COLUMBIA, Mo. -- Graduate workers at the University of Missouri’s flagship campus in Columbia are moving closer to unionizing.

Organizers of a non-university-affiliated student group called the Forum on Graduate Rights have voted to affiliate the prospective union with the Missouri National Education Association and the National Education Association, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported.

The workers, whose union would be called the Coalition of Graduate Workers, have been demanding better pay, a long-term insurance solution and full tuition waivers for all graduate assistants.

Graduate students Connor Lewis and Eric Scott are leading a committee that has been gauging interest in the potential union since August. The group shared its plans to pursue unionization during a Wednesday forum.

Scott and Lewis said they were optimistic they could gather the roughly 2,000 signatures necessary to hold a vote this year, and have a contract in place by 2016. Lewis said similar conversations about graduate student worker benefits are happening at colleges and universities across the country.

"We're part of a bigger movement," he said. "We're at a pivotal moment within graduate education in this country."
The Forum on Graduate Rights formed after MU gave graduate assistants 24-hour notice they would no longer receive health-insurance subsidies because of an IRS interpretation of the Affordable Care Act. The university later rescinded that decision, but the process sparked a campuswide discussion about graduate student employee benefits.

Graduate students with assistantships conduct research for the university and teach undergraduate classes.

Backers of the prospective union have started recording videos of graduate students sharing their stories. The videos will be part of a campaign that will feature graduate students discussing the positive and negative aspects of working at MU.

Ronnie LaCombe, a graduate student and MU committee member of the Forum on Graduate Rights, said she would like to see the university focus on rebuilding trust with students.

"I don't trust the university anymore," LaCombe said. After receiving the health-insurance email in August "my total perspective of the university changed," she said.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

OCTOBER 5, 2015

Stem cell research re-emerges as campaign issue in Missouri

Missourians adopted a constitutional amendment in 2006 protecting any federally allowed stem cell research

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chris Koster left the Republican Party in 2007, partially over stem cell research

Four Republican Missouri gubernatorial hopefuls support banning public funding of embryonic stem cell research

BY JASON HANCOCK

jh Hancock@kcstar.com
JEFFERSON CITY - It’s been nearly a decade since stem cell research was a focus of Missouri politics.

The 2016 race to become Missouri’s next governor might change that.

In 2006, Missouri voters narrowly approved a constitutional amendment guaranteeing that any federally allowed stem cell research and therapy can occur in Missouri, including on human embryos.

At the time Chris Koster was a Republican state senator from Cass County, and he broke with his party to support the amendment. A year later he left the Republican Party completely, becoming a Democrat and citing GOP opposition to embryonic stem cell research as a prime reason for the switch.

Today he’s Missouri’s attorney general and the Democratic frontrunner to replace Gov. Jay Nixon when his term expires next year.

And he’s ready to rekindle the old fight with his former party.

Last week The Columbia Tribune’s Rudi Keller reported on the anti-abortion organization Missouri Right to Life’s recent declaration that it would renew the fight against embryonic stem cell research – specifically targeting public funding for the practice at state universities.

The group pointed to recent success working with GOP lawmakers to pressure the University of Missouri to cut ties with a Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia that recently started performing medical abortions.

“Let us finally write into statute a ban on tax dollars for research that kills human embryos,” Missouri Right to Life said in a post on its website.

Koster responded to the Tribune article with a statement decrying opponents of stem cell research and demanding his Republican gubernatorial rivals make their position on the issue public.

“Missourians deserve to know where government leaders, and would be government leaders, stand on this important issue,” he said.

Three of the GOP candidates — Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, former Missouri House Speaker Catherine Hanaway and businessman John Brunner — released separate
statements expressing support for a ban on public funding for embryonic stem cell research.

All three candidates also emphasized their support for other types of stem cell research that don’t involve human embryos.

A fourth candidate – former Navy SEAL Eric Greitens – released a statement declaring that Missouri should “promote life, protect innocent life and defend life.”

When pressed to clarify his position Friday, Greitens released a one-sentence addition to his original statement saying simply, “I am opposed to embryonic stem cell research.”

A fifth Republican candidate, state Sen. Bob Dixon of Springfield, has not made his position public.

It should be noted that even after voters approved the amendment to Missouri’s constitution protecting human embryonic stem cell research, opponents continued to press on. Lawmakers returned to the Capitol the following January with several Republicans pushing bills aimed at curbing certain procedures.

Additionally, opponents blocked $85 million in funding for a research facility at the University of Missouri-Columbia over the issue.

In 2007, the Stowers Institute for Medical Research suspended plans for a $300 million expansion in Kansas City, blaming a “persistent negative political climate” toward embryonic stem cell research in Missouri.
Demand for mental health services at MU increased over last year, curators are told

KASIA KOVACS, Oct 2, 2015

KANSAS CITY — In the past five weeks, demand for mental health services at MU has risen 35 percent compared to the fall semester last year, David Wallace, director of the MU Counseling Center, told the UM System Board of Curators on Friday.

Wallace did not have a definite explanation for this surge, but he attributes part of it to MU’s recent efforts on Title IX-related issues, such as the psychological consequences for survivors of rape and sexual assault.

“It’s anecdotal, but we’ve had several referrals from Title IX directly of people who have experienced sexual assaults within these last few weeks — they have come to us," Wallace said. "Anecdotally, that’s part of our number here."

Wallace's remarks were part of a Friday morning discussion on student mental health on the second day of the curators' meeting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. System President Tim Wolfe began with a moment of silence for Umpqua Community College in Oregon, where a shooter killed nine people and wounded several others Thursday.

Debra Robinson, vice chancellor for student affairs at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, attributed the growing trend of students seeking mental health aid to several reasons, including students’ lack of resiliency because of a dependency on their parents.

But Tracy Mulderig, a graduate student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and student representative for the Board of Curators, challenged the assumption that millennial students are suffering from mental health problems because of overprotective parents.
“Really, I think that the world we live in is just very different than it was 30 years ago,” Mulderig said. “There’s so much cyberbullying, there’s so many personal attacks that happen face-to-face sometimes, but also indirectly because there’s anonymity behind a screen … And our students are dealing with that.”

Mulderig also criticized long wait times at counseling centers.

“At Truman (State University), I used counseling services once. I waited a week, I went in, and they talked me out of dropping out,” Mulderig said. "I don’t know what would have happened if I had had to wait three weeks. And that’s an unfortunate reality."

“We have to do better,” she said. "We owe it to our students to do better.”

Earlier in the meeting, the curators had asked counseling center directors how many extra staff members each campus needed to meet demand. The Columbia campus center hopes to hire six staffers in the next five years, Wallace said.

MU students can call a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline for emergencies: (800) 395-2132.

Another effort to manage campus mental health is called RESPOND, an eight-hour course that trains faculty and staff on how to communicate with students or colleagues experiencing problems. Already in place at MU, it is scheduled to start on the other three campuses in early 2016.

Academic freedom

In Wolfe’s presentation to curators, he spoke about the university’s priority of academic freedom for faculty and students.

“Academic freedom is going to be talked about more and more in the upcoming legislative sessions, both here locally and on a national basis,” Wolfe said. “We have to continue to protect academic freedom at all costs.”
At a news conference later, Wolfe said the UM System would be willing to suffer financial penalties for the sake of academic freedom, even in an instance in which the state legislature disapproved of the university’s activities.

“If there is a situation where it’s the right thing to do ethically, morally, it supports academic freedom, but there’s consequences to it, financial consequences to it, so be it,” he said.

The conflict between academic freedom and pressure from the state legislature has been a focal point of local attention. On Tuesday, protesters on the Columbia campus condemned MU’s recent decision to cancel contracts between Planned Parenthood and the university’s medical and nursing schools.

The contracts were ended after the legislature’s Senate Interim Committee on the Sanctity of Life began to investigate the 26-year relationship between MU and Planned Parenthood.

Medical students had not worked in the Planned Parenthood clinic in Columbia since 2010, according to previous Missourian reporting.

MU’s Sinclair School of Nursing had one student who did a rotation at Planned Parenthood in Independence, Missouri, in 2014, said Mary Jenkins, University of Missouri Health System spokeswoman, in an email Friday. Another MU nursing student did a rotation at Planned Parenthood in Overland Park, Kansas, in 2015, Jenkins wrote. She also said an MU student did a rotation at the Columbia Planned Parenthood in 2009.

Wolfe was asked whether canceling the Planned Parenthood contracts was a sacrifice to academic freedom.

“I don't know the particular contract, but there were some that weren't being used, that had been sunsetted,” he responded. "There was one that's continued to be used. As we looked at that contract, or any other contract in the future, with Planned Parenthood or any other entity, we need to make sure that we’re within state statute. ... But we also need to make sure that we’re thinking about academic freedom and thinking about what we want to do for society.”
One contract between Planned Parenthood and MU’s School of Social Work is still open.

**Campus safety**

Also during the news conference, Wolfe and board chairman Donald Cupps discussed student safety in light of the Umpqua Community College shootings.

The UM System’s focus is on preventing dangerous situations rather than simply reacting to them, Wolfe said. The university also aims to educate students and faculty on safety procedures.

The four-campus system practices “desktop exercises,” or simulations of crises to test the response mechanisms currently in place at campuses. The system also recently updated its emergency response manuals for all four campuses, Wolfe said.

“We are doing everything that we can to ask the question, ‘Are we prepared to respond to a crisis?’ If we can’t answer that question confidently, then … we try to identify what’s missing,” Wolfe said.

**Strategic plan update**

The UM System is halfway through its five-year strategic plan. Wolfe told the curators that the system is on its way to meeting the plan’s goals of recruiting and retaining high-performing students. He offered the following figures:

- System enrollment is at an all-time enrollment high of 77,375.
- System-wide, 18,109 students graduated this year, which is nearly a 6 percent increase over the past 2 1/2 years.
- Student retention rate at MU has risen from its 83 percent baseline in 2013 to 87 percent now.
- ACT scores for entering MU students rose from its 25 baseline in 2013 to 26 this year.

The curators ended their day in a closed session, which is standard at their regular meetings. UM System spokesman John Fougere said that no announcement was expected after the session.
MU curators, counselors discuss mental health

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, October 3, 2015 at 12:00 am

University of Missouri curators and counseling staff from each of the system’s four campuses held a moment of silence Friday to honor the 10 people killed in a mass shooting Thursday in Oregon on the Umpqua Community College campus.

The somber moment preceded a discussion about student mental health during a panel at the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus as part of the curator’s two-day meeting. The panel mentioned some national tragedies that involved persons with mental illness, including the massacre at Columbine High School in 1999.

The UM system’s flagship campus in Columbia will train the system’s other three campuses on a mental health training program it developed and has been using during the last year, said David Wallace, clinical director of MU’s counseling center. The eight-hour interactive training teaches participants how to talk to students about issues, assess suicide risk and connect students with mental health services if needed.

“We developed our own program — something different and something totally unique,” Wallace said. “Most of all, we’ve had wonderful success with faculty and staff — the people who actually have their hands on students’ lives and can get them the help they need.”

Christopher Sullivan, clinical director for counseling services at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, said the campus has a diverse student body with a lot of nontraditional students. Those students have complex mental health concerns, Sullivan said, including financial concerns and traumatic experiences.

“Students have a lot of things going on. They have work, family, school — they have too many things going on in their life and need to balance those things,” Sullivan said.

He added that some students are homeless and have concerns about meeting basic needs.

Patti Fleck, director of counseling, disability support and student wellness at Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, said the residential campus has a predominantly male
student body. A challenge for the campus, she said, has been recruiting mental health professionals to the rural area.

Arnold Abels, director of counseling and disability services at UMKC, said that, like UMSL, UMKC’s student body is diverse and has many nontraditional students with complex concerns. He said many students who approach the counseling office have experienced significant trauma in their lives and struggle with food insecurity and that some struggle with homelessness.

Wallace said MU has experienced a 35 percent increase in the demand for counseling services during the first five weeks of the semester compared to this time last fall. Wallace said he does not know what has contributed to the increase.

Students seeking counseling can choose to schedule a future appointment or can request a crisis appointment. Crisis appointments, he said, are available via phone even after the counseling office is closed for the day.

MU copyrighted its training program and is making it available to all UM campuses at no charge. Wallace said he is hoping other Missouri colleges and universities also will have an interest in using the program. Regarding potential fees charged to other higher education institutions, the board said to make sure fees cover any costs and added that the program’s aim should not be to make a profit.

The counseling representatives all said more staff was needed to improve their services to students. UM President Tim Wolfe told the counseling representatives to not be discouraged if they are told their campus does not have enough funds to provide more resources.

“It’s not a matter of” campus leadership not believing “it’s a priority. It’s a resource-strained environment we live in,” Wolfe said. “From a mental health standpoint, if you all collaborate ... and come forward with proposals that will lift all boats — all four campuses boats, plus the hospital — we would be very interested from a system standpoint in doing that.”

Also during Friday’s board meeting, Wolfe updated the board on the system’s strategic plan. Wolfe noted an increase in state funding in capital expenditures and the Show Me Value Tour’s efforts to get middle school students thinking about college.
MU group honors faculty, alumni

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

Sunday, October 4, 2015 at 12:00 am

The University of Missouri Alumni Association celebrated 12 faculty and alumni at its annual Faculty-Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday in the Reynolds Alumni Center. The alumni association presented the Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Faculty Award and 10 Faculty-Alumni Awards.

José Gutiérrez received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor the association grants to alumni, according to a news release. Gutiérrez earned a bachelor’s degree from the MU business school in 1984.

When he came to MU in 1982 from Spain, he knew English but not well, the news release said. Gutiérrez since has served in multiple business leadership roles. He currently is the senior executive vice president of executive operations at AT&T Services Inc.

Gutiérrez also has stayed connected to MU and has held multiple leadership positions at the university. He is the vice chairman of the Thompson Foundation for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, tri-chair of the MU fundraising campaign Mizzou: Our Time to Lead, a member of the Strategic Development Board for MU’s business school and a member of the Missouri 100 Advisory Board.

Barbara Reys received the Distinguished Faculty Award. Reys is a curators’ professor and Lois Knowles Faculty Fellow. The award recognizes faculty who add to MU’s excellence through teaching, research and service, a press release stated.

Reys has worked at MU for more than 30 years. During that time, she directed multiple National Science Foundation grants and her research produced seven books for practicing teachers. She wrote and edited the book “The Intended Mathematics Curriculum as Represented in State-Level Curriculum Standards: Consensus or Confusion?” in 2006. That book, according to the news release, influenced Common Core math standards in Missouri.

In 2004, Reys received the alumni association’s Faculty-Alumni Award. The award recognizes faculty and alumni achievements. Assistant, associate and full professors are eligible to receive the award, which selects faculty for their teaching, research and relationship with students.
The MU Alumni Association awarded 10 faculty and alumni with the Faculty-Alumni Award Friday: James Birchler, curators’ professor of biological sciences; Jacqueline Kay McEntire Clark, alumna and director of communications and public affairs for Ash Grove Cement Co.; Don Downing, alumnus and an attorney and partner at Gray, Ritter & Graham PC; Deborah Hanuscin, associate professor of science education and physics; Gary Link, alumnus and special assistant to the MU director of athletics; Stephen Owens, alumnus and counsel to the University of Missouri System; Howard Richards Jr., alumnus and senior manager of external relations in the College of Arts and Science; Marjorie Sable, professor and director in the School of Social Work; Jolene Marra Schulz, alumna and educator and co-owner of Tiger Trolley Tours; and Nancy West, English professor.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Mizzou Alumni Association honors 12 alumni, faculty

MARLEE ELLISON, Oct 2, 2015

COLUMBIA — The Mizzou Alumni Association recognized 12 faculty and alumni Friday at MU’s Reynolds Alumni Center.

The 48th annual Faculty-Alumni Awards Ceremony honored those who have advanced the arts, sciences and humanities during their careers.

The Distinguished Service Award went to José Gutiérrez, a graduate of the MU Trulaske College of Business. Gutiérrez came to the United States from Madrid with limited English proficiency. He now works at AT&T as senior executive vice president of executive operations and has held other executive positions at the telecommunications company.

Gutiérrez also belongs to multiple organizations at MU, including the Strategic Development Board at the Trulaske College of Business and the Missouri 100 Advisory Board. He also serves as vice chairman at the Thompson Foundation for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

MU Curators' Professor Barbara Reys was awarded the Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty Award for her contributions to service, research and teaching.
Reys has worked for MU for more than 30 years and helped to establish the university as a center for mathematics research, directing grants from the National Science Foundation.

Reys also takes part in MU organizations, including the Jefferson Club and MU Legacy Society. She is a founder and diplomat at MU’s Grace Bibb Society.

The Alumni Association recognized four additional faculty members:

- **James Birchler**, curators' professor of biological sciences;
- **Deborah Hanuscin**, associate professor of science education and physics;
- **Marjorie Sable**, professor and director in the MU School of Social Work;
- **Nancy West**, professor of English.

Six alumni were recognized:

- **Jacqueline Kay McEntire Clark**, director of communications and public affairs for Ash Grove Cement Co.;
- **Don Downing**, attorney and partner at Gray, Ritter & Graham, P.C.;
- **Gary Link**, special assistant to the MU athletics director;
- **Stephen Owens**, general counsel, University of Missouri System;
- **Howard Richards Jr.**, senior manager of external relations in the College of Arts and Science;
- **Jolene Marra Schulz**, educator and co-owner of Tiger Trolley Tours.
MU Adult Day Connection receives $250,000 estate gift

SAMANTHA LUCAS, Oct 2, 2015

COLUMBIA — MU Adult Day Connection has received a $250,000 estate commitment from an anonymous local donor.

According to Director Jerry Kiesling, the donor is a well-known member of the community who does not wish to disclose the reasons for the gift.

The news was announced to staff and program participants at a breakfast celebration Wednesday, he said.

MU Adult Day Connection is a self-supported adult health care program that currently serves 44 adults with disabilities. Staff includes nurses, social workers, occupational therapists and other specialists with the help of about 35 MU student volunteers each semester.

A news release from the MU School of Health Professions, where the program is housed, noted that the gift was intended to recognize the work done at the center.

Kiesling said the program will not receive the gift until the donor dies, but it will benefit from the income.

Although plans have not solidified, he said the money could be used to improve programs, replace equipment and give raises to staff.
Curators vote to authorize 'accelerator fund' investment

By Megan Favignano

Friday, October 2, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri’s flagship campus will invest in an accelerator fund through the Missouri Innovation Center that would help startups make it through what an official called the “valley of death.”

Hank Foley, vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development for the UM System, described the “valley of death” as the time after a business is established before it starts attracting venture capital.

“It helps get the company through that valley of death and to the other side,” Foley said. “It’s not just a fund, it’s an accelerator.”

The UM Board of Curators approved a change to investment policy at its regular meeting Thursday that allows campuses to invest in venture capital efforts, like an accelerator fund. Foley explained the Missouri Innovation Center’s accelerator fund to the board Thursday.

Foley said startups often make the decision to move to the coasts with the hope of finding more investors. The accelerator fund, he said, will help keep startups in Missouri. The fund at the Missouri Innovation Center is open to everyone. Foley said the fund provides capital and expertise to help entrepreneurs.

To tap accelerator fund resources, startups need to be in Mid-Missouri, Foley said, because of a mentoring component. Entrepreneurs in the program would receive mentoring from established local business owners and the Missouri Innovation Center.

UM President Tim Wolfe said the accelerator fund’s board would still consider a company based in another area of the state as long as the board felt the company could receive adequate mentoring without being located in Mid-Missouri.

However, “the mentoring is easier with close proximity,” Wolfe said.
Bill Turpin, president and CEO of the Missouri Innovation Center, has been gathering support from community investors. MU, not the UM System, will make the initial investment in the accelerator fund.

Foley told the board other university systems have invested in accelerator funds, specifically mentioning the University of California.

With the fund, Foley said UM will not be making direct investments in companies. The policy change Thursday included a $5 million cap on investment in venture capital, like the accelerator fund.

Also Thursday, the board approved a project to renovate Stewart Hall on the MU campus. The total project budget is $18 million. The state is providing $12,530,236 of the cost. Stewart Hall was originally constructed in 1912 and primarily houses class laboratories and workspace for the Biological Sciences and Geography Department. It also has a 150-seat auditorium used by departments campuswide.

More than 8,000 students use the building each year. The renovations will develop spaces with flexibility in mind to better prepare for future changes in education needs.

The hall currently has 204 class lab seats and will increase that by between 10 and 20 percent with the renovations.

The building’s mechanical systems, electrical system and fire alarm systems will be replaced.

The board on Friday approved a contract for genotyping services at MU and heard reports from the University of Missouri-Kansas City on its strategic plan and from Wolfe on the system’s strategic plan.

MU program encourages entrepreneurial spirit among students

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, October 3, 2015 at 12:00 am

There are two new student-owned and-operated businesses in the University of Missouri’s Student Center this year.
A university program that helps create a low-risk environment for students to explore their entrepreneurial ideas this year selected two businesses: Threadbare and Stuff in a Box. Threadbare is a thrift store that sells gender-neutral clothing for a reduced price. Stuff in a Box allows family and friends to send care packages to students with the click of a button.

Kyle Gunby, MU student and co-owner of Threadbare, said the program gives students a unique opportunity.

“People do a lot of things on college campuses for the sake of affiliation, for building a resume and for making their LinkedIn look really sparkly,” Gunby said. “Rarely do you get to take ownership for an idea and not have somebody else holding your hand while you do it.”

Gunby said Threadbare truly is a student-owned business, meaning its success or failure rests solely on the shoulders of the staff.

“There is no buffer,” he said. “If we run out of money, the store closes.”

MU’s Memorial Student Unions Entrepreneurial Program started in 2010. It has since hosted nine businesses, including the two this year, said MU spokeswoman Michelle Froese.

Froese said the program allows students to practice what they learn in class.

“We want to have this safe incubator environment,” Froese said.

**SHifting Into Neutral**

The beauty of the program is that students don’t have to use their own money to purchase their initial inventory. U.S. Bank partners with MU to provide $2,000 in seed money every year for the student businesses.

“It’s a really great way to instigate student ideas and ideation as it pertains to entrepreneurial businesses on campus,” Gunby said.

Threadbare opened Aug. 26 and quickly began to make a profit, Gunby said. The business’ owners hoped to recoup their initial investment within two or three weeks; they reached that goal in only two days, bringing in about $800.

Student owners of businesses sponsored by the program get to keep all profits at the end of the year.

“It’s a nice little reward for the time we spent in this space,” Gunby said.

Gunby said he and Threadbare co-owner Gabriel Riekhof had considered submitting a business proposal a year ago. Last spring, they added two other members — Allison Fitts and Zach Bine — to their team and submitted the business proposal.
“This is a very rare opportunity,” he said. “How many people get to take a chance at not only opening a business, but one that has a social aspect as well in such a risk-free environment?”

After the group decided to open a thrift clothing store, Gunby said they hoped to make a statement with the business. After much debate, they chose gender neutrality as their cause.

Gunby said retailers have started to shift their approach on gender in terms of what they sell and how they display their merchandise. Threadbare’s clothes hang alongside similar items rather than being paired together to create an outfit geared toward one gender, he said.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

Jason Peiser, owner of Stuff in a Box, said he was inspired by the number of parents who send care packages to their children on campus. Stuff in a Box hopes to make the process simpler for people who want to send items to MU students.

At stuffinaboxmu.com, customers can order care packages accompanied by personal notes. The packages can either be shipped directly to students or picked up at the MU Student Center.

Peiser said students, especially freshmen, often feel homesick. By making it easier for parents to send care packages, Peiser said Stuff in a Box hopes to ease the transition to college.

“Our goal is to make that distance” from home “feel shorter,” Peiser said.

Students interested in participating in the program submit a business plan, and MU selects one new business each year. This year, Froese said, the university received two business plans it was interested in funding.

“They both seemed like really intriguing ideas,” Froese said.

The program selected two businesses, but only had space for one in the student center. Program officials opted to convert a second space in the student center for the additional student business. Stuff in a Box mainly needed office and inventory space because it focuses on online orders. It is housed in a room down the hall from the designated entrepreneurial program space.

Student businesses selected each year receive a space in the MU Student Center free of rent and utility fees. The businesses are located in the hallway of the student center near the building’s main activity hub. Froese said the student center has 17,000 to 18,000 visitors each day, making it a high-traffic area for businesses.

“It’s a great opportunity for a student business to be seen,” Froese said.

Additionally, the university offers a fresh coat of paint for the space to the student business owners.
Threadbare chose chalkboard paint for its walls and invited students to write in chalk on the walls before the store opened in August. Students wrote statements about gender identity and shared positive messages.

**OPENING DAY**

Gunby said seeing people get excited about Threadbare when it opened was an “inexplicable moment.” He said he felt like he was becoming the person he always had wanted to be.

“I wore a smile on my face the entire day, and I walked taller,” Gunby said.

Aside from the experience Gunby is gaining, he said Threadbare’s focus on gender neutrality and affordability has been rewarding.

“Every time I tweet something ... I know that it’s reaching a set of ears that, maybe for the first time, is feeling as though their body is being represented in clothing and in retail,” Gunby said. “Even on a small scale, it’s still being represented.”

Gunby said it was a challenge to ready Threadbare for launch because all four owners were in different cities during the summer. Gunby was in Columbia working with a bank to secure startup funds, Riekhof and Bine worked on operating agreements and licensing, and Fitts started purchasing inventory near Chicago.

A group of five students similarly worked all summer to prepare Stuff in a Box to open Sept. 1, Peiser said.

Stuff in a Box started with two care package options. Peiser said the business owners plan to add a custom care package to their website in the near future. The custom option will let parents and friends select each item they want to include in their care package.

They will also be able to include a personal note to the care package recipient.

“We like to make it personable,” Peiser said.

Stuff in a Box currently gets about two to three orders each week. Peiser hopes that adding the customization option will boost sales.

“We’re still starting off,” Peiser said.

**A LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

Threadbare, Gunby said, has some plans for the year that include adding a clothing-buyback program. On Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m., the store buys items from students to add to its inventory. Gunby said Threadbare also wants to collaborate with local thrift stores to bring several of the businesses to campus for a thrift-fair during the holiday season.
Owners of both student businesses have interns who help staff the stores, market the businesses and handle social media and other business needs. Those interns, Gunby said, are students who are interested in the business’ concept and want to learn how the space works. Some interns, he said, might be interested in running the space themselves in the future.

The program is open to all MU students. Applications for business proposals are available online at unions.missouri.edu.

The program gives students a hands-on experience, Froese said. They create a business plan, stock their inventory and handle their own marketing. Skills students learn in the process are helpful in all fields, Froese said.

Student businesses in the program also are required to have a faculty or staff adviser.

“It’s a great opportunity for them to learn about what works and what doesn’t,” Froese said.

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Oregon shootings promote safety at Mizzou


Some Mizzou students are taking extra precautions after seeing reports of the tragic shootings in Oregon.

**Members of the University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department told KRCG no campus is immune to a shooting situation.** That's why they are encouraging people on their campus to prepare for the worst. MUPD offers a safety course called a Citizens Response to Active Threats. The course prepares you for several situations involving active shooters at school, at work or any public area.

MUPD Major Brian Weimer said, "It's critically important with these types of things to make sure that you have your own emergency plan in place. Start looking when you sit down in a classroom or an office building. Know the exits. Know how to get out of there. Know that if you
hear gunshots down the hall and there is no way to get out, find a way to barricade yourself into the office."

Some Mizzou students told KRCG the Oregon shootings have them thinking more about the possibility of a similar tragedy happening on their campus.

MU Police Department administrators said several law enforcement agencies and other organizations in Mid-Missouri offer similar active shooter training courses. They suggest you call your local police department for more information.

Mid-Missouri schools and colleges also have counseling centers to help students deal with reactions to tragedies like the one in Oregon.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

New MU radar keeps eye on weather in the Columbia area

BRAD BERGNER, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — MU’s new Doppler radar at South Farm has the potential to improve coverage in the Columbia area by filling in a gap from the more powerful Doppler radars operated by the National Weather Service.

When the Weather Service dismantled its outdated radar at Columbia Regional Airport in the mid 1990s, radar coverage for Columbia shifted to state-of-the-art radars in St. Louis and Kansas City.

The Weather Service radar in St. Louis, however, can't see the atmosphere in Columbia below 8,000 feet because of the curvature of the Earth. The South Farm radar will help fill that gap.

"Doppler radar sends out a pulse of electromagnetic energy into the atmosphere, and then listens for the "echo" when the energy bounces off targets," Jonathan Carney, a meteorologist for the Weather Service in St. Louis, said. "While the pulse travels in a straight line, the Earth curves away from it, which causes the pulse to gain altitude as it moves away."
By the time the radar pulse from St. Louis reaches Columbia, Carney said, it is about 8,000 feet above the ground, and when the pulse from the Weather Service radar at Kansas City arrives, it is 10,000 feet above ground.

Neil Fox, MU associate professor of atmospheric science, said severe weather can usually be seen above 8,000 feet, but the new radar could help distinguish between tornadic and non-tornadic storms closer to the ground. Fox also said that snow tends to occur below that level and can be seen with the South Farm Doppler.

The $600,000 radar at South Farm, financed with a National Science Foundation grant, is primarily for research purposes, Fox said, but the data will be provided to the Weather Service in St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield to supplement coverage.

The new radar, activated on July 3, is also dual polarized, a technology which allows for a more accurate representation of the shape of particles in the air. This feature allows the Doppler to tell the difference between weather such as snow, hail and rain, Fox said. Before the dual polarized radar, "you could have a guess," Fox said. The new radar "gives us a much better idea."

Fox said that while the South Farm radar isn't as powerful as Dopplers operated by the Weather Service, the new radar allows for a clearer representation of what is happening closer to the ground and eliminates some of the uncertainty due to the coverage provided by the Weather Service's radars.

James Kramper, warning coordination meteorologist for the Weather Service in St. Louis, said the value of the new Doppler to his office remains uncertain and won't become clear until forecasters have access the data.

"The radar is for a research grant. It has nothing to do with warning and forecasting." Kramper said. "That said, if we are allowed access to the data, we will certainly look at it. If it can supplement what we already have, great. We simply don't know yet."
MU professor redefines walk-in hours with 'walking hours'

MADELYNE MAAG, Oct 2, 2015

COLUMBIA — With her hair pulled back, blue jeans on and tennis shoes tied, Myoung Lee was ready for a walk on Friday morning, the start of a crisp fall day. Lee was accompanied by more than 60 of her economics students.

Lee beamed as she strolled down the sidewalks of Francis Quadrangle, students hustling along beside her. With papers in hand listing their names and contact information, students rotated in and out of the front of the group to meet and talk with their professor.

Since 2004, Lee has used her "walking hours" to get to know and help out her students. Like many MU professors, Lee teaches large lecture classes that sometimes approach 500 students.

Lee — who in 2004 was the director of undergraduate economics — thought it would be impossible to meet every single student. She brainstormed ways to meet everyone.

"I was thinking about what would be a good way to meet students and also benefit them," Lee said. "So years ago, I was walking one day and realized 'What about walking hours?' So when I started doing that, students immediately caught on and loved it."

She and her students chat about everything from career advice to college sports. Lee tries to relate back topics back to her lectures, but she will talk about anything.

Trent Powell was one of several MU students Friday morning who spoke with Lee about his Principles of Macroeconomics 1015 class.
"I think this is a pretty good idea because you get to collaborate with other students and talk about econ or just other things in life that are interesting," Powell said. "She has asked me about economics and other things that were not school-related. I think it's a great experience so far."

Her walking hours times vary from week to week, allowing nearly all of her students an opportunity to participate. Despite this session falling on a Friday morning, about 60 students showed.

Lee wants not only to build personal bonds but also to give students career advice.

"I see so many students all the time graduate and then get a job that they hate and are stuck in their job 9 to 5," Lee said. "So that's why I try to tell them if you can identify your passion, whether its if you like sports or something else, you should try to combine it with a job or an internship."

At the end of her walk, Lee held a stack of papers and began combing through them — the sheets her students had handed in at the beginning. Learning students' names is important to Lee.

"It really helps me to remember who is who in the classroom," Lee said. "So by the end of each semester I usually can place the name and face of a few hundred students."

Lee is hoping for more students next week.
History against outsider candidates for Missouri governor

BY SUMMER BALLENTINE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 15 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY — Suburban St. Louis businessman John Brunner is expected to join the GOP race for governor this week with former Navy SEAL officer Eric Greitens, meaning there'll be two candidates who have never held public office. It's a trait that nationally has propelled political outsiders, such as presidential hopeful Donald Trump, but is historically unpopular in Missouri.

Voters' concern about how the U.S. government has been run is driving interest in candidates "who may have a fresh perspective completely outside the political system," says University of Missouri-St. Louis political scientist David Robertson.

Missouri's Republican candidates appear to be taking that cue even though it's been nearly a century since the last governor — Frederick Dozier Gardner, who ran a coffin business and was elected in 1916 — assumed office straight from the business world.

Greitens is touting himself as a "conservative outsider" with an otherwise lengthy resumé that includes, aside from the Navy SEALs, time as a Rhodes Scholar, a White House fellow and a leader of a nonprofit that helps returning military veterans. During a campaign stop Thursday at MU, Greitens criticized any expectation to be "politically correct." It echoed statements from Trump, who last month said he's tired of "this politically correct crap."
Brunner plans to formally enter the race Monday and notes on his campaign website that he's "not a career politician." That said, Brunner, who in 2009 retired as CEO of the hand sanitizer and personal care company Vi-Jon Inc., did have a failed bid for U.S. Senate in 2012 and has been a longtime GOP campaign donor.

"Missouri will not be reformed and restored to greatness from within by lifelong politicians or political opportunists," Brunner said in a September statement.

If either Greitens or Brunner makes it through what's shaping up to be a five-way Republican primary and wins election, it'd be the first governor in four decades to not have first served in another statewide office. The winner of the primary likely will face Democratic candidate and two-term Attorney General Chris Koster, who has said he plans to run.

Former Democratic Gov. Joseph P. Teasdale in 1976 broke a nearly 30-year streak of governors who had previously been elected to a statewide seat, and every governor since Teasdale has also had that experience. Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon, who is barred from running for re-election because of term limits, was previously elected to four terms as attorney general.

But even Teasdale previously served in public office as an U.S. attorney and Jackson County prosecutor, making Gardner the only governor to not serve in public office — not even as a city mayor or county clerk — or on a state committee or commission.

Political scientists say candidates trying to break into politics, especially high-level positions, face challenges.

Campaigning is taxing and requires constant restraint when speaking to reporters, and new candidates sometimes struggle to flesh out policy ideas, MU political scientist Marvin Overby said.

While other candidates might have already been vetted and weathered blowback from past transgressions that came to light, Robertson said, that could end a less experienced politician's campaign.
"These things tend to shake out as the inexperience and novelty of candidates like Trump wear off, and it tends to be people with experience who know how to use that experience to win even in circumstances that are unprecedented," Robertson said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Local petition seeks to decriminalize growing up to six marijuana plants

ANADIL IFTEKHAR, Oct 4, 2015

COLUMBIA — Initiative petitions have begun circulating that would revive a proposal for the decriminalization of growing up to six marijuana plants in Columbia.

The petition would limit cultivation to a person's home in locked indoor areas that are inaccessible to children. It would make cultivation a municipal offense with a fine of $250 or community service or counseling. The petition also states that medical marijuana may be obtained, possessed and cultivated by seriously ill patients.

Under the proposal, cultivation and/or possession of up to six or fewer plants would not result in arrest, loss of driver's license, detention, incarceration or require the posting of a bond. Punishment would be limited to a city summons and a fine of up to $250. In 2004, 62 percent of Columbia voters approved an ordinance that made possession of up to 35 grams of marijuana a municipal offense with a fine of no more than $250.

Under state law, growing marijuana is a felony punishable by five to 15 years in prison.

The Mid-Missouri chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, MU Students for Sensible Drug Policy and MU NORML are circulating the petitions.
The petition for decriminalizing the growing of up to six plants in Columbia requires the signatures of 2,567 registered voters, Missouri NORML coordinator Dan Viets, a Columbia lawyer, said. He hopes to submit the local petition next summer.

The Columbia City Council would have to either adopt the change or put it to a public vote.

In 2014, a similar change in city law was proposed by Sixth Ward Councilwoman Barbara Hoppe. Her original proposal included cultivation of up to six plants, but she amended it to two in hopes of reaching a compromise. The council rejected the two-plant proposal on a 4 to 3 vote.

Benton Berigan, president of MU NORML, said six plants is the standard model for states that have legalized cultivation.

"Since there is no other way for people to obtain cannabis without acquiring it through the black market, a logical expansion of our local ordinances would be to allow individuals the ability to cultivate their own cannabis, in the privacy of their home," Berigan said. "Not only to reduce their exposure to black market and making acquaintances with drug dealers, but to avoid the harsh penalties associated with acquiring cannabis through personal cultivation."

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MIZZOU HOMECOMING 2015

The many faces of Truman, the mascot, Missouri fans have come to love

NIKI KOTTMANN, 1 hr ago

COLUMBIA — From the battlefields of the Civil War to the 2015 Homecoming game in Memorial Stadium, a tiger has represented Missouri for at least 125 years.
Today, most Missouri fans know him as Truman, but the tail-whipping mascot has had a number of faces and names over the years.

According to MU archives, the Missouri football team got its name from members of a militia formed to protect Columbia during the Civil War. They were called “Tigers.”

The earliest known appearance of today’s Truman was by a student mascot who belonged to the Tiger Claws pep squad in the 1940s.

The first costume was made of yellow cloth with a papier-mâché head. Multiple variations evolved, from the smiling, charismatic tiger with a drooping tongue to the ferocious version that seemed hungry for human flesh.

Until the 1980s, there were two mascots: the apron-wearing female tiger referred to as “Lil Tiger” and the tall male called “Big Tiger.” They became one unisex tiger in 1984.

The new genderless mascot went nameless until the late 1980s when, according to previous Missourian reporting, a contest was held to officially name the Bengal tiger that had become the school symbol.

Thus Truman — named after Missouri native and U.S. President Harry S. Truman — was born.

Jackie Abeln, mother of current starting left guard Alec Abeln, was one of four students inside the Truman uniform from spring 1984 to spring 1985.

She was the first woman Truman after the switch to the unisex costume, and she said she witnessed much of the mascot’s transformation during her years at MU.

“People would say, ‘Wow, he was scary looking back then,’” she said.

“I think he looks much more friendly today.”
FACT CHECK: 'Fancy dinners' claim against Kander lacks evidence

RACHEL BROOKS, Oct 2, 2015

The National Republican Senatorial Committee is sponsoring an ad campaign featuring "The Pandering Panda," a portrayal of Jason Kander, U.S. Senate candidate and current Missouri secretary of state, as doing anything to win over lobbyists and big money in Washington. The ad campaign features a Twitter page, YouTube video, Snapchat series and website.

The YouTube ad, released Aug. 19, features a person dressed in a panda suit in various locations throughout Washington, including the White House and the Capitol. The panda character alternates between holding a burlap sack full of money and a hand-drawn sign that reads, "I love Obama." The ad also features clips of real pandas and high-pitched voices making claims about Kander "pandering" for money in Washington. To date, the video has less than 12,000 views on YouTube after nearly a month online.

Kander, a Democrat, is hoping to unseat Sen. Roy Blunt, a Republican who has held the office since 2011.

Among the charges in the NRSC ad is the claim that Kander is "attending fancy dinners all over the country."

We decided to sink our claws into this claim.

To the NRSC, a "fancy dinner" is a fundraiser. The NRSC provided us with a list of five fundraisers they say Kander attended between March 1 and May 31, 2015.
We could only independently verify fundraisers in Washington and Las Vegas based on public reports. Kander's campaign manager Abe Rakov would not provide additional information about the fundraisers.

So we can't tell you whether these fundraisers meet the definition of a "fancy dinner." The NRSC provided no specific evidence to support that part of the attack.

That aside, three or five out-of-state fundraisers didn't seem like a lot to us, so we wanted to check with political scientists who are experts on the American political system.

They didn't see much out of the ordinary in Kander's trips or actions based on the information provided by the NRSC.

Greg Vonnahme, an associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said that most congressional candidates raise most of their money from out of district and even candidates for state office will seek out-of-state sources for funding. He also notes the NRSC itself hosts fundraisers for candidates. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, raised more than half of his campaign funding from out of state in the 2014 election.

"Whether Kander attending three or five fundraisers during the period from March to May is excessive depends on one's feelings about the nature of campaign finance," Vonnahme said. "But is it unusual among Democrats, Republicans, House or Senate candidates? No."

**Peverill Squire, a professor of political science at MU, said this scenario of the NRSC attacking Kander for out-of-state fundraising is not uncommon.**

"Given the large sums of money now required to run for the U.S. Senate, it is common for candidates, particularly from smaller, less wealthy states, to attend out-of-state fundraisers," Squire said. "It is also common for the opposing party to attempt to make an issue of it. Challengers running against Senate incumbents face an uphill battle and need all the campaign money they can raise. Kander will raise as much as he can, and Blunt will likely respond by raising even larger sums."
As of the release of second-quarter campaign finances, Blunt raised $1.4 million in the second quarter as compared to Kander's $734,000. The Blunt campaign announced it has $3.8 million in cash on hand; the Kander campaign $1.1 million.

Blunt's money, as of July 30, is 49.8 percent PAC donations, totaling $1.2 million compared to Kander's $176,650, totaling 11.6 percent. In total itemized contributions, Blunt has 516 Missouri donors (after refunds) resulting in $581,647, compared to Kander's 835 Missouri donors for $679,816.

Blunt's campaign would not release any information regarding Blunt's travel or specific fundraisers.

*Our ruling*

The NRSC ad campaign "Kander Pander" involves a claim that Kander is "attending fancy dinners all over the country."

The NRSC provided a list of five fundraisers that it says constitute fancy dinners. That evidence is fairly thin.

It's also worth noting that Kander, who is currently Missouri's secretary of state, has raised plenty of money from Missourians — more than his opponent.

The NRSC claim has an element of truth but ignores critical facts that would give a different impression. **We rate it Mostly False.**
Calls to Oust DePaul Dean Implicated in Torture Report

October 5, 2015

Some Chicago-area faculty members and students continued their efforts to get DePaul University to investigate the past of its dean of the College of Science and Health, based on allegations that he -- as past president of the American Psychological Association -- may have supported torture of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. More than 600 people have signed a petition calling for the ouster of Gerald Koocher as dean, and late last week, a group of activists held an on-campus news conference expressing their continued concerns.

“They had one goal in mind, and that was to make sure that psychologists could continue in Guantanamo,” Frank Summers, a professor of clinical psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Northwestern University, said at the conference. M. Cherif Bassiouni, a professor emeritus of law at DePaul, urged the university to independently investigate whether Koocher violated its code of ethics, saying that “an academic institution like DePaul based on its Vincentian values cannot allow for a member of its faculty be involved in such situations.”

The allegations against Koocher come from a recent independent review by the APA, which found that the association seemed to want to please the Pentagon rather than stick up for ethical standards -- and that the activities of key leaders of the association buttressed the argument for using interrogation techniques many consider to be torture. The report mentions Koocher by name numerous times but does not conclude that he personally supported torture of detainees. It does, however, conclude that APA leaders had reason to suspect that it had occurred.

DePaul did not return requests for comment. In July, upon release of the report, Koocher and another past president of the APA wrote a lengthy public response denying participation in or support of torture. “We want to state clearly and unambiguously: we do not now and never have supported the use of cruel, degrading or inhumane treatment of prisoners or detainees,” they said. “We absolutely reject the notion that any ethical justification for torture exists, and confirm that any such behaviors never have been ethically acceptable. ... We never colluded with government agencies or the military to craft APA policies in order to justify their goals or the illegal ‘enhanced interrogation’ practices promoted by the administration of President George W. Bush.”
The APA apologized for its actions upon the report’s release, and pledged a series of reforms.

This isn’t the first time an academic psychologist’s career has been challenged by past involvement in detainee interrogation policies. Retired U.S. Army Col. Larry James’s 2013 bid to take a new administrative post at the University of Missouri at Columbia died after students protested his work at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and at Guantanamo. James, however, said he helped fix a broken system -- much of which is recounted in his book, *Fixing Hell: An Army Psychologist Confronts Abu Ghraib*.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Peak fall foliage is on the way

MARIAH BRANNAN, Oct 4, 2015

COLUMBIA — The leaves on ash trees have turned yellow and purple. Sycamores, elms and walnuts are showing yellows and browns. Sugar maples are tinted with shades of red and orange.

Hank Stelzer, a state forestry extension specialist for MU, said that ideal rainfall during the summer and spring coupled with current cool fall temperatures will trigger peak foliage by the second and third week of October.

"Some of the expected colors are sassafras and sumac — deep reds and purples — and they're happening now," Stelzer said. "We are beginning to see a little of the purple on tree vines."

Despite the color changes, some trees haven't made the transition. Instead, leaves have turned brown and fallen, Robbie Doerhoff, a forest health specialist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, said.

"A lot of the browning are fungal leaf diseases such as leaf spots and powdery mildew," Doerhoff said. "All of the wet weather brings fungus, and the leaves turn brown and fall."
The fungi are a result of excessive rain earlier in the early summer. While the rains were good for the growth of trees and usually account for more colorful autumns, sometimes it causes the leaves to turn brown and fall early.

The disease doesn’t harm trees; it just prevents them from changing to the bright colors that complement the fall season, Doerhoff said.

Doerhoff still expects an abundance of vibrant red maple and yellow hickory tree leaves. The deep purples of the dogwood and white oak trees are expected to appear a bit later.

“The best fall colors are achieved with a wet summer and spring followed by a dry autumn,” Doerhoff said. “Basically that is what has happened. It’s been a little drier, but we have the cool nights. As long as it doesn’t freeze we are in the running to have a really beautiful autumn color.”

Chlorophyll in trees is responsible for green leaves. But when days become shorter and temperatures drop at night, chlorophyll breaks down, and the green disappears, Stelzer said.

“This summer brought a good growing season; the trees produced a lot of food and sugar and those factors bring what we want: the green chlorophyll,” Stelzer said. “It takes the cool nights and warm sunny days for the colors to change.”