MU kicks off $1.3 billion fundraising campaign

By Megan Favignano

Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 10:45 pm

Confetti shot into the air at Mizzou Arena as University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin told donors MU is hoping to raise $1.3 billion by 2020 — the goal of a fundraising campaign that officially launched Thursday night.

The campaign, “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead,” is the largest fundraising effort in MU’s history. Tom Hiles, vice chancellor for university advancement, said the campaign will focus on three priorities: increasing signature centers and institutes, the endowment and campus renaissance, or building projects.

“This campaign will start a campus renaissance that transforms the campus skyline,” Hiles said.

MU hosted a dinner for donors at Mizzou Arena on Thursday, at which donors who contributed $1 million or more this year were recognized.

MU officials say the $1.3 billion fundraising effort will advance the university’s educational and research goals — aiding in MU’s efforts to raise its status in the Association of American Universities (AAU). The AAU, a prestigious group of 60 universities, ranks universities on several factors and emphasizes research.

Campaign leaders, Hiles said, see “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” leading to five to 10 new centers or institutes with endowments of $10 million or more.

The Kinder Foundation helped MU kick off its campaign with an event Thursday morning heralding a more than $25 million gift to create the Kinder Institute for Constitutional Democracy on campus.

The foundation gave MU $1.67 million in 2014 to establish the Kinder Forum. Thursday’s donation will help the center continue to provide programs and resources related to teaching about America’s founding and constitutional democracy.
Hiles said the campaign aims to increase the university’s endowment to more than $1 billion. Currently, MU’s endowment is $820 million and creates almost $37 million each year. That money helps support programs, scholarships and research at MU.

Endowed money is deposited into an investment account and the annual income generated is used for the purpose the donor specified.

Campaign leaders also will pursue public and private partnerships to pay for new academic buildings. The project list includes a new School of Music building, new Fine Arts building, a teaching winery and renovations to Lafferre Hall. Lafferre Hall renovations started this summer and were possible through matching state funding.

The campaign raised $650 million during its silent phase. Hiles said in a news release the university has been steadily building campaign momentum for several months. In 2009, the university wrapped up its first $1 billion campaign “For All We Call Mizzou.” Currently, MU is one of 23 universities in the country with $1.3 billion-plus campaigns, according to a news release.

Tri-Chairs Cathy Allen, José Gutiérrez and Richard Miller are directing “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead.” Thursday’s event included a performance by MU student J’den Cox, a junior psychology major and wrestler.

Cox played guitar and sang a song he composed about MU. The evening also included a surprise performance by MU alumna Sheryl Crow. Crow said she wanted to help MU get a new music building.

“It’s exactly the same as when I went to school here,” Crow told dinner attendees. “The music school … needs some love and care.”

Crow is performing on campus during homecoming weekend, with all proceeds going to the School of Music building project.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU plans to raise $1.3 billion in funding campaign

COLUMBIA — MU leaders announced a $1.3 billion goal for the university's comprehensive funding campaign Thursday evening, making it the largest fundraiser the university has ever seen.
The announcement was made at Mizzou Arena, where an estimated 500 guests in black tie attire were served dinner on the arena court.

Despite the arena’s transformation into a formal dining room, the kickoff event began with a chant familiar to the court. MU alumna and 1990 Miss America Debye Turner Bell, who emceed the event, sent off a strong “M-I-Z” into the microphone and the crowd, with as much enthusiasm, answered back, “Z-O-U.”

The evening included a recognition of individuals and institutes that made large donations to the university, a promotional video for the university and a few different performances.

MU wrestler and Hickman High School graduate J’den Cox sang a song about his experience at the university between donor recognitions. Cox is a junior psychology major and a two-time NCAA All-American.

Singer, songwriter and MU alumna Sheryl Crow also took the stage in a surprise appearance directly after the billion-dollar announcement, singing her 2005 hit, “The First Cut is the Deepest.” She also sang “Are You Strong Enough to be my Man?” and “Soak Up the Sun.”

**About the campaign**

The MU-wide campaign, called Mizzou: Our Time to Lead, has come out of a three-year silent phase with about $650 million, half of the campaign goal, already raised. The university received a $25 million endowment — the fourth-largest endowment ever given to MU — from the Kinder Foundation on Thursday morning, which propelled the university into a public phase that will last until the $1.3 billion goal is reached.

The campaign and the funds it raises will be focused on development in three areas: increasing MU’s endowment, which consistently has been below that of its peer institutions; developing five to 10 signature centers and institutes, which will have endowments of $10 million or more; and constructing new academic buildings, or what the campaign calls “campus renaissance.”

MU is one of 23 universities around the nation, public and private, to be engaged in a $1.3 billion-plus campaign. However, the university has not been campaigning for private funding as long as some of its peer institutions and, as a result, has a smaller endowment.

“They started before we did,” MU Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Tom Hiles said. “They started campaigns in the ’60s and ’70s, and we really didn’t start campaigns until the ’80s in building our development program. I would put up our donors’ success and their passion for Mizzou up against anyone in the country. The endowment number that we have is not reflective of their lack of interest or ability to support us. It has everything to do with the fact that we haven’t had a long track record of campaigns and major gifts at Mizzou.”

MU’s last campaign, For All We Call Mizzou, raised $1.04 billion by the time it came to a close in 2009. The original goal was $600 million.
With the decline of state support around the country, universities are having to rely more heavily on philanthropy and entrepreneurship than traditional funding models based on tuition and state support.

"If you want to do something other than keep the doors open, you really have to significantly invest and make that effort to build private support," Hiles said. He said he builds private support at MU through active conversation with donors about their philanthropic interests and MU priorities.

The primary purpose of fundraising and increasing the university's endowment is to bolster MU's status in the Association of American Universities and to increase education, research and student and faculty recruitment, according to a campaign news release.

Fundraising campaigns are "one of the things that makes American higher education unique and still a national leader," Hiles said. "I think you can tie an endowment and private support with excellence. If you look at the top 10 endowed institutions in the country, all of them would be correlated with excellence. There are other reasons, but I think that’s a leading component.”

The campaign is coming out of the silent phase and into a turbulent climate at MU. Race relations on campus have been a point of contention, and students have come forward with experiences of overt racism. Graduate student employee rights, sexual assault and discrimination on campus and the cancellation of Planned Parenthood contracts are among other hot-button issues.

While bringing the campaign forward into this environment is not ideal, Hiles said, he's not concerned about how it will affect the campaign.

"A campaign is not an event," he said. "While the kickoff is very important to us, the campaign will last for another five years in the public phase, so we’re going to keep our head down and keep focused on building great relationships and being successful in the campaign.”

**Increasing the school’s endowment**

MU’s current endowment is $820 million, and it generates about $37 million each year. The campaign goal is to increase the university’s endowment to “well beyond $1 billion,” according to the campaign news release. While that amount of money seems like a lot, it doesn’t hold a candle to the endowments of other comparable institutions.

An endowment is a private donation made by an individual or an institution to the university, usually toward a particular cause or program. The endowment then is secured in an investment account, and the annual income generated from the account by the donation will be used for the donor’s intended purpose. In this way, the donation can be stretched beyond its original amount and spent toward a cause indefinitely.
The $25 million endowment made Thursday morning by the Kinder Foundation, for example, will go into the investment account, and the annual income from its investment will go toward the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy.

“One hundred years from now when we’re all gone and most of these buildings are gone, these endowments that are in place that we helped support are still going to be helping people,” Hiles said. “I think that’s a pretty cool legacy.”

Endowments are common among public and private institutions as a way to generate funds for academic programs, scholarships and research. MU’s history in campaigning for private funds is short in comparison to other schools, so its endowment is significantly smaller.

The overall UM System — which includes campuses in Columbia, St. Louis, Rolla and Kansas City — held an endowment of about $1.4 billion last year. At the top were the University of Texas System with a $25.4 billion endowment and Texas A&M University System and Foundations with an $11 billion endowment, according to a 2015 National Association of College and University Business Officers study. The University of Alabama System and the Texas Tech University System both had $1.2 billion endowments, and the University of Tennessee had a $1 billion endowment.

**Developing signature centers and institutes**

Another campaign goal is to establish five to 10 signature centers or institutes that have endowments of $10 million or more. Hiles said the signature centers will serve two primary purposes: to fuel research and to create distinctive brands for the university.

The Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, the Reynolds Journalism Institute and the Bond Life Sciences Center are all signature centers that have $10 million or more endowments. With the recent $25 million private gift to the Kinder Institute, the university has four signature centers in place meeting the $10 million requirement.

“We have several centers and institutes around campus, but many of them have much smaller endowments,” MU spokesman Nathan Hurst said. “That $10 million endowment level will provide the support needed to give it national recognition.”

To reach the five to 10 signature centers goal outlined by the campaign, the university could either establish new centers and institutes with minimum $10 million endowments or boost centers with smaller endowments up to the $10 million level.

**Campus renaissance**

The last goal of the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign is about increasing public and private partnerships and funds to develop new academic buildings or majorly renovate existing academic buildings on campus.
It has been more than 12 years since the state funded a new academic building on campus, according to the news release, so campaign leaders are having to turn to other sources to update the university’s facilities.

“We really need to build new academic buildings to keep up with growth for classroom space, research space, to make sure the university is competing with its peers on a national level,” Hurst said.

A new School of Music building is in planning stages, with $10 million raised for its development. The whole project will take about $75 million to build, Hurst said.

Projects also in search of funding are a new fine arts building and a teaching winery, which would support the Grape and Wine Institute in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. The university started renovations to Lafferre Hall this summer after receiving matching funds by the state.

The whole project will take about $75 million to build, Hurst said.

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THE KANSAS CITY STAR

University of Missouri campaign seeks $1.3 billion

By Mará Rose Williams

Beneath the dome of Mizzou Arena, University of Missouri Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin stepped to the podium Thursday evening and announced the university’s largest campaign goal in its history.

The launch of the $1.3 billion “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” campaign coincided with the announcement earlier in the day of the school’s third-largest academic gift.

The $25 million gift from Richard and Nancy Kinder and the Kinder Foundation will kick-start an institute to study constitutional democracy.

The money for the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy won’t erect a brick and mortar facility on the Columbia campus. Rather, the institute will be located on the fourth floor of the campus’ main library and will be a place for scholars and educators to discuss and dissect the underpinnings of what led to American democratic society.

Dollars from the big fundraising campaign will support much more, including new academic buildings and boosting the university endowment, which supports the school in perpetuity.

Currently MU has an endowment of $820 million. The income from those principal dollars creates nearly $37 million per year to support university programs, scholarships and research.
Campaign leaders expect the funding drive will increase the endowment to well beyond $1 billion.

University officials said state funding has not supported a new academic building on the Columbia campus in 12 years. Those leading the current campaign will seek public and private partnerships to pay for new facilities including a new School of Music building, a new Fine Arts building, a teaching winery and hall renovations.

“Private philanthropy is vital to the education and research mission of the university,” Loftin said in a statement Thursday. Thanking donors for their generosity, Loftin said that “growing our endowment will help position MU to be a leader in education and research... far into the future.”

MU is one of 23 universities around the country engaged in a funding campaign of $1.3 billion or more.

MU became a member of that billion dollar campaign club when it launched its first $1 billion campaign — For All We Call Mizzou — in 2000 and overshot the target by $38.9 million in 2009.

The university has already raised $650 million in a silent phase of the new campaign.

The Kinder gift got the public part of the campaign off to a good start.

Richard Kinder, co-founder of the Houston-based Kinder Morgan Inc. pipeline energy company, made the $25 million gift through his family foundation.

A native of Cape Girardeau, Kinder is the cousin of Missouri Lt. Governor Peter Kinder. As a Missouri graduate, Richard Kinder said he hopes his gift will transform the university into a national leader in the study of political thought and history.

The institute is an expansion of the Kinder Forum, which was created last year with a $1.67 million gift from the Kinder Foundation, led by Nancy Kinder, its president.

The gift announced Thursday “will allow us to attract top-notch faculty from across the country,” said Justin Dyer, director of the new institute. “It will allow us also to recruit and retain some of the best graduate students in the country. That will impact undergraduates who will be in contact with some of the top scholars in this field in the country.”

The institute seeks to play a major role in creating the next generation of teachers of American political thought and young scholars of democratic theory and practice.

As part of that effort, the Kinder gift, which is endowed in perpetuity, will support a scholars program that allows students to spend the summer working in Washington, D.C. The institute will also host campus discussion forums and create a minor studies program for undergraduates with courses open to students from any academic discipline represented at MU.
"I’ve been thinking about doing something for the university for some time," said Richard Kinder, who as an undergraduate was a history major at MU. He received his bachelor’s degree in 1966 and a law degree from MU in 1968.

After college, Kinder was a lawyer in the energy business and co-founded Kinder Morgan in 1997. Today the company is considered the fourth-largest energy firm in North America. Kinder is its executive chairman.

The Kinders’ gift sits among the largest ever for the university.

The largest was $31 million in 2004 from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to establish the Reynolds Journalism Institute and construction of the facility where it is housed.

The second-largest academic gift — $30.1 million, in 2012 — also came from the Reynolds foundation to fund the journalism institute in perpetuity. Also that year the university’s athletic program received a $30 million gift from KC Sports Trust for upgrades to athletic facilities including renovations at Memorial Stadium.

MU announces largest fundraising campaign ever


COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Thursday night announced the largest fundraising campaign in school history.

The campaign is called, "Mizzou: Our time to lead."

MU leaders unveiled the top priorities for the campaign, and the total goal of $1.3 billion for the multi-year campaign.

The 8:30 p.m. event took place at Mizzou Arena, and MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin spoke.

Also in attendance was Vice Chancellor Tom Hiles, and emcee MU alum Debye Turner Bell.

Distinguished alumna Sheryl Crow was also in attendance.
The announcement comes just hours after MU Alum Richard Kinder donated $25 million to support the Kinder Institute.

MU Kicks Off Campaign

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=5df159f9-75ae-4c82-b8b3-6c7f9d94bf1e

GUEST COMMENTARY: University’s historic campaign to propel MU to leadership status

On my return to Missouri three years ago, I was humbled to be at my father’s alma mater to rediscover Mizzou’s heritage of excellence.

We are the first public university west of the Mississippi and the first state university in Thomas Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase territory. We are a land grant university that conducts ground-breaking research. We are an economic driver for the state and region. We are a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities with the oldest and best journalism school and nationally ranked programs in Accounting and Animal and Plant Science research, among others. And yes, we have a football team that has won back-to-back SEC East championships and many other successful teams who proudly sport the black and gold.

Mizzou is a public university, yet its roots are in private philanthropy. We were founded in 1839 by donors who pledged their own cash and land to establish a state university in Boone County.
Today, only 9.7 percent of MU’s budget comes from state funding. To do more than keep the doors open, to build excellence and to expand opportunities for students, faculty and the state of Missouri, requires significant private support.

On Thursday at Mizzou Arena, we announced the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead campaign. Nearly 600 donors attended the campaign kickoff event. Mizzou alumna Sheryl Crow made a surprise appearance and will give a concert Friday evening.

During the event, we announced our goal for the campaign: $1.3 billion to support university priorities. Donors already have generously given $650 million since January 2012. We are very grateful for this investment in Mizzou’s future.

Why should you care about this historic campaign?

- You should care because our alumni and friends will create hundreds of scholarships that will provide access for students who may not be able to go to college otherwise. Scholarship support also helps attract and retain students who could go to college anywhere.

My father, a World War II veteran, was able to get his degree at Mizzou through the G.I. Bill, thus setting the expectation that each of his four children would attend college, and we did. Today 25 percent of MU’s student body are first-generation college students. Eighty percent of our students are able to attend Mizzou with the help of scholarships and financial aid.

The Flagship Scholars program shows the power of scholarship support. Donors provide scholarships for at least one student in every Missouri county.

- You should care because donors will create hundreds of endowments that will fuel new research and discoveries that improve the quality of life and promote economic development.

The MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders is a national leader in confronting the challenges of autism. The Thompson Center simply would not exist without the generous support of Bill and Nancy Thompson.

- You should care because donors will lead a renaissance of the campus by helping us renovate and build new facilities to create great learning environments for teaching and research.

Thanks to a gift from Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, construction will begin on a dedicated School of Music building soon. We are building and renovating across campus, including the Applied Learning Center at the Robert J. Trulaske, Sr. College of Business and a new building for the Sinclair School of Nursing, among many others.

With your help, we will increase our endowment to well over $1 billion by 2020. We will build five-10 signature centers like the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy with
endowments of $10 million or more, and we will have a campus renaissance that will provide world-class research and teaching space.

But it is not just the large gifts that make a difference. I bring my 7-year-old son to campus to show him the brick we purchased on Traditions Plaza in honor of my father and his beloved alma mater. Together 2,036 donors gave $630,000 to help build this memorable space where the marching band practices, students play Frisbee and the occasional marriage proposal happens.

The ripple effect of one gift can carry on for generations. Please support MU’s new campaign, because it is our time to lead.

MU forms Kinder Institute with $25 million gift

By Megan Favignano

Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 12:13 pm

The Kinder Foundation gave the University of Missouri $25 million to fund the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, MU officials said Thursday.

The Kinder Institute will promote teaching and scholarship related to America’s constitutional and democratic principles, history and traditions, the university said in a news release.

The endowment will give the Kinder Institute, formerly named the Kinder Forum, permanent support. The Kinder Forum was created in 2014 with a $1.67 million gift from the Kinder Foundation through the Jack Miller Center.

Justin Dyer, Kinder Institute director, said he is excited to see the institute expand its reach with this increased funding.

“Even in the last year, I think we’ve been able to have a transformative impact on education at the University of Missouri,” Dyer said.

The Kinder Institute will offer postdoctoral fellowships, research and travel grants. It also will oversee the Kinder Scholars Program, which consists of coursework and a summer internship in Washington, D.C.
The Kinder Forum started an interdisciplinary minor in American constitutional democracy last fall for undergraduates.

The Kinder Foundation is a family foundation created in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston. The foundation gives grants that affect education, green space and quality of life, according to the news release.

Rich Kinder is a native of Cape Girardeau and earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from MU.

Rich Kinder said Thursday that there were three reasons he and his wife decided to donate the $25 million: a decrease in state funding to universities, his good experience at MU and the need for more education about the country’s founding fathers.

“You have to look to private philanthropy to help build centers of excellence,” he said. “What the founders really believed, how the nation got formed — if we don’t have that understanding across America, I think we are doomed for the future.”

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said the funding will help MU continue to attract speakers such as historian and author David McCullough, who spoke on campus Wednesday night. The university, he said, started a conversation with the Kinders a few years ago about how to look at history and how democracy has shaped the country.

“We are really empty if we don’t know our history,” Loftin said.

Dyer, an associate professor of political science, two staff members and 11 core faculty members from multiple disciplines contribute to the Kinder Institute.

The $25 million gift is the first of the university’s fundraising campaign, “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead,” which kicks off tonight. The campaign, MU officials said Thursday, will help MU as it focuses on endowment, signature centers and institutes and campus renaissance.

The Kinder Foundation has donated more than $150 million to projects including Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and the Texas Heart Institute.

Nancy Kinder is president of the Kinder Foundation and president of the advisory board of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University. Rich Kinder is chairman to that advisory board.

He also is co-founder and executive chairman of Kinder Morgan Inc., the third-largest energy company in North America.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN
MU receives $25 million gift for Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy

COLUMBIA — **MU received a $25 million endowment Thursday, which is the third-largest academic endowment and fourth-largest endowment the university has ever received. The endowment will expand the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, which will be relocated to the fourth floor of Ellis Library next year.**

The announcement was made at the Reynolds Alumni Center, where MU Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Tom Hiles and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin recognized the Kinder Foundation, which made the donation.

“This institute will allow us to be a national and international leader in this area of study,” Justin Dyer, director of the Kinder Institute and associate professor of political science, said. “It will very quickly put the University of Missouri on the map and lead the country in a very important part of our civic life. For that, we’re grateful.”

The private gift is exceeded only by three other endowments: a $31 million gift in 2004 and a $30.1 million gift in 2012 for the Reynolds Journalism Institute, and a $30 million endowment in 2012 to the athletics department. Endowments are common among public and private higher education institutions as a way to stretch donations over time and thereby increase the donation’s influence.

The Kinder Foundation supports education and urban green spaces around the country and works to make “a significant impact on helping people realize a healthy and rewarding quality of life,” according to its website. The foundation was established in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder. Rich Kinder is an MU alumnus who earned his bachelor’s and law degrees in 1966 and 1968.

MU’s Kinder Institute — formerly called the Kinder Forum — supports research and education on the U.S. Constitution and American democracy in history, theory and practice.

Rich Kinder said he and his wife decided to make the $25 million gift for three reasons: to give back for his good experience as a student at MU, to help the university financially because state funding no longer covers what it used to and to promote education on democracy and the U.S. constitution.

“We can’t exist as a country unless subsequent generations really understand what an exceptional nation this is and what the principles were that led to the creation of our systems of government and our democracy,” Kinder said.

The plan is for the institute to move into the northeast corner of the fourth floor of Ellis Library, Dyer said. The institute will have a seminar room for public events; offices for faculty members, postdoctoral students and graduate dissertation fellows; and study spaces. A bathroom and a seminar room will also be renovated but will not be used exclusively by the Kinder Institute.
Dyer said he did not know the details of what’s being relocated and where it will be moved.

“There are some volumes on the fourth floor in the northeast corner that will have to be relocated, and I think there’s a recorded sound space that is going to be relocated as well,” Dyer said.

“There’s a little bit of controversy in terms of where things are going to go and what it’s going to look like and when the specific move-in date is going to be,” he said. "There are some discussions going on right now and I think some things that need to be addressed by faculty and faculty committees, so we’re kind of in the process of doing that this week.”

The institute has been based in the History and Political Science departments but has been incorporating faculty from other departments.

“We’re an interdisciplinary center, so we would like to have an actual physical structure, a home, for the center where we can bring scholars and students from different places on campus all in one place,” Dyer said.

The original move-in date for the institute was March, but that date could be changed in future meetings, he said.

MU Director of Libraries Jim Cogswell was not available for comment Wednesday afternoon, and Libraries Communications Officer Shannon Cary declined to comment on the move.

An endowment in the higher education world is a donation given to a university usually for application toward a cause or purpose, such as to develop a program or build a new facility. The donation is then placed by the university into its investment account, which will generate annual funds based on its size. The annual funds raised by the original donation are then spent on the donor’s intended cause or purpose.

The $25 million gift from the Kinder Foundation will be funneled to MU in increments over the next five years, and the university has already received the first $5 million.

Those funds will support faculty fellows, faculty hiring, program development and lecturers — such as two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough, who spoke about the founding of American democracy on behalf of the Kinder Institute at the Missouri Theatre on Wednesday evening — among others, Hiles said.

“That evening last night highlighted what we’re able to do with philanthropy, with private investment, in our great institution," Loftin said. "We’re going to be able to continue to attract people like David McCullough to come here and amplify the message of what makes Mizzou an extraordinary university.”

The institute is an academic center that was created in 2014 with a $1.67 million donation by the Kinder Foundation. It offers postdoctoral fellowships, funds to develop courses, research and
travel grants, interdisciplinary minors for undergraduates and a Kinder Scholars Program, which includes an internship in Washington, D.C.

The Kinder Foundation has donated more than $150 million in gifts to projects around the country. Among the donations made to education institutes and programs are:

- $1 million for scholarships for inner city Catholic schools in Houston
- $5 million to the Catholic Schools Cooperative in Houston
- $1 million to the Cape Girardeau Public Schools Foundation in Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- $1 million to the Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory High School in Houston
- $1 million toward the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center School of Health Professions in Houston.

“Our hope is that this institute will be able to grant more understanding, to be able to give our students a better opportunity to study what makes this country great, and maybe, in a very small way, contribute to the ongoing, incredibly important role of democracy in the United States,” Kinder said.

Richard Kinder donates $25 million to MU for teaching, studying U.S. Constitution

Friday, October 9, 2015
By Katie Lamb ~ Southeast Missourian

Richard Kinder, Cape Girardeau native and co-founder of energy infrastructure company Kinder Morgan, has gifted $25 million to the University of Missouri through the Kinder Foundation, university officials announced Thursday.

The new, endowed gift establishes the Kinder Institute, which supports the teaching and study of the U.S. Constitution.

The institute, formerly named the Kinder Forum, was created in 2014 by a previous $1.67 million gift from the foundation through the Jack Miller Center, according to a university news release.
"We hope to really make this Kinder Institute a real center for studying constitutional democracy, the founding of the country, and it's really going to help at both the undergraduate and graduate level," Kinder said during an interview last week.

The institute offers postdoctoral fellowships, research and travel grants, course development funds and the Kinder Scholars Program, which includes a summer academic internship in Washington, D.C. The institute also offers an interdisciplinary minor to undergraduate students in American constitutional democracy.

"The whole genesis of it was that I felt that we're just not giving enough attention in universities today to what really makes America an exceptional country," Kinder said. "I have no political bias in this, but just would like to see a better understanding. And, hopefully, you educate a lot of people in this kind of thinking and they influence other people in terms of getting people to think about what formed America, what the founders really thought, how we started this country. To me, it's really important to put the whole thing in perspective."

Kinder, of Houston, is the co-founder and executive chairman of Kinder Morgan, the largest midstream and the third largest energy company in North America. His wife, Nancy, is president of the Kinder Foundation, established in 1997.

A 1962 graduate of Central High School, Kinder received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Missouri and once was a member of the Limbaugh Firm in Cape Girardeau.

In 2010, the Kinders donated $1 million to the Cape Girardeau Public Schools Foundation to expand and enhance the Richard D. Kinder Performance Hall at Central High School.

University of Missouri officials said the Kinders' donation is the third largest academic gift in Mizzou history and will have an enormous effect on the university's comprehensive campaign, Mizzou: Time to Lead.

"One of MU's primary missions as a state university is to promote and provide education on our government and its history for its students and the population as a whole," MU chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said in the release. "The Kinders' philanthropy and vision will help position MU as a national center for education and scholarship on our governance system's funding and purpose."

Kinder said he hopes the gift to MU will encourage other alumni to contribute to the universities from which they graduated, as well.

"Because of budgetary constraints, the amount of money that's now given to state colleges and universities has really gone way down," Kinder said. "So, you have to make up for that someplace if you're still going to have a quality public university. And you can only raise tuition so far before you begin to exclude students. ... With that shortfall in the amount of state money, you've got to look to the private sector to make up some of that difference. Hopefully, this is a small step in trying to do that, and I hope others will do the same thing."
Pipeline billionaire donates $25 million to Mizzou to promote constitutional study

By Koran Addo

Oct. 8, 2015

The University of Missouri-Columbia on Thursday received a $25 million gift from the Kinder Foundation to promote the teaching and study of the U.S. Constitution.

The donation will be used to establish the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy.

The Kinder Foundation, created in 1997 by pipeline tycoon Richard Kinder, a Mizzou alum and his wife, Nancy, provides grants to promote education and issues surrounding quality of life.

In an interview last week, Kinder said he envisions the constitutional democracy center to be a collection of programs and initiatives centered on the founding fathers and their vision for America.

“There is so much specialization right now in the way we teach in higher education,” Kinder said. “What's missing a lot of times is the understanding of the origins of constitutional thought.”

The institute is not intended to advance any particular political cause, he added.

“My fear is that we have a lot of people that come out of college today and don't understand what made America that great shining city on the hill,” he said. “We're losing that.”

University of Missouri gets $25M for democracy institute
COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — The University of Missouri announced Thursday that it's received a $25 million donation from the Kinder Foundation to launch an institute to study constitutional democracy.

Richard Kinder, co-founder of the Kinder Morgan Inc. pipeline energy company, made the $25 million gift through his family foundation, the university said. The gift will launch and support the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, which will focus on scholarship related to America's Constitution, democratic principles, history and traditions.

The Kinder Institute, formerly known as the Kinder Forum, will not have permanent support, The Columbia Daily Tribune reported (http://bit.ly/1WQ5b1X ). The Kinder Forum was created in 2014 with a $1.67 million gift from the Kinder Foundation through the Jack Miller Center.

The Kinder Forum started an interdisciplinary minor in American constitutional democracy last fall for undergraduates.

Kinder, a native of Cape Girardeau, graduated from the university with a bachelor's degree in 1966 and a law degree in 1968. The Kinder Foundation is a family foundation created in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston.

Rich Kinder said he and his wife decided to donate because of a drop in state funding to universities, his good experiences at Missouri and the need for improved education about the United States' Founding Fathers.

"You have to look to private philanthropy to help build centers of excellence," he said. "What the founders really believed, how the nation got formed — if we don't have that understanding across America, I think we are doomed for the future."

Justin Dyer, an associate professor of political science, is director of the institute. He, two staff members and 11 core faculty members from multiple disciplines will contribute to its mission.

The Kinder Foundation has donated more than $150 million to projects including Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and the Texas Heart Institute.

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MU announces $25 million gift

COLUMBIA, Mo. - The University of Missouri Thursday announced a major gift from law school alum and former President of Enron, Richard Kinder.

The $25 million gift is the 4th largest ever at MU.

This new gift will provide permanent support for the Kinder Institute, formerly named the Kinder Forum, which was created in 2014 by a prior $1.67 million gift from the Kinder Foundation through the Jack Milner Center.

The Kinder Institute supports the research and scholarship of MU faculty, undergraduate and graduate students who seek to explore questions related to the history, theory and practice of constitutional democracy as it was crafted by the American founders and developed in subsequent generations.

MU Chancellor Bowen Loftin was at Thursday's event. Loftin said, “One of MU’s primary missions as a state university is to promote and provide education on our government and its history for its students and the population as a whole.”

He said, "The Kinders’ philanthropy and vision will help position MU as a national center for education and scholarship on our governance system's founding and purpose.”

Richard Kinder is co-founder and executive chairman of Kinder Morgan, Inc., the largest midstream and the third largest energy company in North America based on enterprise value. He also serves as chairman of the board of trustees and a life trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and chairman of the advisory board of Rice University’s Kinder Institute for Urban Research.

Kinder's wife, Nancy Kinder, is president of the Kinder Foundation. She also serves on the boards of Discovery Green Corporation and MD Anderson Cancer Center, as well as president of the Advisory Board of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University.
COLUMBIA- MU received a $25 million gift from the Kinder Foundation Thursday morning. The money will establish the Kinder Institute to support study of political thought and history.

The institute will support research and scholarships of MU faculty, graduate and undergraduate students regarding history and theory of constitutional democracy.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced the gift and said it helps support MU’s mission for education on government.

"One of MU’s primary missions as a state university is to promote and provide education on our government and its history," Loftin said. "To understand the present, we have to understand the past."

Rich Kinder is co-founder of Kinder Morgan Inc., the third largest energy company in North America based on enterprise value. The Kinder Foundation previously donated $1.67 million to create the Kinder Forum at MU, which will now be called the Kinder Institute. Vice Chancellor for Advancement Tom Hiles said the gift helps a new MU campaign called "Mizzou: Our Time to Lead".

"Mr. Kinder's business acumen and leadership are inspiring," Hiles said. "We could not be more grateful for his investment in our endowment, a main priority of this campaign."

The gift is the third largest academic gift for MU.
MU Alum Makes “Transformative” Gift Announcement

The University of Missouri received a “transformative” multi-million dollar gift from Rich and Nancy Kinder on Thursday.

The $25 million gift was made on behalf of the Kinder Foundation and will go towards permanently establishing the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, which focuses on giving students and faculty more opportunities to explore the theories and practices that make up our constitutional democracy.

Rich Kinder is the co-founder of Kinder Morgan Inc., the third largest energy corporation in North America and University of Missouri graduate.

He said one of the reasons he wanted to give this gift was because of his wonderful experience at the university as an undergraduate and as a law school student.

His wife, Nancy Kinder is the president of the Kinder Foundation. A foundation that provides “transformational grants that impact urban green space, education, and the quality of life.”

With this gift and the permanent establishment of the Kinder Institute, Rich Kinder hopes it will serve as a gateway to future generations and their understating of democracy.

“We can’t exist as a country unless subsequent generations really understand what an exceptional nation this is and what the principals were that lead to the creation of our system of government and our democracy,” Kinder said.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin was also in attendance at Thursday morning’s gift announcement.

Loftin said he thinks the gift from the Kinder Foundation will impact individuals far beyond the University of Missouri.
“The institute will become, I think, a signature program here at the university. Not just for our students locally but to influence things nationwide,” Loftin said.

Loftin said now that the gift announcement has been made, the university and the Kinder Foundation can begin the developmental stages.

“It needs the space to grow into, it needs the ability to attract additional faculty and all that is built into the funding coming from the gift and the university’s partnership with the Kinder Foundation in making the institute possible,” Loftin said.

Today’s gift coincides with the university’s big fundraising campaign called “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” which is kicking off Thursday night at Mizzou Arena.

Author decries American ignorance of history at Missouri Theatre lecture

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 10:52 am

After a recent lecture on a Midwest campus, author David McCullough was approached by a student who thanked him for clearing up a mistaken view of the American Revolution.

Up to that time, the student said, she did not know that all 13 original colonies were on the East Coast, McCullough told a standing room only crowd Wednesday evening at the Missouri Theatre.

“We have a creeping amnesia among our young people today because of their near total lack of knowledge of our history,” McCullough said.

The student’s ignorance was not her fault, he said. But it means she did not understand the Revolution, which is, he said, key to understanding the role of a citizen in America.

“To take no interest in what they went through, to have no respect for what they achieved, is not just to be stupid, but it is gross ingratitude on our part,” said McCullough, the author of 11 books and winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his biographies of Harry Truman and John Adams.
Only people who got in line early found seats. The end of the line had circled the block east of the Ninth Street theater by the time doors opened at 6:30 p.m. for the inaugural lecture for the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. The institute was established with a grant from the Kinder Foundation, created by energy billionaire and University of Missouri graduate Richard Kinder.

Dennis Knudson was one of many turned away. He stayed until it was over and was near the front of the line to have the author sign five first editions, including “Truman” and 1977’s “The Path Between the Seas,” the story of the Panama Canal.

The wait was worth it, he said. Knudson admires McCullough’s “ability to relate to the reader, his accessibility,” he said.

Speaking with reporters after the lecture, McCullough said he considered himself a writer, not a historian.

“I have never undertaken a subject I knew a lot about,” McCullough said. “To me, the book I embark upon is an adventure. It is as if I am going to set foot on a continent I have never been to, and I am going to learn about it by being there.”

The Kinder Institute, Kinder said as he introduced McCullough, seeks to create a better understanding of the founding principles of the United States. “It is something I think we have slipped on in the last couple of generations, and we are hoping to re-establish that in a small way as a core curriculum,” Kinder said.

The lecture was titled “The History You Don’t Know: Lessons from the American Founders,” and it did not disappoint. While including a few more-contemporary facts — such as that Truman read Latin for pleasure and took musical scores to follow along while listening to Mozart — McCullough mainly explored the forces that shaped the founders.

“I think that the founders, as a group, were a miracle,” McCullough said.

All the men who sat in the Continental Congress, except Adams, owned slaves at some point, McCullough said. The extent of opposition to slavery often is understated in histories of the era, he said, but it was impossible for the founders to know that slavery would lead to the Civil War.

It also was impossible for them to know the outcome of the revolution they started in 1775, McCullough said. The strength of character that allowed them to start it and see it to a successful conclusion, he said, was drawn from their education and a culture that pushed them toward patriotic service.

“Yet if you don’t understand the importance of honor in the intellectual and moral and patriotic life of those people, you don’t understand those people,” McCullough said.

In the lecture, McCullough did not name any current politicians but said he knew the kind he would like to see.
“The main thing we need are good people taking up their responsibility to serve their country in more demonstrative and supportive ways,” McCullough said. “We also need people who are articulate, who can put the desires and the creed of our country into language that has power and effectiveness.”

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough speaks on the importance of history and education

McCullough has also won two Francis Parkman Prizes, two National Book Awards, the Colonial Dames of America Annual Book Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Cornelius Ryan Award.

People wrapped around the block and filled the Missouri Theatre to hear the two-time Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough give a lecture entitled, "The History You Don't Know: Lessons from the American Founders" from 7 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 7.

The event was hosted by The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy along with the Chancellor’s Distinguished Visitors Program.

McCullough is an acclaimed American historian, non-fiction author, lecturer and narrator.


He is also noted for the books “John Adams” and “1776,” which he primarily drew upon for his lecture.

“It was shocking how many people came out,” freshman Nicole Tacha said. “I think a lot of the outside community came.”

One of the community members who attended the event was Nina Sappington.

“All of McCullough’s books are really good,” Sappington said. “I just finished ‘The Wright Brothers’ a couple months ago. It was very wonderful. You don’t get the chance to hear someone like this often, so it’s a great opportunity.”
McCullough spoke of the Founding Fathers as determined men with a love of learning and a desire to make this country a better place.

He explained how the Founding Fathers grew up in households where the history of the nation was honored and talked about around the dinner table. McCullough explained that these men read in their free time, carried around poetry and studied languages such as Latin for enjoyment.

McCullough expressed his concerns that the current generation of college students and younger children are being taught less and less history. Times have changed, but students can learn valuable lessons such as that of perseverance from their experiences, actions and decisions.

McCullough has earned several awards for his works including two Francis Parkman Prizes, two National Book Awards, the Colonial Dames of America Annual Book Award and the Cornelius Ryan Award.

McCullough was also awarded Pulitzer Prizes for his biographies, “Truman” in 1993 and “John Adams” in 2002, and he has earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the U.S.

Not only is McCullough’s writing known, but his voice is notable as well. He has narrated several documentaries including “The Civil War” by Ken Burns and the film “Seabiscuit.”

“I love his voice in the Kim Burns civil war documentary.” Jefferson City resident Laura Wilson said. “David McCullough is a very well-respected historian. I previously worked in the State Historical Society of Missouri here in Columbia, so it’s a treat that he came to Columbia, and it’s a privilege to hear him speak.”

McCullough spoke not only of the Founding Fathers, but of history as it is essential to leadership and the development of American citizens.

McCullough said his favorite part about studying history is learning about the people who have made America what it is today. He explained that there is so much to learn, and sometimes he feels he can learn more about people of the past than people he currently knows because of all the resources and information that are available.

He said people such as the Founding Fathers deserve great appreciation for their courage, determination, and the struggles they’ve endured in order to make changes in society.
MU to require freshmen to undergo diversity training

By Eric Adler

The University of Missouri, which this week removed a student from its Columbia campus for shouting the N word and other racial slurs at a black student group practicing for homecoming, announced Thursday that, as of January, all entering freshmen will be required to undergo diversity training.

The training, to be conducted online, eventually will be mandatory for all faculty, staff and other students.

“As you know, a few individuals have tried to harass and intimidate our students using racial slurs over the past few weeks …,” MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin wrote Thursday in an online letter. “As a community, we must live by our values of Respect, Responsibility, Discovery and Excellence.”

In a previous post he wrote that racism “and all prejudice is heinous, insidious and damaging to Mizzou. It hurts students’ education and experience, including their mental health and academic achievement. That is why all of us must commit to changing the culture at this university.”

University spokesman Christian Basi said Loftin was out of town when members of the Legion of Black Collegians Royalty Court were accosted by an inebriated student who began shouting racial slurs at members of the group. The incident occurred early Sunday morning, shortly after midnight, when members of the Legion of Black Collegians were practicing for homecoming.

Notified of the incident, Loftin recorded an angry video from his hotel room, condemning the actions.

“It’s happened again! … It’s enough. Let’s stop this,” Loftin said in the recording. “Let’s end racism and hatred at Mizzou.”

The event came less than a month after Missouri Students Association President Payton Head, who is black, was similarly verbally assaulted on campus, prompting an impassioned response on Facebook describing his experience and calling on his classmates to fight injustice.

“I just want to say how extremely hurt and disappointed I am,” he wrote in mid-September. “Last night as I walking through campus, some guys riding on the back of a pickup truck decided that it would be okay to continuously scream NIGGER at me. I really just want to know why my simple existence is such a threat to society. For those of you who wonder why I’m always talking about the importance of inclusion and respect, it’s because I’ve experienced moments like this multiple times at THIS university, making me not feel included here.”
He continued with a plea.

“Educate yourselves and others,” he wrote. “Hold your family, friends, fraternity brothers and sorority sisters accountable. And if this post made you feel uncomfortable, GOOD! That means I’m doing my job. It’s time to wake up Mizzou.”

For some students, it is not clear how effective online training will be.

Katie Grunik, a senior from St. Louis, said she believed many students could benefit from some real education about living on a diverse campus. But she feared that too many would treat an online course as merely another formality.

“I do think it’s important that people be aware,” Grunik said. But to make a real difference, she said, will probably take something more than an online course. “I don’t think it’s really going to do anything.”

Others welcomed the training as a way for the university to begin taking action.

Annabel Ames, a sophomore from Detroit, said the recent racist incidents showed that something needed to be done.

“I think it’s definitely a good first step, but it shouldn’t be the endpoint,” Ames said. “Racism is actually very prevalent on our campus.”

MU is not the first school to call for mandatory diversity training.

Earlier this year, the University of Oklahoma instituted mandatory diversity training for all students on its campus and for incoming freshmen.

The training ordered in Oklahoma came after the university found itself in the national spotlight following an incident involving members of one of OU’s fraternities. Video surfaced online showing members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity singing a racist chant.

Several years earlier, the University of Delaware suspended its diversity training program after hearing complaints from students about the way the courses were conducted. Some students thought they were being accused of racism, while some minority and LGBT students felt roughly treated or pressured to “out” themselves.

In the end, university officials decided the program was well-intentioned but not executed properly. Experts pointed to a lack of uniform training.

But in the years since then, interest in such efforts has only grown.

Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla., has developed several diversity training programs. The campus is one of the most diverse in the nation, with 53 percent of students coming from a minority background.
The training is not mandatory for all students, but beginning this year it will be for student employees, said Andrea Oliver, an associate vice president at FAU.

Oliver said she did not recommend online training. At FAU, all of the training is done in person.

“Our goal is that the student walk away with at least one or two ‘Aha!’ moments,” Oliver said. “You need direct personal interaction in order to be really successful.”

At the University of Missouri, Basi said that the university already had been working to create new diversity training when the weekend incident occurred.

The training first will be mandated for new students coming in January to MU. That experience, Basi said, will allow the university to assess what adjustments the program might require in time for the 6,200 or so freshmen who will enroll in the fall of 2016.

“Eventually, every student will be trained,” Basi said. A separate program is being developed for faculty and staff.

In August, MU reacted to the fomenting national issue of sexual assault on college campuses by requiring all 2015 incoming freshmen to take online sexual discrimination training.

Mizzou will require diversity training after racist incident on campus

Oct. 8, 2015 • By Koran Addo

Starting in January, all incoming University of Missouri-Columbia freshmen will be required to complete a training program centered on racism.

Mizzou faculty and staff will also be required to undergo training.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced the mandatory training Thursday morning, three days after members of the Legion of Black Collegians student government group said they were confronted by a man at Traditions Plaza who used a racial slur.

Members of the group said they were particularly upset that a campus safety officer who was present didn’t act with the urgency they expected.
Last month, student body president Payton Head said he was walking down a street when a group of men driving by in a pickup yelled racial slurs at him repeatedly.

Both incidents prompted loud responses on social media, with students criticizing the university, and Loftin in particular, for not addressing the issue of campus racism more forcefully.

Loftin, addressed the incident at Traditions Plaza the day after it happened in a video on the chancellor’s website.

“It’s happened again,” Loftin says in the video, adding that hate and racism is “alive and well” on campus.

“It’s enough,” he said. “Let’s stop this. Let’s end hatred and racism at Mizzou. We’re part of the same family. You don’t hate your family.”

Mizzou spokesman Christian Basi said campus police were able to identify the student who used the racial slur based on descriptions given by members of the Legion of Black Collegians.

The student has been “removed” from campus, Basi said, adding that he couldn’t say more because of federal privacy laws.

“Students who may be in violation of the student conduct code go through a disciplinary process and face sanctions ranging from a verbal reprimand to expulsion,” he said.

In Thursday’s announcement, Loftin said the student training program will emphasize each student’s responsibility to be inclusive. He did not say when the training for faculty and staff will begin.

The training will include discussions on race, gender identity, gender expression, religious discrimination and other topics.

“We must all do our part to make Mizzou a welcoming community for every faculty, staff, student and visitor on campus,” Loftin said.
MU to require incoming students to take diversity training

By Megan Favignano

Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 2:00 pm

In the wake of an ongoing discussion about racism at the University of Missouri, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin said Thursday that all incoming students will be required to complete diversity and inclusion training starting in January.

MU officials have discussed a diversity training program for several months, he said, but they sped up the implementation of the program after multiple reports of racism and discrimination on campus during the past month. The university will start developing the training and will test it in January.

“This is not by any means the final answer,” Loftin said. “It is a first step.”

The program will address issues of racism at MU and will work to inform students of the diverse organizations and resources available on campus.

Loftin’s announcement came one day after he met with student members of the Legion of Black Collegians about a report of racism while the group rehearsed for a Homecoming performance early Monday morning. Students in the Legion of Black Collegians, the official black student government on campus, told the University of Missouri Police Department that a white man interrupted their play rehearsal shortly after midnight and uttered racial slurs when he was asked to leave.

MUPD on Tuesday identified the student who made the remarks and said the student was “moved from campus.” The student’s name has not been released. MU spokesman Christian Basi said federal privacy laws prohibit the university from releasing more specific details about what “moved from campus” means and whether the student was allowed to attend classes.

Recent incidents similar to what students experienced Monday sparked MU’s decision to move forward with the diversity training, Loftin said.

The university plans to test the training in January because the incoming class will be significantly smaller than in the fall. Once the training is implemented next fall, MU will discuss the best way to expand the program to the entire student body. Diversity and inclusion training also will be required for all faculty and staff, Loftin said.

MU officials did not know the cost of the program. The university needs to decide whether it will develop its own training or purchase an existing program. Loftin said most of the training will be
digital but that it might include some face-to-face components with incoming students in January.

“Changing people’s hearts is very difficult and challenging,” Loftin said.

October 8, 2015 by Andy Thomason

Responding to Racist Incidents, U. of Missouri Requires Diversity Training for Students and Employees

In response to racial incidents that caused a furor, the University of Missouri at Columbia will begin mandatory diversity training in January. The university’s chancellor, R. Bowen Loftin, made the announcement in a message to the campus on Thursday morning, and publicized it on Twitter:

According to the university, first-time students will be required to complete a training program that “addresses the issue of racism at Mizzou, informs them of our campus’s many diverse organizations and resources, and emphasizes each student’s responsibility to be inclusive while they are at the university.” Faculty and staff members will also be trained.

The announcement follows a string of racist episodes on the campus. This week members of the university’s Legion of Black Collegians said they were accosted by a man who used a racial slur. And last month the university’s student-body president, Payton Head, wrote in a Facebook post that a group of men in a pickup truck repeatedly shouted racial slurs at him.
Diversity training will be required for Missouri freshmen

Oct. 9, 2015

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — All freshmen at the University of Missouri will be required to undergo diversity training, beginning in January.

The university made the announcement Thursday, days after a student was removed from the Columbia campus for shouting racial slurs at a black student group practicing for homecoming. That incident came less than a month after someone shouted racial slurs a Missouri Students Association President Payton Head, who is black.

The Kansas City Star reports (http://bit.ly/vrhz6V ) the training will eventually become mandatory for all faculty, staff and other students.

The training will start with new students coming to Missouri in January. University spokesman Christian Basi says that will allow the university to see what adjustments might be needed before about 6,200 freshmen enroll in the fall of 2016.

Racist Incidents at MU Bring New Diversity and Inclusion Programs.

MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced Thursday that the University of Missouri will soon require faculty and new students to go through diversity and inclusion training.
His announcement came following an incident of racism that occurred during the early hours of the morning on October 5. The Legion of Black Collegians homecoming royalty court was practicing a performance at Traditions Plaza when a racial slur was yelled at them.

“Beginning the spring semester of 2016, all incoming students will be required to complete training that addresses the issue of racism at Mizzou, informs them of our campus’ many diverse organizations and resources, and emphasizes each student’s responsibility to be inclusive while they are at the university,” Loftin said in his email to students and faculty Thursday morning.

Loftin also said incoming students will not be able to enroll in any courses until the training is complete. He is not requiring students currently at the university to do take the training. He said this is the first of many steps, but that he has to make these steps manageable for the university. He also stated that students have an extraordinary capability to start making difference.

“I believe that’s where the ultimate source of power will come from is the students themselves,” Loftin said. “We will certainly work hard to develop good training, good awareness and good advice for them. Ultimately you have to do two things; you have to have your heart in the right place and you have to take actions based on your heart.”

Loftin said he doesn’t believe that the majority of people on campus are racist, and there are a number of people who are committed and passionate about diversity on campus.

MU Faculty Council Diversity Enhancement Chair Angela Speck said people have become sensitized to the issue in a way that they weren’t before.

“I think that started because of Ferguson,” Speck said. “So, although it’s been going on for a really long time, much longer than the last year, I think the fact that Ferguson is within Missouri and we are the biggest state institution that it really brought out and helped a lot of people understand the problems that we have on campus.”

Speck said Ferguson allowed these issues on campus to go viral, and that is a good thing. She said it has allowed us to raise awareness and start a conversation on racism.

The racial slur directed at the Legion of Black Collegian’s homecoming court was not the first incident this semester that sparked controversy about racism. Missouri Student Association President Payton Head was also recently affected by racism on campus. Head took to Facebook to air his frustrations with the campus and called on MU to start making a difference.

Loftin said the university will conduct a climate survey and begin an immediate search for a newly named position- Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity. He said that Provost Garnett Stokes will be leading a national search for this position and that they are searching for the best person who can understand the challenges we face and help us move toward a better future.
MU now requires diversity training for all students

COLUMBIA, Mo. - University of Missouri Chancellor Bowen Loftin announced Thursday it is requiring all Mizzou students to undergo diversity training, as a condition of enrollment.

It comes less than a week after a man was removed from where he was living on campus, after using a racial slur directed toward a group practicing a homecoming skit. Chancellor Loftin later said the man appeared drunk while harassing the students, who asked him to leave.

ABC 17 News talked to MU police, who said "no crime was identified" Sunday night at Traditions Plaza, across the street from Jesse Hall.

MU to Require Diversity Training

The University of Missouri will soon require all freshmen students to undergo diversity training. The mandatory training will start in January. It will apply to all incoming students. Eventually all faculty and staff members will be required to take the training. It will be done online. The university made
the announcement after it kicked out a student for shouting racial slurs at a black student group.

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=cf664119-e1ce-4c69-84e4-9b79da7a9f7b

Chancellor announces campus-wide diversity and inclusion training

Loftin said students are the ultimate solution to changing campus climate in regards to racism and discrimination.

Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced the development of a diversity and inclusion training for students, faculty and staff starting in January 2016, according to a news release from the Office of the Chancellor

Loftin said in an interview that this training has two goals: to promote inclusivity and to make people aware of the benefits of diversity at MU.

“We’ve had a series over the last month … in terms of specific incidences where hateful speech was used toward students of color,” Loftin said. “That simply is not to be done here. We just will not tolerate that kind of behavior here.”

All admitted students will be required to complete this training in order to register for classes. For faculty and staff, the training will be “required and put in place as soon as possible,” per the statement.

Loftin said that the training for students enrolling next semester will be face-to-face, since they will not have enough time to complete an online version of the training in time. The format will eventually be similar to the Enough is Enough training taken by this year’s incoming students.

This training is in addition to action announced earlier this week detailed in an email:

Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity: Provost Garnett Stokes is leading a national search for this new position. The administration is searching for “the best person who can understand the challenges we face and help us move toward a better future.”
Diversity training for job searches: Every person responsible for hiring faculty and staff on this campus will be required to complete training to “ensure that we are fully considering diversity” when recruiting for positions on campus.

Campus Climate Survey: The administration will ask everyone to participate in a campus climate survey related to race issues on campus.

Loftin said he is in support of the survey, which created by the office of Provost Garnett Stokes. Associate professor Berkley Hudson, chairman of Faculty Council’s Committee on Race Relations, announced that he is in favor of the training.

He said the training complements the work the committee on race relations has been doing since the beginning of the year. “The Chancellor’s announcement responds directly to recent events of explicit racism on campus and it responds to the call by Missouri Students Association President Payton Head, after he was assaulted by racist slurs, who said: ‘It’s time to wake up, Mizzou,’” Hudson said in a news release.

Loftin said students are the ultimate solution to changing campus climate in regards to racism and discrimination.

“I think the students themselves have an extraordinary capability to help this situation,” Loftin said. “I don’t believe we have a majority of the people here are racist, quite frankly. I believe we have a number of people who are very passionately devoted to diversity on this campus. I hear from them directly.”

MU to require diversity training for students and faculty

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b6fda958-4b75-4e2a-83b8-408f6d40de06
Following recent allegations of racism at the University of Missouri, Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin announced Thursday that the university is developing diversity and inclusion training for all faculty, staff and students.

The new training programs will be required for all faculty and staff, and students wishing to enroll in classes.

The new training program for incoming students will begin in January 2016, and will address the issue of racism at Mizzou.

The program will also inform students of organizations and resources on campus and emphasize the importance of being inclusive.

Students will be ineligible to enroll in classes without successfully completing this program.

Training for all faculty and staff will also be required and will be put into place as soon as possible.

University administrators are working with the deans, chairs and faculty to develop the training for the faculty and staff.

"We must all do our part to make Mizzou a welcoming community for every faculty, staff, student and visitor on campus," Loftin said in a press release.

New diversity training requirement at the University of Missouri

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyses.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b4ced5fc-afdf2-46f6-96cf-62c4ab0c2b34
CBS radio in St. Louis

New training program at Mizzou

Listen to the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=6f857240-735c-45e7-b053-c6162e126f44

MU organization burns ISIS flag at Columns

Watch story: http://www.komu.com/player/?video_id=30900&zone=5&categories=5

COLUMBIA- The Young Americans for Liberty, University of Missouri chapter, burned a homemade Islamic State flag in an effort to unify students in opposition to ISIS.

Ian Paris is the organization's president and said he thinks it's important to bring awareness to the rising power of radical Islam in the Middle East.

"Burning Islamic [State] flag, we think, will hopefully spread awareness," Paris said.

Paris said the organization considered several other options, but decided burning the flag was the organization's best option.

"We figured that symbolically burning a flag has been used repeatedly against United States," Paris said. "We think it's about time that has been turned around and used to express our disdain."
Paris reached out to other university organizations to participate in the demonstration, but said he is not sure how many others will show up.

"I've received a lot of support from other organizations and their members," Paris said. "There have been some that have expressed concern that it will be purporting Islamaphobia, for example. But I feel like our message, as I have maintained, is that we are not purporting Islamaphobia. We do not think ISIS is representative of Islam. We think it is necessary for people to understand the disconnect."

Zakaria El-Tayash is the president of the Muslim Student Organization at MU and said his members will not participate in the demonstration, along with several other student organizations on campus.

"We are an organization that doesn't stand for violence in any way," El-Tayash said. "Their message from what I understand is good. Their intentions may be good. I just don't believe in the way that they are approaching the situation."

El-Tayash said burning the ISIS flag will just add fuel to the fire, but Paris does not agree.

"The main purpose of the Islamic State has been you instill fear in the people who would speak out and resist," Paris said. "I think that's the main concern some of them have. At the same time I think it's about time somebody stop being afraid, and said that we've had enough."

Paris obtained an open flame permit from the University of Missouri Department of Environmental Health and Safety, and his speech is protected under the First Amendment.

$25 Million Gift to Benefit Study of Democracy


**A $25 million gift for the University of Missouri will launch a study into constitutional democracy.** Rich and Nancy Kinder announced the endowment gift from the Kinder Foundation. They gave the third largest gift in university history, the $25 million hoping to make Missouri a leader in thought and history.
University Of Missouri Students Burn ISIS Flag On Campus

Students in an organization at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri, burned a homemade Islamic State group flag Thursday. The flag burning was organized by the Young Americans for Liberty chapter at the university in an effort to unify students in opposition to ISIS, KOMU-TV8 reported.

"We figured that symbolically burning a flag has been used repeatedly against United States," said the organization's president Ian Paris, KOMU-TV8 reported. "We think it's about time that has been turned around and used to express our disdain."

The demonstration took place on campus at the historic MU columns, and was expected to include "a moment of silence for the estimated 250,000 plus murdered by ISIS, followed by brief speeches and will conclude with the burning of the ISIS flag," according to a statement. The organization obtained an "open flame permit," and the flag burning is protected under the First Amendment.

Paris said he thinks it's important to bring awareness to the rising power of the Islamic State group in the Middle East, and that he had reached out to several student organizations but was not sure how many would show up. The organization is not being Islamophobic, according to Paris, and it doesn't think ISIS is representative of Islam. However, numerous student organizations, including the Muslim Student Organization, said they would not be participating in the flag burning demonstration.

"We are an organization that doesn't stand for violence in any way," said Zakaria El-Tayash, president of the Muslim Student Organization at MU, KOMU-TV8 news reported. "Their message from what I understand is good. Their intentions may be good. I just don't believe in the way that they are approaching the situation."

Under the Campus Freedom Restoration Act, all outdoor areas on public university campuses in Missouri are traditional public forums where free speech is protected.
Students Burn ISIS Flag


A student group at the University of Missouri burned a homemade ISIS flag on campus. About 150 students chanted "U.S.A.," as the group "Young Americans for Liberty" staged a protest on the quad at Mizzou.

The organizer of the symbolic burning of the flag has been used repeatedly against the united states and we think it's about time that it gets turned around and we expressed our disdain. "The intentions may be good, but I just don't believe in the way they are approaching this situation. In this type of action, I don't think it's doing any good only just adding fuel to the fire. The protester says it wasn't meant to slam Islam. He says the purpose was to show ISIS is not a true representative of Islam.

MU Students Burn ISIS Flag

Bird of song: Sheryl Crow brings her many melodies back to Columbia for Homecoming

By Caroline Dohack

Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 2:00 pm

She has plenty of material to pick from.

With a career spanning more than 20 years, eight studio albums and nine Grammys, Sheryl Crow has a slew of radio-friendly hits to her name. The singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist will take the stage at the Missouri Theatre on Friday night.

An alumna of the University of Missouri, Crow is playing her homecoming concert as a benefit show for the School of Music Building Project, which will see the construction of a new building that will house dedicated rehearsal rooms, classrooms, office space and a 410-seat recital hall — unifying a department currently spread out among five buildings on campus.

Although the show likely will be an opportunity to hear the songs that everyone knows, here is a look at five tracks that might not have gotten heavy airplay but are, nevertheless, worth a listen.

“The Na-Na Song” from her debut album, “Tuesday Night Music Club” (1993), features wailing organs and a defiant energy, as Crow calls out sexism, consumerism, jingoism and other –isms in what could almost be a schoolyard chant. With clever rhymes that touch on the social issues of the early ’90s, the song is a hint of Crow commentary to come.

“Sweet Rosalyn,” from Crow’s self-titled sophomore album (1996), is a rollicking yarn about a woman’s daily misadventures. At one point, she finds a phone number written on a bathroom wall advertising good times to be had. But when she calls the number, she gets “a strangely calm voice on the other line / Cheeky little priest trying to reach out to the swine.” As evidenced by this and other songs, Crow is a masterful storyteller — observant, but ultimately empathetic.

Crow’s slickly produced third album, “The Globe Sessions” (1998), came loaded with a tantalizing rumor: Could the first single, “My Favorite Mistake,” have been written about a brief affair with Eric Clapton? Crow has demurred on the matter, refusing to name the philandering
ex-boyfriend. But another big name in rock that can be verified in its association with the album is Bob Dylan, who wrote the song “Mississippi.” Dissatisfied with the way it turned out for him in the recording studio, he passed it along to Crow to record however she saw fit. The result is an upbeat, danceable country song.

“Detours” (2008) might be Crow’s most personal album. Released after a breast cancer diagnosis and her split with fiancé Lance Armstrong, track titles include “Diamond Ring” and “Make It Go Away (Radiation Song).” The final track, “Lullaby for Wyatt,” focuses on a happier time from that period in the singer’s life: the adoption of her first son.

“100 Miles from Memphis” (2010) — so named because Crow grew up in Kennett, a small town in the Bootheel not too far from the Southern music mecca — is an homage to the music Crow grew up listening to. The retro-tinged album is a fun listen, but especially fun is Crow’s cover of The Jackson 5’s “I Want You Back.” Early in her career, Crow sang backup for Michael Jackson.

More student groups to participate in University of Missouri Homecoming

By Katie Pohlman

Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The Mizzou Alumni Association is looking to welcome more student groups and bring back old traditions for the 104th University of Missouri Homecoming celebration.

This year’s Homecoming theme is “Show-Me State of Mind.”

“No matter how you celebrate, Homecoming is on the brain, Mizzou is on the brain,” said Aly Friend, the Mizzou Alumni Association’s coordinator of student programs.

Each year, the association challenges its Homecoming steering committee to come up with a new theme, Friend said, telling the students to draw on their experiences with MU and Homecoming to make a decision.

“It’s hard to come up with a new way to say, ‘Black and gold; Go Tigers,’ ” Friend said.
Friend provides the committee with a list of themes so they don’t repeat any that were used in the past five years.

This year, the alumni association also is welcoming new student groups’ participation. Friend said the Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center has been involved with service days and other activities. “That’s been exciting,” she said.

The steering committee also is bringing back the Spirit Rally at 9:30 p.m. Friday at Traditions Plaza on the north side of the Carnahan Quadrangle. The rally was once a tradition that took place after campus decorations were revealed, but it has not been held for the past three years because crowds were too large, Friend said. Now that organizers can use Traditions Plaza, there is a place to hold the Spirit Rally again.

More groups also are getting involved with the Homecoming parade. Graduate students will have a float in the parade this year, and so will several colleges and faculty and student groups.

The parade is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at Rollins Street and Tiger Avenue. The parade will go west to Hitt Street, then onto Ninth Street and north to Broadway. The route ends at Sixth and Elm streets.

Live streaming video of the parade will be available on the alumni association website at www.mizzou.com.

**Tiger blood for Homecoming**

By Katherine Cummins

Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 2:00 am

The mention of Homecoming in Columbia generally brings to mind tissue-paper bedecked skits in a crowded Greek Town; bands, dancers and fire trucks parading through downtown; tailgating with friends and a sea of black and gold in Memorial Stadium roaring support for the Tigers.

**But Homecoming isn’t all fun and games. It is also an opportunity for University of Missouri students to give back to the community they call home for nine months of the year. That opportunity for service is something Aly Friend, coordinator of student programs for the University of Missouri Alumni Association – whose role includes overseeing the Homecoming Steering Committee – said is an important part of the Mizzou experience.**
“With the feedback we get from year to year, we think students love being Mizzou students, and they love the community,” Friend said. “Any time you can put them out in the community is important.”

For 2015, the primary opportunities for Tigers to give back were through the annual food drive and Homecoming Blood Drive.

The food drive generated more than 84,000 pounds of food this year.

Friend said there was also more of an emphasis on providing physical service this year, with students spending a total of about 50 hours helping at at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri.

The 2015 Homecoming Blood Drive, which has historically been one of the largest blood drives in the world, yielded 5,114 units of blood. Friend said that number is from the blood drive held at Hearnes Sept. 28-Oct. 1 and does not include any of the satellite drives held around the state and the country.

“We’re hoping to bring in a couple hundred (units) more from those,” Friend said. “Overall, the blood drive was successful – we saved over 15,000 lives, so that’s awesome.”

T-shirts representing violence stories were hung across Mizzou's campus Thursday

Over one-hundred t-shirts were hung on a clothesline across MU's Lowry Mall Thursday.

"It's crazy to see how many there are and that this is only a small part of it, but it's kinda cool to see each person's feelings and emotions and how this traumatic event has affected them," MU student Samantha Livingston said.
Survivors of interpersonal violence shared their stories through t-shirts and supporters of survivors could share encouraging messages.

"Just look at the sheer numbers of people who this has directly affected or indirectly affected", Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center Graduate Assistant Tim Maness said.

MU's Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center put on the Clothesline Project.

Different kinds of interpersonal violence and sexual violence were represented. This included dating and family violence to sexual assault and harassment.

"This is a way for people to kind of therapeutically express their experience, how they're feeling, maybe their frustration, their anger, their resentment in a very healthy positive way," Maness said.

The t-shirts are collected over time and shirts from this year and other years were put on the clothesline Thursday.

Maness said this is a way to share everyone's message.

"It gives me a joy to see people that might process this and have a light bulb click on like woah I haven't really thought of the magnitude of this," Maness said.

Maness said this is a problem on campus and everywhere.

"I'm very positive about it because we're trying to address this problem both re actively and proactively," Maness said.

Maness said they have a full office with a professional staff there to help students at the center.

The Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center has referral services for counseling and medical and legal services, trained peer educators, and resources like articles and videos.

An MU Title Nine Report shows from July 2014-August 2015 there were forty-nine incidents of dating/intimate partner violence and eighty-five sexual harassment incidents reported by MU students.

"I know a couple people here who have gone through violence and it's just crazy that it's even happening. The numbers are way too high and even just with this. This is just a small portion of the t-shirts that we have and it's like a really long line," Livingston said.

MU Police Department Major Brian Weimer said unfortunately they do see acts of violence, but work on making sure victims get help.
"24/7 hours a day seven days a week we're here to help them. If they simply don't know where to turn they can come to us and we will make sure they get the resources they need to get through what they're going through," Weimer said.

The center said another way of helping a survivor is by listening and believing their story and supporting them.

Proposed funding increases face hurdles

If passed, Governor Nixon’s proposed tuition freeze and funding increase would mark a departure from recent trends in state support for higher education.

On Sept. 21, Gov. Jay Nixon announced a proposal for a freeze on undergraduate tuition at the state’s public two- and four-year institutions for the 2016-17 school year. According to a news release from the governor’s office, this marks the fourth tuition freeze proposed by Nixon since 2009.

In addition to the proposed tuition freeze, Nixon also announced a proposal for an additional $55.7 million increase in higher education funding as part of his 2017 budget. If passed, the funding increase would bring total higher education funding to $985 million, a record high. $9.2 million of that will be earmarked toward funding for science, technology, engineering and math programs.

Michael O’Brien, College of Arts and Science dean, expressed skepticism over passing of the proposal, noting its contingency upon the approval of the state general assembly and the University System Board of Curators.

“The general assembly decides it,” O’Brien said. “It’s a moot point until then.”

However, O’Brien did note the importance of funding increases on the university’s operations due to legislative constraints, mainly Missouri Senate Bill 389, a bill approved in 2007 that caps tuition increases at state universities with the national Consumer Price Index. SB 389 “makes (MU) very dependent on state support,” O’Brien said.

SB 389 has long been a source of controversy at MU. The Missouri Students Association passed a resolution in 2007 opposing the bill, saying, “SB 389 places certain restrictions on the research that faculty, staff, students and administration of the University of Missouri of Columbia can engage in,” and that “such restrictions severely limit the ability of the University to fulfill its mission as the state’s major land-grant research institution.”
In addition, according to a 2009 report by the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education on the state of higher education funding, “annual state funding increases are critical to maintaining current levels of quality and service in Missouri public postsecondary education.”

The governor’s proposed funding increase comes amid already low higher education funding. According to data from the College Board website, in 2014 Missouri ranked 43rd among all states in terms of per capita spending on higher education, enough to receive a “D” grade from U.S. News and World Report.

For O’Brien, the low amount of recent funding is largely a result of the fallout from the 2008-09 recession: a worse economy causes people to spend less, meaning less tax revenue, which ultimately results in less government funding to distribute to programs like education.

“We haven’t seen growth years recently,” O’Brien said. “Times have been lean.”

However, according to the CBHE, low amounts of funding for higher education are not a recent anomaly, but a larger, more worrying trend.

According to the report, from 2001 to 2008, not only did per capita spending on students decrease from $184 to $159.05, but the appropriations base for funding was also decreased, causing nominal funding to remain “stagnant.”

The report goes on to say, “Extraordinary withholdings, annual 3 percent withholdings, and below inflation increases in state support” have “compromised the University’s ability to recruit and retain top faculty.”

This observation still seems to hold true six years later: In a survey of 34 member institutions by the Association of American Universities, MU ranked 33rd.

Despite these trends, O’Brien remained optimistic about the proposal, noting the many STEM-related College of Arts and Science programs could utilize the increased funds, such as renovations to undergraduate biology and physics labs, as well as increased graduate student housing. However, O’Brien made sure to stress the uncertainty surrounding funding until approval by the university board of curators and the general assembly.

“Talk to me after the December meetings...then we’ll have more answers.” O’Brien said.