MU News Bureau

Daily Clips Packet

January 3, 2017
WASHINGTON — Scientists are investigating new ways of treating people with liver cancer. The methods range from developing an artificial liver, to seeing if genetically-modified pigs can produce organs compatible with humans.

For those who have liver cancer, their only cure lies in a liver transplant or removal of the cancerous part of the organ. Both require major surgery. And, patients who get a transplant will need to take immuno-suppressant drugs for the rest of their lives.

However, scientists are working on a new approach that is minimally invasive. With both chemotherapy and radiation, healthy cells around the tumor are damaged. But this approach involves the use of natural, non-toxic chemical compounds from plants.

Kattesh Katti, a professor at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, led a study that used nanotechnology to target and destroy precancerous tumor cells in the livers of mice and in in-vitro human cells.

“It sounds like a fairy tale, but we are really in advanced stages in terms of tumor treatment, in terms of disease diagnostics,” said Katti.

Katti's work involved very small particles of gold encapsulated in a protective stabilizer from an acacia tree. The particles attract precancerous and malignant cells, which are far more susceptible to lower levels of heat than healthy cells.
“The patient will be administered with these nano particles. Within a couple of hours, the patient will be treated with lasers, and then the patient can go home. So, there is no radioactivity. There is no toxic waste. There is no toxicity, systemic toxicity, to the patient,” said Katti.

Katti said the cost of treatment will be low because one gram of gold can be used to treat 50 patients, and what's more, Katti says this type of treatment could be used for other types of cancer, arthritis and other debilitating diseases. The next step is a clinical trial in humans.

Should this technique work, it will be good news for the nearly 800,000 people who are diagnosed with liver cancer each year and it could help save the lives of some 700,000 people who die each year from the disease.

Sexual trauma victims reclaim experiences through photos
Huilan Zhan, Columbia Missourian 6:15 p.m. CST January 1, 2017

Story generated by MU School of Medicine Press Release: Photography-based Therapy Offers New Approach to Healing for Sexual Assault Survivors

COLUMBIA - A small study using Photovoice to let sexual assault survivors reclaim their own stories through photography shows promise for recovery from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Photovoice, a process where people present their photos and share their stories through conversations, can help sexual assault survivors recover from PTSD, Abigail Rolbiecki found from her research. Rolbiecki, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Missouri’s School of Medicine, has worked for MU’s Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center on campus for three years and later conducted the study with three other researchers.

The study, “Waiting for the Cold to End: Using Photovoice as a Narrative Intervention for Survivors of Sexual Assault,” was published in August in the journal Traumatology, the Columbia Missourian reported.

Rolbiecki, the lead researcher in the study, said the nine participants — each armed with a camera — photographed the triggers in their lives, their experiences trying to obtain justice and their relationships with significant family members and counselors.
“The gold standard for treating survivors who have PTSD is to use interventions that have cognitive and behavioral elements,” said Rolbiecki, who also has degrees in public health and social work. “Photovoice has both of the elements. It includes cognitive reframing, collective storytelling, individual and group meaning-making, and encourages participants to expose themselves to memories and triggers that increase post-traumatic reactions.”

Rolbiecki said she thinks that while traditional treatments for PTSD are valuable, Photovoice serves as a supportive and necessary tool for overall healing.

4 phases

The experiment had four phases. After recruiting nine university students who are sexual assault victims ages 18 to 25 and giving them information about the study, Rolbiecki asked them to take pictures in their day-to-day lives for about a week.

Next, the participants shared and discussed the photos in three closed-group meetings. Then, the participants designed a private exhibit and invited key stakeholders such as campus police and administrators to bear witness to their photo narratives. The participants also held a public event in spring 2015 to educate university students about sexual assault.

To conclude the study, Rolbiecki conducted in-depth interviews with the participants to discuss their Photovoice experience.

Confronting triggers is a path to recovery, Rolbiecki said, citing evidence that the more people are exposed to their triggers, the more the post-traumatic reaction can be reduced.

One example cited in Rolbiecki’s paper involves a 19-year-old woman — called Sara by the researcher to protect the woman’s confidentiality — who photographed one of her triggers, a fraternity house on campus, the sight of which produced feelings of shame and anxiety. She titled the photo “Powerless” and said Photovoice helped her express those feelings.

“It’s going to be a part of my everyday life. I have to convince myself that (not fighting back) was the way my body wanted to deal with the trauma,” she said.

Paralysis is a relatively common stress reaction in sexual assault victims, according to several studies, and may be an adaptive response — akin to “playing dead” to be spared by a predator in certain circumstances.

The study showed that the exposure reduced Sara’s feelings of shame and anxiety.

Another participant shot a photo of a tree in winter, saying that for her it illustrated that “a tree may go through a dark time in winter... But with time it will grow leaves and become healthy again.”
Profound outcomes

Rolbiecki described the outcomes of the experiment as profound. It was not only because participants had a safe space to express themselves but also because they talked in a group of mutual support.

“To be able to have a supportive network is incredibly useful,” she said, especially being with people who have similar experiences. “It’s very significant.”

Although the topic of sexual assault is very emotional, Rolbiecki noticed the tone in which participants discussed their experiences changed over time. Through Photovoice, many of them were able to acknowledge what they were feeling and find meaning in their experiences.

“Some probably still end in being angry, but they have set of tools to help navigate their anger,” Rolbiecki said.

Participants told Rolbiecki that Photovoice allowed them to regain control of their own narrative, in contrast to the societal narrative of sexual assault, and re-enter society as a survivor.

Meanwhile, the open presentation of the projects helped the students who attended comprehend how significant the issue of sexual assault is and how profound its impact is.

“It’s such a taboo topic. People don’t like to talk about it,” Rolbiecki said. “They were able to kind of see that, through the power of stories.”

New study uses photography as a therapeutic tool

Sunday, January 01, 2017 11:04:00 PM CST in News
By: Alyssa Salcido, KOMU 8 Reporter


COLUMBIA - According to the National Institute of Justice and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention one in every six American women has experienced sexual assault or attempted sexual assault or rape.

More than half of female survivor's report symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder. Researcher at University of Missouri School of Medicine, Abigail Rolbiecki said not all survivors respond to the typical PTSD treatment.

Rolbiecki decided to test out a new method called Photovoice on a group of female sexual abuse survivors here in Columbia.

“Photovoice is a collective story telling process where participants are armed with cameras and go into their community to document things they best feel capture their lived experience with the issue that you are studying,” Rolbiecki said.

The Advocacy Coordinator at the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center (or RSVP Center), Taylor Yeagle said the symptoms of PTSD vary depending on the person and their experience, but there were some common symptoms.

“Symptoms can include flashbacks to the event, overwhelming sense of fear, or terror or dread, a general feeling of not being safe and a lot of anxiety,” Yeagle said.

Rolbiecki said people have used Photovoice to explore survivorship in sexual assault but nobody had explored the method in a therapeutic capacity.

“This is the first study of its kind,” Rolbiecki said.

Rolbiecki said it was both an individual and group therapy. The individuals would go out and take their own pictures, then meet as a group to discuss what they photographed.

“Everyone says pictures say a thousand words, so photos are important because looking at a photo can help elicit a reaction that words may not create, it can tell a story,” Rolbiecki said. “So having a tangible item to be able to collect yourself and formulate your thoughts and also kind of share an experience or reaction that you wouldn’t otherwise be able to discuss are really important.”

Rolbiecki said she didn't give any guidelines about what they should be photographing.
“I didn’t want to tell them what their healing should look like. I really wanted to empower them to be as creative as possible to take ownership of what they wanted to photograph,” Rolbiecki said.

Rolbiecki said the participants agreed a significant part of the study was the process of exposing themselves to their own triggers.

“They found that incredibly valuable, which is actually consistent with that gold standard approach to treating PTSD,” Rolbiecki said. “Exposing yourself to triggers ultimately desensitizes you and reduces the post traumatic reaction to those triggers.”

The participants then made an exhibit with the pictures they had taken throughout Rolbiecki’s study which is currently in the RSVP Center.

Yeagle said advocacy is very important to them at the RSVP center.

“Research shows when advocates are involved in any kind of process with survivors, outcomes are better for the survivor,” Yeagle said.

Yeagle said there’s inherent value in a person being able to share their stories of survivorship.

“Sexual assault isn’t just something that happens to those people, or a thing that doesn’t really happen. It’s a real thing that happens to people that we know and people who look like us,” Yeagle said.

Rolbiecki said she hopes her study encourages researchers and practioners to look at more innovative approaches to survivorship and healings, especially ones that allow survivors to reclaim control of their self narrative.

“What I’m arguing is that in order to truly heal, you have to have this opportunity to have post-traumatic growth and this opportunity to make meaning of your experiences, and that doesn’t happen without ownership of your story,” Rolbiecki said.
UM Review Commission recommends change to law capping tuition

By Alan Burdziak aburdziak@columbiatribune.com | 815-1718
Dec 30, 2016

Missouri’s legislature should change the state law that caps tuition hikes in line with growth in the federal Consumer Price Index, the University of Missouri Review Commission said in its report released Thursday.

The law “puts unnecessary and burdensome tuition controls in place” for public colleges and universities, according to the 20-page report. Dave Spence, one of the eight members of the review commission, called the law “outdated” when considering the costs of higher education and which programs are in highest demand among students. The law makes it so tuition rates have to be raised at nearly identical percentages across a university’s schools, no matter how much the cost of providing the education is, Spence said, noting that an engineering degree is more expensive to provide than many others.

“There are certain degrees that should cost more,” Spence said.

The statute restricts undergraduate tuition raises at public, four-year higher education institutions to not more than the percentage change in the index over the previous year.

Maurice Graham, UM Board of Curators chairman, said the legislature should “look at doing away with” the law, known as Senate Bill 389. “We have to do our best to do two things: to provide the absolute best education to our students that we can and also work hard to make it affordable,” Graham said.

When asked if the removal of a cap could result in skyrocketing tuition rates, Graham said it’s in the university’s best interest to be prudent. If the UM System
increases its rates too much, something he called “illogical and harmful,” students will go to other Midwest colleges and universities, he said.

“We would only be hurting the university and the state,” Graham said.

Curator David Steelman said the report has “a lot of positive ideas,” and the need for differential tuition among schools at the four campuses is “absolutely critical.”

“That may be the most important thing to the future excellence of the university,” Steelman said.

Missouri’s General Assembly created the review commission in May and appointed eight people to review the system’s practices after a tumultuous few months. The Columbia campus and then the system were thrust into the international spotlight when anti-discrimination protests in November 2015 resulted in a brief boycott by the Tigers football team and the resignation of system President Tim Wolfe.

The commission also recommended sharing more resources among UM’s four campuses in St. Louis, Kansas City, Columbia and Rolla and more cooperation among MU’s 13 colleges. It also recommended a review of the system’s collective rules and regulations and an increase in transparency and accountability.

Other recommendations include an emphasis on appointing curators who come from varied professional backgrounds and the creation of a “scorecard,” broken down by system campus, based on a “broad set of accountability measures.” The review commission said the first scorecard report should be available by Jan. 15, 2018. The commission also recommended a review of the effectiveness of required diversity, inclusion and equity classes for each student.

“While the goal of such a class is laudable, the actual long-term effectiveness of such training is unknown,” the report said.

There has been some desire to review the collective rules and regulations among curators in the past, Steelman said, but he hopes that the report will be the impetus to do it in earnest. It would take input from faculty, staff and students, he said, to modernize the rules.
“We’re still dealing with some old collective rules, and the world has changed and higher ed has changed,” Steelman said.

The firing of Melissa Click, a communications professor at MU who was seen on video asking for “some muscle” to remove journalists who were covering the events on campus immediately after Wolfe’s resignation, and the ensuing drama showed that there are holes in the faculty disciplinary process, Steelman said. Tenure and post-tenure review processes also need to be updated, he said.

Spence said the system also should consider expanding some of the more popular programs on some of the campuses, which have a wealth of applicants and that have high job-placement rates.

The curators likely will discuss the report and where to begin with taking action on its recommendations at the board’s next meeting in February in Columbia. Despite initial doubts of the commission’s worth and goals, Steelman said the panel created a positive report that will be helpful to the system.

“What they have done may well prove to be a launching pad for the University of Missouri,” he said.
COLUMBIA — A review commission created by state lawmakers has recommended removing tuition caps at all four University of Missouri campuses.

In a report provided to KRCG 13 on Friday, the UM System Review Commission said tuition caps imposed almost a decade ago tie the campuses’ hands. The panel said each campus should set its own tuition levels based on its own needs. In addition, commission members recommended letting the campuses set different tuition levels for different degrees.

Panel member Renee Hulshof said the tuition issue was by far the most common complaint by administrators at each of the four campuses. She said setting tuition caps forced the campuses to compensate by raising student fees.

State lawmakers formed the panel in the aftermath of the November 2015 student protests that led to the resignation of then-UM System President Tim Wolfe and then-MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin. The protesters at the time said the university wasn't doing enough to meet the needs of minority students, including hiring diverse faculty and working to prevent race-based incidents.

To that end, the panel said the university doesn't have a substantive breakdown of faculty and staff diversity. It said such information should be available in a single, regular report, as should data on student diversity issues such as applications and graduations. Hulshof said right now, the data aren't organized in such a way that administrators can see how many faculty, staff and students of a particular ethnicity or background are in the engineering school, for example. She said having this data available would help administrators zero in on the problem.
"We couldn't get it broken down so we could see, oh, maybe our diversity issue is really rampant here," she said.

In a statement, interim UM System President Mike Middleton wrote, “Upon receiving the University of Missouri System Review Commission Report, I plan to review with the leadership team to assess the recommendations. We will certainly consider adopting any recommendations that add to the betterment of the university’s mission and will help us continue to provide a high-quality education for our students.”

UM System announces chancellor search committee

Dec 30, 2016

The University of Missouri on Thursday announced the members of a 22-person committee to find the next chancellor for the Columbia campus.

Committee members include administrators, faculty and alumni. University of Missouri-Kansas City Chancellor Leo Morton and MU College of Engineering Dean Elizabeth Lobo will chair the committee, which will hold open forums starting in January. Times and dates will be posted, the UM System said in a news release announcing the appointments.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a statement earlier this month that he is interested in the job.
The UM System also hired the firm Isaacson, Miller, which oversaw its presidential search, to lead a national search for a new MU chancellor. The firm aided the system in its hiring of Mun Choi, provost at the University of Connecticut, as the next system president.

The other search committee members are:

- Vairam Arunachalam, professor, College of Business
- Ted Ayres, president, Mizzou Alumni Association
- Jeri Doty, chief planning officer, MU Health Care
- Sean Earl, president, Missouri Students Association
- Michael Hendricks, doctoral candidate, Graduate Professional Council
- Chrissy Kintner, chair, MU Staff Advisory Council
- Kevin McDonald, chief diversity officer, UM System
- Joi Moore, professor, College of Education
- Pelema Morrice, vice provost, Enrollment Management
- Kim Nyoni, senior director, Advancement
- Neil Olson, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Jim O’Neill, alumnus, MU Capital Campaign
- Elizabeth Parks, professor, School of Medicine
- Katherine Reed, associate professor, School of Journalism
- Sarah Reesman, senior associate athletic director, MU Athletics
- David Singh, professor, College of Arts and Science
- Marshall Stewart, vice chancellor, MU Extension
- Marty Townsend, acting president, MU Retiree Association
- Ben Trachtenburg, chair, MU Faculty Council
- Robin Wenneker, alumna, member of The Missouri 100.

**MISSOURIAN**

**MU Chancellor search committee positions selected**

RYAN BERRY, Dec 31, 2016
COLUMBIA — UM System Interim President Mike Middleton released names of the 22 members selected to the University of Missouri—Columbia Chancellor Search Committee in a news release Thursday.

Leo Morton, chancellor of University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Elizabeth Loboa, dean of the MU College of Engineering, were selected as co-chairs of the committee.

The appointment of committee members brings the university closer to selecting a chancellor and solidifying a new leadership structure after the resignations of UM System President Tim Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin in November 2015.

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley has filled the vacancy left by Loftin since the beginning of 2016.

According to the news release, appointments to the committee were based on nominations from different MU constituent groups and input from President-designate Mun Choi.

No ground rules for how the search will work have been presented to the search committee yet, said Neil C. Olson, dean of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and member of the committee. He said that he expects the first committee meetings will begin in January, but there is presently no definitive timetable for when a new chancellor will be selected.

Search firm Isaacson, Miller Inc. will help guide the process of finding a new chancellor. The firm, which will function as a third party during the search, will help identify and gauge the interest of potential candidates. Olson says he has worked with Isaacson, Miller in the past and that he has "great confidence" in the firm.

"This kind of committee would be an extraordinarily difficult task without a search firm," Olson said.

The 22-person committee consists of members from different departments and groups associated with the university and will be tasked with working together to create a shortlist of finalists for
Choi to select from when choosing a new chancellor. Olson says he has worked on other selection committees that are nearly as large as this.

"It is all very doable," he said. "It’s important that everybody understands their role."

Olson said that he wishes for the next chancellor to be someone who understands the culture of a large research institution and has "bona fide evidence of accomplishments."

"I want to see someone who has really earned his or her spurs," he said. "It’s the most important position at the MU campus."

Chancellor search forums looking for public opinion about the selection of a new chancellor will be held on MU’s campus starting in the spring semester.

The full list of appointees include:

**Co-chairs:**

- Leo Morton, chancellor, University of Missouri-Kansas City
- Elizabeth Loboa, dean, College of Engineering

**Members:**

- Vairam Arunachalam, professor, College of Business
- Ted Ayres, president, Mizzou Alumni Association
- Jeri Doty, chief planning officer, MU Health
- Sean Earl, president, Missouri Students Association
- Michael Hendricks, PhD candidate, Graduate Professional Council
- Chrissy Kintner, chair, MU Staff Advisory Council
- Kevin McDonald, chief diversity officer, UM System
Joi Moore, professor, College of Education

Pelema Morrice, vice provost, Enrollment Management

Kim Nyoni, senior director, Advancement

Neil Olson, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Jim O’Neill, alumnus, MU Capital Campaign

Elizabeth Parks, professor, School of Medicine

Katherine Reed, associate professor, School of Journalism

Sarah Reesman, senior associate athletic director, MU Athletics

David Singh, professor, College of Arts & Science

Marshall Stewart, vice chancellor, MU Extension

Marty Townsend, acting president, MU Retiree Association

Ben Trachtenburg, chair, MU Faculty Council

Robin Wenneker, alumna, member of The Missouri 100

MU chancellor search to be conducted by 22-member committee

UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton and MU College of Engineering Dean Elizabeth Loboa will lead the search to fill the position, which has been held by an interim for 13 months.

By Kyle LaHucik

Dec. 31, 2016
MSA President Sean Earl will be the only undergraduate student representative on the MU chancellor search committee, which was announced Dec. 29 in a UM System press release. The committee will be led by two chairs overseeing 20 members.

Interim UM System President Mike Middleton and his permanent successor, Mun Choi, consulted different representative groups at MU to select the committee members. The committee will be tasked with selecting the next MU chancellor, a position that has been filled by interim Hank Foley since Nov. 10, 2015, after former Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin resigned amid student protests.

Earl, who was chosen as the Missouri Students Association president in a special election on March 4, was chosen by Middleton and Choi to represent undergraduate students in the search for the next chancellor.

While Earl will represent undergraduate students, Michael Hendricks will represent graduate students. Hendricks, who is director of state affairs for the Graduate Professional Council, is a doctoral candidate in the political science department, according to the GPC website. He received a bachelor’s degree in international relations from the University of Delaware and a master’s degree in comparative politics and international relations from MU. He has served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua and China. Hendricks has been an active member on both the Persons with Disabilities and National Affairs committees, according to the GPC website.

Two student representatives served on the search committee for Loftin, according to a 2013 UM System press release. Former MSA President Nick Droege and former GPC President Jacob Wright helped select Loftin, who became chancellor in February 2014.

A UM System spokeswoman said there is no specific date or timeframe for the official selection or announcement of the next chancellor. The next step in the search process will be open forums starting at the beginning of the spring 2017 semester.

The committee will be led by Leo Morton, chancellor of UM-Kansas City, and MU College of Engineering Dean Elizabeth Loboa. Morton has served as UMKC chancellor since Dec. 15, 2008. Before his role as chancellor, Morton served in engineering and manufacturing positions with different companies for 40 years, according to the UMKC website. Morton holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Tuskegee University and a master’s degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Loboa started as dean for the college on Oct. 15 after coming from the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University. Loboa is the first female dean of the college, according to its website. She holds both a master’s and a doctoral degree from Stanford University.

Morton and Loboa will oversee 20 other members — 10 women and 10 men, compared to an 18-member search committee of 10 men and eight women that selected Loftin. Loftin, who replaced Brady Deaton, was selected by a committee led by Ann Covington, a former member of the UM System Board of Curators, and Dean Mills, former dean of the School of Journalism. Similar to the search committee for Loftin, there are deans, a chancellor from a UM System campus, professors, alumni, an undergraduate and graduate student and the Mizzou Alumni Association president on the current committee. There is no member from the Board of Curators on the current committee.

Other groups represented on the committee include Mizzou Alumni Association, MU Staff Advisory Council, MU Retiree Association, MU Faculty Council and The Missouri 100, which consists of members who “advise and assist the [UM System] president in promoting the critical role of the University of Missouri System in our state’s future and its reputation around the world.”

Kevin McDonald, chief diversity officer for the UM System, is also among the 22 members. McDonald is also the interim vice chancellor for inclusion, diversity and equity at MU.

MU professors will also play a role in the search. Vairam Arunachalam from the College of Business, Joi Moore from the College of Education, Elizabeth Parks from the School of Medicine, David Singh from the College of Arts & Science and Katherine Reed from the School of Journalism will represent some of the academic units on campus. Neil Olson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, was also selected for the committee.

Choi will have the final say in the selection of the next MU chancellor.
YEAR OF THE ELEPHANT: Republican victories top 2016 headlines

Jan 1, 2017


It’s no surprise that the University of Missouri would be the subject of three of the five top stories of 2016, as picked by Tribune editors. Columbia is a college town.

As the effects of a turbulent fall 2015 rippled through 2016, the university — both the system administration and the Columbia campus — continued to make headlines. The many developments coming from the state’s major university system could be considered parts of one overarching story, but our editors decided to break a few of them up into more specific subjects.

But the University of Missouri was not the biggest story of the year — it was the Republican domination of the November election that defined much of public discourse in Central Missouri, just like it did everywhere else. Here, as on the national and state levels, Republicans won big contests. The Boone County Commission is no longer made up of three Democrats after Republican Fred Parry was sworn in Saturday as Southern District commissioner, and the Republicans kept a House seat and Senate seat coveted by Democrats.

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2. UM: ATERSHOCKS OF FALL 2015

The protests at the University of Missouri in the fall of 2015 continued to reverberate in 2016 with the firing of a professor who became the face of the 2015 turmoil, lower enrollment attributable in part to the university’s tarnished image, a legislative battle over state funding and lagging attendance for men’s basketball
and football games, which some attribute to the protests and their aftermath and others just chalk up to bad play.

The UM Board of Curators fired Melissa Click on a 4-2 vote in February, shortly after video surfaced of her using profanity toward a police officer during the October 2015 Homecoming Parade protest by students with Concerned Student 1950. Click’s prospects at MU already had been dimmed by her attempts to push journalists off Carnahan Quad in November 2015 as students celebrated a victory for the protesters in the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe. Click became an object of ire for Republican state legislators who this year threatened to eviscerate state funding for both the UM System and the flagship campus in Columbia. The cut funding was largely restored in the state Senate before legislators approved the budget, but the university system took a major public beating as lawmakers deliberated the budget.

MU opened fall 2016 with an enrollment decrease of about 6 percent, which many attributed in part to the turmoil that rocked the campus the year before. With the tuition lost from the lower enrollment, administrators cut department budgets, leading to layoffs and hiring freezes.

MU leaders looked for a silver lining in the bad news, emphasizing the high proportion of students returning to the Columbia campus.

Meanwhile, MU’s two revenue-generating sports, football and men’s basketball, continued to suffer from attendance losses. Some blamed the losses on the turmoil of fall 2015 and the football team’s threatened boycott of athletic activities during the racial protests, while others pointed to the quality of the teams, both of which struggled to get wins that came easily to previous Tigers squads.

MU’s football team saw a 20 percent decline in attendance in 2016 compared with 2015, which was the largest drop among Power 5 teams across the country. The basketball season is still young, but so far attendance has lagged, with fewer than 5,000 people filling seats for home games.

3. A PERMANENT LEADER

The news at the University of Missouri was not all bad in 2016, as the Board of Curators selected a new system president after about a year of leadership under interim President Mike Middleton.
University of Connecticut Provost Mun Choi’s hiring to replace Wolfe was met with cautious optimism among faculty and other UM System watchers. The curators offered Choi the job in early October, and he signed a contract paying him $530,000 a year in early November. Choi has promised to focus on the university’s research mission and helping students succeed but has avoided taking any stance on controversial issues such as a lawsuit by a graduate student labor union seeking recognition on the Columbia campus.

Choi’s first task when he starts March 1 will be to find a permanent chancellor to lead the Columbia campus. Interim Chancellor Hank Foley has led MU since R. Bowen Loftin resigned in November 2015, the same day as Wolfe. Foley has said he is interested in the job on a permanent basis. The UM System is conducting a national search. Foley is one of many officials serving in interim roles on the MU campus, including the deans of some of the university’s major colleges.

5. FRATS BEHAVING BADLY

Plenty of bad news for MU fraternities was packed into just a few short months in the fall 2016 semester.

The semester was only a few weeks old when the Delta Upsilon fraternity was disciplined for a drunken encounter with black students, who alleged fraternity members and their friends hurled racial and sexist slurs at them as they walked across campus. The national leadership of Delta Upsilon later suspended the fraternity for other rules violations.

MU withdrew Kappa Alpha’s recognition as a student organization for five years based on violations of the university’s code of conduct but did not publicly specify what particular incidents led to the decision. A pledge was hospitalized in September after he poisoned himself, reportedly to near death, during a vodka-chugging contest.

In December, the university released documents detailing allegations of fraternities violating laws and campus rules. The documents included 16 incidents in which people had been hospitalized for alcohol poisoning at fraternity parties since August 2015.
The past year or so, I have embarked on quite a few fishing trips south of Interstate 44, or as it is more widely known, the Ozarks.

During these trips, which each lasted about week, I drank coffee and ate in a number of small-town restaurants. These particular patrons were mostly of sturdy hill-farm stock and to a person, they were, well, racists.

At first, I did not intentionally listen. Then, when loud voices talked about politics — Trump and Clinton were favorite topics — I tuned in, as I was quite interested in the electoral issues. Then, when talk turned to race, it became even more heated, and my mere attention turned into active eavesdropping.

On one of my first trips, the controversy at the University of Missouri that led to the resignation of the university president and the chancellor of the Columbia campus was on the front page of just about every newspaper in the state and, eventually, reached the pages of the national newspapers from New York to Los Angeles.

The issue did not go away with time, and the local white male folks had lots of opinions. The prevailing one was that the "N-words" or "darkies" were at fault, and MU was just reaping what it had sown.

If MU had remained lily-white (the first black students were admitted in 1950), none of this would have happened. No good, they concluded, can come from mixing of the races.

What is disconcerting is that, for the most part, these small towns and rural areas are white. Few Hispanics, even fewer blacks and a piddling number of Asians. The cafe patrons expressed their negative feelings about people with whom they had no contact.
That led me to thinking that the sons and daughters of these folks had been fed such nonsense from their birth until they reached the University of Missouri.

It is little wonder that racists have been such a factor at MU. Even some students from such allegedly enlightened places as Columbia, St. Louis and Kansas City have been taught to distrust black folks. In larger towns and cities (Springfield, Hannibal and Joplin come to mind), small-towns and rural areas in the rest of the state, it is not mere distrust, it is hate.

It really doesn’t matter whether one is in Trenton or New Madrid, Missouri, the views are pretty much the same. And, sorry to report, Columbia, St. Louis, and Kansas City also harbor a few outright racists.

University enrollment has gone down. While much of this decline is attributed to fewer high school students, some of it is surely a response to racial strife.

No solution is readily apparent. Somehow, the cycle of hate needs to end. If the conversation I overheard in those small-town cafes is any indication, we have a long way to go.

The hate that those restaurant patrons were expressing was or will be passed on to their children. Some will end up at MU.

We are not born with hatred. We are taught to hate.

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**Paid time off for childbirth proposed for Missouri state workers**

BY JASON HANCOCK

jhancock@kcstar.com
JEFFERSON CITY - State employees in Missouri are the lowest paid in the nation, and lawmakers have struggled for years to give them a raise.

With a tough budget year on the horizon, a salary boost in 2017 will once again be a tall order.

So House Speaker Todd Richardson, a Poplar Bluff Republican, is pushing a different idea: legislation granting state workers paid time off upon the birth or adoption of a child.

“We’re faced with a situation where Missouri needs to attract the best and the brightest workers,” Richardson said. “At a time when we struggle to find pay increases for state employees, finding ways to improve benefits makes a heck of a lot of sense.”

Missouri state employees are now allowed 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protective leave to care for a newborn, adopted or foster child, to care for a family member, or to attend to the employee’s own serious medical health condition, as stipulated by federal law.

Under the House legislation, state employees would be allowed to take off 10 work days with pay after they become a parent.

The bill would apply to both men and women, but would not apply to private-sector employees.

Richardson pointed to a recent study by the Women’s Foundation and the University of Missouri’s Truman School of Public Affairs’ Institute of Public Policy that found paid family leave can reduce the percentage of those who receive public assistance or food stamps in the year following a child’s birth. The study also concluded that paid family leave encourages women to stay in the workforce.

“This is example of an area where the state needs to lead by example and make that benefit available,” he said.

Three states — California, New Jersey and Rhode Island — offer paid family and medical leave to all employees, even the private sector. New York will join them in 2018. The programs are funded through employee-paid payroll taxes and are administered by the state.

Sen. Jill Schupp, a St. Louis County Democrat, called the House legislation “a great first step,” and praised Richardson for making it a priority.

“State employees shouldn’t have to decide between staying home with a new baby and keeping their job because they can’t afford to take time off,” Schupp said.

Schupp filed her own legislation that goes further than the House proposal; her bill would apply to non-government workers in Missouri as well. It would allow all employees who are not independent contractors up to six weeks of paid time off upon the birth or adoption of a child, to
care for a family member with a serious health condition, to tend to a personal health condition or to assume any responsibilities that result from a spouse, child or parent being notified of an impending call to active duty in the armed forces.

Employees would be required to contribute annually to a fund administered by the state Department of Labor, and benefits would only be available after a worker has contributed to the fund for one year. The program would be available in 2020.

Schupp hopes that a compromise could be struck between the House and Senate legislation, perhaps as simple as expanding the reasons state employees could receive paid time off.

“This is family-friendly legislation that will help with economic development by encouraging employees to want to work and live in our state,” she said.

Only 12 percent of U.S. private sector workers have access to paid family leave through their employer, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. But companies are increasingly adopting the benefit.

In 2015, video streamer Netflix announced it was offering unlimited paid family leave to all of its salaried employees. Since then, companies such as software maker Adobe Systems, hotel chain Hilton Hotels and furniture maker Ikea have all increased the number of paid days for new moms and dads.

Wendy Doyle, president and CEO of the Women’s Foundation, praised efforts to expand family leave in Missouri, saying such a move would “strengthen families, help state workers become more productive, and result in a more effective state government workforce.”

NO MU MENTION

State Shortfalls and Foreign Students
January 3, 2017

As state spending for public universities goes down, international student enrollment goes up. A newly published working paper seeks to quantify this relationship, estimating that for the period between 1996 and 2012, a 10 percent reduction in state appropriations was associated with a 12 percent increase in international undergraduate enrollment at public research universities -- and a 17 percent increase at the most research-intensive public universities, the flagships and other institutions that are members of the exclusive Association of American Universities.

The paper, available for $5 from the National Bureau of Economic Research and authored by John Bound, Breno Braga, Gaurav Khanna and Sarah Turner, concludes that expanding foreign undergraduate enrollment “is an important channel through which public research universities buffer changes in state appropriations. While additional revenue from in-state tuition increases appears [to] recoup a large fraction of the fall in appropriations, research universities would have had to navigate reductions in resources per student or yet larger increases in in-state tuition in the absence of the large pool of foreign students.”

The paper, titled "A Passage to America: University Funding and International Students," begins by identifying economic and educational capacity-related reasons for dramatic growth in this pool of international students, particularly from China, over the past decade. The authors cite data from the Institute of International Education’s Open Doors survey showing that number of international undergraduates from China has increased from about 8,000 in the academic year 2004-5 to more than 110,000 in 2013-14, with Chinese students accounting for about 90 percent of all growth in foreign undergraduates in the U.S. over this period.
Several factors drove this increase. First, there's been an increase in the number of Chinese families who can afford the costs of American higher education. The authors estimate that the percentage of Chinese families who have incomes higher than the average cost of out-of-state tuition and room and board at an American public university has grown “exponentially” from less than 0.005 percent in 2000 to more than 2 percent in 2013.

Second, high school enrollment has expanded in China, from 63.8 million students to 95 million between 1996 and 2012, according to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization figures. And third, China’s own higher education capacity is comparatively small: the authors note that while China has about four times the population of the U.S., it has fewer than half the number of universities.

At the same time foreign demand for American higher education was growing, state support for public institutions was falling. The authors cite data from the State Higher Education Executive Officers showing a decline in total state appropriations from $89.7 billion in the 2007-8 academic year to $74.8 billion in 2011-12. State funding per full-time equivalent student has fallen from about $12,000 in the mid-1980s to less than $7,000, and the proportion of university revenues coming from tuition (as opposed to state appropriations) has risen accordingly.

The authors hypothesized that public research universities have turned to the growing pool of out-of-state-tuition-paying foreign undergraduates as a way to offset some of the declines in state funding. While they found this to be broadly the case, they also documented differences among various types of public institutions. They found that the link between foreign enrollment increases and state funding decreases was strongest at those public institutions that haven't historically enrolled large numbers of domestic out-of-state students, and was virtually nonexistent at nonresearch public universities that have limited international appeal.

“While the basic negative relationship [between state appropriations and foreign enrollments] for public universities is clear, there is also a significant amount of heterogeneity,” the authors write. “For instance, for the same state-level budgetary shock,
Michigan State significantly increased foreign enrollment, while the University of Michigan did not. One reason is that the University of Michigan consistently attracts well-qualified domestic out-of-state students (around 30 percent of total freshmen), whereas MSU does not (only 10 percent of total freshmen).”

“Overall, these findings are consistent with our underlying hypothesis and conceptual framework: when state appropriations decline, public universities are more likely to admit foreign students because the marginal benefit of adding foreign students (and associated tuition revenues) increases. For nonresearch colleges and universities … we continue to estimate essentially no link between changes in state appropriations and foreign student enrollment, which is consistent with the expectation that nonresearch universities tend to be more locally focused than the research universities, and have limited capacity to attract foreign students.”

As for the question of whether foreign students are crowding out domestic students, the authors note that this is a complex question and that declines in state appropriations affect in-state tuition rates. “Thus any correlational relationship between foreign enrollment and in-state enrollment represents the net effect of changes in tuition charges, institutional resources and other unobserved factors as well as the direct effect of foreign students,” the authors write. “With these limitations in mind … we show a negative association between the number of foreign students enrolled and the number of in-state students enrolled in research and AAU universities. Two additional foreign students are associated with one less in-state student. While these estimates should not be interpreted as causal, our model suggests that crowd-out effects can occur even when university administrators care only about the quantity and quality of the education in-state residents obtain.”

"It would be naïve to say that there isn’t a margin on which additional students from one group don’t impact the enrollment of students from another group, particularly when universities face capacity constraints,” said Sarah Turner, one of the authors of the paper and a university professor of economics and education at the University of Virginia.

"That would be naïve, but it would also be incorrect to say that we can interpret any evidence that we have as causal estimates of crowd-out. That is, what is going on is really more complicated in terms of student choices. If you’re in California, you are a student
who’s has seen the sticker price at University of California, Berkeley, increase … we would expect that that tuition increase also has an impact on student enrollment decisions."

Over all, the authors found that increases in in-state tuition accounted for about 69 percent of the changes in tuition revenue from 2007 to 2012 at public AAU member institutions, while increased recruitment of foreign undergraduates accounted for 17.4 percent of the change. At a few institutions -- Ohio State and Purdue Universities and the University of Minnesota -- the proportion of the change in tuition revenue attributable to foreign student increases was about 40 percent or higher.

“If you are president of a public institution, when you face these appropriation cuts you have essentially three options," said Turner. "You can cut resources per student, which is not something that any university leader wants to do. You can make efforts to raise tuition. There are obvious downsides to that, and for any institution there’s a limit to how much they can raise out-of-state tuition because it’s a function of market forces, so it’s in-state tuition that would increase. Or you can expand the pool of students who are paying the out-of-state price.”

"A very small number of universities have a capacity to draw in sizable numbers of domestic out-of-state students," Turner said. But for the rest, she said, increasing international enrollment "is one tool that our paper shows they have been able to use to try to reduce the impact of the cuts on state appropriations. You can think of this as potentially benefiting all the students."