parenthood could resume nonsurgical abortions at its Columbia clinic in the summer. Under state law, a doctor must have clinical privileges at a hospital within 30 miles in order to perform abortions.

Barring a successful appeal, the university’s revocation of the status means Planned Parenthood must cease offering abortions in mid-Missouri on Dec. 1. Women will have to travel to the Kansas City or St. Louis areas, adding to stress and trauma for many.

The university had been under intense pressure from Republican senators on a special committee convened to harass Planned Parenthood.

Kurt Schaefer, who represents Columbia and is the Senate’s appropriations chairman, barraged the university with requests for documents and harshly interrogated the chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, during hearings. Schaefer has also hinted that cuts to university funding might result from the granting of privileges to McNicholas.

That’s an alarming abuse of power that the university has now rewarded with its acquiescence. Abortion is a legal medical procedure. Politicians choose to ignore that reality, but a public university should not.

Planned Parenthood supporters rally on campus against MU decisions

By RUDI KELLER

Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 9:07 pm

Speakers at a rally for Planned Parenthood on Tuesday promised to show University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin that political pressure can come in many forms, and that...
state Sen. Kurt Schaefer will face an angry electorate if he survives the Republican primary for attorney general in 2016.

More than 800 supporters of Planned Parenthood as well as a handful of abortion opponents gathered at Speaker's Circle on the MU campus. Speakers included graduate students, faculty, Planned Parenthood officials and Democratic politicians. Organizers said it wouldn’t be the only action to show displeasure with decisions that ended cooperative agreements between Planned Parenthood and MU and will revoke MU Health Care privileges for the doctor providing abortion services at Planned Parenthood’s Columbia clinic.

“You arrived here a year ago and you just made a really big mistake,” Laura McQuade, president of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, said of Loftin.

The rally is just the first step, she said. During the rally, participants were asked to sign a petition demanding the university reverse its decisions. Other actions will follow, McQuade said.

“We are going to turn up the heat on you so far you are not even going to know what hit you,” McQuade said.

After the rally, McQuade said no specific plans have been made. She has said legal action may be one avenue.

“We will know by the end of the week” in “what direction we will be moving,” McQuade said.

Schaefer, chairman of the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life, has used his office to bully the university, said Phillip Wood, a professor of psychology.

“I know that some of you are angry, angry not only at the politicians who will say anything and pull any stunt in their naked lust for political power,” Wood said. “I know that you are angry at administrators who are too cowardly to step up and do the right thing.”

The “Pink-Out” rally was part of a national effort to show support for Planned Parenthood as Congress considers whether to make the organization ineligible for federal funding. Organizers brought busloads of supporters from Kansas City and St. Louis to swell the local crowd.

The abortion opponents, fewer than a dozen in all, included College Republicans and were led by Kristen Wood of Students for Life. She supports the university’s decisions ending agreements with Planned Parenthood and ending the type of privileges granted to the doctor, Wood said.
“I think there are better organizations out there than Planned Parenthood that do the same thing,” she said.

The university became a target of Schaefer’s committee because MU Health Care granted “refer and follow” privileges to Colleen McNicholas, a Washington University obstetrician and gynecologist. McNicholas sought the privileges as part of Planned Parenthood’s effort to resume abortions at the Columbia clinic after the previous doctor moved in 2012.

The Department of Health and Senior Services granted a license in July at the same time an anti-abortion group released videos about the participation of some Planned Parenthood affiliates in donating fetal tissue from abortions for research. The Center for Medical Progress, producer of the videos, claimed they showed illegal trafficking in human tissue. No evidence of wrongdoing has been found by any congressional or state investigations.

Schaefer’s committee was formed to investigate whether anything depicted in the videos was occurring in Missouri and added an investigation of the license in Columbia to its agenda. The committee has not found any evidence that fetal tissue from Missouri is used for research, but it is still looking.

Attorney General Chris Koster issued a report Monday that he had found no evidence tissue from any of 317 abortions performed in June, before the videos were released, had been donated for research.

On Thursday, MU Health Care informed McNicholas it was ending the type of privileges she was granted, endangering the clinic’s license if the decision takes effect on Dec. 1 as planned. The university had previously terminated its agreements for students to do clinical site work at the clinic.

One agreement remains in place, with the College of Human and Environmental Sciences for a student to do fieldwork with clients. Students remain free to request assignments for clinical site work at Planned Parenthood and one agreement is being considered in the College of Nursing, MU spokeswoman Mary Jo Banken wrote Tuesday in an email.

Physicians need access to training in clinics where abortions are performed, said Caroline Wentworth, a second year medical student at Washington University.

“Almost every doctor will treat a woman who has had an abortion, and that woman does not deserve inferior care because we are scared of the political pressure,” she said.
Embryonic stem cell research at the university will be the next target, state Rep. Stephen Webber, D-Columbia, said at the rally. Missouri Right to Life wants to ban it, he said. The research underway is attempting to understand a pregnancy complication that affects millions of women and causes thousands of deaths worldwide each year, Webber said.

“The university must respond to the needs of women, not the convenience of political pressure,” Webber said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Planned Parenthood supporters pack Speakers Circle with pink

KASIA KOVACS, ELLEN CAGLE, 9 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Protesters in pink T-shirts packed Speakers Circle on Tuesday evening during a rally and called on MU to reinstate its recently severed relationships with Planned Parenthood.

“Not Mizzou, not the state, women must decide their fate,” the crowd chanted.

The gathering was part of “Pink Out Day,” a national demonstration organized by Planned Parenthood, which stemmed from recent controversy surrounding the health care provider that has been debated in Congress, in the Missouri legislature and in public opinion. The organization has recently been investigated in connection with its abortion procedures and handling of fetal tissue.

Supporters of the organization traveled from St. Louis and Kansas City to join residents in Columbia, which was one of 15 anchor sites in the nation for Planned Parenthood’s Pink Out Day. Ten speakers, including Missouri state Reps. Stacey Newman and Stephen Webber, criticized legislative efforts to investigate Planned Parenthood and cut the organization’s ties to MU.
“I am done with the misogyny in the state capitol,” Newman said.

Attendees signed a petition with three goals:

• To restore hospital privileges for the only Planned Parenthood doctor legally allowed to perform abortions in Columbia;

• To reinstate contracts between Planned Parenthood and MU’s medical and nursing schools;

• To stop investigations into Planned Parenthood.

Protesters spoke out against state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, who is leading the Missouri legislature’s Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life. According to previous Missourian reporting, MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin asked MU Health Care to review its privileging polices at the request of the state committee and members of the public.

Laura McQuade, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, attended the event and criticized Schaefer and the committee for urging the university to stop its relationships with Planned Parenthood.

“Sen. Schaefer has been pretending to serve the people of Missouri,” McQuade said.

McQuade also criticized Loftin, saying that he caved to “political pressure” to cut ties between the university and Planned Parenthood.

“You (Loftin) made the wrong decision,” she said. “We are going to turn up the heat on you so far you’re not even going to know what hit you.”

Michelle Hall, a Columbia resident who attended the rally, said Planned Parenthood has provided life-saving procedures, like cancer screenings, for members of her family.

“Without Planned Parenthood, I’d have lost half my family,” Hall said.
She said she was disappointed that MU had ended its relationship with the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic.

“I’m not happy with Mizzou’s decisions — the fact that they’re siding with politicians,” she said, adding that Missouri legislators are "destroying a safety net that a lot of people still depend on."

About 10 students representing Mizzou College Republicans and Mizzou Students for Life, an organization opposing abortion rights, were present at the rally. Several held signs protesting abortion.

“People didn’t want to even hear what we had to say, and it just kind of makes me sad because we’re just out here arguing for life,” said Skyler Roundtree, an MU student who protested the rally.

Planned Parenthood does not have the ability to take legal action against the university at this time, McQuade said. But the organization may file a federal complaint with the Department of Health and Senior Services against MU Health Care.

McQuade said Planned Parenthood will seek other options for hospital privileges, including privileges at Boone Hospital Center, for Colleen McNicholas, an obstetrician-gynecologist who started providing medical abortions at the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic on Aug. 3.

The Sanctity of Life Committee was formed in July after a sting video allegedly showed a Planned Parenthood representative selling aborted tissue. The video has since been widely discredited for having been edited to distort the representative’s conversation.

The Missouri attorney general’s office found that Planned Parenthood offices in St. Louis, the only offices that provided abortions in the state at the time the video was released, did not violate any laws in its disposal of fetal tissue, according to a report released on Monday.

The Sanctity of Life Committee will continue its separate investigation despite the attorney general’s findings, Schaefer told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
COLUMBIA, Mo. - Students and residents filled part of the MU campus Tuesday afternoon to support Planned Parenthood.

The rally comes after University Hospital voted to end "refer and follow" privileges for all doctors.

Dozens of supporters lined the Speaker's Circle wearing pink and carrying signs.

Supporters said they're upset that MU is severing ties with Planned Parenthood.

They said the final straw came when MU Hospital ended admitting privileges for the clinic's physician, essentially keeping the clinic from performing abortions.

They said they showed up to stand in support and wanted the university to listen to them.

"Hopefully we can pull a huge crowd and just show the university, show the community, and show Planned Parenthood that they're not in this alone. I think they've had a rough couple of months, and I think it's important for us to stand tall and stand proud," said Dina Van Der Zalm, a Planned Parenthood supporter.

Organizers said they've come across a lot of campus support for Planned Parenthood and hope to broaden it.

1,000 supporters of Planned Parenthood pack Mizzou Campus

BY ASHLEY ZAVAŁA TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 2015

Cities across the state and nation wore the color to support Planned Parenthood, the organization under recent political scrutiny.

Planned Parenthood supporters packed the University of Missouri’s Speaker’s Circle; outraged by the university abruptly ending its healthcare agreements with the organization after what leaders say was political intimidation. Earlier this month, the university ended its refer and follow privileges for physicians and ended educational opportunities for some healthcare students.

In June, Planned Parenthood announced it had plans to resume abortions in Columbia after not providing the service for three years. Leaders of the organization said the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life (led by Senator Kurt Schaefer) derailed that progress. The committee launched an investigation into the organization in July after heavily edited videos released by an anti-abortion group claimed the organization profited from selling fetal parts. As a result of the committee’s investigation, the University of Missouri ended its agreements with the organization after the committee revealed a University-affiliated physician was also a Planned Parenthood doctor.

"It is shameful the university caved to it, it is even more shameful that the Missouri legislature would use women’s health as a political football," said Laura McQuade, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri. McQuade spoke to more than a thousand supporters on MU’s campus about the challenges the organization faces. McQuade said the organization will formally request university administrators reinstate the clinic’s doctor and reestablish Planned Parenthood’s 26 year old educational relationship with MU Health.
Planned Parenthood supporters at Speaker's Circle chanted "M-I-Z-Shame-On-You!"

"We will seek to find admitting privileges for our physician either with MU or with a hospital that meets the legal requirements. And if that can't happen, we will continue to look at our legal options," said McQuade.

Meanwhile outside of the gate at the Planned Parenthood facility in Columbia, anti-abortion advocates said they are on day 18 of the 40 straight days they plan on praying for God to end abortion. Pro-Life activist, Kathy Forck, said women in central Missouri have plenty of access to women's healthcare outside of the Planned Parenthood clinic.

In Jefferson City, a handful of supporters lined High Street to take part in the nation-wide rally in support for Planned Parenthood.

"In Missouri we can celebrate the Attorney General found no wrongdoing in how Planned Parenthood handles fetal remains," said Sue Gibson, a board member for the National Organization for Women. On Monday, state Attorney General Chris Koster found no evidence that Planned Parenthood was profiting from fetal tissue parts, as the aforementioned videos claimed.

At the rally, McQuade told hundreds of supporters that Planned Parenthood has been serving the state of Missouri for more than 80 years, and at least 50 of those have been spent serving central Missouri. McQuade also noted Senator Kurt Schaefer has been serving the state for less than ten years, and Missouri's current Chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, less than two.
Planned Parenthood supporters rally at MU's Speakers Circle

Posted: Sep 29, 2015 6:50 PM by Derek Brizendine, KOMU 8 Reporter
Updated: Sep 30, 2015 12:00 AM

COLUMBIA - Planned Parenthood painted the MU campus pink on Tuesday night. Planned Parenthood supporters covered MU's speakers circle to show support for the organization.

The rally came after MU revoked the hospital's privileges for Colleen McNicholas, a licensed abortion doctor, who was providing the service locally.

The rally lasted about an hour with multiple guest speakers. One speaker at the rally said she was there to speak out against the university.

"It supports our students' autonomy," Jordan Hoyt, MU public health graduate student, said. "We have a right to utilize and express our education in any way we see fit, and there are students who have worked with Planned Parenthood in the past, and we want to support and continue those relationships."

Hoyt said she doesn't find it fair for the university to cut ties with Planned Parenthood with no outside input. She said she hoped people came out to not only support the cause but also better educate themselves on the issue at hand.

"It's important because this could be any issue," Hoyt said. "The university's infringing on our right to choose what we do with our education by cutting off ties with Planned Parenthood."
While a large majority of the supporters were pro-choice, there was also a pro-life group making its presence known at the rally.

Skyler Roundtree, chair of College Republicans, says he and other pro-life supporters went to the rally to give people the other side of the story.

"Speakers circle is all about allowing people to express their point of view," Roundtree said. "We're gonna be providing an alternate perspective on the alternate, downside, of Planned Parenthood."

Roundtree said he just wants people to understand what Planned Parenthood does. He said he was there to stand up for the life of a baby.

Hoyt said she just wants the university to show more support for its students, staff and faculty.

Watch the story: 
http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30742&zone=5&categories=5

University of Missouri sets dangerous precedent
Sept. 30, 2015

Bowing to political blackmail, the University of Missouri has allowed legislators to dictate conditions for the education of doctors and the practice of medicine. Recent decisions to cancel contracts with Planned Parenthood and suspend the hospital privileges of a doctor violate their own statement of values, which include integrity, respect and fairness.

Led by state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, the Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life aims to determine how Missouri clinics dispose of aborted tissue, whether any state funds were used to facilitate abortions and whether the health care provider has broken any state laws, according to the Missouri Senate website. However, the committee has expanded its mandate to include eliminating abortion in Missouri.

Threatened with loss of state funding by the committee, the University of Missouri pressured its health care system to sever all contact with Planned Parenthood. In defiance of federal law, and coupled with Missouri’s already restrictive abortion mandates, these decisions have made it impossible for doctors to learn a necessary
medical procedure and practice their specialty. Hundreds of Missouri women are denied a service guaranteed to them via the Supreme Court.

Regardless of one’s personal opinion on abortion, these decisions raise important ethical questions about the Legislature’s control of both education and the practice of medicine. Should state funds be used to control what a university is allowed to teach? Should a Legislature have the power to prevent a doctor’s ability to practice her specialty? Are hospital privileges not tied to competence, but rather to a political agenda? Universities should be protected from undue legislative pressure on the curriculum, and medical decisions and privileging should be the province of an independent medical staff protected by a firewall from legislative interference.

Both doctors and consumers should be outraged by this corruption of the state university system and by the naked attempt to control the practice of medicine.

*Dr. Maureen Hirthler • Weatherby Lake, Mo.*

MU’s response to Planned Parenthood investigations results in rally

While abortion services at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood clinic were found to be legal, they are scheduled to end at the Columbia clinic unless new privileges can be found.

*By Tessa Weinberg*

Sept. 30, 2015

*A wave of pink shirts flooded Speakers Circle as the shouts of Planned Parenthood supporters crashed onto its bricks. The inaugural “Pink Out Day,” held Tuesday, saw an overwhelming number of people of all ages and backgrounds come to Columbia as part of a national event in support of Planned Parenthood.*

Holding signs that read, “I stand with Planned Parenthood,” “Schaefer for Führer” and “This Tiger plans for her cubs, I will fight for Planned Parenthood,” demonstrators chanted ”M-I-Z, shame on you,” as the rally got underway. With Columbia as one of 15
“anchor” events for the national day of action, close to 1,000 people were present, according to the number of signatures through petitions, said Laura McQuade, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri.

In light of MU’s discontinuation of “refer and follow” privileges Sept. 24 and cancellation of multiple agreements with Planned Parenthood that had allowed graduate students to receive training at the Columbia clinic, the demonstrators had multiple demands that they hoped the rally would accomplish.

McQuade said she hopes the rally pushes MU to reinstate privileges for physician Colleen McNicholas, who was able to perform medical abortions at the Columbia clinic, as well as reinstate contracts for students to be able to continue academic partnerships with Planned Parenthood.

“We want to continue to apply as much political pressure to MU to make them feel that they made the wrong decision, and so today is just the first step in galvanizing the public support that we know we have to push back on MU,” McQuade said.

McQuade said she feels Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s immediate response to the rally will be silence, and that’s why she said Planned Parenthood and its supporters must keep the pressure on to demand Loftin be held accountable.

Planned Parenthood is planning on doing just that by potentially filing a claim with the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., sometime this week, McQuade said.

She said they will be analyzing whether MU violated the Church Amendments, a section of federal law that prohibits federally funded hospitals from discriminating against employing individuals based on their willingness or unwillingness to perform abortion services. McQuade said it is “to protect conscious on both sides of the issue.”

Effective Dec. 1, MU Health Care will be discontinuing refer and follow privileges after an executive committee unanimously voted to no longer offer this “outdated” and “unnecessary” category of privileges, as Chief Medical Officer Stevan Whitt said in a news release.
Of MU Health Care’s 800 medical staff, only two medical providers had refer and follow privileges, according to a news release. Teresa Snow, corporate director of strategic communications and media relations of MU Health Care, said that refer and follow privileges were first offered in 2010 to allow healthcare providers to refer patients to MU Health Care’s facilities and follow their patients’ care in MU Health Care’s electronic medical record.

“Today, any healthcare provider can refer patients to our facility and referring providers can request electronic access to our medical record for their referred patients,” Snow said in an email. “Such access does not require the provider to be a member of our medical staff nor hold privileges at MU Health Care facilities.”

However with McNicholas’ refer and follow privileges ending, McQuade said Planned Parenthood is seeking to get McNicholas either credentialed at the Boone Hospital Center or privileges other than refer and follow privileges at MU Health Care.

Snow said McNicholas will be allowed to apply for other privileges with MU Health Care. McQuade said there are a number of privileges that meet the requirements of the law to perform abortion services.

Although McQuade said she hopes Planned Parenthood will be able to regain privileges before Dec. 1 so abortion services at the Columbia clinic will not be interrupted, if they are unable to do so, then they would need to analyze other legal remedies.

While the future of abortion services at the Columbia clinic is under question, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster announced Sept. 28 that based on the investigation into the St. Louis Planned Parenthood clinic, there was no evidence suggesting that the clinic was profiting off of illegal sale of fetal tissue.

McQuade said she hopes this causes both the Senate and the House to cease all investigations in order to focus less on politics and more on the issue of women’s health.

“I think the more that people can take this out of the political realm and take this into the realm of people’s individual lives, that’s what health care is all about,” McQuade said. “It’s about individual people making their own decisions about the health care that they need and the lives they want to live. This isn’t some political discussion happening in
Jefferson City or Washington, this is a decision that happens in people’s houses, and people’s cars and people’s doctors offices every day.”

Koster opposes stem cell restrictions, calls on GOP rivals to support research

By RUDI KELLER

Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 3:42 pm Comments (3)

Attorney General Chris Koster, who as a state senator engaged in a filibuster to block restrictions on embryonic stem cell research, on Tuesday denounced renewed efforts to make the research illegal.

Koster, the only major Democratic candidate for governor in 2016, was a Republican in 2005 when he took part in the legislative debate. In a news release, Koster said GOP support for restrictions on research is one of the reasons he changed parties.

Missouri Right to Life, the state’s most powerful anti-abortion group, announced Sept. 8 that it would make banning embryonic stem cell research at the University of Missouri one of its legislative goals for 2016. A project underway at the Bond Life Sciences Center uses embryonic stem cells to research a common pregnancy complication blamed for up to 50,000 maternal and child deaths annually worldwide.

“By attacking the University of Missouri for engaging in this scientific research, the GOP is sending an unmistakable message to medical researchers around the world: Beware of coming to Missouri,” Koster said.

The furor over videos attacking Planned Parenthood for supplying donated fetal tissue for research created the opening for Missouri Right to Life to renew the debate over embryonic stem cells.

The videos prompted legislative investigations that have not found any evidence that tissue from a St. Louis abortion clinic was being used for research. But the state Senate investigation, led by Sen.
Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, resulted in pressure on MU for granting privileges to a St. Louis doctor, which allowed medication-induced abortions to resume at Planned Parenthood’s Columbia clinic.

Last week, MU announced it would revoke those privileges on Dec. 1, putting the Columbia clinic’s license for abortions in jeopardy. Missouri Right to Life seeks to capitalize on the anger at MU to pass the restrictions on research.

Koster on Monday reported the results of his investigation of Planned Parenthood in Missouri, finding that no tissue from abortions is being used for research.

In his news release, Koster pointed out that Republican Catherine Hanaway, a former U.S. attorney running for governor, has attacked him for his past support of embryonic stem cell research. In an ad promising to increase the penalty for using human tissue from abortions for research, Hanaway accused Koster of being “a leading voice for allowing scientific research on unborn children.”

Embryonic stem cells are derived from donated blastocysts originally created for in vitro fertilization. The process does not involve abortions. Koster supported a 2006 state ballot measure protecting embryonic stem cell research.

“At a time when we are trying to attract the best and brightest to come and work in our state, it is imperative our government leaders stand up and protect the intellectual freedom of doctors searching for cures to the world’s worst diseases,” Koster said in the news release. “Missourians deserve to know where government leaders, and would be government leaders, stand on this important issue.”

Hanaway’s campaign did not respond immediately to an email seeking comment. Her four major rivals for the GOP nomination — John Brunner, Eric Greitens, state Sen. Bob Dixon and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder — also did not respond to messages seeking comment.
Democrats slam University of Missouri over Planned Parenthood decision

Sept. 29, 2015

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – In Missouri, headlines surrounding the Planned Parenthood controversy, one of the most partisan in recent memory, have skewed to the right. However, on Tuesday’s nationwide #PinkOut day, a movement created to show support for Planned Parenthood, Democratic legislators in the Missouri House and Senate aim to have their say in the conversation.

Rep. Mike Colona, D-St. Louis, seemed especially peeved that the University of Missouri revoked refer and follow privileges from Dr. Colleen McNicholas, the doctor who would be providing abortions at the Columbia Planned Parenthood. That revocation of privileges, which the university called outdated, will make it illegal for McNicholas to perform abortions at the facility when the privileges are officially revoked in December.

Colona believes the university caved to political pressure out of fear of government retribution via funding.

“Considering the timing of the decision, I don’t really understand anyone with a straight face can accept the explanation given by the chancellor about revoking those privileges,” Colona said. “The University of Missouri is a spectacular institution, it’s our flagship institution. They are above all this. When they stoop into the mud, into the sewers, and behave the way they’re behaving, it hurts Missourians.”

Colona said his sentiment fell in line with a letter written by Sen. Jamilah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, to Mizzou Chancellor Bowen Loftin, President Tim Wolfe and CEO/COO Mitch Wadsen.

“Your revocation of Planned Parenthood’s refer and follow privileges will force women throughout the Mid-Missouri region to travel hundreds of additional miles in order to receive the safe, legal procedure that our state’s laws guarantee is their right,” Nasheed wrote. “For countless underprivileged and low-income women who cannot afford to make this journey, your unilateral decision to deny them their rights is outright discrimination.
“The University should be above politics, and instead focus on bettering our state through education, research and medicine. If it is unprepared to do so, know that I intend to use my position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to examine ways to redirect funds to other organizations that are.”

Reps. Tracy McCreary, D-St. Louis and Stacy Newman, D-St. Louis, tweeted their support of #PinkOut day.

Newman also announced that she would be attending a pro-Planned Parenthood rally being held at the University of Missouri Tuesday afternoon.

The flood of local and national media has started watching Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, very closely as he chairs the Sanctity of Life Committee in the throes of his 2016 attorney general bid against primary opponent University of Missouri School of Law professor Josh Hawley. Schaefer’s action on the committee has raised some eyebrows for being “too conservative” to succeed in a general election, including those of pro-choice state Rep. Jeremy LaFaver, D-Kansas City.

“The effect on real people is that this committee’s work is already limiting health care options for women,” LaFaver said. “The political effect could be moderate Republicans will move to support Josh Hawley in the primary and the Democratic nominee in the general.”

Even the existence of the committee itself upsets Colona.

“I’m even more embarrassed that we set up a political witch hunt committee,” Colona said. “If it’s a question or legal issue on whether Planned Parenthood broke the law, then legal authorities, like the local prosecutor, U.S. Attorney or attorney general should investigate. In fact, our own attorney general conducted a criminal investigation and found no basis to support any law had been broken.

“We’re not the caliphate. We’re not a theocracy. We’re a secular government. Our duty isn’t to follow one moral or religious view above others, it’s to follow secular laws.”

Schaefer’s committee has sought the attention of thousands of pro-life Missourians, who have held rallies, awarded pro-life legislators, and attended committee hearings since they began in early August. Although current attorney general Chris Koster has found no evidence Planned Parenthood’s St. Louis affiliate did anything illegal, the committee is continuing their own investigation.

“What the committee is doing, basically, is protecting life and making sure the laws of the State of Missouri are enforced,” Sen. Kurt Schaefer replied. “I think that is what the People of Missouri want: overall, to choose life, and overall, strong law enforcement. That’s what I’m about and that’s what I’m going to do.”
COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU students think sexual assault is 'not at all likely' in Campus Climate Survey

EMMA VANDELINDER, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Almost half of MU students thought it was “not at all” likely that they would experience a sexual assault or misconduct on campus, according to the MU Report on the Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct released last week. Yet MU had one of the highest rates of sexual assault for undergraduate female students compared to other higher education institutions that participated in the study.

“It’s undoubtedly a prevalent thing,” Kevin Carr said of sexual assault on campus. Carr, a senior studying political science and philosophy, is the Missouri Students Association Senate Speaker. He said his awareness of how widespread sexual assault is on campus comes from his personal experiences, his conversation with friends and his work with MSA.

“The people that I associate with definitely know that it’s a problem, but for the average student? I think they’d be surprised by the actual statistics,” Carr said. “And I’m not knocking them or anything for not knowing, it’s just that on some level you don’t want to believe it’s true. You just don’t.”

In comparison to 26 other universities that took the Association of American Universities survey, MU ranks 21st, with about 27 percent of female undergraduates reporting experiences of sexual assault. The California Institute of Technology had the lowest number of sexual assault reports by undergraduate females (13 percent) and the University of Michigan and University of Southern California tied for last, with 30 percent.

The average rates of nonconsensual sexual contact by physical force or incapacitation were as high or higher than those in previous surveys for all 27 institutions of higher education, according to the AAU’s aggregate report.
Students who participated in the survey were asked a number of questions about their perceptions of sexual assault or misconduct at their university. Most students at MU indicated the chance of experiencing sexual assault or misconduct on campus was was “not at all” or “a little” likely, and their view of how sexual assault is handled at the university was relatively positive.

However, Carr said he and a number of his friends had experienced instances of sexual assault and sexual misconduct since entering MU.

“There was an instance at a house party that I was at where one student was becoming aggressive and was, from my perspective, taking advantage of another student,” he said, “at which point I intervened. I actually ended up getting physically hurt from the altercation.”

Carr also said he experienced sexual assault firsthand. “I didn’t give explicit consent, and I’ll leave that there,” he said.

**Student perceptions of sexual assault on campus**

Female student respondents at MU had less conviction than male students in their belief that encountering sexual assault or misconduct on campus was unlikely. About 58 percent of female undergraduate students indicated that it was "not at all" or "a little" likely that they would experience sexual assault or misconduct on campus, in comparison to the 91.5 percent of male undergraduate students.

"We need to remind our community that sexual assault and sexual misconduct can happen to anyone — regardless of gender," MU Title IX Administrator Ellen Eardley said in an email. "Male students are not immune to this violence."

MU student respondents indicated they believed students who experience sexual assault or misconduct will be taken seriously, but they have less conviction in their belief that officials will take action and address the issues on campus.
“It never seems like the punishment fits the crime,” said Gabry Tyson about the way some universities have handled sexual assault. “It’s kind of like (offenders) just get a slap on the wrist.”

Tyson is a senior studying journalism, religious studies and international studies. She also works with MU Stop Traffic, an anti-trafficking student organization that promotes awareness and outreach about modern-day slavery on campus and in Columbia.

Tyson said she has not experienced the more severe cases of sexual assault like rape, but has witnessed and experienced other forms of sexual misconduct, like nonconsensual sexual touching.

“I feel like you see it all the time,” Tyson said, "like people touching you in ways you don’t want to be touched — and we often just denote it to 'Oh, they were drunk.'"

Overall, about half of MU students believed it was "very" or "extremely" likely that someone reporting sexual assault would be supported by other students, which was consistent with the AAU average. Female students were less likely to believe this than their male counterparts.

“I don’t think that anyone’s going to deny someone who reports sexual assault, but I also do think that then comes in the ‘Oh, well, to what extent were you sexually assaulted?’” Tyson said.

About 64 percent of MU students indicated they believed it was "very" or "extremely" likely that a report would be taken seriously by campus officials. Male student respondents again reported a higher belief in this than female respondents.

About 48 percent of students thought it was "very" or "extremely" likely that a campus official would take action against an offender, which is higher than the AAU average. This number was significantly lower for undergraduate females, who reported about 40 percent, in comparison to nearly 58 percent of male undergraduates.
The survey also indicated that more than a quarter of undergraduate females believed it is "not at all" or "a little" likely that campus officials would take action to address factors that may have led to the sexual assault or sexual misconduct on campus.

"Would I like to think that MU officials or law enforcement would take the necessary steps? Yeah, because I like to think that I can trust in the institutions that are set forth to protect us," Tyson said. But she said she was less sure about the effectiveness of preventive measures.

**Students’ reasons for not taking preventive action**

“Nonconsensual sexual contact involving drugs and alcohol constitute a significant percentage of the incidents,” according to the AAU executive report.

About 1,600 female undergraduates at MU (12.3 percent) indicated they experienced rape by force or incapacitation since entering college, according to the MU report, and alcohol was often involved in such incidents.

The university's survey responses showed that nearly 90 percent of offenders were drinking alcohol before allegedly raping an incapacitated female student, and more than half of offenders were drinking alcohol before allegedly raping a female student by force. About 37 percent of female students who had allegedly been raped in an incapacitated state said they passed out for all or part of the rape.

But more often than not, students who witness a drunk person heading for a sexual encounter take no action to stop him or her, according to the MU report. Over half of students said they witnessed a drunk person heading into a sexual encounter, but about 71 percent said they took no action, either because they did not know what to do or for another reason.

“The RSVP Center and our office work very, very hard to teach students about being active bystanders,” said Kim Dude, director of the Wellness Resource Center. “What we try to do is get students to realize that we all need to look out for each other. We all need to not only make good
choices for ourselves but look out for our friends to make sure they’re making good choices as well.”

The Wellness Resource Center promotes alcohol awareness and safe drinking through education programs and campus-wide events. One of the programs it encourages is called Take 5, in which at least one student in a group of five remains completely sober for the entire night the group is drinking, Dude said.

“A person who is sober is a lot more likely to be an active bystander than somebody who’s had too much to drink,” she said. “If everybody in the group is drinking then it’s hard for you to notice when something might be a risky situation.”

Alcohol plays a role in at least half of all sexual assaults involving college students, according to Wayne State University research. The challenge facing campus initiatives is how to overcome the student culture of drinking and the belief that drinking leads to sex, according to the research.

**Students’ reasons for not reporting**

A vast majority (more than 80 percent) of female students who experienced rape by force or incapacitation at MU did not report the incident to a support program such as the Title IX Office or the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center. The main reasons cited were:

- "I did not think it was serious enough to report"
- "I felt embarrassed, ashamed, or that it would be too emotionally difficult"
- "I did not want the person to get in trouble"
- "I did not think anything would be done"

MU female students report rape to a program or official at a lesser rate than the average of the 27 universities despite the fact that students indicated a decent amount of knowledge about where to make reports.

More than 50 percent of students said they were aware of MU’s services for sexual assault or misconduct victims — such as the Title IX Office, the RSVP Center, the Student Health Center
and the Counseling Center — but about a quarter of students also said they were “not at all” knowledgeable about MU’s procedures after a student reports an incident of sexual assault or misconduct.

Tyson said she had no idea where to go on campus to make a report or what the procedure was after a report was made, and that she didn’t believe her friends would know either.

“I don’t think you would know until you had to do it,” Tyson said.

Carr also said it wasn’t clear how a case would be handled after a report has been made, and that he did not report the cases of sexual assault and sexual misconduct that he experienced either first or second hand.

“Part of it is the issue of what’s going to happen to me? And should this become a bigger issue?” Carr said of why students do not report. “And part of that, from my own personal experience, would be a matter of would people think differently of me if my name suddenly gets attached to certain things.

“It creates a perception about a person that is undeserved,” he said.

MUPD releases safety report

MUPD releases arson fire and rape numbers

Updated: Sep 29, 2015 5:00 PM

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri Police Department released its annual fire safety and security report Tuesday. The 85 page report includes crime data, crime prevention information and campus security policies.

According to the report, there were 18 reported rapes in 2014. Six of those rapes took place in on-campus residential facilities.

MUPD reports there were five total arson reports in 2014. Three of those arson fires were in on-campus residential halls. In 2014, there was also one unintentional fire in Hudson Residential Hall.

In the report, MUPD encouraged all faculty, staff and students to report any incident in a timely manner in order to ensure an effective investigation. MUPD emphasized that all crime tips are voluntary and can be submitted anonymously. The report said anyone wanting to report a sexual offense should contact the Title IX office.

For contact numbers and to read the rest of the report click here: http://mupolice.missouri.edu/Clery_Report/2015.pdf
Missouri's Mauk, Cuellar suspended indefinitely

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Missouri quarterback Maty Mauk and backup tackle Malik Cuellar have been suspended indefinitely by the school for violating team rules and will not participate in the Tigers' (3-1, 0-1 SEC) home game against South Carolina (2-2, 0-2) Saturday.

Associate athletic director Chad Moller released a statement Tuesday night confirming the suspensions, citing "disciplinary reasons related to violation of team policies."

The status of the suspensions will be assessed after Saturday's game, and the athletic department has issued no additional comments.

Mauk spent Monday in Springfield with his family, and did not attend team media day. His father and high school coach, Mike Mauk, underwent a procedure Monday to treat colorectal cancer.

Freshman Drew Lock likely will make his first collegiate start in place of Mauk, who has 654 passing yards as well as six touchdowns and four interceptions this season. Lock has completed 15 of 25 passes for 225 yards as well as a touchdown and an interception.
Maty Mauk suspended for Missouri’s game vs. South Carolina

Mizzou junior quarterback won’t play Saturday “for disciplinary reasons related to violation of team policies”

Junior offensive lineman Malik Cuellar is also suspended

Both players’ status will be “evaluated after the game”

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kcstar.com

Junior quarterback Maty Mauk won’t start for Missouri on Saturday against South Carolina. Mizzou announced Tuesday that Mauk and junior offensive lineman Malik Cuellar had been suspended “for disciplinary reasons related to violation of team policies,” according to a release from the athletic department.

Both Mauk and Cuellar will miss at least the South Carolina game, which kicks off at 11 a.m. at Memorial Stadium in Columbia, “and their status going forward will be evaluated after the game,” according to the release.

The suspensions are not related to a legal matter, according to a source with knowledge of the situation.

Mauk, who has started in parts of the last three seasons for Missouri, has completed 57 of 110 passes — 51.8 percent — for 654 yards with six touchdowns and four interceptions this season. He’s second on the team in rushing with 145 yards in 36 carries, including the team’s only rushing touchdown.

He was 15 of 30 passing for 180 yards and a touchdown in a 21-13 loss Saturday at Kentucky.
Mauk was not available at Monday’s media day. He was in Springfield, where his father, Mike, had surgery for colorectal cancer.

Presumably, Mauk’s suspension means that freshman quarterback Drew Lock, a Lee’s Summit graduate and the reigning Simone Award winner, will get his first career college start against the Gamecocks.

Lock is 15 of 25 passing for 225 yards with a touchdown and an interception in limited duty this season. He has played in one second-quarter series in each of the Tigers’ four games.

Lock also appeared in two fourth-quarter series against Southeast Missouri, throwing a 78-yard touchdown to senior running back Tyler Hunt on one, and led one drive in the fourth quarter against Connecticut.

Missouri coach Gary Pinkel opted not to use Lock in the second half of close games at Arkansas State and Kentucky.

Based on the depth chart, sophomore Eddie Printz and redshirt freshman Marvin Zanders both will serve as backups to Lock. They are listed with an “or” designation as the Tigers’ third-string quarterback.

Cuellar is a junior-college transfer from the City College of San Francisco. He started the year as the Tigers’ backup right tackle, and he is now the backup left tackle.

With sophomore Nate Crawford, the normal starting right tackle, sidelined with a sprained ankle, senior Taylor Chappell shifted from the left guard back to the outside.

Chappell started 10 games at right tackle last season. Redshirt freshman Paul Adams is listed as his backup.
Mauk suspension unlocks new door
With the Maty Mauk suspended, Drew Lock will most likely start Saturday.

By Peter Baugh
Sept. 29, 2015
Updated Sept. 30, 2015 at 2:44 a.m.

On Oct. 21, 1995, true freshman Corby Jones started at quarterback for Mizzou. On Saturday, nearly 20 years later, a first-year player could start under center again for the Tigers.

Junior quarterback Maty Mauk has been suspended for Saturday’s game against South Carolina, according to a statement from spokesperson Chad Moller. With the suspension, freshman quarterback Drew Lock is expected to start against the Gamecocks.

Mauk and offensive lineman Malik Cuellar, both juniors, were suspended by coach Gary Pinkel for “disciplinary reasons related to violation of team policies,” according to the statement. The future status of the two players will be evaluated after Saturday’s game.

MU Police Department Major Brian Weimer said there are no investigations that he is aware of underway involving Mauk at this time. The Columbia Police Department could not be reached for comment by print deadline.

Mauk struggled in the opening four games for Mizzou. He has thrown for 654 yards, six touchdowns and four interceptions, and he has completed just over 50 percent of his passes. He was booed during Mizzou’s 9-6 home win over Connecticut.

Lock has already fared better than Jones did in his first season as a starter. In 1995, Jones threw four interceptions with zero touchdowns and completed less than 35 percent of his passes.
The freshman, who is the next quarterback behind Mauk on the depth chart, has played at least one series in each of Mizzou’s first four games. He has thrown for 225 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Lock, a Missouri native, is already a fan favorite among the Tiger faithful. He attended Lee’s Summit High School in Lee’s Summit, Missouri.

“If he practices a high level, then what you like to do is get in some playing time,” Gary Pinkel told the Kansas City Star in late August. “That’s going to be up to him and how hard (he) is working. He’s working very hard, but time will tell that.”

That time might be now.

MSA president talks involvement, enacting social change

“I decided I was going to do whatever it took to make this place feel like home,” MSA president Head said.

By Lucille Sherman
Sept. 29, 2015

Through a Facebook post on Sept. 12, Missouri Students Association President Payton Head used his status as a student leader and his experiences in MU organizations to address social injustices.

Head’s post was a call to action for those who are passive about discrimination. The post was covered by the Columbia Missourian and generated national attention from The Washington Post and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. With over 800 likes and 1,751 shares, it continues to spark conversation.

“If your simple existence is not a political statement I’m really going to need for you to check your privilege,” Head wrote.
As a southside Chicago native, Head had experienced some micro-aggression previously, but never “direct hatred.” After this incident described in his post, Head knew he had decisions to make. He debated whether to run for president. He debated leaving MU’s campus altogether. But he decided to stay and to spur what many believe as much-needed changes on campus.

“I decided I was going to do whatever it took to make this place feel like home,” Head said.

Kandice Head, his twin sister, was the person who introduced Head to MU as a place where he belonged.

“It was on my campus tour where I could actually see myself here, and I felt home,” Head said.

Head immediately hit the ground running his freshman year. He got involved with the Mizzou Black Men’s Initiative, which helped him connect with black men on campus who were also making the transition into MU’s diverse environment.

“I thought MBMI would be a great way for me to connect with other black men on campus who might be feeling the same way I did,” Head said. “It also exposed me to the campus community here so that I could branch out and meet different people from different organizations and different backgrounds.”

The environment Head grew up in was not particularly diverse, and coming to MU meant that he would be a minority for the very first time.

Since then, Head has been involved in a variety of different student organizations, but it’s Diversity Peer Educators that stands out to him.

“Sometimes you can feel some sort of oppression, but you don’t really have the words to talk about it,” Head said.

DPE gave Head the ability to have a conversation with his peers about diversity, without pointing fingers or condemning them.

Through DPE and other groups like the MSA Social Justice Committee, Head has been able to learn more about himself, as well as more about others and their identities. It is
through experiences like this that Head has been able to develop the confidence, courage and tools to enact change on MU’s campus.

But something happened that gave Head the courage to spur change.

As Head and a friend were cutting through the backyard of a fraternity house, a group of men in the back of a pickup truck began calling out racial slurs to them.

“That shook my world up,” Head said.

It was around this time that Head changed MSA Senate’s Multicultural Issues Committee to the Social Justice Committee, to encompass more identities such as gender and sexuality.

In November of last year, Head and Brenda Smith-Lenzama were elected MSA president and vice president, respectively. The voter turnout for the election was the highest in MU’s history.

At the time of elections in the fall 2014 semester, Head said as a black and non-Greek student, he didn’t fit the mold of past MSA presidents. Although Head is now an active Greek member in an National Pan-Hellenic Council fraternity, many at the time doubted his ability to win because he didn’t have the Greek vote.

“Someone came out and told me, ‘You’ll never win,’” Head said.

After experiencing yet another incident of upfront racism Sept. 11, Head used his title and influence to remind MU students of the importance of inclusivity and respect. He also received public support from University of Alabama and Auburn University’s student body presidents, Elliot Spillers and Walker Byrd. He said he has been fighting for inclusivity since the first day after being elected.

“The thing that I have now, (as president), that a lot of people don’t have, is privilege,” Head said.

There are many things that students don’t hear about because of their privilege, Head said. As MSA president and self-identified advocate for those who can’t speak up for themselves, Head said that he has and will continue to fight for those who are oppressed for “simply being who they are.”
“As a person, it hurt,” Head said. “Then it switched from hurt to anger, and then to action. I realized I had a very unique opportunity. If I said something, people would listen to it.”

A banner day

By NICK SCHNELLE

Students carry flags of some of the 36 nations represented at the University of Missouri while walking Tuesday along Ninth Street as part of the annual International Flag Day Parade. The event
MU Celebrates Cultural Diversity on Annual International Day

By KYLE DUNN • SEPT. 29, 2015

Cultures from all over the world could be seen at MU today as the university held their eighth annual International Day.

Students and faculty from MU kicked off the celebrations at 9.15 a.m. Tuesday with a parade displaying over 40 flags. The parade route began at Lowry Mall on the MU campus and continued past the historical columns to the newly-opened Traditions Plaza, then moved on to Tiger Plaza before ending at Ellis Library where the flags are displayed. MU Vice Provost James Scott says cultural diversity is extremely important to the University of Missouri as not only does it allow international students to grow, it also enables American students to learn from other cultures.

“Today we see some of the richness and breadth of human experience and endeavor from these students when they carry their flags. Flags are beautiful, powerful symbols. Each flag represents in bright colors and cloth the history,
the struggle really, of people. It represents a shared commitment to values, customs, and to a way of life to a people’s identity,” Scott said.

Scott went on to describe the similarity between each country’s flags and the flags displayed on the historical MU columns at the start and end of the school year. Scott says the flags “display the values” that the two share as well as representing both internationals and Mizzou students being “committed to [our flags].”

The flag parade is held annually to raise awareness of the diverse student body and faculty at MU. The flags represent just some of the 100 plus countries from which international students hail, including China, France and Turkey.

The Vice Provost was also joined by David Currey, the Director of International Student and Scholar Services who welcomed the many international students in the crowd to Missouri.

“It is important for our campus to appreciate these symbols, as Jim was saying, of national identity since they illustrate not only national identities but Mizzou as a family that includes not on Missourians and Americans but international families as well,” Curry said.

The parade was followed by the International Bazaar, a cultural learning and food event that has been held by MU for over three decades. Free food was served to the public in order to showcase some of the foods of the world alongside international students and faculty discussing their home countries with locals. The university website says the Bazaar “embraces the extraordinary presentation” of the cultures studying at Mizzou.
Residents can attend a series of seminars in October that will provide a basic overview of Columbia's city government and question-and-answer sessions with city leaders.

The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri is offering a series of workshops led by a graduate instructor and doctoral candidate that will examine the role of local government in citizens' lives. The workshops, which will take place every Thursday afternoon in October, will each feature two local government leaders who will provide a presentation about their roles in city governance and answer questions about their departments and how citizens can participate.

Upcoming seminars

The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy has scheduled the following seminars about local government.

- Thursday: "Columbia government: Who's in charge?" Guest speakers, Mayor Bob McDavid and City Manager Mike Matthes
- Oct. 8, "Who keeps us safe?" Guest speakers, police Chief Ken Burton and Citizens Police Review Board member Kate Busch
- Oct. 15: "Who keeps us prepared for the worst?" Guest speakers, fire Chief Randy White and a representative from the Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management
- Oct. 22: "Who keeps us happy and healthy?" Guest speakers, Parks and Recreation Director Mike Griggs and a representative from the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services
- Oct. 29: "Who keeps us growing?" Guest speakers, Community Development Director Tim Teddy and Regional Economic Development Inc. Director Stacey Button
Justin Dyer said the seminars try to connect people on campus with people in the community. He said the seminars will introduce people to more than just Columbia politics.

“This will be a case study for thinking about the function of city government all over the nation and developing a greater understanding of the role we as citizens can play,” Dyer said.

The first seminar will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and feature Mayor Bob McDavid and City Manager Mike Matthes providing a basic overview of municipal government. Subsequent seminars will feature police Chief Ken Burton and Citizens Police Review Board member Kate Busch; fire Chief Randy White and a representative from the Columbia/Boone County Office of Emergency Management; Parks and Recreation Director Mike Griggs and a representative from the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services; and Community Development Director Tim Teddy and Regional Economic Development Inc. Director Stacey Button.

Doctoral candidate Dana Angello said she is leading the seminars because it is difficult for people to get information about the function of local government and participation in politics at the municipal level is notoriously low. She said the forums are designed to create a context for attendees to better understand news about government and know how to make their voices heard.

“In this way, I hope we can better hold government accountable,” Angello said. “It’s also about getting community members together who wouldn’t normally interact with one another.”

The seminars are free and open to the public, but attendance is capped at 20 participants. To sign up, email Angello at danaangello@mizzou.edu.

Angello said while she hopes the workshops will be a place for citizens and government officials to hold discussions, she hopes attendees ask questions of the officials — even if some of them are hard questions.

“I feel a lot of people don’t get interested in politics because of all the conflict and perceived nastiness of it,” Angello said. “Hopefully this will give people a safe space to ask questions and get answers.”
Can a 10-Minute Walk Erase 6 Hours of Sitting?

September 29, 2015

Many office workers spend the majority of an eight-hour day sitting at their desks. New research suggests sitting for six straight hours can impair vascular function.

But walking for just 10 minutes can reverse the damage.

“It’s easy for all of us to be consumed by work and lose track of time, subjecting ourselves to prolonged periods of inactivity,” says Jaume Padilla, assistant professor of nutrition and exercise physiology at the University of Missouri.

“However, our study found that when you sit for six straight hours, or the majority of an eight-hour work day, blood flow to your legs is greatly reduced. We also found that just 10 minutes of walking after sitting for an extended time reversed the detrimental consequences.”

For the study, published in Experimental Physiology, researchers compared the vascular function of 11 healthy young men before and after a period of prolonged sitting. The findings show that blood flow in the popliteal—an artery in the lower leg—was greatly reduced after sitting at a desk for six hours. Researchers then had the participants take a short walk, and found that 10 minutes of self-paced walking could restore the impaired vascular function and improve blood flow.

“When you have decreased blood flow, the friction of the flowing blood on the artery wall, called shear stress, is also reduced,” Padilla says. “Moderate levels of shear stress are good for arterial health, whereas low levels of shear stress appear to be detrimental and reduce the ability of the artery to dilate. Dilation is a sign of vascular health. The more the artery can dilate and respond to stimuli, the healthier it is.”
Many workplaces are sedentary environments, and researchers say it’s important that people understand the effects of sitting on their vascular health. By breaking up desk time with a short walk, workers can offset the harm caused to vascular blood vessels.

“Studies have shown that sitting less can lead to better metabolic and cardiovascular health,” Padilla says. “However, more research is needed to determine if repeated periods of reduced vascular function with prolonged sitting lead to long-term vascular complications.”

Researchers from the University of Southern Mississippi School of Kinesiology and the University of Texas at Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation are coauthors of the study.

Alpine Bees Adapting to New Rocky Mountain Climate

By KRISTIN KENNEALLY · SEPT. 30, 2015

New MU research says bumblebees in the Alpine region of the Rocky Mountains might be adapting to climate change.

Research says the bees have been adapting shorter tongues to gather pollen. Bees can either be generalists or specialists. Specialists are bees with long tongues who gather pollen from long flowers. If a bee is a generalist it is adapting a shorter tongue and collecting pollen from all flowers in the region.
The climate change in the Rocky Mountains has caused a shortage in long tube flowers creating a need for generalist bees.

The study was conducted by a research team at the University of Missouri-Columbia. It compared the statistical analysis from 1966-1980 to new research surveyed in 2012-2014. Jennifer Geib and Ricardo Holdo were both members of the research team who explored the Alpine regions of the Rocky Mountains in 2012 through 2014.

Holdo was in charge of mathematical workings on the projects and determining the amount of time it would take bees to obtain pollen from a flower. Each type of bees has both its benefits and disadvantages. “The advantage that specialist have is that they take less time to extract a reward from a long flower,” said Holdo. “Where a generalists takes longer because they have shorter tongues. But the advantage of a generalist is that they can exploit different kinds of flowers even though it takes them longer to extract a reward from a long flower.”

The adaptations of the bees was based specifically on the climate change in the Alpine area. The team focused on this area because of the historical archives on the area as well as the known climate change to the Western Rocky Mountains.

Geib hopes that more studies will be performed on bee species across the United States. “In general though we do need more monitoring efforts for bumblebees and their interactions with plants,” said Geib. “Either to look how they have changed or to establish a base line for comparison in future studies in another 40 or 50 years.”
Undocumented immigrants further discouraged from attending Missouri colleges

Some say recent legislation is a matter of discrimination, not lack of funding.

By Tessa Weinberg
Sept. 30, 2015

It’s always a long story when 21-year-old Yara Puente has to face an interviewer for a potential job and explain that she’s not in school right now. This fall is the first time Puente has had to take a semester off from community college after attending part-time for the past three years.

As an undocumented immigrant, Puente came to the U.S. from Mexico when she was 3 years old. As a teenager at Van Horn High School in Independence, Puente worked to be eligible for the A+ Scholarship Program by completing the 50 hours of community service necessary in her freshman year.

However, her hard worked proved for naught when Puente learned she wouldn’t be able to use the A+ Scholarship at a Missouri community college, since they don’t accept students who don’t have social security numbers. As a result, Puente attended Johnson County Community College in Kansas part-time while holding two jobs, rather than attending school in Missouri.

After receiving her DACA status in the spring of 2014, Puente returned to Missouri and began school part time at Metropolitan Community College - Penn Valley. She could only afford to take six to nine credit hours at a time along with working. Now Puente has had to take her first semester off this fall due to recently passed Missouri legislation.

Just this summer House Bill 3 was passed, which charges Missouri resident students an international tuition rate based on their immigration status.
Additionally, on Sept. 16, Senate overrode the first bill in their veto session, Senate Bill 224. Sponsored by Sen. Gary Romine, R-Farmington, the bill requires students to be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. in order to receive financial aid through the A+ Program to cover the cost of tuition for community college or a vocational/technical school.

The A+ Scholarship Program provides scholarships for students who attended one of the 533 approved high schools and meet certain eligibility requirements that include maintaining a 2.5 GPA, completing 50 hours of community service and having at least 95 percent attendance throughout high school. Previously, the state statute allowed students who were “lawfully present,” to receive scholarship funds. This included Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals per the Obama administration’s executive order in 2012.

Puente is just one of many students affected by the Missouri General Assembly’s recent override of Gov. Jay Nixon’s veto of [Senate Bill 224](http://www.senate.mo.gov/15info/pdf-bill/tat/SB224.pdf). In a letter to the Missouri secretary of the state, Nixon rebuked SB 224, defending the students it would negatively affect.

“They came to the U.S. through no choice or action of their own,” Nixon wrote. “They arrived as young dependents, in the controlling embrace of an adult who entered the U.S. illegally. They bear no responsibility for this action.”

Rep. Scott Fitzpatrick, R-Shell Knob, handled the bill in the Missouri House of Representatives and said he felt the bill was necessary because the A+ Scholarship Program was giving funds to students who are in the U.S. illegally in place of students who were U.S. citizens.

“It’s sending a message to people who come here illegally that we will reward you by providing your children with a free higher education, and I just don’t think that’s something that the state would be doing with the tax dollars that we have available,” Fitzpatrick said.

The program has only continued to grow in the past few years. Liz Coleman, spokeswoman for the Department of Higher Education, said in an email that the department predicts that about 14,000 students will receive the A+ Scholarship for the
2015-16 academic year. In the 2014-15 school year, approximately 13,300 students received the scholarship and 12,500 students received the scholarship for the 2013-14 school year Coleman said.

Fitzpatrick also said insufficient funds were part of the reason behind passing SB 224. By making DACA students eligible, there was not sufficient funding in the budget for the DHE to fully reimburse all the students currently in the scholarship program, Fitzpatrick said.

“(For) every student you add to it at that point, you’re spreading those dollars thinner and thinner,” Fitzpatrick said.

Vanessa Aragón, executive director of the statewide coalition Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates, said the Senate passing SB 224 is not a matter of needing money but solely a matter of discrimination.

“If the state has a revenue problem, it can’t solve it on the backs of immigrant students,” Aragón said. “Excluding non-citizen students from the A+ Scholarship Program isn’t going to put more money into the system.”

For the 2015-16 academic year, the A+ Scholarship program will be funded at $35.1 million.

Fitzpatrick said he would like to see more high schools included in the program, but Puente said she would like to see students like herself given equal opportunity first.

This is a trend Aragón said will become more common in the coming years.

“What’s going to happen, particularly if this tuition increase as a result of HB 3 continues, is that there will be students who never even consider going to school in Missouri even though they’re a Missouri high school graduate,” Aragón said. “They’re just automatically going to look out of state.”

With fewer DACA students attending Missouri community colleges, Aragón said diversity will also decrease as these schools garner a reputation for being less welcoming and accepting to students.
After receiving her DACA status in the spring of 2014, Puente returned to Missouri and began school part time at Metropolitan Community College - Penn Valley. She could only take six to nine credit hours at a time along with working. However, now Puente has had to take her first semester off this fall after her tuition increased this summer because of HB 3 and she learned she would not be able to use her scholarship funds after the passing of SB 224.

Puente said it was hard to hear from legislators that they were going to override something that could help her go to school.

“I kind of feel like they’d rather see me waitressing than getting an education and doing something better for my community or better for the economy,” Puente said. “I feel like it’s damaging a lot of opportunities that are out there, just because they want to give us more obstacles to prevent us from going to school.”

Tanya Broder, senior staff attorney for the National Immigration Law Center, said the benefits of offering access to college are clear. At least 20 states offer in-state tuition rates to students who meet certain criteria regardless of their immigration status, she said.

Citing a [study](http://media.scpr.org/documents/2012/04/24/Californias_Economic_Payoff_Full_Report.pdf) conducted in 2012 by the Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, Broder said that for every dollar the state invests in getting students into and through college, it receives a net return on investment of $4.50. The return for those who complete college is twice as high, $4.8, than for those who enter but fail to complete college — $2.40.

“Tuition equity policies have been demonstrated not only to increase potential earnings and economic contributions of these students, but to reduce high school dropout rates among broader groups of students, including citizens — creating a climate of hope for the students and their peers,” Broder said in an email.

Puente said she has already faced many obstacles after coming to the U.S. from Mexico when she was 3 years old. Despite this, she said she has always had a passion for learning and after just two years in an English Second Language program her teachers said she didn’t need it anymore and had adapted well. Often working two jobs,
at times as a waitress at Denny’s or a receptionist at a hotel, Puente still prioritizes her education and made an effort to work multiple internships over the years.

Unsure of when she will return to school in the future, Puente said this experience has helped her become closer to the community and made her rethink her major. Puente is also now considering working for a non-profit in the future and has a few words of advice for any students in her situation who are unsure if they can continue their education.

“Any student that is getting discouraged, I would just say to unite,” Puentes said. “We are stronger and more powerful in numbers than alone.”

Both Puente and Aragón will continue their efforts to work with legislators to try and repeal HB 3, as the budget of HB 3 must be renewed every fiscal year. HB 3, “appropriates money for the expenses, grants, refunds, and distributions of the Department of Higher Education,” according to the bill’s text. Although universities cannot be forced to adopt HB 3, many, including MU, are now charging Missouri resident students international tuition rates based on their immigration status.

“We’re not just talking about abstract numbers or possible statistics, we’re talking about real students who you’ve sat next to in high school who are trying to college,” Aragón said. “We’re talking about real students who have been enrolled in the University of Missouri system, who are dropping out or transferring out of state as a result of these policies.”

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**

Nowhere to grow: At 10-year mark, MU rec complex bursting at its seams

**LAUREN KELLIHER,** 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — **When the MU Student Recreation Complex opened in 2005, it was hard to imagine that the 293,000-square-foot, $50-million facility would one day be too small.**
Heralded by Sports Illustrated as the best college rec center, it was built to comfortably accommodate 26,000 members — thousands over the enrollment in August 2005. Director Diane Dahlmann never dreamed student numbers would reach 28,000, at which point the MU rec complex would become cramped.

On its tenth anniversary, the MU rec complex is accessible on any given day to 35,441 students, mainly because of an enrollment increase of 26.6 percent over the past decade.

After its grand opening, the MU rec complex had an average of 2,000 to 3,000 visitors a day. A decade later, the MU rec complex has 5,000 to 7,000 visitors daily. The heaviest users are MU seniors, making up 30.1 percent of the 87.7 percent of undergrads who frequent the complex, according to MizzouRec demographics.

Overcrowding is an issue the MU rec complex staff tries to work around. Waiting for a machine is nothing new for those that frequent the MU rec complex. Student numbers rose past the capacity of 28,000 much faster than the projected 15 to 20 years the MU rec complex's planners thought it would take.

The biggest demand for more cardio machines like treadmills, steppers and elliptical machines has forced the MU rec complex to change the Jungle Gym, clearing out the nutrition bar. The chairs overlooking the pool are gone, making space for more of the same. Dahlmann said the idea of expanding the crowded pump room by eliminating the climbing wall is still being discussed, but it has sparked some controversy among students.

That's just one option being considered, though Dahlmann wouldn't say what other ideas are being bounced around.

The MU rec complex's roots

The MU rec complex was forged by combining four separate buildings: the Rothwell Gymnasium, built in 1906, Brewer Fieldhouse, built in 1929, the original MU Student Recreation Center built in 1987 and a new addition for the Mizzou Aquatic Center built in 2005.
It all began in December 1997, when the university recruited Dahlmann to start the process of planning, designing and acquiring construction documents. In 2001, the students voted to put a $75-per-semester fee into effect as soon as the new complex was completed. The fee would continue for approximately 30 years to pay for the $50 million renovation.

When it opened in 2005, the MU rec complex had:

- a nutrition bar located in the Jungle Gym
- Red Hall Beverage Co.
- Tan Time tanning salon
- a martial arts studio
- a table tennis room
- a yoga test class
- cycling classes

The MU rec complex has changed some of its spaces since 2005 to satisfy fitness trends like high intensity interval training. Now the rec complex has:

- the fitness showcase, a structure in the middle of the Jungle Gym with cardio machines
- Zou Life spa services offering massages, facial therapy, waxing, bronzing and nail therapy
- Clark's Boxing Gym, where 15 kick-boxing classes are held per week in addition to open gym time
- Stalcup's Garage offering 20 fitness and bootcamp classes per week, plus open gym time
- up to seven yoga classes in a week
- Six Zumba classes per week
- open hours and 16 classes per week for cycling in the Tiger's Lair

Another big change for the complex was the move to the SEC. The aquatic center was originally built to accommodate the Big 12. The 50-meter, Olympic-size pool and diving well will be used for the SEC swimming and diving championships next semester. But there will be less room to accommodate the expected increase in the number of spectators and athletes.

MU's rec complex has nowhere to grow, though it has Stankowski Field, sand volleyball courts, the MU Rec Trail, a tennis complex, Hinkson Outdoor Complex and Epple Park to maximize the use of outdoor space.
But if MU's growth in enrollment starts to decline as projected, as the number of high school graduates in the Midwest begins to decline, the complex could end up being just the right size.