ELL Parents Can Boost Their Children's English Skills By Doing These Two Things

Generated by News Bureau press release: Spanish-Speaking Parents can Improve Children’s English Skills through Reading and Doing Math in Spanish

Spanish-speaking parents looking to help their children learn English should start by developing their literacy and numeracy in their first language, according to recently published research from the University of Missouri.

The research found that Spanish-speaking preschoolers experience significant improvements in English acquisition during preschool when they have a good grasp of letters and basic math skills in their home language.

The findings strongly suggest that early education programs that connect children's word and math knowledge in Spanish to those in English can boost school readiness for Spanish-speaking children, setting them on the path to English proficiency.

Researchers from the University of Missouri, Pennsylvania State University, and Arizona State University examined the link between knowledge that preschool-aged children already possess in Spanish, namely letter and number recognition, and their gains in those same areas of English. The team found that preschool-aged children who had strong letter and math abilities in Spanish entering preschool made more gains in those English skills over the course of the school year than classmates who didn't.

"Even if parents can't speak English or know very little English, they can foster English learning by reading to their children and by talking about and doing math in Spanish. Doing so will greatly improve the child's ability to keep up in an English classroom.
"setting," said Francisco Palermo, an assistant professor in the University of Missouri’s College of Human Environmental Sciences, who served as lead researcher.

It's not immediately clear that these findings have direct application to ELLs who speak languages other than Spanish at home.

"Whether that is the case for other languages, is open and up for debate," Palermo said.

While at least two-thirds of English-learners in K-12 schools are Spanish speakers, more than 1 million ELLs speak languages such as Arabic, Mandarin, and Vietnamese that have vastly different alphabets and grammar structures.

But the research does support several stories published in Education Week's 2016 special report, Teaching America's English-Language Learners.

One of the stories explored the parent engagement efforts at a San Jose, Calif., elementary school, where a principal opens the school library 50 minutes before the first bell and 50 minutes after the final bell. The principal wanted to encourage parents, who may not otherwise have access to books, to spend time reading with their children. Here’s a link to an Education Week live chat with that principal and another San Jose Unified educator discussed their efforts to partner with the families of ELLs to boost literacy.

Another piece examined the push in Tulsa, Okla., to develop English-language-learner literacy in prekindergarten classes. Mounting evidence shows that exposure to language instruction boosts young children's odds of stronger academic achievement later on.

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**Endangered species wait 12 years to get on the list**

Posted by Jeff Sossamon-U. Missouri August 12th, 2016
Many Endangered Species Face Long Waits for Protection

The wait time for getting on the endangered species list is on average about 12 years, six times longer than it should be, a new analysis shows. Scientists say the delays could lead to less global biodiversity.

The US Congress enacted the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973. To receive protection, a species must first be listed as endangered or threatened in a process that is administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1982 Congress passed an amendment stating a two-year timeline for the process, which starts with submission of a petition and ends with a final rule in the Federal Register.

“While the law lays out a process time of two years for a species to be listed, what we found is that, in practice, it takes, on average, 12.1 years,” says Emily Puckett, who recently received her doctorate in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Missouri. “Some species moved through the process in 6 months but some species, including many flowering plants, took 38 years to be listed—almost the entire history of the ESA.”

Findings are based on an analysis of 1,338 species listed for protection under the ESA between January 1974 and October 2014. Researchers analyzed the amount of time it took each listed species to move through the listing process.

Bias for vertebrates?

Researchers also analyzed whether a species grouping influenced how quickly or slowly it moved through the process. They found that vertebrates, including reptiles, fish, birds, amphibians, and mammals had a significantly shorter wait time than did invertebrates and flowering plants.
According to the authors, the finding suggests a bias in the listing process that contradicts the policies of the ESA.

“While the [US Fish and Wildlife] Service can account for species groups in its prioritization system, it’s not supposed to be mammals versus insects versus ferns but, rather, how unique is this species within all of the ecological system,” Puckett says. “However, our findings suggest some bias that skews the process toward vertebrates.”

The delays in listing have real world consequences for endangered species. In the study, the authors cite previous studies that document species that went extinct due to a delay in the process.

Likewise, a species that gets listed quickly and has a conservation plan put in place to protect it may have a chance to even bounce back.

For example, the island night lizard was listed in 1.19 years, whereas the prairie fringed orchid took 14.7 years to be listed. The lizard has since recovered and been removed from endangered status; the orchid is still considered threatened.

“The whole point of putting species on the list is they already have been identified as threatened or endangered with extinction,” Puckett says. “Without being on the list, we run the risk that these populations will go locally or globally extinct and there will be nothing to save.”

The study appears in the journal Biological Conservation and was supported in part by a University of Missouri Life Sciences Fellowship and by the Institute for Bird Populations.
How to keep your clueless student out of hock

By Jim Gallagher St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Aug 13, 2016

Generated from News Bureau press release: Relationships, More than Information Alone, Key to Improving Financial Aid Decisions for College Students

Lots of new high school graduates will be heading off to college this month. It will be their first time managing money on their own, and most will do just fine.

Some, however, will dig themselves into a deep financial hole.

So, let’s look for ways to keep your 18-year-old out of money trouble when he’s finally cut loose.

For help, we’ll turn to two people who know a lot about students and financial messes. Rob Weagley is chairman emeritus of the personal financial planning department at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Angela Whitlow counsels low-income students bound for college at Boys Hope Girls Hope in Richmond Heights.

By now, families have their student aid packages, and they figure they can afford the school they’ve chosen. But a clueless teen can still foul things up.

The first step is to hand the student a paper and pencil. “You’ve got to have a budget,” says Rob Weagley.

Break the budget into two parts — needs and wants. The needs are food, shelter, tuition, books, transport and a phone. Everything else is a want. Holes in your jeans are a fashion statement. So is a head in need of a haircut.
Add up the needs, and compare it to the amount of money available for the year. Anything left is pizza, jeans and haircut money.

Some colleges offer help with this. Mizzou has a one-credit online course called “Financial Survival,” designed for students managing their own money for the first time. It goes beyond paying for college into things such as apartment leases and credit. Webster University has a similar “Money Talks” program.

Low-income students should ask if there’s a “TRiO” program on campus, says Whitlow. It provides counseling and academic help, along with the chance of a scholarship for the sophomore year.

For your first few weeks on campus, try to spend only on things you really need, says Weagley, just to make sure you can cover them within your budget. Learn to cook — it can save you plenty.

This is tough for some new students to handle. They often start the year with fat bank accounts stuffed with money from student loans. They see richer — or dumber — students wearing fancier clothes and hitting the burger joints.

That is peer pressure. “Spending money for status is a seriously bad idea,” says Weagley. “That’s where everybody loses it.”

The temptation is to borrow more money, and that gets us to perhaps the most important lesson about credit. Borrowing makes sense when it buys something that will pay you back. An education is the best example: It brings bigger paychecks for life.

“Don’t take out a loan for a piece of pizza!” says Whitlow. You’ll be paying for it, plus interest, until you spot your first wrinkle. The idea is to keep student loans to an absolute minimum.
Parents, listen up. There is a grand debate over whether students should have credit cards, and parents usually get to make the choice. Federal law says that people under age 21 must have either a parent’s permission, or sufficient income, to get a card.

On the plus side, a credit card is instant money in an emergency. If the jalopy breaks down on a lonely road, the kid can get a hotel room for the night. That’s why Weagley let his own children use credit cards in college.

Credit cards also establish a credit record, and a good record makes it easier to get a car loan or an apartment after graduation.

On the other hand, a credit card is like magical money. It’s a terrible temptation in the hands of an 18-year-old. Even adults lose track of their plastic spending, and jaws drop when the bill arrives.

So, parents should peer deeply into the soul of their young genius. If she forgot her homework in high school, will she remember to pay the credit card bill on time? If the boy parties hardy now, will he turn responsible come September?

Skipping card payments turns a credit record rotten, which can sabotage a job search.

Banks love to get cards in student hands, trusting that Mom and Pop will pay the bill if students get in trouble. Banks have cards designed just for students, and some come with booby traps.

Take the Journey Student Rewards Card from Capital One. It offers 1 percent cash-back on purchases, boosted to 1.25 percent if the student pays the bill on time. However, it charges horrific 20-percent interest on balances not paid in full each month. That’s an express lane to financial hell for a feckless student.

The alternative is a debit card that sucks payments directly from a bank checking account. Debit cards don’t help establish credit, but they can limit spending to the amount in the account.
Just don’t sign up for overdraft protection. That protection means the bank will cover your debit card overdrafts at a cost of $30-plus for each. It enables irresponsibility and charges big for it.

If you’re short on pizza money, get a job instead. Weagley, a professor who has spent 32 years observing students at Mizzou, thinks a part-time job can actually improve a student’s academic performance. Students working 10 or 15 hours a week learn to budget time better. They buckle down and study. “I’ve seen students do better — but only if they don’t work too much,” says Weagley.

Look for work on campus. Professors often need go-fer help with their research, and pay for it. Those are the real plums. “They learn so much doing it,” says Weagley, and professors make great job references.

The worst thing to do with overdue bills is ignore them. “As soon as you think you’re in financial difficulties, seek help,” says Weagley.

Head for the student counseling center. Mizzou, for instance, has a program in which seniors majoring in financial planning help fellow students in trouble.

Family Access Center for Excellence offers new approach to mental health intervention

By BRITTANY RUESS
Sunday, August 14, 2016 at 12:00 am

The Family Access Center for Excellence of Boone County, or FACE, is set to open Monday to serve the mental health needs of youths up to age 19 and their families throughout the county.
The Children’s Services Board, an appointed nine-member panel that allocates the Children’s Services Fund, approved spending $4.1 million over a three-year period for FACE, which the University of Missouri Office of Sponsored Programs proposed. Voters approved a quarter-cent sales tax in 2012 to establish the Children’s Services Fund.

The grand opening of the 4,000-square foot space at 105 E. Ash St. — the building that also houses the Heart of Missouri United Way and the Family Impact Center — starts at 9 a.m. with a brief welcome and guided tours to follow.

“This is ... a dream come true for Boone County at large,” FACE Executive Director Erin Reynolds said. “When we passed the Children’s Services Fund tax, we as a community said we want to provide quality services for youths and their families. This is one of the answers to that.”

FACE is designed to be a single point of entry for services, saving clients from navigating the system alone, Reynolds said.

She said the center also will address the lack of family access to services, which will use a family approach.

FACE will engage “parents, guardians and siblings so the family can strengthen as a whole,” Reynolds said.

Reynolds said her team includes four case managers, a community liaison and office staff, but she wants to eventually hire more to meet anticipated community needs.

The case managers, who are required to hold at least a master’s degree in social work or counseling, are the primary service providers, Reynolds said. They will conduct assessments for youths and families when they enter FACE. Based on the assessments, case managers will present options for mental health or social services, Reynolds said.

Each case manager will have a caseload of about 20 families that they will follow up with weekly. As families progress, contact will decrease, Reynolds said.

She said she’s not sure whether to expect a “trickle or Niagara Falls” when FACE opens its doors, but she anticipates a consistent client flow initially.

Reynolds said the case managers will match their clients with agencies that can accept Medicaid, certain types of insurance, payments on a sliding scale or will do pro bono work. Case managers also can conduct home visits after the initial assessment, Reynolds said.
The community liaison’s role is to educate the community about FACE while also providing family support.

A FACE focus is to reduce the flow of the so-called “school to prison pipeline” by addressing the mental health needs of youths before they are referred to or detained in the juvenile justice system.

Between 2010 and 2015, substance abuse and misuse were the most common mental health diagnoses or issues among youths detained in the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) in the 13th Circuit, which comprises Boone and Callaway counties, according to the center’s annual reports. Attention deficit disorder, conduct disorder, oppositional defiant disorder and depression disorders followed.

JJC Superintendent Tara Eppy said young people may act out when there’s an underlying mental health issue.

Last year, 1,610 referrals were made in Boone County to JJC. Law enforcement made 43 percent of the referrals, and school personnel and resource officers made a combined 25 percent of referrals.

For many children and adolescents, the juvenile justice system provided the only access to mental health resources. Eppy said law enforcement and schools now can use FACE as an alternative before sending youths to JJC.

FACE’s contract with the county includes two additional one-year renewal options at the discretion of the Children’s Services Board once the three-year period is over, said Kelly Wallis, Boone County Community Services director.

Op ed: MU’s real problems start with legislature

By VICTORIA JOHNSON and RABIA GREGORY

Sunday, August 14, 2016 at 12:00 am
A lot of people have been talking about problems at the University of Missouri over the past year. Let’s take an inside look at the real problems that threaten the university.

The point of a public university is to have the state subsidize tuition costs so all students have the opportunity to receive higher education regardless of income. Public universities in the United States have been defunded over the past few decades, which largely explains tuition increases and student debt.

The vision of Thomas Jefferson, who created the first publicly funded secular university, and Abraham Lincoln, who distributed federal land for states to create land-grant universities accessible to workers and farmers, is dying.

According to the Department of Commerce, the state and local share of funding for public universities in 2011 was down by 40.2 percent compared with fiscal 1980. The Brookings Institute found that “state appropriations would have been about $15 billion higher in 2003 if appropriations had been maintained at the ratio to personal income that existed in 1977.”

State defunding of public higher education has been taking place throughout the nation; however, Missouri is at the lowest end of the continuum.

State funding declined from 70 percent of MU’s general operating funds in 1990 to 36 percent in 2016. MU tuition supplied 27 percent of revenue in 1990 and increased to 58 percent in 2016. How has the lack of revenue been compensated for aside from tuition increases?

**INTERNAL CANNIBALISM**

Money is taken from departments to fund other projects. The number of students admitted has increased, especially out-of-state students who bring in higher tuition payments. At the same time, there has been an ongoing freeze on faculty hiring, leaving departments with fewer faculty and in some cases without the expertise to teach core courses. Workloads have increased while salaries for the majority of faculty and staff have remained stagnant and are among the lowest for research universities. Administration, faculty and staff turnover is high, resulting in students losing their favorite professors and graduate students losing qualified people for their master’s and doctoral committees. Adjuncts and graduate students are increasingly hired to teach at low pay and under insecure conditions. A lack of resources causes inefficiencies.

These conditions exist at many public universities and should be familiar to people in a variety of other workplaces today. They are fueled by the degradation of American values as everything and everyone is reduced to a commodity to be bought, sold or thrown away.

Despite these conditions, MU faculty and staff continue to hear the clarion trumpet of more “efficiency,” “productivity” and to “tighten our belts.” You can tighten the belt on a skeleton all you want — its pants are still going to fall down.

What is happening to public universities cannot be explained by economic downturns alone. It results from politicians, wealthy donors and for-profit tech industries seeking to privatize public
education, which affords them greater control of course content, of scholars who do research that challenges the claims of political and economic elites, and of profits.

Ironically, as legislatures provide less financial support, they demand more control over the management of public universities. As the rhetoric of “freedom from the state” is used, state surveillance of education and our private lives increases. In the name of “free speech,” studies of minorities are targeted to censor teaching and research about inequalities.

State legislatures fail to recognize, however, that it is a small academic universe. Faculty at MU do not live in a vacuum but are part of national and international networks among public and private, national and international universities, disciplines and conferences. Legislative targeting of universities and faculty and poor working conditions are communicated through these networks and influence perceptions about what universities students want to attend and where faculty choose to work.

We hope that the legislature’s MU Review Committee will focus less on corporate priorities and more on the conditions that produce excellence in education, teaching and scholarship, and foster an environment of innovation and creativity among administration, faculty and students. Missourians deserve no less.

Public universities should prepare students for the workplace, but foremost they must cultivate the skills of critical thinking and the knowledge of history and politics required for citizenship in a democratic republic. At least that was Jefferson’s vision. As state legislatures create obstacles to receiving quality higher education through reductions in state funding, we must ask ourselves: What are the social, political and economic costs of an ignorant public in a global world?

As Jefferson advised:

“Establish & improve the law for educating the common people. Let our countrymen know that the people alone can protect us … and that the tax which will be paid for this purpose is not more than the thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priests and nobles who will rise up among us if we leave the people in ignorance.”

We fear the kings, priests and nobles are at the gate.

Victoria Johnson and Rabia Gregory are faculty members in the Sociology and Religious Studies departments, respectively, at MU.
By Benjamin Hochman St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 6 hrs ago

His first job sounded as easy as his new job will be hard — selling out games that most often sold out.

And actually, come to think of it, he was that guy’s assistant.

In the mid-1980s, Jim Sterk took the gig as the assistant to the director of ticket operations at North Carolina. Dean Smith’s North Carolina. And the Dean “Dome” had just opened.

“So I learned how to prepare for sold-out events — you always had something in the pocket for the governor if he showed up, or someone like that,” Sterk said.

**What does Jim Sterk have in his back pocket for Mizzou?**

**Look, it’s hard to be binary, if you will, and state whether or not someone will make it in a job. But we can at least look at someone’s make-up for the job.**

I’m enthused by Mizzou’s hiring of Sterk as athletics director. But I wanted to find out more about him, what makes him tick, what drives him, what makes Jim Jim. In a chat this weekend, Sterk came off as someone who is quietly confident and loudly humble. He knows he can do the job, and knows he can’t do the job alone.

“I look forward as opposed to backwards,” Sterk said by phone. “I look at where we are and try to create a path moving forward that everyone can see — and can work towards.”

A person’s mentor can tell us about a person. Sterk’s mentor runs Duke athletics.

His name is Kevin White, and he was, yup, the ticket manager at the University of Maine. Sterk was hired by White in 1987, and “and I saw right away — this guy knew what he was doing. He was someone I liked, respected, and he had great knowledge and drive. We eventually ran the New York Marathon together when we were at Maine, and it was good for my career, going through all that pain together.”
Sterk followed White down to New Orleans, where presumably they ate all the weight they’d lost while running the dang marathon (or such was the case when I lived there, as I soon looked like I’d eaten Baton Rouge). At Tulane, Sterk was White’s senior associate athletics director, beginning work the very same day there as Sandy Barbour did – today she’s AD at Penn State (for the record, 24 Kevin White disciples have become ADs over the years).

White is “a guy who went from Tulane to Arizona State to Notre Dame to Duke (all as athletics director), and he’s been at Duke for quite a while,” Sterk said. “He’s the best in the business, just a really good mentor and friend. He really cared about your career and wanted to help you develop. He cared about student-athletes. He tried to create an atmosphere where he would give you a job to do and let you do it – he’d help you and support you but not be a micro-manager.

“He expected you to get things done.”

During the course of our conversation, perhaps the words that popped most were three quick ones from Sterk – unprompted, too: “I like challenges.”

Mack Rhoades did some good things, and he’s surely going to have a bevy of challenges at Baylor, challenges bigger than just Bevo and Boomer Sooner. But Sterk takes over for Rhoades at a crossroads. Where is Mizzou athletics in five years? Wherever it is, it will be because of Jim Sterk. Yes, Mizzou will always get SEC revenue money and at least some talented recruits from in-state. But Mizzou is middling right now. There’s a crisis in confidence. And athletics, fair or unfair, are the image of a school as an institution. Last football season, players did what they thought was right, and it was cool to see. But protests and the threat of a boycott can rattle and ruffle. Oh, and the team stunk, too. It’s on coach Barry Odom to resuscitate and rejuvenate. It’s on Sterk to fund this process.

What is Sterk’s mindset to fundraising at Mizzou?

“It’s relationships and those people with resources being able to believe in what’s going on in the program,” Sterk said, the word “believe” standing out in the sentence. “Hopefully I can settle
any fears and build relationships with those folks, and they're already supportive. There are some great people who have supported and continued. I'm meeting more and more every day. I think we can build on that. They want what's best for the program – there's not this selfish kind of feeling. They want to build this program the right way, and that's what I'm here to do.”

In the short term, some non-revenue sports should succeed this coming year — expect triumphs from Tiger women's volleyball, softball and basketball. And baseball has a potential top-five pick in the 2017 draft – Tanner Houck. Football, I've said it before, should win six games, so that's something. But is that also how many the basketball team will win in conference? Mizzou basketball is disheartening.

How do you possibly make Mizzou basketball relevant again?

“One, I think it's on it's way,” Sterk said. “It's tough when you go through a difficult period where there are issues that coach Anderson had to deal with and move through – so you have to understand that. And two, I think he's getting his feet under him and taking more control of the program, so I look for him to make great progress this year, and I hope that's the case and I think that'll be the case. And from what I understand, everyone loves him, and they want him to succeed.”

Everyone wants Sterk to succeed, too. Will his basketball program somehow fill the arena consistently, to where someone jokes that the easiest job on campus is the assistant to the director of ticket operations? Will his football program become a force?

He's charming enough to make you think he can pull it off, and he's down-to-earth enough to make you want to root for him along the way.
Fidgeting can prevent heart disease

This story continues to run on local television and radio stations across the country and was placed based on a press release from the MU School of Medicine:
http://medicine.missouri.edu/news/20160804-fidgeting-prevents-arterial-dysfunction.php

Watch story: http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=fcfaf55c-6fe6-4db4-b855-c37ac6e973c2

MU Program Helps Nontraditional Medical School Applicants Succeed

This story was placed based on a press release from the MU School of Medicine:
http://medicine.missouri.edu/news/

Mizzou running back arrested for stealing debit card

By Dave Matter St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Aug 13, 2016

UPDATED, 10:30 a.m.

COLUMBIA, MO. • Missouri running back Trevon Walters was arrested Friday by Columbia police for allegedly stealing a debit card and two counts of fraudulent use of a stolen credit device. The stealing offense is considered a felony, according to the Columbia police report, while the fraudulent use of a credit card is a misdemeanor.

Walters, 21, was arrested at 9:15 a.m. Friday at the Columbia police station and booked at 12:04 p.m. on Friday with bond set at $4,500 for the stealing charge and $1,000 for fraudulent use of a credit device.

On July 18, Columbia police were dispatched to a residence on Paris Road in reference to a burglary. A 19-year-old male victim reported stolen items, including a debit card. Multiple unauthorized transactions were made on the card on July 17. Officers reviewed surveillance video from a business where the card was used and identified Walters as the person using the card.

Walters has been suspended indefinitely while Mizzou learns more about the situation, team spokesman Chad Moller said Saturday.

Per university system policy, an athlete charged with a felony is suspended immediately from practice and competition. If the athlete pleads guilty or is found guilty of a felony charge, the athlete is barred permanently from participation in athletics at any school in the UM System. A student suspended from participation in intercollegiate athletics as a result of a felony charge shall not be prohibited from receiving financial aid during the pendency of such felony charge.
Walters, a redshirt sophomore from Bradenton, Fla., has not appeared in a game for the Tigers. He redshirted in 2014 and missed all of last season while recovering from a knee injury suffered during spring practices. He's one of six scholarship running backs on the current roster.

The Tigers were scheduled to host their first preseason scrimmage at 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

According to Missouri law, stealing a credit card is a class C felony. Fraudulent use of a credit device or debit device is a class A misdemeanor unless the value of the property or services obtained is $750 or more.

**Missouri running back suspended after stealing arrest**

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — A **21-year-old University of Missouri running back has been suspended after being arrested for stealing.**

Redshirt sophomore Trevon Walters was arrested Friday in Columbia for allegedly stealing and fraudulently using a credit or debit card.

Boone County Sheriff Department records show Walters was booked into the county jail Friday and later released on $5,500 bail.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the Bradenton, Florida, native has been formally charged or has a lawyer.

Football team spokesman Chad Moller told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch that Walters has been suspended indefinitely while the university learns more about the arrest.

Walters redshirted for Missouri in 2014 and missed the 2015 season because of an injury.
The recent police shootings of unarmed black men in Baton Rouge and Minneapolis, among others, are likely to spur student protests against racism when the fall semester begins. And with those protests will come more demands for racial diversity and inclusion on campuses, including calls for recruiting more students and faculty members from minority groups, and for incorporating those issues broadly in the curriculum.

College leaders gathered here for the annual meeting of the State Higher Education Executive Officers widely acknowledge the need for those measures. But even as institutions try to increase their racial and socioeconomic diversity, some people are advising that the goal of such efforts needs to go beyond just bringing more minority and low-income students to a campus with the idea that the college is doing them a favor.
Diversity is largely presented as a positive opportunity for disadvantaged students, and that’s good, said Tim Gallimore, associate vice president for academic planning and state authorization at the University of North Carolina system, who spoke on a panel at the meeting. But another crucial goal of diversity has to be to change the views and perceptions of those in the majority, he said — especially those who control the power structure in higher education.

And to do that, the goals of increasing diversity must become part of the core operating strategies of the institution, said Aaron Thompson, interim president of Kentucky State University, including areas like the development of curriculum and academic programs and tenure and promotion procedures.

“It has to be part of the infrastructure, the DNA,” said Mr. Thompson. “This is the essence of 21st-century learning.”

**New Focus on Old Problems**

The topic of increasing diversity on campuses isn’t new to higher education, or even to the association, which focused last year’s meeting on the changing demographics of the nation’s college students.

This year’s conference was meant to shine a light on the need for civil discourse and the challenges of supporting free speech on campuses. The growing tide of campus activism, including protests that contributed to the resignation of the president of the University of Missouri system and the chancellor of its flagship campus, have sparked concern at colleges across the nation.

But much of the discussion in sessions at the meeting here centered on how to deal with the underlying problems that students are protesting against: the often overt
expressions of racism directed at students and their feelings that colleges are doing too little to support them.

One panel discussed a provocative video made by Patrick Sims, vice provost for diversity and climate at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, reacting to a threatening racist note that a student found under her door this past spring. In the video, titled “Enough Is Enough,” Mr. Sims uses unusually strong language, both in quoting the anonymous note and in vowing to combat racism on the campus.

Story Continues…

Illegal herbicide use may threaten survival of Missouri's largest peach farm

By Bryce Gray St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 22 hrs ago

DUNKLIN COUNTY, Mo. • Conveyor belts teem with peaches inside the packing facility at Bader Farms, where fruit is prepared for shipment from its Bootheel source to stores across a nearly 500-mile radius.

Harvest season is in full swing, and although it’s always hard work — demanding 18-hour days — this time of year usually affords the farm’s owner, Bill Bader, a gratifying sense of relief.

But apprehension and worry weigh on him this year.

Right outside, Bader can hardly stand looking at the 900 acres of peach trees that fill his orchards. Some have limbs that are almost entirely defoliated, while countless others have tufts of leaves that are crinkled and yellow, or remain green but are full of holes.
“That’s why you come out here and look at them early in the morning, ’cause you don’t wanna think about them at night,” Bader said, surveying a field of peach trees.

While investigators from the state Department of Agriculture continue to search for an official diagnosis, Bader believes he is one of many area farmers victimized by dicamba, a drift-prone herbicide suspected of causing widespread damage to crops in southeastern Missouri and beyond.

The problem has reached a fever pitch in the Bootheel, where more than 100 complaints of drift have been reported since late June — exceeding the Department of Agriculture’s usual statewide caseload for an entire year. Kevin Bradley, a professor of plant sciences at the University of Missouri and a lead agricultural extension scientist, said that everything he’s seen suggests dicamba is responsible for crop damage on farms across the area, though he has not observed Bader’s case firsthand.

Bader’s farm, in Campbell, Mo. — situated in rolling hills just west of the Bootheel’s level expanses of soybeans, rice, corn and cotton — is Missouri’s largest producer of peaches, accounting for more than half of the state’s harvest. But even with much of this year’s crop still to be picked, Bader is bracing for production to take a dramatic hit.

He says the farm’s typical harvest of 5 million to 6 million pounds may be reduced by 40 percent this year, as trees with withered or missing leaves have borne smaller fruit. Bader reports that almost 10,000 other trees mustered only walnut-sized peaches not even worth picking. He says the shortfall will amount to a loss of produce of $1.5 million to $2 million.

And it could get worse. By next spring, Bader worries that he may lose up to 450 acres of trees — half his total — from suspected drift. He has already determined that 200 to 250 acres are irreparably damaged and need to be removed, and he’ll see whether another 150 to 200 acres of trees can improve by spring. If not, they’ll get “pushed” with a bulldozer.

Story continues: http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/illegal-herbicide-use-may-threaten-survival-of-missouri-s-largest/article_c4a4a96b-aba3-5e48-83b5-a546f5a9b8b1.html
Senior drivers taking opioid painkillers have higher crash risk

Seniors who get behind the wheel soon after starting to use narcotic pain relievers have twice the risk of getting into a serious car crash as their peers who use non-opioid painkillers, Swedish researchers say.

Senior drivers who’d been using opioid painkillers regularly for several months also had higher odds of getting into accidents, but not as high as the new users did, according to Joel Monarrez-Espino of Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and colleagues.

Their study included 4,445 drivers between the ages of 50 and 80 who had been involved in a single car crash between 2005 and 2009 in which at least one person suffered an injury that required medical care, plus more than 17,000 similar drivers who had not been in crashes.

As reported in the journal Age and Aging, study participants were considered new to opioid painkillers if they had been given a prescription within one month before the crash. Regular users were those given at least three prescriptions in the last six months, with at least one prescription within a month of the crash.

“New, but also frequent opioid analgesic use, resulted in an increased probability of single vehicle crashes,” the research team wrote.

Specifically, the risk was 100 percent higher for the new opioid users, and 60 to 70 percent higher for the regular users, compared to the risk in people of the same age taking one or two non-opioid painkillers.

“While more epidemiologic evidence is needed, patients could be advised to refrain from driving when using opioid analgesics,” the authors wrote.

They did not respond to a request for comment.

Whether the “regular users” in this study had a lower risk because their bodies were accustomed to the opioids is hard to know, said Dr. Thomas Meuser, a specialist in aging at the University of Missouri who was not involved with the study.
“The study doesn’t show if the participants took their medications consistently,” Meuser told Reuters Health by phone.

“Another reason for the drop in risk (among regular users) could be that some stopped or reduced taking their medications due to side effects, even though they continued being prescribed,” said Meuser.

Paul Atchley, who studies the human brain, vision and attention to driving at the University of Kansas, told Reuters Health the findings should serve as a wake-up call for doctors to have better conversations with their patients about the true risks of taking these medications.

“Driving is the riskiest thing we do on a daily basis,” said Atchley, who wasn’t involved in the study.

“We need to understand what’s at risk, so that we as drivers can make better choices,” he said.

“What’s unique about this study isn’t just painkiller use, but the pattern of use,” Atchley pointed out.

The risk of being injured or killed in a car crash increases with age, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Meuser noted that older adults generally have more diagnoses and take more medications than younger adults. “There’s always a risk for side effects for someone taking five or more medications,” he said. “Side effects that affect the brain and nervous system are especially worrisome for older drivers.”

Students prepare to move in and return to school

COLUMBIA - Across Columbia, apartment and residence hall move-in is in full swing.

When it comes to moving in to a new apartment or residence hall, one expert recommended:
• Moving in during the afternoon in order to avoid the early-morning rush
• Bringing in heavier stuff and saving the lighter stuff for later in the move
• Bringing help to make things run smoothly
• Packing all necessities in one box
• Preparing mentally for the long day ahead

The most important thing though, according to the assistant general manager of The Domain at Columbia, was to remain optimistic about the very stressful day.

"It is a long, stressful day, but it's not that bad because you are getting to move-in, start your school year and it's going to be an awesome year," said Kati Bishop.

According to another source, some move-in don'ts included overpacking, bringing large furniture or any non-seasonal clothing.

For some students on the University of Missouri campus, the move-in process starts as early as Sunday morning. The official opening day for residential halls, however, is Aug. 17.