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MU's School of Medicine expands Bryant Scholars program

MU's School of Medicine expands program to train physicians to work in rural areas
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COLUMBIA, Mo - The University of Missouri School of Medicine is expanding its Bryant Scholars Program, a program designed to train more physicians to practice in rural areas, to all four-year universities and colleges in Missouri. Through this expansion, students from 24 additional universities will be eligible to apply to the MU School of Medicine’s Bryant Scholars Pre-admissions Program, bringing the total number of eligible institutions to 37.

“The MU School of Medicine is in a key position to increase the physician workforce in rural Missouri,” said Kathleen Quinn, Ph.D., associate dean for rural health. “Medical students who have grown up in rural Missouri are more likely to practice in those areas, when compared to their classmates from urban areas. This expansion will help keep rural students in Missouri for medical school and, ultimately, rural practice.”

According to Quinn, 77 percent of Bryant Scholars now practice in Missouri, and 69 percent of that group practice in rural locations. Quinn says starting in academic year 2015-16, students from all four-year universities and colleges in Missouri will be eligible for the program.

The Bryant Scholars program is a cooperative effort among Missouri colleges and universities and the MU School of Medicine. Through the program, eligible undergraduate college students are pre-admitted to medical school at MU. For pre-admission, undergraduate college students are required to achieve certain academic standards, demonstrate ongoing professional conduct and participate in required activities.

Quinn says acceptance into the Bryant Scholars program is based on students’ high academic achievement, commitment to a career in rural medicine, personal characteristics expected of quality physicians and a small-town or rural background.
“There only are 104 seats available in a current MU School of Medicine class, and up to 15 of those are reserved for Bryant Scholars,” said Quinn. “Each year, MU receives close to 2,000 applications for medical school, so being pre-admitted into the program can be a huge benefit for students.”

Bryant Scholars are exposed to the MU School of Medicine’s curriculum during their undergraduate studies, in addition to having access to medical school faculty and staff at retreats. During their junior year in college, Bryant Scholars are required to participate in a mentorship program with a rural physician, job shadowing and devoting time to career guidance and professional development. They also get the chance to develop relationships with other Bryant Scholars, which can help ease the anxiety some students face when transitioning to medical school.

The Bryant Scholars Program began in 1995 as part of the Rural Track Pipeline Program at the MU School of Medicine. It is named after Lester Bryant, M.D., who served as dean of the MU School of Medicine from 1989 to 1998 and created the program to address the shortage of physicians in Missouri.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU School of Medicine to expand Bryant Scholars program

ANADIL IFTEKHAR, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — The MU School of Medicine is expanding its Bryant Scholars Program to allow students from all four-year Missouri universities and colleges to apply. This adds 24 schools to the pre-admissions program, making a total of 37 institutions in the state.

The Bryant Scholars Program is designed to train more physicians to work in rural areas. Out of the 115 counties in Missouri, 101 are rural and 98 of those are designated "health professional shortage areas," according to a 2013 report by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. A health professional shortage means that there are more than 3,500 patients per physician in a given area, according to U.S Health Resources and Services website.
“Medical students who have grown up in rural Missouri are more likely to practice in those areas, when compared to their classmates from urban areas,” Kathleen Quinn, MU associate dean for rural health, said in a news release. “This expansion will help keep rural students in Missouri for medical school and, ultimately, rural practice.”

Dominic Haertling is a first-year medical student at MU. He is from Perryville in Perry County, Missouri.

"I enjoyed growing up in a small town, and I saw the impact the physicians made on the patients and also within my community," he said in an email. Haertling wants to make that sort of impact and the Bryant Scholars program aligns with his career goals.

The program helps expose him to rural medicine and challenges that rural physicians face, he said.

There are 104 seats available in the MU School of Medicine’s current class, 15 of which are reserved for Bryant Scholars. The expansion of the program doesn’t increase the number of seats at MU, Quinn said, and eligible students must be high academic achievers, committed to a career in rural medicine and come from a rural area.

The program is named after Lester Bryant, who served as dean of the MU School of Medicine from 1989 to 1998. Bryant created the program in 1995 as part of the Rural Track Pipeline Program at the MU School of Medicine.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

CARL KENNEY: Silence announces the sentiment of those who don't speak

CARL KENNEY, 1 hr ago
What should you do when you have a group of young people screaming while you sit in a convertible?

I strongly recommend getting out of the car. Once out of the car, I would thank them for speaking their mind. I would promise to speak with them soon in an environment more conducive for settling disagreement.

**UM System President Tim Wolfe missed an opportunity to shift the conversation regarding race relations at MU. He remained glued to his car during MU’s Homecoming Parade as members of Concerned Student 1950 protested racism on campus. Wolfe failed to move as people hollered racial slurs as members of the group locked arms, determined not to be moved until they were heard.**

Wolfe watched as protesters openly cried because of the insensitivity of those determined to get back to the festivities of the parade. Some complained that children were watching. Some bellowed reminders of their version of the good ol' days when black people remained in the big house while others were forced to endure work in the field.

Wolfe failed to move as students, who attend the university he manages, begged him to listen. They wanted him to address his silence.

Wolfe didn’t move. He failed to speak.

Was this one of those embarrassing deer in the headlights moments that many of us have endured? Was Wolfe overcome with fear by the sight of a group of angry black youth locking arms while hollering about their right to be heard? If so, what does that fear say related to the implicit bias that kept Wolfe from moving?

Wolfe’s lack of movement and silence exemplifies the burden black people carry in moving toward resolving issues involving racism. The bodies of students stood in the way. Their voices echoed reminders of vast contradictions on campus. People gathered to celebrate, chanting
"MIZ-ZOU." The black bodies blocking the progression of the parade stood in the way of what the people wanted — to pretend what the students want doesn’t matter.

Wolfe’s silence reflects MU’s problem with race. Most white people don’t know what to say. Their lack of understanding leaves them immobilized when faced with the attacks of students unwilling to compromise for what they deserve. Maybe Wolfe couldn’t move because he doesn’t understand black people?

The lack of movement might speak to more than a lack of sensitivity. Is it possible Wolfe didn’t know what to do or say? He lacked the proper words to address the students blocking his path. Is it possible Wolfe is dumbfounded by what is happening at MU? If so, his lack of action at the parade speaks to more than his failure on that day.

The UM System lacks leadership that understands the concerns and culture of black people. The absence of understanding produces a culture of silence that promotes the power of white privilege.

During the Homecoming Parade, white privilege demanded the students be moved to allow the parade to continue. Protesters gathered as a consequence of silence. They attempted to gain Wolfe’s attention prior to the parade. Nothing was working. The protest was fueled by silence. What followed validated the intensity of silence at MU.

The jeers of the crowd uncovered the violence of silence. Wolfe’s lack of movement and silence affirmed the sentiment of the crowd. The parade is not the proper place for protest. Black students shouldn’t protest in a way that compromises the right of people to enjoy their lives without being reminded of the presence of racism.

Black students responded with a loud 'Why not?' Given their lives have been compromised by the presence of racism, why shouldn’t the lives of white people be adjusted to help them feel the violence of interruption? This is the violence of being called the N-word in the middle of normal activities. This is the glare of rage stirred by people unwilling to allow you to move.
Silence is a violent action. Silence violently announces the underlying sentiments of those who refuse to speak. Silence screams a message to those who are pleading to be heard. It tells them they have nothing worthy of being heard. It tells them you don’t care to listen. It violently speaks to the invisibility of black people in the middle of a culture conditioned by white power and privilege. It reminds them of their place among the rest.

Simply put, you do not belong here. You have no right to speak, and I have no desire to listen.

The police came and moved the protesters out of the way. The car carrying President Wolfe resumed the procession to the cheers of a jubilant crowd. He left behind a group of mourning protesters. The sorrow poured like a mound of memories — some belonged to them, some were the continued angst of men and women waiting for the validation that comes with being heard.

Little girls wearing MU cheerleader outfits cheered as the group I walked with approached during the MU Homecoming Parade. We carried a sign that read “Columbians for Diversity … We Support Our Minority Students!” We felt the thrill of our unity as members of the Legion of Black Collegians followed us in the parade. It felt like hope had found a home to rest.

We didn’t know about Wolfe’s silence until after the parade.

Silence is a powerful weapon.

Knock, knock. Who’s there? Black students, we want to talk to you.

Silence, followed by the sound of crickets.
Are Fracking Chemicals Causing Male Sterility?

Fracking — a process in which water, sand and chemicals are pumped into the earth to crack open deposits of gas and oil — has created an energy boom in the United States, but a lot of people are worried about whether it’s contaminating our underground supply of drinking water.

The energy industry contends that the risks are minimal, but an EPA report released in June contained a more guarded assessment. The report conceded fracking had contaminated the water supply in some parts of the United States, but the impact “was small compared to the number of hydraulically fractured wells.” Another potential danger, however, is detailed in a new study that suggests fracking chemicals lead to male sterility.

The study by researchers from several different universities, published in the scientific journal Endocrinology, found that prenatal exposure to a mixture of fracking chemicals, at levels found in the environment, lowered sperm counts in male mice when they reached adulthood.

The scientists tested 24 chemicals used in fracking and determined that all but one of them were endocrine-disrupting chemicals, or EDCs, which interfere with hormones, sometimes by mimicking or blocking them.

Almost all of those chemicals disrupted the functions of estrogens, which are primarily female hormones but also are found in men. The chemicals also disrupted androgens, a group of primarily male sex hormones such as testosterone. In addition, more than 40 percent of the chemicals interfered with progestogens, another type of reproductive hormone, and glucocorticoids, which are involved in metabolism and stress.

“In addition to reduced sperm counts, the male mice exposed to the mixture of chemicals had elevated levels of testosterone in their blood and larger testicles,” University of Missouri-Columbia researcher Susan C. Nagel said in a press release. “These findings may have implications for the fertility of men living in regions with dense oil and/or natural gas production.”

The scientists found mice that were exposed to the chemical mixtures prenatally had decreased sperm counts, smaller testes and increased testosterone levels compared to the control group.
“It is clear EDCs used in fracking can act alone or in combination with other chemicals to interfere with the body’s hormone function,” Nagel said. She called for more research to assess the reproductive impact of fracking chemicals.

UM System receives grant for entrepreneurship program

By Megan Favignano

Monday, October 19, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Missouri Technology Corporation’s Missouri Building Entrepreneurial Capacity program has given the University of Missouri System $145,000 to boost an entrepreneurial intern program.

UM designed the Entrepreneurial Scholars and Interns Program, which was established in 2014, to increase the number of students who become entrepreneurs after graduation, according to a news release.

Hank Foley, UM System executive vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development, said the program will help young entrepreneurs support one another as they gain expertise.

“Out of this we can start to grow a network of young people who are truly entrepreneurs,” Foley said.

Missouri Technology Corporation’s funds — with a partial match from the UM System Office of Academic Affairs — will expand the entrepreneurial intern program from an average of 12 students per year to 16. Interns selected for the program receive $4,000 for a summer internship, entrepreneurial mentorship and network opportunities. The program also pays tuition for entrepreneurial courses.

The program’s first cohort was made up of students from all four UM campuses. Students completed summer internships this year, which allowed them to work with business owners while developing their own startups. Seven of those 14 students launched startups, five are learning about corporate innovation and two are exploring entrepreneurial options, according to the news release.

John Larrick, a senior studying finance and real estate, was one of the program’s first interns. Larrick said his most valuable takeaway was realizing what opportunities are available to entrepreneurs in the UM system. “The only way to really learn how to start a business is by starting a company,” he said.

UM’s intern program will choose its second round of interns in the next couple of months, Foley said. More funding and expansion to other schools are priorities for the intern program.

“We hope we can expand it to include the other eight public universities in the state if we can find more resources to make that happen,” Foley said.

An increase in student participation in the intern program will benefit the state, UM System President Tim Wolfe said in a news release.
“The entrepreneurial culture on our campuses has already opened doors for students and we look forward to the additional growth this grant will bring to the program,” Wolfe said.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

MU to create two new bio-retention centers by 2016

CHRIS STAFFORD, 14 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU will spend $60,000 to build two bio-retention basins near Providence Point, behind Hearnes Center and next to the site of its new softball stadium, as part of its effort to reduce flooding and stormwater pollution in Hinkson Creek.

Bio-retention basins are man-made depressions that are filled with a variety of soil mixtures and plants such as swamp milkweed, river oats, copper iris, cattails and palm sedge. The plant roots trap toxic runoff such as oil spills and heavy metals that flow from parking lots and other impervious surfaces after heavy rain.

The new basins will be among dozens that the campus has created over the years to address problems with Hinkson Creek. As part of the city, county and MU’s "adaptive management plan," an MU team comprising two professors, three undergraduates and one graduate student is doing research on the basins in East Campus to determine how effective they are.

The research team shares its findings with Columbia, Boone County and MU so that authorities can make informed decisions on how to address flooding, pollution, basin maintenance and future installations of basins.

The research satisfies the joint MS4 permit held by MU, Columbia and Boone County under Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The EPA is requiring all three entities to work together to address pollution in Hinkson Creek, which has been on its list of impaired streams for years.
Pete Millier, director of campus facilities and landscape services, said the joint permit and the research team serve as a "national model" for other towns, counties and universities that might face similar situations.

"Ten years ago, the question 'What do we do about the stormwater?' did not enter the equation," Millier said. "Instead, parking lots were sloped downward; inlets were built and piped to collect the stormwater."

The need for better stormwater management has been increasing. Millier said that before the implementation of the basins, stormwater flooding would cause mulch to flush into the intersection of College Avenue and Stadium Boulevard.

Overall, basin construction has been on the rise throughout Boone County. MU, the city and the county also have been using best-management practices such as green roofs, vegetated swales, pervious pavers and constructed wetlands.

Campus facilities spokeswoman Karlan Seville said that in the past, EPA officials have visited the campus to evaluate its progress. More often, though, the research team reports its findings to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which reports to the EPA.

Enos Inniss, assistant teaching professor in civil and environmental engineering at MU and one of the directors of the student research team, said that findings show there is little phosphorus being removed by the current soil mix. Too much phosphorus can mean more algae growth and unhealthy amounts of E. coli.

"We're now looking at, can we change that soil mix, add some different things to it, biochar it, for instance, and influence the fate of some of these concerns," Inniss said. Biocharring is a process that converts depleted soils into porous charcoal.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources in 2012 gave MU a $253,800 grant for equipment and research materials to monitor stormwater management strategies. Although the grant was extended and expired in August 2015, the researchers continued to collect data, and
Inniss planned to send a report to the department last week. The research will continue and be shared with the city, county and MU as part of "a memorandum of understanding."

Data on the relative performance of different soil mixes in minimizing nutrients, eliminating E. coli and clearing water that leaves bio-retention basins will be included in the report to the DNR.

Many students wish to continue research as a supplementary learning experience outside the classroom. Inniss said two more students have asked to join the research group.

Franck Noupin, a senior majoring in civil and environmental engineering, is one of the student researchers who wants to continue learning and helping the community.

"For me, it's a huge opportunity to do this, and the fact that we are students studying and we don't practice, this is a huge opportunity. I really like it," Noupin said.

In the winter, or when there is a lack of rain, students simulate field work in a lab room. They set up soil columns with different soil mixes and plants and pump water into the soils to simulate the stormwater flooding caused by heavy rain.

The researchers also plan to work with the city to reinstall monitoring equipment on bio-retention basins located near fire stations city during spring 2016.

FROM READERS: MU student sick over annual pride photo

ALLISON FITTS/MISSOURIAN READER, 14 hrs ago

Allison is a senior business marketing major at the University of Missouri. She is passionate about LGBTQ and women's rights as well as a wide range of other social justice issues.
On Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. I was sick and tired. I had finished up a long day of classes and tests and a week of battling a nasty cold. I was sick and tired and I decided to forgo Mizzou’s 20th annual Pride Photo for some much needed rest. From what I heard from friends, the photo was a raving success! Over 500 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer-identifying students, faculty and staff and allies showed up to demonstrate their pride. Then, the photo hit the web and the support and pride was taken to a whole new level.

I am a queer woman on Mizzou’s campus. I have had an overwhelmingly positive experience as such. Friends, family and sorority sisters have supported me ever since I first came out my freshman year. So imagine my joy when I saw so much more support for the Mizzou LGBTQ community via people’s comments on this year’s Pride Photo posted by the university on Facebook. Below are some of my favorite, most intelligent and supportive comments and my response of gratitude to each:

Cody Lemens said, "Where’s straight pride day and white history month?"

Me: "THANK YOU! We need some good, solid representation for straight, white people everywhere. There is not enough of it in our society."

2. Neil Harris said, "The best pride is in FITTING IN with others, not declaring your difference. Mizzou is becoming too liberal."

Me: "Standing out is so '90s. Just like Fresh Prince of Bel Air, Walkman CD players and the Goosebumps series, showing pride in who you are is better left as a memory."

3. Lannon David Oldenburg said, "Repent!"

Me: "Short. Sweet. And to the point."

4. Jason Reid said, "Burn in hell!!!"

Me: "See you there. You bring the chicken. I’ll bring a side dish."
5. Grant Powell said, "To the people that changed the American flag. You are a disgrace! I hope you get hit in the face with a bat!"

Me: _-

And here is where I have to put my sarcastic wit that is so quintessentially me aside. (1) My identity is not an invalidation of yours; (2) My identity is not a political statement; (3) My identity is not a threat to your religion; (4) My identity is not a damnation of my character; (5) My identity is not an invitation for violence.

A word of advice to all people who think posting language like this is okay — it’s not. Technically, you are legally allowed to do it, but that does not mean you should. Whether you are an alumni, a general Mizzou fan or literally just a person who 'likes' Mizzou on Facebook, we as an institution do not need your support if this is how you treat our students. Our campus is full of promising young people who will go on to do great things in this world. Some of them are people of color. Some of them are white people. Some of them are women. Some of them are men. Some of them are straight. And yes, some of them are LGBTQ. However, whether or not each student leaves this institution and changes the world, each of them deserve and demand to be treated with respect: they’re people. And without these people, the university you 'like' would not be what it is.

Now I am sick and tired for a different reason.

Some students, faculty call on UM president to respond to protesters

By Megan Favignano

Monday, October 19, 2015 at 2:00 pm
Students who stopped the University of Missouri System president’s car in protest during the university’s Homecoming parade Oct. 10 continue through letters and social media to press officials to respond to their concerns.

MU officials are also fielding criticism of Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s plans to require diversity training for incoming students.

During the parade, a group of black students formed a line at the corner of Ninth Street and University Avenue in front of UM System President Tim Wolfe’s car, stopping the car and the parade. A few white parade spectators can be seen on video getting between the protesters and the red convertible Wolfe rode in, and police stepped in to move the protesters off the street.

The students are calling their movement “Concerned Student 1950,” a reference to the year MU was integrated by court order. In the days since the parade, students have pressed Wolfe to acknowledge their concerns about racism on the MU campus, using the Twitter hashtag #ConcernedStudent1950.

“9 days. No response from @UMPrez,” student Jonathan Butler posted on his Twitter account Monday morning.

In a letter circulating on Twitter signed “Concerned Student 1950,” protesters said some allowed Wolfe’s car to hit them as the driver attempted to get around the roadblock “to ensure we were heard.”

UM spokesman John Fougere said Wolfe has responded to emails about what happened during the Homecoming parade, but Wolfe has not made any public statements or statements to faculty or students as a whole.

The chorus asking for Wolfe to speak up has grown beyond the students in the Homecoming protest. A Twitter account for concerned faculty has circulated statements regarding race on campus and called for Wolfe and Loftin to respond to the demonstration during Homecoming.

Stephanie Shonekan, chairwoman of MU’s Black Studies Department, wrote Wolfe and Loftin a letter saying she stands by the students who protested at Homecoming.

“If our students feel a need to march, protest and raise awareness about their position on this campus and the need to address what they perceive to be a racist environment, our job is to listen, acknowledge, think and design curriculum and programs that address these concerns,” Shonekan wrote.

Faculty in MU’s Communication Department published a statement that said, in part, “As communication scholars, we recognize the transformative power of dialogue; we believe words shape our realities and that engaging multiple perspectives is vital. We also recognize the power of silence, enabled by white privilege, that too often shuts down dialogue and marginalizes members of our community.”
Some faculty and students are also critical of Loftin’s plans to require diversity training for all incoming students. The training requirement came as a response to high-profile incidents of racial slurs being used against black students on campus.

Some faculty criticized Loftin at a meeting last week for not involving faculty enough before making the decision to start developing that training. MU had discussed a program to address issues of racism on campus for several months. Loftin said he felt it was necessary to do something now.

“We were at a tipping point in terms of racial tension here, based on a series of events that happened very close together, and there had to be a statement made,” Loftin said. “We don’t tolerate racism.”

Loftin emphasized the diversity training requirement is a first step and not a long-term solution. Faculty, he said, will continue to be involved in dealing with race issues on campus and in developing the training.

MU student Naomi Collier, a member of the Legion of Black Collegians, said the university requiring diversity training is a step in the right direction.

A new generation of activists is rising on college campuses

Students arriving at school “awakened to activism,” one professor says

Twitter and Facebook make organizing a rally or march quick and easy

Campus sexual assault, high tuition and debt relief are among the issues motivating students
BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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Students gathered earlier this month near the entrance of Haskell Indian Nations University for a march through Lawrence to gain community recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day.
Drumbeats and songs filled the air as the students, many in colorful regalia, walked the three miles to City Hall. They carried banners and signs and collected more participants along the way.

Haskell has about 800 students, and a quarter of them marched that day. It was Barbara Wolfin’s first dive into student activism, but she said it wouldn’t be her last.

“College is a place were you can make your voice heard,” Wolfin said. “We brought so many students together. We felt empowered. We put out the call on social media, and students showed up and marched.”

It worked. The marchers persuaded city officials to rename Columbus Day to honor the contributions of indigenous people.

The same kind of nonviolent display to bring about social, economic and environmental change has been erupting more on college campuses nationwide, and it’s been fueled largely by social media.

From online petitions to sign-toting rallies, students are taking to campus greens and community streets to make their voices heard on a scale that experts say hasn’t been seen in decades.

“This generation is different,” said Daniel Wildcat, a Haskell professor of indigenous studies. “I have seen in the last two or three years students arriving here awakened to activism.

“I sense a lot more engagement from them. I think in some ways it’s because they are so surrounded by media 24/7. They are plugged in all the time to some really serious issues, and they realize they can’t depend on others to change things. They better be engaged.”

College campuses have long held a reputation for being enclaves where free speech and protest are expected and where students, especially in the 1960s and early ’70s, bled and even died in the name of protest. Consider the civil rights movement, the feminist movement and the anti-Vietnam War effort, including the four students at Kent State University shot and killed in 1970 by members of the Ohio National Guard.

“What we are seeing now, though, is different,” Wildcat said.
The revolution will be tweeted

Many of the movements, protests and sit-ins sprout from social media, mainly Facebook and Twitter. Information is in your face quickly, and then constantly updated.

Images spread through social media — a young man lying dead in the street, a young woman trudging across campus with a mattress on her back, members of a fraternity singing a racist chant — are powerful, said Susan Torres-Harding, an associate professor of psychology at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

“People see them and get upset. They feel connected and they want to do something,” said Torres-Harding, who has written extensively about student activism. “Social media brings the injustices closer to you.”

Had it not been for the constant stream of news, tweets and YouTube videos after the August 2014 death of Michael Brown, the 18-year-old black man shot by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo., Erika Pearson might never have become a student organizer at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

“It struck a nerve in me that I didn’t even know I had,” said Pearson, 23, a senior majoring in health sciences and the president of the university’s chapter of the NAACP.

Like most college-age students, Pearson never steps far from the smartphone that plugs her into social media. It’s how she knew what the country was saying about the Brown shooting and how her group called students together for an “I Am Mike Brown” march.

“You can’t protest if you don’t know what is going on, and if you don’t know what’s going on, you can’t pick a side,” Pearson said. “With social media, we know what’s going on.”

Hannah E. Britton, an associate professor of political science at the University of Kansas, calls today’s college students “members of the informed generation. They are smart.”

Many movements

Some time after the early 1970s, student advocacy on the nation’s campuses calmed to barely a whisper.
Then came the Occupy movement, which took root in 2010 and brought the return of campus sit-ins.

Students started rallying and marching on all sorts of issues. For loan debt relief. Against tuition increases, police brutality and racism. For changes in the way universities respond to sexual assaults.

Students lay on the floors of capitol rotundas to push for immigration rights for children whose parents had brought them into the country illegally.

“People see an activism movement and how it gets a lot of attention for a cause, so they borrow methods from each other,” Torres-Harding said. “That is evident in the current transgender movement, which borrowed from the gay rights movement where people were outing themselves and giving more visibility to the movement.”

**Campus sexual assault:** KU this year has been the site of several protests and rallies, involving hundreds of students. “It is excellent to see that level of engagement,” Britton said.

At Indiana University, sexual-assault protesters wore black masks. They wore red X’s at Northern Kentucky University and white bandanas over their mouths at the University of Notre Dame.

Researchers such as Torres-Harding say they are just now trying to figure out how effective such protests are at bringing about real and widespread change.

**Activism at KU brought about the formation of the Chancellor’s Sexual Assault Task Force,** charged with making recommendations to improve victims’ reporting, university response and punishments for attackers.

Rallies and marches led U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat, to propose legislation forcing colleges to address the problem, and President Barack Obama launched a national awareness campaign.

**High tuition:** University of California students showed up at a Board of Regents meeting earlier this year to protest rising tuition costs. They stripped off their shirts to make their point: Tuition was so high it was costing the shirts of their backs.
**Guns on campus:** Earlier this month, students at the University of Texas at Austin created a Facebook event page urging students to carry sex toys next year to protest a law that will allow concealed-carry permit holders to bring firearms onto campuses.

According to students, although guns will be OK, they could receive a citation for openly bringing a sex toy to class because of rules about sexual expression on campus. More than 4,100 people signed up to participate in what students call a “strap in.”

**Graduate student benefits:** In Columbia, University of Missouri graduate student Connor Lewis became a self-proclaimed rabble-rouser in August after administrators decided to stop subsidizing health insurance for graduate assistants. That sparked a conversation among MU graduate students about other privileges and resources the students had lost over the years, including full tuition waivers for graduate assistants who work at least 10 hours a week, some housing and access to day care.

It turned into a series of rallies and marches and eventually the formation of a graduate student advocacy group called the Forum on Graduate Rights. The students got the university to reverse its decision on health insurance subsidies.

The group is now affiliated with the Missouri National Education Association in an effort to unionize. Lewis said similar shake-ups over graduate student worker benefits are happening nationwide.

“We’re part of a bigger movement,” he said.

That’s a sentiment also felt by Cordell Pulluaim, a UMKC senior history major and the programming director of K-Roo Student Radio, who participated in his first march on campus after the Ferguson shooting.

“I think college makes it easier to start down the activism path because it’s where you find people of like mind,” Pulluaim said. “It energizes you and you are more able to be bold because it’s about more than just how you feel.”

And once you march, rally, protest, “you figure out how much you can effect change,” he said. “I’ll be doing this — activism — the rest of my life now.

“I believe that sometimes you can change hearts and minds one at a time.”
Sisters bring domestic violence prevention 5K to Columbia

NATALIA ALAMDARI, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Leslie Lust lived with abuse for 18 years.

Her husband would threaten her and her family to get her to stay with him. When they had children, he threatened the kids, too.

In 2003, Lust called the police. And because the presiding judge was on vacation at the time, her husband spent three nights in jail.

Lust and her sister, Tracey Passantino, packed up what fit in their two cars and left for Olathe, Kansas.

In 2014, Lust and Passantino began the Race4 Domestic Violence Prevention in Kansas City. This year, the sisters have expanded, holding 5K races in St. Louis and in Columbia.

The race raises money primarily for domestic violence education and outreach. Proceeds will go to True North, a domestic violence shelter in Columbia.

"The only thing that's going to help stop the problem of domestic violence is if people are educated," Lust said. "It's not just physical; it's so much more than that. If you don't recognize what it is, you can't stop it."

Expanding their efforts to other cities has brought logistical challenges including finding sponsors and organizers.
“The hardest thing is making sure we have the volunteer base behind the effort and meeting the basic needs of the 5K,” Passantino said.

Volunteers from Columbia College helped the sisters in organizing the event. Members of MU’s Alpha Chi Omega sorority will also volunteer on race day, helping with registration and handing out fruit and water.

At the finish line, participants will not receive a participation medal; instead they will receive a gift.

"We like that to be a surprise at the end," Passantino said.

The race in Columbia is at 1 p.m. Sunday at Cosmo Park. A timing company will be recording official times.

Registration begins at noon, with the race starting at 1 p.m. Dogs and strollers are welcome. Runners and walkers can pay the $25 registration fee online.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

UPDATED: City Council approves new bus shelters, hears report on roll carts

BLAKE NELSON, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Here's what the Columbia City Council did and considered on Monday night during its second regular meeting of October.

CLOSING COMMENTS — HOMELESS SHELTER
First Ward Councilman Clyde Ruffin said he is working with the Columbia Alliance to Combat Homelessness “to build a comprehensive shelter for the homeless” to service the community year-round.

He said he has met with neighborhood representatives, adding that while some residents are in favor of the shelter, many do not want it built near residential areas.

The shelter would have room for about 50 homeless men and would have been located on North Eighth Street, according to previous Missourian reporting. A vote was initially scheduled for Oct. 5.

Calling their concerns “legitimate,” Ruffin said plans for the shelter have been put on hold.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

The Mayor’s Task Force on Community Violence in 2014 provided a number of recommendations the city could take to reduce violence. On Monday night, the council got a report on the status of those recommendations.

Fifth Ward Councilwoman Laura Nauser asked for residents to read the report and provide feedback. A meeting about the report is scheduled for Oct. 28.

The report said that, among several programs receiving new funding, the Healthy Families America program received more than $300,000 from the state Health Department, and the Teen Outreach program received more than $90,000 from the county and state.

The task force also noted that social service funding was "at its lowest level since 2008," and that no money had yet been allocated to track the county's "highest risk offenders."

Second Ward Councilman Michael Trapp and Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas spoke highly of community groups that have been pushing for the task force’s recommendations to be implemented.
The report categorized community violence as a “public health issue,” and the task force asked for more job training programs and increased coordination between existing programs. It also asked for the construction of a Youth Community Cultural Center and for more resources to be directed at public schools in an effort to help at-risk students.

The task force also asked the Columbia Police Department to embrace community policing models and for more resources to oversee the 40 or so ex-offenders who return to the county each month.

Violent crime has decreased in Columbia since 2011, according to data on the city's website.

REPORT ON ROLL CARTS

The council received a report from City Clerk Sheela Amin declaring that a petition seeking to ban the use of roll carts or automated trash collection or to put the matter to a public vote has been certified.

If the council rejects the petition, voters must decide the future of roll carts in Columbia. According to city ordinance, the election would have to be held March 15.

The council will vote on the petition at its next meeting.

REPORT ON GREEKTOWN PARKING

Delta Gamma, a MU sorority at 900 S. Providence Road, has asked the city to amend its parking code to create rules that would apply to all sororities and fraternities.

The council voted to discuss this at a later date.

Delta Gamma requested that residents be able to park on property the sorority owns but that is not connected to its main house. This would require its additional property to be rezoned for residential parking, since city ordinance now requires residences to mainly use parking adjacent to houses.
The new rule would require that parking be within 500 feet of a main residence.

The sorority’s request comes at a time when MU’s enrollment is the highest it has ever been. The sorority is planning to rebuild on property to accommodate more residents. The sorority can house 50 students now, and would like to house 90, according to its letter to the city.

STADIUM AND OLD 63 INTERSECTION

The council took the first steps toward a $1.2 million project for the intersection of Stadium Boulevard and Old 63 that was approved in July. The money would be used to add crosswalks, turn lanes and general beautification. Although the city is preparing to call for bids, the project still needs the permission of one property owner.

STUART PARKER APARTMENTS

The council allocated $101,750 to renovate three public housing dwellings on Hicks Drive that are part of the Stuart Parker Apartments. The 2014 budget approved $150,000 for the same development, but several delays have pushed back the construction schedule.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Boone Hospital Center received approval to add a 6-foot directional sign on a wall at its south campus at Forum and Nifong boulevards. The city’s zoning code requires special approval for the sign because it was taller than 3 feet. Size limits depend on sign size and location. Boone Hospital agreed to remove two other signs in exchange for the city’s approval.

- The council voted to take $4,300 from the city’s New Century Fund endowment to clean and repair the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Battle Garden.

- It also approved the replacement of sewer systems on 10 properties near Poplar Hill Drive and South Bethel Church Road. Construction of 2,200 feet of new sanitary sewer lines will begin this winter for about $300,000. Because about $244,000 of that cost will be deferred, about $1,000 will be added to the sewer utility’s annual costs. The properties are part of a sewer district that was created in 2008.
- A taxi stand on Tenth Street will be moved south of Broadway from its location north of Broadway. The construction of The Lofts On Broadway, a recently built student apartment complex, led to the move.

**LED LIGHTS DOWNTOWN**

The council accepted $2,500 and 25 LED lights from the Downtown Community Improvement District.

Ten of the lights will be installed in the parking garage on Eighth and Cherry streets, which will be paid for by the district’s cash donation. Another 11 sconces will replace lights in Alley A and the alley north of Broadway and west of Ninth Street for about $4,000. The city set aside that money in the 2016 budget.

Katie Essing, the district’s executive director, said she had accompanied police officers to see where lights were needed downtown.

“It’s pretty dramatic how dark many of these alleys are,” she said.

The city estimates it will save money by using LED lights instead of the old street lighting, according to city documents. The community improvement district is funded largely through a sales tax, which has brought in more revenue over the past few years than originally projected.

**NEW BUS SHELTERS**

**Eighteen new bus shelters will be installed at 14 locations around the city, including two on Broadway and four on Worley Street. City staff worked with MU’s architecture program and held a student competition before settling on the final design.**

Each shelter will cost about $11,000, from a total budget of $569,705 that is partially funded by the transportation sales tax. However, $20,000 has been set aside for each shelter in order to also repair sidewalks and other infrastructure. Besides routine maintenance, the council anticipates no additional long-term expenses.
The city has 26 bus shelters, though seven are not in use. Additional locations have been identified for future expansion.

Ruffin said it was good so many of the shelters are in the First Ward, saying this moves the city closer to “social equity.”

During the public hearing, many residents spoke in favor of the new shelters.

Cheryl Price, who chairs the city’s Public Transit Advisory Commission, spoke about the importance of “safe and comfortable shelters” and agreed with Ruffin that transportation should be available to “all citizens.”

J. Hasbrouck Jacobs, a member of the Columbia Library District Board, said the library’s current bus shelter is “adequate,” but asked that the library be consulted if it is to receive a new shelter. He said that 1,700 people use the library every day, many of whom rely on public transit.

Another resident, Deborah Caruso, wrote in a public comment form that she supported the new bus shelters but asked that trash cans accompany them because of the cigarette butts, broken glass and garbage that accumulated at the stop in front of her house.

Current plans do include trash cans at each shelter.

Dennis Thompson said one bus shelter would be in his “backyard,” and he said he was concerned both about his responsibility maintaining the surrounding property and the potential for property damage.

Traci Wilson-Kleekamp said she was “happy” about the new shelters but “cranky” about the lack of shelters on Providence Road.

Council members were cautiously supportive. Fourth Ward Councilman Ian Thomas was optimistic of the “positive trajectory” of Columbia public transportation. Third Ward Councilman Kari Skala was skeptical of the shelter’s $11,000 price tag, and said he was worried too much money was being allocated to aesthetics.
“It gives me great pleasure to agree with Mr. Skala about frugality,” Mayor Bob McDavid said.

McDavid said the city had to be held accountable for how it spent money and hoped the next few years would see the installation of 50 new bus shelters.

PUBLIC COMMENT: MENTAL HEALTH, RACE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Sky Jimenez asked that schools do a better job of recognizing student mental health issues and providing treatment when necessary.

Jimenez said she moved to Columbia in 1971 and has worked as a teacher and counselor for Columbia Public Schools. She said she was “very excited and encouraged” about recent programs that support mental health issues in children.

She asked the council to support allowing therapists to meet with students at schools and for more resources to be allocated for summer programs.

Pack Matthews, a representative of Faith Voices, discussed race and white privilege in Columbia. Several residents have spoken about race at recent council meetings, and Matthews said whites had a responsibility to address racial issues.

He called the black student protesters who blocked MU president Tim Wolfe’s car “courageous,” and said the white bystanders who tried to stop the protesters were examples of white privilege. He also spoke about “a social system that works well for (only) a few of us.”

Grace Vega responded to recommendations made by the Community Violence Task Force regarding community policing, and her comments also touched on race.

Vega said she was “thrilled” to learn about the task force. While she voiced support for “community policing,” Vega said she was worried it wouldn’t be backed up by real change. She said a community policing program had been tried in Columbia in the 1990s, but that it floundered amid lack of support from the mayor and the council.
She asked the council several questions about how the concept of community policing was being implemented in Columbia.

Dick Parker spoke about the city’s clean power plan. Referencing statistics from the Environmental Protection Agency, Parker spoke of the need for clean, renewable energy.

He was complimentary about the city’s efforts to reduce carbon dioxide; Columbia’s Municipal Power Plant recently stopped burning coal. However, Parker was pessimistic about Columbia’s ability to meet EPA goals. He said future building projects should be more energy efficient, which could help save money over time.

**CLOSED MEETING**

At 5 p.m. the council met for a closed session, before its main meeting at 7 p.m.