Go call your mom. Science says it’ll make you feel better.

By Amy Joyce May 6 at 7:00 AM

There are many days — okay I’ll admit it, all my days — when I get the urge to pick up the phone and tell my mom one quick thing. Or rant a little, or ask her advice. I’ll be blunt: I can’t actually do that because she passed away a few years ago. But the fact that I still feel my hand automatically reach toward the phone makes me think a lot about what it is with moms. Why do so many of us feel the need to tell them so much or ask them so much? Even when they are gone, or we don’t actually heed their advice?

As one researcher discovered, and many of us can attest to, moms simply make things better.

Haley Horstman, a professor at the University of Missouri, explains that there is a lot of research showing that when we experience something difficult, we often “storify” that experience. We create a plot, a setting, scene and characters. Telling a story helps us cope with the negative experience. A “narrative scholar.” Horstman became interested how this storytelling between mothers and daughters impacts a person’s well-being.

So Horstman invited more than 60 young-adult daughters to come into a lab and tell a story about something difficult that happened to them. The daughters wrote their stories and then answered questions about how they felt. Two days later, they brought their moms to the lab and had a conversation for about 15 minutes about that same story. Two days after that, the daughters repeated the first step, writing the story down again and answering the same questions about their well-being.
The researchers then compared the first and last stories, noting the tone and other aspects, as well as the answers to the questions. The stories were overwhelmingly more positive after the women talked with their moms, even if their mothers didn’t have solutions to their problems or offer advice. One thing that impacted how the daughters felt in the end was if they had some back-and-forth with their moms.

“We found when the mother and daughter take a lot of turns, have the same amount of time talking, those daughters had more positive stories by the end,” Horstman said. “Generally my findings show that if you can build a relationship with your kid where there’s a little more give and take, that will help the child in the long run.”

Of course, it’s not all butterflies and unicorns when it comes to communicating with mothers. We all have had our fair share of tough moments when talking to mom. (Some more than others.)

Carla L. Fisher, an assistant professor at George Mason University, studies communication between family members and how that’s essential to health, with specific attention to mothers and daughters who are dealing with breast cancer.

“There’s something about mothers and daughters. We try to be there for one another, but as close as we might be, it can be fireworks,” she said, surprising no daughter anywhere. “It’s just such a profound relationship. And it’s complicated.”

Take for instance, communicating about something like breast cancer. Mothers may be of a generation where health issues remained relatively private, whereas their daughters (Gen Xers, millennials) are used to sharing everything. Part of that openness is great and has pushed changes in health care reform, Fisher notes. But “there’s a healthy balance of recognizing that, for younger women, they might want to talk about it and talk about prevention, but older mothers might not want to.”

That alone makes it difficult for both mother and daughter to get what they need out of those conversations, or lack of conversations. But even with that friction, why do mothers have such a
strong hold? Why do we need them so much? They are our first inherent connection. For many, that’s physical. For others, it’s not, but there’s still an internal tie like none other, Fisher explains. “Mothers help us know who we are ... she’s just the ultimate teacher, ultimate guider.”

Ultimate is right. Communication with a mother is the foundation of everything, says Michelle Miller-Day, a professor of communication studies at Chapman University, who studies mother-daughter relationships. “It’s the way we create bonds, sustain bonds,” she says.

So how do we make sure, as parents and as adult children, that we create a place of good communication? It has to be reciprocal, Miller-Day says. “As parents, we say we need to be in charge. ... ‘I am monitoring you because I love you,’ ” she said. But it shouldn’t be about control. Parents need to work on having their children be willing to share. Ask questions, Miller-Day suggests. Watch a show together and talk about the situation and listen to your child’s opinion. Instead of lecturing about what not to do, it’s important to weave conversations into everyday life, she says. “Ask for their points of view. Respecting their points of view doesn’t mean you have to go along with it. It’s about respect more than anything else.”

Which is just what Horstman’s study discovered. The more a mother listened to her daughter, even if she didn’t agree, the more that negative narrative turned a little positive. “Oftentimes, we don’t think of these daily conversations as all that important, but that conversation has power to help us understand our life experiences,” Horstman said.

There you have it. Your mom makes everything better, so go give her a call. Science says to do it.

Even the most empowered girls are more anxious about math than boys
Science can’t tell us why some teenagers relish calculus and others dread it. But a new study in the journal Plos One suggests that living in a country that values gender equality actually makes girls more susceptible to “math anxiety” relative to their male classmates.

**Math anxiety — the urge to avoid numbers — plagues girls more than boys across the world, but the gender-difference is largest in economically developed nations that promote equality between the sexes, according to the study, led by researchers from the University of Missouri, the University of California at Irvine and the University of Glasgow.**

The team of academics crunched data from more than 700,000 15-year-olds in 68 countries who took an international test called the Program for International Student Assessment in 2003 and 2012. They also measured the students’ distress by asking them to rate on a four-point scale how much they agreed with statements such as “I get very nervous doing mathematics problems” and “I feel helpless when doing a mathematics problem.”

In general, teenagers in advanced countries (the United States, Sweden, France and Germany, to name a few) showed less math anxiety than those in developing economies, but the decline was much more significant for boys than for girls.

Even among top achievers, girls still reported more anxiety. When controlling for performance, the gender gap persisted — and strangely widened in countries with more women in the labor force.

The math anxiety gender gap could affect women's lifelong earning potential, the researchers noted.

“Individuals who report experiencing mathematics anxiety are more likely to disengage from practice with mathematical concepts and procedures, which could have negative long-term economic consequences for them, including fewer career prospects,” the authors wrote.
Neuroimaging studies, they pointed out, have revealed the powerful brain response a geometry quiz can trigger. The anticipation of a math problem "is neurally equivalent to the anticipation of physical harm in adults."

So, where does this fear come from — and why does it bug girls around the world, even those who appear to have a knack for math?

The authors can’t definitively say. The students’ parents’ professions had little to do with it, they concluded. After searching for patterns in the student data, the researchers ruled out the possibility that girls with, say, engineer mothers were less likely to experience math anxiety.

Other research has pointed to social conditioning. Math has long been considered a masculine subject across the globe, which may make female students feel inferior before they take their first lesson.

A 2015 OECD paper concluded this intimation might damage their ability to learn and excel: “Countries may be unable to develop a sufficient number of individuals with strong mathematics and science skills partly because of girls’ lack of confidence in their abilities.”

Parents might play a key role in establishing (or inhibiting) confidence.

The PISA tests asked students how much they agreed with statements like, “Parents believe studying mathematics is important” and “Parents believe mathematics is important for career,” according to the Plos One study. Boys, it turned out, were more likely than girls to say their parents had taught them the value of math.

These results, though, should be interpreted cautiously. “Because girls express higher levels of anxiety about mathematics,” the authors wrote, “parents of girls may be more likely to devalue the importance of the domain in relation to their daughters than their sons, who show relatively less mathematics anxiety by comparison.”
Missouri To Form New Orthopedic Research Center

The University of Missouri will use a $3 million gift to fund a new regenerative orthopedic research center.

The university announced Thursday that the donation from the Thompson Foundation, created by William and Nancy Thompson, will create the Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopedics. At the center, researchers will study how to help people with joint replacements return to normal activity sooner, with lower costs and improved access to health care.

The Thompson family donated $8.5 million to the university in 2005 to establish the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

The university's orthopedic surgery department will contribute $1.5 million to the new center. The $4.5 million will fund laboratory and other research equipment. The center will be located at the Missouri Orthopedic Institute, which is under construction.
MU gets $3 million for regenerative orthopedic research

A $3 million donation will fund new regenerative orthopedic research at the University of Missouri.

MU officials held a news conference Thursday to announce the pledge from the Thompson Foundation, which was created by William and Nancy Thompson. The money will create the Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopaedics, where researchers will study ways to help people with joint replacements return to normal activity sooner, lower costs and improve access to health care, interim Chancellor Hank Foley said.

“We’d really like to see” the university “become a destination for this kind of treatment,” Foley said.

The Thompson family’s $3 million donation is their second largest to the university. An $8.5 million donation in 2005 helped establish the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

The university’s orthopedic surgery department will contribute $1.5 million to the new center to match a portion of the Thompson family’s donation, said department chairman James Stannard. The $4.5 million will be used to pay for laboratory and other research equipment at the new center, which will be housed on the fourth floor of a new addition to the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, Stannard said.

The institute’s addition on Virginia Avenue is set to be completed in mid-August.

William Thompson said the foundation jumped at the opportunity to donate to regenerative orthopedic research at the university after meeting numerous doctors at the school who are working on innovative treatments. Recent research efforts have included the development of an improved method to store donor tissue and better procedures to repair torn knee ligaments and other joint injuries.
“I am confident in the results that are going to come from this group” through their “innovative and breakthrough approach,” Thompson said. “We are honored to be associated with such committed” professors.

School of Medicine Dean Patrick Delafontaine echoed Thompson’s pride about research the university’s doctors have been conducting to improve treatment options for chronic joint and bone disease.

“Many patients were previously undergoing joint replacement,” he said. “Dr. Stannard” and his “colleagues are really paving the way ... internationally in regenerative approaches that will actually save the joint and provide better” outcomes for the lives of patients.

The donation pushed the university toward its $1.3 billion fundraising goal as part of the “Mizzou: Our Time to Lead” campaign. The campaign is designed to build the university’s endowment and advance its educational and research goals — aiding in MU’s efforts to raise its status in the Association of American Universities. The association, a prestigious group of 60 schools, ranks universities on several factors and emphasizes research.

With $730 million in donations as of Monday, the university is on track to raise more funds in 2016 than it has in any other year, Foley said.

**MISSOURIAN**

**MU receives $3 million to build orthopedics center**

COLUMBIA — The Thompson Foundation pledged $3 million Thursday to create the Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopaedics.

**Recent research into regenerative orthopedics at MU has developed a better way to store donor tissue and has improved procedures for repairing joint injuries, according to a news release.**
The new orthopedic center is intended "to help people with joint replacements resume family and work activities sooner and lower costs and improve access to health care."

MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said during a press conference that he hopes Columbia will become a destination for this type of medicine.

The promise of the center has helped recruit faculty and researchers, said James Cook, director of the MU Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory.

The new center will be on the fourth floor of the new addition to the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, which is currently under construction and is scheduled for completion next year.

The foundation, created by Bill and Nancy Thompson, donated $8.5 million in 2005 to create the Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Bill Thompson is retired CEO of the Pacific Investment Management Company, a multinational investment management firm headquartered in Newport Beach, California.

Two years ago, he and his wife also founded the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Southern California.

MU Health announces a major orthopedic donation

The donation will help fund research for regenerative orthopedics

The University of Missouri announced a $3 million gift courtesy of the Thompson family on Thursday morning. The donation will help fund research for regenerative orthopaedics.

Regenerative therapies aim to help patients heal from injuries when their bodies can’t do it on their own. Specifically for orthopedics, this can include shoulder injuries, different joint injuries and even arthritis pain.

According to MU Health, researchers at the new Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopaedics will "pursue discoveries and advances to help people with joint replacements resume family and work activities sooner and lower costs and improve access to health care."

Speaking at the gift announcement, James Stannard, the medical director of the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute said this donation can make the MU Health "go from good to great".

Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said, “this gift will allow MU to further advance us as a world leader in regenerative orthopedics.” This statement was echoed by the Dr. James Cook, who is the director of the MU Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory. Cook does the hands on research this money will help support.

Cook said this money could make MU Health a global leader. "We’re very well recognized, we’re internationally recognized, we have a presence, but I don’t think we’re the leader yet," Cook said. "I really do believe this will take us to the top of that."

This is the Thompson’s family second donation to the University of Missouri. They have also donated $8.5 million for the Thompson Center for Autism.

MU gift helps joint replacement patients

Columbia, MO — **MU researchers received a $3 million gift on Thursday morning to help patients with joint replacements.**
William and Nancy Thompson pledged the funding to create the Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopaedics.

The new facility will have a world-class laboratory inside Mizzou's Clinical Orthopedic Center.

MU doctors said the new center will create better methods to store donor tissue and improve procedures for repairing torn knee ligaments and other joint injuries.

Orthopaedic Laboratory Director Dr. James Cook said, "It's a high-tech laboratory right in a clinical center. As scientists and physicians we can interact, everyday, with the patients so that we can give them the delivery of care that will change their lives."

MU doctors said the $3 million gift will also lower costs and improve access to health care.

MU hopes to improve orthopaedic health care with $3 million pledge

COLUMBIA - The University of Missouri announced Thursday the Thompson Foundation pledged $3 million to the MU School of Medicine to create a new center for regenerative orthopaedics.
Researchers at the new center will search for advances to help patients with joint replacement at lowers costs in effort to improve access to health care, a MU spokesperson said.

“This gift directly supports our primary missions of discovery and improving the health of Missourians and the world. With strong support such as this, MU will play a leading role in the future of health care,” MU Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said.

The new center will be called the Thompson Center for Regenerative Orthopaedics and be located on the fourth floor of the new addition to the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute, according to the university.

Jewish Group Faults Missouri School's Anti-Semitism Response

A Jewish human rights group alleges the University of Missouri is "missing in action" when it comes to addressing anti-Semitism on campus.
Simon Wiesenthal Center officials made the complaint in a letter to the university system's interim president Mike Middleton.

The group says a review of some 7,400 pages of university correspondence sent last fall during a time of racial unrest on the Columbia campus suggests the university downplayed allegations and incidents of anti-Semitism. That's while the university vocally responded to incidents targeting minority students.

Race-related protests on the Columbia campus prompted the chancellor and system president to resign.

Middleton said he can assure those behind the letter that the university takes anti-Semitism "extremely seriously" and is "absolutely committed to learning environments that are free of hatred and intolerance."

**ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**

**Messenger: Missouri's $3.9 billion hole leaves next generation empty**

By Tony Messenger St. Louis Post-Dispatch

One of the things Gov. Jay Nixon and I share is that at one point or another in the past few years we've been paying tuition for our sons to attend the University of Missouri.

I can't speak for the governor, but my son's bills are still coming, and so each year when Nixon puts out a news release touting his signing of a budget that raises state support for higher education to the "highest level on record" — as he did last week — I react with a healthy sense of skepticism.
That’s because the nature of inflation all but guarantees that every budget passed by a successive legislature and signed by the governor will spend more money on our state’s colleges and universities than the previous year. But if the goal is actually making college more affordable for the next generation (let alone this one), Missouri is failing miserably.

In fact, by a couple of standards, state support for higher education in Missouri is at an all-time low.

And that’s why middle-class parents of my generation are paying off loans and students are starting their careers in debt.

In Missouri — and in most states — the promise of a higher education at an affordable cost at a state college has become but a dream, and here’s why: State legislatures have decided they no longer value higher education as a top priority.

In the year 2000, for instance, the largest primary source of revenue for the University of Missouri was state funding. In that year, money from the state accounted for 62 percent of the university’s funding, and tuition and fees — the cost paid by students and parents — stood at 29 percent.

Since that time, the story of college funding in Missouri is one of two intersecting lines on a graph, with state support going down and the “tax” on students and parents going up, up, up.

In 2010, those lines met at an intersecting X point, with state costs having dropped to about 42 percent and tuition rising to 41 percent as a key source of revenue.

And now, in 2016, when lawmakers and the governor are touting the “highest level ever” of state support for colleges and universities? In fact, the state’s share of University of Missouri revenue is at 35 percent, one point higher than its all-time low in 2014. Parents
and students are now paying the freight at a rate of 52 percent, much of that tied up in the nation’s trillion-dollar student loan bubble.

The numbers look just as bad if you compare the percentage of the state’s budget that goes to higher education. I like this comparison because just like personal budgets, it is a good measure of priorities.

In 1981, according to the Office of Administration, state lawmakers spent 16.1 percent of the state’s operating budget on higher education. In the budget just signed by the governor, the support is down to 10.5 percent.

The 1981 figure is important because that’s the year the Hancock Amendment started limiting the amount of state revenue available for lawmakers to spend to 5.6 percent of Missourians’ personal income. The spending limit was passed by voters in 1980, and other amendments passed later also limited lawmakers’ ability to make up for revenue shortfalls with tax increases.

The result is that an already low-tax state sentenced itself to mediocrity or worse for future generations.

Every year, the state auditor produces a report that makes sure the state Legislature is in compliance with the Hancock Amendment. If total state revenue ever were to surpass the 5.6 percent of Missourians’ personal income level, taxpayers would be due refunds, as they last were in 1999.

For all the anti-tax fervor in Missouri, one would think lawmakers were spending like drunken sailors.

It ain’t so.

Last month, state Auditor Nicole Galloway reported that state revenue in the most recent fiscal year is $3.9 billion below Hancock thresholds. That’s billion with a b.
means that when it comes to state revenue, Missourians are living on taxing levels $3.9 billion less than they lived on in 1981.

This is the real story of the higher education budget, and the K-12 budget, and the lagging budget for state highways, and the lack of mental health care in the state, and the reason Missouri children are among the hungriest in the country according to a recent study at the University of Missouri.

In part because of Hancock, and in part because lawmakers (and the governor) prefer putting lipstick on a pig than telling the more difficult truths, Missouri loses ground every year when it comes to investing in the sorts of things that could not only improve the state’s economy but prepare the state to serve future generations.

As it is, those future generations (and their parents), spend money every month paying the student-loan tax that has been passed on to us by lawmakers who act like they’ve paved the path to the University of Missouri with gold bricks.

They’ve built a yellow brick road, all right, but it leads to a wizard behind a curtain who plays loose with the facts.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Legislature funds autism centers at MU and Truman State**

ASSOCIATED PRESS, 18 hrs ago

JEFFERSON CITY — The Missouri Legislature has authorized nearly $1 billion for maintaining state property and constructing new buildings.

The spending plan sent to the governor Thursday calls for about $250 million for higher education institutions. That includes nearly $10 million for autism centers at the University
of Missouri and Truman State University and $5 million toward constructing Glass Hall at Missouri State University.

The Department of Natural Resources would be prohibited from using the money to add more than 20 acres at a time to an existing state park.

Appropriations Chairman Sen. Kurt Schaefer said the department needs more oversight after bypassing the Legislature to buy land for two state parks.

Budget Chairman Rep. Tom Flanigan said the limit shouldn't interfere with the department's current operations.

Legal group says complaint against Missouri attorney general candidate will be pursued

A legal special-interest group has filed a complaint against state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a Columbia Republican

The group says Schaefer pressured a state official to make it harder for another Republican to run

Senator says the complaint is politically motivated

BY DAVE HELLING
dhelling@kcestar.com

A special interest group says the Missouri Ethics Commission has reversed itself and will investigate its complaint against state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, a Republican who is running for Missouri attorney general.
The group — the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust, known as FACT — Schaefer improperly pressured Tim Wolfe, then-president of the University of Missouri System, to make it harder for a law school faculty member to run for office.

The faculty member, Josh Hawley, is also running for attorney general in the GOP primary. Schaefer heads the Missouri Senate’s Appropriations Committee, giving him significant influence over the university’s budget.

Schaefer, of Columbia, hasn’t denied the conversation with Wolfe but said it was meant to save taxpayer money.

He said the ethics complaint was politically motivated and filed by Hawley’s associates and friends.

Wolfe disclosed the conversation in an email made public after his resignation.

In late April, FACT said the Ethics Commission had determined the allegations involved issues outside the commission’s oversight. But in a letter released Thursday, the commission told FACT it would open an investigation.

**Ethics Commission reverses course, agrees to investigate complaint against Schaefer**

The Missouri Ethics Commission will investigate whether state Sen. Kurt Schaefer misused his office to pressure the University of Missouri over employee leave policies to block rival Josh Hawley from entering the race for attorney general.

Executive Director James Klahr reversed an earlier decision that his agency did not have the power or resources to investigate allegations of criminal conduct. In a letter to Matt Whitaker, the former U.S. attorney from Iowa who founded the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust, Klahr wrote that a resubmitted complaint included compelling arguments that it did have the necessary authority and had used it in the past.
“Based on our consideration of the legal arguments made in the May 2, 2016 letter regarding the commission’s jurisdiction to receive and investigate the complaint, the commission will be opening an investigation into your complaint,” Klahr wrote in a letter dated Thursday and released by Kendra Arnold, general counsel of the foundation.

Klahr was not immediately available for comment Thursday afternoon.

Schaefer in 2013 announced he was seeking the Republican nomination for attorney general. Starting in late 2014, Hawley, an associate professor of law since 2011, began exploring a bid for the nomination as well. In the spring of 2015, Schaefer raised questions about the university’s leave policy for employees seeking political office.

At the time, the policy required university staff to seek a leave of absence or resign before filing for office. The policy was changed in July to require leave or resignation before an employee announced as a candidate or began raising money for a campaign. The policy did not take effect until April 1, which meant that the old policy remained in place for this year’s election.

Hawley applied for a year of unpaid leave in May 2015 and has been on leave since Sept. 1 as he campaigns.

On April 21, Whitaker submitted a complaint alleging Schaefer improperly pressured the university and used his position as Senate Appropriations Committee chairman to put pressure on former UM President Tim Wolfe. Whitaker’s complaint relies heavily on an email letter written Jan. 19 by Wolfe that include a section titled “Political Activities and Pressure from Senator Kurt Schaefer.”

“Kurt Schaefer had several meetings with me pressuring me to take away Josh Hawley’s right to run for Attorney General by taking away an employee’s right to ask for an unpaid leave of absence when running for public office,” Wolfe wrote.

Klahr wrote to Whitaker on April 25 that the commission did not have authority or expertise to investigate criminal complaints. In the response to that letter, Whitaker resubmitted the complaint, citing state law and cases dating back to 1997 as proof that the commission had the authority and had used it in the past.

Wolfe has not responded to requests for interviews about his letter. Schaefer has dismissed the complaint as an effort by Hawley’s friends to discredit him.
“It’s just another political distraction from Hawley’s Washington, D.C., dark money,” Schaefer wrote in a text message Thursday.

An Arizona-based organization called the Public Integrity Alliance is paying for television ads and direct mail pieces accusing Schaefer of misconduct. The organization is not revealing the source of its funding.

Schaefer has also pointed to the university’s success in the budget process during 2015 as evidence that he did not mix his official duties with his political request that the university look at its budget. The budget written under Schaefer’s direction during the 2015 session gave the university $5.4 million from a $12 million pool for increased funding to colleges and universities as well as $64 million for construction projects.

Along with the resubmitted complaint, Whitaker also sent a Sunshine Law request and accused Klahr of being unwilling to investigate Schaefer. On Thursday, Klahr wrote to Whitaker that he had, as a matter of routine, sent a copy of the decision not to investigate to Schaefer but that it was inaccurate that the commission was afraid to investigate him.

The commission refused to release any records in response to the Sunshine Law request, Arnold wrote in an email. The foundation also released a statement that it was pleased that the commission reversed its decision and expressed skepticism about the change.

"The commission’s initial refusal to consider a valid complaint raises questions, and we remain troubled that the commission has provided no explanation for its earlier actions," Arnold wrote.

Klahr wrote that Whitaker would be contacted by a special investigator soon to clarify details and that the investigation would remain confidential until it was concluded.

The winner of the Schaefer-Hawley primary will face the Democratic nominee in November. Two candidates, former Cass County Prosecuting Attorney Teresa Hensley and St. Louis County Assessor Jake Zimmerman, are competing for the Democratic nomination.
In a reversal of last week's decision, the Missouri Ethics Commission will investigate allegations that Sen. Kurt Schaefer misused his office and pressured UM System officials to block MU law professor Josh Hawley from seeking the Republican nomination for state Attorney General, according to a letter signed by the commission's executive director.

Hawley is Schaefer's opponent in the primary race.

The commission said last week it would not investigate whether Schaefer, R-Columbia, used his office for personal gain, saying the allegations made by the Foundation for Accountability and Civic Trust appeared to be criminal in nature and beyond its jurisdiction.

The foundation resubmitted its complaint on Tuesday, saying the commission was required by law to investigate the allegations.

The foundation also referenced previous complaints to the commission that resulted in referrals for criminal prosecutions, including a 2013 complaint against former Rep. Steve Webb of St. Louis County, who was later convicted of stealing from campaign funds.

In a phone interview, Kendra Arnold, the foundation's attorney, said the commission's initial decision not to investigate "had nothing to do with the validity of the complaint" and "raises serious ethical questions."
The document, signed by James Klahr, the executive director of the commission, refuted any implication that it didn't want to investigate Schaefer and said the Ethics Commission was persuaded by the foundation's legal arguments.

The Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit also submitted a Sunshine Law request dated Monday requesting all of the commission's records referencing an investigation of Schaefer since April 19. That request was denied, Arnold said.

The foundation's complaint revolves around allegations that Schaefer used his power as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee to pressure former UM System President Tim Wolfe and Board of Curators member David Steelman to modify university policy on faculty leave to make it more difficult for Hawley to run against Schaefer.

"Kurt Schaefer had several meetings with me, pressuring me to take away Josh Hawley's right to run for Attorney General," Wolfe wrote in a letter to prominent UM System supporters in January.

Alleged offenses range from misdemeanor official misconduct to bribery related to programs receiving federal funds, an offense that can trigger a fine or prison sentence of up to 10 years.

The foundation is headed by Matthew Whitaker, a U.S. attorney who held office under George W. Bush. Whitaker ran for an Iowa seat in the U.S. Senate as a Republican in 2014.

Scott Dieckhaus, Schaefer's campaign spokesman, said he was unaware of the commission's decision to investigate the senator as of 5 p.m. Thursday. He later declined to comment.

Scott Paradise, Hawley's campaign spokesman, did not respond to a request for comment.
A new job description for the next University of Missouri System president says that whoever enters the position will be expected to create a vision for the system, assemble a leadership team and lead a statewide conversation about diversity inclusion, equity and respect.

The system presidential search committee discussed minor revisions to the job description before approving it Wednesday, the Columbia Missourian reported. The system's Board of Curators also approved the job profile after the search committee's meeting.

According to the profile, the future president must also establish social relationships with the state of Missouri and its elected officials and promote the system's mission in a way that's valuable to Missouri taxpayers.

Public forums were held on each of the system's four campuses to discuss desired qualifications. There were also group sessions and one-on-one interviews to gather information.

The system former president, Tim Wolfe, resigned last November in the middle of race-related protests on campus. Mike Middleton is currently serving as interim system president.

Board chair Pamela Henrickson said the search committee and search firm were careful not to sugarcoat the system's challenges when compiling the document.
"The person who sits on top of that (UM System) has a lot of ability to move Missouri forward, and that's what we want to emphasize," she said.

The position profile is a public document that will be used with potential candidates to get them interested in the job, said John Isaacson, chair of the search firm Isaacson, Miller.

"It's part of the art of persuasion," he said.

The board still plans to hire a new system president by the end of the year, Henrickson said.

**Presidential search committee approves position profile**
By Claire Mitzel
May 6, 2016

Including nine “opportunities and challenges” of the UM System but not expanding on the qualifications desired in the next UM System president, a “position profile” document was approved by the presidential search committee on Wednesday with search firm Isaacson Miller. This document will be used to attract potential candidates and entice them to apply.

“We call them, we send them an email, we open a dialogue, we have a conversation,” Isaacson Miller partner John Isaacson said. “And we put this text in front of them and ask them to engage us on the substance.”

The committee, which met via teleconference, made minor wording changes to the document, and it will be finalized within the next few days.
The position profile document includes sections such as a history of the four-campus system, the list of qualifications desired in the next president and opportunities and challenges presented by the presidency.

When explaining that the UM System is looking for “new and strong leadership,” the document mentions the fall semester.

“In the last few years, the system and its campuses have lived, like many other universities in the nation, through racial tension, student protest, and leadership turnover, especially at the University of Missouri-Columbia campus,” the position profile document read. “Important grievances surfaced and the University has moved deliberately to address them.”

The committee also discussed ways to pitch the job to make it desirable to potential candidates. Isaacson encouraged the group to think about what they could say in a few sentences to “make a case” for why people should apply.

Stephanie Shonekan, black studies chairwoman and faculty member of the committee, said she thinks mentioning the events of the fall will be important.

"I would definitely highlight upfront that the University of Missouri system is at the forefront of addressing the contemporary and current issues the students related to diversity on campuses," she said.

She later said that contrary to what some people say, the UM System did not experience a “disaster.”

"I would just like to make sure the flavor of the pitch is couched in a way that takes the elephant in the room and makes it a beautiful poodle," Shonekan said.

The group agreed it would be best to explain to candidates the contentious relationship the UM System has with the legislature instead of not mentioning it and leading candidates to find out incorrect information elsewhere. Curator Donald Cupps tried to put a positive spin on the situation.

“Last year we had more problems than a run-over dog, and we still got a 4 percent increase,” Cupps said.
Isaacson encouraged the members of the search committee to reach out and encourage people they think would make good candidates to apply. He also warned committee members to not show favoritism nor promise a candidate anything.

Within the next few weeks, candidates will begin to be identified and nominated as the search firms builds the candidate pool.

MISSOURIAN

City's concerns about Mizzou Hillel redevelopment include broad rezoning, parking waiver

WILLIAM SCHMITT, 11 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Mizzou Hillel's redevelopment project faces several obstacles after city staff declined to allow waivers and rezoning requested by the developers.

The Jewish campus center is working with Trittenbach Development to build a six-story, 275-bed student housing complex with room for Hillel on the ground floor. Redevelopment plans hit a snag following a review by the city's Community Development Department.

Senior planner Clint Smith outlined several issues city staff had with developers' requests in an April 14 letter to engineer Michael Hall, including the proposed rezoning from multi-family residential to a planned business district, waiving all parking requirements and waiving setback requirements.

"Your plan is NOT APPROVED at this time," Smith wrote.

Plans for development were "completely withdrawn, and would need to be resubmitted in the future to be reconsidered," Smith wrote in an email to the Missourian.
He said Thursday no other plans had been submitted and said no specific reason was offered when the rezoning and development plan request was withdrawn.

Hall referred questions to Trittenbach spokesman Jack Cardetti, who referred questions to Hillel.

Jeanne Snodgrass, Hillel's executive director, could not be reached Thursday. She told the Missourian on Monday that "the Hillel Board is still committed to the project and excited about what having a new building will mean for our ability to offer additional programming, but we also are tied to the academic year for our program and building needs.

"This short delay allows time to fully address comments from city staff without feeling pressured by deadlines."

The block of University Avenue where Hillel is located features no commercial property and is mostly surrounded by MU property.

"Rezoning the site to allow the entire spectrum of commercial uses permitted within the City would be unsuitable," Smith wrote in the review. "... Staff highly recommends that the applicant contact the University of Missouri to discuss future plans for the surrounding properties and how the development of this site could be impacted, and provide any additional information to staff for further evaluation."

The request to waive on-site parking because the project was located on University Avenue was not met favorably.

"This does not appear to be a unique situation, as there are a number of residential properties in the nearby C-2 district that were recently developed while meeting the C-2 parking requirements," Smith wrote. "It is worth noting that parking requirements for the City's C-2 district were recently amended to require parking for residential parking for residential developments."
Smith wrote that if the project were to go forward with its current zoning, it would require 250 parking spaces, while mixed-use C-2 zoning would decrease that need to 70 spots. The original plans called for six parking spots and a bicycle rack with room for eight bikes.

Most city departments and external agencies either approved the request or did not comment, but a few raised issues of their own:

- The Public Works Department's Traffic Division: "We are very concerned about the lack of parking being provided by this request. From this proposal, we have no idea of where the residents of this property are expected to park."

- The City Arborist's office: "Given the availability of green space on site and existing landscaping can't say I would support a variance from our landscaping and screening ordinance."

- The Columbia Fire Department requested access to the property given the depth of the lot.

Developers also requested a waiver from setback rules outlined in city code that detail the distance required between a site and the property adjacent to it. City staff OK'd zero-setbacks on the east side of the property, which abuts MU's University Avenue parking garage, but did not support eliminating setbacks for the building's three other faces.

The staff review also questioned whether the proposed 50-foot height would be enough for the building's six stories, asked for more specific details on signage and made recommendations for future plan revisions, lighting choices and streetscape improvements.
Missouri House okays bill allowing guns on campus

No MU Mention

The Missouri House has passed a bill with a number of provisions aimed at expanding access to guns. Members voted 101-28 Thursday to pass the proposal, which was amended to allow full-time employees to carry guns on college campuses, with some exceptions.

The changes mean the bill heads back to the Senate.

The measure also would allow people to carry concealed guns on buses and other forms of public transportation. Other changes include a provision to ensure police can carry firearms at all times.

The underlying bill is aimed at capping fees for concealed carry applicants at $100 and giving a grace period to members of the military whose permits to carry concealed expire while they're on active duty.

The deadline to pass legislation is May 13.

Mizzou Racing members have a need for speed

RACHEL TREECE

COLUMBIA — One MU senior competing in a car race will rush to change into her cap and gown in the wee hours of May 15 so she can make it to her commencement ceremony.

Alyssa Black is part of Mizzou Racing, an organization that includes students of all majors who build a race car each year for competitions. Mizzou Racing will participate from May 11 to May
14 in a meet organized by the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers in Michigan. Four engineering graduating seniors are missing their commencement ceremonies to attend the event.

Mizzou Racing is leaving Michigan on the evening of May 14 and arriving in Columbia between 3 and 7 a.m. May 15, Black, the organization's chief business officer, said.

"Last all-nighter (of college), right?" Black said.

Black has been a member of Mizzou Racing for five years. She and 21 team members had to reschedule tests to make it to the competition.

In late April, the group finished putting together its race car for the 2016 racing season. The group usually participates in an annual competition in Nebraska, but this year it won't because it couldn't meet the application deadline, Black said.

It takes about a year to complete the race car, Black said. Team members work on the car in the basement of Engineering Building West on MU's campus.

Because not all students have experience working on vehicles, Black said all Mizzou Racing requires of new members is "some time on your hands, a hard work ethic and a will to learn."

When designing the car, the team incorporates the best aspects of the prior year's vehicle to put into the new model. Mizzou Racing then redesigns parts that could be improved.

"It's a lot of tweaking the parts and simulation and data analysis," Black said.

The race cars are described as a 1/4 scale Formula-1 race car, according to Mizzou Racing's website. In a Formula-1 race car, the engine rests behind the cockpit. The car also features a single seat, and it is open-wheeled, meaning the tires and wheels are outside the car's body.

To decide who drives at each competition, the group gauges members' ability to drive the car by setting up mock race courses. The driver with the fastest time gets to drive during the competition, according to the website.
Local fundraisers and donations from their sponsors enable the group to attend competitions, Black said.

In December, Mizzou Racing sent the 2015 car to an international racing competition in Australia. The team placed sixth out of 30 teams, Black said.

Mizzou Racing competed for the first time in the Formula Society of Automotive Engineers in 1987. The group's first top-ten finish was in 1999. It earned two 2nd place finishes over the next few years. In 2010, Mizzou Racing placed in the top-ten in national and international competitions, and finished 14th at Formula Society of Automotive Engineers Michigan.

The organization has expanded Black's career opportunities, she said.

"Being involved in Formula SAE has done more for me than any class ever could have," Black said.