Missouri president: Opportunity to lead in racial matters

December 11, 2015 1:53 pm • By JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) • The University of Missouri System faces significant challenges in the wake of its recent turmoil, but also has an opportunity to become a national leader in addressing racial concerns, the system's interim president said Friday.

Michael Middleton spoke during a Board of Curators meeting at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, one of four campuses in the system.

He was appointed interim president following the protests about racial bigotry and the perception that administrators weren't doing enough about it that resulted in the sudden resignations on Nov. 9 of president Tim Wolfe and Columbia campus chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. That unrest included a student hunger strike and the football team's threat to stop playing.

Middleton, 68, said the unrest that drew international attention was difficult, even embarrassing. Still, he believes the University of Missouri faces an opportunity to lead the way in confronting racial issues that affect every college campus in the U.S.

"This is a reflection of a long-standing national problem," Middleton said at a news conference after the meeting. "As is typical in our society, thoughtful young people raised this issue to our attention."

He told curators earlier, "I would much rather view it as us being chosen to take the lead to set the world right."

Middleton was once a student activist at Missouri himself: a founder of the Columbia campus Legion of Black Collegians, which issued its own set of demands to university leaders 46 years ago.

But Middleton said race was just part of a "perfect storm" of issues that culminated last month. Administrators had also been under fire about cuts in health insurance for graduate assistants, actions against a Planned Parenthood facility and other issues.

Middleton said he is not presently interested in permanently becoming president, but didn't rule it out. He said his goal for now is to "restore the luster of the university, restore the faith and confidence in the university."

Curator Maurice Graham told Middleton the board will back him in "every effort to achieve the goal."
Middleton and others at the meeting said efforts to fix the problems that led to the turmoil are already underway. Full-time equity and diversity officers have been appointed at all four campuses. All system policies are under review. A Nov. 20 listening session in Columbia brought together curators, university leaders and representatives of 14 student groups.

"We need to ensure that diversity is embedded in everything we do," Middleton said.

Chuck Henson, who was appointed last month to the first-ever role of interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity at the Columbia campus, said an 18-month lecture series starting in January will focus on the African-American experience in Missouri. Also starting in January, incoming freshmen will participate in a diversity program.

Senior leaders must make diversity and inclusion part of an overall organization strategy, said Susan Wilson, vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Curators board chairman Donald Cupps agreed.

"We have to, at some point, change the hearts and minds of individuals that may come to our campus that have opinions that are not appropriate," Cupps said.

Interim University of Missouri System president sees opportunity to lead US in racial matters

ST. LOUIS – The interim president of the University of Missouri System acknowledges "significant challenges" in the wake of recent turmoil, but he sees it as an opportunity for the system to become a national leader in addressing racial concerns.

Michael Middleton spoke Friday during a Board of Curators meeting at the university system's St. Louis campus.

Several people discussed recent efforts to make the campuses more diverse and inclusive.

Middleton, who is black, was appointed interim president following weeks of protests over concerns about the administration, including the perception that not enough was done about incidents of bigotry aimed at African-American students.
President Tim Wolfe and Columbia campus chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned.

After ‘perfect storm,’ UM interim president seeks to regain public confidence

By DALE SINGER • DEC 11, 2015

In the wake of what he called a “perfect storm,” interim President Mike Middleton said Friday that the four-campus University of Missouri system should seize the opportunity to show its leadership on issues that prompted the resignations of two top officials.

**Middleton took over as head of the system last month after Tim Wolfe resigned following lengthy student protests over racial incidents and other issues. The same day, the chancellor of the university’s Columbia campus, R. Bowen Loftin, also announced he would step down into a lesser role at Mizzou.**

After widespread attention to the university’s problems – problems that he says affect higher education all over as well as the society at large – Middleton told the university’s Board of Curators that it’s time to regain public confidence and turn things around.

“We were thrust into the national spotlight,” he told a meeting at the university’s St. Louis campus, “and you can either take that as an embarrassment and a harmful incident. I would much rather view it as us being chosen to take the lead to set the world right.”

And, Middleton said, the university’s experiences have to be viewed in a wider context.

“The unfortunate events that captured much attention from the world in recent months are not a reflection of our great university,” he said, “but rather those incidents represent a longstanding – I repeat, a longstanding – national, societal flaw.
“We are fortunate now to have an opportunity to become stronger and more equipped to handle these very difficult issues that have a presence on all university campuses, and we fully intend to provide a positive examples for our peers around the nation to learn from, rather than to shy away from these experiences.”

Middleton’s speech came at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the curators since the student demonstrations prompted the executive actions in Columbia. Middleton called the events “an extraordinary time” for the university, “a time of significant challenges to be sure, but also a time of significant opportunity.”

He said that while public attention focused on racial incidents at Mizzou, the upheaval really was the culmination of unhappiness over several different issues, including graduate students’ loss of health insurance; decisions regarding Planned Parenthood; leadership changes at the university’s health center in Columbia; and faculty doubts over academic freedom.

“Acknowledging these factors provides for all that we’re experiencing,” Middleton said. “But it does not diminish the importance of or lesson the desire to better address the concerns expressed by our students of color and other marginalized students.”

At a news conference after the board’s meeting, Middleton noted that the protests in Columbia were a classic example of students highlighting problems that have troubled the nation as a whole.

“This is a national issue,” he said. “This is a reflection of a longstanding national problem. And, as is typical in our society, thoughtful young people raise issues to our attention frequently when they have not been heard, and they see those issues not being resolved sufficiently.

“So every institution of higher education is going to be faced with this, and many, many other institutions in our society are going to be faced with these issues. We view this as an opportunity for the University of Missouri, here in the heartland, to step forward and develop effective, longstanding solutions.”

To restore what he called the luster of the university, Middleton said he will continue an effort he has already begun to meet with all groups concerned with the school’s operations — students, faculty, staff, alumni, legislators, donors and others.
“The trust of our constituents is dependent upon our addressing these issues as we said we would,” he said, “It is my intent to do that.”

Middleton and the curators discussed the attention and resources that the university has paid over the past two years to the problems of sexual assault on campus and more general gender-related issues that fall under Title IX.

Noting what he considers to be the success of that effort, curator Donald Cupps, who served his last meeting as chairman of the board, said the university wants to take the same kind of lead in handling racial issues.

Curators elected Pam Henrickson of Jefferson City as chair of the board for next year and Maurice Graham of Clayton as vice chairman. Henrickson said her main theme for the coming year would be to develop and promote a culture of respect throughout the university system.

At a news conference after the meeting, Henrickson said the board was going to meet in executive session Friday afternoon to talk about a search process for a permanent president for the system, with the hope that the process could be completed in the next calendar year.

“But, it’s much more important that we get the right candidate than we meet a deadline,” she added.

Asked if he was interested in having the job on a permanent basis, Middleton responded:

“Not at the moment.”

Did that mean he was leaving the possibility open?

“I leave everything open,” he said.

*The University of Missouri’s Board of Curators holds the license for St. Louis Public Radio.*

*Follow Dale Singer on Twitter: @dalesinger*
Interim president: University of Missouri faces many challenges

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 12:00 am

ST. LOUIS — Interim University of Missouri System President Mike Middleton said Friday the university is in a time of challenges and opportunities after the “perfect storm” hit MU this semester.

“Over the last few months, we’ve experienced what I’ve called the perfect storm at” the system’s flagship Columbia campus “that challenged our leadership. And while most of the media’s focus during this turmoil was on racial issues, there are several other factors,” Middleton said. “What we’re dealing with is a series of events leading to an accumulation and groundswell of frustration.”

Middleton specifically mentioned concerns of graduate students who lost their health insurance in August, the “highly charged” decisions regarding MU’s relationship to Planned Parenthood, faculty’s issues with MU administrators and concerns about academic freedom and “controversial changes in leadership” within MU’s health system.

“Acknowledging these factors provides a context for all that we are experiencing, but it does not diminish the importance … to better address the concerns expressed by our students of color and other marginalized students,” Middleton said during his report.

Middleton addressed the system’s Board of Curators for the first time as interim president during the board’s meeting Friday at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Curators appointed Middleton last month after then-President Tim Wolfe resigned. Students on MU’s campus had called for Wolfe’s resignation, saying he did not respond appropriately to racist actions on campus.

A group of students who called their movement Concerned Student 1950 protested for weeks about the racial climate at MU while also calling for Wolfe’s removal.

“The unfortunate events that captured much attention from the world in recent months are not a reflection of our great university, but rather those incidents represent a long-standing national societal flaw,” Middleton said.
Middleton said recent events have created an opportunity for MU to be a leader in race issues.

Middleton, an MU alumnus, previously worked as a civil rights lawyer. He helped found the Legion of Black Collegians while he was an MU student. Middleton joined MU’s law school faculty in 1985 and became interim vice provost for minority affairs and faculty development in 1997. The next year, he was hired as deputy chancellor, a role he retired from in August.

As interim president, Middleton said one of his top priorities will be to address issues that led to the recent turmoil on campus.

Middleton said each of the system’s four campuses now has a chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer after changes initiated last month by the curators. Middleton said the university system will hire its first chief diversity, inclusion and equity officer in the next two months.

Chuck Henson, who was appointed last month as interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity at the Columbia campus, said an 18-month lecture series starting in January will focus on the black experience in Missouri. Also starting in January, incoming freshmen will participate in a diversity program.

Middleton also said the system is creating a diversity, inclusion and equity task force to develop short- and long-term strategies. He said the system hopes to name a chairperson in the next few days.

The university remains an incredible asset to the state, Middleton said. He has spent his first month as interim president talking to students, parents, faculty, staff and legislators. Middleton said the university has a lot of work to do.

“Now more than ever, we need everyone’s support to move this university forward,” Middleton said.

Steve Knorr, vice president for university relations, echoed some of Middleton’s sentiments in his report during the board’s meeting Thursday.

“We need to rebuild trust and confidence,” Knorr said Thursday. “We need to share transparency, produce results and be accountable, keep living out the mission of our great university and be united and unified from bottom up and top down.”

“We intend to work with student leadership on all campuses to ensure that their voices continue to be heard,” Middleton said.

Curators Chairman Donald Cupps said university leaders have to “change the hearts and minds of individuals that may come to our campus that have opinions that are not appropriate.”

Middleton said he has heard some question the value and need for a university system.
“I can assure you that without the UM System, the cost of operating separate services for each of the campuses ... would cost at least more than double systemwide,” Middleton said.

He said the university system saved $29 million during the past year. Most of that savings came from getting better prices for purchases, which includes renegotiating contracts.

**MISSOURIAN**

UM curators announce steps to heal racial tensions, promote inclusivity

AUSTIN HUGUELET, Dec 11, 2015

COLUMBIA — Interim University of Missouri System president Michael Middleton affirmed his commitment to healing racial tensions at MU after a turbulent fall in his speech closing the UM System Board of Curators meeting Friday.

Middleton said the system will hire a diversity and inclusion officer within the next two months and name the chair of a task force focused on boosting diversity, equity and inclusion at all four system schools in the next few days.

He also said the curators have fulfilled one of MU student activist group Concerned Student 1950's demands with a listening session Nov. 20.

He acknowledged problems with graduate students, Planned Parenthood contracts and disgruntled faculty had been simmering at MU long before a hunger strike and demonstrations led by Concerned Student 1950 captured national attention and forced his predecessor's resignation.

"But those don't take the place of addressing the concerns expressed by our students of color," Middleton said. "We need to ensure that diversity is embedded in everything that we do."

Middleton also refuted ideas of doing away with the UM System, saying that running the campuses separately would at least double expenses system-wide.
Steve Knorr, the UM System's vice president for government relations, warned the curators on Thursday that state legislators could try to dismantle the system in their 2016 session.

"The absence of the UM System would be a short-sighted and costly proposition," Middleton said. "And as we move forward, we must remember that one of the benefits of the system is for the campuses to learn from one another."

A Title IX panel updated the curators on the system's progress with increasing awareness and prevention of sexual assault, but most presenters made diversity their focus.

Susan Wilson, vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, highlighted several initiatives her school took after a campus climate survey showed nearly half of black students did not feel a sense of belonging at the school.

Wilson said UMKC made changes in its promotion and tenure-granting process for faculty, made diversity a factor in performance evaluations and sends employees from her office to classrooms to teach students about inclusion when a professor can't attend class and would otherwise cancel.

But Chuck Henson, MU's interim vice chancellor for diversity, inclusion and equity and the last panel member to speak, assured curators that his school wouldn't lag behind.

"I believe to form good relationships on our campus, we need to be able to talk to each other without fearing the subject matter," Henson told curators. "But we need a basis to start from."

A group of 20 faculty members will hold "teach-ins" answering questions and illustrating how racial issues impact campus and students' everyday lives.

An 18-month lecture series on the African-American experience in the state kicks off in January "to help all of us better understand our shared history," Henson said.

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum president Bob Kendrick will bring his traveling show through MU and Columbia Public Schools.
"Because who doesn't like baseball?" Henson asked.

Henson also mentioned a lecture on the First Amendment and academic freedom that he hopes will encourage students to discuss campus issues frankly and respectfully.

MU became the center of a nationwide debate following a confrontation during demonstrations Nov. 9 on Mel Carnahan Quadrangle.

The curators applauded the progress made since they authorized $2.2 million for Title IX education and prevention efforts in April 2014, and curator Donald Cupps said he thought many of the strategies used to drive reports of sex discrimination would help raise awareness of racial incidents as well.

"It appeared to me that some of the issues with reporting that we’re having with Title IX could be intertwined with reporting for incidents of discrimination," Cupps said. "I think a lot of these incidents could be resolved with someone saying 'You know, you're really acting stupid here.'"

Curator John Phillips agreed. "I know that we can make as much progress in diversity, inclusiveness and equity as we have in Title IX. We just need to broaden the scope."

Middleton cautioned against thinking about solving a racial divide immediately, though.

"I think it would be overly optimistic to see what we did with Title IX as successful in ending the Title IX problems," Middleton said at a news conference after the curators' meeting. "And I don't know that anything we do on this issue (race) today will be completely successful in ending the deeply rooted societal problems around race in this country."

New president search

Also at the news conference, curator Pamela Henrickson, who was elected board chair Friday, said curators will discuss the search for Middleton's eventual replacement in closed session Friday, but neither she nor Middleton gave a timeline for a new hire.
Henrickson said choosing the next MU chancellor will be left until a new system president is appointed.

The curators' next meetings are scheduled for Feb. 5-6 in Rolla, where they'll debate raising student fees, among other issues.

**Middleton gives first report as interim president in second day of curators meeting**

Interim UM System President Mike Middleton: “This is a time of significant challenges to be sure, but also a time of significant opportunity.”

**Interim UM System President Mike Middleton stressed the need for support in his address to the UM System Board of Curators in the second day of the curators’ meeting on Friday, Dec. 11.** He called the fall semester, which included the resignations of UM System President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, a “perfect storm.”

“Now more than ever, we need everyone’s support to move this university forward,” he said. “Now is the time to thrive at this university.”

The curators also hosted a panel on campus safety, including sex and gender-based discrimination and racial discrimination, with administrators representing all four UM System campuses.

The curators voted unanimously to elect curator Pamela Henrickson, a lawyer in Jefferson City, the board’s chairwoman for 2016. Curator Maurice Graham was unanimously elected vice chairman.

Henrickson said her theme for the year will be “a culture of respect,” to go along with with the systemwide discussions of diversity and inclusion.

“We must learn to teach our students to disagree without being disagreeable, and to understand that they can tell someone that they admire and respect that their idea just isn’t that great,” she said.
Middleton told the board “now is the time to thrive at this university” in his first report to the curators as interim UM System president.

“I am committed to restoring the luster of this university that we all love, and I’m confident that we will come out of this storm in a much better place than where we began,” he said.

He said the UM System has an opportunity to become a national leader in addressing racism and promoting diversity and inclusion.

“This is a time of significant challenges to be sure, but also a time of significant opportunity,” he said. “We’re addressing our challenges with a determination to move us forward so our great university can get back to achieving its mission.”

He acknowledged the various factors that contributed to a semester of turmoil on campus, including graduate student health insurance, Planned Parenthood, and administrative and faculty concern about leadership. He said that while these factors provide context, they do not “diminish the importance of … the concerns expressed by our students of color and other marginalized students.”

“As we move forward, we must also remind ourselves daily that the university has not changed given the recent events,” Middleton said. “We have a very rich 176-year-plus history of academic excellence and tradition … let’s remember that the university remains an incredible asset to the state of Missouri and a beacon of hope for all Missourians.”

He said the incidents of racism at MU represent a “longstanding national and societal flaw” and he intends to work with student leaders on all campuses to ensure that their voices are heard.

“It’s time to confront these issues and develop systems and mechanisms that will enable us to move beyond these issues in the future,” he said.

Middleton also discussed the need for the UM System to foster collaboration between campuses. Lawmakers have discussed potentially dissolving the system, and Middleton said the cost to provide separate services to each campuses would at least double.

Campus Safety

MU’s Title IX Coordinator Ellen Eardley and interim Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Chuck Henson spoke at the meeting in a panel focused on safety, Title IX, diversity and inclusion.

The focus of Eardley’s job shifted in early December. She now leads the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX, an office created after a semester of campus demonstrations and conflicts within the UM System.
Eardley said the office will centralize responses to all reports of discrimination on campus.

“I think that’s essential for our campus community’s sense of wellbeing,” she said.

Henson focused on the importance of dialogue, community and personal development in creating an inclusive campus climate.

“To have a good relationship, we need to be able to talk to each other without fearing the subject matter … without labeling, without accusing,” he said. “We need to have a basis to start from, which I believe are the facts.”

Henson said an 18-month lecture series on the African-American experience in Missouri will begin at MU in January. The university will also host a series of lectures on the First Amendment, academic freedom, freedom of expression and social responsibility.

He emphasized the importance of spending time with students on campus and “letting them know the relationship is real.”

Henson also announced a new program for students sponsored by black studies department chairwoman Stephanie Shonekan and women’s and gender studies department chairwoman Joan Hermsen.

“This will provide incoming freshmen with an opportunity to see why diversity is not only important, but it’s interesting and cool,” Henson said.

*Other Notes*

The curators unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included the naming of a new residence hall at MU. Building One, on the site of former Jones Hall, will be named George C. Brooks Hall after one of MU’s first black administrators. It will be the third building on campus named after a black man.

The curators also passed a resolution to honor Tracy Mulderig, the system’s student representative to the board. The next student representative will be an MU student.

Mulderig encouraged students to learn how to disagree respectfully with others.

“The past two years have been an incredible opportunity to serve the great state of Missouri and especially my fellow students,” she said. “We will heal, and we will be stronger and better as a result of recent events.”
COLUMBIA, MO, December 10, 2015 – **Chuck Henson, interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity, and equity at the University of Missouri, announced today that a new lecture series, *The African American Experience in Missouri*, will begin in 2016.**

Cosponsored by MU and the State Historical Society of Missouri’s Center for Missouri Studies, the series will offer the University of Missouri community, as well as the public, an opportunity to learn about the African American experience in Missouri from the earliest period of statehood to the present.

“The richness that diversity brings to a community can only be truly appreciated when you understand its heritage,” Henson said. “We believe this look into the past is essential as we work together to write the next chapter of our shared history.”

MU history professor Keona K. Ervin and SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer, both Center for Missouri Studies fellows known for research on African American history, are working together to ensure the top scholars in the field are a part of the 12 anticipated lectures that are slated to begin in January.

"Over the next year and a half we will host more than a dozen scholars and subject-matter experts on campus,” Ervin said. “Their presentations on everything from slavery and the meaning of race to urban decline and the rise of jazz culture are an essential step in continuing the dialogue that began this fall.”

While details are still being confirmed, according to Kremer one of the highlights will be a lecture by Lonnie G. Bunch III, the founding director of the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of African American History and Culture. Bunch will speak on the value of studying African American history as a way of understanding the present and preparing for the future.

“Director Bunch is at the forefront of sharing the American story through the lens of African American history and culture,” Kremer said. “That is exactly what we are hoping to do with this series. We want to explore Missouri’s untold stories to better understand the role race has played in creating our modern-day circumstances.”

Ervin agreed. “This series is an unprecedented opportunity to explore the multifaceted nature of not only Missouri’s history but also African American history generally,” Ervin said. “We hope the community takes advantage of the chance to evaluate our past and prepare a brighter future.”

Stay up-to-date on *The African American Experience in Missouri* lecture series details at [http://diversity.missouri.edu](http://diversity.missouri.edu) or [http://shs.umsystem.edu](http://shs.umsystem.edu).

**About The State Historical Society of Missouri**

Founded in 1898 and established as a trustee of the state a year later, SHSMO is the premier center for the study of Missouri state and local history. Through its education program, the Center for Missouri Studies, SHSMO collects, preserves, and publishes materials that enhance research and support learning opportunities in the study of the
Panel tells UM curators about efforts to fight discrimination, increase diversity

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 12:00 am

ST. LOUIS — When faculty or staff members learn that a student experienced sexual discrimination, they contact the Title IX Office but sometimes do so with uncertainty of the outcome.

“It’s our role to” assure “them that we are going to take care of their student,” Ellen Eardley, University of Missouri Title IX administrator, said at Friday’s Board of Curators meeting.

Eardley was among Title IX and diversity and inclusion officials from each campus who discussed safety and security on a panel at the curators meeting. Eardley explained her office’s role and how Title IX officials contact students. She said giving students who have experienced sexual harassment or assault control over how they proceed is important. Title IX is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on college campuses based on sex and includes sexual assault and harassment.

Friday’s panel was part of a series of discussions at curators meetings this year focusing on the theme Board Chairman Donald Cupps chose for 2015: the year of the student.

“We have work to do. We have things we need to do to ensure our campuses are inclusive,” Cupps said.

The UM System has made significant changes meant to reduce sex discrimination and respond to mental health issues on campus over nearly two years. Administrators set a goal of making the university a leader in Title IX initiatives after former swimmer Sasha Menu Courey’s case made national news. An ESPN investigation focused on Menu Courey’s allegations of rape and whether MU employees knew about her claims.
Diversity and inclusion has been a focus on MU’s campus the past year as student protests starting last school year drew attention to discrimination issues on campus. Protests this semester led former UM President Tim Wolfe to resign after some students criticized his response to racist incidents on campus.

Susan Wilson, vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said diversity is not just about race, and is about more than bureaucratic goals.

“My belief is that diversity is not this thing over here in an office, but diversity and inclusion must be a key driver of the overall success of the university,” Wilson said.

The Columbia campus’ interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity, Chuck Henson, told curators about new activities and programs MU is planning, including a lecture series and teach-in program.

Faculty in the Black Studies and Gender and Women’s Studies departments will lead the teach-in program, which will start in January with incoming freshman. Faculty members will explore issues of diversity and give a brief presentation about their work for groups of students who will then have the opportunity to ask questions.

The lecture series, a partnership with the state historical society, will focus on the black experience in Missouri.

He said MU is also planning a series of lectures about the First Amendment, academic freedom, freedom of expression and social responsibility.

“So we have the facts and a common platform to talk to each other,” Henson said.

Cupps said safety is important to the university. A lot has happened during the past two months, he said, but the campus has avoided violent incidents.

“You have divisions and problems that are being addressed through demonstrations, and you have 35,000 really good kids that can disagree, that can argue — and there’s not one incident of violence. Now that’s something to be proud of,” Cupps said.
University of Missouri curator Pam Henrickson of Jefferson City on Friday was elected to a one-year term as chairwoman of the board.

Henrickson, selected by fellow curators during their scheduled meeting in St. Louis, replaces Donald Cupps, whose term ends this month.

Maurice B. Graham of St. Louis will serve as vice chairman.

The leadership terms for Henrickson and Graham are effective Jan. 1.

Henrickson, a partner in the Jefferson City law firm of Goller, Feather and Henrickson, was appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon to the university board in January 2011.

An alumni of the University of Missouri School of Law in Columbia, Henrickson also has served as general counsel for the Missouri Division of Design and Construction, the state agency responsible for real estate leasing, land acquisition and construction of state-owned facilities.

Graham, a lawyer and president of the law firm of Gray, Ritter and Graham PC, was appointed to the board in January. He graduated from Missouri’s law school and has been a member and chairman of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee, which oversees attorney discipline in Missouri.

The two step into their new roles on the nine-member board just weeks after claims of racism and racial oppression on the flagship campus in Columbia led to the resignation of the university system president and university chancellor. The University of Missouri remains at the center of a national movement for diversity and inclusion on college campuses.
UM Board of Curators elects two officers for 2016

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri Board of Curators elected two officers Friday for the upcoming 2016-2022 term.

Pam Henrickson from Jefferson City was elected as the chair of the University of Missouri Board of Curators. Maurice Graham of St. Louis was elected vice chair. Their terms begin at the start of the year.

Henrickson was appointed to the Board of Curators in 2011. She serves as chair of the audit committee and is a member of the three other committees including the human resources committee.

Graham was appointed to the board in 2015. He is president of a law firm and is the past president of the Missouri Bar Association, the St. Louis Bar Foundation, and the University of Missouri Law School Foundation. Graham has also served as a member and chairman of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee.

Henrickson and Graham were elected during the board's December meeting in St. Louis.

Curators serve six-year terms with three terms expiring every two years.
University of Missouri curators elect new board leaders

By Megan Favignano

Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 12:00 am

The University of Missouri Board of Curators on Friday elected Pam Henrickson of Jefferson City to serve as chairwoman for 2016.

Each year, the board’s chairperson chooses a theme. Henrickson said the theme for 2016 would be a culture of respect.

“I will be working with” interim UM System President Mike Middleton and staff “to be the leaders in the United States in presenting a culture of respect, inclusion and diversity on our campus,” Henrickson said Friday.

Curators also elected Maurice Graham of St. Louis as vice chairman for 2016. Both roles are one-year terms and start Jan. 1.

Graham was appointed to the board earlier this year. He serves on the board’s audit, student affairs and human resources committees.

Henrickson has been on the board since January 2011. She also sits on the audit, student affairs and human resources committees. Henrickson is the board’s 2015 vice chairwoman. Curator Donald Cupps is the 2015 chairman.

The curators on Friday passed a resolution recognizing Tracy Mulderig, the board’s student representative. Mulderig, a doctoral student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, will complete her two-year term Jan. 1.

Mulderig described her two years on the board as an incredible opportunity.

“I will carry what I learned from this experience with me for the rest of my life,” Mulderig said.

The student representative is a nonvoting member of the board who attends all public and private board meetings to provide a student perspective.
During Cupps’ tenure as board chairman and Mulderig’s term as student representative, the board had to appoint an interim UM System president and hear a number of concerns, including MU graduate students advocating for better benefits and a group of students calling attention to the racial climate at MU.

Mulderig said it’s important for students to remember the power of words and to deliver their words carefully.

“One of the most important lessons you can learn in a university setting is how to disagree respectfully,” Mulderig said.

She encouraged students to treat each other with respect and to embrace their differences.

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UM campuses propose flat undergraduate tuition, fee increases

By Megan Favignano

Friday, December 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

The University of Missouri Board of Curators on Thursday heard preliminary figures for fiscal year 2017 tuition and fees that included keeping undergraduate resident tuition flat and raising several supplemental fees.

Brian Burnett, vice president for finance and chief financial officer for the system, presented a tuition and fee report at the board’s meeting, noting the UM System will review the proposals with each campus in the coming months.

“Tuition and fees have replaced state support,” Burnett told curators.

State appropriations have dropped over the past 15 years, he said. During the same time frame, the UM System has seen its student population grow.

Burnett said the shift from state support to using tuition and fees as the primary resource for the budget is consistent with national higher education trends. Students nationwide are contributing more to the cost of their education.
Burnett told curators a 1 percent increase in resident undergraduate tuition would generate about $2.4 million for the system, while a 1 percent increase in state support generates about $4.2 million.

Senate Bill 389, which the governor signed in 2007, limits the increase in tuition for Missouri higher education institutions to no more than the percent change of the consumer price index. The bill does not apply to supplemental fees, Burnett said.

Gov. Jay Nixon said in September that he would recommend a 6 percent increase in state funding if Missouri’s public higher education institutions froze tuition increases.

“It remains to be seen whether the state is going to be able to ... do that,” Burnett said. “But at this point, we’re showing zero percent” tuition increase “for resident undergraduate across our four campuses, and we’ll wait to see what the governor’s proposal is to the” General Assembly.

The proposal Burnett presented did list some professional school program tuition increases, including MU’s law school, medical school and veterinary school. MU also recommends 3 percent increases to most of its supplemental fees.

Among the largest proposed supplemental fee increases are a $5 increase per credit hour in the College of Arts and Science course fee, a $5.20 increase per credit hour for undergraduates in the Trulaske College of Business, a $6 increase per credit hour for graduate students in the business school and a $6.40 increase per credit hour for undergraduates in the Sinclair School of Nursing.

Increasing fees have been a focus this semester for the Forum on Graduate Rights, a student advocacy group at MU that has pushed for better graduate student benefits.

Anahita Zare, public relations chairwoman for the group, said the fees are a financial burden on students and can distract graduate assistants from their work conducting research and teaching undergraduate classes.

State appropriations have been unpredictable in recent years, Burnett said. Before increasing fees, he said, the university system makes sure each fee contributes to a campus’s strategic plan. He said the system is working to establish more consistency across its campuses when it comes to student fees.

Burnett also discussed financial aid and student debt with curators Thursday. He said UM alumni have lower debt than the national average for college graduates.

During Thursday’s discussion, board Chairman Donald Cupps said he would like to see more effort to identify students eligible for the need-based Pell Grant.

“We need to be seeking out — at all of our campuses — the kids that have the really great ACT scores that also are Pell” Grant “eligible, and I think we fall down at that,” Cupps said.
Burnett said the tuition and supplement fee rates he presented Thursday might change. Tuition and fees were an information item, and Burnett said he would provide more details when the UM System brings its tuition and fee recommendations to the curators for approval in the spring.

Tuition in the UM System, Burnett said, is on the lower end of the spectrum when compared with other colleges and universities in the region.

“We are still a good bargain, a good value,” Burnett said.

Curators approve two new degrees at MU

By Megan Favignano

Friday, December 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

Prospective University of Missouri students might have two new degree options to pick from as early as next fall: a master of laws in American law and a master’s degree in data science and analytics.

The UM System Board of Curators approved the two MU degree proposals Thursday during the board’s regular meeting. The Coordinating Board for Higher Education will need to give its approval, and the American law program must submit a proposal to the American Bar Association.

Paul Ladehoff, director of MU’s master of laws program, said the American law degree is in response to the legal system becoming more globalized.

“You need attorneys who are familiar with the legal system on both ends,” Ladehoff said. “We’re not just doing this as a benefit for the international students who are going to come. We see it as a benefit to our law school.”

The new degree program would give students who earned their first law degree outside the United States an understanding of the American legal system. Ladehoff said understanding the legal system in more than one country can be useful for lawyers, especially lawyers handling international adoptions.

The degree also will put international students in classes with students in other MU law school programs. That diversity will benefit all students, Ladehoff said.
MU expects to enroll at least five students in the program’s first year, which would help it break even financially, according to the degree proposal. Once the program is established, faculty expect to regularly enroll 12 to 15 new students each year.

The data science and analytics degree will prepare students from different disciplines to work as data scientists. The first year of the program will build a foundation for data and analysis; the second year will have students focus on an emphasis area, potentially collaborating with other academic programs on campus.

Sean Goggins, an associate professor of information science and learning technology, and Grant Scott, a research associate in the Center for Geospatial Intelligence, led the degree initiative.

Goggins said the program’s interdisciplinary component helps it stand out from similar programs elsewhere.

“We’re going a bit wide on domain-specific applications,” Goggins said. “It gives the degree program an advantage over other programs in other states because if a student is interested in data journalism or interested in biotech … they can focus in those areas.”

Goggins said society is driven by data and that there are not enough people trained to work with data in a meaningful way.

Scott said Missouri has a lot of data-intensive industries. Research shows data scientists will be in high demand for the foreseeable future, the proposal says.

The MU Informatics Institute will coordinate the degree program, which will combine courses from the computer science, journalism and information science departments. The program is designed to allow “emphasis areas” through the other three UM campuses.

Curators hear MU Health, research and development annual reports

By Megan Favignano

Friday, December 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm

University of Missouri Health Care plans to bring a proposal for facility expansion to the UM System Board of Curators in 2016, officials said Thursday.
Mitch Wasden, chief executive officer and chief operating officer, discussed current and future expansion plans with curators during the board’s meeting Thursday in St. Louis.

In fiscal year 2015, MU Health Care opened Mizzou Quick Care clinics in three Columbia grocery stores, expanded to the South Providence Medical Park and started the Mizzou BioJoint Center and Missouri Orthopaedic Institute expansion project.

MU Health Care’s plan to partner with Leawood, Kan.-based management company Nueterra on a hospital in eastern Columbia failed in July when the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee turned down its certificate of need application.

Nevertheless, Wasden said MU Health Care had a productive year and that he expects to bring another expansion plan to the board in June.

“We’ve had substantial growth,” Wasden told curators.

MU Health Care had more than 71,000 emergency room visits — a 46 percent increase from fiscal year 2011 — and more than 600,000 clinic visits this year.

MU Health Care is piloting electronic and video visits with doctors, Wasden said, to make health care more affordable for patients.

“How do we redefine our models of care?” Wasden said. “There are some things that are done in that $180 physician visit that actually can be done in an electronic visit for $40.”

Wasden said people increasingly are shopping around for their health care.

MU Health Care has monitored its patient satisfaction over the years, he said. Its hospitals are highly rated in patient satisfaction, ranking in the 86th percentile, but Wasden said clinics have been struggling — ranking in the 40th to 50th percentile, depending on the clinic.

“In health care, it’s a very turbulent time,” Wasden said. “A focus on quality — being able to prove it and improve it — continues to be a major theme.”

Wasden said MU Health Care has been working with the university’s nursing school to increase class sizes in anticipation of an impending nursing shortage in Missouri.

Curators also heard an annual report on research and economic development in the UM System. Robert Schwartz, interim vice president for academic affairs, research and economic development, discussed system initiatives and interim MU Chancellor Hank Foley’s five-point plan to enhance research.

Foley introduced the plan before he became interim chancellor. The plan details how the system approaches intellectual property and embraces entrepreneurship among researchers.
Schwartz highlighted university initiatives, including the recent addition of an accelerator fund designed to provide digital startups with $50,000 to turn their concept into a product.

Missouri Innovation Center is leading the project, and MU will be one of the accelerator fund’s investors.

“This will provide capital and startup expertise to help entrepreneurs launch market-changing companies in Mid-Missouri,” Schwartz said.

Schwartz also showed curators a video about the first group of students to participate in the Entrepreneurial Scholars and Interns Program. The program was established in 2014 to increase the number of students who become entrepreneurs after graduation. Schwartz said the UM System would soon announce the next group of students who will participate in that program.

Silence Breakers: Concerned Student 1950

By Katherine Mangan
DECEMBER 13, 2015

When protesters at the University of Missouri forced the ouster of the system’s president and, by some accounts, the flagship’s chancellor last month, they inspired a wave of similar demonstrations across the country. Black students who said they were tired of keeping quiet about the lack of diversity and the outright racism they’d experienced at their overwhelmingly white colleges borrowed strategies from a Missouri group that called itself Concerned Student 1950.

They spoke out about racism.

In recent weeks, student activists have mobilized on more than 100 campuses. Wielding megaphones, they’ve issued demands, staged sit-ins and hunger strikes, and called on leaders to resign. (Among those who did was the dean of students at Claremont McKenna College.) Sit-ins at several campuses, including Towson and Princeton Universities, have resulted in newly announced plans to increase diversity and improve racial climates. From coast to coast, students are demanding action.
The Missouri group’s name signals that its members see themselves as part of a historical struggle for equity. The university admitted its first black students in 1950, and every black student since, the organizers reasoned, must be concerned with racial justice. Other minority and white students committed to the cause have joined as allies.

When the university’s football team lent its crucial support to the movement, threatening to boycott games and practices until the president, Timothy M. Wolfe, resigned, the players released a statement saying, "We are all #ConcernedStudent1950."

With the national spotlight fixed on the campus, the group kept proclaiming its demands. In addition to Mr. Wolfe’s resignation, they included increasing the percentage of black faculty members to 10 percent and devising a plan to retain more black students.

Like the Black Lives Matter movement, Concerned Student 1950 has rallied support through social media. People opposing the movement have lashed out, sometimes with racist threats. That’s partly why members, in the heady days following their coup, refused to provide their names to reporters, referring to themselves only as a collective.

Solidarity is another reason. "The media has a tendency to want to have a hero, but this isn’t about any one of us," says Reuben Faloughi, a doctoral student in psychology and one of the original 11 members of the group. "It’s about our linked experiences as African-Americans."

The most visible face of the protest was Jonathan Butler, a graduate student in educational leadership and policy whose eight-day hunger strike galvanized support for the cause. But he was largely silent during the protest, and it was the group, rather than any one person, calling the shots.

That’s a change from the civil-rights days, says George Henderson, a professor emeritus of human relations, education, and sociology at the University of Oklahoma and an expert on race in higher education. "There is no longer a need for charismatic leaders," he says. "Activities can start overnight. They don’t have to take it to a committee or wait for a leader to emerge."

With roots in the demonstrations in nearby Ferguson, Mo., after a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black man, campus protests have been growing since September. That’s when the university’s student-body president, Payton Head, described in a Facebook post that went viral how he felt when passengers in a pickup
truck shouted racial slurs at him on the campus. Then, at a homecoming parade in October, student protesters blocked the route, chanting. The president did not get out of his car to talk to them, and the vehicle reportedly bumped one of the students.

Activists hunkered down, setting up tents on a central campus quad. Their initial refusal to talk to reporters or to let journalists inside the encampment led to a national furor over free speech that reverberated at subsequent sites.

The lessons of those hectic days would help students elsewhere seize their moments. Some have questioned the group’s tactics and demands, but few would disagree that the demonstrations that began at Missouri have raised consciousness about racial inequities and made campus activists a force to be reckoned with.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Academe Must Confront Its Racist Past

By Pamela Newkirk
DECEMBER 13, 2015

Much of what I’ve learned about the intersection of American and African-American history, I’ve learned as an extracurricular activity. Whether it was the emergence of the formerly enslaved into positions as governor or members of Congress during Reconstruction, the backlash to that progress post-Reconstruction, or the heroism of scores of African-American soldiers who fought even as they were denied their basic rights as citizens, this history has been marginalized.

In much of academe, the saga of African-Americans’ enslavement and oppression is relegated to an undervalued major or electives. The struggle of black Americans against those who have long deemed them inferior — including U.S. presidents, the Supreme Court, and much of the academy — has been largely excised from our essential texts even as it informs the ways in which black Americans are still regarded today. This unexamined legacy of intolerance continues to express itself at even our most elite colleges, where meaningful dialogue about race has been avoided, if not disdained.
Well into the 20th century, leading universities, museums, scientific societies, and journals circulated studies purporting African inferiority, an idea at the heart of the nascent field of anthropology. In 1921 more than 300 delegates from around the world attended the Second International Congress of Eugenics, a pseudoscientific movement predicated on white supremacy. The influential congress was hosted by the American Museum of Natural History, in New York, with its president, Henry Fairfield Osborn — a leading paleontologist and a former dean at Columbia University — presiding. Among the notables in attendance were Herbert Hoover; Alexander Graham Bell; Gifford Pinchot, the conservationist and future governor of Pennsylvania; and Leonard Darwin, son of Charles Darwin.

For a significant part of the 20th century, most major American institutions — including New York University, where I teach — embraced assumptions that justified African-American exclusion. In 1927, nearly a century after NYU’s founding, the NAACP challenged the university’s discrimination against black students, who were denied access to dormitories and classes. In defense, in a statement to *The New York Times*, the university responded: "New York University reserves the right to use such discrimination in the selection of students for admission to dormitories, classes or courses as seems advisable to promote the interests of the greatest number." Two years later, NYU commanded national headlines for appeasing the University of Georgia’s demand that Dave Myers, a black star player for the football team, be benched for a game against Georgia.

Likewise, NYU’s home, in Greenwich Village — long considered a bastion of liberalism — had once been populated mostly by blacks until they were terrorized and run out by white mobs during the Civil War draft riots. Long after emancipation, the tools of oppression — legal and extralegal, North and South — were employed to keep blacks at the bottom of society. But this history, like most unpleasant racial narratives, usually goes unacknowledged while places like NYU and Greenwich Village are inaccurately regarded as longstanding citadels of inclusion. Few students are exposed to the depth and breadth of American racial intolerance or the academy’s complicity in it.

How can universities address intolerance without so much as acknowledging the extent to which it was legitimized and advanced by the academy? The seeds of some of the more pernicious scholarship on race continue to flower. In recent decades, traces of a warped ideology grounded in theories of black inferiority could still be
found in best-selling books like *The Bell Curve*, by two Harvard-educated men, one of whom had been on Harvard’s faculty. Though eventually debunked, *The Bell Curve*, upon publication in 1994, was exhaustively debated on the pages of leading publications. The authors were merely repackaging ideas that had flourished in the academy for more than a century, including at Harvard, where Louis Agassiz, a leading 19th-century naturalist, had long argued that blacks were "a degraded and degenerate race." Agassiz founded Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology and co-founded the National Academy of Sciences.

**Colleges should incorporate the ugly history of bigotry into their curricula.**

When will this history of intolerance and destructive scholarship be meaningfully addressed across curricula? When will leaders of our top universities roundly declare that race is a social construct that has been used to uplift some people and debase others? And when will students have to know any of this instructive American history to ace an SAT exam or earn a doctorate?

Without the context of history, many will never fully appreciate the tragedy of the countless unarmed blacks routinely killed by police or unjustly incarcerated. A profound racial illiteracy causes many people to believe that overzealous policing and mass incarceration are justified, and that discrimination against African-Americans was all but eradicated after emancipation. Persistent disparities along racial lines in income, employment, infant mortality, and life expectancy are viewed as self-induced, not indications of bias. Likewise, efforts to protect African-Americans’ voting rights or to diversify institutions in which they are radically underrepresented are considered unnecessary or as reverse discrimination. Meanwhile, the demeaning portrayals of blacks as barbaric, an image that was long promoted in the academy, continue to flourish, fueling perceptions that preclude many people from grasping the fullness of black humanity.

**Despite its daily relevance, many in the academy continue to treat race as an overwrought subject even though it has never been given its due. Our educational system has failed when North Carolina State University students who probably never learned the heartbreaking history of lynching joke about a practice that was central to the maintenance of white supremacy until well into the 20th century. And the academy fails when racial intolerance is flippantly tolerated by administrators — as it apparently was at the University of Missouri and at Yale.**
The void created by higher education’s reluctance to meaningfully confront race is an incubator for hateful ignorance. When Donald Trump recently, and erroneously, stated that most murders of whites are committed by blacks, he was merely evoking an image long baked into sociology, psychology, anthropology, history, news media, literature, and popular culture.

I teach a class about media portrayals of African-Americans, women, and other marginalized people. White students are often astonished by how little they know about the long history of racial intolerance of not only African-Americans, but also of people of Irish, Italian, Greek, Jewish, Chinese, and Japanese ancestry. And while many Americans remain ignorant of key lessons of our past, they’re required to study airbrushed portraits of a phalanx of celebrated men. As we witness racial strife on our campuses, we might begin to acknowledge how the academy’s legacy of bias continues to reverberate. Only then can we hope to honestly face America’s longtime resistance to racial reality and equality, and understand the basis of lingering attitudes today.

Addressing these sins of omission is not rocket science; it requires only will. The lapses in our history can be discussed in freshman seminars that introduce readings that explore the history of intolerance and how it resonates today, and by integrating the collective narratives of African-Americans, Latinos, Chinese, women, and others into the main frame of history. The gaps in our curricula might also be addressed by having more-diverse faculties. The latest figures from the National Center for Education Statistics show that still, among full-time professors, 84 percent are white (with 58 percent white male), while 4 percent are black, 3 percent Hispanic, and 9 percent Asian/Pacific Islander. Less than 1 percent are American Indian/Alaska Native or of two or more races. And these figures include faculty members at historically black colleges.

Colleges and universities can best foster tolerance and an abiding respect for our shared humanity by demonstrating those attitudes in their curricula and in their hiring and admissions practices. Students are savvy enough to reconcile the greatness and the flaws of American heroes and the glory and shame of our past.

Pamela Newkirk is a professor of journalism at New York University. She is the author, most recently, of Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga (Amistad/HarperCollins, 2015)
Reported discrimination at MU is more than black and white

COLUMBIA - **Protests at the University of Missouri by ConcernedStudent1950 brought the issue of racism on campus to the nation’s attention, but reported racism at MU goes beyond a person’s skin color.**

Religious and ethnic minority groups say they also experience discrimination in both the classroom and community at MU.

A group of women sat inside Mizzou Hillel, a Jewish center on campus, planning a Hanukkah party.

The women said they often come to the Hillel between classes to hang out, talk and eat.

“We enjoy each other’s company, and the environment is very friendly,” one Jewish student said.

In between picking out songs for the holiday playlist, laughing, eating and joking with each other, the women exchanged stories about discrimination they’ve faced on campus.

The group agreed most of the discrimination they’ve experienced comes from misconceptions people have about the Jewish religion, religious practices and stereotypes.

Maren Gelfond said she had a dorm floor mate who assumed her parents had high paying jobs just because they were Jewish.

Emily Isaacs said when she first came to Mizzou, her friends asked her why she didn’t have a big nose if she was Jewish.

Andrea Sak said there were two boys she was friends with who would call her and her two other friends the “trinity” because the boys knew they were all religious, even though the trinity is a symbol for Christianity.
“They put our religion before our personality,” Sak said. “But we’re so much more than that.”

The women all came from different backgrounds, so their initial experiences were different when they first came to Mizzou.

Gelfond said she went to a high school where about 60 percent of the students were Jewish. She said her high school would have school off on Jewish holidays.

“It was really weird coming here,” she said about first attending Mizzou.

Dana Yanow said she went to a more diverse school, and there were not as many Jewish students.

“It was actually a culture shock for me to be around more Jews,” she said.

Besides experiencing discrimination from individuals, the women agreed MU as a whole is not organized to be inclusive to Jewish students.

Sak said teachers often schedule exams on Yom Kippur, one of the holiest days for the Jewish religion. She said most of her teachers have been willing to make adjustments, though.

Yanow, however, said she had a teacher who wouldn’t let her miss class to go to a Jewish holiday service.

“She said I would have to use one of my three unexcused absences,” Yanow said. “I shouldn’t have to be punished for going to something for my religion.”

The women also discussed how Greek Life doesn’t really take Jewish holidays into consideration.

Last year, Yanow said Homecoming’s day of service was on Yom Kippur.

“It’s a mandatory event,” she said. “But c’mon, it’s the holiest day of the year for us.”

The women said Greek Life should be more considerate, because there’s even a Jewish fraternity on campus, Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Yanow said for Greek Week two years ago, the Alpha Epsilon Pi asked not to be on the first day of Passover, but they were put on it.

She said most of the problems could be solved by looking at a calendar and being considerate of Jewish holidays.

Mizzou Hillel Executive Director Jeanne Snodgrass said the holidays might be listed on calendars, but people may not know what they are.
The women said the discrimination they face is nothing new. Their parents also faced racist comments and actions during their time in college.

Sak said her dad’s roommate in college thought he had devil horns and asked him to show them. Yanow said her mom experienced a similar interaction with her college roommate.

Overall, the women agreed the atmosphere on Mizzou’s campus is relatively inclusive toward Jewish students. They said the biggest thing is people are just uneducated about their religion and have stereotypes they believe all Jewish students fit.

The women said one thing they would like other students to know is that, while they do like to joke around and have fun, jokes about Jewish people and the Jewish religion are often hurtful.

“It’s hard to tell if people are making fun with jokes or trying to be funny,” Yanow said.

While the women said they don’t want to downplay the racism and discrimination they and other Jewish students face, they admit they don’t always experience outright racism because, they said, Jewish people look like everybody else.

Overall, the women agreed Mizzou needs to be more inclusive to all students on campus, regardless of gender, race or religion.

Another student shared her experience as a minority student on campus.

Daphne Yu is an Asian American who said the first time she experienced racism was as a freshman at Mizzou.

She said it was during fall semester and she was at an international welcome party. Yu said she was walking on the street with an international friend when a car filled with white males drove by and someone shouted out the window, “Go back to where you came from. We don’t want you here.”

Yu said she’s grown up in Columbia, so she was really hurt when the men yelled that at her because Columbia is where she’s from.

“My high school was pretty open to diversity,” she said. “I never felt ostracized, so I was shocked that the first time I experienced racism was at a higher education institution.”

Yu said she got involved with the Asian American Association on campus her freshman year and started learning more about subtle acts of racism. She said she realized she had seen a lot of examples of discrimination in her life without realizing what it was at the time.

“In high school, people would always tell me things like, ‘You’re going to do fine because you’re Asian,’” Yu said. “I never really thought anything of it then, but now I’ve come to realize generalizing things Asians do because they’re supposed to be ‘smart’ is devaluing the hard work they put in to studying.”
She said she’s also had teachers just assume she was doing well in a class because she’s Asian.

Outside of personal experience, Yu said, history is also told in a way that writes off Asians. She said she had a history class her sophomore year about post-Civil War America.

“The history they tell is through a Euro-centric lens,” she said.

Yu said the professor was lecturing on World War II and spent a large chunk of class talking about the United States and Europe. She said he then went on to talk for around 10 minutes about the origin of Wrigley gum but only spent approximately 30 seconds on internment camps.

“And, basically, all he said about the camps were they were not as bad as Nazi camps,” she said.

Yu said the lack of time spent on history that affects other ethnicities is disrespectful to the people who lived through it and their descendants.

With the recent protests surrounding racism at MU, Yu said she has noticed a change in the atmosphere.

“Before the protests, I would say people on campus were apathetic and uneducated about racism,” she said.

Yu said it wasn’t because students were purposely trying to be racist, it was because they didn’t know or were never taught about certain events that affect and hurt minorities.

“You can’t really blame the student population for not knowing it’s a thing,” she said.

After the protests, though, Yu said people are more uncomfortable about racism.

“It’s easier to ignore an uncomfortable problem than face it,” she said. “But what people don’t know or don’t realize is that uncomfortable feeling they have now is what some students face daily.

Yu said she believes it’s going to take time and effort to change the atmosphere on campus to be more inclusive toward minorities.

“It’s going to be a process,” she said. “There’s not one solution.”

Yu said she thinks there should be a diversity class requirement for all students.

“It would teach minority students that being uncomfortable isn’t wrong, and they shouldn’t have to put up with something that makes them uncomfortable,” she said. “It would also get white students to realize this is a thing that does happen.”

Yu said most of the racism problems on campus stem from students and teachers not knowing what it’s like to experience being uncomfortable as a minority.
Friday Morning the UM system Board of Curators discussed a variety of issues that have been at the forefront of recent news. Most notably, the protests that led to former UM System President Tim Wolfe’s resignation has left newly appointed interim UM System President Mike Middleton with a big challenge.

“We were thrust into the national spotlight, and you can either take that as an embarrassment and a harmful incident. I would much rather view it as us being chosen to take the lead to set the world right,” Middleton said.

To continue to combat the racists incidents on campus, newly appointed interim Vice Chancellor for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Chuck Henson announced an 18-month long lecture series at the University of Missouri-Columbia that will open up dialogue on the history of being African American in the state of Missouri. The lecture series will begin January 2016 and will be a partnership with the Missouri state historical society.

A separate 18-month long lecture series on the first amendment will also be held beginning January 2016. This is in response to the incident that took place on the Columbia campus involving a journalist that had his first amendment rights violated.

The next Curators meeting is scheduled to be held February 4th and 5th in 2016.
Editorial: How the Grinch wants to steal abortion rights, academic freedom and local tax authority

Dec. 13 • By the Editorial Board

_The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!_
Now, please don’t ask why. No one quite knows the reason. 
It could be his head wasn’t screwed on just right.

_It could be, perhaps, that his shoes were too tight._

_But I think that the most likely reason of all,_

_May have been that his heart was two sizes too small._

_Theodor Seuss Geisel_ wrote “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” in 1957 and Missouri state Sen. Kurt Schaefer wasn’t born until eight years later. So clearly Mr. Schaefer wasn’t Dr. Seuss’ inspiration.

Which is too bad in a way. As every school child knows, the Grinch is redeemed at the end of the book. We don’t see that happening with Mr. Schaefer. He won’t be carving the roast beast. He’s having too much fun being mean.

As columnist Barbara Shelly of the Kansas City Star observed last summer, Mr. Schaefer may be “the scariest person in Missouri,” a politician with the talent and ability to acquire power and the willingness to misuse it. Mr. Schaefer, who heads the Senate’s appropriations committee, spent last spring trying to cut $140 million from the budgets for greedy people like the mentally ill and poor. In August, the Columbia Republican decided to start poking around with women’s bodies. Specifically, he was trying to stop Planned Parenthood from resuming abortion services at its Columbia clinic.

_Abusing his appropriations powers over both his hometown University of Missouri-Columbia, which provided hospital privileges to Planned Parenthood providers, and the state Department of Health and Senior Services, Mr. Schaefer succeeded in throwing roadblocks into what the law says is a woman’s private, individual decision._

A federal judge has allowed Planned Parenthood of Columbia to hold onto its license to perform abortions, but the point is moot because the facility no longer has a doctor with hospital privileges in its service area. That’s because University of Missouri administrators have knuckled under to Mr. Schaefer’s threats.

Mr. Schaefer’s is so gung-ho against Planned Parenthood that he’s even questioned why the university would allow a graduate student to write a dissertation on the effects of the state’s 72-hour waiting period for abortions. Academic freedom, bah.

Now Mr. Schaefer — who, it scarcely needs to be said, has ambitions for higher office — has decided to poke around with the city budgets in St. Louis and Kansas City. He has prefilled a bill for the session that begins in January that would eliminate the 1 percent earnings tax levied in Missouri’s two biggest cities.
The earnings tax, levied on anyone who either lives or works in the cities, raises $228 million a year in Kansas City and $185 million in St. Louis. In both cases, it accounts for roughly a third of general revenue. In St. Louis, it’s about what the city spends on its police department.

“Critical” doesn’t begin to describe how important the tax is.

**Conservative ideologues** have messed with the tax before. In 2010, retired investor Rex Sinquefield of St. Louis — who hates income taxes the way the Grinch hated Christmas — succeeded in putting a **statewide measure** on the ballot. Voters not only outlawed any future earnings taxes anywhere, they said the existing ones would be subject to re-ratification every five years. In 2011, voters in Kansas City and St. Louis overwhelming approved continuing the tax. But come next April, because Mr. Sinquefield wants it that way, they’ll have to do it all over again.

In an amazing coincidence, the biggest donor to Mr. Schaefer’s campaign for state attorney general is (ta-dah!) Rex Sinquefield. He’s provided 41 percent ($750,000) of the $1.8 million Mr. Schaefer has raised this election cycle.

And even though, at least in 2011, Mr. Sinquefield didn’t actively oppose the e-tax re-ratification votes in Kansas City and St. Louis by, say, funding million-dollar campaigns against them, Mr. Schaefer is demonstrating he is to Team Rex what Rudy Ruettiger was to Notre Dame football: the guy who’ll do anything to impress the coach.

**His bill would** peremptorily end the e-taxes in 2017, one reason why it won’t pass. Even Proposition A, the 2010 measure that forced the quinquennial re-ratification elections, gave St. Louis and Kansas City 10 years to replace the tax if voters are ever silly enough to end it.

Another reason why it won’t pass: Even some of Mr. Schafer’s Republican colleagues are tired of his grandstanding. There’s been discussion of replacing him as appropriations chairman, the idea being that every entity that gets state money shouldn’t be hostage to one man’s political ambition. Replacing him would be the statesmanlike move to make.

His likely successor as chairman would be Sen. Ryan Silvey, R-Kansas City, the committee vice chair. Mr. Silvey is not thrilled with Mr. Schafer’s e-tax proposal. He **told the Post-Dispatch’s Alex Stuckey**, “I don’t think it’s going to be a partisan issue at all — it’s a matter of a senator from the middle of the state trying to remove the right to vote on a tax from citizens in both cities. I think we ought to have the ability locally to vote on how we’re going to tax ourselves.”

Good point. We ought to have the ability locally to decide on all sorts of local issues. But for the time being, the e-tax will suffice.

Another reason why Mr. Schaefer is howling at the moon: the business communities in both St. Louis and Kansas City support the e-tax. Main Street Republicans may not be thrilled with paying a 1 percent earnings tax, but they know it’s necessary to support the sort of city services their businesses need.

For that matter, we’re not wholly thrilled with the e-tax either. It’s a flat tax, falling in its 1 percent majesty on CEOs and janitors, high-priced athletes and hot-dog vendors alike. Income taxes should be progressive.

But at 10 percent-plus, the sales tax is about tapped out. Property tax increases are a hard sell everywhere, but particularly in urban areas with lots of empty real estate.

Right now, the e-tax is a necessary evil. In a consolidated city and county, that might not be true. But for the time being, Mr. Schaefer’s bill needs to die and city voters should be prepared in April to endorse the tax again.

By then we’ll be deep into another legislative session. Lord knows what the Grinch will have stuffed into his sack by then.
Abortion fight remains fierce in Missouri, decades after Roe v. Wade

By Rudi Keller

Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 12:00 am

When Planned Parenthood started offering abortions in 1974 in Columbia, the clinic’s medical director was David Hall III, chairman of the obstetrics and gynecology department of the University of Missouri School of Medicine.

At that time, his son David Hall IV said, his father thought legal abortion was better than the alternative.

“He made me aware that abortions were occurring,” Hall said. “It was the concern that a mother might be injured if someone used a coat hanger. That would be his concern — that it was better if it was done in a hospital or by a qualified doctor.”

Hall III did not perform abortions. Hall IV, an entomologist working in Florida, said his father’s views changed as he grew older.

“I moved away from Columbia in the mid-’70s,” he said. “During the 1990s, my father came to the Fort Myers area a lot. One of the things that emerged during our discussions was that he believed abortion was murder.”

Hall III died in 2010. Their discussions about abortion did not go very deep, Hall IV said, so he is not sure how far his father would be willing to go to restrict abortion.

“I always agreed with my father back in the ’70s that if my wife was pregnant and something was going to happen to either her or the baby that I would be a champion for the mother,” he said. “I still feel that way. I don’t believe in abortion because I am having a baby and I don’t want it.”

The politics of abortion have never been more polarized. Nothing is settled on either side, nearly 43 years since Roe v. Wade overturned the laws of 46 states that limited or outlawed abortion.
The Nov. 27 attack in Colorado Springs, Colo., that killed three people, including a police officer, at a Planned Parenthood clinic is only the most recent example of violence targeting abortion providers.

“We need some smart compromise,” Hall said. “There are going to be situations where you say we shouldn’t abort. It has got to be a compromise. You can’t go all one way or the other.”

In 1982, before Missouri banned abortions in public facilities and almost 25 years before abortion clinics had to obtain licenses as ambulatory surgical centers, a woman seeking an abortion in the state had 29 providers to choose from.

The abortionists terminated 19,226 pregnancies that year. For two years in the 1980s, more abortions were performed in Missouri than the number obtained by women who were state residents, meaning women from elsewhere were coming to the state for the procedure.

Since privileges for the doctor working at the Columbia clinic expired this month, only one Missouri clinic, operated by Planned Parenthood in St. Louis, still performs abortions. Only 5,060 abortions were performed in the state in 2014, and more than 3,000 women left the state to obtain an abortion.

For abortion opponents, that is a mark of success.

“When I went to Jeff City, there were 10 abortion clinics in the state of Missouri,” state Sen. Mike Parson, R-Bolivar, said in a recent Columbia campaign appearance. “Now there is one. That’s one too many in my view, but there is one, and that’s an accomplishment.”

Spurred by controversial videos released this summer and the August resumption of abortions at Columbia’s Planned Parenthood clinic, abortion foes are preparing for a new round of legislation limiting access. Abortion supporters are fighting back in the courts — the U.S. Supreme Court will consider a challenge to a Texas law requiring abortionists to have hospital privileges, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals recently struck down Wisconsin’s law.

The number of abortion providers nationally has declined 41 percent since 1982, alarming abortion rights advocates.

“The types of restrictions that are effectively closing doors are clinic regulations and admitting privileges,” said Elizabeth Nash of the Guttmacher Institute.

Anti-abortion protests and more dangerous methods used by some opponents also have played a major role in reducing access, Nash said.

“Yes, part of the fact is that people are reluctant to open an abortion clinic because there is so much harassment and violence against providers,” she said. “We have seen in the not-too-distant past,
providers be murdered. When you have that type of environment, you can understand why a medical provider might not want to enter into this work.”

Before Roe, about one-fourth of states had liberalized abortion laws, including four that allowed abortion on request. Abortion has remained a divisive issue in part, Nash said, because the Supreme Court decision stopped that political process.

“There were states all across the country looking at making access to abortion feasible,” she said. “Somehow the narrative has been that the Supreme Court took things too far, and that this has been tied very closely to politics and has become very much a litmus test for certain politicians.”

Missouri is an extreme example of what has taken place across the country, Nash said.

“Missouri has for decades adopted abortion restriction after abortion restriction, and they have gone to court time and time again,” she said. “Missouri has been on the forefront of abortion restriction ever since the ink was dry on Roe v. Wade.”

The abortion foes who gather on the sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood’s clinic on Providence Road are persistent and assertive. When Kathy Forck was warned she could not use an amplifier without being cited for disturbing the peace, she didn’t accept the restriction on her rights. She sued.

While the case isn’t over, Columbia’s attorney, Debbie Champion, has conceded the warning had no teeth.

Forck is a relatively recent transplant to Central Missouri, but since her arrival from Arizona in 2007 she has become one of the most visible activists engaged in protests at the Columbia clinic. She and her husband, Michael, are co-chairs of the 40 Days for Life campaign, which seeks to change women’s decisions to seek abortions by approaching them as they enter a clinic.

Forck is a mother of four and a grandmother of eight. While she was raising her family and working as an Avon representative, she said, she contributed money to anti-abortion causes but never took an active role. That changed in 2008, she said.

“There was just this prompting that I needed to be doing something with my life, and abortion just came to my mind,” Forck said. “I asked my husband if they had a Planned Parenthood and if they do abortions. We went there on a Sunday afternoon, and I just felt like I was called to pray there and pray for the women coming for abortions.”

The women entering the clinic don’t want to have abortions but often feel trapped by their pregnancy and economic conditions, Forck said. She supports the state laws that require women to read a 22-page booklet describing fetal development, naming agencies that help a woman carry a pregnancy to term and outlining the potential hazards of an abortion.
Forck also wants new laws to sever all ties between the University of Missouri and Planned Parenthood.

The ultimate goal is making abortion illegal, but she said she doubts that will happen soon. If it does, the law should target the doctor, not the woman.

“They would be the one breaking the law,” Forck said. “I think women would be cherished more if abortion were not legal in our country.”

When the Tribune ran a photo of then-Columbia police Sgt. Doug Schwandt carrying a priest away from Columbia’s Planned Parenthood clinic, he had to answer for his actions to a higher power.

“My grandmother was Catholic and she saw the picture, and I had to make amends,” said Schwandt, now chief of the MU Police Department.

The Operation Rescue protesters blocking the front door of the clinic on Aug. 26, 1989, used nonviolent civil disobedience tactics to obstruct the entrance. Police arrested 44 people, who were booked for trespassing and released.

A federal law passed in 1994 increased the penalty for blocking clinic entrances to one year in prison for a first offense.

Aside from a few acts of vandalism, the Columbia clinic has escaped the violence that has struck abortion providers across the nation, including the 2009 murder of George Tiller in Wichita, Kan., and the Nov. 29 attack in Colorado Springs.

“It was a little unnerving, when I saw that today,” Schwandt said of the Colorado Springs shootings. “We have had issues locally.”

In July 2008, the Columbia SWAT team practiced responding to a hostage situation at the clinic. Unfortunately, the city forgot to tell the neighbors and apologized a week later for alarming people.

The Columbia clinic has been the target of violent threats, and police generally are on hand when large groups of demonstrators gather. At other times, the clinic hires off-duty officers to provide security.

“You have to hope and pray it doesn’t happen in our venue or our jurisdiction,” Schwandt said. “You try to take a role in those protests, an observation role, and try to separate those groups.”

Protests at the clinic must stay between Providence Road and the fence built over the summer to mark the limits of private property. Demonstrators who come inside the fence can be arrested for trespassing.
Before the Operation Rescue protests, officers knew they would likely make mass arrests, Schwandt said. “I remember having the conversations with a team supervisor, who said, ‘Hey, no matter what your feelings are, one side or the other, we are here to enforce the law and keep the peace.’”

Police cannot allow their feelings about any issue to influence their law enforcement duties, and that is what he expects of the officers under his command, Schwandt said.

“My initial reaction is that we have got to be able to do our job, no matter what we are called to do,” he said. “We are an accredited department, and they agreed to perform their duties no matter what their personal judgments are.”

Karl Kruse was new to his position as executive director of Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri in 1976 when a call came from the New York Times.

The U.S. Supreme Court had just ruled, in Planned Parenthood v. Danforth, that Missouri’s law requiring spousal consent to an abortion for married women and parental consent for girls 17 and under was unconstitutional. The affiliate and its medical director, David Hall III, were named plaintiffs in the case.

“I got that phone call, and I am like a week on the job and not ready to speak to the New York Times,” Kruse said.

Columbia’s Planned Parenthood affiliate was formed in 1970. In 1974, it added abortion to the family planning courses, STD screenings and other services it already offered.

“I was a very young man at the time, in the early stages of a career as a health care administrator,” he said. “I came to work at Planned Parenthood because I was very committed to the mission, and it was a good job.”

When he stepped down in 1984, Kruse became director of the Missouri Kidney Program. His support for Planned Parenthood’s mission had not wavered, he said, but the job was difficult and he needed new challenges as a health care administrator.

“You get up in the morning and you go to work and people on the sidewalk are calling you a murderer,” Kruse said. “It’s a hard job. I said, ‘OK, it is time to move on.’”

He later served three terms on the Columbia City Council and became an advocate for limiting billboards along state highways.

Kruse said there is little medical value in the abortion restrictions enacted since he left Planned Parenthood, including a requirement that clinics obtain a license as an ambulatory surgical center and that doctors performing abortions have hospital privileges.
The complication rate from abortion is lower than that of childbirth, Kruse said. “It is just not an issue. This is all made up stuff by the people who want to outlaw abortion altogether.”

And with only one abortion clinic operating in Missouri today, “their strategy is really effective,” Kruse said.

Kruse has supported legal abortion since 1968, when he was living in St. Louis and an 18-year-old Stephens College student asked for help finding an abortionist. The young woman became pregnant during a visit home to Texas. She was a friend of his first wife.

“It was surgical in the sense that the nurse midwife inserted something into her uterus,” he said. “She put the gauze in there, which dried out the uterus and caused the miscarriage. She had to go to the emergency room due to bleeding. It was a horrible situation.”

Abortions took place before Roe v. Wade and won’t stop if the decision is overturned, he said.

“What has been lost in the last few years is all the women who were dying from illegal abortions” before the Roe decision, Kruse said.

Sam Lee began his career as an anti-abortion activist in 1978 at clinic sit-ins, where his frequent arrests netted him a jail term of almost a year for ignoring court orders. Today he is the most experienced lobbyist working on abortion issues in Jefferson City.

“My first big bill was actually the bill that ended up passing and ended up being called the Webster case,” Lee said. “That was a baptism by fire for me.”

Lee was a volunteer lobbyist for Missouri Citizens for Life, now called Missouri Right to Life. The 1986 “Webster” law declared that life begins at conception. It also banned abortions in public facilities, barred public employees from performing abortions and prohibited public employees or public funds from being used to encourage or counsel a pregnant woman to seek an abortion not necessary to save her life.

“I have followed it since then, and my niche is pro-life,” Lee said. “I love it, I love the environment, I love the politics of it.”

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law in the landmark 1989 ruling in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services.

Lee worked for Missouri Right to Life until he launched Campaign Life Missouri. Lee does not endorse candidates or make campaign donations, focusing solely on abortion-related legislation.

Some Supreme Court decisions about personal conduct have generally been accepted by the public, such as interracial or same-sex marriage. In the almost 43 years since Roe v. Wade, the controversy over abortion has only grown in intensity.
“With abortion, pro-lifers believe babies are dying and women are getting hurt,” Lee said. “That is just not the case with same-sex marriage. That is about couples of the same gender who love each other and couldn’t get married. They were the victims.”

The scope of issues labeled as abortion-related has grown over the years. The longer the list grows, however, the less public support there is when the relationship is tenuous, Lee said. Embryonic stem cell research is a good example, he said.

“The strength of the movement is in abortion, and not everyone who calls themselves pro-life agrees on the other issues,” Lee said.

In 2016, abortion opponents will work on expanding the Webster law, Lee said. The ties between the University of Missouri and the Columbia Planned Parenthood clinic, which go back to the founding of the local affiliate in 1970, will be a target. So will the laws requiring clinic inspections and governing the disposal of fetal remains.

Making abortion illegal is the ultimate goal, but it is not practical at this time, he said.

“I recognize all my moral beliefs are not going to become law,” Lee said. “I work on what is achievable.”

Column: Foley isn’t another Loftin

Now that Loftin is gone, columnist Elane Edwards tries to figure out where Foley should begin.

Planned Parenthood demonstrators echoed their frustration with interim Chancellor Hank Foley in Speakers Circle on some even shouting, “Give him a bow tie!”

The demonstrators’ comparison of Foley’s actions as interim chancellor to former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin’s actions when he was chancellor lead me to question what Foley’s responsibility to the MU community truly is as interim chancellor.

Immediately after Loftin resigned, it seemed that a large population of the student body felt relieved that Foley took the position. However, the recent Planned Parenthood demonstration on Nov. 30 showed me that Foley taking the position was likely not what students were celebrating. Rather, students were merely happy about Loftin no longer being chancellor.

Consequently, students’ distaste for Loftin is influencing their expectations of Foley. Still, Foley replacing Loftin does not mean he should be the opposite of Loftin in trying to be what is best for MU right now.
Foley should not be expected to simply undo the decisions that Loftin made during his tenure as chancellor. Although high public demand led to Loftin’s removal, Foley’s responsibilities as interim chancellor should not be controlled by Loftin’s alleged failures. Nor is the interim chancellor supposed to carry out the decisions Loftin made before he resigned.

Foley is not interim chancellor so he can make large decisions — in fact, it’s quite the opposite. To prepare campus in case future conflict occurs, he should be focusing on mending the small issues that were not given as much attention during the overwhelming time of the Concerned Student 1950 protests.

Foley’s responsibility to MU is to give the student body time to breathe, which starts with an open conversation. He has sent several emails to the student body in regards to events happening on and off campus in an attempt to show he is here to speak with students, not at them. He realizes the power an open conversation can have, and if he sets that precedent now, it will help the continuous positive growth MU has been working so hard to achieve.

Although Foley decided to “continue to support the Medical Staff Executive Committee at MU Health Care” and chose to not reinstate refer and follow privileges starting Dec. 1, the language used in Foley’s statement reflected an understanding and thoughtful tone. However, as of Dec. 2, the deadline for refer and follow privileges has been moved to Dec. 30.

“I am sympathetic to many of the situations and extenuating circumstances these women have found themselves in — situations and circumstances that lead to decisions most women will never have to make,” the statement read.

Loftin’s mistakes were rooted in a lack of listening and conversation, and Foley’s time as interim chancellor can be used to stabilize the campus climate. Foley might not be able to settle all the issues students have with MU, but he is able to give people time to move past their disappointment in Loftin and be ready for the next chancellor, one who hopefully is willing to make as big of a commitment to change as the students are.
COLUMBIA, MO. - A University of Missouri professor's documentary about an actress preparing for the role of a suicidal newscaster has been selected for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival.

Robert Greene's "Kate Plays Christine," explores themes of suicide, voyeurism and the nature of performance while following actress Kate Sheil as she transforms into Christine Chubbuck, a Florida newscaster who killed herself on air in 1974, the Columbia Missourian (http://bit.ly/1OWCGhq) reports.

Chubbuck's 1974 death is also the topic of "Christine," one of the 16 narrative films premiering in Sundance's U.S. Dramatic Competition next month.

"Sundance is the biggest place to start the life of a film in this country," Greene said. "I feel really lucky."

"Kate Plays Christine" is the first film Greene directed to premier at the festival, although two films he edited have previously screened at Sundance: Alex Ross Perry's "Listen Up Philip" in 2014 and Charles Poekel's "Christmas, Again" in 2015.

Although this is Greene's first semester teaching at MU, his relationship with Columbia began years earlier when his second feature, "Kati with an I," premiered at the 2010 True/False Film Fest in Columbia. Since then, he has directed and edited several other feature-length documentaries. Roger Ebert
listed Greene's film "Fake It So Real" as one of the best documentaries of 2012, and Greene's 2014 film "Actress" was nominated for a Best Documentary Gotham Award.

Greene also co-edited "Killing Them Safely," directed by MU alumnus and professor Nick Berardini, which screened at the Missouri Theatre last month. "It's also special that it happened our first semester at the Murray Center," Greene said. MU's Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism began its first classes in August.

The 2016 Sundance Film Festival will take place in and around Park City, Utah, from Jan. 21 to Jan. 31. All 65 features playing in and out of competition were officially announced Dec. 2 on Sundance's website.
Missourian

George Kennedy: Work of Kinder Institute could be important chapter for MU's story

George Kennedy Dec 11, 2015

Good news has been in short supply on our university’s campus this fall. From the football field to University Hall, the stories have more often recounted defeat and disarray than accomplishment or accolade. And there have been lots of stories.

That probably explains in large part why the biggest positive story of the semester disappeared so quickly from the front pages and why some important elements of that story haven’t yet been told, as far as I can see, by any of our usual informants.

You might consider this my attempt to fill some holes.

The Missourian headline on Oct. 8 captured the event’s significance: “MU receives $25 million gift for Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy.”

The story, and similar reports in the Columbia Daily Tribune and multiple broadcast outlets, noted that the Kinder Foundation, created by a billionaire alumnus and his wife, would underwrite a major program of research, teaching and public awareness focused on the history and function of our system of government.

There will be four new faculty positions, graduate and post-graduate fellowships for students, an array of courses on campus and online, and a series of public lectures.

Missing from that coverage, however, were a couple of facts that, when I learned them later, caused a bit of concern.
We weren’t told that the agreement with the Kinders requires the university to come up with half the cost of operating the Institute. That will amount to more than $1.2 million a year when the Institute is in full swing.

Nor did we know, until the New York Times reported it a few weeks later, that Rich and Nancy Kinder each had given Jeb Bush $1 million this year alone. That wasn’t their first reach into their deep pockets for the Bush family.

We journalists are notorious for our math aversion, but those numbers are too big to be overlooked. So after poking around online and picking up some background on the Kinders and the pipeline empire that has yielded for Rich a net worth recently estimated at $8.2 billion, I got in touch with the founding director of the Institute.

We met Monday in his temporary office in the Professional Building on University Avenue. The permanent quarters, to be renovated at university expense, will be on the fourth floor of Jesse Hall.

Justin Dyer is an associate professor of political science. He was a collegiate wrestler at Oklahoma and holds a doctorate from the University of Texas-Austin. His most recent book was "Slavery, Abortion, and the Politics of Constitutional Meaning," published in 2013. I haven’t yet read it.

Professor Dyer did his best then and in a follow-up phone conversation to set my mind at ease. He began by pointing out that he and the associate director, history Professor Jeff Pasley (a Harvard Ph.D.) have been working for several years on creating an interdisciplinary program in constitutional democracy.

Several courses are already being taught, and a minor in the field is already available. He and Professor Pasley, he said, are intent on developing "an intellectually diverse faculty." All the new faculty hires, he said, will be handled through the usual procedures and undergo the usual vetting. The Institute’s first annual report lists nine current "core faculty" members, from history, political science, economics and law.

When I asked about the role of the Institute’s advisory board, which will have four members appointed by the university and four by the Kinder Foundation, Professor Dyer said his understanding is that the board
will be concerned primarily with oversight of the budget, which is projected to exceed $2.4 million by FY2020.

The required university contribution is standard in this kind of arrangement, he pointed out. The Reynolds Journalism Institute, recipient of the only two larger academic endowments in the university’s history, has a similar cost sharing.

He doesn’t know where the university share will come from, he said. He added, "It’s good for the university to invest in the humanities and social sciences. There’s not much of that." He expects that more fundraising will be needed.

Rich Kinder’s two MU degrees are in history and law. After he served in Vietnam as an Army officer, he and his first wife fell into bankruptcy as real estate investors before he joined and rose to the top of an energy company headed by another MU alumnus.

That alum, of course, was Ken Lay. The company was Enron.

A falling-out led to his departing well before Enron collapsed and then to his teaming up with yet another MU alumnus, Bill Morgan. The two formed the nationwide pipeline company, Kinder Morgan. Bill Morgan has since retired.*

Professor Dyer told me he expects Sara Scholes Morgan, an MU alumna and wife of Bill Morgan, to be a member of the advisory board. He said he thinks she is a contributor to Democrats.

Everything I’ve now learned suggests that we’re opening a new chapter of what promises to be a fascinating and important addition to the story of our university.

**MISSOURIAN**

Big donor Richard Kinder has power, influence far beyond MU
COLUMBIA — Richard Kinder is 52.

That’s not his age. That’s the ranking he holds on Forbes' list of the 400 richest Americans this year.

Kinder co-owns the largest energy infrastructure company and fourth-largest energy company on the continent, according to a release from Kinder Morgan. The oil mogul’s net worth was $8.9 billion when Forbes aggregated the list in September.

**Kinder forged a multi-billion dollar empire through determined leadership and investments — some that left him hanging by a thread and others that raised him to the top of his field. He and his wife, Nancy, have spent millions reinvesting their wealth in causes, such as education, green spaces and GOP political campaigns.**

**In October, the couple donated $25 million to MU for the development of the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, which they established in 2014. The endowment was the university's third largest academic gift.**

"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 at the gift announcement Oct. 8.

The institute supports research and education on the U.S. Constitution and American democracy in history, theory and practice. The $25 million gift will partially fund the institute; MU is required to contribute $1.25 million to the institute, or half of the institute's annual operating budget of $2.5 million, according to Catey Terry, executive director of MU’s Advancement Creative Services and Donor Relations.
The story of the MU alumnus who made it big and returned to his alma mater to launch an academic center with his name on the door is just one in a career of examples that show Kinder's influence across the country.

From bankruptcy to billionaire

Richard Kinder, 71, grew up in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. His mother was a teacher and his father a life insurance salesman, according to a 2003 Houston Press article. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from MU in the 1960s with what money his family had — which wasn't much, he said at the gift announcement.

The Kinders declined to be interviewed for this article, but past interviews lay out an account of Richard Kinder's career, which early on included large-scale real estate investments. After a big investment fell through, he filed for bankruptcy in 1980 and listed $2.14 million in debts, which he later paid off, according to a 2003 Fortune article.

In an attempt to regain financial stability, Kinder stepped into the pipeline business. He began as a lawyer with Florida Gas, a pipeline transportation company that became part of Enron Corp. in 1984, according to Fortune.

"At Enron, Kinder — who had an encyclopedic knowledge of gas-industry regulation — developed a reputation as a tough, disciplined and detail-oriented manager," the article said.

Kinder became president and chief operating officer by 1990. After being passed up for a promotion to CEO in 1996, he left the company. A few years after his departure, the company — which was one of the largest energy enterprises in the world — imploded in what is known today as the Enron scandal.

In 2001, Enron filed for bankruptcy after top executives hid years of debt the company had acquired, according to a CNN timeline. Some experts in the field have expressed their belief that Enron would still exist if Kinder had stayed on as president.
Instead, Kinder joined forces with a former MU classmate, William Morgan, in founding Kinder Morgan Inc. The pipeline company expanded from 175 employees and a $325 million value in 1997 to 12,000 employees and a $110 billion enterprise value today, according to its website.

Kinder's company and leadership

Kinder Morgan is headquartered in Houston, where the Kinders live, but operates about 84,000 miles of pipelines and 165 terminals around the continent. Its pipelines move about a third of the natural gas consumed in the U.S., according to an April Kinder Morgan news release.

In essence, the company acts like a tollroad along the highway of energy distribution: Businesses pay a fee to have their commodity moved around the continent through Kinder Morgan's pipelines and terminals. The businesses are usually major oil companies, and their commodities are usually natural gas, refined petroleum products, crude oil and carbon dioxide.

Kinder was a focused and detail-oriented leader, P. Anthony Lannie said in a phone interview. Lannie is executive vice president and general counsel for Apache Corp., a large oil and gas corporation in Houston. While Lannie was president of a Kinder Morgan subsidiary from 2000 to 2003, he worked closely with Kinder.

"He's very demanding, in a good sense," Lannie said. "He's good at setting expectations and holding people accountable."

Kinder kept a detailed record of his conversations on a yellow legal pad he carried around, Lannie said. In keeping with his training as a lawyer, Kinder took notes on every conversation so that when the time came, he could remind someone of his original promise.

"That's the way he holds people accountable," Lannie said. "It's very effective."

Declining profits
Under his leadership, Kinder's company has grown to the top of its industry. But neither Kinder Morgan nor Kinder himself has been immune to the vacillation of the economy and the energy production business.

Kinder's real-time position on Forbes' lists has recently plummeted. As of Friday, Kinder's net worth was about $5.7 billion — more than $3 billion less than in September. Kinder Morgan has also experienced a significant decline in stock prices.

“What we have right now is a collapse of the oil price,” Lannie said last month. "That has implications for pipeline companies and the midstream companies — as we call them — like Kinder Morgan in a number of respects." When oil prices rise again, the energy industry will recover, he said.

It's not Kinder Morgan's first dip in stock prices. When Enron imploded, the company was hit by the aftermath.

"Our stock at Kinder Morgan took a dive just like everybody’s did ..." Lannie said. He said Kinder Morgan and other energy companies took a hit with Enron because investors became suspicious of all energy companies. But Kinder adopted a slogan to battle investors' anxiety.

"Real assets. Real earnings. Real cash flow," Lannie said. "It was basically to send the message to the market that everything we had was real; there was no funny business in any of our numbers."

Kinder would repeat the phrase, Lannie said, pounding it into the psyche of his employees and investors. Within months, the stock price had fully recovered.

In June, Kinder stepped down as CEO but said in a July interview with Forbes that he will continue to be actively involved in his company.

"As we say in Texas, I plan to die with my boots on," Kinder told Reuters in January.

Philanthropy in education
In 1997, the Kinders established the Kinder Foundation, of which Nancy Kinder is president. The philanthropic organization funds green space, education and quality life causes, according to the website.

"The Kinders have become the most important civic-minded philanthropists in Houston," said William Fulton, director of Rice University's Kinder Institute for Urban Research, who has known the Kinders for about a year and a half.

The foundation has donated more than $230 million since its establishment, according to its website. It has also supported a number of Catholic schools, educational programs and green spaces in Houston.

Rice's Kinder Institute, which examines issues facing Houston and urban centers around the country, was established in 2010 with a $15 million endowment from the Kinder Foundation. The endowment has had two major impacts on the university, Fulton said, one of which is providing the institution with the credibility it needs to receive additional funding.

"Because no one has more credibility in Houston than the Kinders," Fulton said.

Kinder is chairman of the advisory board of Rice's institute and chairman of the board of trustees of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

"I've dealt with a lot of different people in my career," Fulton said. "I've been a local government official myself, a politician, a consultant, and I have to say, of all the people I've dealt with, Rich is probably one of the smartest and straightest-shooting guys I've ever known."

Philanthropy in green spaces, political campaigns

In 2013, the foundation donated $50 million to the Bayou Greenways 2020 project — one of the largest grants to a public green space in the U.S., according to the Kinder Foundation's website. It also donated $10 million to the construction of the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas.

As individual contributors, Richard and Nancy Kinder have a long history of supporting Republican campaigns. The couple has been a significant Bush family supporter, and each donated $1 million this
year to a Jeb Bush political action committee, Right To Rise USA. Previously, they had been top donors to George W. Bush’s campaigns for governor and president. They also gave more than $250,000 to the Republican National Committee alone, according to the Federal Election Commission website.

According to the Houston Press article, Richard Kinder and Karl Rove — who was senior adviser to President George W. Bush from 2000 to 2007— have been close since Bush’s first race for governor in 1994. Kinder is also the cousin of Missouri Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder.

The Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at MU, then, is at the intersection of Kinder's interests in U.S. government and politics, his philanthropic endeavors and his alma mater.

"You have to look to private philanthropy to help build centers of excellence at universities like the University of Missouri," Kinder said in October at the Reynolds Alumni Center. "That's what this gift is intended to do. It's really a big partnership between our foundation and the university, and hopefully we will create something unique that will have lasting benefit."

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DECEMBER 11, 2015

MU board approves Barry Odom’s contract, worth $2.35 million annually

Missouri’s board of curators approved a memorandum of understanding to hire Barry Odom

Odom, 39, is set to make $2.35 million guaranteed during five-year deal

Contract is incentive laden, includes a two-year mutual option

BY TOD PALMER
tpalmer@kestar.com

Barry Odom officially is Missouri’s 32nd football coach.
The Tigers’ athletic department released the details of Odom’s contract Friday after a memorandum of understanding was approved by the University of Missouri System Board of Curators during a regularly scheduled meeting on the Missouri-St. Louis campus.

Odom’s five-year contract includes $2.35 million in annual guaranteed compensation. He received $625,000 last season as defensive coordinator, so the new contract nearly quadruples his salary.

Odom, in a release, thanked athletic director Mack Rhoades, MU chancellor Hank Foley, interim university system president Mike Middleton and the curators.

“Through this process they have shown an unwavering commitment to provide us with the resources we need to attract and retain an elite staff and support our student-athletes in order to compete at the highest level,” Odom said.

Odom will receive a $450,000 base salary plus $475,000 each for radio appearances, television appearance, the team’s apparel contract and for other “public relations and stewardship appearances.”

He also is due a $100,000 annuity payment each year at the end of the contract, giving him an additional $500,000.

Odom’s contract also includes up to $1.5 million in incentives relating to academic and social goals for the players, on-field success and other recognition such as conference or national coach of the year awards.

The details of those incentives haven’t been finalized, but they will be released when the fully executed contract — which runs through Feb. 28, 2021, and includes a two-year mutual option — is finalized.

Missouri and Odom will decide whether to pick up the option during a review in December 2017, according to the binding memorandum of understanding.

Odom receives a one-time automatic $250,000 raise if Missouri wins a conference championship. He receives the same pay bump if the Tigers make a New Year’s Six bowl game (Cotton, Fiesta, Orange, Peach, Rose or Sugar Bowl).

There are also some fairly standard incentives, granting Odom access to two university automobiles, spousal-travel reimbursement, a country club
membership and complimentary tickets for football, men’s basketball and postseason games.

According to the memorandum, Odom must provide written notice if he intends to seek a different job in the college ranks or the NFL.


Missouri’s announcement didn’t include any details about the salary pool for assistant coaches, but that was expected to increase as well, a source told The Star.

Odom, 39, succeeds Gary Pinkel, who announced Nov. 13 that he had follicular lymphoma and would resign after the season.

Rhoades introduced Odom on Dec. 4 at Mizzou Arena, one night after Missouri announced his hiring. Odom, who played linebacker for Larry Smith’s teams from 1996-99 and ranks seventh on the program’s career tackles list, served as the Tigers’ defensive coordinator last season.

Odom’s annual salary ranks 13th among the 13 public Southeastern Conference universities. Vanderbilt, a private school in Nashville, isn’t required to release contract details to the public.

Alabama’s Nick Saban in the highest-paid coach in the nation at more than $7 million annually, according to the USA Today coaches’ salaries database.

South Carolina recently hired former Florida coach and Auburn defensive coordinator Will Muschamp to a five-year contract with a $3 million base salary that increases $100,000 per season. Georgia will pay Kirby Smart $3.75 million per year for the next six seasons.

Pinkel’s salary last season, which USA Today reported at $3,768,889, ranked 11th in the SEC and 20th in the nation.
Mizzou sets Odom's salary at $2.35 million

December 11, 2015 4:10 pm  •  By Dave Matter

UPDATED, 4:10 p.m.

COLUMBIA, Mo. • New Missouri football coach Barry Odom will make a guaranteed salary of $2.35 million as part of his five-year contract.

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved Odom’s initial contract terms during their meetings the last two days at UMSL, the school announced Friday. Technically, the board approved a memorandum of understanding, which outlines most of Odom’s contractual points. Both sides still have to finalize some incentive clauses.

Odom, 39, was announced as Mizzou’s 32nd head coach on Dec. 3, succeeding Gary Pinkel, who retired after his 15th season on the MU sideline. Odom, Mizzou’s defensive coordinator this past season, will make a base salary of $450,000, plus a guaranteed non-salary compensation amount of $1,900,000, which covers four areas each paying $475,000: radio appearances, television appearances, apparel rights and public relations and stewardship appearances.

Odom will also receive an annuity payment of $100,000 per year contingent upon his being in good standing on the final date of his contract period. The contract went into effect last Thursday and runs through Feb. 28, 2021, with a mutual option for a two-year extension.

Odom was making $625,000 as Missouri's defensive coordinator. Just four years ago the former Mizzou linebacker was making $200,000 as the Tigers' safeties coach.

“I’m very grateful to (athletics director) Mack Rhoades, Chancellor Hank Foley, President Mike Middleton, the Board of Curators and the entire university administration for this opportunity,” Odom said in a prepared statement. “Through this process they have shown an unwavering commitment to provide us with the resources we need to attract and retain an elite staff and support our student-athletes in order to compete at the highest level.”

Odom’s salary will be the lowest among the 13 head coaches at public institutions in the Southeastern Conference. Newly hired Georgia coach Kirby Smart will make $3.75 million, while new South Carolina coach Will Muschamp will make $3 million. Alabama's Nick Saban has the biggest salary in the country, making just over $7 million. Kentucky's Mark Stoops was the lowest paid head coach in the SEC this season, making $3.25 million.

In April, Pinkel agreed to a new contract that put his guaranteed salary at $4,020,000. With Odom making significantly less, Mizzou will be saving roughly $1.75 million annually. Those funds could go toward Odom's staff. Pinkel's nine-man coaching staff made $3.63 million collectively last year, which ranked seventh in the SEC.

Odom's salary of $2.35 million would have ranked No. 46 nationally this season using USA Today's most recent salary database, which doesn't include figures for coaches at seven private schools. Odom will make more in 2016 as a first-time head coach than 15 head coaches made at power conference schools this year, according to USA Today's figures.
Odom’s contract will include an incentive package worth up to an additional $1.5 million. Like Pinkel’s contracts, those incentives will be related to academic performance, social responsibility, athletic performance and coaching accolades. Odom's incentive terms will be released with the full contract at a later date.

Odom would earn a one-time $250,000 bonus if Mizzou wins an SEC championship during the length of his contract, plus another one-time payment of $250,000 if the Tigers are chosen for a New Year’s Six bowl game, which includes the Cotton, Fiesta, Orange, Peach, Rose and Sugar.

Also, according to Odom's memorandum of understanding, he receives standard perks, including two university vehicles, country club membership, complimentary tickets to MU football and basketball games.

Should he leave for another coaching job on or before Feb. 28, 2019, Odom owes Mizzou his guaranteed salary of $2.35 million. That figure goes down to $1.175 million if he leaves between March 1, 2019 and Feb. 29, 2020 and $587,500 if between March 1, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021.

The information released Friday did not mention Odom's assistant salary pool. Odom has not announced any staff additions, though three assistants from Pinkel’s 2015 staff will stay with the program: Andy Hill, Cornell Ford and Ryan Walters.

Curators give initial approval to MU head football coach contract

COLUMBIA – The University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved the initial contract terms for new MU Head Football Coach Barry Odom. Odom replaced Gary Pinkel as head coach after Pinkel announced his retirement to fight non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

On Friday, the board approved a memorandum of understanding, which outlined a majority of the contract. The contract still needed to be finalized and fully executed.

The agreement called for Odom to be paid a guaranteed $2.35 million annually, which included a base salary of $450,000, plus a guaranteed non-salary $1.9 million. That included payment for things like radio and television appearances, public relations appearances, and apparel rights.

After Pinkel's last negotiation, he had a guaranteed salary of $4.02 million annually.
"I’m very grateful to Mack Rhoades, Chancellor Hank Foley, President Mike Middleton, the Board of Curators and the entire university administration for this opportunity," Odom said in a news release.

Odom's final contract would also include incentives worth up to $1.5 million each year. Those incentives would include academic performance, social responsibility, athletic performance and coaching recognition. Those incentives were not finalized by the curators’ approval Friday.

Additionally, Odom could receive a $250,000 non-salary increase if the MU Tigers won a conference championship, and a $250,000 increase if Mizzou participated in a "New Year’s Six" bowl game.

The contract went into effect Dec. 3, 2015 and was set to run through Feb. 28, 2021, with a mutual option for a two-year extension.

Odom will make $2.35 million annually

By Joe Walljasper

Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 12:00 am

Barry Odom will make a guaranteed salary of $2.35 million as Missouri’s new football coach. The University of Missouri Board of Curators approved the initial terms of Odom’s five-year contract Friday in a meeting in St. Louis.

“I’m very grateful to Mack Rhoades, Chancellor Hank Foley, President Mike Middleton, the Board of Curators and the entire university administration for this opportunity,” Odom said in a news release. “Through this process they have shown an unwavering commitment to provide us with the resources we need to attract and retain an elite staff and support our student-athletes in order to compete at the highest level.”

Odom, 39, was tabbed on Dec. 3 to replace the retired Gary Pinkel, whose final contract paid him a guaranteed $4.02 million. That salary ranked Pinkel sixth in the Southeastern Conference when he agreed to the deal in April. There has been coaching upheaval in the SEC East since then, with the long-tenured Steve Spurrier (South Carolina) and Mark Richt (Georgia) being replaced by Will Muschamp and Kirby Smart, respectively, who will make less than their predecessors.
Muschamp and Smart were defensive coordinators at SEC schools this season, as was Odom. Smart will make $3.75 million at Georgia. Muschamp will make $3 million annually.

Among the coaches at the SEC’s public schools, Odom will be the lowest-paid. Vanderbilt is a private school and does not release the contract details of its coaches.

Odom’s contract will include incentives that could be worth as much as $1.5 million annually. All the incentives have not been determined, but Odom would receive $250,000 for an SEC championship and $250,000 for making one of the six biggest bowl games.

The deal went into effect on Dec. 3 and runs through Feb. 28, 2021, with a mutual option for a two-year extension. The curators approved a memorandum of understanding with Odom, as the final contract is not finalized.

Another important decision as Odom pieces together a coaching staff is the assistant coach salary budget. Missouri’s 2015 assistant coach salary pool was $3,630,000, which ranked seventh in the SEC, according to figures compiled by USA Today. The university has not revealed details of the new assistant coach salary pool.

Salary information for new football coach Barry Odom released

At $2.35 million per year, Odom’s salary ranks last in Southeastern Conference.

Coach Barry Odom will make $2.35 million in guaranteed salary, according to a memorandum of understanding approved Friday by the Board of Curators during their December meeting.

The athletics department released the details of the deal in a news release. The memorandum will act as his contract until a finalized agreement is reached. The final contract will be in effect until Feb. 28, 2021, according to the release.

Odom’s annual base salary is $450,000 with $1,900,000 of non-salary compensation, which covers “radio appearances, television appearances, apparel rights, and public relations and stewardship appearances,” according to the release. The final contract will also break down incentives that could be worth up to another $1.5 million per year.

If the Tigers win a conference championship or play in a “New Year’s Six” bowl game, Odom would receive $250,000.
Odom’s salary ranks last in the Southeastern Conference out of the 13 schools that release contract information. He’s also No. 46 out of the 61 Power Five conference coaches whose salaries are reported. The Missouri job is Odom’s first head coaching position. He made $625,000 in base salary as defensive coordinator.

"I'm very grateful to Mack Rhoades, Chancellor Hank Foley, President Mike Middleton, the Board of Curators and the entire university administration for this opportunity," Odom said in the news release. "Through this process they have shown an unwavering commitment to provide us with the resources we need to attract and retain an elite staff and support our student-athletes in order to compete at the highest level."

Odom, 39, was introduced as the new coach Dec. 3, almost four weeks after Gary Pinkel announced his retirement. Odom has been involved with the Missouri football program for 14 years — four as a player, four as a coach and six as an administrative assistant.

**MISSOURIAN**

Exceeding expectations can determine college football coaches' salaries, study says

JACOB BOGAGE, Dec 11, 2015

**COLUMBIA — Want to know which college football coaches are most likely in line for big pay raises? Check the Las Vegas gambling books, says Nick Watanabe, a professor of sports management at MU’s School of Natural Resources.**

Bookies pick the odds for how many games college football teams will win in the coming year, setting expectations for fan bases and athletics administrators. Beat that prediction, and a coach might likely be the next big thing in college football, Watanabe found in a paper he co-authored with researchers from Temple University and German Sport University.

That’s how coaching candidates set the price for their services, the study found. It doesn’t matter if candidates win more games. It matters if they outperform expectations.
"Most people operate under the simple idea that a college coach wins, and if they win, they get paid," Watanabe said. "And though that’s certainly part of the equation, that’s not the whole story."

Watanabe's findings might help explain the five-year, $2.35 million contract for new football coach Barry Odom, which the University of Missouri System Board of Curators approved Friday.

As a defensive coordinator, Odom’s unit was one of the best in the country. But without college head coaching experience and with low expectations for the Tigers in the coming years, his price dropped.

Athletics director Mack Rhoades said Missouri targeted four other candidates for the head coaching position. At one point, there were 14 openings for football coaches in Division I football.

"There’s a competitive market for coaches, and that’s what happens in all competitive markets," said Andrew Zimbalist, an economics professor at Smith College in Massachusetts and a foremost authority on sports business.

That hiring environment meant athletics directors had to offer higher salaries to lock down top-tier candidates quickly — such as Miami, which offered Mark Richt $4 million a year — but the value of each individual coach dropped. As the nationwide hiring process wore on and more coaches were snapped up, the hiring price rose again.

"Look at how fast these jobs get decided," Watanabe said. "Everybody wants a top candidate. You don’t want to be the one standing alone at the end of the dance. You don’t want to be the one who picks last playing pick up."

Bottom line: The college coaching carousel is confusing because it doesn’t always adhere to conventional economics.
The law of supply and demand — the thing every economics 101 professor draws on the first day of class — applies to hiring, but positive reinforcement — you know, winning more games — doesn’t totally apply to how coaches get paid.

Think about Alabama coach Nick Saban. The Crimson Tide have won 10 games or more in five of the past seven years. They've won three national championships. That’s great, Watanabe said, but at Alabama, that’s the expectation.

Saban is paid very well — $6.9 million a year — to exceed those expectations (or, in other words, keep winning championships). But according to Watanabe’s research, a coach who exceeds lower expectations by a greater margin — think a coach like Justin Fuente, who took Memphis from a 2-10 team to a 9-3 team in four years — is due for a greater pay raise than someone like Saban.

"Eventually you get to the top of the food chain like Nick Saban, and you’re fighting a war of attrition," he said.

So coaches from lower tier schools that have "surprising" success, Watanabe said, become college football’s hottest commodity. And when one school offers a lot of money to hire a top candidate quickly, the price rises for every other candidate left on the board.

When Fuente was hired away from Virginia Tech for $3.2 million plus bonuses, other coaches adjusted the cost of their services based on their perception for Fuente’s value.

Tom Herman, another Missouri target after a successful first season at Houston, signed an extension worth $2.8 million a year. Richt, with a .739 winning percentage over 15 seasons at Georgia, took $4 million a year at Miami. Former Toledo coach Matt Campbell signed on with Iowa State for $2 million.

Those amounts have to do both the coach’s worth in wins, Zimbalist said, but also how much schools care about their football programs and the "reputational capital" another coach could bring the program.
"It’s not that one coach is smarter than or has one skills or knowledge," he said. "It’s not that that creates success. It’s primarily a game of reputation."

MISSOURIAN

FROM READERS: MU’s Raptor Rehabilitation Project teaches about more than birds of prey

DENISE WARZAK/MISSOURIAN READER, Dec 12, 2015

Denise Warzak has been a volunteer for MU’s Raptor Rehabilitation Project since 2007 and has held several leadership positions in the organization.

The Raptor Rehabilitation Project was one of the reasons I wanted to attend MU as an undergrad. I had originally wanted to go into veterinary medicine and thought the idea of working with birds of prey would be something I’d like to do, having volunteered in places that had static display raptors already.

I came into the Project as a super-shy, introverted person who was terrified at the thought of having to speak to five people, let alone 50. After a couple years of working with the birds and going along to many presentations, public speaking no longer gave me quite the scare as it had used to. Teaching others about birds of prey and being confident in my knowledge helped bring confidence in myself and speaking to others. Being able to focus on the bird that was on glove and not my own anxieties gave me a lot of peace.

As stoic and intelligent as raptors are, it can take a while to learn to understand their behaviors and "read" them. Once you do, it makes it easier not only in interacting with the birds, but with other animals and people, too. This also requires a lot of patience, something else I learned while at RRP.
Keeping an organization as large as RRP means learning how to work well with others. I do not claim to have full mastery of this skill but I do believe that working with people of different backgrounds and personalities has allowed me to become better at it. Communicating with everyone and checking in with people from time to time ensured that birds were fed and medicated, people were trained, and projects were completed.

Besides learning more about myself and interactions with others, I learned a lot of practical skills. Helping with the compound and mew upkeep had me using power tools for the first time. Fixing perches and creating interactive structures for the birds taught me that you can create many shapes with duct tape, PVC, and carpeting. I've also learned about 5 different ways to get bird poop out of just about any type of fabric, which may be practical for only a handful of people reading this.

I believe being a part of the Raptor Rehabilitation Project not only taught me a lot about birds of prey but also a lot of life skills. It's a unique organization that teaches you how to educate others while educating yourself, something that you'd be hard-pressed to find in a traditional classroom setting.

MISSOURIAN

Discovering T.S. Eliot: Youthful find leads to lifelong relationship with poet's work

SAMANTHA LUCAS, Dec 13, 2015

COLUMBIA — In a small Connecticut town 33 years ago, a 12-year-old Frances Dickey was browsing a book sale. Sorting through the books, she found and purchased a used anthology of American poetry.

That book, now tattered from years of use, ignited her affection for modern poetry and St. Louis-born writer T.S. Eliot.
Now an associate professor of English at MU, Dickey will become the new president of the T.S. Eliot Society in January after taking a research leave in 2013 to work as an editor on the prose writings of T.S. Eliot. Dickey belongs to a team of Eliot scholars who are collecting and publishing a complete digital edition of his prose where some of Eliot's writings will appear for the first time. Dickey co-edited the third volume of "The Complete Prose of T.S. Eliot."

Johns Hopkins University Press published the first two volumes in September 2014 and released the third on Sept. 26, marking the 127th anniversary of Eliot's birth. The fourth has since been released, as well.

The third volume is subtitled "Literature, Politics, Belief, 1927–1929," corresponding to the years just after Eliot was baptized and confirmed in the Church of England and also became a naturalized British citizen. Both heavily influenced the tone and content of the third volume, Dickey said.

In a statement accompanying the release of the book, the publisher noted that the works collected "are contemporaneous with Eliot's conversion and exhibit his deepening interest in the history, complexity, and difficulty of belief. During this period he also developed his passion for Renaissance literature and increasingly engaged with English, European and theological politics."

Eliot's stature

T.S. Eliot has long been regarded as one of the major poets of the 20th century. Eliot studied at Harvard, the Sorbonne in Paris and Oxford University in England. Unable to return to the U.S. due to the outbreak of World War I, Eliot settled in London. He soon began publishing poetry and essays including "Prufrock and Other Observations" in 1917 and "The Waste Land" in 1922. Eliot became one of the most famous 20th-century poets, winning a Nobel Prize in 1948.

While many of his poems, particularly "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and "The Waste Land" have been extensively studied and quoted, he also produced at least 1,000 separate works of prose. Much of it — essays, reviews, opinion pieces and lectures — was written to pay the bills during poetic dry spells, Dickey said.
Yet a great deal of Eliot's prose was left either unpublished or uncollected, she said, fiercely protected by his widow and his estate after his death in 1965.

"The Eliot estate is an entity that has, until recently, stood between scholars and his writing," she said.

According to Dickey, before he died, Eliot directed his wife, Valerie, who was 38 years his junior, to withhold his private papers and personal archives. Only his poems, plays and essays were to be published, in their original form, without annotations.

Perhaps the reason was to restrict access so critics would not have the opportunity to draw conclusions about his personal life, Dickey said. According to her research, Eliot was a deliberately private person and did not want to share his personal life with the world.

"Critics engaged in speculation about how his works connected to his private life, and because his poetry is dark, it leads to kind of dark speculations," she said.

Despite the restrictions, Dickey said she knew it was only a matter of time before his wife would have to allow access to her husband's work; ultimately then, she would want to ensure that it fell in the right hands.

Ronald Schuchard, a distinguished modernist scholar at Emory University and now general editor of "The Complete Prose of T.S. Eliot," was the scholar who did acquire permission from the estate to collect and publish Eliot's prose works. Dickey met Schuchard through her membership in the T.S. Eliot Society, a key reason why editing the third volume eventually landed on her desk.

Over the last two years, she spent up to nine hours a day on the project — writing commentary, researching historical references and editing each piece of prose for errors the transcription software might have made.

“It didn’t get tedious,” she said, “because it was always something different. I was always making new discoveries.”

Inside the volume
The third volume contains nearly 130 pieces of prose. It includes book reviews, essays about literature, introductions to books by other writers, letters to the editor, pamphlets and opinion pieces he wrote for The Criterion, a British literary magazine that Eliot established and edited from 1922 to 1939. Dickey said Eliot wrote much of this prose on request or commission. Aside from being an influential modernist writer and poet, she said, Eliot was also journalist in his time.

Although most of the prose in the third volume has previously been published, it had never been collected, Dickey said, leaving the works scattered through multiple publications. Two works that are published here for the first time are "The Return of Foxy Grandpa," a review of lectures by philosopher Alfred North Whitehead, and an essay called "The Contemporary Novel," about recent English novels.

When the manuscript for "The Contemporary Novel" was completed, Eliot sent it to St. Louis for his mother to read and forward to an editor of a U.S. magazine. Instead, due to a combination of parental inattentiveness and a spell of ill health, his mother lost the manuscript, Dickey said.

The essay takes a look at three prominent authors of the time — D.H. Lawrence, Virginia Woolf and Aldous Huxley. It's clear that Eliot did not like Lawrence and his style of writing, Dickey said, but he was close to Virginia Woolf and admired her work. Yet, Dickey said, he still chose his words about her work carefully, so as not to offend but still be candid.

About the authors' friendship, Dickey said, "There were many questions on which they disagreed, but I think they shared a fundamentally similar temperament, which was a kind of brilliant desperation."

Literary emphasis

Dickey doesn’t recall exactly when she decided to make poetry and literature her academic emphasis. What she does remember, she said, is that she was always a “poetry geek.” She loved the way modern poetry tried to make sense of the times.

“I’m still trying to understand it,” she said.
Dickey began to read and write poetry at a young age, deciding later that she also wanted to study and write about it. She earned an undergraduate degree in English from Harvard University and her master's and doctoral degrees from Johns Hopkins University. A native of New England, she came to MU in 2003.

Dickey is organizing a meeting of the T.S. Eliot Society to be held in Rapallo, Italy, in June.

Now as a professor, Dickey said she wishes she had more time in her life to read and often employs a subtle trick to help make that happen.

“Sometimes,” she said with a laugh, “I will assign novels in my classes … just so I can take time away from my other work to read fiction.”

Correction: UW-Freedom of Speech story

December 12, 2015 9:33 am

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — In a story Dec. 11 about the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents approving a freedom of speech resolution, The Associated Press misspelled the last name of the board president. She is Regina Millner, not Miller.

A corrected version of the story is below:

UW regents approve freedom of speech resolution

University of Wisconsin regents approve resolution affirming commitment to free speech

By TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — University of Wisconsin System leaders approved a resolution Friday affirming free speech and academic freedom, joining colleges across the country that have officially proclaimed their devotion to free expression amid concerns academia is trying to protect students from being offended.
The resolution, adopted by a vote of 16-2, states that the university shouldn't shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome or offensive.

"These are not just pretty words we are going to put in a brass plaque," Regent Jose Delgado said. "The ability to speak in this country is a rational, academic way is under attack. You've got to be able to listen hard, even if it hurts."

Civil rights advocates are concerned that universities are trying to limit free speech to protect students from feeling offended.

In Columbia, Missouri, protesters angry over racial incidents on campus forced University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe to resign last month. An assistant professor aligned with protesters blocked a student photographer from the protesters' tent city and university police told students to report any hateful or hurtful speech they experienced, leaving the impression any comment considered offensive could be prosecuted as a crime.

Civil liberties supporters also have raised concerns over the use of so-called "trigger warnings" to alert students about uncomfortable course content. Campus groups also have protested or cancelled appearances by contentious speakers.

UW-Madison had a freedom of expression spat last month after Chancellor Rebecca Blank wrote in her blog that no one is entitled to express themselves in ways that diminish others. Blank walked her remarks back a few days later, saying she was simply trying to encourage civility.

Regent Tim Higgins and faculty members began developing the resolution in May, following the lead of the University of Chicago and Purdue. Regents President Regina Millner insisted the measure wasn't inspired by any recent events. She said it's meant to reassure faculty members that they will still enjoy academic freedom as the regents draft new tenure policies. She also pointed out that the regents have reaffirmed their commitment to free speech seven times since 1922.

Still, Millner said students must find the strength to listen to viewpoints they don't share.

Charles Pruitt and Jose Vasquez were the only regents who voted against the measure. Pruitt said he didn't think the resolution was thought through. Vasquez said he didn't see any problems with people expressing themselves on UW System campuses now.

"What is the issue we're trying to truly address?" he said.

A group of about 20 protesters filed into the meeting after the resolution was approved to draw attention to their demands for more recognition of diversity on campus. Millner acknowledged them and thanked them for coming but did not give them a chance to speak.

As the meeting drew to a close the students stood and demanded to be allowed to talk. One of them read a speech about how the resolution would open the door to hate speech. The regents ignored him and made their closing remarks as he continued to shout.

The regents then moved into a previously scheduled closed session and police cleared the room. The students left without incident.

UW System President Ray Cross and Millner planned to meet with the group later Friday but the meeting fell through. Millner issued a statement saying the students canceled it. The students said UW officials refused to allow the media to attend or to record the proceedings. A system spokesman said the meeting was supposed to be private.
What Jodee Stanley Knows

December 13, 2015 - 3:08pm

By Oronte

Jodee Stanley is Editor of Ninth Letter at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and Director of the Creative Writing Program. She has worked in literary publishing for more than twenty years and has been a speaker and panelist at various conferences and festivals, including Bread Loaf, AWP, MLA, and the Kenyon Review Literary Festival. In 2009, she was awarded an Academic Professional Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIUC, and she received a 2007 Faculty Fellowship from the University of Illinois Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership. Her fiction, essays, and book reviews have appeared in journals such as Mississippi Review, Crab Orchard Review, 580 Split, Cincinnati Review, Future Fire, BkMk Quarterly, The Smoking Poet, Sycamore Review, Sou'wester, and Electric Velocipede, and have received special mention in the 2004 Year's Best Fantasy and Horror and the 2001 Pushcart Prize anthologies.

This interview took place in October and December 2015, by Skype with a grad seminar in literary publishing at McNeese State University, and by email. Participants included Avee Chaudhuri, Meghan Giles, Brett Hanley, Lauren Howton, Dustin Shattuck, and John Griswold.

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BH:
Ninth Letter’s design really stands out. What’s the process from conception to end product?

Jodee:
I wish I could take credit for that, but we collaborate with the Graphic Design Department at Illinois, and they have a course dedicated to the design of Ninth Letter. So we’ll do the editorial work for an issue here [in the English Department], and that will take a semester, and then at the beginning of the following semester we give all our material to the design class for that semester. They have a chance to read through it, and we go over there as a group to talk to them about our selection process. They ask questions about why we may have chosen certain things, or how things might fit
together for us in an editorial fashion, and then we just let the graphic designers run with it. I think the way they work in that class is that the faculty member, acting as an Art Director, talks with the students, and they decide an overall theme or direction. He or she will head that up but let the students go with it. The Art Director we’re working with now does all the actual text layout but lets the students work on the visuals. And of course I give them a budget. So if they want to do 3-D glasses, or a slipcover, something fancy like that, they have to make sure it fits within the budget. It works really well, especially for the design students, in learning how to be creative and think outside the box with a certain amount of money.

The only other restrictions I have for them are that nothing can interrupt the integrity of the work, nothing can disrupt the reading of it. We don’t want poems to look weird on the page, or stories to be split up so they can’t be read sequentially. And things need to be legible, which we’ve had problems with in the past. Things have to be able to be physically be read without interruption of the text. So those are my only two stipulations: You have to be able to read it. You can’t interrupt the integrity of the text. Otherwise, they’re free to do whatever they want. And it works out pretty well, for the most part.

MG: Although there are rotating staff members [ie, students] who choose content and shape design, the journal has a strong identity, both in print and online. How do you maintain that identity?

Jodee:
Even though many things change with every issue, there are certain components of Ninth Letter that appear consistently, and people know to expect those things—I think that helps to solidify our identity. For example, we have a regular feature appearing in each issue called “Where We’re At,” that features short essays on topics related to the Midwest, or sometimes includes interviews with Midwestern writers and artists. It’s important to us to maintain a strong and obvious connection to our region, even though we’re not an entirely regional journal in terms of content. We also always include art and/or design features, and each issue of the journal, no matter how different they look individually, is always very visually dynamic. That’s something people have come to expect from us, and is a big part of our identity.

AC:
Who are you reading, in terms of other journals? Who do you admire, and what do you try to emulate?

Jodee:
We’re too busy trying to maintain self-consistency to worry much about what other journals are doing, in terms of emulation. I mean, there are certainly journals I would love to work on. One of my favorites, and has been since they started, around the same time we did, is One Story. They’re the polar opposite of Ninth Letter. They just publish one story every three weeks, in an adorable no-frills booklet, which I think is brilliant. The quality of their fiction is always high, and I love that they never repeat an author, so you essentially can only be published in One Story once, and that’s it, which forces them to always be on the lookout for new authors and new talent. They can’t be like, “Well, we don’t really like anything in the slush pile, so we’ll just get in touch with
Steve Almond again, or Kelly [Link], or somebody they've published and love. So they always have to be on top of it and looking for new work. I like the *Cincinnati Review*. I've known the editors a long time, even when they worked at other journals, and I've always admire their tastes and how we share similar aesthetics, and I like to read what they publish. Not oddly, I see a lot of writers we've published end up on their pages, and vice versa. But there are a ton of good journals out there. Whatever you’re interested in, you can find somebody out there interested in the same thing. What are some journals you guys like?

AC:
*Cimarron Review, at Oklahoma State*. Bat City Review, *over in Austin*.

Jodee:
Yeah, they’re great.

AC:
*And I have to rep Louisiana*: The *Southern Review at LSU*.

Jodee:
Yes, *Southern Review*. They’ve been great for a long time. The people who are at *Cincinnati Review* now, Nicola Mason and Michael Griffith, were grad students at LSU and worked on *The Southern Review*. That’s actually how I first got to know them. I was working at another journal, they were working at *Southern Review*, and we got to know each other professionally. But *Southern* has had a very strong, long life. I think they do really good work.

JG:
Hey, Jodee, how does your online content work, editorially? Do you have separate staffs for online and print, or do you just make a decision that this is going here and this is going there?

Jodee:
We have two portions of our website devoted to original content. We have regular online features, and there’s no real submission process for those, no set schedule. If I, or one of our faculty editors, find something interesting out in the world and don’t think it would necessarily work in print, maybe for formatting reasons, we can put it in that space. Or we’ll meet an author who’s got a book coming out very soon, and we can publish an excerpt to help promote it. Everyone on staff is welcome to throw stuff at me and say, “This would be cool for the website,” and usually I’m like, “Yeah, let’s do that.”

But for about three years we’ve also published two online-specific editions a year. We have an entirely separate staff that reads submissions, affiliated with an undergraduate publishing class we do here. So we have juniors and seniors in creative writing who can take the *Ninth Letter* publishing class, and they work just like the staff of the print journal: They take submissions. They read through them. They make their selections. They have a faculty editor who oversees the class. And, when those selections are made, they’re published online as an issue; the whole thing goes up at once. Up until this semester we’d been featuring student writing in those issues, submissions restricted to people enrolled in a creative writing program, either undergraduate or
graduate. We did that for three or four issues then decided we wanted to change things up. This semester, the staff is reading for a Midwest Authors issue, restricted to people native to or currently living in the Midwest.

For me it’s interesting, because we have two entirely separate submission protocols, two entirely separate staffs making selections, both very focused on quality, but the aesthetics out of that undergrad class are a little different from the current print journal staff. It gives us an opportunity to be a platform for that many more writers and to showcase that many more aesthetics.

LH: How’d you get your start in the field?

Jodee: That’s so long ago! In 1992, I was a senior at the University of Missouri, which is where the Missouri Review is. I didn’t know literary journals were a thing that existed. I had never heard of them. I was taking a fiction workshop with the editor, and he asked me if I would want to be an intern on the journal. And I was so flattered because my professor had asked me, like, specifically, if I wanted to do this separate thing, and I was like, “Yes, I would be happy to.” I had no idea what he was talking about, frankly, but I was like, “Okay, sounds cool.”

I joined the staff, and suddenly I realized this is what you could do as a writer. Up to that point, the only short stories I was reading were in the Norton anthology, or in other anthologies on the shelves in the library, and I didn't know there was a whole field of publication that was dedicated to publishing contemporary poetry and short stories. It was eye-opening. So, when I decided to get an MFA after undergrad, I looked specifically at programs that were at schools with journals. I ended up going to Emerson College and working at Ploughshares, and once I graduated from there, I kept working at Ploughshares for a while on a part-time basis, until I ended up getting another job at another journal. I got really lucky. It is not easy to make a career in literary publishing, but I managed to sort of stick it out in the early days and lucked into a full-time job eventually, and ended up here, doing this. So I haven’t done anything else, except, you know, in college, waiting tables and stuff like that. Otherwise, I’ve been doing publishing my whole life.

JG: Along those lines, Jodee, I think of you guys, or the Georgia Review, places that are funded, have actual staffs, and are generally able to have a journal as its own thing. How many of those situations are there in the country? What’s the word on the editorial street about how that’s going?

Jodee: It’s not going well. I think you probably know. There are certainly fewer journals like this that are funded and have their own staffs than there used to be. But there are a few. Southern Review has a dedicated staff. Cincinnati Review has at least a dedicated staff member. Their managing editor is a part-time staff position. Georgia, Gettysburg, though I’m not entirely sure what’s going on with them right now. They’ve been there a long time. The New England Review, which is where I was before I was here, at
Middlebury College. They have a dedicated staff.

I mean, in most situations what you’ll have is something like what you’re doing at McNeese, a faculty member overseeing it and students working on it. I think that’s the primary way things are working at university journals. Either completely student-run journals like the Indiana Review or Black Warrior, or faculty-edited, student-assisted journals. And I’m really the only dedicated staff member here. Everyone else who works with me is a faculty member or a graduate student or an undergraduate student.

For the most part, I think if universities are at all willing to fund new journals, the work is added on to faculty’s job descriptions, or they’re getting students involved as much as possible. As long as you have people who are willing to put the effort in, and who are dedicated to it, you can make something good happen.

BH: 
What’s your favorite issue of Ninth Letter?

Jodee:
There’s something I love in every issue, and there are some issues I like more, design-wise, than others, but my favorite overall is Volume 11, Number 1. You know why? Because I was the fiction editor for it. If we don’t have a faculty member who’s free or willing to step up in a certain semester for one of the genres, I’ll step in. Right now I’m editing nonfiction. But in that issue, I was editing fiction. We’d gotten to the end of the semester and had selected only two stories, and I had about a month before I had to get everything copyedited and handed over to the design team. So I said, “If you guys want to keep reading over winter break, you can. Otherwise, I’ll just keep going to pick the rest of the stories for this issue.” So I ended up having a lot of say...I actually got to select pieces that I really, really felt close to. Usually I like for everyone to feel as if they’re close to something in an issue, so I’ll give up some of my favorites in order that our students are able to get some of their favorites. For that issue, none of the students had any favorites, and I was like, “Fine, I’ll just put in my favorites,” and I felt really good about that issue. And I really liked the design of it. It was the first time we’d done a different size [format] in a while, and I thought that was really fun. I also loved the design of an issue that had an airline theme.

Yeah: the airline one was bigger than normal, and the one with my chosen fiction was smaller than normal. Now we’re going back to the normal-normal size, so we’ll see what happens. I mean, I’ll admit, we’ve certainly had some design fails in the past. We don’t get a lot of negative feedback, but when something is really working, we get a lot of positive feedback. For me, I think that’s the great thing about the Internet. If it weren’t for people being able to get onto Facebook and Twitter, and say, “Oh my god, the new issue of Ninth Letter, have you seen it? It has 3-D glasses, it’s so cool,” I would never know, necessarily, but now that we have this ability to be communicating with each other all the time, I can see people responding. It’s really great.

DS: 
In addition to being the editor of a major university lit journal, you serve as director of the creative writing program at Illinois. How do you make time for your own writing? And how does rotating all those hats shape your thinking about writing and publishing?
Jodee:
I don’t make enough time for my own writing, actually, and that’s been one of the few real downsides to an otherwise amazing career track. I love being involved with writing, literature, and publishing in any way possible, whether it’s editing, or managing a writing program to provide the best possible environment for new writers, or organizing events, or doing community outreach—it’s all satisfying for me creatively. But it doesn’t allow me the necessary space and energy to devote a lot of time to my own craft. One thing I have learned, though, is that the desire to write doesn’t go away—even if you find you have to back-burner ideas, or squeeze writing in here and there, the urge never leaves. The ideas always come. And, you know, someday I’ll retire. Then I can write all the stories.

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*The Fall/Winter issue of Ninth Letter is now available! Check it out.*