Former University of Missouri worker admits stealing more than $716,000

Carla Rathmann made payments to fake vendors and made unauthorized cash withdrawals

Rathmann faces up to 30 years in prison without parole

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – A former University of Missouri employee has admitted in federal court that she stole more than $716,000 from the school over nine years.

Carla Rathmann, 54, of Mount Vernon, Missouri, pleaded guilty Monday in Springfield to one count each of mail fraud and credit card fraud.

Rathmann had worked at the university’s Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon from 2000 to September 2015.

Authorities say an investigation found she had made payments to fake vendors, manipulated her timesheets and made unauthorized cash withdrawals.

Rathmann also admitted that she used a university credit card for more than $146,000 in personal expenses.

Rathmann faces up to 30 years in prison without parole. A sentencing date was not immediately set.
A former University of Missouri employee who worked in Mount Vernon pleaded guilty Monday to embezzling more than $716,000 from the school.

Carla Rathmann, 54, pleaded guilty to mail fraud and credit card fraud after admitting she submitted phony invoices to the university and used a university credit card for personal expenses, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

The release says Rathmann was hired in 2000 as an administrative officer at the university's Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon. In her position, she was responsible for paying bills and payroll, among other things.

Rathmann was fired in September after officials found out she was using her university credit card for personal expenses, according to the release. More fraud was then discovered.

The release says in 2005, Rathmann created three shell companies — R&R, R&R Argi and Garrett Farm and Oil — which did not produce anything.

Over the next nine years, Rathmann submitted invoices totaling more than $570,000 for products that she claimed were provided to the university by these shell companies, according to the release. That money went to her bank account.

The release says Rathmann also used her university-issued credit card to pay for personal expenses like her dog's surgery, remodeling her home and dental work. She spent more than $146,000 in personal expenses with the credit card.

By pleading guilty, the release says, Rathmann agreed to forfeit a $716,665 money judgment to the government.

Rathmann is subject to a sentence of up to 30 years in federal prison. She will be sentenced following a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Rathmann's attorney, Dee Wampler, said she is a lifelong resident of southwest Missouri with no prior criminal record. Wampler said Rathmann was cooperative with investigators and promptly accepted responsibility for her actions.
Tammy Dickinson, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, said the University of Missouri detected the fraud and worked closely with law enforcement during the investigation.

**MISSOURIAN**

**Former CAFNR administrative assistant pleads guilty to embezzling more than $700,000 from MU**

ALLISON COLBURN, 19 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Not since 1994, when Christy Tutin confessed to stealing $666,755 from the MU Graduate School, has the university uncovered an employee theft of this size.

A former administrative assistant with the Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon, Missouri, a unit of MU’s College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, pleaded guilty Monday to embezzling more than $700,000 from the university.

Carla Rathmann was an employee of the research center from January 2000 until September 2015, when her use of a university credit card to make personal purchases was discovered. She was paid $15.90 per hour before being fired, according to the MU salary database. Her administrative duties included receiving and paying bills, accounting and payroll for the center.

She used university credit cards to remodel her home, pay for dental expenses, cover veterinary bills for her dog and pay for herbicide for her home, along with other charges.

According to an internal audit from MU, Rathmann also faked invoices and bills to MU to pay herself through five shell companies that she created: R&R, R&R Agri, R&R Inc., Garrett Farm and Oil, and Rocky Road Farm. The audit found she created fake payments for farm-related items such as propane and hay. In total, she paid $570,521 in university money to her shell
companies. Either Rathmann or her husband, Thomas Rathmann, was the registered agent for the companies, according to the the Secretary of State's online business filings.

The audit stated that her financial misappropriations were "a key factor" in the closure of the Southwest Research Center dairy operations in spring 2015. The audit also found that Rathmann stole grant money from three different federal and state sponsors: $3,330 from Agricultural Research Services, $3,158 from the Missouri Department of Agriculture and $35,116 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

She admitted embezzling a total of $716,665 and making $146,144 in personal purchases with a university credit card. The university estimated that Rathmann ultimately stole more than she is being charged for.

The university's insurance will cover $650,000, according to an MU news release.

As part of her plea, Rathmann agreed to pay back $716,665. She could be sentenced to up to 30 years in prison, without parole.

She was released Monday on a personal recognizance bond.

A lack of accountability

An internal investigation by the university found "a lack of fiscal oversight and accountability within CAFNR at the College, CAFNR Business Services office and Southwest Research Center levels."

According to the internal audit, the lack of financial accountability was a result of a small staff at a remote location, the absence of an "onsite superintendent" for several years, "weak internal controls" and a "failure to adhere to University policies."

The audit listed several specific ways in which the university failed to detect Rathmann's theft:

- MU did not keep a record of many of Rathmann's university credit card statements and receipts.
- Rathmann was able to deposit and withdraw money in a bank account that had been created in 1967, and was supposed to have been closed down.

- Rathmann reported her husband Thomas Rathmann's work hours for him when he worked at the Research Center from June 2, 2003 to December 18, 2006. The audit checked two pay periods in 2006, and found that she inflated his time sheet by 34.5 hours in total. His last paycheck also included 42.5 falsified comp time hours.

The audit also found that frequent changes in the Research Center's leadership contributed to a climate where Rathmann was able to get away with stealing. Former Southwest Research Center Superintendent Rich Crawford oversaw Rathmann until 2011, when his contract was not renewed. While Crawford was superintendent, "it is highly probable managerial reviews of fiscal activity were not occurring or were not occurring effectively; otherwise the fiscal improprieties may have been detected," the audit said.

After Crawford left, two interim superintendents came and went before the current superintendent, David Cope, was hired. Rathmann reported to four different superintendents throughout the course of her employment.

Two staff members interviewed for the audit said that Rathmann did not show up to work at least two days per week. They felt she was falsely reporting her work hours. Those concerns were dismissed by the two previous superintendents.

Cope, however, became suspicious of Rathmann a few months after he started working for the university in July 2014, according to the audit.

First, Cope noted that Rathmann was unwilling to share financial information. Next, Cope noticed unusual purchases on Rathmann's university credit card in July 2015, and reported his concerns to CAFNR Business Services.

She was terminated for misconduct on Sept. 21, 2015.
Cope worked as a loan officer at a bank before he was hired as superintendent, according to a 2014 CAFNR news release. He has a bachelor of science in Agribusiness Management and an MBA from MU.

Reached by phone Monday afternoon, David Cope confirmed that he was the person who detected the financial irregularities at the research center.

According to the audit, MU Police were notified of an initial review of the matter by CAFNR in September 2015, and the department then reported it to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Neither CAFNR Dean Tom Payne, or CAFNR Associate Dean Mark Linit, could be reached for comment Monday. When contacted by the Missourian on May 3 about reports of embezzlement in CAFNR, Maj. Brian Weimer said he was not aware of any reports of embezzlement in the college.

Payne announced on May 24 that he will retire in December.

**Past embezzlement**

According to previous Missourian reporting, an MU administrative assistant named Christy Tutin pleaded guilty on June 22, 1994 to stealing $666,755 between 1988 and 1993 from the MU Graduate School. She received a seven-year sentence in a Boone County circuit court for one count of felony stealing, the maximum sentence under Missouri law for the crime. She also received a two-year sentence in a federal court for one count of felony stealing and one count of felony laundering to be served concurrently with the other sentence.

About 20 graduate students were denied money for scholarships or fellowships because Tutin stole, which she did by forging names on cash advance forms and travel vouchers for fictitious trips.

Before sentencing Tutin, Frank Conley, a Boone County circuit judge, said the lengthy sentence would serve as a deterrent against future white-collar crime. He said he gave the sentence because he was concerned there was a public perception of leniency towards white-collar crime in the criminal justice system.
However, Tutin did not serve a full seven years. She spent one year in a federal prison and was released on four months of home detention and three years of probation. U.S. District Judge Scott Wright ordered her release on Sept. 12, 1995.

"I'd bet the farm that she won't be any more trouble and she'll be a model citizen," Wright said in a September 1995 article in the Columbia Tribune.

Yet many Columbia residents were upset, and saw the early release as a miscarriage of justice.

That case also shed light on financial accountability issues at MU.

During the state court trial, Harold Boyer, a former director of the university’s internal auditing department testified that the university was aware of a major fraud in 1993, but no one was made aware of exactly who committed the crime until Tutin confessed in February that year. In exchange for her confession, Tutin was only charged with one count of theft in the Boone County circuit court.

The case spurred the university in 1994 to initiate an ongoing, campus-wide audit of individual departments and to strengthen business procedures. For instance, Tutin turned in $12,000 in cash to the MU Cashier’s office to repay some travel advances after she decided to stop stealing, and no flags were raised.

When MU learned about Tutin's cash payment, it began requiring cashiers to report unusual transactions. Despite these changes, the university did not decide to discipline any of Tutin’s supervisors.

According to an August 1994 Columbia Tribune article, Boone County prosecutor Kevin Crane criticized university police, auditors and administrators for failing to prevent or detect the massive theft.

Crane told the Columbia Tribune in 1994 that he hoped the university would learn from Tutin’s crime and create a stronger system of financial accountability.

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**Former University of Missouri employee admits embezzling more than $700,000**

By Koran Addo St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 1 hr ago

**Carla Rathmann, a former University of Missouri-Columbia employee, pleaded guilty Monday to the theft of more than $700,000 from the school over a span of nine years.**

Rathmann, 54, worked at the university’s Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon. Her guilty plea came in Greene County.

A university audit, however, found that nearly $750,000 was stolen over 15 years.

The university became suspicious after a newly hired supervisor found irregularities in Rathmann’s financial transactions.

An investigation found she had made payments to fake vendors, manipulated her timesheets and made unauthorized cash withdrawals.

Following the investigation, the university launched an audit, the results of which were forwarded to federal and state authorities.

In addition to the theft, the audit found other factors that contributed to the fraud, including limited staffing in remote locations, lack of an on-site superintendent for long periods and failure to adhere to university policies.
A statement from the university said Rathmann's immediate supervisors have since retired.

Interim Mizzou Chancellor Hank Foley on Monday announced a series of new procedures to prevent future embezzlement. In addition to mandatory fiscal training, quarterly financial reviews and more on-site visits from supervisors, the university has added an extra step in the approval process for certain transactions.

“We are very grateful for the efforts and assistance of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol and the FBI in the criminal investigation,” Foley said. “We will continue to strengthen and reinforce all of our financial systems and oversight processes that we instituted as a result of this investigation.

Former university employee admits embezzling money

A former University of Missouri employee pleaded guilty Monday to embezzling more than $716,000 over nine years.

Carla Rathmann, 54, of Mount Vernon pleaded guilty before a U.S. magistrate judge to one count of mail fraud and one count of credit card fraud, the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri said in a news release.

Rathmann admitted to taking the money by submitting fake invoices and bills to the University of Missouri while she worked as an administrative officer at the Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon, the release said. She also admitted to illegally using a university credit card for about $146,000 in personal expenses.
With her guilty plea, Rathmann agreed to forfeit to the government $716,665, the release said. She faces a sentence of up to 30 years in federal prison. Sentencing will be scheduled after a presentence investigation.

MU said in a separate release that officials worked with federal and state law enforcement in the investigation, and that new policies were put in place in the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources to prevent future theft. The college oversees the Southwest Research Center. Insurance will pay for about $650,000 of the loss, the release said.

Former CAFNR Administrative Assistant Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=491e1fdb-58bf-4bbe-bdf5-593272a1f6ef

Former CAFNR Employee Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement

Watch the story: http://mms.tveys.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=44f5c148-8b36-42d1-88e6-4cd783573f9c
Former MU Employee Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=b4906b93-5980-4d7a-b2d6-b66b57dc6b34

Former MU Administrative Assistant Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement

Watch the story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=4029e1ed-f144-48c6-84a8-ae9159fcac10

A former employee at the University of Missouri pleads guilty to stealing more than $716,000 from the school over 9 years. Prosecutors say 54-year-old Carla Rathmann of Mount Vernon made payments to fake vendors and used a University credit card for personal expenses. Rathmann faces up to 30 years in prison.
Former University of Missouri worker admits $743K theft


SPRINGFIELD, Mo - A former University of Missouri employee has admitted in federal court that she stole more than $743,000 from the school over thirteen years.

Fifty-four-year-old Carla Rathmann of Mount Vernon pleaded guilty Monday in Springfield, Missouri to one count each of mail fraud and credit card fraud.

Rathmann had worked at the university's Southwest Research Center in Mount Vernon from 2000 to September 2015.

In 2015, she was terminated after the superintendent found her financial activities to be suspicious.

Authorities say an investigation found she had made payments to fake vendors, manipulated her time sheets and made unauthorized cash withdrawals.

Rathmann also admitted that she illegally used a university credit card for more than $146,000 in personal expenses, and more than $11,000 in cash withdrawals.

ABC 17 News reached out to the university for additional comment and what went wrong, but they referred us to the University's Action Plan document. Which stated several flaws found at the Southwest Research Center which included: limited staffing, lack of onsite superintendent for an extended period of time, and failure to adhere to the University's policies.

Moving forward, the University says it will strengthen fiscal oversight, and will implement new policies across the University's system.
Rathmann's spouse also worked at that location where she overstated her spouses hours, resulting in a violation at the University.

By pleading guilty, Rathman agrees to pay the government more than $700,000 which was what she made from the fraud scheme. Rathmann faces up to 30 years in prison without parole. A sentencing date was not immediately set.

Former MU employee misappropriated nearly $750,000

COLUMBIA - An MU internal investigation into suspected fraudulent activity by former employee Carla Rathmann, concluded Monday that Rathmann misappropriated nearly $750,000 in research funds over a 15-year period.

Rathmann worked at the MU Southwest Research Center in Mt. Vernon. She was terminated and entered a guilty plea in Greene County, and likely faces a federal prison sentence.

The fraudulent activity was first discovered when a newly hired supervisor became concerned about Rathmann's financial transactions.

“The University of Missouri has a fiduciary obligation to be responsible stewards of the resources under our control, and we take any unethical action – criminal or otherwise – with the utmost seriousness,” University of Missouri Interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in the internal investigation. “While we have terminated the individual responsible and filed an insurance claim, we will continue to work with authorities to ensure that the individual is held accountable.”

The investigation found several factors contributed to the fraud, including limited staffing in a remote location, lack of an on-site superintendent for an extended period of time, weak internal controls and a failure to adhere to university policies. Rathmann's immediate supervisors have since retired from the university.
MU's insurance carrier is expected to reimburse approximately $650,000 of the misappropriated money.

Former MU employee misappropriates nearly $750,000

COLUMBIA, Mo. — An internal investigation by the University of Missouri and several law enforcement agencies has led to the termination of an employee for misappropriating nearly $750,000 over 15 years.

According to the University, Carla Rathmann, an employee at the Southwest Research Center misused $743,844 between fiscal year 2006 and 2014.

After the joint investigation by the University, Missouri State Highway Patrol, FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Rathmann was terminated and eventually entered a guilty plea in Greene County. She's likely facing federal jail time.

"We are very grateful for the efforts and assistance of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Missouri State Highway Patrol and the FBI in the criminal investigation," said Interim Chancellor Hank Foley. "We will continue to strengthen and reinforce all of our financial systems and oversight processes that we instituted as a result of this investigation."

The investigation began after the superintendent of the research facility found some questionable spending in December of 2015.

Many of the fraudulent purchases were made on a university credit card. They also included payments to fake vendors, unauthorized cash withdrawals from a university bank account and time sheet manipulation.

"The University of Missouri has a fiduciary obligation to be responsible stewards of the resources under our control, and we take any unethical action - criminal or otherwise - with the utmost seriousness," said Foley. "While we have terminated the individual responsible and filed an insurance claim, we will continue to work with authorities to ensure that the individual is held accountable."
These stories about vaccines didn’t boost trust

Researchers recently proposed that open communication about a national vaccine safety reporting system could improve public trust that vaccines are safe. They thought this strategy could improve vaccine acceptance.

That doesn’t turn out to be the case.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) collects information about possible side effects that may occur after inoculation. Developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and available online, anyone can report possible adverse reactions to vaccines for any reason, making it a rich source of information about possible vaccine harms.

“One of the issues in vaccine acceptance is trust,” says Laura Scherer, assistant professor of psychological sciences at the University of Missouri. “Individuals, parents, and vaccine opponents lack trust that doctors and the government have done sufficient research to validate the safety of vaccines. By educating participants about the VAERS system, we
thought that this might increase trust that the Centers for Disease Control are doing everything that they can to research and document vaccine harms.”

Using data on serious adverse events reported for the Human Papillomavirus vaccine in VAERS in 2013, the researchers surveyed more than 1,200 participants’ reactions to the VAERS reports.

The first group was presented with the standard HPV vaccine statement that all patients receive prior to vaccination. The second group was given the same vaccine statement as well as information about VAERS, which included data showing that out of approximately 10 million vaccinations, 24 individuals were reported to have been disabled and seven were reported to possibly have died as a result of their vaccinations. The third group received this VAERS information and also read the detailed reports of each event.

“Since anyone can report anything to VAERS for any reason, the VAERS reports contain incidents of serious adverse events that may not have anything to do with the vaccine,” Scherer says. “We thought that by having people read the actual reports, they would see that there are very few reported serious events, and that the vaccine may not have even caused the event. Taken together, we felt this might make participants feel more assured that vaccines are safe—but in fact, what we found was the opposite.”

Results showed that participants who were educated about the VAERS system and who were given summary data about adverse events had slightly more vaccine acceptance compared to those who received the vaccine statement alone. However, exposure to detailed incident reports significantly reduced vaccine acceptance and trust in the CDC’s declaration that vaccines are safe.

“When participants read the incident reports, there was a marked reduction in their willingness to vaccinate—even though most participants believed the vaccines caused few or even none of the deaths,” Scherer says. “Stories about vaccine harms can influence vaccine acceptance even when people don’t completely believe them. This can potentially inform how people react to stories versus data about vaccine harms and provides a test of publicly available data on vaccine acceptance.

“It also means that the media should be very careful about propagating stories about vaccine harms when it is unclear that the vaccine was the cause.”

The study appears in the journal Vaccine. Scherer’s coauthor is Victoria Shaffer, associate professor of psychological sciences and an associate professor of health sciences in the University of Missouri School of Health Professions.
Ethics complaint targets Hawley over use of not-for-profit groups

A complaint filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission accuses Republican Josh Hawley of improperly using not-for-profit organizations and public property to promote his campaign for attorney general.

In the seven-page complaint, Stoddard County Prosecuting Attorney Russell Oliver asked the commission to revisit its investigation of a similar complaint from last year, dismissed before Hawley formally became a candidate on July 23. New evidence, and actions taken by Hawley after the dismissal, showed the complaint was only premature, not incorrect, Oliver said in an interview Monday.

Oliver is a Republican who supports Hawley’s rival, state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, in the Aug. 2 GOP primary. The complaint was not coordinated or discussed with Schaefer before it was filed, Oliver said.

“Missouri has traded campaign finance limits and donation limits for disclosure,” Oliver said. “You can do whatever you can, but you have to be accountable. This is a non-transparent, not-for-profit that is basically being run as a political committee and it is inappropriate. It doesn’t even pass the smell test.”

The complaint is an escalation of the already bitter primary. Hawley, an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri whose main expertise in legal filings is religious liberty law, is running as an outsider against Schaefer, a two-term state senator, former deputy department director and legal counsel in state agencies and partner at Lathrop Gage law firm.

The Democratic contenders are Teresa Hensley, former prosecuting attorney of Cass County, and Jake Zimmerman, St. Louis County assessor.

The complaint comes as the commission is investigating allegations made by Hawley’s backers against Schaefer. Because of varying time limits in state law, the commission must act on
Oliver’s complaint by June 24, or 15 business days after it was filed. The complaint against Schaefer, accusing him of using improper threats against the university’s budget to block Hawley’s candidacy, was originally filed April 21, giving the commission 90 days to act.

The difference is due to the time remaining before the election. The commission has meetings set for June 24 and July 13, Executive Director James Klahr said.

The Schaefer-Hawley race has also spawned a lawsuit against UM accusing it of violating the Sunshine Law by dragging out the release of Hawley’s emails and other records.

In a prepared statement about the complaint, Hawley campaign spokesman Scott Paradise wrote that Oliver’s complaint was “a joke” and “a re-packaged version of the same complaint that was dismissed last year. This is the third completely frivolous legal action filed by Kurt Schaefer’s allies and is simply another desperate attempt to distract voters by a campaign that has failed to gain traction.”

Oliver’s complaint asks the commission to investigate whether two not-for-profit organizations created by Hawley provided unreported in-kind support to his campaign and improperly hid the donors. Using evidence from the open records lawsuit, Oliver accused Hawley of using his university computers to set up speaking engagements before partisan groups.

During the investigation last year, Hawley was not an announced candidate. The commission found that the Missouri Forward Alliance spent $1,756 for space to host a breakfast at the 2015 Republican Reagan Lincoln Days. In all, Hawley spoke 56 times, including 10 county Lincoln Day events, in 2014 and 2015, the commission found.

The alliance, organized as a tax-exempt organization allowed to advocate on issues and that could keep its donors secret, was created in January 2014. It did business as the Missouri Liberty Project and was the vehicle for Hawley and his wife Erin Hawley, also a law school faculty member, to file friend-of-the-court briefs in several Supreme Court cases.

Hawley founded the Missouri Forward Foundation in November 2013 as a 501(c)3 charitable corporation, with donations tax-deductible under federal law and banned from engaging in political advocacy.

Hawley’s wife and campaign manager, Daniel Hartman, were officers and board members. After Hawley became a candidate, Hartman became president of both organizations.
In the new complaint, Oliver charges Hawley had a clear partisan purpose in the audiences he chose and used the personal networks and social media resources of the not-for-profits as a springboard for his campaign. The Twitter account promoted on literature for the not-for-profit, which operated under the name Missouri Liberty Project, now promotes Hawley’s campaign for attorney general, the complaint stated.

"Complainant was unable to find any instance when Mr. Hawley spoke to any Democratic group — likely because doing so would not advance his political interests in the Republican primary for Attorney General," Oliver wrote.

Hawley is on unpaid leave from MU until Aug. 30. The university, Oliver noted, began making accommodations for his leave as early as April 2015, when the schedule for the fall semester was issued without Hawley teaching his regular Constitutional Law course. His use of his university email account to set up political speaking engagements is just one example of how he misused his position, Oliver said.

As a prosecutor, Oliver has the authority to initiate investigations of criminal violations, but only in his county. The ethics commission has statewide jurisdiction.

“To my knowledge, I don’t have any evidence or proof that any of the money was collected in Stoddard County or distributed in Stoddard County," Oliver said.
COLUMBIA — Two years ago, Cody Ousley hanged himself in a holding cell at the Callaway County Jail. He died a week later at University Hospital.

*His family is now suing the Callaway County Sheriff's Department, 23 of its employees, Callaway County, the UM System Board of Curators and psychiatrist Tahir Rahman of the Missouri Psychiatric Center for wrongful death.*

Ousley was arrested May 24, 2014, for allegedly stealing his mother’s identity and spending about $3,000 of her money, according a June 2014 article from the Fulton Sun. He also was charged with drug possession and gun violations.

According to the lawsuit, Ousley first tried to hang himself from the second-floor catwalk of the jail on May 27, but the sheet he used came untied. Ousley was admitted to the Missouri Psychiatric Center for evaluation and treatment under Rahman's care.

Rahman diagnosed Ousley with depression and antisocial personality disorder with a risk for suicide.

“Due to his antisocial diagnosis, he will be prone to making threats to harm others and making suicidal gestures in times of crisis or perceived crisis,” Rahman wrote in a note to the Sheriff’s Department. “… It is strongly recommended that he not be returned for further inpatient hospitalization as this will only serve to reinforce negative, manipulative behaviors.”

Upon discharge, Ousley was taken off his prescription for Paxil, an antidepressant, and was given no other medicine. When he returned to the jail on May 29, Ousley was not put on suicide watch.

Ousley was able to hang himself because his holding cell contained a vent he could easily reach by climbing on the bunk bed or table in the cell, according to the lawsuit.

Ousley hanged himself during a shift change. It had been nearly two hours since any jailer had checked on him when his body was discovered.
The lawsuit alleges that his arrival at the hospital was delayed when Benjamin Roderick, a jail employee, placed Ousley in restraints, and colleague Scott Davis held up the ambulance to retrieve Ousley’s booking sheet. The lawsuit states that both actions run counter to jail policy.

Ousley's daughter — through her grandparents Catherine Ousley and William Ousley — filed the suit. Deborah Atwell also is listed as a "next friend" plaintiff. A next friend is someone who appears in court in place of a minor or someone who is incompetent to sustain a lawsuit.

The plaintiffs are seeking in excess of $25,000 for funeral expenses and the loss of Ousley’s services, future earnings and companionship. They’re also asking the court for any punitive damages it feels are appropriate.

The Maneater

Gary Myers to step down as School of Law dean after four years

_Senior Associate Provost Ken Dean will serve as interim dean._

_By Claire Mitzel_

_June 5, 2016_

_School of Law Dean Gary Myers announced in an email to faculty May 27 that he will step down from his position to return to teaching, effective Aug. 14._

Myers said in his email that the decision comes after “a number of conversations with Provost Garnett Stokes regarding my future plans.”

“'The law school continues to build on its many strengths, and I am confident that it will continue to do so in the future,’ Myers said in the email.

In an email to the chancellor and provost’s staffs, deans and Faculty Council, Stokes said that Myers has worked hard in his four years as dean to ensure that students have
received a quality education as a result of hiring award-winning faculty, upgrading technology within the law school and raising more than $10 million for the Mizzou: Our Time to Lead fundraising campaign.

“I want to thank Gary for his service to the University of Missouri,” Stokes said in the email. “Please join me in wishing him the best as he transitions to this new role.”

The Law School Foundation, which raises money for the School of Law from various donations, issued a statement that praised Myers' work.

“During his tenure the clinical program offerings have expanded, student credentials have improved and the bar pass rate and employment rate of graduates have continued to remain strong,” Rodney Loomer, Law School Foundation Board president, said in the statement. “Further, alumni investment has become very strong for the various initiatives Dean Myers has achieved. He has certainly left the law school in a very good position for the next dean.”

Myers was recently named as a defendant in a lawsuit filed by former Republican state Rep. Kevin Elmer. According to the Columbia Missourian, Elmer submitted a sunshine request last May to obtain records to see if former associate law professor Josh Hawley, who is currently on unpaid leave from MU, received support from the university during his campaign for attorney general of Missouri. Elmer alleges that MU violated the Sunshine Law by overcharging him and taking too long to fulfill his open records request.

The lawsuit names Myers, the Board of Curators, UM Custodian of Records Paula Barrett and former associate School of Law professor Josh Hawley as defendants.

Elmer requested almost 70,000 pages of records that cost $10,000, according to documents obtained by the Missourian. Those documents included all of the documents on Hawley’s computer and records of complaints filed against Hawley, among other records. Since then, Elmer’s attorney has also requested more records.

MU spokesman Christian Basi told the Missourian that being named in the lawsuit was not a factor in Myers’ decision to step down.
Myers said in his email to faculty that he is planning two book projects as well as “various interdisciplinary initiatives in the new academic year.”

The interim dean is Senior Associate Provost Ken Dean, who has previously served as the School of Law’s associate dean for 20 years and interim dean three times. Later this summer, Stokes said in her email, a national search will be conducted to find the next permanent dean.

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**GOP governor hopefuls fault Nixon for Missouri problems**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, Updated 9 hrs ago

ST. LOUIS — All four Republicans seeking their party’s nod for governor said during a debate Monday night that they would support Donald Trump for president, although only two committed to stumping with him if he campaigns in the state.

**The GOP race features four self-described conservatives who blame racial tensions in Ferguson and at MU on Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon and Attorney General Chris Koster, who is the Democratic front-runner for his party's gubernatorial nomination.**

Retired businessman John Brunner, former Navy SEAL Eric Greitens, former U.S. Attorney and Missouri House Speaker Catherine Hanaway, and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder traded very few jabs with each other in a mostly tame hour-long forum.
Greitens and Brunner each played up their credentials as political outsiders, while Hanaway and Kinder portrayed themselves as office-holders who were able to get things accomplished despite what they called a corrupt political climate in Jefferson City.

"The choice is clear: If you're happy with government, vote for one of my opponents and be sure nothing will change," Greitens said. "If they were going to make a difference, they would have done so already."

Brunner held to a theme that as a businessman he has created thousands of jobs and said he knows first-hand how the state's regulatory environment is crushing jobs. He said he supports right-to-work legislation and will be able to bring business back to the state.

Hanaway said she would put her full support behind law enforcement, something that she said Nixon, Koster and the Obama administration failed to do when tensions flared in Ferguson after a police officer shot an unarmed 18-year-old in August 2014.

Hanaway said she was shocked when she discovered that only half of the murders in St. Louis get solved, and she bristled when Greitens called that a community issue and said he wouldn't blame law enforcement.

"You've never worked in law enforcement, you've never been there," Hanaway said to Greitens. "You're trying to interrupt me, but I'm not going to let you. Don't mischaracterize what I'm saying tonight."

Kinder also singled out Greitens, saying he mischaracterized the lieutenant governor's positions and had aired millions of dollars in attack ads questioning Kinder's character.

"Unfortunately people do desperate things," Kinder said. "Missourians are fed up with politics of personal destruction."

Kinder said he would have gone to MU in November in response to racial tensions and demanded leadership from the president, chancellor, curators and football coach Gary Pinkel.
As for Pinkel’s players who threatened to boycott team activities and games unless system President Tim Wolfe was removed from office, Kinder said he would have called the players’ bluff.

"I hear people across the state say they have had a belly-full of the PC foolishness that has taken place on that campus and strangled our flagship university," he said.

When asked by moderators if they would support Donald Trump for president, all four said they disagree with some of the things Trump has said, but he’s still a better choice than presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

"One thing that is absolutely true: Hillary Clinton is not an option," Brunner said. "Her appointees to the Supreme Court are not an option."

As for whether they would campaign alongside Trump in Missouri, Hanaway and Kinder said they would, while Brunner and Greitens said they would "cross that bridge when they get to it."

The debate was hosted by St. Louis television station KTVI, and co-sponsored by WDAF-TV in Kansas City and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It was aired live in St. Louis and Kansas City.
Missouri Governor Hopefuls Debate Mizzou, Taxes, Race Relations

ST. LOUIS (KMOX) – Four candidates fighting for the Republican nomination in the race for the next governor of Missouri participated in a live T.V. debate Monday night.

Businessman John Brunner, former Navy SEAL Eric Greitens, former US Attorney Catherine Hanaway and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder were on stage at the Missouri Farm Bureau headquarters in Jefferson City, Missouri. The state primary is August 2, and the general election is November 8.

Here are the responses from the four candidates Monday night on some of the most important state issues:

Tax rate:
Hanaway says income taxes are too high and should be reduced gradually. “Our tax rate isn’t just higher than Kansas, it’s higher than Illinois,” Hanaway says. “But we need to do it responsibly and over time so that we can preserve the quality of our schools, our roads and law enforcement.”

Brunner says he knows what businesses need.

“I have fought these battles and I’ve been successful,” Brunner says. “And thousands of people across this state here have got new jobs and opportunities. And I’ve brought billions of dollars of business back to Missouri.”

Kinder also says the state’s income tax rate makes it uncompetitive.

Greitens says a level playing field for all businesses, meaning no special deals for lobbyists, would help.
Race relations:
Kinder says the state’s racial issues are, at least in part, President Obama’s fault.

“We must restore law and order,” Kinder says. “And that means electing a
governor who will stand with, behind and along side our police and not join the
Obama justice department or anyone like them who wants to tear down the
police.”

Greitens says during his time as a Navy SEAL, he served with everyone from
every background.

“White, Black, Asian, Hispanic; they came from every corner of the country, every
economic background,” Greitens says. “What brought (the SEALs) together was
a shared sense of mission. And that’s what has been lacking in government.”

Shifting toward race relations and the police, Hannaway said it’s important for
police to serve all communities.

Brunner says it’s important to treat people with respect and be engaged as a
leader.

University of Missouri system:

Hannaway says professors should be teaching more classes, and the
university should cut some positions she sees as unnecessary.

“We need to cut the administration and invest in teaching,” Hannaway
says. “We also need to stop spending money on things that aren’t
necessarily the problem. We just hired another New Chief Executive Officer
of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity for $235,000 a year. I would eliminate that
position.”

Greitens says we’re being too negative.
“We’ve got a $38 million budget shortfall now because students aren’t coming to the University of Missouri,” Grietens says. “We need a hopeful, optimistic messenger that can talk about the good things that are happening and attract students.”

Brunner wants to gather groups from across the campus system to talk about how to make things better.

Kinder says “PC foolishness” has taken over since November protests.

Rape victim letter goes viral: a look at sexual assault in Missouri

COLUMBIA, Mo. - Over the weekend, a powerful letter written by a sexual assault victim went viral.

The victim read the letter to her attacker, Brock Turner, at his sentencing Thursday. The former Stanford swimmer was sentenced to just six months in county jail and probation after being found guilty of three counts of sexual assault.

While the case took place in California, rape is also a big issue right here in Mid-Missouri.

In fact, in 2015 alone, there were almost 2500 rapes in our state--and that's by far the highest number when compared to the past five years.

On the University of Missouri campus, the numbers paint a different picture. They have been relatively stagnant over the past five years, but there's certainly no downward trend.

The startling statistics beg the question: are we taking the issue of rape serious enough in our own state?

At the University of Missouri, there are a number of resources given to students, including the annual fire safety and security report.
"The vast majority of rapes that happen on campus are acquaintances, so we do a lot of education on alcohol awareness and going places in pairs to make sure that you're not alone so that everybody gets home safe," Major Brian Weimer with the MU Police Department tells ABC 17 News.

When it comes to taking legal action, that part is up to the victim, but Maureen Qualheim, an advocate for the Rape and Crisis Service center in Jefferson City, says it's cases like the Stanford swimmer that keep victims from coming forward.

"This is exactly why so many survivors do not want to report these incidents to law enforcement and go through that process just because things like this can happen," Qualheim says.

Major Weimer encourages all victims to report a sexual assault, even if he or she does not want to move forward with the criminal process.

Rape is one of the most under-reported crimes not only in our state, but also in the United States. According to RAINN, for every rape, there are at least two that are not reported.