To manage disaster data, use ‘fog’ of the cloud


A new visual cloud computing architecture could streamline the processing of visual and electronic data during disasters—which could mean life or death for survivors.

Visual data from numerous security cameras, personal mobile devices, and aerial video provide useful data for first responders and law enforcement. That data can be critical in terms of knowing where to send emergency personnel and resources, tracking suspects in disasters caused by people, or detecting hazardous materials.

This abundance of visual data, especially high-resolution video streams, is difficult to process even under normal circumstances. But in a disaster situation, the computing and networking resources needed to process it may not be available at the desired capacity in the general vicinity of the disaster. The question then becomes what is the most efficient way to process the most necessary data and how to quickly present the most relevant visual situational awareness for first responders and law enforcement?

The research team proposed a collection, computation, and consumption architecture, linking devices at the network-edge of the cloud processing system, or “fog,” with scalable computation and big data in the core of the cloud. Visual information flows from the collection fog—the disaster site—to the cloud and finally to the consumption fog—the devices being used by first responders, emergency personnel, and law enforcement.
The system works similarly to the way mobile cloud services are provided by Apple, Amazon, Google, Facebook, and others.

“It works just like we do now with Siri,” says Kannappan Palaniappan, associate professor in the University of Missouri’s computer science department. “You just say, ‘Find me a pizza place.’ What happens is the voice signal goes to Apple’s cloud, processes the information, and sends it back to you. Currently we can’t do the same with rich visual data because the communication bandwidth requirements may be too high or the network infrastructure may be down [in a disaster situation].”

The workflow of visual data processing is only one part of the equation, however. In disaster scenarios, the amount of data generated could create a bottleneck in the network.

“The problem really is networking,” says assistant professor Prasad Calyam. “How do you connect back into the cloud and make decisions because the infrastructure as we know it will not be the same? No street signs, no network, and with cell phones, everybody’s calling to say they’re okay on the same channel. There are challenging network management problems to pertinently import visual data from the incident scene and deliver visual situational awareness.”

The answer to that problem is algorithms designed to determine what information needs to be processed by the cloud and what can be processed on local devices, such as laptops and mobile devices, spreading out the processing over multiple devices. The team also developed an algorithm to aggregate similar information to limit redundancy.

“Let’s say you’re taking pictures of crowds say from surveillance cameras because it’s a law-enforcement type of event,” Palaniappan says. “There could be thousands of such photos and videos being taken. Should you transmit terabytes of data?

“What you’re seeing is often from overlapping cameras. I don’t need to send two separate pictures; I send the distinctive parts. That mosaic stitching happens in the periphery or edge of the network to limit the amount of data that needs to be sent. This would be a natural way of compressing visual data without losing information.
“To accomplish this needs clever algorithms to determine what types of visual processing to perform in the edge or fog network, and what data and computation should be done in the core cloud using resources from multiple service providers in a seamless way.”

The work appears in the journal IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology. Funding for the project came from a combination of ongoing grants from the National Science Foundation, Air Force Research Laboratory, and the US National Academies Jefferson Science Fellowship.

MU will pay $2.2 million to federal government to settle health care case

A federal investigation that began in 2011 found that two doctors made false claims on billing statements

The settlement reimburses Medicare and other federal health care programs

BY MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
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The University of Missouri has agreed to pay the federal government $2.2 million to settle a claim that physicians with MU Health Care committed fraud.

The health care program allegedly violated the False Claims Act by submitting claims for radiology services to federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid and maintaining that radiology images had been reviewed by physicians.

“In fact, they had not reviewed those images,” Tammy Dickinson, U.S. attorney for the Western District, said in a statement Thursday.
MU Health Care is a part of the University of Missouri Health System and consists of University Hospital and Clinics, the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, Women’s and Children’s Hospital, the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute and the Missouri Psychiatric Center. All are based in Columbia.

The federal investigation that began in 2011 found that those radiology reviews actually had been done by resident physicians. The federal programs only pay when a physician is involved with the review.

The settlement reimburses Medicare and other federal health care programs for charges billed by two former MU Health radiologists, Kenneth Rall and Michael Richards. Both left immediately after the university made their misrepresentations public in 2012.

MU Health also made a five-year corporate integrity agreement with the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to the radiology case, MU Health, in unrelated billing situations that the university discovered during the radiology investigation and later disclosed, is repaying the federal government about $3 million.

That payment relates to a series of overpayments from 2001 to 2013. In those cases the health system had not properly billed the government for two specific tests and treatments, among other failures.

“We consider these settlements to be a fair resolution,” said interim MU chancellor Hank Foley.
The fraud settlement, reported in a news release issued Thursday by U.S. Attorney Tammy Dickinson, will cost MU Health Care $2.2 million for the actions of Michael Richards and Kenneth Rall, radiologists who were fired by the university in 2012. An additional $3 million, reported in a news release from MU Health Care, will cover improper billing for tests and treatments and other issues.

Rall and Richards are also defendants in the case. The settlement covers only the university's civil liability and does not bar federal authorities from seeking criminal indictments, continuing the civil action against Rall and Richards or establishing liability under federal tax laws. In March, Rall and Richards were ordered to submit six months of bank statements to the court for review.

Rall and Richards committed billing fraud by allowing resident physicians to perform services they were supposed to do, violating Medicare and hospital rules. Under federal regulations, attending physicians cannot bill for reviewing images associated with interpretive reports unless they have actually reviewed the images.

“Hospitals and physicians have the highest obligation to both protect patients by complying with the standard of care and to protect taxpayers by complying with the rules for billing federal programs,” Dickson said in the news release. “This lengthy investigation by multiple agencies working together has produced a just result for both patients and taxpayers.”

The investigation revealed Rall and Richards sometimes claimed that they had completed the review without actually looking at the image, practices that continued from at least March 2010 until November 2011, according the news release from MU Health Care.

The investigation identified 30 patients out of 14,164 whose images may not have been reviewed by Rall or Richards. MU Health attempted to notify those patients to arrange follow-up exams with assistance of investigative firm Clarence Kelley & Associates and federal authorities. Five of the patients could not be located, MU Health said in the news release.

An independent expert also reviewed the images and the diagnosis made at the time the patient was treated, interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a news release.

The billing fraud case covered charges billed to Medicare, Medicaid and TRICARE, the health insurance program for military personnel.

“We consider these settlements to be a fair resolution,” interim Chancellor Hank Foley said in a news release from MU Health Care. Foley is also interim executive vice chancellor for health affairs.

The federal investigation commenced in 2011 and led to an internal investigation by the university. During the university’s review, MU Health found that from 2001 to 2013 the health system had not properly billed for two tests and treatments and failure to fully document agreements under the Physician Self-Referral Law.
The findings of the internal review led to the $3 million payment reported Thursday.

The university has been setting aside money in its budget to repay the federal government, the MU Health news release stated.

MISSOURIAN

Settlements require MU to pay $5.2 million to U.S. for alleged hospital billing violations

ELISABETH JOYCE, 13 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — MU will pay the federal government $5.2 million to settle allegations that two former physicians at MU Health Care violated the False Claims Act by submitting claims for radiology services to Medicare, Medicaid and other federal programs, and to settle billing matters unrelated to that case.

MU Health Care has agreed to pay $2.2 million to resolve the False Claims Act allegations, Tammy Dickinson, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, said in a news release Thursday. The settlement concludes an investigation that began in 2011.

In addition to that settlement over radiology services, MU Health has agreed to pay another $3 million to resolve unrelated billing matters, it said in its own news release.

The unrelated settlement came after MU Health self-disclosed that between 2001 and 2013 it had "failed to properly bill the government for two specific tests and treatments and provided insufficient documentation for certain matters related to agreements with other parties under the federal Physician Self-Referral law," according to the news release.

In addition to the False Claims Act settlement, MU entered a "corporate integrity agreement" that MU Health Care spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said will ensure the federal government will not pursue other administrative remedies.
"The agreement also formalizes a number of compliance processes that have already been put in place at MU Health," Jenkins said.

A federal investigation into the False Claims Act violations began in 2011 and led to an internal investigation by MU. It determined that radiologists Kenneth Rall and Michael Richards violated Medicare and hospital rules when they certified that they had reviewed patient X-ray reports prepared by resident physicians when they had not. Medicare rules require that before Medicare will pay for an X-ray, an attending radiologist must review the images, according to the statement by the U.S. Attorney's office. Rall was the radiology chair at the time of the violations.

Both Rall and Richards resigned from the university in 2012.

In 2012 thousands of radiological images had to be reviewed as a result of the infractions, affecting a total of 14,164 people whose radiology studies might not have been reviewed by Rall or Richards. An independent expert hired by the health system determined that of that total, 30 were potentially at risk, according to a statement by MU Health. The health system was able to reach 25 of the 30 patients to arrange follow-up exams.

Jenkins said in the MU Health Care news release that MU has been setting aside money for several years in anticipation of the settlement.

University of Missouri Review Commission members rebuke claims of partisan agenda

By Rudi Keller

Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 2:00 pm
Members of the University of Missouri Review Commission are defending their appointments against charges the panel is too heavily stacked with Republicans and likely to pursue a partisan agenda.

House Speaker Todd Richardson, R-Poplar Bluff, on Wednesday named his four appointees to the eight-member commission, completing a process started June 16 by Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, R-Joplin.

There is no mandate for the commission — created by a resolution sponsored by state Sen. Kurt Schaefer, R-Columbia — to have partisan balance, and Democratic efforts to give at least one appointment each to legislative leaders from their party were rejected during debate.

The commission was formed to examine administrative turmoil that gripped the university amid racial protests, unrest among graduate students over health insurance and infighting between the Columbia campus and system offices.

Richardson selected former UM System President Gary Forsee; major MU contributor Jeanne Sinquefield; Pamela Washington, an adjunct professor at Maryville University; and Robert Duncan, former MU vice chancellor for research now employed as the vice president for strategic research initiatives at Texas Tech University.

“I am confident these are the right individuals to provide the kind of guidance and constructive criticism that university leadership can greatly benefit from as they look to create a stronger, more stable learning environment for all students,” Richardson said in a news release.

They will join Richard’s appointees, Dave Spence, 2012 Republican candidate for governor and CEO of Legacy Pharmaceutical Packaging; Renee Hulshof, host of the Morning Meeting program on KFRU radio and wife of 2008 GOP nominee for governor Kenny Hulshof; Neal Bredehoeft, president of Bredehoeft Farms Inc.; and attorney Michael Williams of Kansas City.

Not including the $6.6 million Spence spent on his own campaign, Missouri Ethics Commission records show the eight members made $2.3 million in political contributions the past decade. Of that amount, $178,000 was contributed to Democrats and $2.1 million was contributed to Republican candidates, committees or GOP-leaning political action committees.

The bulk of the money came from Sinquefield, who gave $1.9 million by herself and in contributions with her husband, Rex Sinquefield, and Spence, who made $220,000 in contributions. Sinquefield’s contributions include $145,000 given to Democrats.

House Democratic leader Jake Hummel of St. Louis said in a news release that including Spence, Sinquefield and Hulshof on the commission will advance a Republican political agenda rather than conduct an unbiased review of the university.

Hummel said the commission is a product of “the ongoing Republican temper tantrum over the UM System that likely won’t do anything but waste $750,000 in taxpayer money.”
Spence said the commission is a balanced panel that will look at the university objectively rather than follow any preconceived ideas of how to change it.

“I don’t view this commission as a witch hunt,” Spence said. “I don’t have that intention. I think they are prejudging something that is not accurate.”

Hulshof, who called herself an “unapologetic conservative,” said she has no preconceptions about the work. Hulshof has made one political contribution of $100 in the past 10 years.

“It is a disservice to the rest of the members of the committee that” Hummel “would diminish their abilities based on his opinion of the three of us,” she said. “I chafe just a little bit when I am defined by what my husband has done.”

The Coalition of Graduate Workers, which is pushing for recognition as a union on the Columbia campus, and the Forum on Graduate Rights put out a statement that they are worried about the commission’s intent, warning the panel will “demand a University that bows to the whims of the Republican supermajority.”

Duncan, whose only contribution while living in Missouri was $100 to then-state Rep. Chris Kelly, a Democrat, said Richardson approached him to take the post and did not mention anything political as he was being considered.

“I can’t imagine there being any political preconception to this thing,” Duncan said.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Wave of Campus Activism Brings Fresh Challenges for College Lawyers

The recent wave of campus activism over issues of gender and racial equity has presented a range of challenges for college lawyers, including the thorny question of how to protect free speech and sometimes conflicting demands from federal and state governments on transgender rights.

Civil-rights issues arising from concerns like those were heavily discussed at the annual conference here this week of the National Association of College and University Attorneys, known as NACUA.
The focus on civil-rights issues was not intentional, said José D. Padilla, vice president and general counsel at DePaul University and departing chair of the association’s Board of Directors. But the program did reflect the complicated discussions that emerged from a year’s worth of campus protests, battles with state lawmakers, and a major Supreme Court decision on race-conscious admissions.

Some of those issues were not new to the conference and have been debated for years. But the intensity of the discussions and the potential for conflict have increased over the past year.

That’s in part because the current generation of college students has high expectations about making changes, said Michael A. Middleton, who became interim president of the University of Missouri system after protests over race relations helped push out the previous president, as well as the chancellor of the flagship campus, in Columbia.

Mr. Middleton, who led protests to improve racial diversity during his time as a law student at Mizzou, said his generation of students had little hope that their demands would be met. Millennials, on the other hand, "are less willing to tolerate mistreatment," he said during a presentation to the conference.

And the solutions for many of these issues lie more in the realm of best practices than in purely legal analysis, said many conference attendees. Lawyers representing colleges, they said, need to consider measures that encourage students to express their views while maintaining a culture of civility.

"We don’t want to encourage uncivil advocacy," Mr. Padilla said, "but we shouldn’t be afraid of them being independent thinkers."
Old Issues, New Students

Under pressure from the Education Department’s Office for Civil Rights and stricter guidance about colleges’ responsibilities under the gender-equity law known as Title IX, lawyers who represent colleges have, for several years, been grappling with the issue of sexual violence on campuses.

Discussions of those issues are still prominent at the annual NACUA conference. But gender-equity discussions are taking on added dimensions now, with debates over transgender rights and how to accommodate students who do not identify with the binary distinctions of male and female. The issue came to a head this year, when North Carolina enacted a law that requires people to use bathrooms that correspond with the gender on their birth certificates.

The Education Department responded in May with a "Dear Colleague" letter saying that students who are transgender are protected under Title IX and should be allowed to use the restrooms and locker rooms that are consistent with their gender identity.

Panelists speaking at the Nacua conference noted that colleges are also beginning to deal with issues such as accurate record keeping for students who are transgender and providing appropriate housing options that protect them from harassment.

Access to a safe and convenient restroom has always been a civil-rights issue in the context of racial equality and under laws protecting disabled persons, said Chicora Martin, vice president for student life and dean of students at Mills College. Now colleges are beginning to realize that giving individual students a say in how they are identified and treated is an important part of making the institution more accessible and responsive to educational needs. "We’re moving away from the paternalistic ‘we know what’s best for you’ approach."
Diversity and Inclusivity

Campus tensions over race, prompted by student protests and the continued rise of the Black Lives Matter movement, came up in several smaller sessions at the conference. The panels dealt with the potential legal conflict between calls for protections from offensive speech and the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is meant to protect individuals from harassment based on race and requires colleges and other institutions to respond to behavior that is "severe, pervasive, or persistent." But lawyers at the sessions urged caution in trying to regulate or respond to speech, even if it is blatantly offensive or the outcry from such speech is widespread.

That doesn’t mean lawyers should be counseling their colleges to take no action, said Traevena Byrd, general counsel at Towson University. The president of a college can be encouraged to speak out against the offending speech, she said, and the college’s lawyer can simply meet individually with the person who has made offensive comments and "make them aware of the impact of their speech."

But students can’t simply be told now to put their concerns aside, she said, especially since colleges have told them to have high expectations. "We’ve sold them a bill of goods about how they should be treated."
Low enrollment opens campus housing for MU graduate students

COLUMBIA — Low enrollment and more dorms open than needed has caused the University of Missouri to add Respect Residence Hall as an option for graduate students for fall semester.

"Normally we would have used the hall for undergrads, but because we are not going to need it for that, we decided to see if there is an interest in using it for graduate housing," said Frankie Minor, the director of residential life.

The university offered three student apartment facilities for several years, but graduate students will soon have two other options to choose from.

"We also entered into an agreement with the Reserve, to offer a small set of apartments out there specifically for graduate professional students as well," Minor said.

Graduate student Sintia Radu said she doesn't think grad students would benefit from living on campus.

"We choose a place based on the level of comfortability, so how quiet it is and, even though this place would be entirely for graduate students, it would be surround by other undergraduate places," Radu said.

Radu said Respect Hall may be a better option for first year graduate students who don't have a car.

"I think that might be an option, especially international students prefer to live on campus where it's close to the school that they are studying in," Radu said.

Residential Life has had some calls from people interested in Respect Residence Hall, but no one has signed a contract yet.

"We think the interest is going to grow over the course of the summer, how much its going to grow were going to continue to see, but again its all about trying to make use of our resources," Minor said.

He said he hopes enrollment will go back up for the fall of 2017. If that happens, the university will go back to housing undergraduates in Respect. If not, the university may offer graduate student housing on campus for an additional year.
Gov. Nixon appoints Aliki Barnstone as new Missouri poet laureate

By Jane Henderson St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 17 hrs ago

Aliki Barnstone is Missouri's new poet laureate, Gov. Jay Nixon's office announced Thursday.

A creative writing professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia, she is the state's fourth poet laureate and its first woman appointed to the post. Her eighth collection of poetry, "Dwelling," is scheduled for publication this fall.

“From its earliest days as a state, Missouri has been home to some of our nation’s most talented poets, authors and playwrights,” Nixon said in a statement Thursday. “By having a state poet laureate, we are recognizing how these gifted artists continue to influence and inspire generations not only in Missouri, but around the world.”

A poet, critic and editor, Barnstone is also the translator of "The Collected Poems of C.P. Cavafy" (W.W. Norton, 2006). Her first book of poems, "The Real Tin Flower" was published in 1968 when she was 12, with a forward by Anne Sexton.

Her first goal is to bring poetry to children and teens in schools, she said in an email from Greece. "I believe all kids are singing birds, and if adults encourage them, art will give them a sense of their own selfhood, voice, creativity, faith in their imaginations, and that they possess the strength and idealism to contribute to the common good. In my own life, my art gave me self-knowledge and independence."

She said she is thrilled to become state poet laureate. While in Greece for the next month, she said, she will "witness the economic and refugee humanitarian crises, which affect kids who are
displaced or are poverty stricken profoundly. While these concerns may seem far from my home state, Missouri has a long history of diversity and internationalism. When the Civil War broke out, St. Louis had a higher percentage of immigrants than New York City, while at the same time Missouri was both a union and a slave state. I hope to find ways to celebrate our diversity and promote healing through poetry.”

Her appointment follows that of Kansas City poet William Trowbridge, who has served since 2012. The position was originally described as a two-year post, and the state has never responded to queries about why a new poet laureate was not named in 2014.

So far, all of the state’s laureates are white and have lived along the Interstate 70 corridor. The first, Walter Bargen, appointed in 2008, lives in Ashland near Columbia; the second, David Clewell, a professor at Webster University who was appointed in 2010, lives in Webster Groves.

Barnstone, born in 1956 in New Haven, Conn., grew up in Bloomington, Ind., the daughter of a writer and an artist. Her father, Willis Barnstone, is known as a poet, memoirist and critic and as a New Testament scholar. Her mother, Elli Tzalopoulou-Barnstone, was born in Greece and illustrated one of her husband’s Greek translations, "Ancient Greek Lyrics." Aliki Barnstone’s brother, Tony, is also a poet and translator.

The family spent summers in Vermont, near longtime friend poet Ruth Stone. Aliki Barnstone dedicated "When We Were Girls in Goshen" “for Abigail Stone, for Ruth Stone” (who died in 2011). In it she writes:

"Now we’re told she’s buried in the orchard, though her laughter

rises louder than the brook rushing over the rocks.

See her pointing to our lost calico cat, see her, over there,

camouflaged by black eyed Susans and Queen Anne’s lace?
She covers my left ear with her hand, saying shut out
the voices telling you I’m gone.

Aliki Barnstone’s website says she and her husband, Craig Cones, and daughter, Zoe, spend the school year in Columbia and the summer in Greece.

A spokesman for the governor’s office said Barnstone’s appointment takes effect Thursday.

MU professor named Poet Laureate of Missouri

COLUMBIA—She's a poet, a translator, a critic and an editor, and now she's Missouri's first female poet laureate.

Gov. Jay Nixon announced in a Thursday press release he has appointed Aliki Barnstone, a Columbia resident and an English Professor in the Creative Writing Program at MU, as the fourth poet laureate in the state. She will serve as the laureate for the next two years.

In her lifetime, Barnstone has written eight books of poetry, including her first book of poems, *The Real Tin Flower*, which was published when she was 12 years old. Her next book, *Dwelling*, will be released in the fall of 2016.

According to her website, Barnstone was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1956, and grew up in Bloomington, Indiana. She is the daughter of writer Willis Barnstone, who was nominated four times for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry, and artist Elli Tzalopoulou-Barnstone. Aliki Barnstone lives with her daughter, Zoe, her husband, Craig Cones, three dogs and two cats.
A person must meet four requirements to become poet laureate: be a published poet, a resident of Missouri, active in the poetry community and able to promote poetry across the state. During their two-year term, the Poet Laureate presents and lectures on poetry to school, community and civic groups throughout Missouri.

Missouri began appointing state poet laureates in 2008. In Thursday's release, Gov. Nixon emphasized the importance the honor has to the arts community.

“From its earliest days as a state, Missouri has been home to some of our nation’s most talented poets, authors and playwrights,” Gov. Nixon said in a statement. “By having a state poet laureate, we are recognizing how these gifted artists continue to influence and inspire generations not only in Missouri, but around the world.”

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Missouri announced Tim Jamieson’s successor Thursday, hiring Southeast Missouri coach Steve Bieser.

Bieser went 138-97 in four seasons with the Redhawks.

His teams won three Ohio Valley Conference titles and a 2016 NCAA regional appearance.

Bieser succeeds Tim Jamieson, who resigned June 11 after 22 seasons.
Southeast Missouri won three straight Ohio Valley Conference championships under Bieser, who took the Redhawks to the NCAA Tournament this spring for the first time in 14 years. His coaching record was 138-97 in four seasons with the Redhawks.

“When I started my coaching career, I had always dreamed of the opportunity to lead this program,” Bieser said in a release. “There is a strong tradition and rich history of Missouri Tiger baseball. I understand the responsibility and I am fully committed and ready to continue building the tradition.”

Bieser (pronounced BEE-zer) graduated from Ste. Genevieve High, roughly an hour’s drive south of St. Louis. He started his college baseball career at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo., and finished up at Southeast Missouri. Bieser also played 60 games in the major leagues with the Mets and Pirates in the late 1990s.

ADVERTISING

“As life-long Missourians, my family and I feel truly blessed to be part of the University of Missouri and the Columbia community,” said Bieser, 48.

Last season’s regional appearance was the first for the Redhawks since 2002 and Bieser, who was Southeast’s pitching coach from 2011-12, was Ohio Valley coach of the year in 2014 and 2016. Bieser is the only Ohio Valley coach to lead a baseball team to three straight regular-season titles.

“Steve Bieser is a rising star in the college baseball ranks and a proven winner,” Missouri athletic director Mack Rhoades said in a release. “He has an impressive track-record of success, winning championships at each stop in his coaching career.”

Bieser, who also won two Missouri state championships in seven seasons as the coach at St. John Vianney High in the St. Louis suburbs, will be introduced during a news conference Friday morning at Taylor Stadium in Columbia. Bieser and his wife, Diahann, have four children — a son, Cole, and daughters Whitley, Briley and Carley.

Jamieson went 698-565-2 in 22 seasons with the Tigers, including nine NCAA regional appearances, and had nearly 80 players drafted. He was the longest-tenured coach at Mizzou before his resignation June 11.

Oklahoma State pitching coach Rob Walton emerged earlier in the week as the front-runner for the Mizzou job, but he stayed put when the Cowboys offered to make him one of the nation’s highest-paid assistant coaches, a source told The Star.
When Student Activists Refuse to Talk to Campus Newspapers

With the rise of social media, young people have a mouthpiece of their own and little incentive to help reform an institution they’ve criticized.

This February, at a conference attended by the editors of 10 college newspapers along the East Coast—myself among them—student journalists recognized a common obstacle plaguing their publications: Student activists would no longer talk with them.

As student activists call for the institutions around them to confront issues of diversity and inclusion, campus newspapers have been critiqued as well. But activists are not just calling for reform—editors of campus papers are struggling to improve their papers alongside student bodies that, in some cases, would like to see student newspapers as an institution disappear.

Students boycotted the Brown Daily Herald (BDH), where I am a news editor, after it published two racist opinion pieces for which it later apologized. Since then, students have used the publication’s controversial past as reason to refuse comment and even to remove reporters from campus-wide events. These kinds of conflicts have erupted on campuses across the country.

Melissa Click, a former assistant professor at the University of Missouri who was eventually fired, tried to stop a student reporter from covering a campus protest. Student activists at Smith College told student journalists they would be barred from a black-solidarity rally unless they vowed to “participate and articulate their solidarity with black students and students of color.” Even a headline can ignite backlash: Yale Daily News (YDN) journalists have struggled to interact with social-justice advocates on campus since the paper ran an article about
accusations that a fraternity discriminated against people of color with the headline “SAE denies charges of racism.”

Sometimes the confrontations have resulted in long-term consequences. At Wesleyan University, student activists critiqued the student newspaper, the Argus, when they failed to cover a Black Lives Matter protest in the fall, although the paper had not yet begun its print cycle for the year. Later that year, the Argus published a controversial opinion piece that prompted the student government to cut its funding in half. As the paper attempted to ramp up its coverage of events centering on students of color in response to student demands from early that fall, it was further stonewalled, according to Rebecca Brill, the newspaper’s former editor-in-chief. “We were trying to fix this thing that was a valid critique of us,” she said, “but the people who were critiquing us weren’t letting us talk to them.”

Across the country, students have called for meaningful changes within campus publications to support marginalized communities, or even the disbanding of their student newspapers, from colleges like the University of Arizona to Dartmouth. Several editors from publications attending the conference declined to comment for this article, fearing they would jeopardize progress made in working with communities of student activists.

And while certain activists acknowledge their student newspaper’s attempts to correct any lapses in coverage, many have still put pressure on student reporters to adapt to their demands. “Until we see a willingness to engage journalism in a much more … social justice-oriented way, it’s hard to trust [student newspapers] to protect or be mindful of the issues that we face,” said Justice Gaines, a trans student activist at Brown whose activism focuses on issues of race, gender, and sexuality.

But that philosophy creates a catch-22 for editors. “I don’t know if it’s fair to demand representation ... but then deny the paper that permission by refusing to speak to them,” Brill said. “We can’t have better representation unless there’s cooperation.” This cooperation requires the trust of these student sources. Still, for some marginalized students, and particularly students
of color, campus newspapers are emblematic of institutional media as a whole—an industry that in their experience has tended to delegitimize their narratives.

Language that student activists say misconstrues their narratives regularly appears in the coverage of campus activism, by both mass media and college newspapers. And according to a 1999 study by the University of Minnesota, such language can delegitimize the arguments of protesters challenging the status quo. Reporters often use terms like “coddled” and “complaining” when describing modern-day student activists who are pushing their universities to address issues of diversity and inclusion. Journalists may not see “that we actually have valid points and things we want to change,” said Ivetty Estepan, a student activist at Yale who focuses on issues of racism and marginalization.

Some student activists also view their campus newspaper as symbolic of the university as an institution—whether their paper receives funding from the administration or student government, or is independent, like the BDH and the YDN. “There’s this idea that the YDN has been a part of Yale as an institution for … hundreds of years, so how much does that influence it?” Estepan said.

And just like the college administrations that have been critiqued in recent years by student activists, student newspapers lack diversity in their newsrooms. This dearth of diversity is maintained by a vicious cycle; newsrooms bereft of underrepresented minorities may, through their coverage or image, engender backlash from racial-justice activists that in turn can discourage underrepresented students from joining the papers’ ranks. A 2007 study of journalists from communities of color working at four large-circulation newspapers showed that a lack of newsroom diversity undermines reporters’ ability to represent their communities in their journalism.

This tension is evident in a recent survey from Gallup and two journalism advocacy organizations—the Knight Foundation and the Newseum Institute—of student opinions on First Amendment rights and offensive speech. The study found that people from marginalized groups
were more likely to favor limiting free speech on campus, and 44 percent of students believe it is acceptable to restrict the media’s access to campus events because the activists want to tell the story themselves on social media. “You lose agency when you tell the media what is going on,” Estepan said.

The media’s unwillingness to take a stance when reporting on issues of oppression represents a kind of “institutional bias,” said Warren Harding, a graduate student at Brown involved in the activism that led to the school’s adoption of a $165 million diversity-and-inclusion plan. “Especially when it comes to anti-racism work or anti-oppression work, when a newspaper says they are trying to be objective, that means they are upholding standards that were set against people who have been oppressed,” Gaines, the Brown student activist, echoed. Stories that describe the experiences of injustice and violence merit a journalist who will ethically stand in solidarity, Harding argued.

But that, too, raises questions: Which stories would a journalist then choose to slant, and which would they not? At that point, what separates that source from an opinion blog, or social media? Journalists do not claim to be unbiased. We believe that the process of seeking out a variety of perspectives and approaching an article without explicitly including biases leads to a more productive and balanced discussion of the news. “Coming close to objectivity can be enough,” Brill, the former Argus editor, said.

Still, about half of the students in the Gallup survey also said that they would be comfortable limiting press access to an event if the reporter was “biased.” That worries people like Gene Policinski, the chief operating officer of the Newseum Institute. “Simply saying we won’t talk to someone because we don’t like their viewpoint ultimately constrains your voice,” he said.

And that mindset fails to acknowledge that by working with a student journalist, activists’ voices can reach much further than through social media alone—campus publications not only serve the student body, but also a wide network of administrators, faculty, and alumni, in addition to the
surrounding community. What starts out as a story at a student newspaper is often picked up by national news sources who can feed momentum into activist efforts.

Furthermore, student activists who block journalists find themselves on shaky ground with the First Amendment. Technically, a journalist operating within a newspaper independent from a school has no right of access at a private institution, said Frank LoMonte, the executive director of the Student Press Law Center. But when that journalist is also a student, she has the right to access the same spaces as other students (such as classrooms used for community-wide events). Only the university itself would have the authority to bar a student journalist from an event. But most private universities promise protections in line with those of the First Amendment when it comes to speech in public, said Robert Shibley, the executive director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, or FIRE, which defends free speech and academic freedom on campus. “If a student who’s not part of the media could attend … I’d say the argument for keeping the media out is nonexistent,” he said.

And whether it’s by barring journalists from events or defunding their newspapers, activists are ultimately putting themselves at a disadvantage by attempting to dissolve their student newspapers. Learning how to reform the student press alongside the students working there proves a goal ultimately more beneficial to both parties. Campus newspapers, according to several student journalists, are in a prime position to respond to the demands of their college communities and experiment with the rules of traditional journalism. Operating without the extra weight of bureaucracy felt by larger publications, student newspapers have the opportunity—and even the responsibility—to respond to the concerns of their audiences, Gaines argued.

Often, changes come as a direct response to the actions of student activists, who use their position of power to negotiate terms with student newspapers that they expressly disagree with. In the fall of 2015, the BDH changed its style to accommodate gender-neutral pronouns like xe, xem, and xyr. The change came after Gaines, an oft-quoted source for the BDH, refused to comment again unless the newspaper agreed to change its style. “There’s a tension between
utilizing the BDH and challenging the BDH,” Gaines said. “There’s room to use the BDH as a mechanism to change the BDH.”

In her time at the Argus, Brill attempted to incorporate input from Wesleyan’s community and balance student demands for increased representation of marginalized perspectives with a commitment to ensuring all voices have a platform. This year, the paper created a column called “Voices” reserved for the opinion pieces of marginalized students. Still, though, the defunding of the Argus poses a significant threat to the paper. “They had an opportunity at Wesleyan to … try to make the newspaper better, and instead they tried to destroy it,” the SPLC’s LoMonte said. “Our belief is that while newspapers are always imperfect, and can always do a better job of serving minority communities, those communities are much better off with a well-funded newspaper than without.”

How to keep your pet safe and calm on the Fourth of July

LINDSEY JENKINS, 10 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Fourth of July fireworks may sound like a celebration to humans, but for dogs, they can sound pretty terrifying.

A large number of dogs run away from their homes on July 4 due to fear and anxiety caused by the sound of fireworks. In fact, July 5 is the busiest day of the year for animal shelters, according to the American Humane Association.

Thankfully for dog owners, there are some steps they can take to reduce the risk of their pet running away.
Caitlin Christopher, an operations team member at Columbia Second Chance, said that dog owners should try to keep their dogs inside during Fourth of July festivities. However, if the dog has to be outside, owners should make sure the dog is on a secure leash and collar. Martingale collars, which allow owners better control than traditional collars, and harnesses work particularly well to secure dogs that are outside on a leash, she said.

Katherine Chancey, a veterinarian at Columbia Pet Hospital, said that owners who usually keep their animals in a kennel or a crate can keep their pet inside their crate to add an extra barrier between the animal and outside.

Chancey said another method is to use wearable anti-anxiety accessories for dogs, such as ThunderShirts and pheromone collars.

A ThunderShirt is a vest that is wrapped around the torso of the animal, providing a slight amount of pressure in order to decrease anxiety levels. A pheromone collar releases apasine, which is a pheromone produced by dogs who recently gave birth and is released in dogs' milk when they feed their puppies. The pheromone can relieve anxiety in dogs.

Loop 70 Veterinary Clinic owner John Parker said that keeping a TV on at a loud volume during fireworks displays can also help keep dogs calm. Alternatively, Parker said many owners opt to get tranquilizers and sedatives for their dogs for the Fourth of July. The sedatives also help dogs who are afraid of thunder and lighting.

Another option dog owners may consider using this Fourth of July is a new, FDA-approved prescription drug called Sileo that is used to treat noise aversion.

"I would try Sileo for dogs that have a more mild to moderate level of anxiety," said Colleen Koch, a veterinary behavior resident at the MU Veterinary Health Center at Wentzville.
However, every dog is different and has varying degrees of anxiety. Koch said that dogs with moderate to severe levels of anxiety may need treatment with a more powerful anti-anxiety medication in combination with sedation.

"I am hopeful, but I don't know if Sileo is going to be the magical drug that we all hope it might be," Koch said.

Dog owners should contact their veterinarians about medication for noise-averse dogs prior to the Fourth of July. In some cases, bloodwork and a complete physical exam may need to be conducted prior to administering a prescription in order to reduce the likelihood of the dog having a negative reaction, Koch said.

Owners should also make sure that their pets have some sort of identification or a microchip in case the dog runs away.

MU School of Medicine Offers Fireworks Safety Tips

Watch the clip: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=024503a0-d4c5-4420-9a45-1bb610497033

A reminder to stay safe this holiday weekend when shooting off those fireworks. Every year we see hundreds of fireworks injuries. So a burn surgeon at the University of Missouri Medical School is offering some safety tips. When lighting, make sure no part of your body is over the firework. Never try to re-light a
that didn't work. Keep a hose nearby in case you have to put out a fire. And always make sure you watch the fireworks from a safe distance.

MU student uses passion for travel to create new app

GRACE HASE, 12 hrs ago

COLUMBIA — Fear will never stop MU senior Alex Winkler from traveling again. Now, there's an app for that.

Last summer, Winkler was in Denmark — one of the more than 20 countries he's visited — when he got the idea for a social media app for travelers called The Global Hiker.

Winkler wasn't always confident gallivanting around the world. Before he began traveling, he said there were things he wanted to try, but was always either too scared or thought he couldn't do them.

"I feel like the biggest thing is fear," Winkler said.

Today, Winkler is now only months away from launching the passion project he has been working on for almost a year. He hopes the app will act as a catalyst for people to overcome their travel fears.

"I can show you the ways to do things right while being safe and by meeting people," Winkler said.

The app will connect users to professional tour guides, as well as local residents and guides in countries around the world. Users will be able to read travel blogs, post their travel pictures and find more information about the city or country they're visiting.
All of the content on the app will be customizable. When signing up for the app, users will select their "boots," or persona. These personas include almost every type of traveler, from the foodie to the adventurer to the tourist and will help determine what sort of content the app shows them.

Winkler is in the process of partnering with travel companies to offer rewards to users who travel to a certain number of countries, or complete a certain number of tasks. He said he has also sold eight advertisements and contacted people who will act as local tour guides, via the app, for 20 states and 37 countries.

Before the launch date, his goal is to have one to two guides in 50 countries. Many of the guides are people he has met abroad.

While Winkler has found sponsors through advertising and is partnering with other companies, the funding for the app is coming from his own pocket. He said he is still figuring out how guides and others professionals on the site will get paid.

The Global Hiker isn’t a solo show for Winkler, though. From the very beginning, he has enlisted the help of his best friend, Erik Maynard, a recent graduate of Belmont University in Tennessee. Two other MU students are also involved in the development, as well as multiple coders. Together, the team has pitched to hundreds of people at events such as Columbia Startup Weekend and CEO Startup Weekend, two different local forums for entrepreneurs.

Since he is located in Tennessee, Maynard hasn't attended any of the pitches The Global Hiker has given, but he has still been able to contribute to its development. He's in charge of marketing and is currently working on creating a video to help promote the app to possible partners and users.

“I’m most excited for Alex, personally," Maynard said. "I know how much he loves to travel and I know he’s pushed me to travel more."

Winkler is hopeful that the app will be out in two months. His team has decided to cap the amount of users at 5,000 for now, to keep the app from growing too rapidly. He said he wants
The Global Hiker to grow slowly and organically, so that they're able to keep up with the demand.

“I’m not in this to make money,” Winkler said. "If I can travel to a different city or country, and I hear someone talking about it, that’s where I’ve made it.”