Helping our state move forward

By Michael Middleton

When I was appointed interim president of the University of Missouri System last November, after three decades of serving in academic and leadership roles on our Columbia campus, I was both honored and humbled by the awesome responsibility before me. Stepping into the presidency of the university I love in the wake of last fall’s turmoil at MU has been as formidable as one would imagine, and I have focused on addressing the issues of diversity and inclusion that challenge us, while working to rebuild every Missourian’s confidence and trust in the UM System through transparency and accountability, every day since accepting this critical assignment.

I have also spent considerable time reminding everyone just how important we are to our state, and how all 6 million Missourians in all 114 counties have a connection to the University of Missouri System. And that even during the difficult events of last November, that powerful connection between the UM System and the entire state of Missouri, and the service we provide for the entire state, never wavered.

The UM System is a precious asset to take great pride in, to support and to strengthen. Arguably, no other institution in our state is more pivotal to our standard of living, our economic and physical well-being, and our future. Just consider, for example, how the UM System affects the city of St. Louis, and St. Louis County, every day.

We educate nearly 78,000 students on our four campuses (the University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla and the University of Missouri-St. Louis), providing the talented workforce that is critical to our state’s employers. Currently, 18,788 of those students are residents of St. Louis city and St. Louis County combined, many of who will return, educated and ready, to join the workforce and help boost the St. Louis-area economy upon graduation.

You could say that no university in the region supports St. Louis’ $137 billion regional economy more so than our local UM System campus. With nearly 17,000 students, UMSL is the largest public research university in eastern Missouri. It provides excellent learning experiences and leadership opportunities to a diverse student body. And although UMSL graduates can be found in all 50 states and 63 countries, their greatest impact is felt right here in St. Louis. More than 65,000 UMSL alumni call St. Louis home, driving the region’s economy and contributing mightily to its social well-being.
In addition, the people of St. Louis benefit from the many research advances discovered on our campuses, from life-saving medical cures to the powering of some of our state’s most important industries like agriculture, high-tech manufacturing and aerospace. In 2015 alone, UM System research brought in more than $295 million in funding to the state of Missouri, further helping to spur our statewide economy.

Our vast University of Missouri Health Care system provides health services to hundreds of thousands of Missourians, including in the St. Louis area, where 1,389 residents of St. Louis city and county combined were treated by an MU Health Care physician in 2015. Another 4,227 patients were seen at the UMSL Center for Eye Care.

We share our expertise in Missouri communities small and large across our state through University of Missouri Extension. Every year, more than 2.5 million Missourians turn to our extension programs and offices in every county to seek greater practical knowledge, learn to solve problems, adapt to change and make informed decisions. During 2015, the University of Missouri Extension offices in St. Louis city and county combined had more than 136,000 contacts. Extension has always been a point of pride for me as my wife, Julie Middleton, who currently serves as director of organizational development for extension, has dedicated much of her professional career to this invaluable program.

There are far more examples, but the point remains the same. For decades, the UM System has provided indispensable service in helping our state, and the St. Louis area, move forward. We have challenges now, as we have had in the past and will certainly face in the future. But our mission of education, research, economic development and service has been making Missourians proud for generations. Our university is as strong as ever and will always be a beacon of hope for our state’s young people.

Michael Middleton is interim president of the University of Missouri System.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Journalism professor wins $10,000 for outstanding teaching**

ALLISON GRAVES, 19 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Earnest Perry tried to avoid a weekly executive committee meeting at the School of Journalism on Tuesday morning because he thought it would be like any other.

Perry, an associate professor in the Journalism School, said he sat on the committee for a long time and was happy when he no longer had to attend.
"But I was told, 'We need you to start coming back to the meetings because of my new role starting in July,' said Perry, who was recently named associate dean for graduate studies. "Now? I thought I didn't have to come 'til July."

What he didn't know is that he would leave the meeting $10,000 richer.


The Kemper awards started in 1991 with a $500,000 donation from William T. Kemper, who graduated from MU in 1926 and forged a 52-year career in banking in which he held positions in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Teachers are nominated, and a committee selects the top five from those applications. Perry is the first of this year's faculty members to receive the honor. Three will be surprised on Wednesday, and the timing of the fifth announcement has not been set yet.

Perry said he appreciates the students, faculty and staff who have helped him be successful.

"This is all about the students," he said. "When I think about teaching, a lot of it is trying to meet students where they are and help them to get where we'd like them to be from course to course. So, I try to model my teaching in that way."

As for the $10,000, Perry said he will be giving the money to his wife.

"I'm just going to sort of hang onto it to make sure that nothing happens between now and this afternoon when I can give it to my wife," he said.

An awards ceremony May 5 will recognize all five Kemper winners.
MU journalism professor awarded 2016 Kemper Fellowship

COLUMBIA - A Missouri School of Journalism professor received one of the William T. Kemper Fellowships for Teaching and Excellence Tuesday.

MU interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz suprised Associate Professor Earnest Perry with the fellowship. The fellowship includes a $10,000 check and is awarded to five teachers at MU each year.

Dean Mills, the Missouri School of Journalism Dean Emeritus, said Perry was a large part in transforming courses with new lecture styles and small discussion groups.

“Over the course of a decade, Perry led faculty efforts as chair of the Journalism Studies faculty, as chair of ad hoc groups charged with revision, and as a faculty member deeply dedicated to the importance of these courses,” said Mills.

Former faculty member, Maria Len-Rios said, "Earnest built a strong program, and it made a difference to the hundreds, and now thousands of students who have gone through the curriculum."

Earnest Perry has been an MU faculty member since 2003. Perry advocates for inclusion and diversity. His goal as a journalism professor is to teach his students to gain as much knowledge a possible. Perry also recently served as the co-editor of the textbook, "Cross-Cultural Journalism: Communicating Strategically About Diversity".
First Kemper Award Given to MU Journalism Professor


Kemper Fellowships Program Honors Dr. Ernest Perry

The first University of Missouri professor has been honored today as part of this year’s $50000 Kemper Fellowships program awarding staff for teaching excellence.

Journalism professor and associate dean for graduate studies, Dr Ernest Perry was the first of five to receive the $10000 cash award this week and was surprised in a meeting today by Interim Chancellor Hank Foley and Commerce Bank Chairman Jim Schatz.

Associate dean for undergraduate studies at MU, Professor Lynda Kraxberger said that Perry’s past work was something to be noted and that this had done just that. Kraxberger said “He was on the committee that brought the cross-cultural journalism class to the University of Missouri and we were the first journalism school in the country to have a cross-cultural journalism course as a required part of our undergraduate curriculum.”

Perry says many great people have contributed to the current curriculum and information that is provided. He stated he felt his role was “just a small part of that and I’m really appreciative of the faculty and the staff and everyone here because I would not be successful if it wasn’t for them.”

The Kemper fellowships begun in 1991 with a $500000 gift to honour outstanding MU Teachers and is named in honour of William T. Kemper who graduated from MU in 1926 and was a well-known civic leader throughout Kansas City until his death in 1989.
Spike Lee’s film on MU protests will debut in Columbia on Wednesday

“2 Fists Up” will premiere at the Missouri Theatre in downtown Columbia at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Documentary features the Concerned Student 1950 protest group

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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Spike Lee’s documentary film on the racially charged protests at the University of Missouri that spurred the MU football players’ boycott is making its debut in Columbia on Wednesday.

The film, “2 Fists Up,” featuring the Concerned Student 1950 protest group, will premiere at the Missouri Theatre in downtown Columbia at 8 p.m. It’s free. Doors open at 7 p.m.

The Academy Award-winning director and his crew were on the MU campus last month filming parts of the documentary while members of Concerned Student 1950 held a protest through Jesse Hall.

Lee was in Columbia last month for a film festival that included student-made documentaries. According to a report in the Columbia Tribune, Lee met with student filmmakers to use some of their footage in his documentary.

Lee partnered with ESPN Films to make his documentary. A shortened version of the hourlong documentary is set to show on ESPN late next month.

In November, Concerned Student 1950, a predominantly black student group, set up a tent city on a Columbia campus quadrangle to protest racism at the university. The protest led to a
student hunger strike, the football team threatening not to play, and the resignation of the university chancellor and the UM System president.

Spike Lee's MU doc premieres at Missouri Theatre on Wednesday

By David Morrison

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 10:24 am

Spike Lee’s documentary on the Concerned Student 1950 protests and the Missouri football team’s November boycott is landing a little earlier than planned.

Lee’s film, “2 Fists Up,” will premiere at the Missouri Theatre on Wednesday night. The screening is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m.

The Academy Award-winning director partnered with ESPN Films to make the documentary, which was originally slated to premiere May 31 as part of a package of short films by Lee collectively called “Spike Lee’s Lil’ Joints.” Jennifer Cingari, a publicist for ESPN Films, said the network still plans to premiere a 22-minute version of the documentary on the network’s platforms around that time.

Lee contacted the University of Missouri to set up a screening for this version of the film, which Cingari said will last about an hour. A third 30-minute version of the documentary will also be shown at the Tribeca Film Festival from April 21-23 in New York City.

“Spike is excited about it. He really wants people to see it,” said Cingari, who added that she believes Lee will be in town for the screening. “It got such a good response. He feels a connection to this.”

Lee was in Columbia for the True/False Film Festival on March 5, taking in a screening of the Missouri student-made documentary “Concerned Student 1950.” Lee met with the filmmakers about using some of their footage in his documentary, as well as interviewing members of Concerned Student 1950 over subsequent days and recording a march the group took through campus March 7 to protest a perceived lack of progress from the Columbia campus’ working group on race relations in addressing its concerns.
Lee also met with some football players, such as sophomore quarterback Marvin Zanders and junior wide receiver J’Mon Moore, about their decision to boycott in support of Concerned Student 1950 hunger striker Jonathan Butler in November.

A group of almost three dozen African-American football players voiced their support for Butler the night of Nov. 7 and said they would not participate in any football activities — including the next weekend’s scheduled game against BYU in Kansas City — until Butler’s hunger strike ended and his main demand, the removal of University of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe, was met.

Nearly the entire football team and staff met the next day, a meeting that ended in a tweet from then-Coach Gary Pinkel’s account showing players and coaches locking arms and carrying a message of support for the players’ stand. Wolfe resigned Nov. 9.

“You can’t really put it behind you, but we turned gears from it after it happened,” Zanders said March 8, the first day of Missouri’s spring practice. “Now we’re just moving forward. I don’t foresee it happening any time in the future. Just a great experience. We’re just kind of focusing on this football right now.”

Missouri Coach Barry Odom said he was not contacted to be in Lee’s film nor about his players meeting with Lee but said he trusts they were “responsible” and handled it “the right way.”

“Spike Lee’s a cool guy. Chopped it up with him,” Moore said March 12. “We had a pretty good conversation.

“If Coach Odom says it’s cool, I’ll be in” the documentary. “I’ll take some camera time. I don’t know. If he’s going to have some football players, I’m pretty sure I’ll be in it. If it’s cool with Coach.”

MISSOURIAN

**Spike Lee: Racial climate on MU's campus is not 'hunky-dory'**

LIZ RAMOS, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — **Academy Award-winning director Spike Lee hopes his new documentary will remind people the racial issues that came to the forefront at MU last fall are still not resolved.**
"I think people must not fall asleep and think because Tim Wolfe has resigned and Jonathan Butler is off his hunger strike that everything is hunky-dory," Lee said. "That's not the case at all. Don't fall asleep. Wake up."

His documentary, "2 Fists Up," is an in-depth look at what prompted the racial events on campus last semester and how it can be traced to the Black Lives Matter movement and the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, after the death of Michael Brown, Lee said. "2 Fists Up" will premiere 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Missouri Theatre and will be the only scheduled showing of the full, one-hour version of the documentary. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the event is free.

"The 60-minute version is where we get all the information," Lee said. "We're not really forced into a time limit, so this will probably be the only place for people to see the 60-minute version."

Concerned Student 1950 is pivotal to the documentary because the group, as well as graduate student Jonathan Butler and the Missouri football team, "had a direct impact that really shook colleges and universities all across the U.S.," Lee said.

"I applaud what they did," Lee said. "The stuff they did was very courageous."

Lee said he will be at the Missouri Theatre for the showing of his documentary. He will also be teaching an invite-only master class from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday on MU's campus. Lee is a tenured professor and artistic director at New York University's Graduate Film Program.

The documentary is part of "Spike Lee's Lil' Joints," Lee's digital short series for ESPN's "30 for 30." He said he needed to do two more shorts for the season, which was part of the reason he wanted to come to MU. He also said the events on campus intrigued him and he wanted to see what was happening for himself.

A 22-minute version of the documentary will premiere on an ESPN platform on May 31, said Jennifer Cingari, a spokeswoman for ESPN.
A 30-minute version of the documentary will be shown from April 21-23 at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Lee wants people to "make up their own minds" and have their own opinions.

"I never go into a film and tell people this is what you should think about it," he said. "People are very intelligent, and they will make their own assessment."

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**Speaker warns of unrecognized biases during University of Missouri lecture**

By Roger McKinney

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Everyone is biased, but each person can do things to counteract and diminish the bias, Benjamin Reese Jr., vice president of the office for institutional equity at Duke University, told an audience at the University of Missouri-Columbia Monday.

Reese delivered the message in a presentation called “Explicit to Implicit Bias: Personal and Professional Responsibility” during two sessions Monday at the Reynolds Alumni Center on the MU campus.

About 300 people combined attended the morning and afternoon sessions. Reese also made the presentation on Sunday to members of the MU medical faculty.

He said other than in the U.S. presidential campaign, bias isn’t usually explicit, as it was during the era of segregation. Implicit bias is harder to categorize and recognize, Reese said.

“Implicit bias is powerful because it is out of awareness and unconscious,” he said. Reese said online tests can help individuals identify their implicit biases.

Reese said the precursor of implicit bias begins in infancy. Research shows infants show a preference to others who look like them and have the same opinions.
“It’s in the environment,” Reese said. “We get the messages from a very, very young age.”

Reese said he recognized his own implicit bias recently when a colleague in a wheelchair objected to being pushed. He said his bias was that someone in a wheelchair needs his help.

He presented summaries of research in which applicants with names commonly associated with white people are favored over those with black-sounding names. Other research simply identifies applicants as black or white, with the white applicant being given preferential treatment.

“Emily and Greg got more callbacks than Lakisha and Jamal,” Reese said.

At Duke, he said, everyone on search committees must be trained to recognize implicit bias.

Reese said there is a lot of research into the disparity of student discipline in K-12 education, with black and other minority students receiving the majority of discipline.

“There’s no reason to suggest it stops there and we become different people,” Reese said.

He said being aware of the prevailing social stereotypes helps to diminish implicit bias.

“Try to replace some of the prevailing stereotypes with more rational thinking,” Reese said.

Reese used examples of a devout, conservative Christian who made two visits to a mosque. A traditional Jewish woman attended a Sunday service at a black Baptist church.

“There are creative ways you can expose yourself to a wider range of people,” he said.

However, Reese said implicit bias cannot be eliminated.

“You just get better at recognizing when it’s operating, so that you can make course corrections,” Rees said.

Race has been at the forefront at MU, with protests by student group Concerned Student 1950 in October and November culminating in the resignation of UM System President Tim Wolfe. Members of Concerned Student 1950 have frequently cited expressions of implicit bias on campus as a motivation for their protests.

Reese said after the talk that he did not know enough about the situation at MU to talk about the role of implicit bias here.

Audience member Crystal Kroner, director of research and evaluation with the Assessment Resource Center in the MU College of Education, said she planned to take the online implicit association test.

“It’s a natural human phenomenon,” Kroner said of implicit bias. “It’s the values we place on them, there’s something we can do about that.”
She said everyone has a responsibility to examine themselves for bias. “I think change starts with you,” Kroner said.

**Senate poised to debate budget plan**

**JEFFERSON CITY** • The Missouri Senate could begin debating a $27.1 billion spending plan for the coming fiscal year as early as Thursday.

*In action Tuesday, the Senate Appropriations Committee signed off on a budget blueprint that largely restores money for the University of Missouri that was stripped out by the House in response to protests that roiled the Columbia campus last fall.*

Spending for Mizzou is included in 13 separate bills that comprise a spending roadmap for the state for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Senators on the committee erased most of an $8.7 million cut to the university, arguing the cuts would only hurt parents and children by driving up tuition costs.

The House had sought to punish the University of Missouri System after the racially charged protests and a subsequent boycott by the Mizzou football team resulted in the departure of two top administrators.

The budget is based on a projected 4.1 percent boost in revenues over the current fiscal year. That is the same amount predicted by Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon in his original budget proposal.

Schaefer said senators were able to pare over $50 million in projected Medicaid costs, which are eating up an ever-larger portion of the state’s revenue.

The committee was able to lower the projected cost of prescription drugs by about $22 million, but the overall cost of the state’s pharmacy program has nonetheless grown to over $1.8 billion annually.

And, over the objections of Democrats on the panel, Republicans inserted language shifting state funds away from services like Planned Parenthood.

Schaefer said the changes to social service and health care spending would likely draw the most debate when the measure arrives on the Senate floor. But, he also said higher education spending could become divisive.
“I suspect there will be a fair amount of discussion on that as well,” Schaefer said.

The budget proposal also includes $54.1 million for a 2 percent pay raise for state employees. In addition, prison workers could receive a piece of $6 million in hazardous duty pay amounting to an extra $75 per month.

Sen. Dan Brown, R-Rolla, said the added dollars could reduce high overtime costs and turnover, which leads to more money being spent on training.

Starting pay to walk amid murderers and rapists as a correctional officer in Missouri is $28,260.

Lawmakers have until May 6 to complete the budget. The legislation session is set to adjourn on May 13.

**Senate committee restores cuts to University of Missouri budget**

By Rudi Keller

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 2:00 pm

JEFFERSON CITY — The University of Missouri and all of higher education fared far better Monday evening with the Senate Appropriations Committee than during House debate on the budget last month.

If the spending plan becomes law, the UM System will have a share of $55.8 million tied to performance, avoid a cut in the base allocation for the Columbia campus and suffer only a $1 million cut to taxpayer support for administration. Gov. Jay Nixon in September proposed the $55.8 million increase — equal to 6 percent overall for state colleges and universities — on the condition that the schools freeze tuition for the coming year.

“I don’t think anyone in this process wants to do anything negative to students who pay the tuition or the staff who cuts the grass,” said committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia.

With tempers cooling after a politically devastating series of events on the Columbia campus, a rosy picture for state revenue and looming elections that will decide Schaefer’s political future, the Senate spending plan for all higher education is far more generous than the House proposal.
Schaefer is running for attorney general against Josh Hawley, an MU associate professor of law, and whether Schaefer remains popular in his home county could decide a close race.

The House approved $9.4 million for increased aid to all state colleges and universities except UM. That is about a 2 percent increase. It also voted to cut $7.6 million from UM System administration and $1 million from the allocation to support the Columbia campus.

Any state cuts would come on top of an expected 1,500 student decline in enrollment and loss of about $32 million in tuition revenue. The Columbia campus has imposed a hiring freeze and eliminated general pay raises in an attempt to cover the shortfall.

Under the Senate plan, the university would get a $26.8 million share of the new funding, and the cut to administration is the same amount the athletic department would have lost if the Tigers football team had not played the Nov. 14 game against BYU. Almost three dozen members of the team announced Nov. 7 that they would boycott athletic activities if President Tim Wolfe did not resign as demanded by Concerned Student 1950 protesters.

After Wolfe resigned, the team played the game. Sen. Dan Brown, R-Rolla, said he fully supported deep cuts to the university earlier in the year.

“There is probably nobody madder than I was at the start of this whole thing,” he said. “The governing board, after a slow start, is now going in the right direction.”

The committee left in place several higher education extras included in the House budget. State revenue is doing much better than expected, growing 4.2 percent through the end of March. If that figure holds, it will provide $120 million in surplus state revenue in the current fiscal year and make it easier to meet revenue targets in the year beginning July 1.

Lawmakers have been threatening to cut the UM budget since Wolfe resigned. Several legislators had already been raising questions about administration, including the use of faculty teaching waivers, and MU was under fire for its ties to Planned Parenthood that allowed abortions to resume in Columbia. The protests caused the collapse of Wolfe’s administration, already weakened by infighting with MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin and faculty distrust.

Sen. Jamillah Nasheed, D-St. Louis, questioned why the administration was being cut. The protests were over racial issues, and as a black lawmaker, she said, she should be, but is not, willing to punish UM for indifference that led to the demonstrations.

Nasheed also noted that the university has done very well in recent years and now is in political trouble.

“It was like a love fest two years ago with the legislature and now ... I would hate to be your friend,” she said.

Sen. Rob Schaaf, R-St. Joseph, said the university will not pay attention to lawmakers unless funding is threatened.
“They need a penalty,” he said. “They misbehaved, and the only penalty we have is the purse strings.”

This story was first published online on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 8:45 p.m.

Senate proposes funding increase to UM System

The proposed bill differs from a previous House budget, which would have cut MU funding significantly.

The Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee voted to increase funding to the UM System Monday, the exact opposite of the House of Representatives’ decision last month.

MU will avoid a cut to its base allocation and will only lose $1 million in taxpayer support for the administration.

Furthermore, the UM System as a whole will receive a $55.8 million increase in funding tied to performance, which Gov. Jay Nixon proposed last September. Nixon’s proposed increase was on the condition that all state universities would freeze tuition costs for the following year.

This spending proposal comes in light of a Missouri state revenues report, released April 4, which indicated that net year-to-date state revenue has increased 4.2 percent compared to revenue at this point in 2015.

The spending plan approved in the House was significantly different than the one proposed in the Senate. According to the Columbia Tribune, MU was allocated $434.6 million, with $5.7 million based on performance.

The spending plan approved in the House would have cut that funding to $426 million with no share in performance funding. That spending plan was approved in the wake of MU’s handling of race-based student protests in November, which gained national attention when the football team announced its intentions to refuse participation in any athletic activities pending the resignation of then-UM System president Tim Wolfe.

Supporters of reducing funding to MU cited the student protests during a committee hearing. Sen. Rob Schaaff, R-St. Joseph, proposed the $1 million cut to administration, as that would have been the amount forfeited by MU had the football team not participated in the scheduled game against BYU.
In a statement, Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia, said, “I don’t think anyone in this process wants to do anything negative to students who pay the tuition or the staff who cuts the grass.”

Having passed the Appropriations Committee, the bill now awaits a vote in the Senate.

The hidden danger of grilling out

1,698 grill brush injuries reported over 12-year span

(CNN) - Last winter, a team of doctors at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Delaware treated a 16-year-old girl who had a sharp pain in one spot of her abdomen. Although the doctors suspected she had swallowed something, they were surprised when they pulled out a wire bristle from a grill brush during surgery.

It started to make sense when the doctors thought about the girl's history. She had been on vacation with her family the week before she developed the pain. They had been barbecuing and the girl remembered that one of her relatives cleaned the grill with a brush. A bristle from the brush probably fell onto the grill and then stuck onto the hamburger the girl ate.

"This is a great example of a situation where it is not a very common occurrence, but if physicians are aware there's a potential for injury, they can explore the patient's history" to see if a grill brush bristle injury could be involved, said Dr. Matthew Di Guglielmo, a pediatrician at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children who was part of the team that treated the girl and wrote an article about her case that was published last August.

A new study published on Wednesday gives insight into how often these injuries happen in the United States. Researchers found that, between 2002 and 2014, there were 43 cases in the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, a group of about 100 emergency departments in U.S. hospitals that track injuries from consumer products. Based on this number, the researchers estimated there were a total of 1,698 grill brush injuries in emergency departments nationwide from 2002 to 2014, or about 130 per year.

"Our numbers in the study are not huge, especially if you look in terms of other injuries," said Dr. C.W. David Chang, associate professor of clinical otolaryngology at the University of Missouri, and lead author of new study, which was published in the journal
**Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.** For example, it is much more common for children to swallow batteries, and those injuries account for more than 5,000 trips to emergency departments in the United States in 2009.

However, the study could have missed some grill brush injuries. People could have gone to urgent care clinics rather than the hospital and thus would not have been included in the current study's estimate, said Chang, who has not treated patients with these injuries, but got interested in the topic after hearing from physicians who had.

**Understanding 'outdoor grilling hazards'**

The study found that people of all ages have fallen victim to grill brush injuries, but it was most common among people younger than 18, who made up 40% of the cases, and adults age 19 to 40, who made up 30% of cases. Not surprisingly, most injuries happened during the summer and numbers peaked in July. After all, what is a July 4 party without a cookout on the grill?

Although the study had limited data about the outcomes of the injuries, there is reason to think things generally worked out fine. Seventy percent of people were treated in the emergency department and released, but another 28% had to be admitted to the hospital. Based on the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, as well as case reports from doctors and the Safer Products government database, the study found that most bristles were lodged in the mouth or throat, and in these cases they could usually be "plucked out in the ER," Chang said.

In the rare event that a bristle makes its way all the way down to the intestine, it becomes a concern that the bristle could push its way through the wall of the intestine, as was the case for Di Guglielmo's 16-year-old patient. "It was somewhat remarkable" that she did not develop an infection due to the bristle puncture, which could have been a serious complication, Di Guglielmo said.

Even if a bristle stays in the neck area, there is concern that it could migrate into the soft tissue and require surgery to remove, said Evan J. Harlor, a doctor of osteopathic medicine in the department of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery at Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania.

Several years ago, Harlor saw a woman in her 40s who developed discomfort in her throat several hours after eating a piece of chicken from the grill. There was a bristle in her throat that he was able to remove without surgery. Harlor and his colleagues published an article in 2012 on this "outdoor grilling hazard" in which they describe the woman's case and five others.

**Don't brush off the dangers**

There are steps people can take to reduce the hazard. Although it is important to wipe the grill down after using it, "I would advocate inspecting the grill after cleaning to make sure nothing is adhered to it," Chang said.
There are also alternatives to wire bristle grill brushes, such as brushes with nylon bristles and wire mesh brushes. "I think I would definitely [use one of these alternatives] given the number of incidents, at least anecdotally among physicians, to hopefully reduce the risk of injury," Chang said. And for those die-hard metal brush users, you should "definitely look at your brush, and if the bristles are frayed or frayed, you should probably get it replaced," he added.

"Usually I tell people it is fine if they want to use a wire brush, but after they use it to get a cloth to wipe down the grill surface and really inspect it before they start cooking on it," Harlor said.

A report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about grill brush injuries in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2012 said it is unclear whether different brands of brushes or types of grills or foods pose greater risk.

Even though grill brush injuries are less common than swallowing a fish or chicken bone, or children swallowing a coin or battery, "I could see [these injuries] going worse," Di Guglielmo said. Wire bristles tend to be sharp, so the risk of them puncturing the digestive tract and causing an infection could be greater, he added.

**MISSOURIAN**

**DAVID ROSMAN: More guns on college campuses is not the answer**

DAVID ROSMAN, 1 hr ago

Here's the deal: State Rep. Jered Taylor, R-Nixa, wants to permit students with concealed firearms on the campuses of Missouri's colleges and universities if they have a concealed carry permit.

In reality, Taylor would allow teenagers and young adults to carry their concealed pistols and revolvers on campus without the knowledge of the institution.

Again, I sell firearms and am not anti-gun. But I am opposed to proposed legislation that would allow unrestricted carrying of firearms on college campuses. With the controversies this last winter on the MU campus alone, I could only imagine what could have happened with firearms were thrown into the mix.
This is not a liberal versus conservative issue, but one of common sense. We already have armed police and safety officers on most college campuses. Faculty are permitted to carry firearms under specific circumstances under the Section 571.107 (10), RSMo. Yet there has not been an incident of a school shooting where the armed intruder was "neutralized" by an armed civilian.

What we see in the movies and on television is a myth at best. I do not have to remind my regular readers of the inability of trained police to hit their targets in a combat situation.

For the trained shooter, it is not difficult to shoot, reacquire the target and shoot again without the adrenaline flowing. But once adrenaline starts to course though the body, it's another matter entirely.

If the argument is that 18- and 19-year-olds are in the military and they are fine with firearms, I would counter that they are receiving weeks of disciplined training as opposed to the eight hours required under Missouri law to get a permit.

There is also the idea that college kids will have guns on campus when there is an obvious problem with liquor on many campuses. Alcohol and firearms do not mix, and there is an increased risk of the misuse of a handgun during a party at a fraternity or sorority house.

I work with a couple of students, 21-year-olds, who own multiple firearms and have been around firearms all of their lives. I went shooting with one of them at Finger Lakes State Park, and I would trust both with the safe use of a pistol or rifle. I have also sold firearms to newly minted 21-year-old MU students who have never touched a gun before.

If the idea of having more guns on a college campus would somehow prevent a mass shooting, the response is, "No, it won't." In simulation after simulation, and in unfortunate real-life experiences, it takes precious time to understand what is going on and to identify the active shooter. If multiple students and civilians had guns on campus, how will law enforcement know who is the actual "bad guy?"
Having more guns on campus is not the answer to the possibility of an active shooter. Coordinated training with law enforcement and on-campus security is essential to the safety of the students, administration and faculty.

Like other problems, we do not know who the "bad guy" is before he or she is sold a firearm. We cannot tell if a person is sane or mentally troubled by looking at him or listening to their story. Or if they have an ulterior motive for the purchase.

Yes, there are those with obvious signs of a problem and to whom a reputable dealer will not sell a firearm. Most buyers of firearms are overly cautious and honest when filling out the federal background check form. But more guns on college campuses is not the answer.

The answer may lie in mandatory recurring training for all firearms owners. It may lie in extended mental health treatment (which would be available if Missouri would only pass an extended Medicare law).

It may lie in requiring current permit holders on campus to have mandatory active shooter training with local or campus security.

It is not an advocacy for a mandatory waiting period or licensing firearms with the state or local law enforcement.

Guns on campus is not a complicated issue. It takes better knowledge of what an active shooter scenario looks like by our legislators and citizens, and how to prevent them in the first place. More guns on campus just is not the answer.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

‘Trump’ Chalkings Trigger a New Debate Over Speech and Sensitivity
When messages of support for the Republican presidential front-runner Donald J. Trump appeared in chalk at Emory University, the University of Michigan, and other institutions late last month, many observers — perhaps most — saw a political endorsement and thought nothing of it. But a handful of students say they saw intimidation.

In their view, Mr. Trump’s name has become synonymous with attacks on Muslims, Latin Americans, African-Americans, and other minority groups. They contend that the "Trump 2016" and "Vote Trump" messages — which, on at least two campuses, appeared alongside phrases like "Stop Islam" and "Build the Wall" — represent intolerant views that have no place on campuses that seek to promote inclusion and respect.

So some of those students demanded that administrators take action — in Emory’s case, they wanted whoever wrote them to face punishment. By doing so, they have forced colleges to reckon with the significance of the "Trump" name and weigh how, exactly, to respond to concerns over the name’s resonance on campuses.

Debate over the chalkings has sparked a widespread backlash at the student protesters, much of it from right-leaning commentators. Critics see the students’ reaction as yet another example of rampant oversensitivity on campuses and say that their calls for administrators to decry the messages amount to censorship.

A Twitter hashtag, #TheChalkening, has emerged as a way of encouraging students and others to chalk their own slogans supporting Mr. Trump on campuses and to share photos of their work, a sort of protest against the protesters. The University of Missouri and the University of Alabama are among at least a dozen institutions where Trump messages have appeared since last weekend.

Few would dispute that Mr. Trump is an unusual candidate whose campaign has, in many ways, turned the election upside down. But is a "Vote Trump" message on the sidewalk somehow different from "Feel the Bern" or "Vote Cruz"? If Mr. Trump wins the nomination, how might colleges handle pro-Trump campaigning on their campuses during the rest of the year?

If Mr. Trump’s campaign persists through the fall, millions of people will have "Trump 2016" bumper stickers and lawn signs displayed prominently, says Gregory P. Magarian, a law professor at Washington University in St. Louis and a First Amendment scholar. "If we decide that ‘Trump’ is equal to hate speech, we run into a problem in determining what that means," he says.

On the other hand, he says, "there’s certainly a context in which Trumpism takes the form of an aggressive attack on certain people."

Questions of Intent

At Emory a series of pro-Trump messages — some say it was at least a few dozen — appeared overnight last month, prompting about 40 students to stage a protest the following day.
Eventually the students marched into the building where the office of Emory’s president, James W. Wagner, is located and implored him to condemn the messages.

Within a few days, similar chalked messages appeared at Michigan, the University of Kansas, and a handful of other colleges.

Writing Mr. Trump’s name on a sidewalk is unquestionably protected speech, says Ajay Nair, senior vice president and dean of campus life at Emory. He thinks most students there agree. The chalking spectacle, though, "is more nuanced and complicated than that," he says.

Given Mr. Trump’s record of inflammatory comments involving racial, ethnic, and religious communities, Mr. Nair says, it’s not surprising that some students have strong feelings about the messages. "They’re using their free speech to speak out on what Trump symbolizes to them," he says.

Some aren’t as understanding of the protesters’ perspective. Harvey E. Klehr, a professor of politics and history at Emory, says a Trump presidency would be a disaster. However, chalking his name is not an act of aggression, nor does doing so target specific students, Mr. Klehr says.

"What do students propose for the next few months?" he asks. "That we don’t say ‘Trump’ on campuses lest students become traumatized?"

In Mr. Klehr’s view, administrators have been too deferential to the students protesting the messages. "What they should’ve said was, I understand that you’re unhappy and angry and maybe even afraid of Trump, but you need to grow up," Mr. Klehr says. "You have the right to protest Donald Trump, but don’t ask the university to shut down other students’ speech."

But Mr. Nair takes issue with the claim that the students are promoting censorship. "In my conversations with students, not once did they say, This all needs to be erased," he says.

Instead, he says, their goal was to unpack the meaning of the chalked messages. "It was a very different kind of chalking than we’ve ever seen on campus," he says. "Some students wondered, Is this a threat?"

At the University of Florida, "Trump" was written last weekend on the doors into the building that houses the university’s program in African-American studies. By Monday morning, the graffiti was gone, but Ibram X. Kendi, an assistant professor of African-American history at the university, says he thinks Florida officials should investigate the act, given where the name appeared.

"The Trump political brand has more or less become a symbol for bigotry in America," Mr. Kendi says, though he acknowledges that "on some level, it’s just a name. I don’t necessarily think the proliferation of his name in chalk creates a scenario where campuses aren’t inclusive."

Another issue that has surfaced is the intent of the people writing the messages. From a free-speech perspective, it’s still considered protected expression unless the message is a direct threat
or aims to incite violence, says Timothy Zick, a professor at William and Mary Law School and a First Amendment scholar.

"I don’t know that ‘Trump’ yet rises to the level of a swastika or a burning cross," he says.

**Polarizing Issues**

Responding to such incidents puts administrators in a tough spot, Mr. Zick says: They must balance the protection of free expression with at least some sensitivity to students’ concerns.

The presidents of Emory and the University of Michigan have issued statements about the chalkings on their campuses. "After meeting with our students, I cannot dismiss their expression of feelings and concern as motivated only by political preference or oversensitivity," Mr. Wagner, of Emory, wrote in an email to the campus. "Instead, the students with whom I spoke heard a message, not about political process or candidate choice, but instead about values regarding diversity and respect that clash with Emory’s own."

He also chalked his own message, writing "Emory stands for free expression!"

Mr. Wagner also told the protesters that officials would try to identify those who wrote the messages and that, if they were students, they would face the university’s conduct-violation process, according to The Emory Wheel.

Morgan R. Ackley, an Emory student and member of the university’s College Republicans, says proposing disciplinary action seems overly harsh. "If you look at what was in chalk, it was just ‘Trump 2016,’” she says. "This was just someone expressing their political ideologies."

Mr. Nair, the dean of campus life, has met with some students who protested the messages, and a larger gathering involving students and faculty and staff members is planned for next week.

The logical next step for the Emory community is to try to make sense of the polarizing issues surrounding the messages, Mr. Nair says. "Right when it happens isn’t the time to have dialogue," he adds. "People need to vent; they need to be angry." One way he hopes students and faculty members will grapple with the meaning of Mr. Trump’s candidacy is through the university’s Barkley Forum Center for Debate Education, where participants might debate the real-estate mogul’s policy proposals.

Mr. Klehr isn’t optimistic that colleges can foster a civil discussion about Mr. Trump. Say a college tried to have a debate about immigration in the context of the presidential election, he says. One side might call for a path to citizenship, a position supported by both Democratic candidates, and the other might argue for one of Mr. Trump’s signature plans: the deportation of all immigrants who are in the country illegally. "My guess is that at many campuses, supporters of the latter position would be shouted down," he says.

But Mr. Kendi says it’s critical for administrators to "get out ahead of this issue" now and create spaces for students and others to discuss Mr. Trump — before further rifts grow. "They need to
"keep the conversation within the realm of intellectual debate," he says, "as opposed to defacing buildings and, potentially, violence."

**A Civil Rights Hero Who Disappeared**

By Scott Jaschik

Many remember James Meredith, the first black person to enroll at the University of Mississippi. But Lloyd Gaines is not a name widely known or taught, though he was the plaintiff in a suit that led to a 1938 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that Missouri had to provide, in the state, an opportunity for black students to go to law school. **Until then, Missouri had a policy of paying for black students like Gaines to attend law school out of state, rather than at the all-white University of Missouri law school.** But while the Supreme Court ruling was in some sense a victory for black students, it also was a defeat. The court said Missouri could keep the law school for whites only as long as it created a comparable one for black students. The state opted for this option (although the new law school was hardly comparable). Gaines might have challenged the fairness of the state's new version of separate but equal, but he disappeared, literally, and no one knows for sure what happened to him.

As a result, he is largely absent from the focus of historians studying desegregation. A new book, *Lloyd Gaines and the Fight to End Segregation* (University of Missouri Press), seeks to tell the story of Gaines and his Supreme Court case. The authors are James W. Endersby, associate professor of political science at the University of Missouri at Columbia, and William T. Horner, a teaching professor of political science at Mizzou.

Endersby responded via email to questions about the book.

**Q:** The Supreme Court decision in the case upheld separate but equal (without really requiring equal). Is that why it has largely been ignored?

**A:** The Supreme Court decision of Brown v. Board of Education had such a huge effect on educational equality that we often neglect the historical significance of the earlier cases. We correctly remember Brown as a landmark decision, but Gaines was the first in a series of Supreme Court decisions, mostly involving segregation in higher education, that led to Brown. The court's decision in Gaines demanded that educational facilities, if separate, must be equal. Subsequent court decisions expanded this need for and definition of equality. The court's decision in Brown ultimately decided that educational facilities, if separate, are inherently unequal.
Q: What do you see as the real significance of the Gaines decision?

A: The Supreme Court in Gaines made the first application of the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause to emphasize equality of education. Moreover, equal protection was a constitutional protection guaranteed to the individual by the (state) government. The University of Missouri law school was open only to white students. Black students, according to Missouri's position, could attend law school at various institutions in adjacent states. In Gaines, the Supreme Court declared that if Missouri provided legal education to white students, it also had to provide an equivalent legal education to black students within the state. Once the Supreme Court applied the constitutional standard that a state must guarantee equality to all individuals, the end of racial segregation was near. The decision cracked the judicial doctrine of separate but equal and racial segregation that would crumble in subsequent court decisions.

Q: Had Lloyd Gaines lived, do you think there would have been a successful challenge to whether the program at Lincoln University (created by the state to comply with the Supreme Court decision) was truly comparable to that of the University of Missouri?

A: First let me point out that we don't know what happened to Gaines! Had Gaines pursued his case, it is quite possible that the Supreme Court under Charles Evan Hughes may have moved more quickly on issues of educational equality. Certainly, Charles Houston and the attorneys for the NAACP thought that the challenge would be successful in federal court. The majority on the Hughes court seemed adamant that educational opportunities provided by the state for blacks and whites should be equal. Moreover, the strongest defenders of racial segregation would soon leave the court. If Houston and the NAACP could get a second hearing before the U.S. Supreme Court, it is difficult to imagine anything other than that the small and poorly funded black-only Lincoln law school provided equal educational opportunities compared to the white-only Missouri law school. It may be important that to recall that the decision in Brown involved two decisions, the first to demand educational equality and the second to enforce it.

Q: What do you think happened to Gaines?

A: When people today first learn of Gaines's disappearance, they often assume first that he was a victim of racial violence. That certainly is a real possibility. Those within the NAACP and the black press, however, assumed that Lloyd Gaines grew weary of the litigation and just walked away. The anecdotal evidence supports the view of the NAACP. But it is also puzzling how Gaines, a person of such prominence within the black community, never resurfaced in later years. If there was no foul play, we assume Gaines would renew contact with family and friends ultimately. So we are left with a conundrum. There has been no criminal investigation of his disappearance because there is no evidence of a crime. Unless someone comes forward with new and solid information, Gaines’s disappearance is likely to remain an unsolved mystery.

Q: Race remains an issue at the University of Missouri and elsewhere in higher education. What are the lessons of the Gaines story for today?

A: One lesson is that equality of opportunity in education remains an important goal, but an elusive one. Most of us today agree on the importance of equal educational opportunities for
individuals from all groups, but we also hold competing values on a host of other issues. Educational equality may still conflict with other political and social norms. Charles Houston taught us that we must have goals to achieve over the long term, but we must often seek short-term success. Houston, Redmond, Marshall and the others intended to eliminate segregation and ensure racial equality. But they also understood that equality in education and other venues involved a series of steps in the right direction.

The Supreme Court would not overturn the separate-but-equal doctrine fully and immediately. But constant pressure from a series of judicial decisions would lead to that ultimately. Another lesson from the experience of Gaines and his attorneys is that willingness to pursue freedom and equality involves a tremendous personal cost. To stand up for rights and freedoms involves a significant emotional toll. Few are willing to make the sacrifice for the greater good.